

Neighbor to Neighbor

Published by Anne M. Paquin Since 1983

64 Hardy St., Dunstable, MA 01827

(978) 419-1914

E-mail: anne@neighbortoneighbornewsletter.com

www.neighbortoneighbornewsletter.com

Celebrating 37 Years of Service!

Issue # 402 • March 2021

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DUNSTABLE TOWN CLERK

• **Notice is given that the 2021 Prospective Juror List** has been filed with my office for the Town of Dunstable and is now available for public inspection pursuant to MGL Chapter 234A, Section. 15. The presence of a resident's name on the Prospective Juror List does not necessarily mean that person will be issued a juror summons. However, a person cannot be summoned as a juror if his or her name does not appear on the Prospective Juror List. Certain residents' names will be suppressed in any given year for a variety of reasons, ranging from permanent medical disqualifications to those who have performed jury service in the last three years, but in general all eligible residents will appear on the Prospective Juror List. *For further information, please visit the Office of Juror Commissioner website at <http://www.mass.gov/courts/jury/the.htm>.*

• **Are you interested in seeking public office?** Nomination papers are now available for the Annual Town Election. Papers can be obtained by appointment only with the Town Clerk. Usually I am in the office on Mondays and Thursdays from 9 - 2, working remotely on Tuesdays and Wednesdays but this can change due to deadlines and other duties. You can designate someone in on your behalf by appointment by writing a letter with their name. *Call for an appointment to pick up papers if interested.*

https://www.dunstable-ma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif4361/f/uploads/how_to_run_for_town_office_in_the_town_of_dunstable_1.pdf
Questions? Carol Skerrett at CSkerrett@dunstable-ma.gov

• **Town Clerk Office Hours** - I will have appointments available on Mondays and Thursdays (sometimes this will change) and working remotely on Tuesday and Wednesday as the Town Hall has to stagger employees to comply with Governor Baker's orders. Please call or email to schedule appointments. Town Hall has reopened partially to the public, but it will continue to be staggered hours by departments until further notice. It is highly recommended you contact the office you want before coming in to be sure they are here to help you. *Please see the notice from the Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator under News and Announcements on the home page of the town website.* **Carol A. Skerrett, Town Clerk CMMC 978-649-4514 x222** CSkerrett@dunstable-ma.gov



THE BIG NIGHT IN

(Virtually) Gather a team of friends and family from anywhere on the planet to take part in the Groton Dunstable Education Foundation (GDEF) **Annual Trivia Night ~ MARCH 20TH, 2021 at 8-9:30 PM**
VIRTUALLY HOSTED BY TRIVIA BROTHERS \$15 per player

Funds raised benefit all the students in the GDRSD. For more information and to buy tickets, please visit www.gdefinc.org.

GDEF is a volunteer, non-profit organization committed to enhancing the success of our public schools by funding grants for innovative, inspiring programs, materials and professional development opportunities that fall outside the normal school district operating budget.



IN MEMORY OF

Paul Jean Vincent
Isabel (DeFreitas) DeCaires
Leo H. Desmarais
Anne H. Vincent

DUNSTABLE VETERAN SERVICES OFFICE

All of us veterans have been wondering about when we can get our **COVID Vaccines at the VA Hospitals**. They tell us that you must be in their system. Well, what exactly does that mean? If you are currently going to, or if you have ever received treatment at a VA facility, you are enrolled. ***What you must do however, if you want to go to the Bedford VA Hospital to be vaccinated and you have never received treatment there, you need to tell them what VA facility you received treatment at.*** They will then pull your records from there so you can receive the Vaccine at Bedford. This especially includes all of you Vets out there who have a disability but have not been to a VA facility in the past 20 or 30 years or since you received your disability assessment. You can call 781 687 4000.

One more thing I would like to begin doing every month, is to give recognition to those vets I have in the Dunstable database who were born for each month, but have since passed away. This month I would like to honor the following:
Frances A. Coyle - 22 Mar 1904 - 4 Mar 2000 - USCG - WWII
Leo R. Dumont Sr - 26 Mar 1921 - 24 Dec 2014 - USA - WWII
Robert R. Rockwell - 1 Mar 1925 - 6 Jun 1944 - USA - WWII (Killed in Action)
William B. Sheridan - 31 Mar 1927 - 20 Jan 2004 - USN - WWII
Leonard R. Dumont Sr - 11 Mar 1933 - 15 Sep 2015 - USA - Korea
Our many thanks to those who went the extra step to serve their country.

As always, if you know of any Veteran or family member of any veteran who might need assistance please contact me. I am normally available from 10:00AM to 2:00PM on Mondays almost every week. You can call or text on my cell and leave a message 978-496-0985 or send me an email anytime at VSO@Dunstable-ma.gov
God Bless.

Dunstable Veteran Services Office

Joe Dean (Former USMC Sgt, Retired USAF Capt.)
Dunstable and Groton Veteran Services Officer
Proudly serving those who have served

THE DUNSTABLE BOARD OF HEALTH AND THE NASHOBA BOARD OF HEALTH NURSING SERVICE

Well Adult Clinics *In response to the Governor's guidance, Nashoba Nursing is cancelling all Well Adult clinics.* You can visit their website www.nashoba.org or call: 978-772-3335 ext. 340 for more info. or if you are in need of their services.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN DUNSTABLE?

Please note, that some information could be subject to changes.
<https://www.dunstable-ma.gov/board-selectmen/faq/how-do-i-contact-member-select-board>

Jan/Feb/March 2021

1. The Governance Committee was formed in the fall of 2018 and began meeting in 2019 to review the structure of town government and to determine whether the town would benefit from having a Town Charter. After several discussions it was determined that there are areas of town government that would benefit from having a formal structure as well as definitive process, i.e., the budget and a defined role of the Town Administrator. Subsequently, the committee has been drafting a Special Act Charter with the help of a consultant. Currently, the draft charter is near completion. Once done, it will be reviewed by the Select Board and town departments for input. After there will be forums for public input and upon arriving at a final version, it will be presented at a town meeting for a vote. With approval it will be submitted to the Commonwealth. For more information, please go to the town website <https://www.dunstable-ma.gov/town-governance-committee> or contact the Town Hall 978 649 4514 ext 224

2. MUD Housing Project The town purchased the 28.5 acres MUD property at 170 Pleasant St. (behind the Post Office) in 1999 for \$390,000 to be used as a location for senior and/or affordable housing.

For the past 8 years at least, the Affordable Housing Committee has been working to develop the property with a town-initiated 40B housing project.

The Committee's primary goal for the Property is to ensure the development of mixed-income non-age-restricted rental housing at least 25% affordability at 80% or lower AMI. The Committee's decision to build affordable rental housing for mixed ages on the Property was based upon community input, research, and an extensive feasibility study. The plan currently proposes to include 48 unit with a mix of 1, 2 and possibly 3-bedroom units.

All units will be counted towards the town's 40B housing obligation (which the state says should be 10% affordable). For more information, visit the town website <https://www.dunstable-ma.gov/affordable-housing-committee>, contact the Town Hall 978 649 4514 ext 224 or review the minutes of the Select Board from 2020 and 2021.

3. Forestry, the selective harvesting of trees, provides for regeneration of plant species, improves habitat for many wildlife species, maintains forest health, and helps shape the forest for the future. It is an important form of agriculture and is common in Dunstable by a town department i.e., the Town Forest Committee or Conservation Commission, and by private owners i.e., the Dunstable Rural Land Trust, farmers, or individuals. In the last couple years there were several selective tree harvests including Pierce Town Forest, the Helen Hogg Conservation property, and the McLoon property. There were also 2 large tree removal operations for the 2 private solar fields. Presently, the Dunstable Rural Land Trust (DRLT) is conducting a timber harvest on about 35 acres between the North Pond and Main Street. Signs have been placed on the trails, abutters have been notified, and the cutting plan approved by the State. DRLT has worked closely with The Nature of Things school to protect areas they use for hut-building, and trails to the pond, which classes use extensively. The goal is to leave some of the straightest pines and almost all the hardwoods, and to allow ground cover to re-establish a more diverse & attractive forest. The entire project should be completed by the end of February; there is a March 15, 2021 deadline as many of these areas are listed as habitat for protection due to a rare turtle species. For more information visit <https://www.dunstable-ma.gov/conservation-commission> or the DRLT.

4. 91 River St. In 2019, the Town issued a Request for Proposals for the lease of this property to private solar companies for the construction of a solar field to generate lease revenue and tax revenue. The Town selected SunPower as the responsible respondent and has been working with them over the past eighteen months. SunPower has completed a limited amount of permitting and has been working with National Grid on utility interconnection matters while it works to negotiate a lease with the Town. This project is still in its earliest phases of development and the hope is to report progress in the coming future.

5. Green Communities. The Town was recently designated a Green Community and awarded a Green Communities Designation Grant of approximately \$120,000. So far, the Town has been able to complete weatherization at the library, replacement of interior lighting with LED lighting at the police station, obtained funding to offset the cost of police cruiser replacements (hybrids), and will replace the HVAC system at the police station in the near future. The Town will also be able to convert its street lights to LED's using this funding source, see next item.

6. Street lights. During 2020, the Town acquired ownership of the street light fixtures (not the poles) from National Grid at the cost of \$1. The concept behind ownership is that the maintenance charges National Grid charges from for the street lights are removed from the bill. Going forward the Town will only have to pay for what maintenance it needs and has hired a qualified contractor to do so. Ownership of the lights also enables the Town to replace the light fixtures with LED's which will save the Town money on the generation portion of the utility bill. Based on an audit of the street lights a couple lights will be relocated and a couple lights will be added as part of the conversion project to LED's. The audit and conversion are being funded by grant money received from the State of Massachusetts Green Communities Program.

6. A Request for Proposals have been sent out to install cellular antenna on the new water tower. The project is still in its earliest phases of development and there will be additional information shared at a later date. Cell antenna lease revenue would partly defray the rate increase needed to pay the debt service on the recently completed water system improvements.

7. Route 113 Traffic Improvements. The Town is currently programmed to receive over \$4,000,000 of federal funding toward road improvements on Route 113. These include traffic calm measures, targeted widening, limited sidewalks, and other improvements. The project area is from the intersection of Main and Pleasant headed west to stop just short of 416 Main Street. A link to the plan can be found here https://www.dunstable-ma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf4361f/uploads/town_meeting_row_plans.pdf

The Town is working closely with the State Department of Transportation to keep this project on track to be bid in the fall of 2021 with construction to commence in spring of 2022. Currently, the Town is focused on the right of way acquisitions needed to support the project, a measure that was recently approved at Special Town Meeting in January.



DOWN TO EARTH HOUSE CLEANING

Weekly/Bi-Weekly/Monthly. Personalized jobs, floors, woodwork, vacuum & dusting. Much more. If you want your house cleaned with a personal touch it's time to call **MARLA at 978-649-9824**. Free estimates. References.

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Neighbor to Neighbor

Published by Anne Paquin Since 1983

64 Hardy St., Dunstable, MA 01827-1403 Tel. 978-419-1914

E-mail: anne@neighbortoneighbornewsletter.com

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Total Circulation is now 6,481 which includes Dunstable and Tyngsborough.

Please send in your news for the April issue.

Send to anne@NeighborToNeighborNewsletter.com or mail to:
Neighbor to Neighbor, 64 Hardy St., Dunstable, MA 01827.
Need more information about how to submit news? Do you have
a business and you would like to know more about advertising?
Email me or leave a message at **978-419-1914**,
I will get back to you as soon as possible.

**DO YOU NEED HELP KEEPING WARM
THIS WINTER?**

Would you like a discount on your monthly National Grid utility bill? If your household meets the income guidelines for 2019-2020, you may be eligible for heating assistance benefits.

Number of Household Members and Maximum Income: 1 person \$37,360; 2 people \$48,855; 3 people \$60,351; 4 people \$71,846; 5 people \$83,341; and 6 people \$94,837.

If you qualify for Heating Assistance, you may also be eligible to receive: Free Energy Audit, Free LED Light Bulbs, Free Replacement Refrigerator, Free Replacement Air Conditioner, Free Air Sealing and Insulation and Free Replacement Heating System.

Call 978-459-6161 for an application. **Applications are accepted through April 30.** Sponsored thru Community Team Work. 45 Kirk St. 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA. You may also schedule an appointment online: <https://tinyurl.com/CTIHeat>. **If you received your 2019-2020 Heating Assistance application, please complete and return to CTI today. Have you received Heating Assistance before? Call CTI to have an application mailed to you.**

EXTRA HANDS AND PAWS

Pet Care, both day and overnight. Dog walking.
Cat Care in your home. Vacation home checks, plant watering. **Please call Diane Nilsen at 978-649-8786 or email dianeinilsen@gmail.com.**

**TOWN OF DUNSTABLE TRASH AND
RECYCLING PICKUP PROGRAM**

New subscribers can pay on line on the town webpage www.dunstable-ma.gov but will have to come to the Town Hall to pick up their containers. You can mail a \$300.00 check made payable to the Town of Dunstable to P.O. Box 268, Dunstable, MA 01827, or you can drop off a check or cash at the Town Hall Monday-Friday 9:00-4:00p.m. in the mail slot in the door.

We also sell overflow bags for those times you may have extra trash that will not fit into the trash container. The cost is \$3.00 each sold in rolls of 5 for \$15.00. Those can be purchased on line. **You will be contacted to make arrangements for pick up of containers or overflow bags at Town Hall.**

GROTON NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD PROJECT

The Groton Neighborhood Food Project (GNFP) is a non-profit organization that helps families in our community by organizing neighborhoods to collect food and other grocery items.

Please join our growing network of neighborhood volunteers – it is fun & rewarding for the whole family! On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GrotonFoodProject/>

If you would like to learn more about the GNFP, and how you can help, please go to <https://grotonfoodproject.com>

The next food collection is on Saturday, April 10th.

**SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

<http://www.sov-lc.org>

To contact Pastor Rev. Susan Gaeta (978) 540-0768
or email her at pastorgaetasov@gmail.com

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran will continue to meet remotely until it is deemed safe to meet at our building space in Ayer, MA.

Please join in our service via online ZOOM. Sunday worship at 10am and Wednesday prayer service at 7pm. If you visit our Facebook page or website you will be able to see how you can join in on our service. We hope to 'see' you there!

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- www.tyngsboroughfuneralhome.com**

FACE COVERINGS MANDATORY

Everyone is required to wear a face covering, whether indoors or outdoors, in all public places, even when able to maintain 6 feet distance from others. Exceptions for children under 5, and people who are unable to wear a mask due to a medical condition. (documentation maybe required to verify the condition) **To read all the details about this, visit www.mass.gov and search "face coverings" or for the order, mass.gov/doc/covid-19-order-55/download.**

DUNSTABLE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

588 Main St. 978-649-7830

For more library information go to

www.dunstable-ma.gov click on library

Mary Beth Pallis – Director – mpallis@mvlc.org

Karen Debrececi – Children's Librarian – kdebrececi@mvlc.org

Like us on FACEBOOK to receive program updates!

www.facebook.com/pages/Dunstable-Public-Library/219991908117595

The Library is open for curbside pickup on

Tuesday 3-8pm, Wednesday and Thursday 10-3pm.

We are open for Curbside Service Saturdays 10am-2pm.

•Hands on Nature will present Reading Stories in Animal Tracks on **Tuesday, March 16th at 4:00pm**. This will be a virtual program.

There will be a zoom link on our Facebook page so we can all login and interact during this exciting program.

Program Description: We see tracks all around us in the winter. Come discover the tracks of our local mammals and learn to identify which mammals leave which type of tracks. In addition to learning tracks, we will also discover their other signs such as fur traces, scat and scratch marks. Following an animal's tracks can teach us a lot about who lives in our woods and their behavior. Track activities will also be given to track at your house!

This program is good for ages 4 and up and will last approximately 45 minutes. *You do not need to sign up for this program just connect with the zoom link on our facebook page on 3/16 at 4:00pm!*

You are now able to put your books on hold through the MVLC catalog. Go to www.mvlc.org to order books from the entire consortium. You can also request by phone or email. Call 978-649-7830 or email dunstablerequest@dunstablepl.org.

When you receive the email that your material is ready, please call the library to let us know when you want to pick it up. We also offer home delivery for seniors on Thursdays. We quarantine all returned books and then spray and wipe each one down.

Every Tuesday night at 6:00pm, Mrs. D will read from a chapter book for school aged children on the library facebook page. Please join her for this fun read-out-loud!

Craft times: Please check the facebook page because some weeks we have guided craft times on facebook live and other times we offer take and make craft bags to be picked up curbside!

Virtual story time is every Thursday at 10:30am on DPL facebook live. We have stories, puppets, songs and fingerplays for young children! Join in on the fun!!

What's new for materials? We are posting on DPL facebook page new titles and materials. ***For all updates on these programs and other library news, please go to the Dunstable-Public-Library facebook page! Stay well!!***

DUNSTABLE TOWN HALL DIRECTORY

Town Hall (978) 649-4514. The departmental extensions are as follows:

221 Town Accountant **222** Town Clerk **223** Council on Aging
224 Selectmen (handles many depts.) Also for Animal Control Officer. After hours call Police at 978-649-8891. If emergency call 911

226 Building Inspector **227** Road Commission

228 Tax Collector/Treasurer **229** Board of Health

230 Conservation/Planning Board **249** Assessors, Water Dept

Please dial 0 if you need assistance.

Veteran's Officer 978-649-3919

POLICE NON-EMERGENCY 978-649-7445 POLICE & EMT 911

FIRE DEPT. TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO REPORT A FIRE CALL 911

Business Line.....978-649-6661 FAX.....978-649-6072

Alarm System* **978-448-6666***can be used to call in a fire from cell phone

Visit www.dunstable-ma.gov for contact info, news & updates

A COMMUNITY PIE BAKE-OFF RECIPE

Once again, a year that we are unable to hold this popular event. So, we thought you might like to try making one of the past winners yourself. **ENJOY! BLUEBERRY PIE**

• 4 C blueberries, ¾ c sugar, 4T flour, ½ tsp cinnamon, 1 tsp lemon juice, 1T butter • Mix all ingredients except the butter

• Pour into an unbaked pie shell, dot top of berries with butter, cover with top crust. You can use any crust recipe or buy pre-made crust.

• Optional, brush top with a little milk • Bake 350° 20 min with crust covered then 35 – 40 min till golden brown.

DUNSTABLE SENIORS

Program Coordinator Susan Tully 978-649-6750

or Email at sjt0213@verizon.net

Dunstable Seniorswe are a peer group for those over 60.

DUNSTABLE COUNCIL ON AGING

DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

Anne Fenochetti Email: afenochetti@dunstable-ma.gov

978-649-4514 ext. 223 Hours: Tuesday 8am to 12:30pm

DUNSTABLE COUNCIL ON AGING Barbara Martin, chairman; Mary Dow, secretary; Donald Pottle, James McManus, Joan Simmons.

The Mission of the Dunstable Council on Aging is to serve as a supportive family resource as emerging needs of Dunstable residents become more complex; and to advocate for and provide, in a cost-effective manner, a safe, congenial environment where seniors may participate in social, educational, and cultural programs reflective of their needs. Feel free to give us your ideas.

Nashoba Nursing Service and Hospice: For information on home health, nursing availability, or hospice - call 1-800-698-3307.

.... There will be **NO MEETINGS** at the Dunstable Library until further notice

Happy Birthday to all who are celebrating this month!

Senior Services

• **Sand Delivery** It's not too late. We want all our seniors to stay safe. The Dunstable Highway Dept. will once again deliver a bucket of sand to any senior so they can keep their sidewalk & steps safe. Just let us know.

• **Book Group** Our meeting will be held in the community room of the Dunstable Church on **March 20** we will be discussing **The Baker's Secret** by Stephen Kiernan. Summary: a dazzling novel of World War II—a shimmering tale of courage, determination, optimism, and the resilience of the human spirit, set in a small Normandy village on the eve of D-Day. *Everyone is responsible for getting their own copy of these books. There are many copies available thru MVLC/ Dunstable library.*

• **Book Delivery** is available through the Dunstable Library on Thursdays. Just let Anne know if you or someone you know needs books or audio material. Call 978-649-7830

• **Bone Builders Program** A balance and strength training exercise program can be viewed thru a video on you tube provided by the Tyngsboro Senior Center. Jean Jacoppi will lead the class. Search **Crystal Lake Rv Bone Builders**

• **Van Service** is available for medical appointments and grocery shopping. Cost is \$5.00 for local trips, Lowell, Chelmsford, Nashua, Tyngsboro, Westford, Ayer, Groton & Pepperell. \$10.00 for any other. Check with Anne Fenochetti as soon as you know when your appointment is to make sure a ride is available.

• **Meals on Wheels** Do you or someone you know need the services of Meals on Wheels? This service is now being merged with Tyngsboro's MOW. For more information contact Merrimack Valley Elder Services 1-800-892-0890

• **Medicare** Remember if you are turning 65 you should contact Social Security to enroll in Medicare. Medicare has no connection to your eligibility for social security benefits. If you have questions call Elder Services at 1-800-892-0890.

... **We now have the application for RMV Handicap placards...**

Durable Medical Equipment Try us **FREE** before you buy. Check out the COA's inventory. We have a variety of good, gently used walkers, wheelchairs, transport chairs, canes, commodes and much more that people have generously donated. These are on loan and need to be returned to Town Hall when not in use. PLEASE call first before you drop off items. Accepted items should be brought to the Town Hall only.

Elder Hotline Finding the answer to questions about issues can sometimes be confusing. The Attorney General's Office has a state-wide, toll-free telephone hotline to assist individuals on a wide range of elder issues. The number is 1-888-243-5337 (TTY: 617-727-4765) Monday thru Friday 10:00 am– 4:00 pm This elderly hotline provides a valuable service to Massachusetts' senior citizens, their families, and other information about elder related issues and programs throughout the commonwealth.

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Open Following CDC and State Guidelines!

NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH® 2021:

EAT RIGHT FOR LIFE STAGES.

National Nutrition Month® 2021, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics recommends people adjust their eating habits to address the nutritional needs of their bodies during all stages of life.

This year's theme, Personalize Your Plate, promotes creating nutritious meals to meet individuals' cultural and personal food preferences. The Academy encourages everyone to make informed food choices and develop sound eating and physical activity habits they can follow all year long. MyPlate recommends visualizing your plate as nutrient-rich sections with one quarter reserved for grains, another with protein-rich foods and the remaining half with fruits and vegetables along with a serving of low-fat or fat-free dairy.

60s and beyond — Continue to include a variety of protein-rich foods to maintain bone strength and incorporate strength-building activities to maintain muscle. Good sources of protein include seafood, lean cuts of meat, eggs, beans, tofu and nuts. Animal-based protein foods also provide vitamin B12, which is a concern for some older adults. Foods also may be fortified with vitamin B12 or a supplement may be recommended by your health care provider. Building a healthy plate is easy when you make half your plate fruits and vegetables. It's also a great way to add color, flavor and texture plus vitamins, minerals and dietary fiber. Make 2 cups of fruit and 2 ½ cups of vegetables your daily goal.

Maple Salmon

This is the best and most delicious salmon recipe, and very, easy to prepare. **Yield:** 4 servings **Ingredients:** ¼ cup maple syrup, 2 tablespoons soy sauce, 1 clove garlic, minced, ¼ tsp garlic salt, ½ tsp salt & black pepper, 1 pound salmon

Directions Step 1 In a small bowl, mix the maple syrup, soy sauce, garlic, garlic salt, and pepper. **Step 2** Place salmon in a shallow glass baking dish, and coat with the maple syrup mixture. Cover the dish, and marinate salmon in the refrigerator 30 minutes, turning once. **Step 3** Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. **Step 4** Place the baking dish in the preheated oven, and bake salmon uncovered 20 minutes, or until easily flaked with a fork.

THE DUNSTABLE RURAL LAND TRUST ~ 2021 CALENDAR

This year's calendar is devoted to wonderful photos of the McLoon Barn and Property. The Calendar is available for \$12 a piece. **There are a few 2021 calendars still available at:** The Dunstable General Store, Rose of Sharon at Blossom Hill, The Farmhouse Café and Tully Farm Dairy Store. All proceeds from the sale of the calendars go directly to the Dunstable Rural Land Trust to help preserve the rural character of our town. **Call Elaine at 978-649-9236 for more information.** Due to Covid-19 no events for the DRLT. www.drlt.org

COMMISSIONERS OF TRUST FUNDS

Dunstable, MA

Are you a Dunstable resident who is experiencing financial hardship? We may be able to help. A century ago, various residents of Dunstable willed funds to the town to help those in need. Dunstable's Commissioners of Trust Funds are responsible for disbursing funds from the interest on these accounts each year. If you, or someone you know, is a resident of Dunstable and could use some one-time help with medical, pharmacy, grocery, or fuel bills, let us know. Requests can be submitted to the Commissioners of Trust Funds at www.dunstable-ma.gov/user/53/contact. **All inquiries are confidential.**

MEALS ON WHEELS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS LIKE YOU!

A Meals on Wheels volunteer driver may be the only person a homebound senior sees in a day, or sometimes a week. Volunteers offer a daily dose of human connection and a nutritious meal that helps keep senior happy and healthy. Become a volunteer driver today. **Contact Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley and North Shore at nutrition@esmv.org or call 978-686-1422.**

OPEN BURNING SEASON

Open Burning season will run through May 1st.. The fee is \$10 for the season and the fee is exempt for property owners 65 years of age and older. You can do online Permit and Payment or Or obtain a Fire Permit at the Fire Station, 28 Pleasant St., Mon-Sun 8am-4pm. Due to the COVID Pandemic we have set up permit applications and a dropbox at the front and rear doors of the fire station to allow you to obtain a permit. We are limiting the amount of outside visitors to the station.

You must follow all the rules and regulations that are listed below.

Rules and Regulations

1. You can only burn brush and garden trimmings only.
2. Burning is allowed only between 10am and 4pm. No fire shall be started after 12 noon and all fires must be extinguished by 4pm.
3. The permit holder must call the Fire Department @ 978-649-6661 each day after 9am for permission to burn that day.
4. The fire must not be left unattended and must be at least 75 feet from any structure.
5. Have available water supply, rakes, shovels, etc. for controlling the fire.

Under all Circumstances the following are prohibited


1. The burning of Grass, Hay, Leaves, Stumps, tires and/or building materials.
2. Burning of brush, trees, cane and/or driftwood from commercial and/or institutional land clearing operations.
3. Burning at landfills or refuse disposal facilities other than approved incinerators.
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2021 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES RESIDING IN DUNSTABLE

Congratulations on your pending graduation!

We are delighted to announce the availability of the Helene Morgan Babcock and Alfred Babcock Memorial Scholarship, and invite you to apply for these generous funds as you continue your education.

During the winter of 1923, the home of the Morgan family here in town caught fire and was largely destroyed. The citizens of our community responded to the crisis by taking in the children (all 17 of them!), keeping the family together and aiding in the reconstruction of their home. One of the children, Helene Morgan Babcock, remembered the words of her mother, "Never forget the kindness of the people of Dunstable," and so established a scholarship fund to be made available to the graduating students of Dunstable as they continue their education.

The amounts of these grants are substantial, with one of the Babcock Scholars receiving \$4,000 each year for up to four years. A number of additional \$2,000 scholarships are granted to other students on a one-time basis.

Scholarships may be applied to expenses incurred in the pursuit of advanced education beyond the secondary level in two or four year institutions, vocational education institutions, or formalized apprenticeship programs (the main scholarship for 4 year full time only).

Starting February 2, 2021, applications will be available at the town hall, library, your school guidance office, or by emailing babcockscholarshipfund@gmail.com.

Completed applications can be submitted electronically to the above email, or to the PO Box listed below no later than **March 18, 2021.**

Questions regarding the application process can be sent to babcockscholarshipfund@gmail.com. We hope you take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

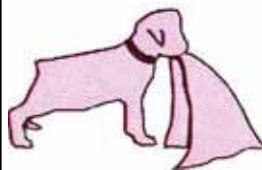
Babcock Scholarship Trustees, P.O. Box 24, Dunstable, MA 01827

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The Tobey Scholarship will be administered by the Babcock Committee using the same guidelines as the Babcock scholarship. Applications will be available at the town hall, library, your school guidance office or by emailing babcockscholarshipfund@gmail.com

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We are creating an Alumni Contact List. If you or anyone you know has ever been a Troop 28 Scout or a registered adult, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/T28-Alumni> if you are reading this online. Or type this in your browser. This is the preferred method. Or you may send an email to bstroop28.dunstable@gmail.com with your contact info and the year/years you were associated with the troop. We greatly appreciate your support with this effort, please share this info to help spread the word.

YIS, Sara Axon, Steve Berthiaume, Phil DeNyse - T28 Dunstable.

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Who Is Jesus?

by Nathan Combs

Even during Jesus' own time, people were asking themselves this question. "Who then is this?" his disciples asked as they watched him wake from his nap and calm a violent Galilean storm with a simple rebuke (Mark 4.41). "Who is this?" the Jews asked themselves as they watched him forgive the sins of a woman who wept at his feet (Luke 7.49). Even officers sent to arrest him came back empty-handed, sheepishly telling their superiors that "No one ever spoke like this man!" (John 7.46). Clearly, Jesus was a man unlike any the Jews had experienced. But who was he?

Interestingly, that was a question Jesus himself asked his disciples. "Who do people say that I am?" (Mark 8.27-29). They gave him the various incorrect answers they had heard amongst their friends and acquaintances: "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." When Jesus asked them a follow-up question, "But who do YOU say that I am?," Peter correctly identified his teacher by declaring, "You are the Christ." Indeed, Jesus was the anointed deliverer that the Jews had long expected. But contrary to common expectations of the time, the kingdom Jesus created was never designed to conquer the world at the point of a sword. In fact, when Peter pulled out a sword on the night Jesus was arrested and attempted to fight with it, his master promptly told him to put it away (John 18.11). Because Jesus' kingdom is not of this world, his servants did not physically take up arms to fight (John 18.36).

Instead, Jesus set his eyes on conquering a much more formidable foe than the armies of Rome. Ironically, through the temporary humiliation of dying naked on a Roman cross, Jesus caused eternal humiliation to the devil and his followers. He "disarmed the rulers and authorities [in the spiritual realm] and put them to open shame" (Colossians 2.15). Because Satan is defeated, our spiritual debt of sin is now cancelled when we accept Jesus' lordship. Instead of simply spending his time addressing the surface problems of the world (poverty, disease, etc.), Jesus attacked the root cause of all suffering: sin and the one who brought it to Earth. This was precisely what God promised to do at the very beginning of Scripture after Adam and his wife committed the first sin. In speaking of the impending battle that would play out through the rest of time, God prophesied that a descendant of Eve would "bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel" (Genesis 3.14). Now, ever since his resurrection from death, Jesus has been sitting at the right hand of God, reigning as King and putting all his enemies under his feet (Hebrews 1.3).

Who is Jesus in your life? Is he simply a famous historical figure with his own particular spin on proper religious life? Or do you recognize him as the person he truly is: the conquering King of the universe, full of grace for his downtrodden creation? Have you surrendered yourself completely to this King?



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THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR SERVICES. MASKS REQUIRED.

Please go to the website to watch our reopening video for instructions prior to selecting your seats. **Online Videos: Weekly on-line 9:30 am Sunday Live stream Services**, Morning Minutes of Grace, Evening Prayers, Afternoon Bible Study & Grace Kids. **Visit our channel GraceLutheran.TV on (youtube.com)**

DRIVE-UP FOOD PANTRY AVAILABLE AT THE CHURCH

We have a free, drive-up, food pantry for any of our neighbors who may be in need of food during this difficult time. It is our sincere prayer that we can be a blessing to our community as we get through this pandemic together.

We do require that you make an appointment by calling the church at 603-888-7579 and ask for our Secretary, Dianna, who manages the schedule. We do have to space out our client visits. If you do not need help but know someone who does, please pass on this information. *The church is located between World Academy and the Fire Station at 130 Spit Brook Rd., Nashua, NH.*

MOVING IN WITH ADULT CHILDREN

By Edward H. Adamsky

If you are realizing that it is getting difficult to live alone as you age, should you ask to move into the home of your adult child? Or, if you notice your parents are having a hard time alone, should you ask them to move in with you? This is a difficult and delicate topic. There are many things to consider.

How will the living arrangements work? Is there room for everyone? How will a new person in the house change the dynamics of those living there now? Will everyone get along? Are their lifestyles compatible? Does one smoke while the others don't? Does one make a lot of noise while the others might want quiet? Will someone lose living space? There's a lot to think about.

Is the home compatible with the needs of the elders? Is the house accessible for those with mobility issues who might use a cane, walker, or wheelchair? Or can it be made accessible? Are there adequate bathroom facilities that meet the needs of elders (walk-in showers with handholds and seats)? Will there be enough room for everyone's furniture and other belongings? Will someone have to give up some things to make it work?

Is the new neighborhood good for elders? Are there safe sidewalks and outdoor areas? Are there neighbors and people with whom the elder can socialize? What will happen to the elder's social life if they leave their current home and friends?

What sort of financial arrangements have you considered? Will the elders pay the children rent or share in expenses? How will that be accounted for? If upgrades are necessary to the house, who will pay? Will this make another sibling upset or lead to accusations of financial abuse? Financial issues often lead to fights among siblings when one starts dealing with the parents' money and perhaps even getting paid for services provided to the parents.

The care needs of the elders need to be considered. Is it something the children can do, or will there need to be paid caregivers? How does that fit into the financial plan? How will even more people in the house effect others' lives? What if the care needs of the elder change?

Are there other choices instead of moving in with an adult child? You should look at senior house options such as apartments, assisted living, and retirement communities. There are many new offerings today with various costs and amenities that make senior living possible without needing to move in with adult children. The old-fashioned extended family has great benefits for everyone involved and should be considered. Elders living with children and grandchildren can provide a great life experience for everyone involved. But it can be stressful and perhaps even a source of tension and strife for a family. The negative and positive aspects should be considered before you make such a big change in everyone's life.



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A NOTE FROM JEN WEST

Over the course of this past year we are so proud of the community teamwork we have witnessed which has allowed us to become a great partner with the PACH food pantry in Pepperell, MA. Through your partnership and generosity we have been able to bring thousands of pounds of donations to the pantry since last spring when the COVID crisis began.

During these next few months of construction at West Auto we will continue to work with our community partners so **if you have donations for the pantry to drop off, pop tabs to donate to benefit the Shriners organization or Box Tops for Education for Swallow Union Elementary school our Community Cares table** is located in our temporary waiting area which is now located in the rear corner of West Auto Repair building on the fire station side.

PACH PEPPERELL FOOD PANTRY

66 Hollis St., Pepperell, MA Tues 5-7pm, Thurs 2-4 & 5-7pm. PACH provides food, paper goods and personal care items to residents in need of assistance. If interested in this service, or you want to help by making a donation of food or supplies, call the Office at **978-925-9770** or visit their web site at www.pachoutreach.org. Until further notice ALL Clients are to call 978-743-6776 upon arrival. *Those dropping off donations* should call 978-925-9770 to check in upon arrival. There should be a table under canopy to place your donations on. If someone else is there please stay in your car until they leave.

Or better yet, you may drop off donations at West Auto Repair, 30 Pleasant St, in Dunstable, MA. There is a table in our temporary waiting area which is now located in the rear corner of West Auto Repair building, on the fire station side. Donations will be delivered to the Pepperell food pantry on Tuesday & Thursday. *In addition to food, personal care items, and pet food donations, they also accept Gift Card Donations to local grocery stores. They are given to neighbors in need or used by pantry volunteers to purchase items to stock the shelves. Gift cards in the amount of \$25 would be helpful.*

TYNGSBOROUGH/DUNSTABLE ROTARY CLUB

Rotary  **Rotary Motto** *Service Above Self*

We are happy to say that with your help we have reached our Goal of \$5,000. This will be used to purchase a SafetyNet System for the Tyngsboro Police Dept. This system would be installed in a police vehicle, which would then be able to locate individuals wearing a transponder. Transponders will be available to families in need of this service, providing them with additional protection and peace of mind to keep their loved one safe. Nothing is more frightening than the thought of a loved one with autism, Alzheimer's, or other cognitive impairment becoming lost. **A sincere thank you to all who donated to this fundraiser.**

The Rotary Club of Tyngsboro/Dunstable Rotary Club has been serving the Tyngsborough and Dunstable area for 41 years.

Rotary is a global network of community volunteers. Rotary club members are business, professional, and community volunteers in your locality who meet regularly to plan and implement community service activities and network with other professionals. For those interested, members can also choose to become involved in international humanitarian service efforts. More than 1.2 million men and women in over 200 countries and geographical areas belong to over 33,000 Rotary clubs.

Rotary builds international understanding through scholarships, exchange programs, and humanitarian grants. Throughout the world, Rotary clubs participate in a broad range of educational, intercultural, and humanitarian activities designed to improve the lives of others.

If you are interested in membership, please call Bob Guernsey at (508)380-4351 or Ron Keohane at (508)517-3895.

Feel free to join in our weekly Zoom meetings held on Thursdays at noon.

Contact either member listed above to find out how to join in.



Matt's Monthly Mechanical Memo

By Matt Manning

Many homes in our area were built before air conditioning came about. Bringing this modern convenience to older homes without ductwork can be challenging.

Ductless mini split systems offer owners of these homes a flexible means to add air conditioning, or supplement existing heat without adding ductwork. These heat pump systems, using variable refrigerant flow can relieve many home comfort issues. Each room, or zone, is operated independently of the other zones; so each room can maintain its occupant's ideal temperature.

Whether seeking a single system that can provide air conditioning and effective heating, or eliminating hot/cold spots in specific rooms, there is a ductless solution just right for any home.

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Pastor Bobby Ross pastorbobby@dunstablechurch.org

DECC is a welcoming church at the heart of the Dunstable community. "We gather to glorify God, to grow in Christ and to live the gospel in the world."

We are grateful to be able to join in worship and learning with technology and well-spaced seating in our building, and we welcome all who wish to participate. **If you would like to join us in person, please RSVP on our website and we will have a socially distanced space for you and your family on Sunday morning. If you wish to stay home, simply click on the Facebook "f" on our home page on Sunday morning at 10:30 and we'll bring the service to you.**

As we've seen in the past year, global pandemics are not occasions for the Christian to grow stagnant. They're actually opportunities for the Christian, and the Gospel, to thrive! Let's not settle for a Christianity only lived and pursued on Sunday mornings from 10:30-11:30.

One of the goals we have as the church is to provide supplemental ways to pursue that growth, both individually and communally. The Christian life was never meant to be lived alone. In the first quarter of 2021, we have opportunities for you to connect in community and grow in faith. Please find some listed below, along with a description.

As you consider any of the below offerings, before you think of a reason why you can't do it, because those may be the first thoughts that enter your brain, try to think of a reason why you can and should!

• Mark Study Part 2

Sign up on the church website (dunstablechurch.org) for the weekly Bible study of the book of Mark (part 2) on Sundays 9:00-10:15 AM. The class is hybrid in-person and on Zoom. Please contact the group leader, Rodrigo Cardoso, with questions. (maximiliocardoso@gmail.com) Sign up at this link: [Bible Study of Mark Part 2 Sign Up on the website.](#)

• The Story of Christianity

The Christian message is embedded in human history. This is our story in all its variety, good and bad. The story has wisdom for our present challenges, and hope and inspiration found in the lives of Christians throughout the ages. Join us weekly on Tuesdays, for Part-One of the Story from the end of the New Testament time to the Protestant Reformation in 1500. All classes will be online with no homework or tests, just the pure joy of learning every Tue 7:30-9:00 PM, through Mar 30. A Zoom link will be sent to all registrants. Please contact Peggy Drew, with any questions. (peggy-j-d@hotmail.com). Register on the website at this link: [The Story of Christianity Sign up](#)

• The Soul Care Group has been postponed.

Lent began in February and continues through March with Palm Sunday commemoration on March 28th as the beginning of Holy Week. Easter Sunday will be celebrated on April 4th. Please watch the website for Holy Week service details.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

DOWNLOAD YOUR FREE BOOK "LIVING WITH OUR WILD NEIGHBORS"

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is offering a copy of the book "Living with our Wild Neighbors" as a free download. It is very informative and covers all wildlife from A-Z. Since we have so many animals that we share our yards with, I thought it might be helpful. <https://www.animalsheltering.org/page/wild-neighbors-book>

JAMES JACOPPI

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

This is the 19th anniversary of the passing of our son, James. With help from all of you last year our raffle awarded \$10,300 in scholarships. We feel blessed to have the ability to remember Jim in such an extraordinary way. We are extremely grateful for your continued support.

This year will be our 9th annual raffle (Commonwealth of MA #36). Our fundraiser will be a Calendar Raffle with daily prizes for the month of April. Mondays through Saturdays, \$50 will be awarded daily. Sundays, a prize of \$100 and the Grand Prize of \$550 awarded on April 30th. 30 Cash prizes will total \$2,200.

Calendar Raffle Tickets are 1 for \$25 and 2 for \$35. They can be purchased by calling Cara Taylor (603-714-0135). Drawing results will be on our website. Winners will also be contacted by phone. All entries must have been received by March 31, 2021. We appreciate and thank you for any donation you can provide to the foundation. **For any other information you may need**, including access to scholarship applications, please visit the website at www.jamesjacoppischoolarshipfund.com or Facebook Page.

Thank you for your continued support. Sincerely, The Jacoppi Family

LIRA SPRING SEMESTER** RETIREES **

The Learning in Retirement Association (LIRA) invites you to enjoy their Spring semester classes.

All classes are via Zoom and can be accessed by LIRA members from anywhere.

A quick sample of the Spring class topics: The Business of Sports, The Federalist Papers, Nuclear Power, Law and the Legal System, How to Read and Understand Shakespeare, The Great Migration, Great Decisions – a world affairs discussion group, African American Poetry, Lowell's history through architecture, Sci Fi Illustration, and Garden Beauty with minimum maintenance. Also, Book and Movie discussion groups, and much more. For a complete list with detailed descriptions and schedule see link below.

Classes began on March 8th. If you are not a member, the half year membership fee is only \$75 or \$125/couple and you can take as many classes as you wish. A great way to stay engaged by continuing to learn while being Covid careful.

Detailed class descriptions & schedule, and information to join LIRA – www.UML.edu/LIRA/

LIRA a partnership project with the Offices of Community Relations and Alumni Relations at UMass Lowell. If this is of interest to you, check this out now. If it is too late to get in on this session, you may want to join now so you can take part in the next semester classes. Always so many great topics.

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Among items offered are Garden Supplies including Tick Tubes, Cedar Bluebird Houses, Black Gold, Neptune's Harvest Hydrolyzed Fish Fertilizer (Made in MA), Rain Barrels and Fertilizer Tablets 12-12-12. Also a selection of Shrubs and Trees as well as Fruits and Edibles, Groundcovers, Perennials, Daylilies and Hostas.

Please visit www.middlesexconservation.org to place an order by credit card. If you received the green flyer you may send in the form with a check to Middlesex Conservation District, 319 Littleton Rd., Suite 205, Westford, MA 01886. **Order deadline is March 31, 2021. Remember to order as early as possible as popular plants will go quickly.**

Orders may be picked up on Friday 4/30 from 3-6pm, or Saturday 5/1 from 8am to noon, at Kimball Farm, (Rte 110) 400 Littleton Rd, Westford, MA. Orders will not be shipped. You will receive a reminder by email and postcard – please make sure we have your email address!

The Middlesex Conservation District is a not for profit environmental agency dedicated to protecting soil and water in Middlesex County. We hold plant sales twice a year to raise money for our programs. If you are interested in volunteering at our sale which is April 26 to May 1, or if you have questions please email www.middlesexconservation.org.

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Please go to the website for more information about Beaver Brook and programs offered. If you would like to attend an upcoming event, please register online at www.beaverbrook.org

Please read all details about what to bring or wear for weather and for COVID-19 protocol.

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Please check out our website www.wcumc.us for updates and general information. You can connect with us on Zoom at 9:30 Sunday mornings going forward. If you want to be on the church email list, **for an invite to Worship**, you can send your email addressed to the Administrative Assistant Roberta Stratton at office@wcumc.us.

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As of now, **hours are Sun., Tues, Wed, Thurs 1pm to 8 PM and Friday and Saturday 1pm to 9PM. Closed Monday.** The menu includes Appetizers, Subs, Hamburgers, Pizza and more. Stop in we'd love to see you. Please be well and STAY SAFE.

If you are interest in joining, or want more info about what is happening at the Post, please get in touch with the person noted for each organization or call the Post at 978-649-7540.

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Elected Post 247 Officers serving for 2019-2021

Commander: Raymond Hamelin; Sr. Vice Commander: Pete St. Peters; Jr. Vice Commander: Larry Monaco; Finance Officer: John Burke; Adjutant: Don Pierce; Judge Advocate: Roland Milliard; Executive Board: Joe Conlin, Robin Dion, and Fred Carroll.

Visit our website, www.AmericanLegionPost247.org

This website contains a wealth of information about the Post.

Please remember to be safe & keep our troops in your prayers.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 247

90 Pawtucket Blvd. Tyngsborough, MA 01879

Auxiliary Unit 247 Officers for 2019-2021:

President: Josephine Beauregard; Jr. Vice: Sarah O'Callaghan; Secretary: Patricia Modrich; Treasurer: Diane Dileo; Chaplain: Debbie Dion; Unit Sgt-At-Arms: Debra St. Peters. Executive Committee: Kathleen Oljey.

For information on the Auxiliary Unit contact Unit President Josephine Beauregard at 978-458-7015.

**If you have any news for the April issue,
please send in your information.**

Contact anne@NeighborToNeighborNewsletter.com or
Neighbor to Neighbor, 64 Hardy St., Dunstable, MA 01827.
If you have any questions about how to submit news or ads
please leave a message for me at **978-419-1914**.
I will get back to you as soon as possible.

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For questions or more information
call our office **978-649-2262**

www.tyngsborocongregational.org

Pastor Denis Frediani

• **Church Services are now open to the public at 10:00 a.m.**
Sunday mornings. Masks are required, distancing being followed.
We will implement and honor all safeguards.

**We are adhering to CDC Safety Recommendations and
Restrictions with social distancing, hand sanitizing and
required masks.**

If you prefer to stay home, Services are available on line.

• **TO WATCH LIVE SERVICES,**

Log on directly to facebook and go to Ecct Church. You may
also log in at any time and watch the recorded services.

• **SERMONS ON-LINE:** Weekly sermons by Pastor Frediani: 1. Log
onto the church website <http://www.tyngsborocongregational.org>
2. Click once on the word "SERMONS" 3. Sermons listed by date,
passage, sermon title. You may click on "Jump to the Current
Sermon. To find the most recent.

OUR Newly Renovated THRIFT STORE IS CLOSED AT THIS TIME DUE TO COVID

There are plans to open on **Saturday, March 20th and Saturday,
March 27th.** There are still limits on how many can enter the store
at one time and masks still required. **Donations will be accepted
starting March 14th.** On facebook.com Ecct Church

**DUNSTABLE
TYNGSBOROUGH
LIONS CLUB**



"We Serve" The Lions Club is a non-profit organization of men and
women dedicated to serving communities locally and globally giving
hope and impacting lives through humanitarian service projects and
raising donations to support areas of need. **We are currently look-
ing for community minded members to join, please contact
membership chair Joe Ward his contact information is below.**
Officers for the 2019-2020 Lions Year

President: Mark Alexander, 1st Vice President/Membership Chair:
Joseph Ward, Treasurer: Bob Reich, Secretary: Laura Ward, Tail
Twister: Meghan DeMonico.

Because of COVID-19 meetings are canceled at this time.
**Anyone interested in joining the lions is asked to contact
Joseph Ward at 978-930-1153.** Once we can meet again, we will
let you know where, and when meetings will take place.

YOU CAN HELP BY DONATING THE FOLLOWING:

- **Used Eyeglasses** are collected for refurbishment and distribu-
tion to less advantaged individuals around the world.
- **Used Hearing Aids** are collected refurbished or repaired and
distributed to those individuals in need with limited ability to pay.
- **Can tabs** please place into bags before putting in the boxes.

Lion's collection boxes for eyeglasses and hearing aids and can
tabs are located at the Tyngsborough Post Office, American Legion
Post 247 at 90 Pawtucket Blvd., Multi-Service Center at 180 Lake-
view Ave, Dunstable Town Hall, Post Office and Library. **Pennies for
Sight:** "Your change- changes people's lives" See a Lion canister
around please consider donating. Every Penny Counts!

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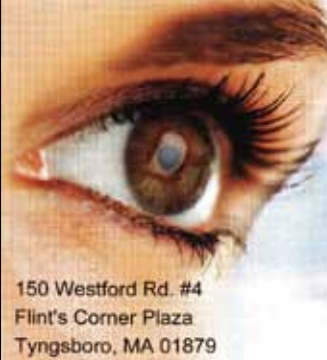
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THE WISH PROJECT

166 Middlesex St.

North Chelmsford, MA 01863

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If you are donating **ONLY CLOTHING** we are open to accept those donations Tues-Fri, 9-2:45pm and Sat, 9-12:45pm no appointment necessary. If you are donating **HOUSEWARES AND FURNITURE** we will continue to schedule those drop offs through our email donategoods@thewishproject.org.

Basic Items for infant and Toddler Success

Our **BITS Bags** program was created over 10 years ago at the request of our partner agencies to address the need for age appropriate toys in their client's homes to help infants and toddlers with their development. Having access to these toys will allow for parent and child interaction and play at home. Poor and at risk children are far more likely to experience developmental delay due to lack of these simple interactive toys to stimulate them.

During our first year, we gave out almost 500 bags. Last year that number grew to 1,100 and we anticipate the need to be even greater this year. With the current COVID pandemic, many families are living in isolation, without access to much needed items to provide stimulation to the growing minds of their children. Our goal is to get these bags into the hands of all children that need them and with your help we can.

There are several ways in which you can help. You can help by donating filled bags, collect items, or making a monetary donation to sponsor a bag. Your financial contribution will allow us to supply a bag in your name, to honor a family member, or the name of your company. If you prefer to shop online you can purchase items from our [Amazon BITS bag wish list](#) and ship your donation directly to us. The deadline to donate project goods is March 27th, so please have your items to us by then. (If you are reading this online) Follow [this link](#) for more information about the BITS Bags project. Please contact Lori at Lori@thewishproject.org with questions. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, follow the link to [Donate Now](#). With your support we can help prevent developmental delay in children in Merrimack Valley. Any help is greatly appreciated!

WISH LIST

Market Basket Gift Cards

Women's S, M, L and XL Size Long Sleeve Shirts

Men's Long Sleeve Shirts in Sizes S and XL, Boys Shirts in sizes 14-16

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Pack n Play Sheets, Safety Gates, Play mats, Infant Swings, Disinfecting Cleaners, Lysol Spray, Spray Bottles, Paper Towels. **CLOTHING AND TEXTILE RECYCLING** Did you know that if you have clothing, bedding, shoes, curtains, or any cloth item that you don't think have any use, whether they are stained or ripped, we can still accept them and sell them by the pound? Just bag them up separately and write recycle on the bag. All funds raised will go into supporting our mission and our clients!

About Us: The Mission of The Wish Project is to help families in need in Merrimack Valley. Find out more on our website www.TheWishProject.org or call us at (866) 947-4360.

Our New mailing address is: The Wish Project PO Box 8693, Lowell, MA 01853



ALTRUSA

On January 18, 2021, the Altrusa Club of Merrimack Valley celebrated 45 years of service in the Greater Lowell/Nashua area and is very grateful to the individuals and businesses, which have supported our efforts over the years to help the less fortunate.

Altrusa Club of Merrimack Valley is collecting new towels to benefit the Lowell Transitional Living Center (LTLC). The Lowell Transitional Living Center (LTLC) is the largest shelter and support organization north of Boston, providing 90 beds for the homeless. In addition, the Winter Engagement Program provides overnight shelter from the cold for more 80 men and women. To learn more or to donate, please email altrusamv@gmail.com

Working with Paula Williams, Dean of Nursing and Health Professions, the Altrusa Club of Merrimack Valley is offering a \$500 scholarship to a qualified student currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program at Rivier University. This scholarship is being offered in memory of Katherine M. Richo, deceased member of Altrusa and active leader in the Nashua Community. Selection of a qualified recipient is based on merit, financial need, and completion of the first year or more of the program with a minimum GPA of 3.0. The recipient will be selected in June 2021. Altrusa's mission is to promote literacy and to make a difference in the lives of those in need in our communities.

The Altrusa Club has been meeting virtually on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. To learn more about Altrusa visit us at www.altrusa.org or districtone.altrusa.org

BRUSH GALLERY AND STUDIOS AND LOWELL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ANNOUNCE INVITATION TO AN

ART EXHIBITION FOR SPRING 2021

Lowell, MA – Brush Art Gallery & Studios and Lowell National Historical Park announced their call for entries for a juried exhibition on the theme "What does community look like to you?"

Community will showcase artists at any stage in their careers and from across the United States. Those interested in exhibiting are invited to submit up to 3 images for consideration. Six hundred dollars in prizes will be awarded. The exhibition prospectus is <http://www.lowellartshows.com/NPS/>

Entries must be submitted online and received no later than 11:59 pm on Friday, March 26, 2021.

The exhibition will be on view May 1 to June 12, 2021, with the virtual opening reception on Saturday May 8 at 2:00 PM EDT.

Why this theme? Lowell National Historical Park is currently partnering with community members to develop a future exhibit in the Mogan Cultural Center about Lowell's cultural diversity. As another way to explore cultural expression we would like to see how artists from across the country experience or observe "community" for this juried exhibition at the Brush Art Gallery.

Community connections can be place-based (neighborhoods, businesses), practice-centered (sports, social clubs, virtual), and goal or belief-centered (religion, politics). Share what "community" looks like to you and show us how you represent it.

For more information, please visit: <http://thebrush.org>.

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Dates to Remember

Sunday, March 14 Daylight Saving Time Begins

Set clocks ahead one hour, before bed on Saturday.

Wednesday, March 17 St. Patrick's Day

Saturday, March 20 First Day of Spring

Saturday, March 27 Passover begins at sundown

Sunday, March 28 Palm Sunday

Friday, April 2 Good Friday

Sunday, April 4 Easter

CLOTHING SHED AT DUNSTABLE CHURCH IS OPEN!



The clothing donation shed at the Dunstable Evangelical Congregational Church, **518 Main St, Dunstable MA**, which was temporarily closed due to global effects of the pandemic, is now open to the public.

If you're not familiar with the clothing donation shed, it's designed to give community members a uniquely clean, convenient, and well-cared-for option to donate their used clothing to. St. Pauly Textile Inc., the company that has provided the shed, partners with a network of businesses and various organizations to distribute donated items both here in the U.S. and worldwide, where they're ultimately re-worn by people who need them. The Dunstable Church additionally has the option to use donations to serve community needs.

With over 1,300 clothing drop-off sheds in place, St. Pauly Textile Inc. collects over 90,000 pounds of clothing every day and estimates that this clothing ends up in 44 different countries (including the U.S.) yearly. In 2019, the company was able to help keep over 20 million articles of clothing out of landfills, which clothed an estimated 2.5 million people worldwide. The company was founded in 1996 and is an A+ rated member of the Better Business Bureau. Accepted items: clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, curtains, pillowcases, and stuffed animals.

PLEASE tie your bags, and do not leave bags outside the box.

CHELMSFORD CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE

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Although Staff Offices are closed to the public, our phones are staffed between the hours of 9am-5pm on Mondays and Wednesdays and 2pm-5pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Phones are not staffed on Fridays or Sundays.

• Confessions

• Mondays at St. John from 4:00-5:00pm

• Wednesdays at St. Mary from 4:30-5:30pm

Please follow traffic flow and staff directives. **WEAR YOUR MASK**

CHURCHES ARE OPEN WITH RESTRICTIONS

• **WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE** (reservations required)

St. Mary: 4 pm on Saturday/ 7 am and 11 am on Sunday

St. John: 4 pm on Saturday/ 9:30 am and 6 pm on Sunday

• **DAILY MASS SCHEDULE** (reservations are NOT required)

Monday thru Friday/ St. Mary at 7 am/ St. John at 9 am

• **RESERVATIONS** can be made by calling into the parish offices between the hours of 9 am – 12 noon on Mondays and Wednesdays; 2 pm – 5 pm on Tuesdays; and 2 pm – 3 pm on Thursdays. Please do NOT leave reservation request via voicemail or email. Those in vulnerable populations, or those who have ANY COVID symptoms, are asked to please stay home.

NEWHOUSE WILDLIFE RESCUE

Nonprofit Organization Founded in November 2018

A licensed safe haven for orphaned or injured local wildlife.

It is our goal to rehabilitate these animals so they can be released into the wild. Call 978-413-4085 m.me/NewhouseWildlifeRescue

janeeseker@gmail.com <http://NewhouseWildlifeRescue.org>

<https://facebook.com/NewhouseWildlifeRescue>

Buy local!
Invest in your community!

HOW TO MAKE YOUR BEST OFFER ON A HOME

Brought to you by Carrie Best Cyr

Making the right offer is crucial when you have your eye on a home. Offer too little, and you may get passed over for the next buyer. Offer too much, and you may need to reevaluate your budget for furnishings or upgrades. This can be one of the most challenging parts of buying a new property.

Want to make sure you have a strong offer at a price you can afford? Here's when you might offer above, below and at the listing price.

- **At List Price:** A home that's within your budget, move-in ready and comes with all the amenities you want could be worth an offer at the listing price. But you'll want to make sure there's not much competition for the property.
- **Below List Price:** Does the home need serious work? If so, you may want to offer below the selling price. In this case, bidding less money could free up cash for future repairs and necessary upgrades. You can also try a lower offer if there are tons of homes listed in your area (but little demand for them). Get in touch to learn about the properties for sale in your desired neighborhood.
- **Above List Price:** You may want to go beyond listing price if you're in a particularly active market or you know you're up against several buyers. Together, we can determine what other homes in the area are going for, and we'll make sure your best offer aligns with those bids.

RMV UPDATES

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is pleased to announce it will continue to offer **designated Wednesday appointment hours for customers 75 years of age or older through March 2021**. Individuals in this age group are required by state law to renew their Massachusetts driver's license in-person. Beginning in February, the RMV will also be expanding the license renewal appointments available for these customers to include registration and title services and transactions.

Senior appointment hours for license renewals, and registration and title services appointments effective in February, will continue to be offered on Wednesdays **at the following 17 RMV Service Center locations (hours vary by location):** Brockton, Danvers, Fall River, Greenfield, Lawrence, Leominster, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, New Bedford, North Adams, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Revere, South Yarmouth, Springfield, Watertown, and Worcester.

Below are the options for seniors to schedule in-person appointments during designated service hours:

- If you are a AAA member, you may make a reservation now to renew your driver's license/ID or conduct certain other transactions at a AAA location. Visit aaa.com/appointments to schedule your visit.
- If you are not a AAA member, visit Mass.Gov/RMV to make a reservation to renew or conduct most other transactions at an RMV Service Center. Visit the Make/Cancel a Reservation transaction tab in the MyRMV Service Center and select "Senior Transaction" for all available RMV transactions. Reservations can be booked two weeks in advance.

• **Email the RMV for assistance:** MassDOTRMVSeniors@dot.state.ma.us.

• **Call the RMV at 857-368-8005.**

General appointments for license and ID renewals or registration and title transactions, as well as other essential in-person needs including drop-off registration and title services, are available to all customers at select locations throughout the business week.

Additional information on RMV service offerings and appointments can be found at www.Mass.Gov/RMV, including more than 40 transactions that can be conducted online, by mail, or by phone. The RMV recommends that all customers get ready online before their appointment.

Anyone conducting in-person business at an RMV customer service location must wear a face-covering and will continue to be served by appointment only. Appointments for many RMV transactions can also be made at AAA customer locations if the customer is a member of AAA.

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Catie's Closet

I hope that you and your family have settled into this new year with health and a positive outlook on the future ahead of us.

The second half of this school year is well underway, as is our expansion into new communities, into new schools and into the lives of thousands of students. We will bring Catie's Closet to 7 new schools this month, which will serve an additional 4,500 children as we also continue to serve many of our students with our at-home delivery service.

Our continued ability to reach more students in need is because of your generous contributions!

The clothing and toiletries you allow us to provide not only meet children's physical needs, but they have a life-changing impact on their emotional and mental well-being. One of the factors we attribute this to is **the power of choice**.

Whether students shop in our closets or receive items at home, they have a say in the clothes they wear, the products they use and the shoes they slip on their feet. For many, it can be the first and only time they have a choice about the way they live their lives.

Here's an example of what's inside a special delivery when we get a request from schools, social workers or even from families directly.

Children can request clothing and other items in their favorite colors, patterns, sizes and fit. The pack is filled with items that keep them warm and comfortable, but also match their correct sizes and fit their preferred styles. Truthfully, this world has always been uncertain and sometimes scary for the students we serve. The voice they have here, however, gives them a chance to identify themselves, find and nurture their self-confidence, and opens their eyes to new opportunities that improve their today and their tomorrows.

Clothing and toiletries are the foundation of our mission, but it's the students' complete transformation that fuels our work every day. Thank you for driving the transformation of so many.

Sincerely,
Mickey Cockrell
CEO

We're putting the finishing touches on our newest closets to start serving students this month in the following schools:

Gardner Pilot Academy, Mario Umana Academy K-8 – Boston, MA; H.B. Lawrence Elementary School and William R. Peck Middle School – Holyoke, MA; Milton Bradley Elementary School and Rebecca M. Johnson School – Springfield, MA as well as Parkside Middle School – Manchester, NH.

We are proud to be one of seven non-profit organizations to receive a grant from the Greater Lowell Community Foundation to continue our efforts with COVID-19 relief. With the \$3,000 grant, we will purchase gift cards to support the needs of our homeless students in several schools who continue to struggle as a result of COVID-19.

40 people lost their homes and everything in them when a fire destroyed three multi-family houses on Westford Street in Lowell. **Catie's Closet has joined forces with Community Teamwork, Inc., The Wish Project and Lowell Public Schools** to provide these families with critical items, including clothing and toiletries.

It's truly amazing to see the community come together in support of these families. www.catiescloset.org

STE JEANNE D'ARC SCHOOL NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Ste Jeanne d'Arc School, located in Lowell, MA, is now accepting student applications for the 2021-2022 school year. Ste Jeanne d'Arc School is a Catholic, independent school accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. SJA offers accelerated classes in math and language arts, French program for grades K-8, state of the art technology, athletics, art, music, and extracurricular activities for all age groups. There is also a before and after school care program.

Financial Aid is available for new families. **Inquire/Apply online at www.sjdarc.org or contact the Admissions Office at 978.453.4114 for more information.**