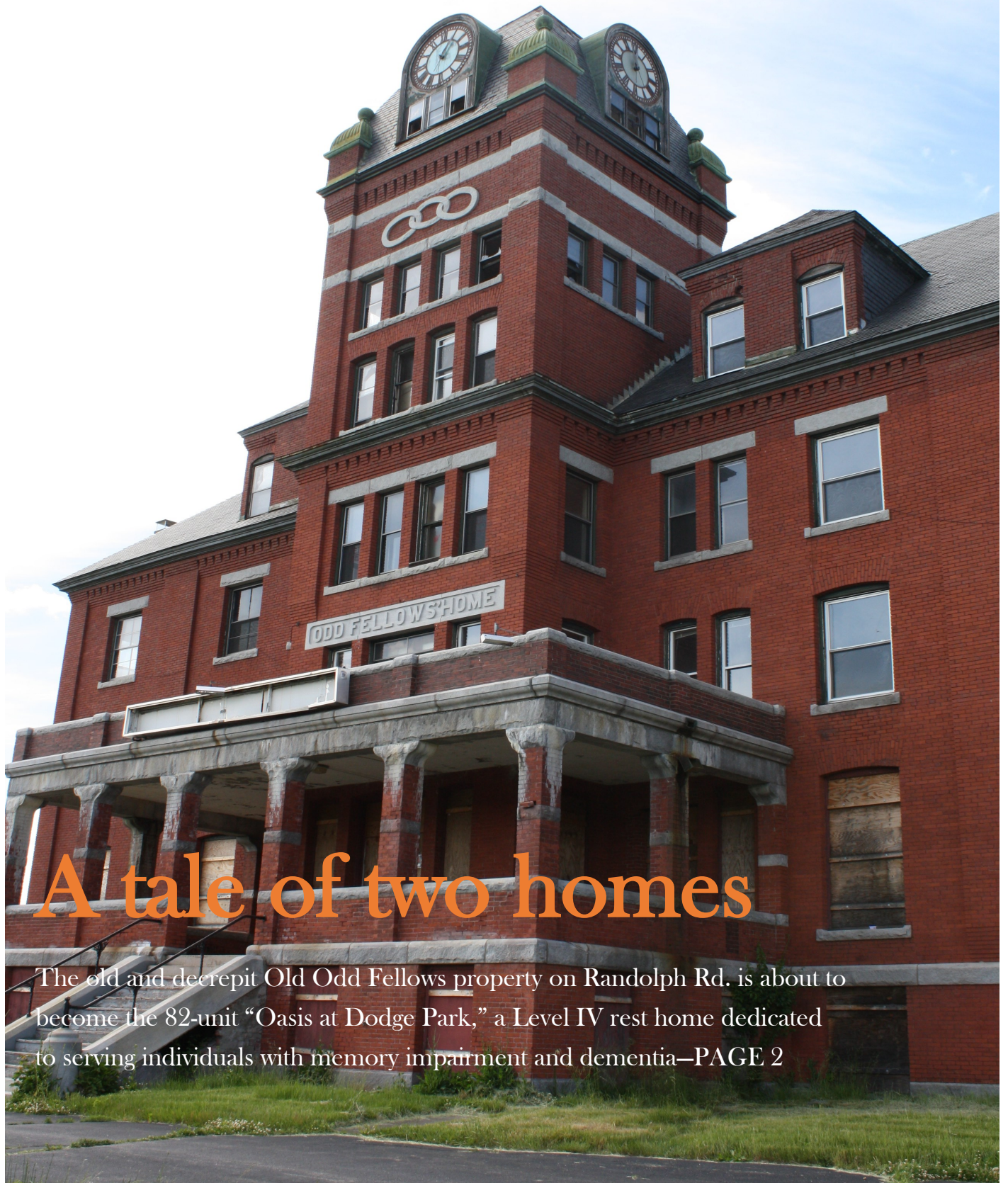


INSIDE Worcester

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A tale of two homes

The old and decrepit Old Odd Fellows property on Randolph Rd. is about to become the 82-unit “Oasis at Dodge Park,” a Level IV rest home dedicated to serving individuals with memory impairment and dementia—PAGE 2



Micha Shalev, a co-owner of Dodge Park Rest Home, holds a design for "Oasis at Dodge Park." A Level IV rest home, Oasis will be constructed on the site of the long-dormant Odd Fellows Home across the street from DPRH. Oasis at Dodge Park will be built in two phases of 41 beds each in single-story structures. It will offer residents plenty of comfort. Whereas Dodge Park Rest Home affords its sixty residents 26,000 square feet of living space, the new facility will boast 30,000 square feet per 41 units, "or more than 700 square feet per resident," Mr. Shalev said. Lots of glass and lots of light will give Oasis at Dodge Park a natural feel, he said.



COVER STORY

An Oasis in the making

By ROD LEE

"California Dreamin'" is what Micha Shalev and Ben Herlinger have done for years except they have transported their visionary thinking from the Golden State to the East Coast.

Their ambitions to make a mark in the healthcare industry did not end with the purchase of Dodge Park Rest Home (the former Heald mansion) on Randolph Rd. From the outset they looked for opportunities to expand the services they offer. "The Day Club at Dodge Park" with its activities and programs for senior adults is one evidence of this, as was their interest in the Washburn House property in Webster Square before it became a hospice facility.

It made perfect sense for Mr. Shalev and Mr. Herlinger to turn their focus at some point to the once-magnificent and now-dilapidated circa early-1900s Odd Fellows Home building and grounds directly opposite Dodge Park Rest Home and that's what they've done. With DPH approval (already obtained) and barring unexpected complications (as for instance a snafu at a zoning hearing on June 17th) ground will be broken this July or August for "Oasis at Dodge Park"—a Level IV 82-bed rest home for persons suffering from memory impairment and dementia.

Completion of the \$15 million project featuring a combination of private rooms with private baths, private rooms with shared baths and semi-private rooms will enable Oasis at Dodge Park to be open for business in the latter half of 2014.

It will mean demolition of the historic brick-and-mortar Odd Fellows Home on about a 415-acre site.

In anticipation of the \$450,000 a year in property taxes they will face, "we have asked the city for help" in the form of a TIF, Mr. Shalev said. Dodge Park's attorneys, Seder & Chandler, are negotiating this with Paul Morano from the city's Office of Economic Development.

Oasis at Dodge Park with its four main entrances from the north, south, east and west, its use of balanced and natural light to "bring the outdoors inside" as Mr. Shalev puts it, its central courtyard, its park-like atmosphere, its compatibility with the neighborhood and the nearly 80 jobs it will create is well worth the city's support, Mr. Shalev said.

Oasis at Dodge Park will be an extension of "what we do" at Dodge Park Rest Home," Mr. Shalev said. "We employ 72 people here at Dodge Park Rest Home and 93% of them are local. We will also be using local labor" to the fullest extent possible with the new venture, he said.

Oasis is needed, he noted. "People don't want to be a nursing home. They want a more home-like setting."

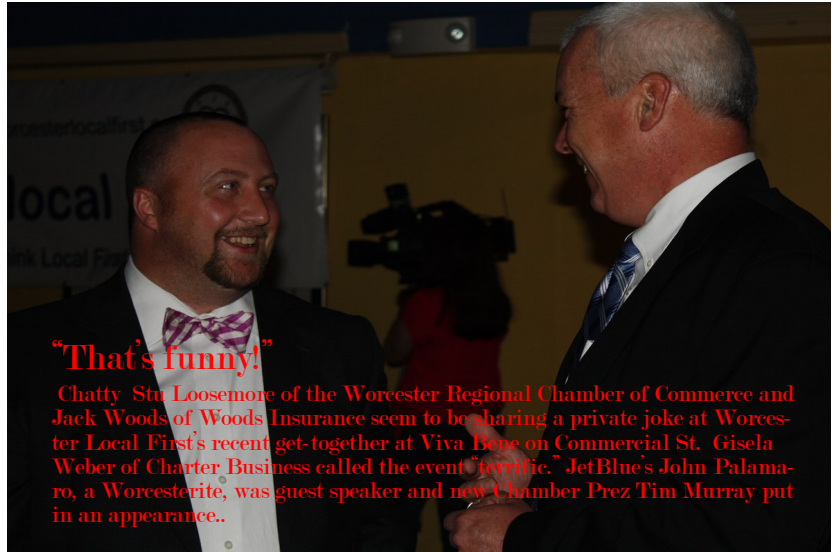
Cityscape:

A gallery: what and where



'Hall' of a job

A workman cleans the entrance to Mechanics Hall. That Bob Kennedy is a slave driver!



"That's funny!"

Chatty Stu Loosemore of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce and Jack Woods of Woods Insurance seem to be sharing a private joke at Worcester Local First's recent get-together at Viva Bene on Commercial St. Gisela Weber of Charter Business called the event "tehrific." JetBlue's John Palamaro, a Worcesterite, was guest speaker and new Chamber Prez Tim Murray put in an appearance..

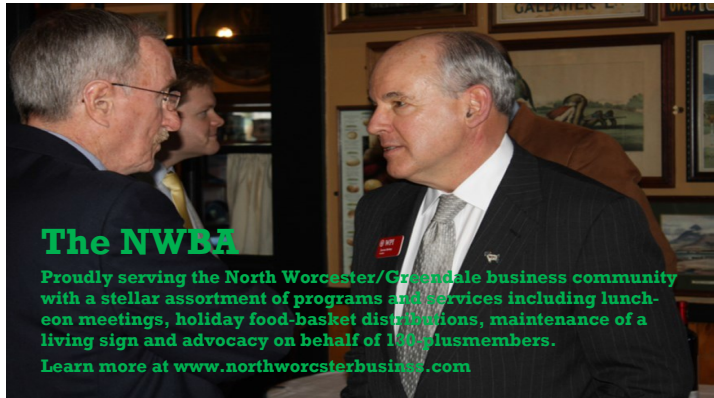
Wonder women wow at DCU

Members of the Fallon Community Health Plan sales team Carla Smith, Paula Everitt and Kathy Fournier with FCHP's NaviCare Outreach Coordinator Boran Yi (below) and Sovereign's Imran Sameja helped make this year's Worcester Women's Leadership Conference at the DCU Center on June 7th a huge success. Over 450 attended, says Cindy Skowrya who organizes the event for the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce. "The feedback has been tremendous which also means this program is here to stay!" Ms. Skowrya said. "We have been fortunate to reach a diverse audience and to provide value to many different women. Key-note speakers Kristin van Ogtrop and Jeannette Walls gave very different presentations. Kristin offered great insight into balancing work and life while Jeannette shared her story of triumph over tragedy and the remarkably positive outlook she has chosen to exude was nothing short of moving and inspirational." Special recognition during of Ida Rotman (matriarch of the Rotman's Furniture family), who turns 100 on June 14th, was a highlight. Kimberly Salmon, director of community relations for FCHP, said this is the second year Fallon has served on the committee to plan and expand the WWLC and to be a lead sponsor of the event. "Once again," she said, "the conference was everything we hoped it would be and more. It educated and inspired women...by bringing us closer to like-minded women who have had the kinds of success (for) which we all strive. Each presenter made meaningful connections by sharing her life and business experiences, which resonated with women in a powerful way."



Hail to a hero

Korean War Vet Frank Carroll of the Small Business Service Bureau is pictured congratulating Marine Sgt. William B. Soutra Jr. on receiving the Navy Cross for extraordinary courage in maneuvering his platoon out of the kill zone while exposing himself to enemy fire in Afghanistan on July 11th, 2010. Their meeting occurred prior to a dedication of the gymnasium at Columbus Park Preparatory Academy on Lovell St. in Sgt. Soutra's honor on June 10th. Mr. Carroll also snapped a salute after speaking during a ceremony officiated by Worcester Mayor Joseph M. Petty. Rep. John Binienda, School Committee Member Jack Foley and At-Large Councilor Michael Germain were among those noting that Sgt. Soutra is representative of a neighborhood that has produced its share of national heroes including Mr. Foley's grandfather Gen. Thomas Foley (for whom Foley Stadium on Chandler St. is named) who was a two-star general in World War I. Gen. Foley grew up at 84 Lovell St. and then also lived at 17 Circuit Ave. "Thomas Foley was one of the greatest generals our nation ever had," Mr. Binienda said. Sgt. Soutra, who attended Columbus Park as did many members of his family, continues this tradition. As part of his duties Mayor Petty read a citation from the president commending Sgt. Soutra for his sacrifice in support of Operation Enduring Freedom "with complete disregard for his own safety."



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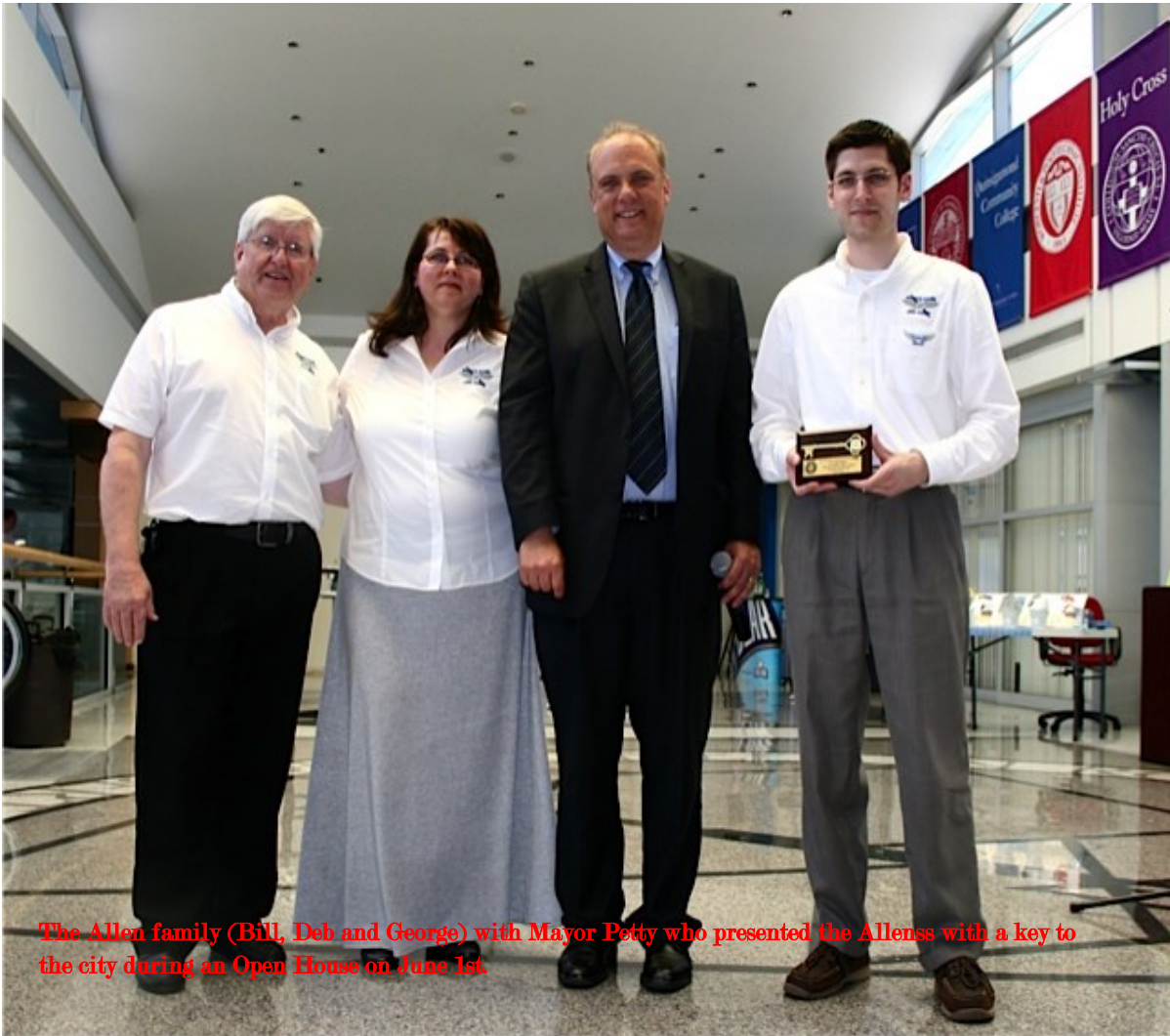
- Medical Director
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The Allen family (Bill, Deb and George) with Mayor Petty who presented the Allens with a key to the city during an Open House on June 1st.

Magic carpet ride for the Allens, flight academy

Through all of the ups and downs of Worcester Regional Airport over the past several years the Allen family— owners of Worcester Regional Flight Academy— have been a rock. In recognition of the Allens' contributions to the community and their development of S.T.E.M. education programs for youth and adults, they were presented with a key to the city by Mayor Joseph M. Petty earlier this month.

Bill Allen has been teaching flying at Worcester Regional Airport for sixteen years and recently received an award from AOPA magazine (out of 2400 instructors he was nominated as one of the top 25).

"We had four raffles," WRFA Co-Owner and Operations Manager Deb Allen said. "David Clark Co. donated a headset, UMass Pediatrics donated a Wii program, we donated a scenic flight for two, Pub 99 in Worcester donated a gift certificate for dinner and there were several other donations. Part of the proceeds went to the UMass Pediatrics Cancer Center and Children's Smile Coalition charities."

Ms. Allen said Aviation Discovery Club awards were presented and essay contest winners were announced with Nick Marconi taking first place and Matthew McKinnon second place.

She expressed special thanks to JetBlue for having one of the company's pilots come to the Open House as a guest speaker and for JetBlue's support of the flight school, to Airport Manager Andy Davis for his support, to Polar Beverages "for the great drinks" to David Clark Co. for donation of the headset and its support, to the Civil Air Patrol for its participation, to WTAG's Paul Wescott as a guest speaker, to Mayor Petty "for taking time out on a Saturday to honor us" and "to all our customers, friends, business associates and other" supporters.