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Friday, September 4, 2026



# Chamber announces new date, location for Yellow Tulip Project Hope Garden at Uxbridge High School

UXBRIDGE — The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce’s Women’s Success Network (WSN) is proud to announce a new date and location for its upcoming Yellow Tulip Project Hope Garden planting, bringing an important message of hope, connection, and mental health awareness to the Uxbridge community. The event will now take place on Friday, Oct. 16 at 9 a.m. at Uxbridge High School, 300 Quaker Highway, Uxbridge. The rain date is set for Saturday, Oct. 17 at 9 a.m.

As part of the Yellow Tulip Project, the WSN, Chamber members, community volunteers, and supporters will come together to plant 500 yellow tulip bulbs and create a Hope Garden at Uxbridge High School. The project is designed to help raise awareness around mental health, encourage open conversations,

and help break the stigma associated with mental illness. Yellow tulips are a symbol of hope and happiness, making the garden much more than a collection of flowers. Once in bloom, the tulips will provide a lasting and meaningful reminder throughout the community that hope can grow, even during difficult seasons. Also joining us for this year’s planting, will be the UHS Mental Health Awareness student organization!

“Sometimes the simplest things can carry the most powerful message,” said Kristen Kearman, BVCC Programs & Events Director. “Planting 500 tulips may seem like a small act, but together, those flowers will create something beautiful that reminds our community, and especially our young people, that there is always hope, that they are not alone, and that it is okay to ask for help. We are so excited to bring this project to Uxbridge High School and

watch this garden grow.”

The Blackstone Valley Chamber’s Women’s Success Network is encouraging community members, businesses, families, and individuals to join them for this special morning of service and connection. Volunteers are needed to help plant the tulip bulbs, and participants are encouraged to bring their own gardening gloves and tools.

The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce is proud to partner with the Yellow Tulip Project and the Uxbridge High School on this meaningful initiative. A special thank you to, Country Bank as the presenting sponsor of this event.

To register as a volunteer, and to help smash the stigma, please

visit our website at [www.blackstonevalley.org/events](http://www.blackstonevalley.org/events). This event is free and open to the public. You can also learn more about the Yellow Tulip Project at [www.theyellowtulipproject.org](http://www.theyellowtulipproject.org). For more information, please contact Kristen Kearman at 508-234-9090, ext. 100 or email Kristen at [kkearnan@blackstonevalley.org](mailto:kkearnan@blackstonevalley.org).

The mission of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce is to preserve and enhance the economic vitality of the Blackstone Valley by addressing the needs and concerns of businesses and providing leadership, support and resources in connection with issues which impact commerce and the quality of life in the Valley.

## Blackstone-Millville awarded \$76.8 million for new regional high school

BOSTON—State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg, Chair of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”), and MSBA Executive Director/Deputy CEO Mary Pichetti announced Recently that the MSBA Board of Directors voted to approve a grant of up to \$76,808,364 for a new Blackstone-Millville Regional High School, located in the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District.

One of the next steps is for the District and the MSBA to enter into a Project Funding Agreement, which will detail the project’s scope and budget, along with the conditions under which the district will receive its MSBA grant.

“Upon completion, this project will provide a new 21st century learning environment for students in the Blackstone-Millville District,” Treasurer Goldberg said. “Our goal is to create the best space to deliver the district’s educational

Turn To SCHOOL page A10

## Northbridge Cultural Council announces opening of grant cycle

NORTHBRIDGE — The Northbridge Cultural Council (NCC) is currently accepting grant applications from local artists, performers, schools, and nonprofit organizations for the FY 27 grant cycle. The grant cycle opens Sept. 1 and runs through Oct. 15. Any local individual or organization interested in applying for a grant for the first time is invited to attend a free grant writer’s workshop at the Memorial Town Hall, Whitinsville, Thursday, Sept. 24 from 3:30 to 6 p.m. If you are unable to attend and would like more information or assistance, please get in touch with the NCC at [northbridgeculturalcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:northbridgeculturalcouncil@gmail.com).

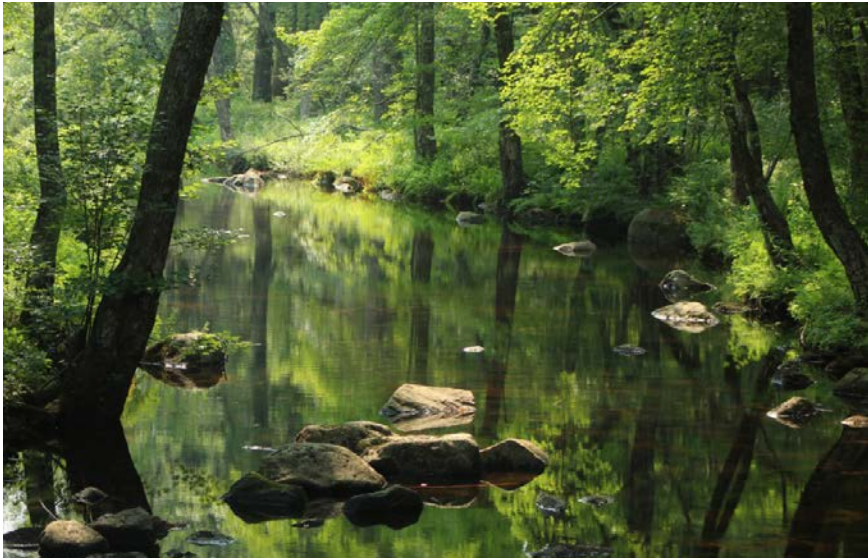
The Northbridge Cultural Council is one of the many statewide local cultural councils (LCCs), comprised of volunteers who review community applications and award funding to individual artists, cultural practitioners, non-profit cultural organizations, schools, municipalities, and community groups across Massachusetts. Funding supports the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences. The Northbridge Cultural Council (NCC) provides support for a wide range of activities, including field trips, lectures, festivals, performances, and educational experiences, in line with its funding priorities and community survey input.

The NCC invites you to participate in its annual survey, an important part of the grant award process. The survey is designed to gather information about the community’s interests, and the findings are used to help the review team prioritize grant awards. The annual survey is available on the Town of Northbridge’s Web site. Additional details regarding the Northbridge funding priorities, guidelines, and applications are available on the MassCulturalCouncil website at <https://massculturalcouncil.org/massculture.org>, on [northbridge-mass.org/cultural-council](http://northbridge-mass.org/cultural-council), and on the Town of Northbridge Web site at <https://www.northbridgemass.org/>. If you have questions or need additional info, email [Northbridgeculturalcouncil@gmail.org](mailto:Northbridgeculturalcouncil@gmail.org). The community survey is located via the Town of Northbridge Web site.

GRAFTON — Art Call opens Tuesday, Sept. 1 for submission of work to the 2027 Small Stones Festival of the Arts, the region’s largest juried fine art and photography exhibition. Fine art artists and photographers are welcome to join the area’s finest painters, photographers, watercolorists and other two-dimensional artists in the ninth year of the festival.

The two-week exhibition sponsored by the Blackstone Valley Art Association and the Worcester County Camera Club opens Jan. 30, 2027, at the Community Harvest Project barn located at 37 Wheeler Road in N. Grafton. The Festival runs until Feb. 7 and is free to the public.

The Art Call is open until Oct. 1. All forms of two-dimensional fine artwork and fine art photography are accepted with a maximum of five entries per artist. Juried artwork will be displayed at the exhibit and showcased in the hardbound exhibition catalog. The Festival’s web gallery will feature all submitted artwork meeting minimum requirements. Visit <https://smallstonesfestival.org/> to submit artwork.



A panel of six jurors who have distinguished careers as practicing artists or in curatorial capacities at area museums, galleries and colleges will select approximately 144 works to be displayed. Awards include first, second and third cash prize winners and jurors’ choice (six awards). Cash awards are \$500 for first; \$250 for second; and \$100 for third place. A popular choice award for each category will be voted on by attendees.

Several awards have been endowed to honor superb artistry. Dmitry Papkov, an award winning travel and landscape photographer, created the Excellence in Landscape Photography Award to acknowledge

outstanding photography. An Abstract or Non-Objective Art Award, sponsored by Grafton Arts, Inc. president Ken Crater, is open to all painting or photography work, recognizes art which is either non-representational or imparts the strong subjective imprint of the artist. The Ted and Donna Williams Nature at its Best Award debuted at last year’s festival, is given to artists whose work encourages the advocacy of wildlife habitat and healthy rivers. Each award offers a cash prize of \$250.

The mission of the Small Stones Festival of the Arts is to elevate the practice and appreciation of fine art and photography in the Blackstone Valley and beyond.

Grafton Arts Inc., a 501 (c)(3) organization is the financial sponsor of the Festival.

The festival organizers appreciate the support of these organizations: Brigham Hill Foundation, Grafton Cultural Council, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Grafton and Millbury Cultural Councils and Yesod Foundation and businesses: Central One Credit Union, Dance It Up!, EverRise, Gastonart & Frame, Gaudette Insurance, Homefield Credit Union, Millbury Federal Credit Union, New England School of Fine Art, Pepperoni Express, Savers Bank, Uncommon Cow and Grafton Grill & Crust and UniBank.



[illegible]



# DCR plans full slate of October hikes, programs in Blackstone Valley

UXBRIDGE — Autumn foliage, local history, wildlife and even the night sky will be part of a busy October schedule of free outdoor programs offered by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation at parks and forests throughout the Blackstone Valley.

Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park will serve as the hub for many of the activities, with additional recreational hikes planned at Douglas State Forest and Upton State Forest.

All programs are free and open to the public, and registration is not required. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

The month’s recreational hiking series begins Sunday, Oct. 4, from 2 to 4 p.m. with the Goat Hill Loop at Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park. Hikers will meet at the River Bend Farm Visitor Center parking area, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge. The approximately two-mile hike travels over rocky and rugged forest surfaces with steep inclines.

The series moves to Douglas State Forest on Sunday, Oct. 11, from 1 to 4 p.m. for the Grand Trunk Trail Loop. The approximately five-mile hike includes rocky and compacted gravel surfaces with mild inclines.

On Sunday, Oct. 18, hikers can explore the Dean Pond Loop at Upton State Forest from 2 to 4 p.m. The approximately 3.5-mile route includes loose gravel surfaces and steep inclines. Participants will meet at the Civilian Conservation Corps camp parking area.

The month’s recreational hiking schedule concludes Sunday, Oct. 25, from 2 to 4 p.m. with the Bad Luck Pond Loop at Douglas State Forest. The approximately 3.5-mile hike covers loose gravel surfaces with moderate inclines and begins at

the Route 16 parking area.

DCR is also offering several interpretive programs at River Bend Farm throughout October.

The Woodlands and Waterways Tour will be held Saturday, Oct. 3, from 1 to 2 p.m. Participants will walk about a mile along the Blackstone Canal while looking for signs of wildlife and learning about the watershed and efforts to keep it clean.

On Saturday, Oct. 10, from 1 to 2 p.m., “A Shuttle into the Past Textiles Talk” will examine how clothing moves from unprocessed wool to woven material.

The following Saturday, Oct. 17, the Israel Plummer’s Canal Store Tour will explore Plummer’s Landing and the canal-era businessman for whom it is named. The approximately two-mile guided walk begins at 1 p.m. at the Plummer’s Landing parking area.

Families with younger children can also visit River Bend Farm on Fridays from 10 to 11 a.m. for Kidleidoscope. Designed for children ages 3 to 6, the weekly program combines a story with a hands-on activity focused on the natural world. Siblings are welcome.

Upton State Forest will host “Becoming Better Stewards: The CCC at Upton State Forest Tour” on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 1 to 2 p.m. Visitors will explore the forest’s former Civilian Conservation Corps camp and learn how the New Deal-era program helped shape the property. The walk is less than a quarter-mile on a flat, paved surface.

Two additional programs will offer different ways to experience the Blackstone Valley.

A Night Sky program will take place Friday, Oct. 23, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the field across from the River Bend Farm Visitor Center. Participants will

use a telescope to get a closer look at the moon, stars and neighboring planets. Saturn and Neptune are expected to be among the planets visible that evening.

On Halloween, Saturday, Oct. 31, DCR will offer its Bike the Blackstone Rec Ride from 1 to 2 p.m. Participants will meet at the Depot parking area, 85 Canal St., Blackstone, for an approximately four-mile ride along the paved Blackstone River Greenway. The program is intended for ages 12 and older, and riders age 16 and younger must wear helmets.

DCR advises participants to dress for the weather and wear footwear appropriate for each activity. Bug spray is also encouraged. Bathrooms and drinking water are not available at several program locations.

Programs are subject to change or cancellation. For updated information, call Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park at 508-278-7604 or visit the park’s online program updates page.

Reasonable accommodations are available with advance notice by contacting Moneesha Dasgupta at 617-645-0358 or moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov.

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# Asa Waters Mansion to host special tribute concert benefiting senior transportation

MILLBURY — Get ready for an unforgettable evening of music, nostalgia, and community spirit as Asa Waters Mansion welcomes nationally recognized Elvis tribute artist, Dan Fontaine for Elvis at the Mansion, located at 123 Elm St., Millbury, on Friday, Sept. 18.

Set against the elegant backdrop of historic Asa Waters Mansion, the evening promises to bring the energy, charisma, and timeless music of Elvis Presley to Millbury for a special night benefiting the Friends of the Millbury Seniors Bus Transportation Program.

Doors will open at 6 p.m., with the concert beginning at 7 p.m. Guests will enjoy an evening of live entertainment, small bites, and a cash bar featuring Penny Pinchers Brewing Co. and Spicy Waters Distillery, with generous sponsorship support from Calabria Ristorante and Ballard Truck Center.

“This is more than just a night of great music, it is an opportunity for our community to come together, have some fun, and make a meaningful difference,” said Traci Parath, Executive Director of Asa Waters Mansion. “We are thrilled to welcome Dan Fontaine to the Mansion and create an evening that celebrates the spirit of Elvis while supporting transportation services that help our local seniors remain connected, independent, and active in our community.”

The Friends of the Millbury Seniors is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing programs and services that support older adults, including transportation and social services that help seniors maintain independence within the community.

For one night, the historic Mansion will trade its traditional elegance for a little rock ‘n’ roll as Dan Fontaine takes the stage with his acclaimed tribute to the King of Rock ‘n’ Roll. Guests can expect an energetic performance filled with the songs, style,

and unmistakable presence that made Elvis an icon. Tickets are \$25 per person, with limited seating is available, guests are encouraged to reserve their tickets early. Tickets may be purchased online at, <https://unipaygold.unibank.com/transactionInfo.aspx?CustomerID=1686&TransID=38533>, or guests may contact the Mansion directly at 508-865-0855 to pay by cash or check.

For more information, please contact Asa Waters Mansion Executive Director, Traci Parath at 508-865-0855 or email Traci at, [tparath@millburyma.gov](mailto:tparath@millburyma.gov).

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The cottage sleeps six comfortably. Weekly rent is only \$1,100. Contact Scott, for more information at 603-254-5032, or [scottm@plymouth.edu](mailto:scottm@plymouth.edu).

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putting them back together. He is currently in the process of fixing his scooter, which is one of his favorite activities. If Jacob could ride his scooter every day, he absolutely would! When he’s not out riding, Jacob enjoys a variety of activities that keep him entertained and active. He loves playing video games, listening to rap and hip-hop, playing sports, and going hiking. Jacob enjoys being on the move and having opportunities to explore and try new things. His determination and hands-on nature shine through in the way he approaches projects and hobbies that interest him. With his resilience, sense of humor, and wide range of interests, Jacob is a unique and engaging young man who brings plenty of personality to everything he does.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/54938075946>

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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](http://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.



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EDITOR

EDITORIAL

A major investment in the future of local education

A school building is more than classrooms, hallways and a gymnasium. It is one of the largest investments a community makes in its children, and often one of the largest financial commitments taxpayers will consider in a generation.

That is why the Massachusetts School Building Authority’s approval of up to \$76.8 million toward a new Blackstone-Millville Regional High School represents such an important milestone.

The proposed project would replace the existing high school with a new facility serving 580 students in grades 7 through 12. The need, according to the district’s Statement of Interest, goes well beyond appearances. The existing building has deficiencies involving mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, along with problems involving the roof, windows and accessibility. The district has also concluded that the existing facility no longer adequately supports its educational program.

Those are substantial concerns.

School buildings have changed considerably in recent decades because education itself has changed. Technology is integrated into nearly every subject. Science and technical instruction require specialized spaces. Students with disabilities must be able to fully access their schools. Heating, ventilation and electrical systems must meet demands that could hardly have been anticipated when many older schools were constructed.

A modern school must be designed around how students learn today, and how educators expect them to learn tomorrow.

At the same time, approval of the MSBA grant is not the end of the process. It is an important step in what remains a significant undertaking for Blackstone and Millville.

The district and MSBA must next enter into a Project Funding Agreement establishing the project’s scope, budget and conditions for receiving the state grant. As those details become clearer, residents should pay close attention.

A grant of up to \$76.8 million represents an extraordinary state commitment, but residents will understandably want to know the complete cost of the project, the communities’ local financial responsibility, the construction schedule and precisely what the new school will provide. Those questions should be welcomed.

Large public projects benefit from residents who are engaged enough to ask about costs, designs, educational priorities and long-term maintenance. Transparency is particularly important in a regional school district, where two communities must work together while balancing their individual municipal responsibilities.

The opportunity before Blackstone and Millville is considerable. A new school can address failing and outdated infrastructure, but its value should ultimately be measured by what happens inside it. The goal is not simply to construct a newer building. It is to create a facility that gives teachers the tools they need, provides students with appropriate learning environments and serves the communities effectively for decades.

There is also something encouraging about making a long-term investment in public education at a time when communities face so many immediate financial pressures. School construction requires communities to think beyond the next budget cycle and consider what students will need 10, 20 and even 40 years from now.

The MSBA’s decision moves Blackstone and Millville significantly closer to that future.

There will be budgets to examine, agreements to review and important decisions still to make. Residents should remain involved throughout that process.

But this approval is also worth recognizing for what it is: a substantial opportunity to replace an aging school with a facility designed for another generation of students.

Handled carefully, transparently and collaboratively, it can become an investment whose benefits extend far beyond the walls of the new building.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wasting my time

To the Editor:

People keep telling me that I should just ignore the disinformation coming from BVT regulars - the Three Stooges in particular. Providing them unwarranted credibility by simply reacting distracts from my objective of enlightening intelligent people who don’t have the time that I have to research important issues.

Going against good advice, I am postponing Chapter 2 of ‘History lessons we seem to have forgotten’ to respond to the latest regurgitation of right-wing rubbish from Moe and Curly. Not that it will stop the lies, but it will provide me with some welcome schadenfreude. It would be helpful if they would agree on a label for the educated people of Massachusetts – Moe says we are Communists and socialists, while Curly now says we are fascists. C’mon, you two fun-seekers, pick a lane!

Moe says: “The state supports the destruction of our oceans in the name of climate change, with giant wind turbines imported from other countries.”

Offshore oil drilling - The Trump administration approved a \$5 billion ultra-deepwater oil drilling operation in the Gulf of Mexico. Drilling does significantly more long-term and catastrophic damage to the oceans than offshore wind farms.

Offshore oil drilling Impacts:

·Catastrophic spills: Oil drilling carries the permanent risk of massive blowouts and spills (like the Deepwater Horizon disaster), which release millions of gallons of crude oil, destroying entire marine ecosystems, coating wildlife, and ruining coastal economies.

·Routine pollution: Drilling operations continuously discharge toxic drilling muds, heavy metals, and produced waters directly into the marine environment.

·Climate Change: Burning extracted fossil fuels drives ocean warming, sea-level rise, and severe ocean acidification, which devastates coral reefs and marine life globally.

Offshore wind farm impacts:

Construction Noise: Driving heavy metal poles (monopiles) into the seabed creates loud underwater noise during construction, which can temporarily disturb or displace local fish and marine mammals.

Our government — designed by geniuses, run by idiots

To the Editor:

In this, our 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, let’s declare independence from stupid state politicians and correct the wrongs here in our state.

These wrongs are torn right from the pages of Boston’s only “Speak Truth to Power” newspaper. Hint: It’s not the Boston Globe.

Stop the tyranny of our state politicians. First, eliminate all state fees and green climate charges on our utility bills. Did you know that these fees and “green” charges amount to one third of our electric bills? And we already have the third highest electric bills in the country. \$60 a month on electric bills. In 2014, it was just \$15 a month! Remember the Lefties who promised if we de-regulated electricity, it would be cheaper? Everything they touch is ruined.

Build nuclear power plants or gas-fired electric plants. Stop pretending to be “green” when we import 55 percent of our electricity from nuclear power plants in Connecticut and New Hampshire and Canadian hydro-electricity. We produce a fraction of what we need. Do you really think Healey is capable of fixing this?

Before we ban data centers, how about banning solar farms and battery storage facilities on open agricultural land and on forested land? Stop the clear cutting of forests! These monsters should be affixed to roofs of industrial parks and over parking lots. Battery storage produces no energy. Produces nothing except wealth for China. The battery containers, made in China, merely store electricity which they take from the grid, which gets power from nuclear plants in other states!

Trusting our electricity to China? Are you crazy? Or just Marxist?

If the state Attorney General’s clown show cannot properly draft a summary of the taxpayer referendum on lowering state income taxes, then Beacon Hill should do the right thing and lower our state income taxes. It was going to pass with 70 per cent of the projected vote. Now, she has deprived us of the right to vote on it.

Have you noticed that the federal U.S. District Attorney Leah Foley is the only law woman who actually works in Boston? Leah is the only law woman in the state who indicts criminals. Leah indicted the Mayor of Lawrence, \$1.5 million in Covid fraud. State Rep. Paolino from the Lawrence area,

Habitat alteration: The bases of the turbines act as artificial reefs, attracting mussels, algae, and fish, which changes the local ecosystem but often increases local biodiversity rather than damaging it.

Minimal operational risk: Once built, wind turbines produce zero greenhouse gas emissions and pose very low risks to the surrounding ocean during normal operation. Regulatory groups like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have found no direct scientific link between operational offshore wind and marine mammal deaths.

“The state supports the cutting of forests and paving over of open land with solar panels and battery systems made in China.”

Massachusetts is approximately 70 percent forested. Chances are you are going to impact trees regardless of where you install solar panels. According to John Reilly, co-director of MIT’s program on the science and policy of global change, if you clear-cut one hectare — or about 2.5 acres — and put up solar panels, you’d generate enough power to offset all the carbon stored in those trees in just 23 days, if you were offsetting natural gas. “There is a carbon loss from the trees, but it’s made up fairly quickly, and you’re going to operate that solar panel for 20 years.”

But trees offer a lot more than just storing carbon, and Massachusetts is trying to discourage clear-cutting. The state’s solar program pays solar companies less for power that’s generated by panels sitting on land that used to be forested. This spring, the state Department of Energy Resources plans to review the solar program. And its director said they’ll be looking at how to stop solar panels from threatening forests.

Can’t wait for Moe to weigh in on this: - President Trump just signed a bill reducing the size of two major national monuments in Utah by about 90 percent, and is discussing a land deal inside Yosemite National Park for private development, and mineral extraction. The cuts open up nearly 3 million acres of public land outside the new boundaries. The Trump Administration Bureau of Land Management also approved nearly

Turn To LETTER page A8

\$700,000 in Covid Pandemic fraud. Crickets from our state AG.

Abolish the AG!

Cut state government. It is simply too big, too gross, too greedy, loaded with too much patronage, too much waste. How many UMass administrators can we cut?

In the town of Amherst, they fly the United Nations flag above the U.S. flag. Tells you everything. At UMass Amherst, we have 32,000 students. We employ 7,000 staff and 2,000 faculty. One staff per three students. Do 3 college-age young adults need one staff member to shepherd them through college? When you were in college, you interacted with staff three times a day. At meal time.

Hundreds of staff administrators at UMass Amherst make over \$300,000 annually! Over 40 make more than \$370,000 a year like all the Deputy Executive Assistant Directors to the Assistant Deputy Directors. Politically connected. They did not get their jobs based on merit. They cannot make this wage in the private sector.

We have a bloated political state government which needs cutting just like we cut our home budgets. Reduce the cable plan. Go to Ocean State instead of Marshalls. Is there a budget electricity plan or a budget state income tax plan for us? Nope.

We must stop spending one billion dollars a year on illegals. Thanks to Maura and her incompetent political friends, local aid has been drastically reduced. Instead of the \$5 billion she spent on “them”, each town would have \$15 million in local aid. Our failing Cape Cod bridges? Sagamore Bridge? To be completed in 2040, if we are lucky, overseen by yet another career politician with a degree in public policy!

Let’s start electing people from here instead of Maura Healey [Maryland], Mayor Wu [Illinois], failed Secretary of Transportation Monica Tibbets-Nutt [Indiana], Senator Liz Warren [First Nation, Cherokee, Oklahoma], President of the Senate for Life Karen Spilka [New York City], U.S. Rep. Katherine Clark [Connecticut].

Vote Red! Vote for new folks. Throw out the “Lulu Lenins,” as Sen. John Kennedy of Louisiana [Rhodes Scholar] accurately terms them. As he wrote recently, “Geniuses designed our government, but idiots are running it.”

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In its simplest form, saving can mean putting money into a jar, adding to it and letting it grow slowly. A 401(k), or other workplace retirement plan, is a step beyond that. It’s more like a garden than a jar. Once you understand the basics of your 401(k), it becomes easier to feel confident in your decisions.

In a jar, your money only grows when you add more. In a garden, what you plant can begin to grow on its own. Your investments can earn returns, and those returns may in turn earn additional returns. That’s called compounding, and it can have a meaningful impact over time. Like a garden, however, growth is not guaranteed. Markets can rise and fall, and investments can lose value.

Most workplace retirement plan contributions are made with pre-tax dollars, which lowers today’s taxable income; you’ll pay taxes when you withdraw it in retirement. Some plans also offer a Roth option: you contribute after-tax dollars and withdrawals in retirement can be tax free. Your plan administrator can provide more information.

Many 401(k) plans include an employer match, either up to a set dollar amount, perhaps \$500, or a percentage of your salary, typically 3–5 percent. Contributions you make, as well as those from your employer, can grow over time. Try to contribute at least enough to capture the full match; anything less means you’re leaving money on the table.

Now the question is how to invest your contributions inside your 401(k). The menu of investment options may seem complicated, but most fall into a few common categories.

Stock or equity funds focus on stocks, which represent ownership in companies. Because they’re tied to company performance, they have the potential for higher growth over time, but their value can go up and down in the short term. When you’re decades from retirement, that short-term volatility matters less; you have time to ride out the swings.

Bond funds invest in loans made to governments or corporations. These tend to be more stable than stock funds but typically grow more slowly. They can help balance the ups and downs.

Balanced or blended funds hold a mix of stocks and bonds in a single investment.

Target-date funds combine different types of investments in one fund. As you move toward a specified retirement year, the fund gradually adjusts to focus more on stability and less on growth.

The earlier you start planting, the more time your money has to grow. Even small contributions early in your career can end up as large amounts later, simply because they had more time to compound.

If you change jobs, keep in mind that your employer’s contributions may not be fully yours immediately. It depends on your plan’s vesting schedule, so it’s worth checking before you go.

The most important steps in a retirement plan are getting started, contributing consistently and taking advantage of what your plan offers. With a little knowledge, you can feel more confident moving forward. The garden is yours. Start planting.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Dennis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert St., Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com. Edward Jones, Member SIPC*



# The disappearing art of knowing how to get there

I have reached the age when I occasionally give directions that are completely useless to anyone under 40.

“Go down past where the old hardware store used to be, take a right at the building that was the bank, and if you get to the old gas station, you’ve gone too far.”

Perfectly clear. At least to me. The problem is that the hardware store has been gone for 15 years, the bank became a dentist’s office and the gas station is now an empty lot. This is how directions used to work in small towns. Nobody needed a street address. You needed landmarks. Turn by the white church. Go past the cemetery. Take the second left after the school. If you see the pond, you missed it.

Some directions required an advanced understanding of local history. “Take the road behind Johnson’s.” Johnson’s had closed in 1987, but everybody still called the building Johnson’s because nobody could remember what had replaced it.

Today, of course, we have GPS. You

## LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET By CHARLES

type an address into your phone and a pleasant voice tells you exactly where to go. Usually.

I have developed a complicated relationship with this woman. I appreciate her assistance, but I question some of her decisions. She occasionally attempts to send me down roads that no sensible Massachusetts resident would voluntarily travel. I have looked at certain suggested turns and thought, “You clearly aren’t from around here.”

There are roads in New England that technically qualify as roads but should not be treated as such. They might appear on a map as perfectly reasonable shortcuts. What the map does not explain is that the pavement ends halfway through, there is a bridge that looks as though Calvin Coolidge personally inspected it, and the final mile is wide enough for approximately three-quarters of a Subaru.

A local knows better. The GPS does not. What fascinates me most is how quickly I have surrendered my own sense of direction. There are places I have driven to several times, yet I could not find them again without my phone. That bothers me.

Years ago, if I drove somewhere once, I paid attention. I remembered the turns. I

noticed the landmarks. I built a little map in my head. Now I follow the blue line. Turn left in 500 feet. Turn right at the light. Continue for 2.3 miles. I obey without learning anything.

Sometimes, I wonder what would happen if the satellites disappeared tomorrow. I suspect millions of Americans would simply remain wherever they happened to be. There would be people stranded at supermarkets three miles from their houses.

“Do you know how to get home?”

“No, but I think I live northeast of here.”

My generation likes to complain that younger people cannot get anywhere without GPS, but we should probably be careful with that accusation. We are becoming equally dependent. The difference is that we remember when getting lost was part of going somewhere. You could make a wrong turn and drive five miles before admitting something wasn’t right.

This inevitably led to one person in the car saying, “I thought you knew where you were going.” That sentence has probably ended more pleasant Sunday drives than flat tires. Naturally, nobody wanted to stop and ask for directions. That would have required admitting defeat. Instead, we drove

around confidently while having absolutely no idea where we were. Eventually, you found a convenience store, a police station or somebody standing beside a mailbox. The directions you received might include three roads that had changed names, a barn that had burned down and somebody named Earl. Yet somehow, you got there.

I don’t want to give up GPS. It is one of those inventions that is undeniably useful, and I have no desire to return to unfolding a road map across the steering wheel while traveling 55 miles per hour. But every once in a while, when I am heading somewhere familiar, I leave the phone alone. I make myself remember. Past the church. Left at the common. Over the little bridge. Right where the old store used to be.

Somewhere along the way, I usually realize that I still know where I am. And I rather like that feeling.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The best course of action is not to take any

To the Editor:

In regards to what looks to be the impending court shutdown of the Whitinsville Water Company’s harebrained water meter replacement program, the best advice for the homeowner or property owner is simple.

Do not even think about getting involved in that ridiculously “Woke” mess until next spring at the earliest. By then, it is hoped that the outcomes of the multitude of legal nightmares will be far more predictable than they are now.

Apparently, by some means or other, wordings were included in the associated documentation that quite directly surrender to the state one’s right and/or authority to have a new, potable-water-producing well installation on that parcel of land. That transfer/surrender of authority occurs some time shortly after one of those new meters is installed.

In addition, there are far more than just subtle hints which suggest that all “sub-surface” mineral and drilling rights on that same property are similarly surrendered to the currently sitting

members of the state Legislature. Along with, one would assume, Maura Healey and her administration, as overseers/owners of those newly acquired rights and authorities.

The net value of such property rights, under Trump administration standards, could easily exceed \$1 million per house lot within what amounts to be the lands covered within the Whitinsville zip code. With Northbridge land estimates a good deal higher, dependent on the proximity to exposed ledge and/or bedrock.

And while such pie-in-the-sky estimated values are bound to drop like a piece of proverbial bedrock into a left-wing money pit of despair themselves, such newly protected assets are still worth waiting for.

Since no great need nor necessity presently exists for meter replacement for the vast majority of WWC customers, deferring entry into the meter replacement program is, quite obviously, the most reasonable and most well-reasoned course of action.

STEPHEN GAMBONE  
NORTHBRIDGE

### Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author’s name, address, and a day-time 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.

## Uxbridge Senior Center to host flu shot clinic Oct. 6

UXBRIDGE — The Uxbridge Senior Center will host a flu shot clinic Tuesday, Oct. 6, from 9 a.m. to noon at the center, 36 South Main St.

The clinic is sponsored by Hannaford Pharmacy and will provide local residents with an opportunity to receive their seasonal influenza vaccination.

Advance registration is required. Those interested in receiving a flu shot should call the Uxbridge Senior Center at 508-278-8622 to register.

Transportation will also be available for those who need assistance getting to and from the clinic.

The clinic is scheduled as the fall flu season gets underway and offers residents a convenient local option for vaccination.

For registration, transportation information or other questions about the clinic, call the Uxbridge Senior Center at 508-278-8622.

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# Local authors event brings community together for memorable morning

NORTHBRIDGE — Community members and book lovers gathered at the Northbridge Senior Center for a successful and engaging inaugural event featuring a group of talented local authors.

The event provided attendees with the opportunity to meet local writers, explore their latest works, and purchase books directly from the authors. Guests enjoyed getting their books signed and having meaningful conversations about the writing process and creative inspiration.

Attendees were treated to complimentary coffee and tea while browsing, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere throughout the morning. Free door prizes added

an extra layer of excitement, with many guests leaving with special surprises.

The event highlighted the strength and creativity of the local literary community. It offered a relaxed and enjoyable environment for readers and writers to connect, and it was widely considered a great success by both attendees and participating authors!





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LETTER

continued from page A4

6,000 applications for permits to drill for oil and gas on federal and Native American land.” The Trump team is also moving to fast-track arctic drilling without environmental review. What say you, Moe?

Now comes Curly – apparently taking a break from his search for Sonny Boy Williamson lyrics in the Book of Lamentations. What kind of mind conjures a discourse where Dr. Fauci’s name appears in the same sentence as Nazis and experiments on Jewish twins? We are not

dealing with a rational being here.

This from Jack Resneck, Jr., MD, former president of the American Medical Association: “But for me, the most remarkable and important aspect of Dr. Fauci’s character has been his unwavering commitment to science and evidence-based medicine, despite the political headwinds, hostility or criticism that came his way. His fight against a tidal wave of medical misinformation that dates to the earliest days of the pandemic is a defining moment in his illustrious career. It is also a reminder, to all of us in medicine, of what courage and resolve in the face of enormous pressure

look like. As physicians, we owe Dr. Fauci more than our thanks and our gratitude. We owe him our most sincere effort to follow his example—to always be a voice on the side of science and evidence and to speak out against medical disinformation no matter what challenges, and public health crises, come our way.”

From Politifact: Most people catching measles in the U.S. are unvaccinated American residents, not illegal immigrants. Public health data shows that the vast majority of measles cases occur among U.S. citizens and residents who are unvaccinated or whose vaccination status

is unknown. While a small number of cases have been tied to crowded conditions inside specific migrant shelters or detention facilities, these are localized and not the root cause of wider national outbreaks.

P.S.: Dr. Fauci was never “in power,” as claimed here. He made recommendations based on experience, and scientific facts, but he had no ‘power’ to implement anything.

RICK BEVILACQUA  
WHITINSVILLE

LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate  
and Family Court  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01876  
(508) 831-2200  
Docket No. WO26P2463EA  
INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
Estate Of:  
**Edward P. Taddeo**  
**Date of Death: April 18, 2026**  
To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Rebecca P. Jackson of Uxbridge MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.  
**Rebecca P. Jackson of Uxbridge MA** has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
September 4, 2026

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
LAND COURT  
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT  
Docket No. 26 SM 002735  
ORDER OF NOTICE**  
TO:  
Rita R. McEvoy  
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):  
Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust 2024-RP4, a Delaware Statutory Trust claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Uxbridge, numbered 13 Upton Road, given by Rita R. McEvoy and Patrick D. McEvoy to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Marathon Mortgage Company, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated August 15, 2005, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 37102, Page 380, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant’s/Defendants’ Servicemembers status.  
If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 10/12/2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.  
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 8/25/2026.  
Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder  
September 4, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate  
and Family Court  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
(508) 831-2200  
Docket No. WO26P2705EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:

**Roseann Patricia Lamarche  
Date of Death: 05/09/026**  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Diana R Glassey of Coventry RI** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: .  
**Diana R Glassey of Coventry RI** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/22/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
**WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: August 19, 2026  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
September 4, 2026

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE  
OF REAL ESTATE**  
Premises: 56 Driscoll’s Lane a/k/a 56 Driscoll’s Lane, Whitinsville (Northbridge), MA 01588  
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Kenneth R. Rusakovich to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for loanDepot.com, LLC, and now held by **loanDepot.com, LLC**, said mortgage dated February 14, 2024 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 70208, Page 79, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for loanDepot.com, LLC, its successors and assigns to loanDepot.com, LLC by assignment dated February 16, 2026 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 73204, Page 140; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on September 24, 2026 at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: *The land with the buildings thereon, consisting of two parcels located at the southeasterly side of Driscoll’s Lane, in the Village of Linwood, in the town of Northbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows: P A R C E L 1 : Being the most southerly lot shown on a plan entitled “Land of Laurent L. Gauthier and Margaret R. Gauthier and land of John A. and Allan Malizia, Northbridge, Mass.” dated January 19, 1983, by John R. Andrews III, R.L.S. filed with Worcester District Registry of Deeds herewith Plan Book 508, Plan 52, bounded and described as follows: BEGINING at the northwesterly corner of the lot hereby described at the southwesterly corner of Lot “B” as shown on said plan;*

*THENCE S. 56° 30” E. by the southwesterly line of said Lot “B”, 218.00 feet. more or less, to a point; THENCE S. 34° W, 50.00 feet to the southeasterly corner of the lot hereby described; THENCE N. 56° 30” W., 210.6 feet, more or less, to the southeasterly line of Driscoll’s Lane aforesaid as established by the highway taking in 1941 as shown on said plan; THENCE N. 26° 37’ E. by said line of Driscoll’s Lane, 50.2 feet to the point of beginning. P A R C E L 2 The land adjoining the northerly line of Parcel 1 located on the southeasterly line of Driscoll’s Lane and shown as Parcel B on said plan, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the northwesterly corner of Parcel 1 above described at the southwesterly corner of the Lot hereby described: THENCE: N. 26° 27’ E. by said line of Driscoll’s Lane, 50.2 feet to land now or formerly of Malizia; THENCE S. 56° 30” E by the southerly line of said Malizia land as shown on said plan, 224.80 feet, more or less, to a point; THENCE S. 34° W., 50 feet to the northeasterly corner of Parcel 1 above described; THENCE N. 56° 30’ W, 218.00 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning. Containing 11,080 square feet, more or less, according to said plan. Meaning and intended to convey the same premises as described by Deed dated 06/17/2022 and recorded on 06/24/2022 in Book 67807 at Page 312 in the Official Records of the Worcester (Southern District) Recording Office.*  
The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.  
For Mortgagor’s Title see deed dated June 17, 2022 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 67807, Page 312.  
**TERMS OF SALE:** Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.  
**FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00)** Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.  
Other terms to be announced at the sale.  
Brock & Scott, PLLC  
23 Messenger Street  
2nd Floor  
Plainville, MA 02762  
Attorney for loanDepot.com, LLC  
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701  
August 21, 2026  
August 28, 2026  
September 4, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate  
and Family Court  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
(508) 831-2200  
Docket No. WO26P2643EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Stella A Belch**  
**Date of Death: 05/18/2003**  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Janet Belch of Lamoine ME** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: .  
**Janet Belch of Lamoine ME** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Corporate Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised**

**administration**.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/15/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
**WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: August 27, 2026  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
September 4, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate  
and Family Court  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
(508) 831-2200  
Docket No. WO26P2738EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Antoni I Belch**  
**Date of Death: 01/10/1965**  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Janet Belch of Lamoine ME** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: .  
**Janet Belch of Lamoine ME** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Corporate Sureties** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/22/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
**WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: August 27, 2026  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
September 4, 2026

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email: legals@stonebridgepress.news**



# Chamber celebrates An Officer and Two Gentlemen on Veterans Day

WHITINSVILLE — The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce, a special ribbon cutting ceremony for An Officer and Two Gentlemen, Inc. (AOATG) on Veteran’s Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. This ribbon cutting ceremony will celebrate the organization’s fifth anniversary and the official opening of its new home, Bridge Point – Veterans & First Responders Center, located at 875 Hill St. in Whitinsville.

When Founder and Executive Director Mike DeFazio established An Officer and Two Gentlemen five years ago, he intentionally chose Veterans Day as the organization’s founding date. Exactly five years later, the organization will celebrate that milestone by opening the doors to Bridge Point, bringing together a meaningful reflection on the past and an exciting vision for the future.

“Veterans Day has always held a very special meaning for An Officer and Two Gentlemen,” said Mike DeFazio, Founder and Executive Director of An Officer and Two Gentlemen, Inc. “When we founded this organization in 2021, we intentionally chose Nov. 11 because of what it represents. To now celebrate our fifth anniversary on that exact same day, while officially opening Bridge Point, is incredibly meaningful. It is a reflection of how far we have come and a reminder of why we started, heroes helping heroes.”

The ceremony will include the National Anthem, a meaningful Veterans Day observance, recognition of local veterans and first responders, remarks from elected officials and community leaders, and an introduction to the mission and vision behind Bridge Point. Created to provide a dedicated space for veterans, first responders, their families, and the broader community, Bridge Point will serve as a place for connection, fellowship, support, and continued service.

After five years of growth, the new center provides AOATG with a home from which to expand its mission of Heroes Helping Heroes and continue building meaningful connections among those who have dedicated their lives to serving others.

Following the formal ceremony and ribbon cutting, the community is invited to stay and experience Bridge Point during an open house throughout the day. Guests will have the opportunity to tour the new center, enjoy refreshments, meet members of the AOATG community, and learn more about the organization and the work taking place at Bridge Point. This event is free and open to the public.

The Mission of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce is to preserve and enhance the economic vitality of the Blackstone Valley by addressing the needs and concerns of businesses and providing leadership, support and resources in connection with issues which impact commerce and the quality of life in the Valley.

# Blackstone Heritage Corridor announces Fall Hike Series led by volunteer trail ambassadors

WHITINSVILLE — Blackstone Heritage Corridor (BHC) will host a series of guided hikes led by its volunteer Trail Ambassadors from Sept. 12 through Dec. 19, offering free opportunities for the public to explore the Blackstone River Valley’s trails while learning about its natural and cultural history.

Hikes will take place in both Rhode Island and Massachusetts on various Saturdays and Sundays throughout the fall season. Each hike will be led by a volunteer Trail Ambassador, who will guide participants along the route while sharing insights into the Valley’s history, natural landscape, and ongoing conservation efforts. Each hike is rated moderate to strenuous with terrain descriptions, length, and hike info on the BHC website so hikers can choose the hike that is right for them.

“Fall is one of the best times to be on the trails. In Massachusetts, we’ll hike the Grand Trunkline Trail during peak foliage. In Rhode Island, Wolf Hill climbs to Mercer Outlook for views of the Providence skyline. Our Trail Ambassadors know these places really well, and the history of each area,” said Ryan Verhoog, Recreational Resources Manager, Blackstone Heritage Corridor.

Participants should wear sturdy footwear, bring water, and be prepared for fall conditions. Registration is free but space is limited; sign up at [blackstoneheritagecorridor.org/hikes/](https://blackstoneheritagecorridor.org/hikes/)

The fall hike series is part of BHC’s mission to preserve, promote and celebrate the Blackstone Valley’s historic, natural, and recreational resources for current and future generations. For the full schedule of fall hikes, locations, and registration details, visit [blackstoneheritagecorridor.org/hikes/](https://blackstoneheritagecorridor.org/hikes/) or contact Kerri Arsenault at 508-234-4242.

About Blackstone Heritage Corridor

Blackstone Heritage Corridor collaborates with community partners and provides strong leadership to preserve, promote, and celebrate the Blackstone River Valley’s historic, natural, and recreational resources for current and future generations. Learn more at [blackstoneheritagecorridor.org](https://blackstoneheritagecorridor.org)

# Rockdale Congregational Church to host ice cream social

NORTHBRIDGE — The Rockdale Congregational Church will be having an ice cream social on Sept. 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The social celebrates the end of summer and the beginning of our Sunday School year. Enrollment will be taking place, however, are welcome if you have kids or not!

The event is free is open to all!! Our Church is located at 42 Fowler Rd. in Northbridge. We hope to see you and enjoy some tasty treats.

# Uxbridge Cultural Council now accepting grant applications

UXBRIDGE — The Uxbridge Cultural Council is now accepting applications for the Local Cultural Council Program’s 2027 grant cycle. The council prioritizes funding for activities that enrich cultural awareness through the arts, history, music, and performances held in the town of Uxbridge and its surrounding communities. This year, the council is especially interested in funding exciting new programs in our community. Individuals, schools, and cultural organizations are eligible to apply.

Applications open on Sept. 1. The application deadline is Oct. 15. Please apply through the Massachusetts Cultural Council Web site at <https://massculturalcouncil.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program/>.

The Uxbridge Cultural Council is holding an info session and meet and greet event at the Uxbridge Free Library in mid-September. Please check the Uxbridge Cultural Council Facebook page for more details. If you have an idea for a program or questions about your eligibility, please contact us.



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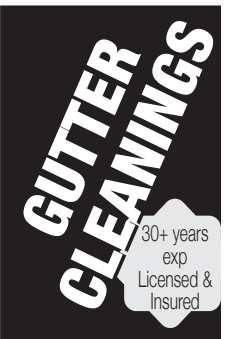
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# Memorial motorcycle run to honor fallen Uxbridge police officers

UXBRIDGE — The Uxbridge Police Fallen Officers Foundation will honor the lives and service of Officers Chester “Chet” Dzivasen and Stephen LaPorta with its “Let’s Ride” Memorial Motorcycle Run on Sunday, Sept. 13.

Organized in partnership

## University of Rhode Island celebrates new graduates during 2026 Commencement

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island celebrated more 4,000 of its newest alumni during the University’s 2026 Commencement. Approximately 3,800 undergraduate degrees and 900 graduate degrees were conveyed to students during the ceremonies which took place May 15-17, 2026.

Among the graduates were:

Kailyn Washington of Whitinsville graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, Art

Jillian Harper of Douglas graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Animal and Veterinary Science

Andrew Squier of Douglas graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Anna Thompson of Douglas graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering

Haleigh Wagner of Douglas graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

Kayla Kamishlian of Northbridge graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Mackenzie Malone of Whitinsville graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Maeve Mahoney of Uxbridge graduated with a Bachelor of Science, Textile Fash Merch & Design

Lindsey Moss of Uxbridge graduated with a Master of Science in Ocean Engineering

About the University of Rhode Island

The University of Rhode Island is a diverse and dynamic community whose members are connected by a common quest for knowledge. As a global education leader and the state of Rhode Island’s flagship public research institution, URI offers distinctive opportunities designed to meet the global challenges of today’s world and the rapidly evolving needs of tomorrow. Founded in 1892, URI now enrolls more than 18,000 students and offers more than 200 degree programs across nine schools and colleges. As a land- and sea-grant institution, URI is a key driver of economic development in Rhode Island and contributes significantly to the health and vitality of the state, the New England region, and the nation. To learn more, visit: uri.edu.

### SCHOOL

continued from page A1

commitments and goals.”

The proposed project will replace the existing Blackstone-Millville Regional High School with a new facility serving 580 students in grades 7 through 12 on the site of the existing school. In the districts Statement of Interest, the district identified numerous deficiencies in the existing facility associated with mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, building envelope, including the building’s roof and windows, as well as accessibility issues. In addition to the physical plant issues, the district reported that the existing facility does not support the deliv-

with the American Legion Riders, Uxbridge Chapter 33, the event will raise money to support the foundation’s mission of assisting local students pursuing careers in law enforcement.

Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. at McCloskey Middle School, 62 Capron St., with kickstands up at

11 a.m. The registration fee is \$20 per person.

A police escort will accompany riders along the route before the run concludes at the Uxbridge American Legion/VFW hall on Cross Road. Following the ride, participants and members of the community are invited to gather for a chicken barbecue, live music and raffles.

The event will also include a police escort and other activities. All proceeds will benefit the Uxbridge Police Fallen Officers Foundation.

The foundation was established in 2026 following the line-of-duty death of Uxbridge Police Officer Stephen LaPorta on Jan. 7.

LaPorta began his public safety career as a dispatcher, working in multiple Blackstone Valley communities. He later completed

the police academy and advanced from dispatching to serving as a patrol officer.

His death came nearly 25 years after the Uxbridge Police Department lost Officer Chester “Chet” Dzivasen, who died April 9, 2001. A memorial scholarship was subsequently established in Dzivasen’s name to assist local students.

The creation of the Uxbridge Police Fallen Officers Foundation expanded that effort. Organized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the foundation is dedicated to preserving the memories of Dzivasen and LaPorta while helping another generation pursue public safety careers.

The organization provides financial assistance to area students seeking degrees in fields applica-

ble to law enforcement. Its mission also recognizes the career path taken by LaPorta by supporting dispatchers seeking to make the transition from emergency communications to becoming police officers.

That process can require significant investments of both time and money as candidates complete education, training and police academy requirements.

The Sept. 13 motorcycle run will provide an opportunity for police, motorcycle riders and community members to remember both officers while helping future public safety professionals begin their own careers.

The partnership with American Legion Riders Chapter 33 also brings together two organizations with strong connections to public service. After the

police-escorted ride, the gathering at the American Legion/VFW will give participants an opportunity to continue the memorial event with food, music and raffles while supporting the foundation.

The event is open to riders and community members who want to participate in the post-ride activities.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 13, at McCloskey Middle School, 62 Capron St., Uxbridge. The motorcycle run departs at 11 a.m. and concludes at the Uxbridge American Legion/VFW on Cross Road. Registration is \$20 per person, with proceeds benefiting the Uxbridge Police Fallen Officers Foundation.

## 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. Please call the main office to sign up for special events and programs, so we can plan accordingly.

Medical Drivers

We are in need of medical drivers for out-of-town medical appointments. This is a very important service that we provide for seniors who cannot drive themselves to their medical appointments. If you are interested and can spare any time, it would be most appreciated. Drivers are reimbursed for their mileage. For more information, please call the main office.

Regular Programs:

Meditation with Kelly:  
Every Thursday morning at 9:30am

Book Club:  
3rd Wednesday of the month at 10:30am  
Please call Kelly for more information.

Brew Crew:  
1st Wednesday of the month at 9:30am  
Please call Amy for more information.

Dull Men’s Club:  
4th Tuesday of the month at 9:30am  
September 22nd: Richard Quinlan, CEO of Jeremiah’s Inn, Worcester, MA  
Please call Amy for more information.

Scrabble:  
September 14th and 28th at 9:30am

Women’s Collective:  
2nd Thursday of the month at 10:00am  
September 10th: Lori Gannon, author of Leona’s Gift will be with us to

discuss self-publishing her story honoring a local elderly female land preservationist.

Writing Your Way:  
2nd and 4th Thursdays at 2:00pm  
Please call Lori for more information.

Special Programs and Events

The Fraud Squad Players -- Three Skits performed by Senior Actors  
Tuesday, September 15th at 10:00am

”Signed Without a Signature – Phantom Medicare Enrollment”  
A senior discovers their Medicare Advantage plan was switched without consent after a “benefits checkup” call. The scammer uses smooth talk and fake compliance jargon to hide the unauthorized enrollment — until the victim fights back.

“Tech Support Refund Scam – A Keystroke Away from Disaster”  
A senior is offered a refund for a canceled tech service — but the “support rep” is really a scammer draining their bank account, one keystroke at a time.

“Assisted Identity Theft – By a Trusted Person”  
A senior asks a helpful neighbor to cancel a subscription — but that favor leads to stolen identity and financial betrayal. This slow-burn scam shows how trust can be weaponized by someone close.

Greendale Retired Friends Chorus  
Wednesday, September 16th 1:00pm  
Come and enjoy the sounds of this Chorus which has been in existence for 60 years and likes to make people happy with their music and humor! Come and sign along with us to various songs from today and yesterday.

Making Sense of Medicare: 2027 Changes and AEP Readiness  
Monday, September 28th at 10:30am  
This presentation will cover the

important Medicare changes coming in 2027, including updates to prescription drug coverage, costs, and benefits under Medicare. You’ll also learn about the different types of Medicare plan options and get helpful tips on preparing for the Annual Enrollment Period (AEP). By the end of the session, you’ll have a better understanding of your coverage choices and how to make informed decisions about your healthcare for the year ahead. Please note, this presentation will not discuss any specific plan changes for 2027.

Healing With Herbs: Practical Preparations for Everyday Wellness with LeAnn Schotanus  
Tuesday, September 29th 11:00am  
Join LeeAnn for an engaging introduction to herbal wellness as she explores tea blends, topical salves, and other practical everyday uses for herbs. Learn about a variety of herbal preparations, how they support the body, and the benefits they may offer for overall wellness. Discover simple ways to incorporate herbal teas and other natural remedies into your daily routine to promote health, comfort, and well-being.

Autumn Arts & Crafts with Carol and Ginny  
Wednesday, September 30th at 1:30 pm  
Join us for a fun and creative craft class as Carol and Ginny host and teach this class, sharing their creativity and expertise while guiding participants through a fun hands-on project. Whether you are an experienced crafter or trying something new, come and enjoy some time together in a friendly, social setting. Space is limited; Northbridge residents have priority. \$7 per person payable in cash on the day of the program. Please sign up in the main office.

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**128 Old Southbridge Rd \$640,000**

**SUTTON-SPACIOUS COLONIAL 1.41 ACRES**

- \*1.5 Baths
- \* 3 Bedroom
- \*1st Floor Family Room
- \*Hardwood Flooring
- \*3 Bedroom \* Gas Heat
- \*Convenient to Major Routes

**DUDLEY- PRIVACY**  
**NEW CONSTRUCTION- 2 ACRES**

- \*What an Opportunity to Enjoy Nature, Yet Be Close to Schools and Shopping
- \*Completely Finished with Quality Workmanship and Upgrades
- \*30' Great Room \* 2.5 Baths \* 2 Acres
- \* Gas Heat \*Hardwood Floors
- \* Gourmet Kitchen with Quartz Countertops and Center Island

**Buyer Representation Available!**  
**Let's Talk Real Estate!!!**  
**We Can Help You Negotiate Your New Home**  
**Call For A Consultation Now!**



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**Call for a Reservation!!!**  
**Real Estate Coffee Hour**  
**9/12/2026 11am to 12 noon**

Buying or selling a Condominium What You Need to Know!

- \*What are Condo Reserves?
- \*Are there Restrictions?
- \*What Do My Fees Cover?

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# Make the move!

Find the homes of your neighborhood



dents and families gathering for a special evening of reconnecting and catching up on summer adventures while enjoying ice cream and delicious treats from a food truck and the 8th grade class. It was a wonderful opportunity for our school

On Wednesday, our youngest learners in

Faith was also at the heart of our opening week. Fr. Javier warmly welcomed students back to school, and Fr. Lucas LaRoche visited All Saints Academy to bless

**P3**

ALL SAINTS ACROSS AMERICA  
KNIGHTS

CLASS OF 2037

Our little Knights  
ARE GOING TO MAKE  
BIG WAVES

The prayers invoked Christ to grant peace, assign guardian angels to watch over our school, inspire teachers with wisdom and knowledge, and guide students in virtuous work. In addition to blessing the school building, Fr. LaRoche blessed each classroom, as well as the

What a beautiful way to begin the 2026–2027 school year! We are incredibly grateful to Fr. LaRoche and Fr. Javier for their continued prayers and support of our school community, and to the families who entrust their children to our care each day. Together, we look forward to a wonderful year filled with faith, learning, growth, and friendship.

## A group of ten people, including graduates and faculty, are posing for a photo in a room decorated with purple and gold balloons. In the foreground, a large rectangular cake on a table reads "Congratulations Graduates". The group consists of seven men and three women, dressed in casual attire. The setting appears to be a common area or cafeteria with large windows in the background.

Courtesy

Seated, left to right: R. Zhou (Grafton), L. Pena (Southbridge), D.Raczka (Spencer), A. Vasquez (Worcester). From left to right, standing: Y. Mao (Grafton), W. Vega (Worcester), J. Wickens (Worcester), S. Shankara (Shrewsbury), J. Sweet (Worcester), and J. Watler (Worcester).

Demand for the program continues to grow. Bay Path has scheduled cohorts through 2028, and applications for the next Building Maintenance cohort are open now, closing once the program receives 24 applications or by Aug. 26, whichever

"Bay Path has been such a great partner because they provide excellent hands-on training that's aligned with what local employers are looking for, giving graduates in-demand skills and credentials that make them immediately employable for local jobs that offer great wages," Younis said. "Beyond the classroom, participants also receive support throughout the process including job readiness, career coaching and connecting directly to employers. Through Bay Path and MassHire, we can often help with supportive services, providing free tools and equipment, and funding for transportation and even childcare, so people can focus on completing their training instead of worrying about those barriers."

**Yoga for All**  
Classes for Two People to Take Together  
Registration Opens on July 20 – Make sure to sign up early for the classes that catch your interest so you don't miss this opportunity! You can reach us at [www.baypath.net/bpce](http://www.baypath.net/bpce) or call 508-248-5971, ext. 1715. Bay Path has been providing engaging adult continuing education classes for the past 30 years, conveniently located at 57 Old Muggett Hill Rd., Charlton.

About Bay Path  
Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School prepares students for both college and careers through a rigorous blend of academic coursework and hands-on technical training. Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Bay Path serves ten Southern Worcester County communities: Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer, and Webster. Opening in 1972 atop Muggett Hill, the school has spent more than five decades offering 23 career areas alongside its academic program.

JOIN US FOR THE OVERLOOK'S

# ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

Bring the family to enjoy seasonal traditions,  
local flavors, live entertainment, and  
activities for all ages:

- Food trucks
- Craft beer from  
Oakholm Brewing Company
- Local artisans & vendors
- Family games, crafts & candy drop
- Live entertainment & hayrides

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3  
11 A.M. – 4 P.M.

88 Masonic Home Road | Charlton  
Free and open to the public

**For event details, call 508-709-4880.**

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