

The Yankee Xpress

CROSTOWN ADS & BUSINESS NEWS

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November 19-December 17, 2021

Legislators see war between Amazon and Walmart heating up

By Rod Lee

There was good news and bad news for businesspersons attending the Webster-Dudley-Oxford Chamber of Commerce's legislative breakfast at Samuel Slater's Restaurant in Webster on November 6, as State Reps. Joe McKenna and Peter Duran and State Sen. Ryan Fattman offered candid appraisals of the health of the region and the Commonwealth.

The legislators (Rep. Paul Frost of Auburn was not able to attend) covered a host of topics, including the economy, redistricting, unem-

ployment insurance, American Rescue Plan funding, the hiring crisis, affordable housing and more. A robust Q&A session followed.

Speaking first on a sunny morning with his back to Webster Lake in the restaurant's dining room, Sen. Fattman said Massachusetts "for the most part is in a fairly strong" position even though "this has been a very challenging time period."

Referring specifically to the toll the coronavirus pandemic has

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A war for territorial dominance in South County between Amazon and Walmart that will have both a good and bad impact makes for "an interesting paradox," State Rep. Joe McKenna tells a crowd gathered for the Webster-Dudley-Oxford Chamber's annual legislative breakfast at Samuel Slater's Restaurant in Webster on November 6. Sen. Ryan Fattman, seated, and Rep. Peter Duran also took part.



Millie the sheep, painted by Linda Littleton.

WDBA meeting at Samuel Slater Experience

The Webster Dudley Business Alliance gathered for their 15th annual meeting on October 26, at the new Samuel Slater Experience located at 31 Ray Street in Webster. Members and guests enjoyed light fare provided by Big Belly Café. Carl Kaliszewski, vice president, was master of ceremonies and introduced guest speaker Chris Robert, founder of the SSE, who gave the audience a brief synopsis of what inspired him to pursue its creation, not only to honor Samuel Slater, but also as an homage to the town of Webster in its heyday.

After reviewing the past year's events, updates and news, president Lucas Perzan announced that "Millie the Shop Local Sheep," sponsored by The WDBA, would be available to member businesses for display at their location on a rotating basis. A sign-up sheet was provided for anyone interested. Members who were not in attendance but would like to add their name to the list may email contact@thewdba.org.

The election of officers and board members for 2021-2022 are as follows: President, Lucas Per-

zan of Insation Technologies; Vice President, Carl Kaliszewski of 511 Financial; Treasurer, Kim Labbe of The Smart Shopper; Secretary, Mark Marzeotti of The Marzeotti Group; Board Directors: Deb Horan of Booklovers' Gourmet; Halina Jachimczyk of Webster First Federal Credit Union; Erica LaBonte of B.Kind Café; Jessica Sabine of The Rose Room; Tamar Taft of The Smart Shopper; Alternate Director: Nancy Healy of Citadel Company. Exiting board members were also acknowledged

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LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

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taken on the local economy, Mr. Fattman said “we have moved beyond that, thankfully. The injection of

stimulus money” helped local industries, especially restaurants, which were “hit hard. We changed laws, we passed drinks-to-go.”

Likewise, when it became apparent during real-estate transactions that “people

couldn't go into homes to conduct fire inspections, we found ways to do it virtually—and some of these changes should probably stay in place.”

With the growth of the state's population, which Sen. Fattman described as a positive, “I used to have fourteen communities, now I have eighteen, but I lost Milford and Bellingham and I spent a lot of time in Milford,” he said, with a tone of regret.

Some of his constituents may not realize how large Sen. Fattman's Worcester and Norfolk district is, a tall order in terms of a commitment to coverage for a legislator with a growing family (a new baby is on the way). “Blackstone to Upton to Monson, 61 miles, it takes two hours to go from Wales to Upton,” he said.

He termed a bill under consideration on Beacon Hill on how \$3.8 million in American Rescue Plan funds would be used, “a dream bill for some,” particularly since a portion of that will go towards unemployment insurance. But there is also “a once in a million opportunity to address infrastructure concerns, especially water,” he said.

Tax revenues “are up, we're in good shape, some of that money should go back to the people, we should consider giving people a tax break,” he asserted.

With redistricting, “my district didn't change much,” Rep. McKenna, following Sen. Fattman, said. “Oxford is still split between Paul Frost and me.

“It will be good to finally get this (American Rescue Plan) money out the door. There is a small amount for

companies that didn't qualify for PPE money, which is good, some businesses that started during COVID-19 didn't qualify” the first time around.

(At his table, Todd Donahue of bankHometown, presenting sponsor of the breakfast, said “we arranged PPE loans of \$1400 to \$1.3 million, and those businesses that got the lower amount were just as happy”).

Rep. McKenna raised a warning flag on unemployment. “Some families received a ton of money and are now getting letters saying they owe thousands. We are looking at a waiver” to deal with that, he said.

He pointed out too that with Amazon moving aggressively to set up operations in Charlton and Uxbridge, jobs will be created but “some communities don't need a thousand new jobs. This makes for an interesting paradox.”

“There will be good and bad impacts,” Rep. Durant, next in line to speak,

agreed. “We are watching that closely.”

Sen. Fattman is paying close attention to Amazon's inroads, too. “Amazon spent \$8.5 million for 120 acres in Uxbridge, on the old Serendipity land, which puts Amazon right in direct competition with Walmart and they will go to war, Walmart has its own plans for expansion” in the same territory, he said.

Rep. Durant's 6th Worcester District “doesn't change one bit,” he said. With creation of an overlay district in Webster and Dudley, “both towns benefit,” he said. In an announcement that came as news to some, he said the former Stevens Linen factory on the Webster-Dudley line is at long last being eyed for “a major redevelopment, housing, meeting space, weddings. It will help revitalize that waterfront. We need housing to support people coming in for work. The overlay is the first step.”

All three legislators expressed puzzlement over the reluctance of many peo-

ple to go back to work, and with the frustration of some businesses, like the VNA, not being able to compete with companies offering \$25 an hour (Sen. Fattman said Blair House in Milford finds itself paying a nurse \$90 an hour in some cases “because of the upward pressure and this is tough work, it's not \$16.50 an hour to pour coffee”).

Sen. Fattman struck a sobering note as well in concern over the rising cost of goods and services.

“The inflationary component over the next ten years is very scary,” he said.

Not as frightening, however, was the situation he encountered on a recent family road trip when he walked into a gas station in Wyoming masked “and the woman attendant thought I was robbing her!”

Sen. Fattman generated laughs, though, when, in response to a query about whether people who refuse to go with a mandate for vaccinations will be able to get unemployment he said “I don't think I've ever met anyone in Massachusetts who is not eligible for unemployment!”

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



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CLARIFICATION:

Town of Oxford Special Election for Selectman Candidate Norman LeBlanc's quote relating to imminent work on Main St. in the previous issue of the Xpress should have read “it will be at least five to six years before” this can begin (years, not months).



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The Samuel Slater Experience hosted the annual meeting and election of officers of the Webster Dudley Business Alliance.

WDBA

Continued from page 1

and thanked, including Caryl Savard of Caryl's Studio & Creative Design, Deborah Keefe of DAK Property Management and Bill Sabine of The Rose Room.

Once the formal portion of the meeting was conducted,

attendees were led in smaller groups for a grand tour of the state of the art facility, featuring a replica ship and water wheel, mill housing and machinery, artifacts, holographic displays with full audio/visual effects and a full size street scape of "Boomtown Webster." A few lucky guests

tried their hand at designing their own fabric pattern and publishing their own article in The Webster Times. The WDBA would like to thank all of those in attendance and The Samuel Slater Experience for hosting this event and look forward to the official opening of this wonder-

ful asset to the community. All local businesses are invited to join the WDBA as we move forward in our mission to support and promote each other by keeping revenue in the local economy. For a full list of member benefits or for an application, visit www.thewdba.org.

Holiday tree lighting in Oxford



Join us for the annual Holiday Tree Lighting at the Oxford Bandstand on December 5 at 5 p.m. Enjoy music by the OHS band, refreshments, a visit from Santa and the official lighting of the tree.



Santa Parade

Come out to see Santa drive through Webster on Saturday, December 11 beginning at 5 p.m. (times approximate). The parade will start at Memorial Beach, travel all of East Main St. to South Main, and continue on through Main St.

Christmas Tree Lighting

AUBURN - The town's 9th annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Friday, December 3, 6:00 p.m. next to Fire Station headquarters, 47 Auburn Street. Featured will be a sing-a-long and caroling with the Auburn High School Marching Band, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Invocation by Reverend Douglas Geeze and a special guest appearance by Santa Claus.

There will be hot cocoa, coffee and cookies baked by Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School culinary arts students.

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MAPFRE's Volunteering Program

MAPFRE Insurance employees pose for a photo on a sunny fall day at Webster Lake, where they picked up litter and debris around Memorial Beach. The event was part of MAPFRE's Volunteering Program, which provides opportunities for employees to give back to the community. Pictured from left to right: David Caña, Kris Meunier, Bonnie Kapitanyan, Jonathan Moore, Hannah Manca, Robert Roache, Kim Farrell, Angela Todd and Marianne Sroczenski.

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Chief's corner

Preparing for the holidays and the "S" word

By Chief Steven J. Wojnar
Dudley Police Department

With the passing of Halloween, my favorite holiday of the year, Thanksgiving, is right around the corner. The pandemic has certainly changed many things in our lives and certainly makes us appreciate the ability to gather. Take time to enjoy this time of the year and hopefully, we will all be able to enjoy the festivities and excitement of the Christmas holiday season soon.

People who like to get a jump on their holiday purchases will be buying gifts now in preparation for the season. This may be even more prevalent this year, due to the continued impacts of the pandemic. Shipping delays can also be a challenge. More and more people are shopping on-line. By doing this, they can avoid the crowds and lines at malls and simply shop from the convenience of home. This results in an influx of package deliveries. With thefts of packages left on doorsteps prevalent during this time of the year, I wanted to provide some safety tips as a reminder for everyone.

The number one goal of

on-line purchasing is to receive your items in a timely manner. Packages should be delivered to your residence if you will be there or to a trusted family member, friend, or neighbor. Leaving items unattended outside your home can be risky. If the item is taken illegally, you may not be aware of this until long after the incident. The best method of ensuring your delivery arrives safe is to arrange in advance to have these packages delivered while someone is at home or to leave them with a person you know.

It is always important to track your packages while they are in transit. Most companies provide tracking numbers and have up to date information on where your package is located. Check this process early and often. This can be done over the phone or on-line. If you experience any problems or have questions, contact the company or person who is responsible for shipping your package. Safeguarding your investment is important to make sure your holidays are happy and not frustrating.

Speaking of gifts, and with

the holiday season soon upon us, our department will once again be collecting Christmas gift donations for resident families in need. New unwrapped toys and clothing can be brought to the Dudley Police Department at 71 West Main Street. Of need in the past were gifts for children between the ages of 10 - 15 years old. Monetary donations as well as gift cards to area businesses are also accepted. Anything remaining is distributed locally (at places such as Webster/Dudley Food Share) for families on our two towns. Checks should be made payable to the "Dudley Police Association" with a special note for the Holiday Drive. Sergeant Marek Karlowicz, Officer Chandler Boyd, and Officer Luis Pacheco will once again lead this year's drive. Their efforts are greatly appreciated. The Dudley Police Department thanks everyone in advance for their continued generosity. Despite what many may believe, people in our area have a need and, thanks to you, we have assisted numerous local families in the past. Anything you can give will

help bring some happiness to those who would otherwise go without during this holiday season.

On a side note, we have been experiencing some difficulties with our department Facebook page. We are working on this and hope to have this corrected shortly to be back on-line soon.

The S word

Even though we have enjoyed some unusually warm weather recently, none of us truly believe this will last forever. This time of year, we prepare for the bad four-letter word that begins with S, Snow. Winter is just around the corner. Let's hope for it to be uneventful. Before it begins in all its glory, I wanted to take this opportunity to remind residents of the winter parking regulations once again. Plowing and sanding is always a concern of our local Highway Superintendent, Mr. Jeff Murray. Many people are unaware of the difficulties involved in keeping the streets clear. I hope to provide everyone with a little further information.

Article 280 Section 3 of Dudley's By-laws authorizes the towing of vehicles

interfering with snow removal. When an emergency is declared, vehicles are not allowed to park on any Town controlled way if they interfere with snow or ice removal operations. The Superintendent of Streets may remove or cause to be removed any vehicle interfering with this operation. For snow removal purposes, any accumulation can enact this provision. In most instances, a prediction of two inches or more, will result in the parking ban. Your vehicle can be towed. We will make every effort to notify residents of the parking ban as early as possible. This usually includes reverse "911" calls, social media posts, and media notifications. People can also call our department at 508-943-4411, or check the Dudleyma.gov web site, whenever there may be a question.

Street parking is not only an issue in densely populated areas. During storms, it can be a problem on many dead ends or lesser traveled roads. Some people will park cars on the street in advance of a storm, to have their driveway clear for their own plowing. Iron-

ically, the Town is trying to keep the roads free of vehicles for the same purpose. When plow trucks are forced to plow around parked vehicles, it creates ice problems and other hazards. The highway workers must return at another time to complete the operation. This situation doubles efforts and wastes time, fuel, and money. I am encouraging all residents to voluntarily comply with these restrictions and assist the Town employees with providing safe roads on which to travel. The last thing anyone wants is their vehicle towed. We wish to avoid this as well. In addition, people do not wish to be responsible for an accident or injury. Your cooperation and assistance is greatly appreciated.

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.



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UMass Memorial Health – Harrington opened new adult psychiatric unit

WEBSTER – The UMass Memorial Health – Harrington Behavioral Health Department is expanding its adult inpatient services with the opening of a new Adult Psychiatric Unit (APU) at its Webster campus located at 340 Thompson Road.

On Thursday, October 28, UMass Memorial Health –

Harrington held an official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in honor of the expansion and relocation of the new unit. Those in attendance included Brooke Doyle, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health (DMH); Doug Brown, CAO & President of Community Hospitals for UMass Memo-

rial Health; and Ed Moore, President of UMass Memorial Health – Harrington, along with local legislators and several members of Harrington’s Board of Directors.

The new APU will replace an existing unit that is currently located in Harrington Hospital’s Southbridge Campus. The new unit in Webster will consist of 24 newly renovated inpatient beds and will help to address the significant shortage of behavioral health services in the Commonwealth.

In addition to the Inpatient Adult Psychiatric Unit, UMass Memorial Health – Harrington’s Webster Campus includes a 16-bed Co-Occurring Disorder inpatient unit, as well as a full continuum of outpatient behavioral health services, including Partial Hospital and Intensive Outpatient programs and Addiction Immediate Care, as well as group therapy and counseling.



Front (l to r) - Doug Brown, CAO and President, Community Hospitals UMass Memorial Health; Brooke Doyle, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health; Eldi Nissenbaum Director of Inpatient Psychiatric Unit; Dr. Richard Listerud, Chief of Psychiatry. Back - Joe McKenna, Massachusetts State Representative; Ed Moore, President of UMass Memorial Health - Harrington; Randy Becker, Harrington Board Chair and member of the Strategy Committee; Dr. Daryl Blaney, Medical Director of Inpatient Psychiatry; Greg Mirhej, Vice President of Behavioral Health Services.

“Our new Adult Inpatient Unit was made possible through a \$1.2 million grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, along with the resources and support provided to us by our new partners within the UMass Memorial Health leadership,” said Ed Moore, President of UMass Memorial Health – Harrington.

“Through our ongoing partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, we’ve been able to become one of the very few healthcare organizations to offer a continuous care model of mental health and addiction treatment,” Moore said. “This model provides care for individuals all the way from crisis intervention through treatment and ongoing recovery and support. This expansion represents the latest step forward in our commitment to provide the best care possible to our patients.”

“This move is something that we’ve wanted to do for a long time,” said Greg Mirhej, Vice President of Behavioral Health Services at UMass Memorial Health – Harrington. “Not only does this new unit offer an improved environment of recovery for our

patients requiring inpatient psychiatric care, it also centralizes our behavioral health services to one location. Additionally, it will strengthen the ability for patients to access continuous care in one convenient location throughout their entire treatment journey and road to recovery.”

“The pandemic has exacerbated the behavioral health crisis we were already in before March of 2020,” said Eric Dickson, MD, president and CEO of UMass Memorial Health. “The communities we serve in Central Massachusetts deserve to have the best care when it comes to behavioral health. The opening of the Webster Behavioral Health Unit at UMass Memorial Health-Harrington is an important resource to provide that kind of world-class care.”

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Veterans Day 2021



Grand Marshal of the 2021 Veterans Day Parade was Francis John Mikolajczak. A certificate of appreciation was presented by Webster-Dudley Veterans Council Commander Victor Jankowski.



Pictured above, veterans and organizations parade through Main St., Webster to the Court of Honor in recognition of Veterans Day on November 11.



A monument honoring the United States Merchant Marines (left) is now complete and stands proudly in Webster's Court of Honor. It was completed recently with the placing of a painting on top of the granite stone. Aparecido daSilva of Imperial Granite in Dudley donated and installed the granite for the painting. The project was spearheaded and designed by local veteran George Bibeau and completed in time for Veterans Day.



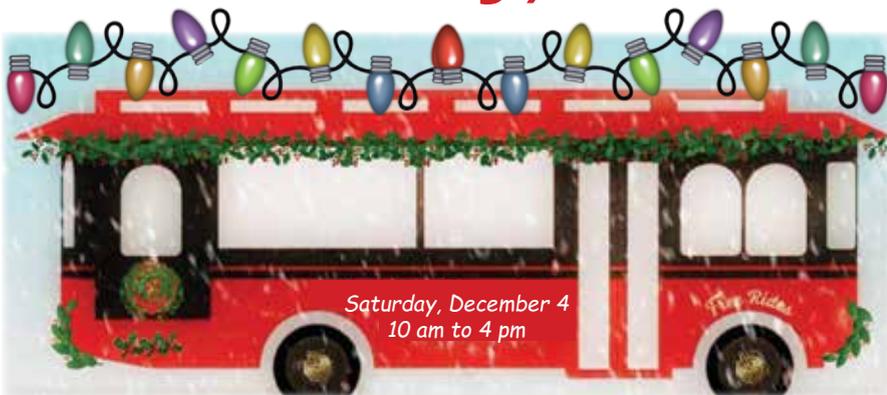
The dramatic painting atop the Merchant Marines monument in Webster's Court of Honor was done by local artist Dave Laabs of The Airbrush Shack.



Pictured (l to r) Air Force veteran Lucy Rosemund and Air Force Nurse Corps veteran Anita Hickey placed the wreath on the women's monument.

SUTTON CHAIN OF LIGHTS

Saturday, December 4th 10 am - 4 pm



Saturday, December 4
10 am to 4 pm

Join us for a fun filled day through the rolling hills of Sutton visiting local businesses and community organizations as they open their doors to welcome the holidays. Travel on old fashioned FREE trolleys over two routes throughout town where you can shop, eat, and share holiday memories with friends and family.

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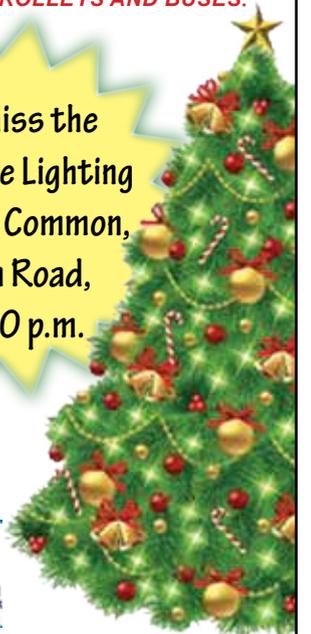
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DA Early honors Webster Officers who saved house fire victims

WEBSTER— Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. honored four Webster police officers

Sgt. Joseph Reed, Officer Jacek Ochocki, Officer Francheska Cedeno, and Of-

ficer Thomas Motyka were presented with the District Attorney's Team Excellence

and Merit – TEAM – Award, which recognizes outstanding service by those in public safety.

"A single cigarette sparked a fire that threatened multiple homes and lives," Mr. Early said. "Despite having no protective gear, these four officers didn't hesitate to rush into the buildings and ensure the safety of all residents. Lives surely would have been lost if it were not for their bravery."

While on patrol at 4:42 a.m., Sgt. Reed reported a house fire on Robinson Street. The triple decker

home was engulfed in flames. With high winds, the nearby home was in danger of catching fire. Acting quickly, Reed, Ochocki, Cedeno, and Motyka ran into both houses, waking and evacuating all occupants.

"I am proud of the actions of these officers," said Webster Police Department Chief Michael Shaw. "They are a fine example of the caliber of Officer the Webster Police Department has in its employ. I am honored to be their Chief."

All residents made it to safety and the Webster, Dudley, Southbridge, Douglas and Sutton Fire Departments responded to combat the flames.

Mr. Early created the TEAM Award in 2019 to recognize public safety employees who go above and beyond the call of duty. Contact the Worcester County District Attorney's Office at (508) 755-8601 to nominate someone for this award.

WIT Dean's List

BOSTON - The following local students have made the Dean's List at Wentworth Institute of Technology for the Summer 2021 semester. Abagayle Morin of Dudley. Kevin Huang of Oxford. David Peloquin of Oxford.



Pictured (left to right) Sgt. Joseph Reed, Officer Thomas Motyka, District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr., Officer Jacek Ochocki, Officer Francheska Cedeno and her son, and Webster Police Chief Michael Shaw.

Team award for police

To the editor,

I was one of the rescued people in the fire on Robinson Street.

The personnel who came into my apartment were thorough, caring and special. They found me asleep in bed, led me out of my apartment and got me to safety. They and the fire personnel are true heroes. I m here today and so grateful for them.

Theresa Voorhis

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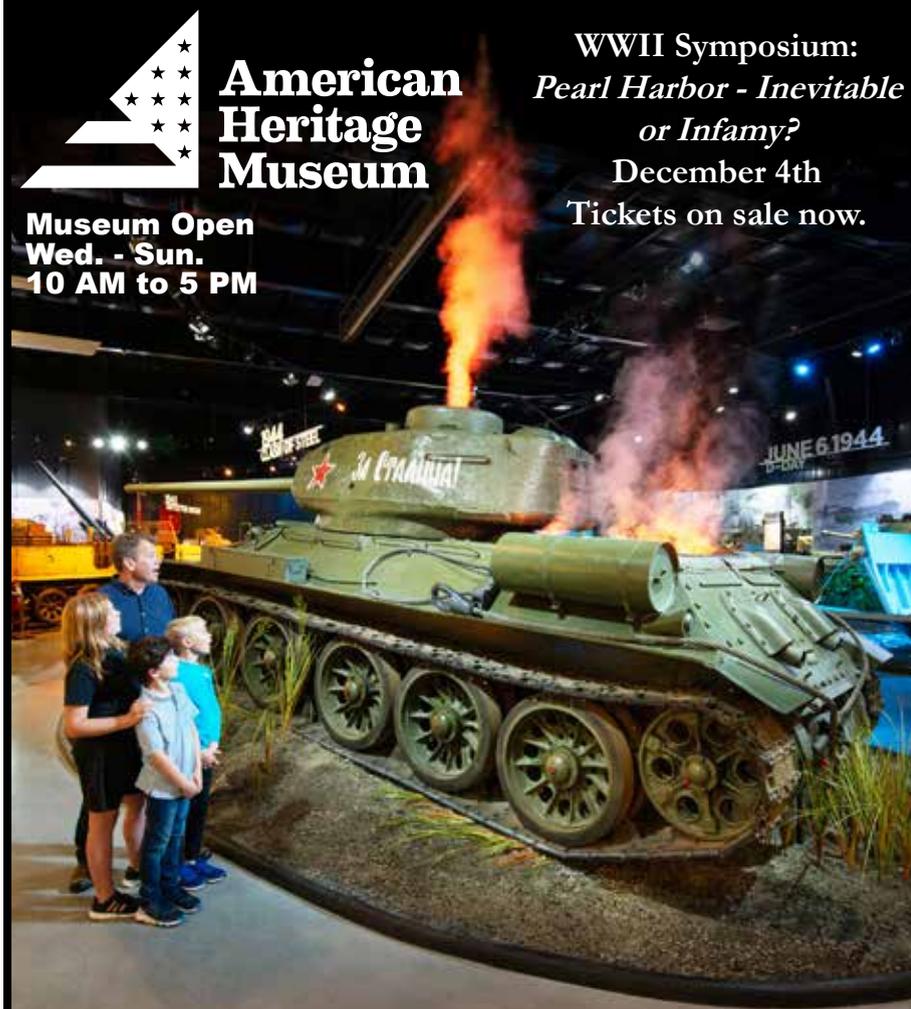
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Nichols College promotes two to associate dean

DUDLEY – Nichols College has named Robin Frkal, PhD, to the position of associate dean for the Graduate School of Business and Professional Studies, and Allison McDowell Smith, PhD, to associate dean for the Graduate School of Liberal Arts.

Frkal, associate professor of human resource management, has been at Nichols for three years. She is program chair for the BS in human resource management and has been the director of the Master of Science in Organizational Leadership (MSOL) program. In her new role, she will oversee three of the four Nichols master's programs: MBA, MSOL, and Master of Science in Accounting.

"Our current graduate business programs bring exceptional ROI for students. I look forward to working with staff and faculty to continue to innovate our graduate programs and get the word out that Nichols is the

business school of choice," said Frkal.

Prior to joining the Nichols faculty, she was an assistant professor of management and directed the MBA program at Assumption University. Her research has focused on why women opt out of corporate leadership and on women's leadership development programs. Understanding the critical career moments and underlying themes behind women's decisions to leave corporate leadership has practical human resources value for organizations focused on retaining female talent.

A resident of Dudley, Frkal holds a BA in foreign affairs from Assumption, an MS in communication from Clark University, and an MS and PhD in human and organizational systems from Fielding Graduate University. She also has a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate.

McDowell-Smith, associ-

ate professor of criminal justice and counterterrorism, will oversee the Master of Science in Counterterrorism (MSC) Program. She has been at Nichols for seven years, serving as the program chair for the BA in criminal justice and BS in criminal justice management and the founding director of the MSC Program, the first graduate program in the U.S. with a focus on violent extremism and leadership.

"As an interdisciplinary researcher and educator, I strive to identify and advance criminological approaches that may be relevant to violent extremism and terrorist thought and violence, offering unique

perspectives on the often-overlooked relationship between the two," said McDowell-Smith. She has spearheaded pioneering innovative approaches to shape understanding of violent extremism and terrorism globally while pursuing data-driven policy security solutions and tackling unique proficiencies needed to understand the field of study at both private and public sector levels.

A resident of Ashford, Conn., She holds a BS in criminal justice from Rochester Institute of Technology, an MS in criminal justice administration from Niagara University and a PhD in business administra-



Robin Frkal, PhD



Allison McDowell Smith, PhD

tion with a concentration in homeland security, leadership, and policy from North-central University.

McDowell-Smith is the co-founder and deputy director of the American Counterterrorism Targeting and Resilience Institute (AC-

TRI), a cross-disciplinary, nonprofit research organization focused on the broad spectrum of transnational extreme-right, extreme-left, and militant jihadi political violence. She is also a contributor to Homeland Security Today.

Bay Path PN students received Worcester Women's Leadership Conference scholarships



Scholarship recipients with speaker Cynt Marshall.

CHARLTON - Five Bay Path Practical Nursing (PN) students –Rachel Carr of Thompson, CT, Jaelynn Colon of Southbridge, Darcey Howe of Palmer, Rebecca Lorre of Oxford, and Melanie Pariseau of Ware are winners in this year's prestigious 2021 Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce and Worcester Women's Leadership Committee scholarship.

Stefanie Silva, Programs and Events Coordinator for Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce reached out to the PN students with a congratulatory email with the admission to this year's event.

"Our generous sponsors have offered the tickets to those who applied for a waitlist scholarship," stated Silva. The \$250 value event

scholarship is a wonderful opportunity for the PN students to expand their network and leadership skills.

"Rachel, Jaelynn, Darcey, Rebecca and Melanie present the best of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy and we had the great pleasure to work with caring students who ultimately will have extraordinary careers that will increase the reputation of Practical Nursing" stated Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN CRRN, Director at Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy.

The Worcester Women's Leadership Conference was held Thursday, October 28, at the DCU Center ballroom in Worcester. Keynote speaker was Cynt Marshall, whom with the PN students had the great opportunity to mingle.

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Happy Holidays!



Pictured (l to r) Laura Friis, activity director Accord Adult Day; Stephen P. Rogerson, Veterans Services Office Town of Dudley and Joe Rizzo, executive director Accord Adult Day Center.

Quilt of Valor ceremony at Accord Day Health Center



Group photo of veterans, friends, family, and presenters.

On Tuesday, Nov. 2, and on Friday, Nov. 5, the Accord Adult Day Center hosted an emotional ceremony to award the Quilt of Valor to thirteen veterans of all branches of the military. Accord is a beautiful, clean and homey environment where those with health or mental needs can spend the day in order to give caregivers some respite. It allows family members to remain working without fear that their loved

ones are not able to care for their needs. I personally witnessed much happiness and many activities being enjoyed by the elders.

Massachusetts State Senator Ryan Fattman attended with his young son and Massachusetts State Representative Joseph McKenna attended the ceremony as well and presented Certificates of Appreciation for their military service from both the Massachusetts Senate and the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Several members of the VFW came to show their appreciation and many family members and friends of the veterans who received the Quilts of Valor from the Quilts of Valor Foundation came as well.

The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. The presentation of the Quilt was done by Foundation representative, Theresa Perreault and Stephen Rogerson, Veterans' Services Officer for the Town of Dudley. Thank you for your service one and all.

*Stephen P. Rogerson
Director of Veterans' Services*

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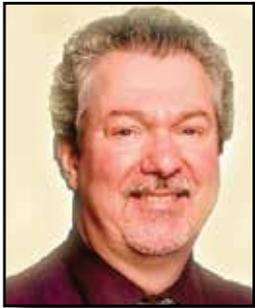
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Nichols College names endowed professor of data science and emerging technologies

DUDLEY – Nichols College Interim Provost Megan Nocivelli, DBA, has announced the appointment of Kevin D. Mentzer, PhD, to the new endowed position of Trustee Professor of Data Science and Emerging Technologies.

Mentzer, who most recently served as associate professor at Bryant University, teaches in the fields of data science, business analytics, and management information systems. He will develop a curriculum to advance the competencies of Nichols students in the new technologies that are transforming business.

“At Nichols College we partner with industry to ensure our curriculum is aligned with the demands in the marketplace. Today, every student needs data science education, and we are thrilled Dr. Mentzer will join us in preparing our students for the explosive demand in all fields associated with data science,” said Dr. Nocivelli. “He brings exceptional experience in the field and as an educator, and we expect him to facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration to benefit our students and industry partners.”

Mentzer is co-author of the book “Movie Analytics: A Hollywood Introduction to Big Data” and several journal articles and has presented in-



Kevin D. Mentzer, PhD

ternationally. He is co-founder and co-leader of the Analytics without Borders conference and serves as mini-track chair for Data Analytics, Data Mining, and Machine Learning for Social Media at HICSS.

An experienced information technologist, he has served a variety of professional roles at Energy Services Group Inc., Blue Cod Technologies, CounterPoint Technologies Corp., Progress Software, and the Hanover Insurance Group.

A resident of Holden, Mentzer earned a BS in business administration at Bryant University, and an MS in information technology and a PhD in business with a concentration in business analytics at Bentley University. He is also a certified blockchain solution architect.

bankHometown’s Neighbors Helping Neighbors fundraiser

OXFORD – Robert J. Morton, president and CEO of bankHometown, announced the start of the bank’s annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors fundraising drive for 2021 to help support local food pantries.

This marks the bank’s 18th year of hosting the program, which invites bank customers, employees, and members of the community to donate money toward food pantries throughout the month of November. All donations (up to \$2,500 per customer) will be matched dollar for dollar by bankHometown and the total raised will be divided among participating food pantries across Massachusetts and Connecticut in the communities the bank serves.

In 2020, through contributions and matching donations, the campaign raised \$32,200 and resulted in \$2,300 contributions to 14 participating food pantries. Over the years, the program has contributed more than \$225,000 to help fight food insecurity.

The bank encourages donations of any amount, with contributions of as little as \$1 to \$5 helping to provide 10 to 50 meals. As an added incentive to give, the bank will offer those who donate the

opportunity to win a \$25 gift card at each of its locations.

“Neighbors Helping Neighbors is a great example of how communities come together to help others in need,” said Morton. “bankHometown is proud to lead this annual giving tradition and thankful to our valued customers and employees who selflessly give each year.”

Those who wish to participate have until November 30 to make their donations. Checks should be made payable to “bankHometown Neighbors” and can be dropped off at any bank-

Hometown branch or mailed to: Mary C. Mulrenin Executive Secretary, bankHometown, 31 Sutton Avenue, Oxford, MA 01450.

The food pantries that will be supported this year include:

Massachusetts:

- Athol Salvation Army Food Pantry
- Auburn Youth and Family Services, Inc. Food Pantry
- CARE Food Pantry - Clinton
- Food Share - Southbridge, Charlton & Sturbridge
- Friendly House Pantry, Worcester

- Friends of the Millbury Seniors

- Ginny’s Helping Hand, Inc. - Leominster
- Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf

- Sutton Senior Center’s Michael A. Chizy Food Pantry

- St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry - Webster

Connecticut:

- Community Kitchens of Northeastern CT - Killingly

- Daily Bread - Putnam

- Friends of Assisi - Killingly

- Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group (TEEG)



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Holiday events at Booklovers' Gourmet

November Art Exhibit & Sale - "It's a Colorful Life," paintings by Jennifer Niles will be on display and for sale November 2-30, at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 East Main Street, Webster, during regular business hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10-5, open Wednesdays until 6. For more information call 508-949-6232 or email deb@bookloversgourmet.com



Artist's Statement: I am a self-taught artist living and working in Paxton, Mass. I've been drawing all my life, and for many years concentrated on pen and ink illustrations including commissioned house portraits. In 2001, I began experimenting with acrylics, inspired by the comical antics and effortless elegance of my two cats, PK and Nellie. From there, I developed a recognizable, whimsical style usually featuring bold color and cheerful subjects from everyday life. In recent years, I've started teaching both adults and children, including my popular "Paint Your Pet" classes. Whether it is animals, my surroundings here at home in New England, or scenes from daily life, I never fail to find inspiration.

Booklovers' Gourmet is hosting a poetry reading and book signing on Saturday, December 4, at 1 p.m. with Joe Fusco, Jr. for his latest book "Pondering the Pandemic During the Rust Years." The event is free and books will be available for purchase. RSVP to deb@bookloversgourmet.com or 508-949-6232. Free beverage for all attendees who register in advance thanks to sponsor D'Errico's Markets.

Joe Fusco Jr. is a well-seasoned poet/humorist from Worcester. He is the author of three books of semi-amusing poems and essays: "Hmm...That's Different" (2020); "Three Score" (2014); and "The Lost and Found Essays" (2012). In his new book "Pondering the Pandemic during The Rust Years," Joe muses about growing old uncomfortably during the pandemic. Joe's musings have appeared in Damfino Press, Ballard Street Poetry, Worcester Review, Asinine Poetry, and the naughty ezine Clean Sheets. He was a co-winner of the Jacob Knight Poetry Award in 2002 and was named Best Poet by Worcester Magazine readers in 1999 and 2002.



Joe is still a frequent contributor to Worcester Magazine and the last Worcester Mega-Slam winner in 2017. Joe has lived in lovely Worcester with his better-half Cyndi and their large family for thirty-five years. He is a registered Independent and sleeps with one eye always open.

Join us for some unicorn & drawing fun on Sunday, December 12, 1-3 p.m. at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 East Main Street, for a book signing event with illustrator Ralph Masiello and his latest in a series, The Unicorn Drawing Book. Ralph will teach you how to draw along with him. Please RSVP to deb@bookloversgourmet.com or 508-949-6232. The event is free but you must pre-register. Books will be available for purchase. Appropriate for ages 6+. Children must be attended by an adult.

Ralph Masiello—affectionately known as 'The Icky Bug Man'—has illustrated several children's books including The Icky Bug Alphabet Book, The Yucky Reptile Alphabet Book, and The Flag We Love. His oil paintings are remarkably rich and realistic and bring to life the subjects of his books—be they bugs, flags, dinosaurs, or well-hidden messages and secret drawings.



A graduate of Rhode Island School of Design, Ralph has produced numerous works of fine art for galleries in addition to picture book illustrations and magazine covers for Omni and Tennis. He is twice the recipient of the Society of Illustrators Certificate of Merit. But it is his visits with school children that give him the most satisfaction. "Adults are very subdued. They say, 'Isn't that lovely?' But children will go, 'That's so cool, dude!' That's better than any award." Along with discussing the technical aspects of book making, Ralph tells his audience about his own education, stressing reading and library skills as they relate to the research and development of an accurately illustrated book. Audience participation and spontaneity is highly emphasized and always leads to boisterous, but stimulating and educational, fun for kids. For years, children have benefited from visits from "The Icky Bug Man."

Alzheimer's Support group

Alzheimer's Support group

The Alzheimer's Support Group sponsored by the Alzheimer's Support Network of South Central MA meets 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 information 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.
Frank S. Yacino



Dudley Womans Club Pocketbook Bingo

Earlier this month the DWC held a very successful Pocketbook Bingo at Point Breeze Restaurant. Bingo with upscale handbags as prizes and a 50/50 and unique item raffles were on tap, resulting in several very pleased ladies. Since the Dudley Womans Club is a non-profit charitable organization, all proceeds from this event will be dedicated to the betterment of our local communities. A big shout-out and thank you to all our sponsors, contributors and attendees.



BHS 1961 reunion

The Bartlett High School graduating class of 1961 recently held their 60th reunion with a luncheon at Point Breeze. Sixty members of the class and guests attended the event, which included a "sneak peek" for some classmates at the nearly completed Samuel Slater Experience (<https://samuel Slater Experience.org>). Those who visited the museum were quite taken with the impressive presentation and high tech infusion with historic artifacts that bring the history of Webster's mill origins to life in the former armory building on Ray Street.

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Pecan Crusted Salmon | Pumpkin Mascarpone Ravioli

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Open Thanksgiving Day From 7am–Noon

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See a full list of menu items available at table3restaurantgroup.com/thanksgiving

To order, call the Café at 508-347-6800.
Orders must be placed by 2pm Monday, Nov. 22. Pick up times at Cedar Street Café are Wednesday Nov. 24 from 7am–3pm or Thursday Nov. 25 from 7am–Noon.

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View the full menu at table3restaurantgroup.com/thanksgiving.
Make your reservation now by calling 774-241-8450.

Christmas Craft & Holiday Market



Craft and vendor fair

GRAFTON - Grafton Recreation will hold its annual Craft and Vendor Fair on December 5 as part of the Grafton Celebrates the Holidays.

The fair will be held in the Grafton Municipal Center gymnasium, 30 Providence Road, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Items for sale from local artisans will include jewelry, charcuterie boards, wreaths, ornaments, soaps, self care products, clothing, knits, coasters and more.

Holiday Craft Fair

AUBURN - The Auburn Recreation and Culture Department will present its 8th annual Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, December 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Auburn High School. Snow date is December 12.

More than one hundred fifty craft vendors will help get you into the spirit of the holiday season. Santa will be making an appearance from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. so bring the kids. There will be activities, food, drawing, face painting and much more. The schedule of events is listed on www.auburnguide.com. For information kpappas@town.auburn.ma.us.

Christmas bazaar

AUBURN - St. Joseph's Parish Annual Christmas Bazaar will be held Saturday, December 4, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the St. Joseph's Parish Center, 68 Central Street, Auburn.

Come and enjoy an old fashioned Christmas Bazaar and check out the collectibles, attic treasures, plants, jewelry, knit goods, holiday decor, toys, candy and baked items, and so much more. Take a chance on one of the many raffles. There is something for everyone. Free admission. Free parking. Handicap accessible.

Gently used toy sale

UXBRIDGE - Many families have slightly used children's items or toys that their families have outgrown. This is a way for parents, grandparents and others to get gifts for the holidays, in light of the reports of shortages of toys etc. this year and also the increased prices.

If you have items you'd like to sell and share with others, this is your chance. Suggestions: toys, books, puzzles, craft items, back packs, etc.

On Saturday, November 27, there will be a Gently Used Toy Sale at the Community House, Uxbridge Congregational Church in Uxbridge. Table space donations are \$20.00. The hours will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Table space is limited. If you would like to reserve table space, please contact Andrea @ 774-696-8243.

Christmas Fair

CHARLTON - The Charlton Helping Hand Society, Inc. presents its annual Christmas Fair at the Dodge Chapel, 81 Hammond Hill Road, Charlton. Catch the holiday spirit (and bargains) on Saturday, December 4, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Enjoy the huge assorted cookie table, Santa's Village shopping room, raffle table and raffles for gift cards, cash, services, etc. Winners for the raffles will begin to be drawn at 1 p.m. Come to shop, come for the fellowship and spirit of the holiday and come to "help us to help others."

Holiday dinner

WHITINSVILLE - Parishioners and volunteers from the Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church would like to cordially invite the community to a traditional turkey dinner with all the usual holiday meal favorites: potatoes, vegetables, squash, stuffing, and cranberry sauce. This year's meal will be served on Saturday, Dec. 25, from 12 noon to 2 p.m. at the church, 61 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville. The dinner is open to everyone free of charge. We ask that you wear masks while you are not eating and maintain social distance where possible. Please come join us for a joyous Christmas celebration that will include holiday fun, food, and fellowship with many from the community. For more information, call the church office at 508-234-2275.

Christmas Festival

WORCESTER - St. Christopher Church, 950 West Boylston St., Worcester will hold its annual Christmas Festival on Saturday, December 4, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The festival will feature food, raffles, flea market, crafts, jewelry, baked goods and much more. No admission fee. Come start your Christmas shopping while enjoying the festivities. For more information, call the parish office at 508-853-1492.

SH Festival of Crafts

DUDLEY - The 29th annual Festival of Crafts at Shepherd Hill Regional High School will be held Saturday, November 20, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Over 125 top-quality New England crafters and artisans will be on hand offering wonderful ideas and items for Christmas gift giving. There will also be raffles and food trucks. Parking and shuttle service is free with free package carry-out service. The fair is sponsored by the Shepherd Hill Music Parents and is held at the high school, 68 Dudley-Oxford Road.

Hometown Holiday Hall Scout event

DOUGLAS - Hometown Holiday Hall will be held November 26 - 28 at the Olive Branch Masonic Lodge, 7 Depot St., Douglas. Days and hours are: Friday-10 a.m. -7 p.m., Saturday- 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sunday-10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

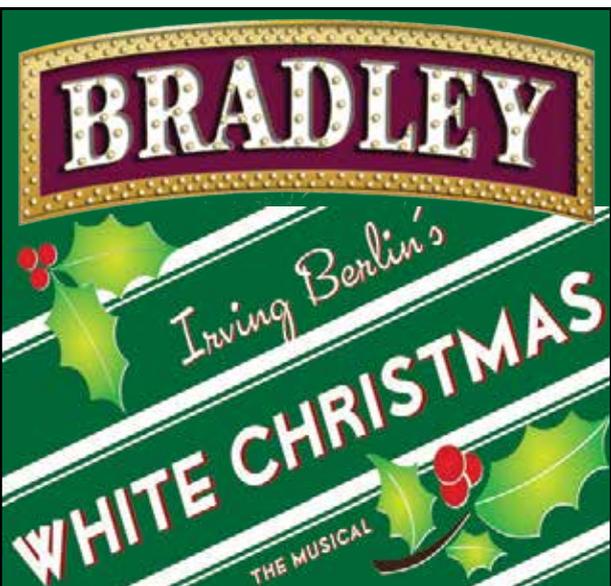
Free admission, refreshments for shoppers. This event is set up as a country store with all homemade items setup for your browsing pleasure. Credit cards Visa, MC and Discover welcome. Proceeds to benefit Scout Hall heating for the winter.

Holiday Bazaar

DUDLEY - St. Andrew Bobola Holiday Bazaar will be held in the church hall at 54 West Main St., Dudley on December 4, from 10 a.m. til 5:30 p.m. The Rosary Sodality and Parish Council are joining forces to host an Indoor Yard Sale, a Bake Sale, a Basket Raffle and a Lottery Tree Raffle. Frozen Polish Food will also be available for take out: cabbage and cheese pierogi, golabki (stuffed cabbage), kapusta and kielbasa. All ready to defrost, heat and eat for your holiday festivities. Come and join in the fun, find a unique treasure you just can't live without, take a chance or two on the raffles, take home some home-baked goodies and frozen Polish food for your traditional Christmas dinner.

Open house

OXFORD - An Open House will be held at the Oxford Community Center, 4 Maple Rd., on December 23, from 1 to 4 p.m. sponsored by the Smolenski/Millette Charitable trust. Stop by for hot chocolate, make some reindeer feed, color a picture to leave for Santa, and make an ornament to hang on the tree or window. All ages welcome.



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Fuller's Collision Center grant approval for continuing education and training

AUBURN – Fuller's Collision Center of Auburn, MA is proud to announce that it recently received approval for a \$104,000 grant from the Massachusetts Workforce Training Fund with the assistance of Human Power Solutions (HPS), a learning and development company that specializes in improving skills, culture and technical capabilities within an organization.

As a fourth-generation organization, Fuller's Collision Center has continued its commitment and dedication to its stakeholders and customers alike over the years. Receipt of the Workforce Training Grant represents a two-year specialized training commitment for Fuller's Collision Center, through which the shop will participate in "Advanced Principles of a Safety and Health Management System," led by Safety Trainers (Worcester, MA), in addition to receiving training through HPS on negotiation and a variety of other "soft" skills. According to Joshua Fuller, owner of Fuller's Collision Center, "Today's collision repairs are very complex, and in order to deliver exceptional customer service and compete in the indus-

try, our business must learn soft skills, such as communication and organization, which help us prioritize our repair jobs and enable us to continue being effective day to day."

The grant also includes continuing education and training through I-CAR, the standard of excellence in the auto collision industry. I-CAR's ongoing training programs ensure that shops are educated in the most current and up-to-date processes

and procedures relating to collision repair.

"The I-CAR technical vehicle repair training is a requirement in our industry to ensure that we have the knowledge to repair vehicles both, safely and properly," Fuller says. "In addition, we take pride in providing a work environment in which our stakeholders can continue to grow themselves both professionally and personally. The funding from this grant focuses on specific

areas which do exactly that, such as leadership, communication, customer service, and team building. Even in difficult economic times, it is essential to continue to invest in our people and our culture, and the financial assistance we are receiving from the state shows that they also realize how important it is to invest in our team."

Fuller's Collision Center

is part of Fuller Automotive Companies, which was founded in 1914. Located on RT. 20 in Auburn, they also have an Auto and Tire Cen-

ter for all mechanical repairs and tire replacement packages. For more information, visit www.fullerautomotive.com.

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Dudley Senior Center news

Urgent: The Dudley COA needs a few dedicated volunteers for our COA Board. We meet once a month on the third Tuesday on the month, 3-4pm. Sept. to December, and March to June. Your great ideas and participation could benefit the seniors of our community. Please contact us if interested @ 508-949-8015 Please leave a message and contact number and we will get back to you. OR, E-mail us if you'd rather@ coadirector@dudleyma.gov Thank you!

News from SHINE 2021: Every year Medicare part D and Medicare Advantage (HMO, PPO) Plans can change their premiums, co-pays, deductibles, formularies (list of drugs covered) and preferred pharmacies. In the case of Medicare Advantage Plans they can also drop and add medical providers from their networks. It's important to review your options EVERY year to make sure you have the plan that works best for you next year. Open Enrollment is Oct. 15 to Dec. 7. Central Mass SHINE Website www.shinema.org To make an appointment, contact Central Mass SHINE regional office at 508-422-9931 or by email at info@shinema.org. A certified SHINE Counselor will return your call. Counselors assist clients through in-person appointments, phone, videoconferencing, (such as Zoom or Face Time), email, or post mail. They also offer excellent resources online through their website at www.shinema.org and introductory Medicare 101 webinars.

Weekly Schedule:

Mondays 11:30 a.m. Dudley Lunch Club. Please reserve your meal through Inge Gassner, at 508-949-9081 Please leave message to reserve a meal at least two/three days in advance.

Tuesdays at 1p.m. in the dining room: card players pitch league, also Dudley senior women knitters at 1 p.m.

Wednesdays 10 a.m. craft workshop with Dolores Cowden is on a short leave and will hopefully resume her workshop soon. Over the summer, with Craft Instructor Dolores, we learned watercolor techniques, acrylics, decoupage, creating/sewing fabric pumpkins and more. Please stay tuned for the re-start of this fun arts and crafts workshop. Also on Wednesdays, Dudley Lunch Club at 11:30 a.m. Please contact Inge at number listed above. Also meeting 1 p.m. Dudley senior women knitters.

Thursdays 9 a.m. to 12 noon, machine sewing for fun and crafts with Linda Prest. Weekly projects and costs will vary from \$5.00 to \$15.00 depending on project and supplies needed. All supplies and expert instruction included in price. If you have a portable sewing machine, you are welcome to bring it to the weekly workshop. If interested, please leave your name and number Dudley COA 508-949-8015 to sign up. Newbie new machine sewers are always welcome too.

Fridays 11:30 a.m. Dudley Lunch Club, Friday Game Day will start up again after lunch if there's interest. Pre-pandemic we enjoyed board games such as Scrabble, Up words, Super Boggle, and Scattergorie. We'd love to bring this activity back, tell your friends, better yet bring your friends.

Dudley Senior Center events planned

Wednesday, Nov. 24, Tri Valley Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner Lunch Club at 11:30 a.m. RSVP to Inge.

Happy Thanksgiving Nov. 25 and 26, Senior Center is Closed.
Friday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. Tina Bemis workshop creating a beautiful holiday boxwood tree. \$20.00 space is limited, please RSVP to Margaret by Nov. 24 508-949-8015.

Friday, Dec. 10, 12:30 p.m. after lunch club. Pied Potter Rick Hamelin will be here for a workshop presentation: All about Poets and Potters. Writers have alluded to clay and the potter at work in numerous poems and stories throughout time. Massachusetts' Poets, Longfellow, Whitman, Thoreau and Gibran celebrated the potter in their writings, and reflected on the forming of clay as a metaphor for life in many ways. In this one-hour program, Mr. Hamelin demonstrates "throwing" at the pottery wheel while exploring verses and the historical connections of Massachusetts' potters to these poets. Anyone who may be interested is welcome to attend. Come join us for this FREE program. Please note: Artist requests that audience please wear a mask. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Dudley Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. For more information, contact Margaret Bussiere, COA Director @ 508-949-8015.

Thursday, Dec. 16, 3-5 p.m. Common Ground Memory Café and senior Christmas party. Free program, light meal, refreshments included. Music entertainment by our great friend, Franie Mik. Please bring one wrapped gift for the swap and one new un-wrapped gift for the Salvation Army. (ideas: HBA items, shampoo, soap/body wash, towels, socks, hats, gloves, etc.) Donations are also accepted and greatly appreciated for the memory café if you'd like to help support this program which began in 2016 and continued to an outside audience throughout the pandemic at senior housing/Joshua Place (while the weather agreed). This memory café is supported by local donations from the community. Thank you for helping us make this important, non-judgmental, socially inclusive, come as you are, dementia friendly program free to the community.

Best wishes for a blessed and happy holiday season for you and yours, including health, peace, kindness, compassion, and love for the New Year 2022. - Margaret

Holiday Harvest



Kim Larkin of Klassic Krations Gourmet addresses participants at Gladys E. Kelly Library Holiday Harvest event on November 9, 2021. (photo credit: Evan Hale)

WEBSTER: On November 9, the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library hosted "Holiday Harvest." Kim Larkin of Klassic Krations Gourmet presented a timely program on entertaining buffet style. Three tables put together and draped in fall themed tablecloths showcased her ideas. The colorful display inspired our minds and eyes. The samples for participants included a variety of chocolates - Larkin is a licensed commercial chocolatier, cheeses, and a unique ginger beer cider with a touch of pomegranate to arouse our taste buds. Recipes for some of Larkin's favorites were shared including Simply Healthy Butternut Squash Soup, Apricot Walnut Bread, and Chocolate Harvest Bark. We also took home a suggested shopping list for an Ultimate Charcuterie Board.

It was a delightful evening sponsored by Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library. Now that we are freer to enjoy being among vaccinated and/or mask-wearing friends post-COVID pandemic, Webster's library is a great town resource. Check the library website (www.gladyskellylibrary.org) regularly to stay current on opportunities for the whole family.

- Nancy Sullivan

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B - \$50.00

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- 1 LB. BACON OR 1 LB. STEW BEEF

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- 3 LBS. HAMBURG OR 1 PKG. (1 1/2 LBS.) MARINATED SIRLOIN TIPS OF YOUR CHOICE
- 2 WHOLE OR CUT-UP CHICKENS (6 LBS. TOTAL) OR 1 PKG. (1 1/2 LBS.) COOKED CHICKEN WINGS OF YOUR CHOICE
- 1 LB. SAUSAGE OF YOUR CHOICE OR 1 LB. HOT DOGS
- 1 ROASTING CHICKEN (6-8 LBS.) OR 2 LBS. STEW BEEF

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Sat.	9AM	3PM

Living ON with Lincoln



Destined for a good life

By Amy LeClaire

I've yet to name the puppies I haven't met yet. Lincoln has left a gape in our hearts, as is the case with the loss of any family member. Loss is loss. But the loss of a family pet, I've come to know, is unique. We not only lose a dog-son or dog-daughter, but also a full-time companion, therapist, clown, walking partner, driving partner, work buddy, and domestic assistant. Dogs, simply put, are just there, and there for you. A dog meets our basic human need for love, affection, security, connection, laughter, and friendship. They give us what matters the most in this life with one simple request asked in return. Spend time with me.

Lincoln adored people. He would rush to the front door to remind me of how important it is to say hello to the Go Green Man, even when my patience with outdoor solicitors had worn thin. "Someone is AT OUR HOUSE and he might want to PLAY!" He'd wiggle and glance up at me with a shoe

in his mouth. "Hurry and open that door. This man looks so fun."

Lincoln was right. The salesman may have interrupted my 5:00 p.m. bustle and train of thought but I needed to cut him some slack. He has a hard job. How many rejections might this young man have already endured? "Hello. My name is Bob. I was wondering if you were interested in hearing--"

"HI!! MY NAME IS LINCOLN! I BROUGHT YOU A SHOE!"

Lincoln made awkward situations pleasant. Professional dog trainers advise that dogs (reasonably) wait at their "spots" while the owner opens the door. A dog needs to learn salutary manners and know his boundaries.

"Want to play a quick game of fetch? Hold on!"

Lincoln was exceptional. He had to be the first to meet and greet. He learned manners by spending long happy and sad days together. He learned by watching his favorite people get along in this clumsy world. "Lincoln - you can have some eggs..."

I'd tell him in a gentle, positive tone, "but you have to wait. You just have to wait." I emphasized the key word as though holding up a flashcard for him. "Got it!" He sat patiently at his spot, lifted

his nose to egg scented air, and waited. Every so often he'd break into that infectious Golden smile. "Damn, I got it good here."

Lincoln had it good because he was so damn good. He reminded me of how much there was to be joyful about. Like me, he wore rose-colored glasses and saw the very best in people and in situations. The puppies I've yet to meet will have it good as well. That said, will it be



Lincoln assuming his namesake.

possible for my two pups to be as remarkable as Lincoln? I'm skeptical. In any event, their names will suit who they are, or perhaps who they are destined to be. Lincoln's name emerged while looking at a pocket calendar to plan ahead for his pick-up date. We would bring home a Twin Beau' D puppy on February 12, which happened to be Abraham LINCOLN'S birthday. Truthfully, I can't remember why I walked into the kitchen at times, but the memory

of seeing Lincoln's name in that booklet is as clear as the lake waters he would swim through over and over again. Like a message from a bottle, Lincoln's name came and stayed.

Later, we would learn that his name implies a connection to lakes and cliff climbing, both of which marked two prominent inspirations in his life. He would grow to be a remarkable long distance, stick-holding swimmer. At only six months old, he would climb up and fall off of a small cliff at Newport but he'd be okay. He was robust and resilient and he'd go on loving life until he no longer could.

My family still awaits details on pregnancies and parents of puppies we've yet to meet in the spring of 2022. We haven't decided on whether we'll take two boys, or a boy and a girl (from the two different breeders for which we are enlisted) but we do know of a few names that we like.



Excitement for a hike beside a stream.

Though we are hesitant to share names publicly at this time, we hold them dearly in our hearts and want to thank all of you who have taken the time to share names with us! One thing is for sure, the pup-

pies will have it good. Stay tuned for more on Living ON with Lincoln.

Tell me a story about your dog's name - amyleclaire@hotmail.com



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Programs and events at the Pearle

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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.

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.

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.

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 at the pearle. 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 anything else you would like to share and discuss.

Lego challenge 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+

Adult craft workshop: make a holiday craft, Saturday, November 20, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Join Library staff for a fun crafting workshop where you'll have the opportunity to make a variety of holiday crafts. All supplies will be provided – just bring your creativity. Free, but space is limited, so please register. Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment

Baubles and bling sale, Friday, December 3, and Saturday, December 4. Support the Friends of the Library and do some holiday shopping at the Baubles and Bling sale, featuring a wide assortment of new and gently used jewelry including necklaces, bracelets, brooches, rungs, earrings, and jewelry boxes.

Youth Advisory Council, Monday, December 6, 5:00-6:00 p.m. All tweens and teens in grades 6-12 are invited to 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. Free; Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

Heating oils of the Bible, Thursday, December 9, 6:00-7:45 p.m. In the Bible, there are more than five hundred references to aromatic plants. Join us as anthropologist Christal Whelan presents the plants most valued in the ancient Middle East through relevant passages in the Bible. Essential oils extracted from these key plants were used for religious ceremonies, anointing kings,

healing the sick, embalming the dead, and as perfumes and ointments. Participants will have the opportunity to sample twelve therapeutic-grade essential oils chosen to highlight the rich diversity of cultures, races, and ethnicities of the Biblical world and each participant will receive a kit with their own samples of oils to enjoy. Free, but space is limited; registration required. Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

Make a gingerbread house, Saturday, December 11, multiple sessions. Come make and decorate a gingerbread house. We'll have everything you need to create your own unique house. Free, but space is limited, so please register. Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

Make a holiday centerpiece with Bemis Farms, Saturday, December 11, 10:00 a.m. Join Tina from Bemis Farms to make a beautiful holiday centerpiece for your table. All materials are provided for this free workshop. Space is limited and registration is required. Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment

Deb's sing-and-swing, Thursday, December 16, 10:30-11:00 a.m. Join Deb Hudgins for this thirty minute interactive program featuring singing, guitar music, dancing, stories, and more! This program will be held via Zoom. Registered participants will receive the link 24 hours before the program. Free; registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library

Teen candy bingo, Monday, December 13, 6:00-7:00 p.m. All teens are welcome to come play candy bingo. We'll have pizza and soda too. Free; open to ages 13-18, sponsored by the Hugh W. and Harriet K. Crawford Endowment.

Wiggles and giggles, Friday, December 17, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Music, songs, and movement designed for ages 3-6. Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment

Youth Advisory Council, Monday, January 3, 5:00-6:00 p.m. All tweens and teens in grades 6-12 are invited to 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. Free; sponsored by the Hugh W. and Harriet K. Crawford Endowment.

Yoga with Julie, Saturday, January 8, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. All ages are welcome at this beginner-friendly yoga class led by Julie St.Francis. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

Lego Master builder Dan Steininger, Monday, January 10, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Dan Steininger is one of only eight official LEGO Master Builders in the entire world and he wants to share what it's like to have his dream job. He uses humor, great storytelling, and hands on building to entertain and inspire. Free; children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Sponsored by the Hugh W. and Harriet K. Crawford Endowment.

Reducing pain naturally, Thursday, January 13, 6:00 -7:45 p.m. Do you find yourself thinking: when will this pain end? Why do I still have this pain? or how can I get rid of this pain? Brad and Pamela Thompson will introduce some of the most recent breakthroughs in our understanding of pain and introduce a powerful and natural pain-reducing technique. Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

Jewelry Jam with Kim Larkin, Thursday, February 3, 6:00-7:45 p.m. Make a gift for your Valentine at this jewelry-making workshop for teens and adults and create a mixed-media necklace on colorful cord using a decoupage technique with scrapbook paper or text. Kim will bring an assortment of materials to inspire your creativity. Free, but space is limited; registration required. Sponsored by the Hugh W. and Harriet K. Crawford Endowment.



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steering symbols. Altogether, at the same time and I have been told it is the ABS module. There's no check engine lights on. Can you tell me if car can pass inspection in Massachusetts since all these lights are related to ABS and in our state of Massachusetts ABS light is irrelevant?

A. You are correct that a vehicle with an ABS light on will be able to pass the Massachusetts safety inspection. The issue is that any red brake warning light is a failure. The reason is even though there may be no issue with the brake system, with the warning light illuminated you wouldn't know if there was an actual issue with brake hydraulics of the parking brake. The repair could be the ABS module, but I would also check battery voltage and all power and ground connections. I have seen as many poor connection issues as I have faulty modules.

Q. My 2017 BMW X5 5.0 came with run-flat tires which I have since replaced with traditional tires. I have called BMW to ask if they have a compact spare which could be used in an emergency and they have responded that they do not. Is there an aftermarket company or a compact spare tire that you could recommend? I thought such an item would be readily available if one chose not to stay with the run-flat tires.

A. BMW doesn't make a spare tire kit for your vehicle. Since many owners don't like the idea of driving without a spare tire, aftermarket companies are addressing this need. After a search, I found a company on-line: Modern Spare (<https://modernspare.com>). This company sells a complete kit, spare tire, and wheel as well and a jack and lug wrench for about \$500. Although pricey, if I had a vehicle with conventional tires, I would want a temporary spare tire.

Q. I have a 2006 Volkswagen convertible and the rear window is stuck halfway up. I can hear the motor, but the window won't move. It is a convertible and I'm putting it away for the winter. What is wrong and can I fix it myself?

A. This is a typical failure. I have replaced both the left and right window lift mechanisms on my wife's VW. The system uses a cable arrangement to move the window on the track. You can buy a repair kit online for about \$30. The repair is not that difficult, but time consuming. You need to remove the rear seat, door panel and window. Once you get to that point you should be able to remove the mechanism and replace the damaged parts, an extra set of hands is helpful. Take plenty of pictures and watch some videos on YouTube and you should be able to repair it.

Q. I have a question about gathering factory model specific information on a 1973 Volkswagen Super Beetle sedan. My son bought the car in his junior year in high school (2011), and we've maintained it trying to stay to the OEM specs and parts as much as we could. We belong to a local VW club and get some tips and help from other members. But it seems like anyone who has a complete restoration, had a lot of the work done by VW specialty shops. My son is off at Berkeley now for the past 4 years working on his doctorate in material sciences. I have been keeping the car running and serviced. I am trying to keep the small details as close to factory as possible but am having a hard time finding reliable factory information. Internet searches are frustrating and the documentation we have so far is sometimes not enough. Can you recommend any paths to get reliable information that can help us with this?

A. You may be able to find a service manual on eBay. This website has some pretty good original parts for sale as well as information <https://www.thesamba.com/vw/classifieds/cat.php?id=29>. There is Wagen-Werks <https://www.wagen-werks.com/> which also has restoration parts. Bentley Publishers has a good range of books for early Volkswagens ranging from repair manuals to historical publications. www.bentleypublishers.com.

Q. I have a 2014 Honda Accord that has warning lights on the dash for ABS, hands brake, VSA and power

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Fattman receives Legislator of the Year award from police organization

BOSTON – State Senator Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) was awarded the 2021 Legislator of the Year award from the Massachusetts Police Association on October 21. The MPA is the largest police organization in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and their Legislator of the Year award is the highest honor conferred by the organization to a legislator for their commitment to law enforcement officers.

Senator Fattman has been a life-long supporter of law enforcement and sees public safety as a top priority of his legislation since he began his tenure at the State House. This was amplified when he stood up to defend law enforcement officers when no one else would. In July 2020, immediately after the July 4th holiday, Senate leadership unveiled a sweeping police reform bill. Members of Senate were given an amendment deadline of 24 hours after it was released, and then they were expected to vote on the bill within 48 hours of that deadline. Citing that this process was rushed, reactionary, and unfair, Senator Fattman

used a procedural move to delay a vote on the bill. The rushed process resulted in a flawed product with multiple unintended consequences. Furthermore, key stakeholders such as law enforcement, were not brought in on the process of creating this bill. When Senator Fattman delayed the bill several days, those stakeholders were allowed a seat at the table. Ultimately, the bill passed, but it was not as onerous as the first one that was brought to the Senate floor. Senator Fattman's life-long commitment of law enforcement coupled with the bold actions taken on the Senate floor to bring awareness to this harmful bill, made him a deserving recipient of MPA's Legislator of the Year Award.

"I was honored to receive MPA's 2021 Legislator of the Year Award," said Senator Fattman. "The brave men and women of our law enforcement carry a difficult burden in their profession, and it often comes without any thanks. My commitment to public safety officials in the legislature is the least I can do to say, 'Thank you,' for all that they do for our communities."



From left to right: Jimmy Machado, Executive Director of MPA, Ryan Fattman, Stephanie Fattman, Alissa Burke, President of MPA.

Gary McKinstry returns for Harrington Auxiliary benefit

SOUTHBRIDGE: The Harrington Auxiliary is proud to bring back Gary McKinstry, world-renowned, professional medium and psychic, to the Southbridge Senior Center 153 Chestnut Street in Southbridge. McKinstry's presentation, which offers attendees an opportunity to connect with loved ones who have passed to the other side, will take place on Wednesday, December 1, from 6 to 8 pm.

McKinstry's psychic activities are legendary and have been chronicled in Ghost Hunters of America: Real Stories of Paranormal Investigators. He is one of a handful of psychics to have toured the



Gary McKinstry

Victorian Mansion in Gardner, which he certified as unquestionably haunted. McKinstry has also verified that the Public House in Sturbridge is haunted and has been since the Colonial era.

At the event attendees will have an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for a one-hour private reading with McKinstry. Raffle tickets are three for \$5.

Tickets for the main event are \$25 and can be purchased through Harrington Hospital's volunteer office at 100 South Street, Southbridge. For more information, please call 508-765-6473 or email khibbard@harringtonhospital.org.

This event featuring Gary McKinstry is held in memory of Cecile T. Edmunds.

Gladys E. Kelly Public Library calendar

The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library in Webster, 2 Lake St., Webster, 508-949-3880, has listed the following calendar of events. All programs are scheduled to be held outside on the Library lawn (unless otherwise noted), weather permitting.

Adult Programming

Book Discussion Group – The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library Adult Book Discussion Group meets at 6:30 pm. New members are always welcome! Next month's book discussion will be on Monday, November 15, at 6:30 p.m. the meeting will take place via Zoom, and will be about the book *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone to 508-949-3880, or by email to ehale@cwmar.org for inquiries.

Children's and young adult programming

Fall into Reading at the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library – through December 20 sign up at: gladyskellylibrary.beanstack.org, or download the Beanstack app on iOS or Android. Join this fun reading program for kids 0-12. Earn digital badges as you log reading, earn digital badges for attending library events, earn book prizes by reading! Read 10 hours to complete the program. This new online reading platform has an app that is easy to download and use. Along with the web, you can also ask for a paper version. Questions? Contact Andrew at atai@cwmar.org.

Songs and Stories Storytime – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Join Miss Emily Wednesday mornings at 10 am 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 – Thursdays 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 – Tuesdays 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, 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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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.

Pete's Sports



Peter Coyle

Pigskin Picks and missing the Glory Days

Happy Thanksgiving to all schoolboy sports fans, especially to all the alumni from all the local high schools who are returning to the South Country for your traditional Thanksgiving reunions with family and friends.

The reality of Thanksgiving is it is "Glory Days" at its best. Memory Lane. Rooting for your teams on this traditional schoolboy football game is always enjoyable. Beware though, Thanksgiving morning football games have lost their historic identity in terms of fan attendance. Crowds of 8,000 faithful fans are not happening anymore at the Bartlett-

Southbridge football game. In Southbridge's Joe Capillo's book, "They Played to Win," Capillo reported that game attendance in the 1930s, 40s, 50s, and 60s with fan numbers ranged from 5,000 to 10,000 attendees. The 1970s and 80s showed a steady 4,000 to 6,000 tickets being sold and the 90's held up to a 3,000 to 4,000 gate attendance.

The diminishing crowd numbers began to fall in the year 2000 with 2,500 fans and moving the time line forward to 2019, the over 100 year old Bartlett-Southbridge game drew 300 fans.

This year's game in Webster will draw about 300 fans if the weather is seasonable.

Back in the 1950s to 2000, radio stations WESO and WGFP both covered the Bartlett-Southbridge game

live and Q-100 FM covered the Shepherd Hill Tantasqua game live. All three radio stations were real time and the Oxford-Auburn game was tape delayed on WESO and that followed the post game of the Bartlett-Southbridge game.

By the way, the pre-game on the three live radio stations began at 9 a.m. with the kickoff at 10:15 a.m. By the time the taped-delay Oxford-Auburn game was finished, WESO was signing off at 4 p.m. That was schoolboy football from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or seven hours of high school football on the local airwaves.

That's how crazy the interest was in those years for local Thanksgiving Day high school football.

Add in the night before Thanksgiving coaches show

on WESO that went from 5:15 p.m. to 7 p.m. that included the head football coaches from Bartlett, Southbridge, Shepherd Hill, and Tantasqua in the studio live at WESO in Southbridge. Calls were taken during that coaches show from fans who wanted to ask a specific question to one of the coaches or wish them good luck. The coaches show could have easily lasted until 9 p.m. because there was that much interest. This address knows because yours truly hosted the show from 1984-2000. It was special and a lot of fun.

This year's BHS-SHS game is being played at Webster's Memorial Field on upper Ray Street. The grandstands on both sides of the field have been taken down in 2020 and have not been re-

placed. Bartlett has played all their home games this season to standing only crowds. A recent drive by on Ray Street has shown some activity of a portable aluminum set of stands/bleachers for this year's Thanksgiving morning game. Looks like the portable bleachers will sit 40 people and will be on the home side by the press box. Looks like the Southbridge fans will be standing on November 25 as white paint boundaries appear behind the players and coaches area of both sides of the field. That means if you go to the game that morning, you can follow the ball up and down either sideline as long as you don't interfere with the coaches and players area. Those portable bleachers on the Bartlett side won't be a problem if you anticipate following the football. If the weather is bad, you can opt to the baseball grandstand if you have binoculars and watch the game behind the home plate area. Both Bartlett and Southbridge are winless this 2021 season and both have struggled to get this far in the season because of roster numbers.

Bartlett over Southbridge in Webster

Throw the season records out and for all you Indian seniors, this is the game that you will remember the rest of your lives. No pressure. All adrenaline. You can do this. Bryce Patterson can

tell all you seniors what this game means as the Patterson family has a long history of family members who played in this epic battle. Last chances in life are in front of you to be taken advantage of. Bartlett wins at home in a close one.

Shepherd Hill over Tantasqua in Sturbridge

The Rams will have a good Turkey Day with Alex Siwik and Romeo Holland leading the way in Sturbridge at the Reservation for the 10 a.m. kickoff. SH has dominated this holiday game and this space only asks one thing from you Rams. The Tony Vegnone MVP award has to come back to Dudley. Back in the day, the Vegnone award was for the MVP, not offense or defense to get two players the Tony Vegnone award so the losing team got to share too. That's what they do today. The winning team gets bragging rights for Tony Vegnone. Go Rams and the SH player who wins the award is the true Tony Vegnone MVP.

Oxford over Bay Path at Oxford

Go Pirates. Sorry I had your ship sailing to Manchester two weeks ago. You adjusted your sails perfectly and won two in a row. Keep Lucas Lambert up in the crow's nest for you Pirates. He is the guy, but watch out for Gabe Espinosa for Bay Path. He is a bone crusher on defense. It looks like clear sailing for the Pirates on Thanksgiving.



BHS Homecoming

Bartlett High School Senior football players and cheerleaders were honored at the October 29 game held at Memorial Athletic Field. Seniors players are Juan Rivera Sanchez, Christopher Adjei, Darrion Sheppherd, Blake Haney, Jay Whitney, Mark Blanchard, Bryce Patterson, Asadel Frimpong, Adianna Roure, Aryanah Walker-Sanchez, Jorge Rodriguez, Jacob Plasse, Ben Karontang, Emmanuel Pierre. Senior Cheerleaders are Olivia Lahens, Adianna Roure, Aryanah Walker-Sanchez.

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Go Pats! Go Bruins! Go Celtics!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

OHS scoreboard dedicated to Cdr. Michael Masley Jr.

The Oxford High School football field scoreboard was dedicated to Cdr. Michael C. Masley Jr. before the game on Friday, October 23. School and town officials presented the program with Cdr. Masley's family members present.

Cdr. Masley graduated from the US Naval Academy with honors in 1975. Cdr. Masley served 20 in the Navy, retiring from active duty in 1995.

Cdr. Masley was then hired as the first Senior Naval Science instructor at Oxford High School and began the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Core (NJROTC) unit at the



school. Under his direction, the unit earned 25 national program awards in 20 years. Cdr. Masley not only led his unit to achieve great recognition, he was a mentor and

friend to his cadets and their families. He retired from his post as director of the NJROTC unit in 2017. See more photos on the Yankee Xpress Facebook page



Oxford High School's Navy JROTC Naval Science Instructor Master Chief David Youngsman addressed Cdr. Michael Masley's family and the audience at the football field scoreboard dedication on Friday evening, October 22.



Members of the Oxford NJROTC participated in the dedication ceremony.



Cdr. Michael Masley (right), sharing a proud moment with his unit in Alabama years ago. Photo from Facebook

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Tales from beyond

The Legend of Laura Sherman

By Thomas D'Agostino
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New England is full of incredible legends and stories that add to the magic of the region. There is one certain legend that resides near the Tri-State border of Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

At the crossroads of Wakefield and Croff in Burrillville, Rhode Island, one will find the remains of a small burial lot. If it were not for the sign that marks it as Rhode Island Historical Cemetery # 1, visitors may never know it is actually the Sherman family burial lot.

Raised up from the road by a stone wall, the unmarked plot holds the remains of five members of the Sherman family and what looks like the remains of a cellar hole where perhaps their cabin once graced. Buried in this lot are Caroline Sherman, born 1837-death unknown, Clark Sherman, born 1831-death unknown, Ellen Sherman, birth and death dates unknown, Laura Marsh Sherman, born September 24, 1803-died 1870, and Squire Crandell Sherman, born July 1828 and died April 21, 1879.

The only trace of gravestones is the base of Laura Sherman's monument. The others have nothing left but mounds rising from the earth to show of their being buried there.

Legend states the rest of

the stones were stolen to perform some sort of rituals. This would seem easy to do as the lot is located in an isolated area along the woods of Buck Hill.

The lack of death dates on record would indicate that the Clark family buried their own and never bothered to record exact dates of death with the town. Some claim that Caroline and Ellen may have been the wives of Clark Sherman, but it is the grave of Laura Sherman, the oldest of them all, that is of interest in this narrative. Laura may have been the matriarch of the family and still watches over her loved ones.

It has been passed down from generation to generation that Laura haunts the lot. If you visit on a full moon and dance around her grave thirteen times, she will appear and answer your questions. It is a local legend that has been attempted many times. Some have fled in fear as Laura Sherman materialized out of a wisp of smoke, keeping her part of the bargain for their toil, while others swore the whole story is nothing more than an urban legend created by the local boy scout camp at Buck Hill.

There are other stories of people who swore Laura Sherman watches over the

graveyard. Many of the Burrillville residents say that they have been startled or even frightened by what they believe is the ghost of Laura standing at the edge of the plot looking at the road as they drove by. When they would look back, the ghost would be gone.

One account relates to a small group of high school students who decided to call forth the spirit of Laura. One of the girls circled the grave thirteen times while the small throng waited anxiously for the ghost to appear. After a while, they felt deceived by the spirit and left the lot.

While driving away, the people in the other car noticed an old woman sitting in the back seat of the car driven by the girl who tried to summon Laura from her eternal rest.

If you decide to visit the cemetery be thoughtful and courteous to both the living and the dead.

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.

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P.E.O. honors Garcia with PCE grant

CHARLTON - The P.E.O. organization is honored to announce that the prestigious PCE (Program for Continuing Education) grant in the amount of \$2,000 for the 2021-2022 academic year, was presented to Sarah Garcia of Charlton, one of the practical nursing students of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy's Class of 2022. The scholarship was presented to Garcia by Georgeanne Roe, Jane Flynn, Barbara Smith, and Pam Thomas-Nielsen all from Chapter R.

Garcia is an energetic and compassionate Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) whose knowledge is based on the accumulation of close to ten years of hands-on experience as a personal care attendant, home health aide, and CNA. She obtained her nursing assistant certification through the American Red Cross in 2011. As a practical nursing student at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, she has completed her Mental Health First Aid certification and Dementia Care certification. She has also completed COVID-19 Contact Tracing through Coursera and the Johns Hopkins University. Most recently she completed a course on domestic violence. Garcia is a member of the UNICEF Club, helping raise funds



Pictured are Sarah Garcia with her baby daughter between three members of P.E.O. Chapter R: Pamela Thomas-Nielsen, Georgeanne T. Roe, and Jane Flynn.

and spread awareness for children's advocacy. She participated at the recent Walk to end Alzheimer's in Worcester and the Out of the Darkness Walk in Natick for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP).

The scholarship is based on potential for future success, excellence in leadership, extracurricular activities, community service, and academics. Garcia exemplifies each of these pillars through her academic excellence, well-rounded interests and involvement, passion for leadership and serving others, and immense dedication to the interest of nursing. The PCE grant is intended for use in completing a degree or certification

necessary for improving or gaining skills leading to employment. P.E.O. is a philanthropic organization where women celebrate the advancement of women, educate women through scholarships, grants, awards, loans, and stewardship, and motivate women to achieve their highest aspirations.

In an email Debra Dumler, Chairman of the Board of Trustees P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education wished Garcia great success for the years ahead. Dumler also encouraged the sponsoring Chapter R to celebrate Garcia's award. More information about P.E.O. may be obtained by visiting www.peointernational.org

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TLGV offers Walktober Redux

We're showing our gratitude for our wide open spaces and amazing communities Thanksgiving weekend as TLGV hosts a Walktober Redux. We're welcoming everyone to join us in celebration of the holidays and an appreciation of the wonders of The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor.

The Walktober Redux lineup includes:

TLGV Natchaug Trail

#OptOutside Hike

Join Chief Ranger Bill Reid to #OptOutside with a Walktober Redux hike at 9 am Nov. 26 on the Natchaug Trail in Eastford. The hike will take us through a variety of terrain and along the beautiful Natchaug River and past Beaverdam Marsh. Our route will take us past or near historic structures, such as the homestead of Gen. Nathaniel Lyon and the old Civilian Conservation Corps camp. Along the way we'll learn about the forest around us and the history of the location. We will also plan a stop at Gen. Lyon Memorial Park for a rest and a snack. The hike is just more than 3 miles and includes a narrow forest trail with stream crossings, muddy spots, surface rocks and roots and about 400 feet in

elevation. It is a moderate to difficult hike and is not recommended for people with mobility difficulty. The hike is expected to be from 9 a.m. to noon. RSVP is required. There is a limit of 20 people. Please contact Bill Reid at 860-774-3300 or Bill@tlgv.org for more information, to sign up and for directions.

TLGV Acorn Adventure - Hiking 101 with NOW

Exploring the outdoors of The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor is a perfect - and free - way to enjoy time together as a family. But getting outside can also be intimidating. Join Northeast Opportunities for Wellness (NOW) Executive Director Tayler Shea, TLGV's Chief Ranger Bill Reid and TLGV TerraCorps Service Member Monique Salvias as we hit the trails in Thompson to teach kids how to be safe, fuel their bodies (there will be snacks!) and enjoy the outdoors.

We'll stretch, learn and explore the trails in two sessions Nov. 27. From 10 am to noon we will gear the program to little ones ages 4 to 9 (younger children are welcome). At 1 pm we'll tackle the trail with kids 10 and up. Registration for this free program is required. Parking is

limited. Exact location will be given after registration. TLGV's Acorn Adventures are always free thanks to the generous sponsorship of Centerville Bank.

To register for this free, fun filled event, head to www.NOWinMotion.org/Events to locate the registration page.

Or you can call TLGV at 860-774-3300 or email Bill@tlgv.org

TLGV's Sun Spotting

Our sun is an active and complex ball of energy and gases, and right now it's in a very active phase. Join Night Sky Rangers Geoff and Kim at 1 pm Nov. 28 at Hopeville

State Park, 929 Hopeville Rd., Griswold CT to get a look at the sun like you have never seen it before. With the help of special filters we will gaze directly at the sun looking for sun spots and more.

The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor is

the last stretch of dark night sky in the coastal sprawl between Boston and Washington, D.C. The Last Green Valley, Inc. works for you in the National Heritage Corridor. Together we can care for it, enjoy it and pass it on.

*Francesca J. Kefalas
Assistant Director*

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Tips on financial planning



Dennis Antonopoulos

Your employer-sponsored retirement plan is a valuable asset. But sometimes things happen that can affect the status of your plan. So, for example, if you work for a hospital that changes ownership, and you have been participating in a 403(b), 457(b) or 401(k) retirement plan, what should you do with it now?

Managing your retirement plan under a new employer

Basically, you have four options:

- **Cash out your plan**
You can simply cash out your plan and take the money, but you'll have to pay taxes on it, and possibly penalties as well. So, unless you really need the funds and you have no other alternative, you may want to avoid liquidating your account.
- **Roll your account into your new employer's plan**
If it's allowed, you can roll over your old 403(b), 457(b) or 401(k) plan into your new employer's plan. Before making this move, you'll want to look at the new plan's investment options (which should be numer-

ous) and fees (which should be low). If you move the money directly to the new plan, you won't be taxed at the time of the transfer, and your funds can continue to grow tax-deferred.

- **Leave your plan with your old employer**

If your account balance is above a certain level, you may be able to leave your plan with your old employer's plan administrator. You won't be able to contribute any more money to the plan, but if you like the investment options you've chosen, keeping the money in your old plan might be a viable choice.

- **Move your account into a traditional IRA**

One possible advantage to moving your 403(b), 457(b) or 401(k) into a traditional IRA is you'll open up a world of new investment options, because you can fund your IRA with virtually any type of vehicle, including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, certificates of deposit (CDs) and exchange-traded funds. And if you already have a traditional IRA, you can combine the new funds with the old ones, making it easier to track your holdings. As is the case with leaving your money in your old employer's plan or transferring it to a new plan, you'll continue to benefit from tax-deferred growth. Keep

in mind, though, that IRAs have costs, too, possibly including transaction costs to buy or sell new investments. (One more thing to keep in mind: When you want to move a retirement plan to an IRA, you may want to make a direct rollover, so the old plan's administrator moves the money directly into the IRA, allowing you to avoid immediate taxes. If you were to make an indirect rollover, you'd get the money yourself, but your old employer would have to deduct 20% for federal taxes, and you'd have to deposit the entire balance, including the withholding, into your IRA within 60 days.)

Which of these choices is best for you? There's no one "right" answer for everyone. You'll want to consider all the options and possibly consult with your tax advisor and financial professional. But do all you can to protect your retirement plan - you've worked hard to build it, and you'll need to rely on it to help you pay for your years as a retiree.

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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Mark Marzeotti

Buying a foreclosed home: Where to search, how to buy and what to watch out for

The deals are real, but there are risks involved.

If you're searching for a house to buy, and you're looking for a deal, a foreclosure may be an enticing option. Foreclosed properties, which have been taken back by a lender after the homeowners defaulted on their loan, usually sell for significantly less than similar homes on the traditional market.

The lower price tag has a few strings attached, though. Buying any house can be complicated and a foreclosed house especially so, with its own unique set of risks and challenges. Learn more about how to buy a foreclosed home to decide if it's a good option for you.

What is a foreclosed home?

Foreclosures have been seized by the lender because

the homeowner was no longer able to pay the mortgage. Most lenders will begin the foreclosure process when the owner falls three to six months behind but has been longer as of late.

Foreclosures varies by lender, state and the homeowner's specific situation, the ultimate outcome is largely the same: The lender seizes control of the property and looks to resell the home as quickly as possible to minimize or recoup any losses. To speed up this process, foreclosed homes usually come at a discount and are often sold "as is", which means that lenders may be reluctant to make repairs.

For a buyer, the primary difference between purchasing a foreclosure and a traditionally listed property is that you're buying from a lender and not the homeowner. This changes the dynamics of finding a home, making an offer and negotiating a contract.

Before you start looking for hot foreclosure deals,

it's important to understand the process and what you should expect.

One tricky aspect of buying foreclosures is the number of ways you can buy them. These include:

- **Short sales:** With a short sale, a lender agrees to accept a sale price that's lower than what's owed on the loan. When a homeowner owes more on their mortgage than the equity they have in the home, sometimes known as "being underwater," lenders may agree to this type of sale if they believe they'll recoup more from short-selling than a full-blown foreclosure. Short sales are listed openly on multiple listings services and are relatively easy to find with your realtor.
- **Auctions:** If a foreclosure is inevitable, the bank may let the homeowner take their property to auction. Home auctions are typically administered by a county or municipality-level agency. Buyers at auction should be prepared to make a full-cash offer and be ready to stomach some risk; the property's condition and who holds the title may be uncertain.
- **Direct from lender:** Properties that have completed the foreclosure process and

are released to the lender become bank-owned or real estate-owned homes. Banks tend to take their time with what are called real-estate owned homes in order to find the most profitable offer. As a result, buying an REO (real estate owned) home can take a long time, depending on the number of foreclosures the bank is handling. Sometimes, it can take months for a bank just to respond to your offer.

- **From the government:** Agencies such as the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Veterans Affairs also sell foreclosures on loans they guaranteed. You can find listings online at the various agency websites but must work with a real estate agent/Realtor to make an offer.
- **Pre-foreclosures:** Homeowners in the pre-foreclosure stage have received notice from their bank that foreclosure is looming. They

will have a specified period to catch up on payments and late fees but will often look for a buyer who will pay the right price for their home to save them the financial trouble of foreclosure. Pre-foreclosures can be harder to find since they're not officially on the market.

If you're thinking about buying a foreclosed home, choose your real estate agent/Realtor carefully.

An agent who knows how the process of buying a foreclosed property works will be very helpful. Understanding the process allows the agent to manage buyer expectations. An agent with a lack of foreclosure experience can make the transaction a bit challenging. Marzeotti Group is experienced and can help.

Get Pre-approved: Securing your mortgage preap-

proval is an essential step for any prospective buyer, but it's critical when targeting foreclosures. The most successful foreclosure buyers make all-cash offers, which immediately gives them a leg up on anyone who still needs to secure financing. A preapproval letter proves that you can back up your offer and close the deal.

You may also want to investigate alternative loan options that work well for foreclosures. The FHA 203(k) loan, for instance, lets you finance up to \$35,000 in repairs or upgrades into the loan, which is particularly helpful since foreclosure properties often need a lot of work.

An experienced agent should have no trouble helping you find foreclosure listings. Good luck and call if you need help!

VETERANS POST

Cybercriminals have vets in their sights

By Freddy Groves

Veterans are victims of cybercrimes at a much higher rate than civilians. And it's not just veterans, included are military spouses, survivors, active-duty personnel and our families. This is no doubt because of our benefits and the goodies to be had after stealing from us.

To tackle the problem, the Department of Veterans Affairs is stepping in and partnering with outside groups like the Cybercrime Support Network (cybercrimesupport.org), whose motto is Recognize, Report and Recover. It's about time ... over the past five years, veterans have reported cybercrime losses of more than \$420 million.

The CSN's mix of initiatives includes ScamSpotter (ScamSpotter.org), with practical consumer advice about how to avoid and report fraud and scams.

Especially for us is Fight Cybercrime (fightcybercrime.org/military). Its crime-fighting partners are pretty impressive, and include the Disabled American Veterans and Army Emergency Relief. Look over the site for a resource library for us, law enforcement and businesses. Interesting topics include how to reduce your risk of ransomware, determining if a text message is fake or real, being safe in online gaming and even a pre-vacation checklist.

A recent Fight Cybercrime webinar touched home for many of us: How to keep your business information safe when you're working from home and sharing your online connection with children. Past webinars are worth watching as well: staying safe on social media, avoiding a scam from a government tax imposter, and COVID scams, which seem to be everywhere.

So, we have the tools. The information and resources are out there. But we need to take advantage of all that's offered to avoid becoming another cybercrime statistic.

One of the biggest problems with cybercrime is that we don't always report it. We're embarrassed because we thought we couldn't be fooled ... until we are. Do your part. If you get scammed, report it. (c) 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

Prayer



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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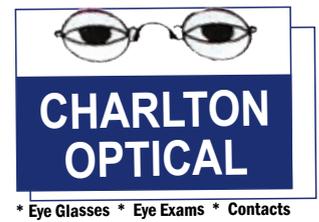
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