

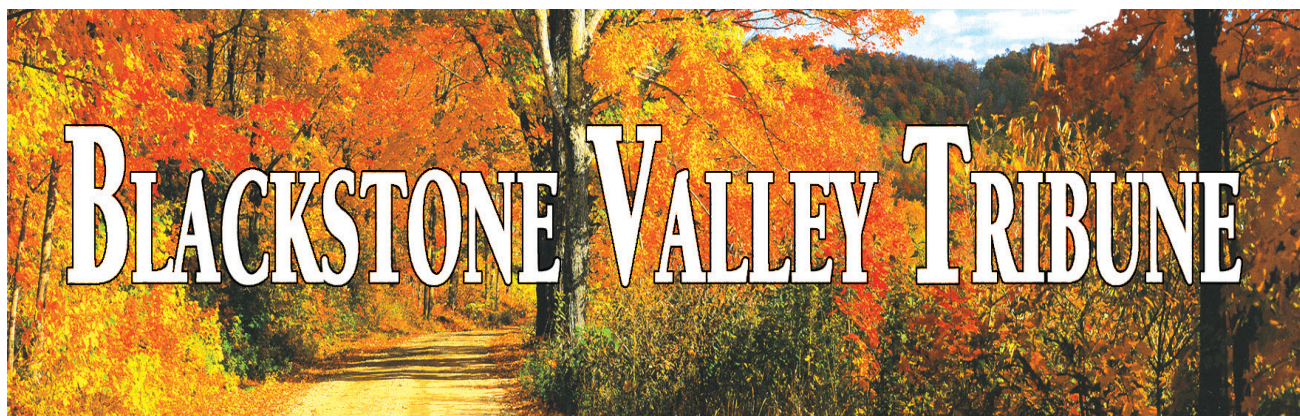
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Friday, November 28, 2025

Grafton's Nicholas Wojnar honored at state Sheriffs' Association Awards Ceremony



WCSO Officer Nicolas Wojnar (center) accepts the MSA Correctional Officer of the Year award, presented by Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi (left), and accompanied by Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis (right).

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (MSA) proudly recognized Worcester County Sheriff's Office Officer Nicholas Wojnar (Grafton) at the 2025 Law Enforcement & Corrections Awards Ceremony, held Thursday, Nov. 13 at The Great Hall in the Massachusetts State House.

Wojnar received the Correctional Officer

of the Year Award for his courageous off-duty actions during a life-threatening emergency.

On Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024, Wojnar was operating his personal vehicle while off duty when he encountered an automobile collision in Grafton. One of the involved vehicles was inverted, and Officer Wojnar crawled into the vehicle to extricate a woman who was trapped. He cut her seat

belt and aided her in exiting the vehicle, remaining at the scene until local police and emergency medical services arrived.

Wojnar's prompt response, professionalism, and composure may have potentially saved a life. Thanks to his comprehensive training, Correctional Officers like Wojnar are consistently prepared to act swiftly as first responders during challenging situations to

support those in greatest need.

“The Correctional Officers of the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office receive extensive training to equip them for various situations,” explained Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis. “On Oct. 3, 2024, Officer Wojnar demonstrated exceptional dedication by going above and beyond the call of duty. We are proud to have nominated Officer Wojnar for the

Massachusetts Sheriff's Association Correctional Officer of the Year award. His bravery, instinct, and reliance on training were truly commendable."

The Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association commends Officer Wojnar for his exemplary service. His quick thinking and selfless response serve as an inspiration across Worcester County and throughout the Commonwealth.

*Blackstone Valley Community Chorus
presents Holiday Pops concert*

UXBRIDGE — The Blackstone Valley Community Chorus and Orchestra will present "Here We Come A'Caroling," A Holiday Pops Concert, on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 4 p.m. The concert will take place at Valley Chapel at 14 Hunter Rd. in Uxbridge. Admission is free, though donations are accepted.

and appreciated!
 “Here We Come
 A’Caroling” features
 the BVCC singing
 with a full orchestra, a
 guest appearance by the
 Leicester High School
 Chorus, dance inter-
 ludes by Asher Taylor-
 Dawson and Danceworks
 Dance Centre Repertory
 Company, and a visit from
 Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The program promises fun and holiday cheer for an audience of all ages. The BVCC will be collecting non-perishable food and personal care items for the People First Food Pantry of Uxbridge. Come celebrate the holiday spirit with family and friends, help community members in need, and sing along!

The Blackstone Valley

Community Chorus is a merry group of singers from towns throughout Central Massachusetts. Singing under the direction of Diane Pollard of Douglas, the BVCC has been committed to bringing varied musical performance opportunities to the Blackstone Valley for more than twenty years. Along with “Here

We Come A'Caroling," the BVCC will be performing at the Blackstone Valley Festival of Trees Preview Party on Friday, Dec. 5. For more information about this event, our Holiday Pops Concert, or the specific needs of the People First Food Pantry, visit the BVCC on Facebook or at www.bvccchorus.com.

Turn To VOLUNTEERS *page* A8

NHS honors local veterans

NORTHBRIDGE
— On Monday, Nov. 10, Northbridge High School Juniors and members of the Social Studies Department took time to honor the veterans of our community by bringing back a Northbridge High School tradition, the Veterans' Day Luncheon.

This year, American Studies II students were asked to interview military veterans from all branches of the service, some were family members or family friends, others had a connection to the Northbridge community. Veterans were asked about their experiences in the military and how those moments shaped their lives. The students created slideshows and posters to highlight what

they had learned and invited their interviewees to be honored at the luncheon.

During lunch, veterans shared more stories with the students, enjoyed a “cook-out” style buffet, and watched a compilation of the students’ slideshows rolling on the Smartboard.

Mr. Jeff Kozick, Social Studies Department Chair, made the opening remarks extending gratitude to all of the veterans for their service and for joining us at the event, followed by several student remarks paying homage to the veterans. Mia Smith-Hale sang a beautiful a capella rendition of the National Anthem. Jordan Priore, followed by Ashley Papa and Kayla Whitney, each spoke and reflected on what they

had learned from their veterans, and Zoey and Zahra Rith did the same, but in a poem.

Mr. Alan Finkel, social studies teacher, read all the names of the veterans who were interviewed and asked them to raise their hands when called, which culminated in rousing applause for all. Finally, Mr. Scott Connery, Principal, gave closing remarks sharing an anecdote of growing up with the utmost respect for service members in his life—and why they all deserve our respect.

Many of our students created crafts to honor and show their appreciation for their veteran, not only for the time spent on the project, but for their service to



our country. The veterans thanked the students and teachers profusely on their way out, but the real thanks go to them.

The NHS Social Studies Department currently has students in grades 8 through 10 working on interview skills, and they

intend to make this a yearly tradition for 11th graders to honor and respect our veterans, which is what they so richly deserve.

Cornerstone Bank named one of nation’s Best Banks to Work For

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank has been recognized as one of the 2025 Best Banks to Work For, ranking #15 nationwide on the annual list published by American Banker. It’s the second year in a row Cornerstone has

earned this honor celebrating banks that excel at creating supportive, engaging workplaces where employees feel valued and empowered to succeed.

providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Cornerstone Bank’s local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone, which is a subsidiary of PeoplesBankCorp, MHC, operating independently under its own name and brand, provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities through a broad range of deposit and loan products and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.

About American Banker
American Banker empowers banking professionals with insight into the ideas transforming their industry. Through journalism, events, and research, it connects more than 850,000 industry leaders online, in person, and in print every day.

About Best Companies Group
Since 2004, Best Companies Group has identified and recognized great employers through independent research and employee surveys designed to measure workplace satisfaction and culture.

The Best Banks to Work For program, now in its 12th year, is conducted by American Banker in partnership with Best Companies Group. This year, 90 banks across the country earned a place on the list following an in-depth evaluation of workplace policies and anonymous employee surveys assessing engagement and satisfaction.

“We’re incredibly proud to be recognized among the best banks to work for in the nation,” said President and CEO Todd Tallman. “Our employees are the heart of Cornerstone Bank, and this recognition reflects their dedication, teamwork and commitment to our customers and communities.”

According to American Banker Editor-in-Chief Chana Schoenberger, “The banks recognized as Best Banks to Work For are institutions employees want to join and stay. They understand how to give workers reasons to find purpose in their jobs.”

To determine the rankings, each participating bank was evaluated through a two-part process: a review of workplace practices, policies and benefits (25 percent of the total score) and an anonymous employee survey (75 percent). The combined results determined the final ranking.

About Cornerstone Bank
Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and

Greater Milford Ballet Company presents “The Nutcracker” Dec. 13 & 14

MILFORD — Support your local talent by attending The Greater Milford Ballet’s production of “The Nutcracker” at Milford High School stage Dec. 13 and 14 at 2 p.m. at Milford High School auditorium, Milford.

Come see this exciting 47-member cast of characters, colorful costumes and dazzling choreography. This production is local, easily accessible, affordable and never disappoints when it comes to delivering high quality entertainment and has been a holiday tradition favorite for decades.

Katherine Vigly and Joe Lynch from Ballet RI are the featured professionals in the roles of Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier. The rest of the cast are from Webster, Grafton, Blackstone, Bellingham, Hopedale Milford, Mendon, Millville, Webster, Wrentham, Uxbridge, and Cumberland, R.I.

The Greater Milford Ballet’s “The Nutcracker” is not only a family tradition, but it also creates a fun time for families who perform within the cast. From Grafton, Laiken Johnson is cast as a Mouse and Polichinelle and Camryn Johnson, her sister, is a Small Angel. Raven Spitz, from Webster, is a Small Angel.

Available at intermission: refreshments, holiday raffle items including gift certificates from local restaurants, retailers and themed gift baskets.

Tickets are priced at \$25 and \$30. Ticket sales are available by calling the Deane Dance Studio at 508-473-2105 or at Charles River Bank located at 16 Hastings Street in Mendon. Discount sales for Council on Aging and non-profit 501(c)3 groups of (10) or more including Girl Scout Troops can be arranged by calling Colleen O’Brien at (508) 954-4756. Tickets will be sold at the auditorium depending on availability.

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This dog is currently in foster care. If you're interested in meeting Tuffy, please email info.pawfectlife@gmail.com *

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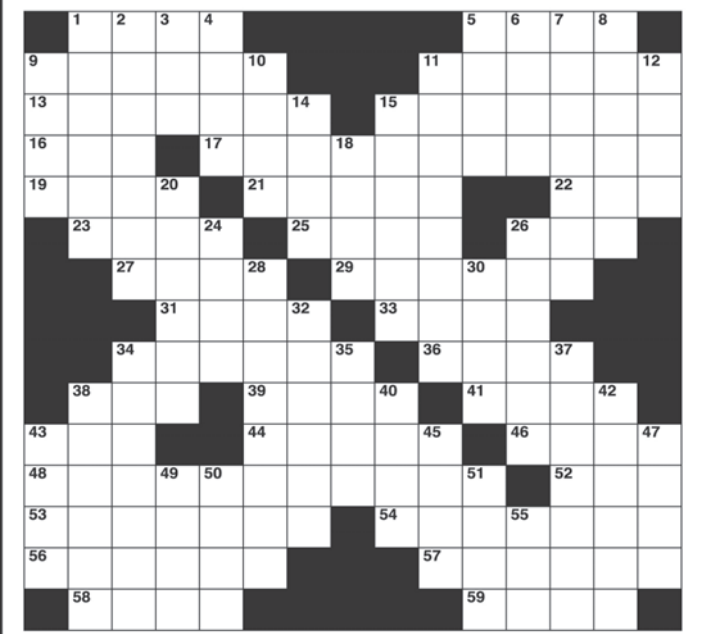
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Difficult

5. Coarsely ground corn

9. There's one for the "world"

11. Loved Romeo

13. Sticky situation

15. Pelvic areas

16. An informal debt instrument

17. Cannot be repaired surgically

19. A device attached to a workbench

21. Related on the mother's side

22. Sound unit

23. ___ Sagan, astronomer

25. Utah city

26. A disappointing effort

27. Steal goods during a riot

29. Wakes up

31. Hair salon service
33. Serenaded

34. Looked intensely

36. U.S. Air Force expert Robert F.

38. A type of cast

39. One's duty

41. Where golfers begin

43. Make a mistake

44. Semitic sun god

46. Ancient Greek City

48. Having had the head cut off

52. A place to stay

53. Unwise

54. Most unnatural

56. Dennis is a notable one

57. Ointments

58. Students' exam

59. Leaked blood

CLUES DOWN

1. Brave

2. Act of awakening

3. Jest at

4. Sandwich store

5. Chapter of the Koran

6. Dismounted

7. Small vehicle

8. Irked

9. One who earns by disreputable dealings

10. Monetary unit of Samoa

11. Long, mournful lamentation

12. Weight unit

14. Alone, single

15. Decreases

18. Indicates beside

20. Worn by exposure to the weather

24. A body of traditions
26. College students' ultimate goal

28. Amino acid

30. Nasal mucus

32. US government entity

34. Swinish

35. Legislative body in Russia

37. Grant an exemption to

38. Put in advance

40. Satisfy

42. Felt

43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls

45. Witnesses

47. Picnic invaders

49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two

50. Ancient person of Scotland

51. Cheerless

55. Unwell

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Northbridge High School announces honor roll

NORTHBRIDGE — Northbridge High School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

Students are recognized for their academic success with a quarterly Honor Roll. This is determined shortly after the close of each of the four quarters. This recognition is based on their quarter grades and is determined as follows:

- HIGHEST HONORS: Term GPA is 4.0+
- HIGH HONORS: Term GPA is between 3.3-3.9
- HONORS: Term GPA is between 2.7-3.2

Highest Honors
Grade 12: Jason Bolduc, Olivia Choumanivong, Danielle Chrabaszcz, Lorelai Drapeau, Natalie Fasold, Kylie Grazulis, Sonja Hastings, Stacia Hilditch, Aedan Holcomb, Penelope Houpt, Nadia Kotwica, Kathleen Leonard, Marcus MacLeod, Ellory Manning, Effielyn Marrero, Sienna Mastroianni, Vidhi Patel, Owen Pollock, Brendan Riche, Audriana Roby, Jake Rogers, Elly Schofer, Nicollas Silva, Sofia Smith, Caleb Smith, Kallie Tevepaugh

Grade 11: Kalintria Bailey, Emily Billmyer, Skyla Boucher, Carly Brett, Kayla Briggs, Jacqueline Cammarano, Alexandra Corey, Samuel Corman, Vahan DerKosrobian, Lillian Donahue, Meghan Frieswick, Leah Gallerani, Tanner Haden, Austin Kee, Emily Kelly, Dawson Kramer, Jillian Krula, Nathan Kuras, Abigail Leveille, Bryce Lundquist, Ava Mandelenakis, Ashley Papa, Zahra Rith, Bryce Rogozenski, Bryce Ryan, Isabella Saad, Lillian Sabourin, Danika Schofield, Brooke Shumate, Elizabeth Tubbs

Grade 10: Taylor Alden, Gohar Arakelyan, Ella Arias, Chloe Barnatt, Kayla Bolduc, Paisley Comeau, Brady Dizenzo, Gage Doble, Kallie Dunn, Emily Flauto, Landon Gerardi, Ashlyn Gonyea, Cailey Graceffa, Jessica Haberski, Kara Helinski, Savannah Hendricks, Katherine Hernandez Mendoza, Cassandra Higgins, Arabella Kosciak, Kathleen L'Hommedieu, Anna Lavallee, Molly Leonard, Vincent Lomonaco, Ashley Ann Lucena, Lila MacDonald, Maya MacLeod, Madelynn Nowak, Shane Paulhus, Olivia Pollock, Adrianna Racz, Avery Riche, Marissa Roadman, Madison Scungio, Audrey Siemaszko, Isabelle Stanley, Shiloh Stewart, Ava Strazzulla, Kaitlyn Szerlag, Brooklyn Thibeault, Jade Thomas, Keelyn Touhey, Boluwatife Vera-Cruz, Amanda Waterson, Lexi Wilson

Grade 9: Zoe Corey, Leah Fasold, Mateus Ferreira, James Flaherty, Reese Hendricks, Florissa Lundquist, Lexie Paulhus, Mason Richard, Natasha Souvanna

Grade 8: Levi Buehler, Giovanna Bufaino Rocha, Kelsey Desousa, Kenneth Gauthier, Aliana Jimenez, Landon Joubert, Klara L'Hommedieu, Vrinda Patel, Wyatt Piegorsch, Brayden Ryan, Charlotte Supernor, Sawyer Woods

High Honors
Grade 12: Maija Beaupre, Lily Bilodeau, Davin Bolduc, Jason Calles, Polina Conio Potselueva, Addyson Crothers, Hailie Cullen, Antonio D'Alfonso, Luke Davis, Kevin DiMuzio, Jeffrey Doyle, Askibus Dubois, Reed Dziekiewicz, Nathan Falconer, Jacoby Gallerani, Alexander Goodrow, Grace Haden, Joel LaChapelle, Charlotte LaTour, Cameron Lavallee, Callum Lax, Mong Le, Keith MacEachern, Isle Malik, Maxwell Mazzarelli, John Mazzarelli, Nina McElreath, Gisel Morrisette, Aiden Mulcahy, Hayden Naylor, Sophia Nicholatos, Hailey-Jade O'Neil, Emma Oosterman, Zixuan Qiao, Lara Rivers, Trevor Roadman, Logan Sansone, Emily Scholl, Jordan Shaw, Leticia Silva, Gabriel Smart, Taden Stanovich,

Tyler Strazzulla, Kayleigh Szerlag, Nicholas Thomas, Jacob Tomaino, Jenna Tomasetti, Dayanara Torres, Braedan Tracy, Colby Trudeau, Kelsey Tucker, Angel Wesson

Grade 11: Brendan Aldrich, Barbara Brooks, Brooke Cammarano, Gabriel Carvalho, Christina Chiras, John Donahue, Julia Fisher, Cayleigh Foley, Max Frazer, Alfredo Garcia, Samuel Gorman, Cecilia Laviolette, Belle Elizabeth LeClair, Gabriel Leveille, Fam Mekhaeel, Anthony Mooradian, Hayden Murphy, Noah Nephew, Jadiel Ortiz, Aidan Payen, Michael Potter, Jordan Priore, Mia Prosser, Lily Proto, Zoey Rith, Dylan Saster, Iszac Smith, Mia Smith-Hale, Olivia Stanick, Parker Stanick, Tyler Tran, Kaylee Vakoc, Kayla Whitney

Grade 10: Ereeny Absamis, Destiniee Almeida, Ethan Alvarado, Kirra Arsenault, Alexander Austin, Quin Austin, Hannah Bacon, Olivia Cair, Anita Comforti, Victoria Concepcion-Cruz, Taryn Conway, Aleina Cortes-Crespo, Trevione Evans, Elizabeth Garcia, Adrianna Goncalves, Taylla Victoria Goncalves, Mark Henin, Aiden James Jenkins, Dylan Kelly, Thomas Krause, Joshua Kuras, Rory Lamonda, Chi Le, Madelyn Loos, Colton Lotfy, Sophia Maracle, Karibella Matuszak, Julia McKenna, Cody Miller, Rafael Montalvo, Sadie Nephew, Ryan Parker, Abrielle Richards, Samuel Samuel, Stephany Villanueva Juarez, Isaac Vitoria

Grade 9: Anna Andresen, Renji Bailey, Mya Bassett, Logan Blood, Nathaniel Borges, Myra Briggs, Maci Coe, Andrew DeCiero, Arayelix Esquilin Cruz, Giovanna Ferreira, Logan Kaiser Ballard, Callie Kaska, Payton Kaska, Jameson Kaska, Teagan Koopman, Evan LaChapelle, Tianna Lavallee, Logan Lemarr, Cooper Mandelenakis, Aryiana Matulonis, Zoe Matuszak, Marshall Munhall, Lyndsay Neerayah, Kaden Noel, Abbygale Novinger, Logan Overfield, Madelyn Pellegrino, Alexander Picard, Chase Pichel-Daigneault, Jolene Poulin, Zakiiya Rawson, Ethan Searles, Addison Trotter, Landon Tucker, Christian Vacca Rivera, Sasha Vidinha, Jacob Ware, Blake Wenc, Maxwell Zyra

Grade 8: Deric Alicea, Austin Almeida, Robert Baker, Sophia Baldwin, Brayden Barnatt, Aria Beaupre, Cameron Brouillard, Eva Carvalho Seoud, Benjamin Ciani, Isaiah Clemente, Benjamin Comforti, Aaliyah Daluise Sims, Maisa De Sousa Bledon, Emily Desousa, Kaylee Desousa, Bella Drury, Lucas Freniere, Erin Geary, Jonah Gendron, Morgan Jenkins, Ariana Juarez, Lucas King, Jaxon L'Esperance, Reese Lamonda, Thatcher LeBlanc, Anthony Alessandro Lucena, Alex McKellick, Avianna Mejia, Addison Onorato, Jordan Paradis, Charlotte Pitts, Logan Porzio, Camren Poulin, Zuliany Rodriguez, Owen Sanford, Joseph Seaver, Savannah Shumate, Caleb Silva, Myka Taylor, Finnian Trites, Declan Trites

Honors

Grade 12: Caleb Bleau, Kelsey Costello, Seth Geary, Markus Goncalves, Lesley Gonzalez Perez, Connor Kaferlein, Trisha Lange, Chase Lawson, Luke Lewandowski, Alexander Lund, Landon Naughton-Bolduc, Aiden Orlandino,

Aubrey Pollinger, Kayleigh-Ann Pomeroy, Dayli Reyes-Fuentes, Ryan Ruzzo, Alysia Schwager, Ana Livia Silva Garcia, Jarissa Sylvestre, Jayden Wilson, Adriana Winslow, Logan Wozniak, Maxwell Zanchi, Saxon Zona

Grade 11: Abigail Akeley Nobles, Lucas Baby, Quinn Driscoll, Sofia Ducharme, Christopher Gavin, David Gonzalez Perez, Bailey Kee, Isabella Liberty, Harrison Lowe, Ryan Nkangu, Adam Orn, Georgia Robinson, Jaelyn Saad, Andre Seoud, Michael Tubbs, Caroline White, Alexander Zanchi

Grade 10: Grace Alicandro-Kinney, Evan Flanagan, Jaxon Gabriela, Gaby Juarez, Layana Lee, Daniel Lemarr, Connor McLaughlin, Gabriel Negrón, Kayla Padilla, Teagan Snow, Trevor Talieri

Grade 9: Nevaeh Ayala, Jackson

Berrios, Giovana Braz, Delanie Briere, Cameron Burns, Emerson Catlin, Ester Dos Santos, Henry Escobar, Zade Euga, Isabella Farrand-Antobenedetto, Yarah Goris, Abigail Gorman, Kayla Haggett, Rodney Hill, Evan Holcomb, Briella Lavallee, Benjamin Maracle, Aditree Nayak, Brayden Neyland, Jaelynn Perreault, J'ziah Rawson, Mia Reed, Tyler Reyes, Davian Salvi, Luigi Santos, Logan Theberge, Jaxen Vidinha



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PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

A season of familiar gatherings

Thanksgiving arrives each year with the same unmistakable rhythm. It is a holiday built on return—returning to the table, returning to long-kept traditions, and returning to the people who define our sense of home. In the Blackstone Valley, where families often span generations in the same towns and on the same streets, this season is an annual reminder of how much strength communities draw from gathering together.

These late-November days often pull us in opposite directions. The calendar fills, the year-end deadlines pile up, and the daylight slips away earlier than we’d like. Yet Thanksgiving has a way of slowing the pace. It gives us a reason to step back into those familiar kitchens—whether in Sutton, Douglas, Uxbridge, Northbridge or Whitinsville—and to take stock of the people who have shaped our lives.

Across our towns, these gatherings are not defined by grand displays. They unfold in the quiet gestures that rarely make headlines: an extra seat pulled up for someone who needs the company; a neighbor dropping off a dessert; a call to a relative who cannot make the trip. Families come together not only across dining tables but across generations. A child learning a family recipe becomes a link in a chain that stretches backward and forward in time. A grandparent telling a well-worn story is not repeating themselves—they are preserving something.

The value of these connections becomes clearer each year. Our region continues to grow and change, and many households no longer look like the ones that sat around the table decades ago. Some gather in smaller groups now. Others welcome new faces. Many families are stretched across multiple towns, ferrying between houses in a single afternoon. Yet the instinct to come together—to make room, to make time—remains constant.

That is the heart of Thanksgiving: the deliberate act of choosing connection. It is not simply about gratitude in the abstract. It is about recognizing that the people in our lives, however complex or imperfect, are central to the strength of our communities. These relationships sustain us more than we often acknowledge.

In the Blackstone Valley, that spirit extends far beyond the holiday itself. It is visible in the volunteers who stock the shelves at local food pantries, in the scouts organizing seasonal drives, in the churches preparing community meals, and in the local organizations quietly helping neighbors facing hardship. Acts of generosity, small and large, keep our communities stitched together.

As residents gather over the coming week—some traveling miles, others walking down the street—we are reminded that the meaning of Thanksgiving is not limited to a single day. The gatherings now set the tone for the winter ahead. They encourage us to look after one another, to take the initiative when someone is struggling, and to stay connected even after the decorations are boxed away.

This holiday season, may all who call the Blackstone Valley home find their way back to the tables and traditions that anchor them. May familiar faces bring comfort, and may new ones be welcomed with the same warmth this region is known for. And above all, may the return to gathering renew our shared sense of belonging—something every community needs to thrive.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Have Healy’s policies lowered your energy costs?

To the Editor:

Did you know that Massachusetts ranks third highest for energy costs in the nation? Third highest! Thank you, expensive green energy fantasy policies.

Is green renewable energy lowering your electricity costs? Nope.

Our state has lost 10,000 acres of land for solar projects in the last ten years. But, according to The Boston Globe, as of April 25, Massachusetts has a deficit of 440,000 units of affordable housing.

Let us put up a sign at the borders of Massachusetts to make our priorities clear: “Thank you for your patience as we allow forest land to be clear cut for battery storage facilities and agricultural land to be turned into solar panel wastelands while we did nothing to require solar or renewable energy to be installed on already destroyed land. Also, please understand that we must use valuable land for expensive green energy while not building affordable housing.”

Did you know that Comrade Healey’s Climate Plan will cost rate payers \$25 billion? Billion with a B. Healey released a new Department of Public Utilities report that says the net-zero mandates will “require \$23 to \$26 billion [from taxpayers] in grid upgrades over the next 25 years.

Electrifying transportation and home heating [heat pumps] will spike electricity demand up 74 percent in winter, says Mass Fiscal Alliance. Bills will go up.

Both Massachusetts Audubon and Harvard Forests are alarmed that 5,000 acres of forests have been cut down for solar panel farms. That’s 5,000 acres of forests that can no longer absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen.

Environmentalists are demanding that solar farms and battery facilities should be placed on rooftops, parking lots, capped landfills, and already-destroyed land.

In other words, it is stupid, senseless and anti-environmental to put these monsters on open land, agricultural land or on forested land. But politicians are stupid.

The state energy council has still not finalized guidelines for battery storage while these so-called Green energy battery storage companies devour small towns like Uxbridge! Six in Uxbridge alone! To hell with the environment!

When residents in Tewksbury met to protest a large battery storage facility proposed for their town - next door to an assisted living facility - the green crazies stormed in

and screamed: “Solar is taking over! Get used to it!”

The battery storage facility folks were quick to write an opinion in the Herald to respond to Mass Fiscal Alliance’s facts about the high cost of solar. Erin Smith, the young naïve Clean Grid Director of the Environmental League of Massachusetts promises that renewable energy will be cheaper.

These same folks promised that deregulation of electricity would create competition and lower prices. Nope, that failed. Give me the good old cheap days of Massachusetts Electric! Electricity was reliable and cheap.

Ms. “Green Solution” stated: “No community should ever face what happened at the 2025 Moss Landing fire in California [colossal fire that destroyed a community, forced residents out of their homes for weeks, and spread toxic ash everywhere].” But, she said: “Thanks to technology improvements and safety codes, they likely won’t.” Wait, what? What kind of a promise is that?

One gas-fired electric power plant on a few acres produces 1,400 megawatts. A solar field on 10 acres produces 1 megawatt. One. One, as in one.

In order to reach “net zero emissions” in New England, we will have to build 12,000 wind turbines and 129 million solar panels and spend \$815 billion. Why do we trust the crazy Commies in this state to drive the car?

No Kings Rally? How about a rally about the Commies on Beacon Hill who refuse to submit to an audit that was passed by referendum in 2024 by a 72 percent majority in every county and district? It is a law, but our Attorney General Andrea “Joy” Campbell told the auditor that she “must address our unanswered questions including assurances that the audit remains within the confines of the state constitution.” Stall, stall, and delay.

And did you know that public defenders are still on strike, and every criminal arrested since May has been released because they have no legal representation? No money for public lawyers in Maura’s rainy day fund. Release all criminals. Vote Communist.

Have you had enough? These are the times that try men’s souls. Women’s too.

BEV GUDANOWSKI
UXBRIDGE

Lanterns Along Main Street

There is a particular kind of quiet that settles over small towns in Massachusetts at this time of year. It’s not the deep winter hush, when the world seems padded in wool and the sidewalks squeak under snow boots. It’s a gentler quiet, the kind that comes after the leaves finish their performance and before the holiday rush starts tapping on the windows. It’s a space in the calendar where nothing much demands attention, and yet everything feels like it’s gathering itself for something important.

I’ve always liked this pause. It’s the sort of stillness that lets you hear things you forget to notice: a screen door catching in the wind, a car starting reluctantly in the driveway next door, or the muffled laughter of kids playing a last game outside before the cold becomes a convincing reason to stay in. These ordinary sounds remind me that most of life is built out of moments no one photographs.

At this time of year, people start fussing around their homes with a mix of anticipation and mild dread. A friend of mine was out on her porch last week, shaking a stubborn string of bulbs as if she could rattle some life back into them. “I swear these worked last year,” she said. I told her that holiday lights have their own personalities. Some are dependable. Some give up early. And some begin flickering with a sort of theatrical exhaustion, as though they’ve seen too many Decembers and would like a vacation.

It’s amusing what a person notices when not rushing. The shorter days pull more of life indoors, and the world seems to contract around kitchens and living rooms. People talk about “getting ready” for the holidays, but it’s rarely the big things that occupy them. It’s whether the good tablecloth is clean. Whether they remembered where they stored the roasting pan. Whether the dog will behave when company arrives—a concern that has caused more tension in households than any political conversation ever could.

One of the quiet joys of living in a small town is seeing how people approach the holidays in different ways but still end up making the season feel shared. Some neighbors dec-

LANTERNS
ALONG
MAIN
STREET
By CHIPPY

orate their homes early, glowing like beacons long before most of us have untangled our extension cords. Others keep things modest: a candle in each window, a wreath that’s been hanging on the same nail for twenty years, and maybe a single lighted star that looks as though it’s been guiding the same wise men around since the early ’90s.

What I’ve always appreciated, though, is the feeling that no matter how people get ready—enthusiastically, reluctantly, or somewhere in between—there is an underlying sense of kindness in the air. You see it in the way people hold doors for each other without needing to think about it. Or how someone lets another driver pull out first on a busy road, even if they themselves are late. These aren’t sweeping gestures, but they carry the same weight as any grand holiday message.

Most of us don’t need reminders about the importance of slowing down, but we take them anyway. Something about this season taps us on the shoulder and says, “Look, there is still warmth here. There is still softness.” It might be in the first smell of cookies baking, even if they come from a store-bought tube. Or in the way a grandparent leans in to listen to a story they’ve heard fifteen times but still pretend is new. Or in the laugh of a child who doesn’t yet understand what it means to worry about time.

And maybe that’s the purpose of this in-between season—the weeks when daylight shrinks and streetlights flicker on a little earlier each afternoon. It gives everybody permission to notice the lanterns along their own main street, whether actual lights or the people who brighten things simply by being there.

Winter will arrive soon enough, with all its demands and routines. But right now, in this softer stretch of the year, the world feels like it’s whispering instead of shouting. And if you’re willing to listen closely, you might hear something reassuring in that whisper: we’re all doing our best, we’re all moving at our own pace, and we’re all trying to bring a little light with us into the dark.

Sometimes, that’s enough.

Making the most of your Health Savings Account



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When it comes to saving for health-care costs, few tools are as powerful as a Health Savings Account (HSA). Yet many Americans don’t take full advantage of it.

HSAs offer a rare triple-tax benefit. You don’t pay taxes when you contribute money, your earnings grow tax-free and you don’t pay taxes when you withdraw funds for qualified medical expenses.

It’s like a retirement account specifically for healthcare costs. Since out-of-pocket healthcare costs for couples in retirement can be high (over \$375,000 for those with Medicare and Medigap and nearly \$200,000 for those with Advantage plans, according to 2025 Milliman Retiree Health Cost Index), maximizing your HSA should be a priority.

Here are some things to consider:

Ensure your eligibility. To contribute, you must be enrolled in a high-deductible health insurance plan and cannot be on Medicare or claimed as someone else’s dependent. You also can’t have other health insurance coverage, though dental, vision and disability insurance are allowed.

For 2025, you can contribute up to \$4,300 for individual coverage (\$4,400 in 2026) or \$8,550 for family coverage (\$8,750 in 2026). If you’re 55 or older, you can add an extra \$1,000 annually. HSA contributions are generally made through monthly payroll deductions.

Think long-term. Many people treat their HSA like a checking account, spending the money as soon as medical bills arrive.

Another strategy, however, is to leave your HSA funds alone if you can afford to pay medical expenses out of pocket. This approach lets that money grow for future health-care needs, including retirement.

This strategy transforms your HSA from a spending account into a powerful savings tool. You can always reimburse yourself later for those out-of-pocket medical expenses, even years down the road, so long as you keep your receipts.

Invest for growth. Most HSAs offer investment options, yet only 9 percent of account holders take advantage of them according to a 2025 Devenir HSA survey. The remaining 91 percent keep their entire balance in cash, missing out on potential growth opportunities.

Consider investing at least a portion of your HSA funds, especially if you don’t expect to need the money soon. Just keep enough cash available to cover any immediate and significant medical expenses you might face.

Avoid early penalties. Before age 65, taking HSA money for non-medical expenses means paying income tax plus a 20 percent penalty. But once you hit 65, that penalty disappears and your HSA works much like a traditional IRA for non-medical withdrawals.

Of course, using HSA funds for qualified medical expenses remains tax-free at any age, making it the ideal use for these dollars.

The bottom line: With healthcare costs continuing to rise, an HSA offers an opportunity to save money while reducing your tax burden. Whether you’re planning for next year’s medical bills or healthcare costs decades away, maximizing your HSA contributions could be one of the smartest financial moves you make.

Whether you’re planning for next year or catching up for 2025, your HSA can help turn today’s savings into tomorrow’s financial security.

Uxbridge High School announces honor roll

UXBRIDGE — Uxbridge High School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

Grade 8
High Honors: Sophia Aldrich, Kaylee Almy, Myah Anderson, Blaze Baldwin, Charley Beland, Lila Berard, Owen Barch, Ezra Burbank, Dylan Carter, Jasmine Carvalho, David Chappel, Talia Chinappi, Reece Clinton, Enzo Colonna, Bailey DeMarco, Jacob Derouen, Quinn Gilmore, Sierra Gomes, Evan Goryl, Erin Guertin, Emily Guilherme, Ethan Hamilton, Aurora Hawkins, Isabela Hernandez, Landyn Jastremski, Tycen Jones, Ruth Keane, Hudson Kirshenbaum, Ella Lafontaine, Henry LeBlanc, Jaelyn Loja, Avery Lynch, Emma Malloy, Abigail Mandile, Tyley Martin, Khloe Martins, Jacob Mastroianni, Julie Mikhaeil, Avery Mitchell, Julia Nakazano, Keira Nicoll, Julia Olson, Gavin Pezzullo, Madeline Pidgeon, Carlo Roffo, Nicholas Rota, Ella Ryan, Aryan Saini, Kyrie Sannicandro, Jake Scott, Abigail Sheehan, Greyson Weaver
Honors: Lucas Aldrich, Kingston Baldwin, Olivia Balicki, Andrea Barch, Charlotte Braun, Emma Bruyere, Hunter Chappel, Nathan Costigan, Jack Couture, Edith Dow, Daniel Donahue, Jayden Dubois, Gavin Ferreira, Zoe Grimala, Kellyn Hankey, Dominic Harlow, Colton Jordan, Zachary Joyce, Kingsley Kaiser, Lily Labrecque, Leslie Mendoza, Jayden Nazareno, Clara O'Neill, Emma Ramos, Xavier Rego, Owen Shay, Sophia Vadenais, Cayden Welch
Honorable Mention: Landon Balanca, Joseph Bassignani, Camden Belanger, Teagan Belanger, London Botsford, Eleni Demetroules, Ryan Ivanoski, Pheobe Keniston, Julius Kumah, Joseph Lemire, Maddilyn Leshinski, Corey Marchand, Kwenneith Paul, Miguel Ramirez, Julia Rodrigues, Ammie Ross, Reagan Roy, Gabriel Sobrinho, Lucas Spratt, Flynn Wellington, Savanna Westcott, Nola White, Marcin Wilczewski

Grade 9
High Honors: Kylie Alicea, Trevor Barbuto, Amelia Belanger, Oscar Berard, Alice Black, Patrick Brauninger, Michael Brosnahan, Madeleine Buckley, Michael Caffrey, Julianna Casper, Emily Charbonnier, Thomas Charron, Calum Fortin, Dylan Gallagher, Max Gaudet, Shane Hamm, Cameron Hendricks, Azalea Holland, Cameron Kauzens, William Khondker, Joseph King, Corey Levesque, Alexander Livingstone, Owen Longenbaker, Ash Loveless, Mackenzie Matthews, Ayla Moore, Ethan Najarro, Maison Natola, Adriana O'Connor, Evelyn Palumbo, Caydence Perkins, Cole Pezzullo, Greyson Rollins, Thomas Rosborough III, Caroline Roxo, Isabel Roxo, Abigail Simonds, Skyla Sokol, Hailey Thompson, Kamiela Torku, Armen Von Rueden
Honors: Kaiden Aponte, Alexandra Benson, Ryleigh Cronin, Ryan Desautels, Jacob Dubois, Gavin Dwyer, Sean Freiwald, Samantha Gaulitz, Benjamin Gergous, Kamryn Lachapelle, Samuel Lopez, Mila McElreath, Enzo Mello, Camron Mills, Adrianna Mone, Luan Moreira, Cheyenne Ross, Nathan Smith, Alexanna Soter, Olivia Stoico, Jack Trotter, Lucas Wills, Willie Wilson
Honorable Mention: Hadleigh Avila, Aiyahan Cosme, Wyatt Daniels, Fabiano De Aguiar, Miguel Freire, Trinity Lapio Ryan Lavergne, Mia Manning, Alivia Marcello, Jack Neri, Gabriel Pendleton, Brynn Power, Jake Scott, Abigail Sheehan, Greyson Weaver

Grade 10
High Honors: Cayden Almy, Taylor Anderson, Cooper Bartlett, Evan Bourgeois, Elyse Bousquet, Cooper Burdick, Emily Cabral, Matteo Casasanta, Jaidyn DeLuca, Lily Derouen Jacob Dzivasen, Paige Foley, Liam Gover, Everett Hazel, Benjamin Johnson, Ashton Khondker, Jessica Labonte, Madyn Lame, Sarah Logan, Clayton Maracle, Nathan

Najarro Rivera, Thomas Newhall, Nadia Nolan, Ishani Patel, Allie Patnode, Shea Paxton, Zoey Pomerville, Julianna Remuck, Gabriel Rodrigues, Benjamin Rota, James Sadd, Lily Savoia, Emmett Sharr, Mason Soucy, Abigail Spiecker, Lily Trotter, Lile Twohig-Mann, Haley Walsh, Matthew Yarger
Honors: Kendra Cabana, Emily Calderon, Aiden Danforth, Bryana Fernandes, Ryan E. Fitzgerald, Logan Fleming, Emily Geshelin, Kelly Greene, Casey Griffiths, Emma Harney, Balin Jones, Bronwyn LaChapelle, Matthew Lambert, Abigayle Livingstone, Ryder Lovell, Blake Mace, Olivia Mazzola, William McClintock, Julia McDonnell, Carly McKay, Elijah Norman, Hayden O'Toole, Marissa Pirrotta, Ava Rosborough, Benjamin Snyder, Lucas Troiano, Malik Uddin, Kevin Vietro, Avery Wood
Honorable Mention: Kaylee Arsenault, Desmond Botelho, Bradley Dwight, Ryan T. Fitzgerald, Elliot Gnatik, Aiden Jennings, Wyatt Kendall-Watson, Katelyn Laflamme, Aaron Marchand, Jacoby Martins, Alaina Miller, Reagan Moriarty, Piper Sullivan

Grade 11
High Honors: Carolina Adarve Alonso, Ammar Alomar, Bradley Anderson, Iain Andrews, Clarah Avery-Boyer, Aubrey Beland, Gabriela Belanger, Aubrey Bouchard, Blake Burr, Ava Cahill, Madison Cammuso, Isabela Chapman, Aiden Costigan, Skylar Daniels, Joao Pedro DeSouza, Dylan Demers, Parker Dery, Miranda ElTurkmani, Alyssa Friis, Brianna Fuoss, Caleb Gaulitz, Allie Gauthier, Olivia Gauthier, Nathan Goryl, Brian Guertin, Mallorie Hallfelder, Jordan Hilgenberg, William Hinchcliffe, Elaina Horgan, Samantha Huth, Lyla Jordan, Brooklyn Kaferlein, Grace Kibe, Emrie Kling, Madison LaBonte, Sydney Loiselle, Mary Lowrey, Braelyn Matheson, Lilianna McClintock, Blake Oliver, Mia Ouellette, Emma Pelouquin, Nicolis Polsell, Aidan Power, Katherine Pratt, Charlie Roy, Eliasa Roy, Hannah Samolinski, Noah Samolinski, Chawanvit Sillapachairuang, Maddilyn Silva, Lelia Sjogren, Annabel Smutok, Sarah Stark, William Stark, Gabriel Stone, Erik Ward, Samuel Weeks
Honors: Addie Blood, Joseph Cascella, Susana Casper, Xavier Chan, Parker DaCosta, Kerry Desruisseaux, Ethan DeVito, Daniel Ferreira, Savhannah Gassett, Gabriel Gomes, Cameron Gray, Tyler Joyce, Maxwell Kammerer, Benjamin O'Neill, Nathan Oliveira, Arianna Pare, Vibhav Patel, Yosselin Alfaro Ramirez, Emmanuel Ramla, Kole Silvestro, Lukas Tierney, Madison Webber, Noah Samolinski, Lukas Tierney
Honorable Mention: Aaron Barry, Connor Brooks, Austin Clancy, Nolah Jean Philippe, Amir Julien, Mathias Lalakidis, Dawsen Levesque, Sebastian Molit, Elizabeth Moriarty, Anne Rejouis, Frederick Romano, Natalie Silva, Samuel Trotter, Zachary Veneziano, Benjamin Yoffe

Grade 12
High Honors: Alexander Aldrich, Lillian Arnold, Aidan Arsenault, Ella Bain, Taylor Bettencourt, Amelia Blood, Novelle Bousquet, Gaurav Boyalla, Sebastian Bradwin, Maxwell Brayman, Emerson Burns, Lauren Cabral, Julianna Casucci, Kaleb Chabot, Morgan Charbonnier, Kason Chludenski, Tyler Constantineau, Samuel Dow, Colin Dwyer, Brady Esposito, Alison Fleming, Jadyn Flood, Nicholas Fortier, Zachary Fortier, Sophia Freire, Savannah Gaskill, Kendall Gilmore, Lola Grube, Mazen Hamza, Camden LaChapelle, Ethan Lachapelle, Lily LaLiberte, Nicky-Anna Locke, Julianna Lopes, Hailee Lussier, Daniel Mach, Brayden Mackin, Gabriella Mazier, Niamh McSweeney, Erin O'Day, Skylar O'Neill, Julia Brynn Okenquist, Krish Patel, Keira Paul, Liam Powers, Liam Palmer-Ramirez, Jake Richardson, Jacob Rivet, Erin Roche, Emmalyn Romano, Julian Rosenberg, McKenna Savage, Riley Spicer, Brian Stumpf, Thatcher Sweeney, Andrew Tamsky, Jacob Tavares, Zachary Turcotte, Eabha Twohig-Mann, Cody Veneziano, Grady Walsh, Austin Walusiak
Honors: Mitchell Andrew, Jeremy Barry, Finnegan Cove, Joshua Fontes, Malachi Holland, Stephen Leach, Cameron McIsaac, Fenix Nowak Dagnese, Wilson Obiocha, Enzo Pimental, Alex Rivera, Thayla Santos, Sydney Vanderzicht
Honorable Mention: Adriana Cugini, Kameron Desroches, Heidi Doyon, Logen Erickson, Tyler Kavanaugh, Matthew Perron, Leigha Thomas

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www.Stonebridge Press.com

Bring a bit of spring indoors this winter

Pot them up, give them a chill and enjoy spring flowering bulbs indoors or outside on a patio, deck or porch. Forcing spring-flowing bulbs like tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, grape hyacinths and crocus is a great way to use those bulbs that didn't get planted in the garden or were on sale late in the season.

All you need is a suitable container, some well-drained potting mix, the bulbs and a place to give the bulbs the chill necessary to force them to bloom. Gather all your supplies and clear a space to assemble your bulb planter.

Select a container with drainage holes that is deep enough to accommodate the largest bulbs. Shorter varieties are less likely to flop but taller ones can be held upright with stakes, twigs and other decorative supports. Cover the bottom of the container with two inches of a well-drained potting mix. Place the bulbs close together about one half the bulb width apart with the neck of larger bulbs at or just below the soil surface. Set tulips with the flat side of the bulb facing the pot for a better display.

Create a spring garden in a larger container by using a deep container and planting the bulbs in layers. Select a variety of bulbs that bloom at the same time for greater impact or use a combination of early-, mid- and late-blooming spring-flowing bulbs to extend the bloom time and your enjoyment. The package usually lists the color, height and bloom time of the bulbs.

Place an inch or two of soil in the bottom and set the largest bulbs in place. Cover these bulbs with soil and add the smaller bulbs, like grape hyacinths and crocus, on the next level. Plant these bulbs close together for greater impact. Cover this layer with at least an inch of soil.



Melinda Myers

A container of forced grape hyacinth, daffodil and tulip bulbs.



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

Water thoroughly until the excess water drains out the bottom of the pot.

Move your bulb-filled containers to a cool location where temperatures remain above freezing and between 35 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit for 12 to 15 weeks. A spare refrigerator works well for this. Just avoid storing the bulbs with fruit, like apples and pears, that emit ethylene gas that can negatively impact flowering. If refrigerator space is limited, you can store the unplanted bulbs in a paper bag, so they take up less space in the fridge for the needed chill before planting.

Those gardening in colder climates can also store the pots in an unheated garage. Just water the containers whenever the soil is thawed and dry. Or sink the container into a vacant garden space in your landscape. Mulch the soil once the ground starts to freeze with evergreen boughs. The winter mulch makes retrieving the container easier in winter or early spring.

Begin moving the containers out of cold storage once the 12- to 15-week chilling period is complete. Extend your enjoyment and

the bloom time by removing one or just a few pots every week. Place the pot in a cool, bright location to encourage more compact growth. Water thoroughly when the top few inches of soil begin to dry. Soon the leaves will begin to sprout, and flowers will appear in about three to four weeks.

Provide ongoing care if you plan on moving the bulbs into the garden. Remove the faded flowers, place the leafy plants in a sunny window and water thoroughly whenever the top inch of soil is dry. Fertilize with a dilute solution of any flowering houseplant fertilizer. Move them into the garden once the danger of frost has passed. Be patient because it may be a year or two before they bloom again.

Plant plenty for you to enjoy and share with others. Everyone will appreciate the extra spring color the forced bulbs provide.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" streaming courses and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



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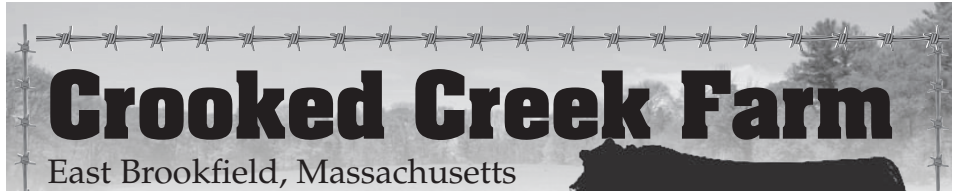
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Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.



Courtesy
Recently, students at Woodland Elementary School, under the guidance of Ms. Jenn Alger, a fifth grade teacher, collected items to be donated to Thanks To Yanks and then distributed to veterans. Thanks To Yanks, a local non-profit, has partnered with Ms. Alger and the students of Woodland for many years. Pictured are some of the students that participated, along with Mike Shain and Scott Rielly of Thanks To Yanks, for additional information on this charity please visit them on Facebook.

Sheriff’s Office receives national award for reentry efforts in Worcester County



Courtesy
Sheriff Evangelidis, the WCSO RRC team, and Worcester City Officials pose for a photo with the NOHS award, a Proclamation from the city, and a citation from the Massachusetts State Senate.

WORCESTER — The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office Regional Reentry Center received the Community Activism Award from the National Organization for Human Services at the organization’s national conference on Nov. 8. The Regional Reentry Center was recognized for its holistic, person-centered approach to supporting successful reentry and long-term stability for individuals involved in the criminal justice system and returning to Worcester County communities.

Worcester Mayor Joseph Petty and the Worcester City Council formally recognized the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office Regional Reentry Center (RRC) during the Worcester City Council meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 18, at Worcester City Hall. The ceremony highlighted the Center’s selection as the recipient of the Community Activism Award from the National Organization for Human Services (NOHS), a national nonprofit dedicated to enhancing human services, supporting professionals, and promoting excellence through advocacy, professional development, and collaboration.

The NOHS Community Activism Award honors individuals, groups, and organizations that demonstrate exceptional commitment to the communities they serve, equitable access to services, and community transformation. In its notification, NOHS highlighted the Reentry Center’s leadership, collaboration, and model of systemic advocacy, noting the program’s lasting impact on individuals and families throughout Central Massachusetts.

Sheriff Lew Evangelidis expressed deep gratitude for the recognition, noting that it reflected the dedication of the Regional Reentry Center team and the broader mission of the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office.

“This award is particularly gratifying because the concept of a reentry center originated with one employee through a grant and donated space,” explained Evangelidis. “Over the past 15 years, the reentry center has evolved into an extraordinary service organization that serves as a national model. It was incredibly humbling for our Regional Reentry Center to receive this national award, especially among so many outstanding initiatives and dedicated professionals across the country.”

The Regional Reentry Center, located at 365 Main St., Worcester, provides a comprehensive continuum of services to those involved in the criminal justice system, including: Transitional and permanent housing assistance Mental health and substance use treatment Workforce development and employment opportunities Peer recovery coaching Full wraparound supports tailored to individual needs

These programs help individuals rebuild their lives, reduce recidivism, and strengthen the Worcester County community. To learn more about the center, visit the main street location, or call 508-752-1212.



Courtesy

The People First Food Pantry of Uxbridge would like to thank Girl Scout Troop 65067 for helping organize and fill winter coat requests. These coats will be distributed to the children served by our food pantry. “Another shining example of children helping children!” stated Executive Director, Denise Mussulli.

Douglas National Guard soldier receives new rank & responsibilities

LATHAM, N.Y. — Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general for the state of New York, announces the recent promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

John Noecker from Douglas, and assigned to the 106th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), received a promotion Oct. 8 to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Army National Guard promotions are based on a Soldier’s overall performance, demonstrated leadership abilities, professionalism and future development potential.

These promotions recognize the best qualified Soldiers for a career in the New York Army National Guard.

Army National Guard Citizen Soldiers who serve our state and nation are eligible for monthly pay, educational benefits (from the state and federal government), travel across the globe, technical and leadership training, health and dental insurance and contributions towards retirement programs similar to a 401(k).

For more information about the New York Army National Guard, visit www.dmn.ny.gov or www.1800goguard.com

The New York National Guard (New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs) is the state’s executive agency responsible to the Governor for managing New York’s Military Forces, which consists of nearly 20,000 members of the New York Army National Guard, the New York Air National Guard, the New York Naval Militia and the New York Guard.

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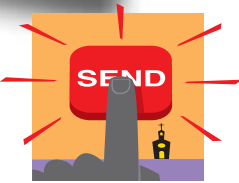


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VOLUNTEERS
continued from page A1

one who appreciates the power of culture to enrich lives, we encourage you to join us.

Applications are available from the Select Board office at the Municipal Center, as well as on the town website, www.douglas-ma.gov. To learn more about becoming a member of the

Douglas Cultural Council, please contact Jennifer Zifcak at jzifcak@douglas-ma.gov. You can also visit our Facebook page at “Douglas, Massachusetts Cultural Council” at www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1000084814531889. And you can get more information at <https://www.douglas-ma.gov/553/Local-Cultural-Council>.

Your commitment can make a meaningful difference in our community. We hope you will join us.

www.StonebridgePress.com

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Eugene Bufford to Washington Mutual Bank, FA, dated May 8, 2006 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38916, Page 309, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, successor in interest by purchase from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as Receiver of Washington Mutual Bank f/k/a Washington Mutual Bank, FA to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, recorded on July 19, 2016, in Book No. 55661, at Page 173 JPMorgan Chase Bank, National

Association to Nationstar Mortgage, LLC, recorded on July 19, 2016, in Book No. 55661, at Page 175 Nationstar Mortgage, LLC to Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc., recorded on April 30, 2024, in Book No. 70449, at Page 64 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 4:00 PM on December 12, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 61 Border Street, Unit No. B, 59 & 61 Border Street Condominium, Whitinsville, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT:

Unit No. B, a unit in the condominium at 59 & 61 Border Street Condominium, Northbridge, Massachusetts, created pursuant to and subject to the provi-

sions of Chapter 183A, of the General Laws of Massachusetts, by Master Deed dated May 3, 2006 and registered in the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 38901, Page 258, as the same may be or have been amended from time to time.

The Unit is shown on the floor plans of the building recorded simultaneously with said Master Deed as amended of record, if applicable, and on the copy of the portion of said plans attached to the First Unit Deed to which is affixed a verified statement in the form required by Section 9 of said Chapter 183A.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38916, Page 303.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC.

and being shown as Lot 5 on a plan of land entitled “Plan Of Land on Perry & Linden Streets Douglas, Massachusetts Prepared for Owner D & F Afonso Builders, Inc. Scale: 1”=60’ November 8, 2000”, which plan is recorded in Worcester District Registry of Deeds Plan Book 860, Plan 10, and to which plan reference may be had for a more particular description of said Lot 5. Said Lot 5 contains an area of 8.89 acres, more or less, according to said Plan. Said premises are conveyed subject to a Taking by Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company of a 50 foot right of way and easement under Instrument recorded in said Deeds Book 12756, Page 94, as shown on said plan and to the extend the same affects Lot 5. Said premises are conveyed together with and subject to Variance recorded In Book 25393, Page 252 and to Orders of Condition recorded in said Deeds Book 24468, Page 169; Book 28035, Page 293 and in Book 40794, Page 48, as extended of record. Said premises are conveyed together with and subject to a right of way shown as Proposed Shared Driveway & Utility Easement on a plan entitled “Shared Driveway and Utility Easement Plan In Douglas, Mass.” Scale: 1”=30’ Feet Date: August 17, 2007 by Guerriere & Halnon, Inc. Engineering and Land Surveying 1031 Providence Road, Whitinsville, Mass. 10588, recorded in Worcester Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 860 Plan 78, said shared driveway and utility easement being 50 feet wide running In easterly direction from Perry Street to said Lot 5 and to be used for all purposes for which streets and ways are commonly used In the Town of Douglas, Massachusetts, Including the installation, repair and maintenance of utilities. Said Lot 5 is hereby conveyed subject to the rights of the Owner(s) of Lot 6 as shown on said plan recorded in Plan Book 860, Plan 10, their heirs, successors and assignees, to enter upon Lot 5 to connect to the utility pole as currently, or as may be hereinafter constructed upon Lot 5, and to reenter for purposes of repair and maintenance at the sole expense of the owner(s) of Lot 6. This right is expressly contingent upon the said owner(s) of Lot 6 restoring the portion of Lot 5 entered upon to the condition that existed prior to the entry upon Lot 5.

This instrument does not constitute all or substantially all of the assets of D & F Afonso Builders, Inc. situated, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. High bidder to sign written memorandum of sale upon acceptance of the high bid. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid by certified or bank check at Friedman Vartolo LLP, 1325 Franklin Avenue, Suite 160, Garden City, New York 11530, within thirty (30) days from the date of the sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. U.S. Bank National Association not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee for RMTP Trust, Series 2021 BKM-TT-V, Present holder of said mortgage by its Attorneys, **Friedman Vartolo LLP** 1325 Franklin Avenue, Suite 160, Garden City, New York 11530

November 21, 2025
November 28, 2025
December 5, 2025

NOTICE OF SALE, NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE, Premises: 100 Perry Street, Douglas, MA 01516, By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Edward N. Gouin and Melissa J. Gouin to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. , as nominee for Salem Five Mortgage, LLC, dated November 7, 2016, and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 56271 at Page 59, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by assignment, by an assignment of mortgage from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. , as nominee for Salem Five Mortgage Company to ServiceMac, LLC, dated June 23, 2021, and recorded with said Registry in Book 65448 at Page 311, and by an assignment of mortgage from ServiceMac, LLC to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity buy solely as Trustee for RMTP Trust, Series 2021 BKM-TT-V, dated March 15, 2022, and recorded with said Registry in Book 67474 at Page 65, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold by Public Auction at 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the 19th day of December, 2025, at the mortgaged premises located at 100 Perry Street, Douglas, MA 01516, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage; To wit: A certain tract or parcel of land, with the buildings thereon, if any, situated on the easterly side of Perry Street, and on the northerly side of Linden Street, Douglas, Massachusetts

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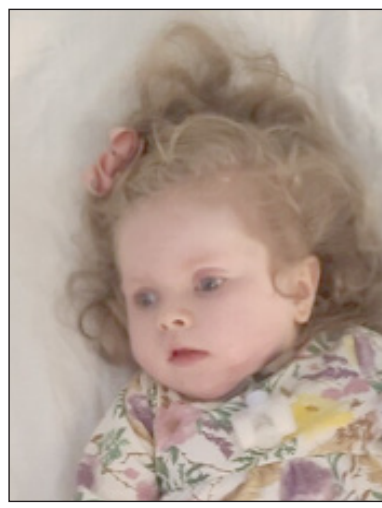
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Friday's Child





Alanis
Age 4
Registration #8733

Alanis is a beautiful, sweet, and loving little girl who adores music—especially Cocomelon! She loves being held and comforted by her caregivers, and nothing makes her giggle more than when they whisper softly to her. Alanis enjoys making sounds and listening to herself, delighting in the way she can express happiness and contentment. She feels especially at ease when her basic needs are met—after being fed, bathed, and having her diaper changed. Alanis currently receives early intervention services, which focus on oral stimulation, mirror play, sensory engagement with toys, and plenty of nurturing physical contact to support her growth and development.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21177206691>

If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ+ singles and couples. As an adoptive parent, you won't have to pay any fees, adoption from foster care is completely free in Massachusetts.

The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with. To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org . Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.



SIMON FAIRFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Simon Fairfield Public Library’s December 2025 Schedule. Please note that some events do require registration. If you have any questions regarding any events, please do not hesitate to contact the library at 508-476-2695 or email at us at douglas@cwmares.org.
Address: 290 Main St., Douglas
Phone: 508-476-2695
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Please note that we will be closing at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, Dec. 24 for Christmas, and will reopen on Saturday, Dec. 27.
Please note that we will be closing at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, Dec. 31 for New Years and will reopen on Saturday, Jan. 3.

Saturday, Dec. 13 at 3 p.m. - Douglas Winter Stroll

Children’s Book Clubs
Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 4 p.m. - Book Wizards (Grades 5-7), A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L’Engle
Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 4 p.m. - Young Reader’s Club (Grades K-2), Fletcher and the Snowflake Christmas by Julia Rawlinson
Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m.: Book Bunch (Grades 2-4), Daisy Dawson Is On Her Way by Steve Voake

Children’s Happenings
Tuesday, Dec. 2 & 16 at 11:30 a.m. - Music & Movement with Deb Hudgins
Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 3:30 p.m. - Lego Club III (Registration Required)

Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 3:30 p.m. - Lego Club I (Registration Required)
Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 3:30 p.m. - Lego Club II (Registration Required)
Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 5:45 p.m. - Reading to Bryce (Registration Required)
Monday, Dec. 22 at 10 a.m. - Christmas Storytime (Registration Required)
Tuesday, Dec. 23 at 3:30 p.m. - Lego Club III (Registration Required)

Adult Book Clubs
Thursday, Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m. - Greatest Book Club Ever, The Woman in Cabin 10 by Ruth Ware
Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m. - Intrepid Readers, Intrepid Readers, Wild Dark Shore by Charlotte McConaghy
Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m. - SciFi Book Club, This is How You Lose the

Time War by Amal El-Mohtar
Thursday, Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. - Cookbook Collective
Monday, Dec. 29 at 6:30 p.m.: Plot Twisters, The Missing Half by Ashley Flowers

Adult Happenings
Monday, Dec. 1 at 1 p.m. - Get Help with Jenna Gouin
Monday, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 6:30 p.m. - Writer’s Accountability Group
Wednesday, Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 at 10 a.m. - Fiber Arts Friends
Saturday, Dec. 6 at 9:30 a.m. - Simon Fairfield Sleuths
Thursday, Dec. 11 at 5:45 p.m. - Fiber Arts Friends



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DOUGLAS ADULT SOCIAL CENTER

331 Main St.
(508) 476-2283
Hours of operation: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-noon

DAILY ACTIVITIES: All our daily activities are free of charge.
Monday: Painting class 9:45 to 11:45, Balance & Strength Exercise 12pm, Mat Yoga 2pm
Tuesday: Walking club 9 am, Cribbage 9:00 am, Zumba 9:30 am, Lunch & Bingo 11:30am, Technology Class 1pm (call to make an appt.), Line dancing 2 pm
Wednesday: Balance & Strength 10am, Darts 11:30 am, MahJong 12:45pm, Dominoes 1 to 2:30pm
Thursday: Walking club 9am, Chair Yoga 9:30am, Pitch 9:00am, Hand and Foot card game 12:30pm
Friday: Balance & Strength 10am

A very special thank you to the residents, the Fire Department & Police Department for the generous donations that filled up our pop up food pantry. We also offer free Panera Bread on Mondays & Wednesdays.

THE FOOD PANTRY IS NOW OPEN TO RESIDENTS. Our food pantry is officially open from 9-3 Monday -Thursday and Friday 9-11:30. We are open to any resident in town who could use some extra

help. If you need transportation, please call 508-476-2283 to schedule your free ride. If you are homebound, please let us know we would be happy to make a delivery to you.

THE CENTER IS ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR OUR POP UP FOOD PANTRY. We will accept non-perishable items during our regular business hours. Monday- Thursday 9-3 & Fridays 9-12. We will have a basket at the bottom of our ramp, or you can bring donations inside. Please **DO NOT** leave anything on our ramp after hours.

Tuesday & Thursday lunch club, please call the Friday before to sign up. Lunch is \$4.00 per person. If you would like to attend we offer free rides to and from the center and are willing to waive the lunch fee is necessary.
December Lunch Menu:
Tuesday 12/2: Loaded baked potato bar, & fruit
Tuesday 12/9: Stuffed peppers, carrots, & Jell-O
Thursday 12/11: Soup & salad bar, fruit
Tuesday 12/16: Baked chicken, rice pilaf, cauliflower casserole, & cupcakes
Thursday 12/18: Baked ham, potatoes, green beans, & pie (this is the holiday party luncheon and is \$6.00 per person)
Tuesday 12/23: Baked potato soup, chicken salad sandwich, & cookies

Tuesday 12/30: Pasta with meat sauce, salad, garlic bread, & ice cream

Friday Shopping Schedule: Please call 48 hours in advance to schedule your ride. Grocery shopping pick up starts at 9:30.
Friday 12/5, 12/19: Walmart
Friday 12/12: Big Y
Friday 12/26: Riders choice

DECEMBER EVENTS:
Wellness Clinic Dates: Monday December 8th & Tuesday December 23rd from 10 am to 12 pm. The nurse is happy to check your blood pressure, can do a finger stick blood sugar. You can read the nurse's page in our bi-monthly newsletter. If you have any questions or concerns, please stop in and see the nurse.
Free craft day: Thursday December 4th @ 1:00 pm. We will be making an indoor wreath. All supplies will be supplied for you. Refreshments will be served! Please sign up by 11/28.
Lunch & a movie: Thursday December 11th @ 11:30. We will be serving salad bar, soup & dessert. Lunch is \$4.00 per person. After lunch we will be watching the classic It's a Wonderful Life. Please sign up by 12/5.
Annual Holiday Party: Thursday December 18th @ 12:00. We will have our annual ham dinner, for \$6.00 per person. Musical entertainment provided by The

Brian Bender Duo. Please sign up by 12/5.

The Sunshine Club invites you:
Annual Gingerbread House Decorating: Friday December 5th @ 12 pm. This annual event is always full of fun and laughs! Every year brings new faces, and a large assortment of different houses. Please sign up before 11/26. You may call the center to sign up.
Free piano concert: Friday December 12th @ 1pm. Refreshments will be served. Listen to these talented children perform a variety of holiday songs. Please sign up by 12/9.

PLEASE CALL (508) 476-2283 TO SIGNUPFORPROGRAMS&CLASSES

Check our website for events that may not be listed here
<https://www.douglas-ma.gov/202/AdultSocial-Center-Senior-Center>

PLUMMER PLACE

Home of the Northbridge Senior Center

The following events will take place at Plummer Place, Home of the Northbridge Senior Center. We are located at 20 Highland Street in Whitinsville. Telephone: (508) 234-2002. Northbridge residents have priority for all programming and events.

Regular Programs:
Mindful Meditation with Kelly
Every Thursday at 9:30am
The Brew Crew
Wednesday, December 3rd
9:30am-10:30am
Guest speaker: Jamie Luchini, Director of Public Works, Northbridge DPW
Bereavement Group
Monday, December 8th
1:00pm-2:00pm
Please call Kelly for more information.
Blood Pressure Clinic
Tuesday, December 9th
11:00am
Please drop in and have your blood pressure checked.
Women's Group: NO MEETING on Wednesday, December 10th
Writing Your Way: December 11th at 2:00pm.
Please call Lori for more information.
No Meeting on Thursday, the 18th
Book Club
Wednesday, December 17th
10:30am-11:30am
Please call Kelly to find out what book we are currently reading.
Dull Men's Club
Tuesday, December 23rd
9:30am-10:30am
Guest Speaker: Vin Femia: All About the New England Patriots

Special Events and Activities:
All programs require signing up by calling or stopping by our Main Office.

Plummer Place Pluckers Concert and Sing-Along
Wednesday, December 3rd
1pm-2pm
Join us for a fun and lively sing-along with Plummer Place's own ukulele group led by Raianne Richards!

We're Up to Snow Good!
Winter Craft Class with Carol and Ginny
Thursday, December 4th
1pm-2pm
\$5 per person. Bring your own scissors. Space is limited.

Beginning Snowman Painting Class with Sue
Monday, December 8th
9:30am-12:00pm
\$5 per person. Space is limited.

Elvis Holiday Concert and Luncheon
Wednesday, December 10th
12:00pm-2:00pm
Award-winning Elvis Tribute Artist, Dan Fontaine will be back to entertain us for an Elvis Holiday Show! Tickets on sale now at Plummer Place's main office. Tickets are \$15 a piece with a limit of 2 tickets per person. Northbridge residents have priority! You must have a ticket to attend. Don't miss out on this fun event — space is limited.

Discover the Secrets of the Blue Zones
Are you interested in beginning a journey to better health, happiness and a longer life? Learn where and how centenarians are living across the world in this exciting three-week program exploring the Blue Zones with Amy Cowen, our program and volunteer coordinator. This program will include a book, a guest speaker, light refreshments, some healthy challenges and more fun surprises! Sign up in the main office. \$20 per person payable in cash the day of the first class (dates and times to be determined, but will be held in early 2026).



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Plummer Place's newest program, the Brew Crew, hosted Northbridge's Police Chief Timothy Labrie this month! Over coffee and conversation, the group learned a lot about the very important work the Northbridge Police Department does on a daily basis and throughout the year. Chief Labrie was gracious with his time, and the crowd found his sharing very informative. The Friends of Northbridge Elders (FINE) president, Steve Lotterman, and treasurer, Donna Briand, surprised Chief Labrie with a generous donation of \$500 for the Northbridge Police Association. For more information on Plummer Place or its special programs such as the Brew Crew, please call Amy Cowen, program and volunteer coordinator at (508) 234-2002 or view Plummer Place's newsletter online at: <https://mycommunityonline.com/organization/friends-of-northbridge-elders-inc-fine>.
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