



Kathryn Toomey  
Register of Deeds

Happy New Year and welcome 2023. We have had another busy year at the Worcester Registry of Deeds. I will say the volume did drop to match the news of low inventory and increased interest rates. In the calendar year 2022 we recorded over 139,000 documents.

We kick the year off with Shrewsbury. I grew up locally in central Massachusetts; I shopped at Spag's. I have the best memories of shopping the ramp, back to school notebooks, holiday toys and the beloved tomato plants. I have the added relationship of a close friend of mine is the grandson of Anthony Bogatti. My friend Angus was the young boy in the pictures with Spag and the cowboy hat. I have many fond memories as a teenager going to White City Movie Theater and Friendly's or the St. John's foot-ball games.

Why does the Registry of Deeds have a newsletter? I am a new Register, I was sworn

*Letter continued on back page*

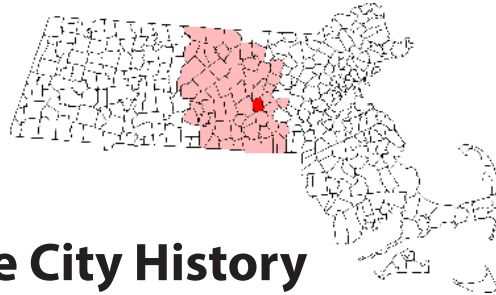
# Worcester Registry of Deeds

## Newsletter

January 2023 ~ Issue #17 ~ Town of Shrewsbury

### What's Inside?

- ★ **Town Spotlight: Shrewsbury** (p. 2)
- ★ **Community Preservation Act** (p. 3)
- ★ **Word Search & Upcoming Events** (p.4)



### White City History

#### How did White City get its name?

In the 19th century the development of streetcar routes expanded into Shrewsbury; the area adjacent to the lake we commonly refer to as White City became the trolley park at end of the trolley line. At first people visited Shrewsbury by streetcar for farmers' markets. Local businessman Horace H. Bigelow, opened the White City Amusement Park. The amusement park occupied the lakefront area for 55 seasons from 1905 through September of 1960. As a side note Horace Bigelow also owned "the Rink" in Worcester, located in the vicinity of

today's DCU Center. It was the location of concerts and performances.

There are two theories: it was named after the White City built at the 1893 World's Fair\* or the bright lights from the amusement rides turned the park white and it was referred to as the Land of Fifty Thousand Lights. No commercial electrical power was available to feed to the amusement park. Bigelow installed a system that generated its own. White City was cutting edge and dwarfed Lincoln Park on the opposite shore of the lake.

### Community Statistics

65

Number of Recordings from Nov. 15, 2022 to Dec. 15, 2022

\$434K

Median Home Value

73%

Homes Owned vs. Rented

14,683

Total Housing

709

Density (Houses per Square Mile)



# Town Spotlight

## Shrewsbury

### White City Amusement Park *And the crew boat regattas that continue today.*

The enormously successful 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago attracted 26 million visitors and featured a section that is now commonly considered the first amusement park: a midway (the mile-long Midway Plaisance), the world's first Ferris wheel (constructed by George Washington Gale Ferris Jr.), a forerunner of the modern roller coaster (Thomas Rankin's Snow and Ice Railway, later moved to Coney Island), lighting and attractions powered by alternating current (Sebastian Ziani de Ferranti had completed the first power plant with AC power in London just the year before), and the debut of several kinds of foods in the United States including hamburgers, shredded wheat, Cracker Jack, Juicy Fruit chewing gum, and pancakes.

The area on Lake Quinsigamond became a destination in the mid-1800s with hotels, summer resorts and college regatta crew races. On both the Worcester and Shrewsbury sides of the lake were ethnic and social clubs, boating clubbing, picnic grounds, amusement parks and even a horse racing track. Worcester was home of Lincoln Park and Shrewsbury, White City. The parks could be reached by both steamboats and smaller steam vessels. The rides and attractions at White City Amusement Park encouraged thrill seekers to "shoot" the "Chutes". The park's original roller coaster opened in 1914. It was replaced by a world class (at the time) coaster, the Zip, in 1928. The Zip, designed by Herbert Schenck, remained in service until the parks closing, although it was lat-



King Dodo



The Funhouse



er renamed the Cyclone and later still the Yankee Clipper. The lake was filled with canoes, rowboats, sailboats and revelers enjoying the scene on weekends. Regattas for the sport of crew

found a home on the lake in the 1850s, it continues today. Rowing crew, and competitions an east coast dominated sport continues to have a constant presence on Lake Quinsigamond.

# Community Preservation Act

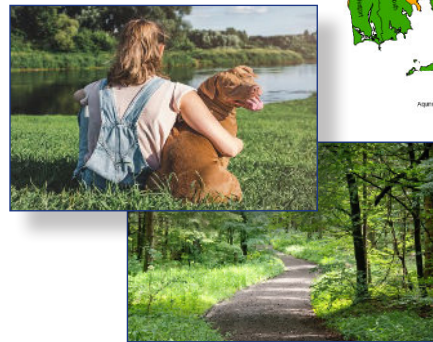
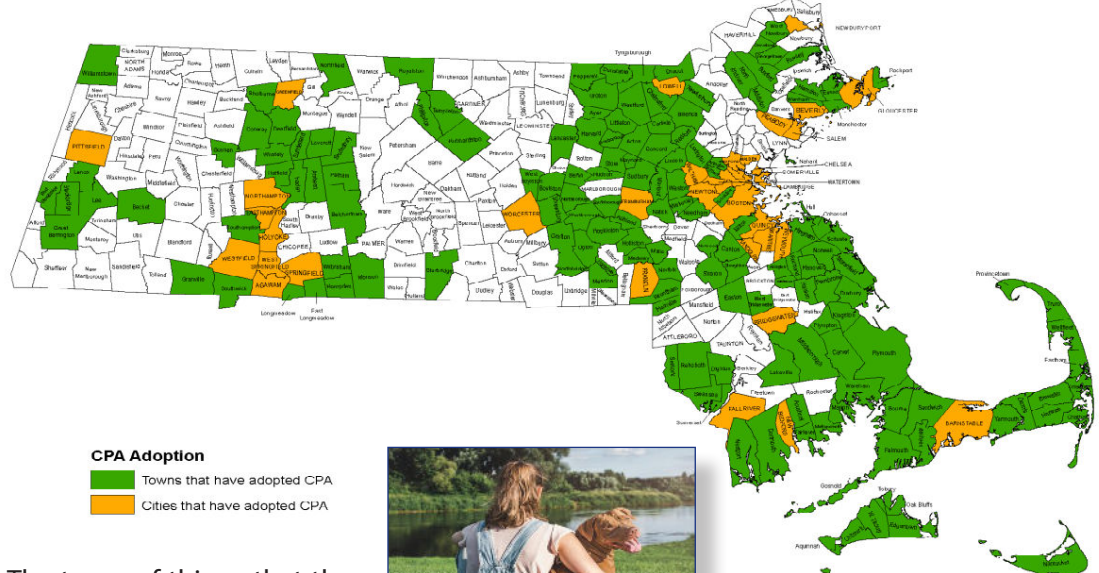
In 2020, Shrewsbury voters successfully adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA) and at a town meeting in 2021 the town passed a bylaw establishing the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). The CPC is charged with studying the community preservation needs of Shrewsbury.

## What is the Community Preservation Act and what are the benefits from this?

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a smart growth tool that helps communities preserve open space and historic sites, create affordable housing, and develop outdoor recreational facilities. CPA also helps strengthen the state and local economies by expanding housing opportunities and construction jobs for the Commonwealth's workforce, and by supporting the tourism industry through preservation of the Commonwealth's historic and natural resources.

## Community Preservation Act Adoption

November 2022



The types of things that the CPA helps with is:

### Outdoor Recreation

- Playgrounds
- Dog Parks

### Open Space Protection

- Purchasing Land
- Creation of City/Town Common areas
- Historic Preservation

### Affordable Housing

Let's get outside and have some fun in the outdoor space that we have and are saving for the future.

## There are many good reasons to conserve land in Massachusetts.

- Protection of water resources
- Providing open spaces and parks for our urban communities
- Creating and enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities statewide
- Preserving working farms and forests
- Protecting wildlife habitat.

This past November 6 more communities voted in the CPA

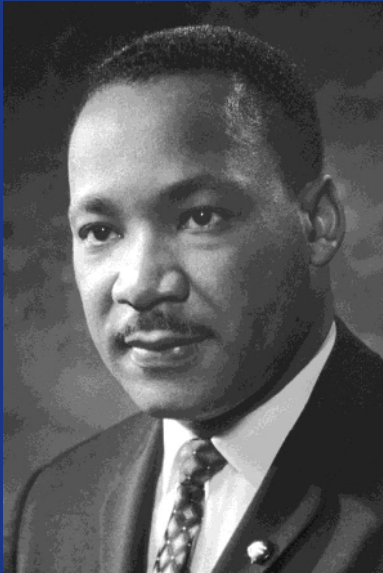
## Consumer Notification Service

### Get notified when documents are recorded.

This service alerts you by email whenever a new document is recorded for your property. If you made this change, you don't need to do anything. If you did not, you should contact your local Registry of Deeds office.

### Who can set up an account?

This service is provided at no cost to Massachusetts residential property owners. You can set up an account and register up to 3 properties. This service is not available for commercial properties. Create a new account by visiting [cns.masslandrecords.com](https://cns.masslandrecords.com)



# Martin Luther King Day

## Observed Monday, January 16, 2023

Martin Luther King Jr. (born Michael King Jr.; January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) was an American Baptist minister and activist, and one of the most prominent leaders in the civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968. An African American church leader and the son of early civil rights activist and min-

ister Martin Luther King Sr., King advanced civil rights for people of color in the United States through nonviolence and civil disobedience. Inspired by his Christian beliefs and the nonviolent activism of Mahatma Gandhi, he led targeted, nonviolent resistance against Jim Crow laws and other forms of discrimination.

### Meet with the Register Events: 2023

**Tues. Jan. 24 • 10:30-11:30 am**

Snow date Thurs. 1/26

Worcester Senior Center

128 Providence Street, Worcester, MA. 01604

Come meet with Katie Toomey the Register of Deeds for Worcester County and Stephanie Fattman Registrar of Worcester Probate Court.

Come and learn the Registry's role in recording documents that effect land. Come and ask questions about the types of ownership of property.

**Thursday Feb. 2, 2023 - 1pm**

Charlton Senior Center

37 Main St, Charlton, MA 01507

Topics of discussion:

- Homestead Act
- Recorded Land or Registered Land
- Types of Ownership

*Letter continued from front page*

into office January 2, 2019. This project came about in 2020 when I wanted to interact with people but could not see them personally. I decided I

would share my love of the communities that comprise the Worcester District. We are 55 of the 60 communities of Worcester County.

## WINTER WORD SEARCH

F P A M O T I U S W O N S Q B S  
 R X G O Y D S H O V E L Z J N C  
 Q T L B N K L W R S M A G O U F  
 V G S R A P E N G U I N W Y H D  
 I W N T E J G X M Q S B R E O Z  
 U C E A Y T N D P I O H F K L R  
 M S I Z G Q A V B A T L X C I J  
 Y H K C F G W E R N U T P O D G  
 S J M V L S O D W R X Q E H A N  
 E N T G K E N B R S F M C N Y I  
 V L O I N H S I O X J U Q A S D  
 O F I W P E E R S T O O B M C D  
 L N X U B S Z J Y P N I H W K E  
 G I P E T A L O C O H C T O H L  
 B S C A R F L D R E M Z U N J S  
 H R E T N I W L X F P G Y S O K



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|----------|---------------|-------------|-----------|
| boots    | hot chocolate | shovel      | snowboard |
| flurries | icicle        | skates      | snowman   |
| frozen   | igloo         | skiing      | snowsuit  |
| gloves   | mittens       | sledding    | sweater   |
| hockey   | penguin       | snow angels | toboggan  |
| holidays | scarf         | snowball    | winter    |