

Officials hope public hearing will help solve beach problems

HEARING

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facility. "I'd like to hear from other members of the board, but even more from members of the community that have a genuine interest in the beach," said Ruda in an e-mail last week. "We're not going to give up on the beach, we're going to take a new approach, listen to what the community recommends, perhaps through a committee, make a decision as a board and act on it." Ruda said he hopes to

have a pilot program in place for the beach by the summer of 2014. Fox said he has some general concerns that mirror the worries of citizens who reached out to the Webster Times via Facebook last week. Residents Michelle Drake and Patience Bowden said they are worried about safety and disliked the condition of the beach. They said they were frustrated that residents from Dudley and around the tri-town weren't cleaning up prior to leaving. "People have no respect for nature and other beach

goers and take advantage of the fact that it is free to enjoy," said Drake. "Instead of picking my beach spot for the amount of sun or best view of my kids in the water, I need to choose it by where there are not piles of trash and/or cigarette butts." Drake added that while she will be away on the night of the meeting she hopes officials do come up with a better plan for the waterfront. Bowden said she was saddened to see what she felt was a beach littered by residents. She said even with local Boy Scouts cleaning

the beach at the beginning of the season it hasn't changed how people have treated it. "I was at the Dudley beach last week and was disgusted by all the [trash] there," said Bowden. "It's absolutely awful. People really need to clean up after themselves. Last April the Boy Scouts did an Earth Day cleanup and had that place spotless. Maybe Dudley should charge out-of-town residents." Speaking with Dudley Police Chief Steven Wojnar who said he will be available at the hearing regarding public safety questions,

he stressed that the department does routinely patrol the beach area. "Our biggest thing is that we do patrol the beach," said Wojnar. "We do a lot of checking, especially at night. This includes checking the parking area and behind the school." Fox said it is hard to balance quality-of-life interests with budget constraints. He added that residents did turn down the Proposition 2 1/2 override this past election, which he said would have provided more breathing room in all departments' budgets. "I do know that there are

some concerns about the beach," said Fox. "Because of the [budget] we have not been able to support life-guards at the beach during the last couple years. It's very unfortunate in my opinion, because it is unsupervised and we probably have people hanging out there at night. That's a concern of mine. It was a rough for the town, we had to make some tough choices."

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Couple brings rock star to Oxford for fundraiser

FUNDRAISER

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She said the couple has met Michaels several times during Adrian's recovery. Teri Ann said Michaels has always supported causes that support diabetes research as he has lived with the illness since childhood. "My husband Adrian and I wanted to do something for the town after all of their support," said Teri Ann during a phone conversation on Friday, July 12. She added the couple also thought it was a perfect way to celebrate Oxford's 300th year as a town, and residents jumped at the chance to see the show. Barton's Executive Director Lynn Butler said the show was a sell out, bringing in more than \$10,000, which she said would go toward camper tuition for Camp Joslin in Charlton and The Barton Center in Oxford. Butler said the campership



Children at the Barton Center thank singer Bret Michaels for his fundraiser through an art project.

Courtesy photos

budget alone is upwards of \$300,000 each year, and all of that money comes through fundraising. She said to have a donation of this kind, through a unique fundraiser, is something she and the organization are thrilled to see. "We have been fundraising 70-plus years, as long as we have been in business," said Butler. "When he took the stage and even when the tour bus got there we

couldn't believe it was actually happening." Butler said the most "unique" part of this experience was that all of the money was donated — none of it had to go to cost, which she said was taken care of by Adrian, Teri Ann and J.Anthony's. "Our mission is to inspire children and we rely on many people for that to happen," said Butler. "After our last session parents

were picking their kids up and there was this buzz — who are these people making this happen? They are, for all intents and purposes, strangers to our organization. It's unheard of." Teri Ann shrugged off the praise and said all the couple wanted to do was give back to the town they love. "This was a perfect way to tie everything in together," said Teri Ann. "Poison was Adrian's

favorite band, [it was] the first concert he went to after the fire and he met [Michaels] for the first time after the concert that night. [Michaels] was absolutely thrilled to do it. He was very excited."

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Residents show up in full force for paddleboat forum

PADDELEBOAT

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police presence in the auditorium also backed Keefe's request for civility. "Rabbett also addressed the reconstruction of the boat. When asked by Bates Point Road resident Paul Turner where and if the boat would still be the United States Coast Guard certified after it is rebuilt, Rabbett replied in the affirmative, and that it would be constructed again on land and then launched. Kildeer Island resident Judy Keegan said she was most concerned about two issues, the environmental impact of the vessel and the "quality of life" impact on those who have made their homes on the lake. "Many of us have been on Webster Lake for many years and we know the reason why [we live there]," said Keegan, who wanted to get a better picture of how the music and the boat's horn would affect homeowners. "There are pictures of the boat on Facebook that suggest there would be alcohol. It would be like having a floating bar with karaoke in front of our houses for the rest of our lives on a continuous loop around Webster Lake." Rabbett said the horn could be modified and would only be used at its loudest

during emergencies. He said for alcohol, it's not allowed on the lake — therefore the Ranch has no plans to put it on the boat. "The horn and PA system are not going to be very offensive I don't think," said Rabbett. "The boat would be going so slow, and it could not do all three ponds in our one-hour tour." He emphasized the boat's top speed of 6 miles per hour and his experiences with it being able to stop and reverse in a reasonable time. Casault also pointed out that it is a flat-bottomed vessel with front facing sonar that had the capability of seeing up to 600 feet in front of the ship. Casault also pointed out that the ship is 150 horsepower and holds 600 gallons of fuel. Town Administrator John McAuliffe stressed to residents that he, Rabbett and Robert are still working with the Conservation Commission, state and the town's public safety departments on many issues and that keeping citizens and the lake secure is the town's number one concern.

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PMC alum to tackle ride for third year

PAN MASS

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ceding months and then staying with my family throughout the month of July, I did the 192-mile ride with little to no training. I was able to do the ride on what was essentially pure adrenaline, especially the second day in which we rode through torrential downpours." He added that last year's event was amazing, as he had more time to train and was poignant as he had just experienced a cancer scare earlier in the year. Hodgson said he would like to gather a team to tackle next year's event and said if there are any tri-town residents interested they can contact him at george.hodgson@earthlink.net. He said the challenge is centered around connecting people and groups, so he felt having a team would go along

with that spirit. Hodgson said the only tricky part of this year has been fundraising. With a jam-packed work schedule, he said it was hard to find the time to train and fundraiser toward the mandatory \$4,200 mark. "To give to the challenge log onto www.pmc.org/profile/gh0059 to make a secure donation." Hodgson said he has friend Susan Young to thank for introducing him to the PMC. He said he started as a volunteer. Having a love for cycling helped him become involved in the race it self and in 2009 he hit the road for the first time. Young said during an interview with the Webster Times last year that she was happy to see Hodgson enjoy the ride as much as she has in the past. Young said this year will be her 12th with the challenge and said even though she originally helped Hodgson become involved, she was

inspired to join the ride by him. "He kind of pushed me in that direction," said Young. "We would ride together in the summer a lot." Hodgson described the feeling of finishing as euphoric, and even though the year his dad passed he didn't have much training he got through the experience on pure "adrenaline." "[This year] I had a lot more time to train, especially around the Webster area," said Hodgson during a phone interview on Monday, July 22. "That made it a lot of easier for me. It is an awesome feeling when you get to Provincetown. A true sense of accomplishment. I took the ferry back to Boston and being with a number of people who are passionate about the same things you are it is an awesome feeling."

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Evangelidis brings crews for celebration

OXFORD

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He said those who take part in the program are "some of the best inmates," and "non-violent offenders." Evangelidis's Director of External Affairs Kimberly Roy said she had received positive feedback from those involved with the 300th celebration. "I have gotten tremendous feedback," said Roy. "Alan Hammond (300th coordinator) was in constant contact with me throughout the whole process. Everything went smooth." Hammond said in an interview on Wednesday July 17, that he "three days later, is still in awe" of the celebration. "To be perfectly honest with you it went far better than I expected," said

Hammond, who like many that helped him thought there would be unforeseen "glitches" in the days, but he said he was happy to have everything go relatively flaw free. "I give credit to everyone who helped. They were astronomical. Everything just kept going on as expected even with the rain. There was one heck of a downpour for a while, people scattered, but they came back." Hammond also praised the efforts of the Oxford cable access channel for having live footage of the weekend up live for residents who couldn't make it. "I want to give a shout out to Access Oxford," said Hammond. "I spoke with a woman who was sick and couldn't get out. She said she really enjoyed watching it live. I have never seen this community come together [like this]." Board of Selectmen Chairman

John Saad, who doubled as the master of ceremonies for the 300th anniversary parade on Sunday July 14, said the event perfectly represented the town that he has known for so many years. "It was fantastic," said Saad who spent many years helping coordinating Founders Days and the town's 275th anniversary. "I can appreciate what they have done. I know how hard these things are." Saad said one of the moments that stood out the most for him was when the town honored 16 of its most influential residents for the work they have done while living in Oxford. "These people have made Oxford what it is," said Saad.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Police correct phone number misprint in Yellow Pages

DUDLEY — Due to a misprint in the 2012-2013 South County edition of the "Yellow Book" phone directory publication, there is an error with the Dudley Police Department's non-emergency number. The number listed in the book is 508-949-4411. This is incorrect. The correct number to call for business purposes in Dudley is 508-943-4411. The incorrect number is for a fax machine at an area business. Many people have reported this to the department and it has caused a great deal of confusion

and frustration. The book publishers have been contacted in order to make the appropriate corrections. However, the new printing edition will not be out until the spring of 2014. Online publications are scheduled to be amended sooner. All residents, as well as those who conduct business with the Dudley Police Department, are asked to make the appropriate correction in order to avoid any future issues. This is especially important for those residents who do not have land line phone service. It is important to program your community's business line numbers into your cell phone if you wish to expedite emergency response. Often 911 calls placed on cell phones are received by regional centers and must be

transferred to local area answering points. This can result in response delays. The Dudley Police Department is asking everyone to check their directories to insure the appropriate emergency numbers are listed for your area.

Flea market vendors wanted

OXFORD — The Annual Oxford Community Flea Market will be held on August 3 (rain date of August 10), and September 7 (no rain date) from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the lawn of the First Congregational Church of Oxford. Typically, participants sell new and used

household items, books, toys, clothing and more. Morning coffee and donuts and lunchtime hot dogs and snacks will also be available. Reservations from participants for both dates are now being accepted. Each space is \$25 and must be paid in advance; participants must provide their own tables and chairs and remove their own trash at the end of the day. They are also asked not to sell food. For more information or to reserve a space, contact the church office at 508-987-2211 or email your name, address and phone number to officeadmin@oxfordfirstucc.org.