

Public interest segment added to Dudley selectmen's meetings

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Dudley's Board of Selectmen will have a new segment of their meetings for the foreseeable future geared towards informing the public of the goings on in town.

Recently appointed Public

Information Coordinator Debbie Laplaca announced a new addition to the Board of Selectmen's monthly meeting called "Public Notices of General Interest," which will serve as a designated time during each meeting to discuss notable events that have occurred or are upcoming in town as well as other news around the community.

"This is something I've been working with (Town Administrator) Jon Ruda on adding to the agenda for (selectmen) meetings and this is just an opportunity to bring out some of the great things happening in the community whether it's within the Town Hall itself or out in some of our Cub Scout packs or Woman's Clubs or things like that," Laplaca told selectmen during the Boards Dec. 22 meeting.

While there's wasn't much news of note in the first edition of the segment, Laplaca said she sees it as an opportunity to put the focus on the positive things in the community that often go overlooked and keep the public better informed of public events they may be

unaware of without word of mouth or the internet.

"We're really interested in hearing from the community, any great happenings in town, fundraisers, events, ribbon cuttings. What I've seen over the years is it's kind of sporadic. If a Selectman thinks to make an announcement at a Board of Selectmen meeting it comes out, but there's so much happening I think people would like to hear about," said Laplaca.

Those wishing to add an item to the Public Notices of General Interest segment of future Board of Selectmen meetings can email Laplaca at publicinfo@dudleymass.gov with details of their event or story.

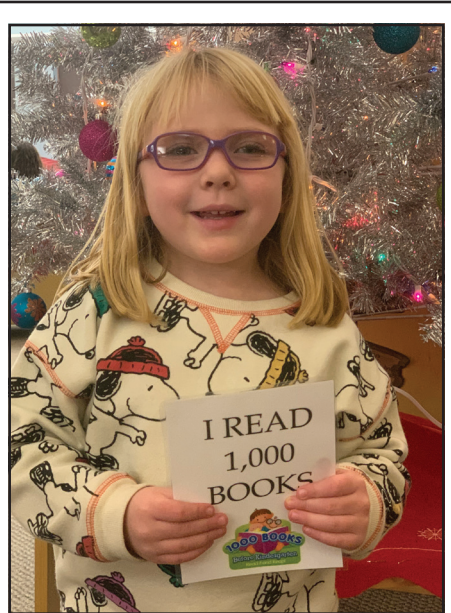


Courtesy

DUDLEY PD TOY DRIVE MAKES CHRISTMAS MEMORIES FOR 80 CHILDREN

'Tis the season of late for celebration, holiday gatherings, and giving gifts to those who hold our hearts. It is also a stressful time for parents struggling to make their children's Christmas wishes come true. For more than a decade, the Dudley Police Department Annual Toy Drive has helped parents in need give their children the traditional yuletide joy of opening a gift on Christmas morning. This year, the toy drive brightened Christmas for 80 local children from 34 families.

The Dudley Police Department thanks the dozens of individuals, businesses and organizations who gave a little or gave a lot to make a difference in the lives of local families at Christmastime.



Courtesy

READING SUPERSTARS

Elyse Bennett of Dudley and Isabella Valenti of Webster recently completed the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program at the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library.

QCC's winter break offers students a chance to get ahead

WORCESTER — As colleges and universities across the country gear up for winter break, Quinsigamond Community College is preparing for its Winter Intersession. Winter Intersession classes are full credit classes (three credits) that run during the winter break from Jan. 3-10. These two-week classes save students time and money towards their degree or certificate. Intersession classes at QCC are well-known in the area, not just for students already enrolled at QCC, but for students attending other

colleges.

"This is a terrific way for students to catch up or get ahead on their college courses, or just experience a class they've always wanted to try," said QCC's Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. James Keane, noting that there are over 30 online and in-person courses available.

Professor Bill McCarthy, QCC criminal justice department chair, said that intersession courses are historically popular across the country and help retention and graduation rates. "The Winter

Intersession benefits visiting students because many get stuck in a situation where they need just a class or two to graduate," McCarthy said. "This can keep them from graduating late."

"QCC students as well as students who regularly attend college away from their homes in Central Massachusetts have benefitted from the Winter Intersessions," added Melissa Fama, dean of the School of Public Services, Education, and Social Sciences.

Visit QCC Intersession to learn more.

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PRE-K POWER STORYTIME

Tuesdays @ 11:00AM

Join Miss Lida for Pre-School Story Time! We will be exploring a new letter each week starting with A and ending in the spring with Z.

TODDLER TIME

Wednesdays @ 11:00AM

Come join us for Toddler Time! We will have a different theme each week with stories and songs! This program is geared for ages 18 months to 3.

LEARN TO PLAY DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Thursdays @ 6:00PM

"Are you looking to play a game that contains action, adventure, and drama? We have an experienced Dungeon Master ready to run a new game of Dungeons and Dragons, the world's number one role playing game. We are missing just one thing ... YOU! This is for those that are looking to learn more about playing and do some short adventures!

Open to ages 10+, children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required for this free program.

KNIT & CROCHET GROUP

Thursday 5:30PM - 7:30PM and Friday 10:00AM-12:00PM

All stitchers are welcome for this informal group

LEGO CLUB

Mondays @ 4:00PM

Come join us each week for a different Lego challenge, from writing your name in Legos to making a Lego zipline. Ages 5+

POKEMON CARD TRADING

Tuesdays @ 4:00PM

Children are invited to bring their Pokemon cards for informal card trading and discussion.

CHAIR YOGA WITH JULIE

Saturday, January 7 12:30PM-1:30PM

Instructor Julie St. Francis will lead a chair yoga class for all ages. Chair yoga is a gentle practice in which poses are performed while seated or with the aid of the chair, and is perfect for seniors or those with mobility issues.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

BAD MOVIE OF THE MONTH: KILLER SOFA

Thursday, January 12th 6:00PM-7:30PM

There are thousands of wonderful movies in the world. Movies that will make you cry, lift your spirits, and inspire you.

These are not those movies. Join us for a showing of "Killer Sofa" (2019). A sentient couch falls in love. Then it kills people.

Free. Popcorn and bottled water provided.

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Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

DEB'S SING AND SWING

Thursday, January 19 10:30AM-11:15AM

This is an interactive program featuring singing, guitar music, dancing, rhythm instruments, stories and variety of fun props, including a parachute, beanbags, scarves, and pom poms. These programs are theme-based, and cover everything from holidays and seasons to dinosaurs and bugs!

Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library

ARTHROPOD PETTING ZOO

Saturday, January 21 11:00AM-Noon

Come and see Professor Bugman and his arthropod petting zoo! You will be able to see and touch different arthropods. This is geared for children ages 5-11. There is a limit of 30 children, please register!

Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

ADULT BOOK GROUP

Monday, January 23 6:00PM-7:00PM

All are welcome to join our adult book group for a discussion of this month's title, The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel. Copies of this month's title are available at the circulation desk one month prior to the meeting.

WORKING WITH CENSUS REPORTS TO FIND YOUR FAMILY

Thursday, January 26 6:00PM-7:45PM

Genealogist Seema Kenney will present useful information on the purpose of the census, the instructions and methods for the enumerators, and the hidden gems you find when reading the entire page and putting your ancestors' information into historical context. Each leads to additional sources to be researched for verification and added information.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

WINTER AFTERNOON STORYTIME

Monday, January 30 5:00PM-6:00PM

Join Ms. Lida for a special afternoon storytime! Geared for ages 3-6.

Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

ALL THINGS CHOCOLATE WITH MARIA BRANDRIF

Thursday, February 2 6:30PM-7:45PM

Chocolatier Maria Brandriff of Pure 'n' Sinful Chocolates will present this program on all things chocolate, including chocolate varieties and a demonstration of chocolate making, just in time for Valentine's Day. Generous samples will be provided!

Space is limited, so registration is required for this free program.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.



Community Connection

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