

Auburn News

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Friday, June 12, 2026

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All Saints Academy sends off Class of 2026



WEBSTER — All Saints Academy proudly celebrated the graduation of its eighth-grade Class of 2026 during a special Mass and ceremony attended by students, families, faculty, staff, and members of the parish community.

The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Lucas LaRoche, who

encouraged graduates to continue living their faith as they embrace new opportunities and challenges ahead.

The ceremony marked a significant milestone as students completed their years at All Saints Academy and prepared to begin the next chapter of their educational journeys. It was also a

meaningful opportunity to reflect on their academic achievements, personal growth, and the many faith-filled experiences that

shaped their time at the school.

As Mrs. Ellen Tagg, Assistant Head of School, announced the graduates,

diplomas were presented by Head of School Mrs. Joan Matys, Fr. Lucas LaRoche of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church,

Fr. Javier of St. Louis Church, and eighth-grade homeroom teacher Mrs. Ann Scheffler. Graduates

Turn To **GRADUATION** page **A14**

Auburn businessman surpasses \$1 million donated to Make-A-Wish®

AUBURN — Auburn businessman and Grafton resident Bill Murphy recently surpassed over \$1 million in lifetime giving to Make-A-Wish® Massachusetts and Rhode Island. His significant support has helped to grant the wishes of more than 100 local children with critical illnesses.

During a special ceremony at the charity's Boston office, Murphy was honored as the newest Wish Legacy member of the Wishing Well Society, made up of major donors to the nonprofit.

For two decades, Murphy has tirelessly worked in support of Make-A-Wish, raising funds and awareness through creative, visible, and physically grueling means spanning traditional to unique. Murphy is also the 2025 recipient of the inaugural Wish Champion Award in recognition of his outstanding support of the mission in Central Massachusetts.

Already somewhat familiar with Make-A-Wish as his cousin was a wish recipient, and having watched Make-A-Wish stories on ESPN's My Wish series, Murphy was inspired 20 years ago to learn more after seeing the joy of wish kids at Walt Disney World® Resort. From completing a marathon on crutches while raising funds for Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island to serving on the charity's Board of Directors, and as a founding member and Chair of its Central Massachusetts Advisory Council, his commitment over the years has only grown. In addition to his personal efforts, Murphy also supports the organization through his company, Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, for which he is the local Branch Manager in Auburn.

"This milestone isn't mine. It belongs to everyone who believed in this mission and showed up. Through my Fairway family, my clients, my family, friends, and my business partners, we have collectively crossed over one million dollars in donations to Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island. I never could have imagined, when this journey started, what it would become — or what it would mean," reflects Murphy.

In 2024, Murphy's Running the World For Wishes campaign brought his support to truly unbelievable lev-

Turn To **MAKE-A-WISH** page **A14**

Dudley Conservation Land Trust launches new Web site, commemorates future headquarters

DUDLEY — The Dudley Conservation Land Trust (DCLT) continues to invest in the future of Dudley, Oxford and surrounding communities.

We are excited to share that our new Web site will launch this month, offering enhanced trail information linked to the popular AllTrails app; an online calendar featuring events sign-

ups; news and video content relevant to our local community; and lots of new, easy ways to support the organization you love. We believe this will allow us to engage a wider audience

and share our exciting initiatives more broadly. This website was made possible by a capacity-building grant awarded through the Worcester County Green

Turn To **TRUST** page **A14**

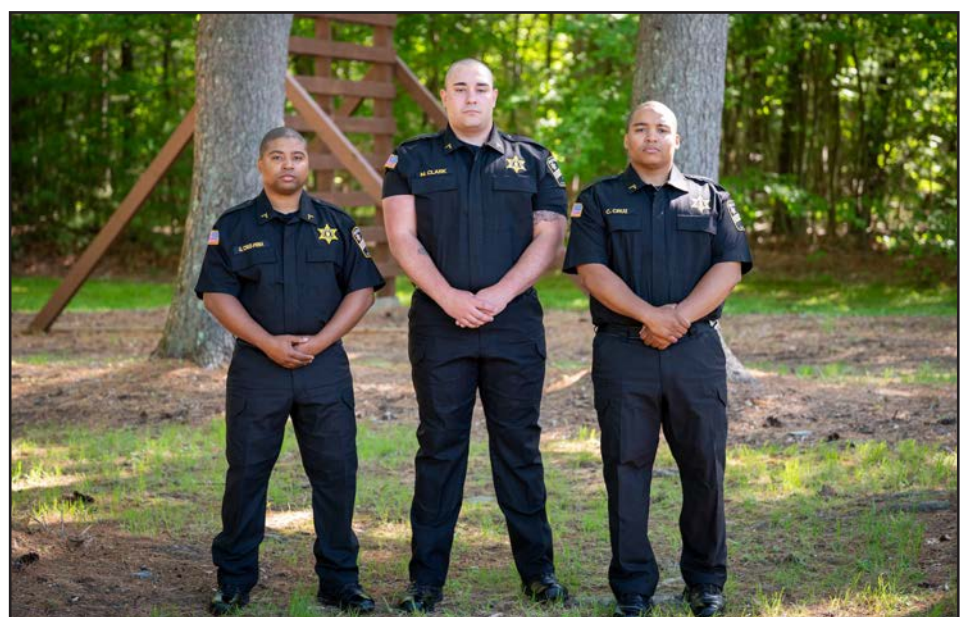
Sheriff swears in Webster & Charlton residents as correctional officers

WEST BOYLSTON — Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis recently administered the Correctional Officer Oath to 14 graduates of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office 65th Basic Recruit Training Academy (B.R.T.A.) during a ceremony at the department's Training and Command Center in West Boylston.

Among the graduates were Officers Christian Cruz and Gabriel Cruz-Pena of Webster and Matthew Clark of Charlton, who completed the Sheriff's Office's 13-week correctional officer training program.

The academy prepares recruits for careers at the Worcester County Jail & House of Correction through classroom instruction and hands-on training in areas including de-escalation techniques, defensive tactics, first responder protocols, mental health awareness, suicide prevention, and physical fitness.

This graduating class includes recruits from seven Massachusetts com-



Courtesy

Left to Right: Officers Gabriel Cruz-Pena (Webster), Matthew Clark (Charlton), and Christian Cruz (Webster).


munities, including three active-duty service members or veterans of the United States Army.

"After 13 rigorous weeks of training, I am proud to present some of the best and brightest future leaders in corrections," said Evangelidis. "I am confident these graduates are prepared to join our ranks and help advance our mission of public safety."

Before entering the academy, applicants must complete a written examination, a physical fitness assessment, a comprehensive background investigation, and a psychological screening. To promote fairness and integrity in the hiring process, Evangelidis maintains a policy prohibiting letters of recommendation from elected officials and provides hiring pref-


erence to individuals who have honorably served in the United States Armed Forces.

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office is currently accepting applications for its 66th Basic Recruit Training Academy, which begins in September 2026. For more information, visit: www.WorcesterCountySheriff.com/Careers/Correctional-Officer-Academy/.




PAWfect Life Rescue
Enjoy the day - run, fetch, play!

PAW of the WEEK
CHESTER
5 YR./59 LB./MALE/RETRIEVER/CATTLE DOG MIX



About Me: Hi, I'm Chester - equal parts sweet, silly, and snuggly. I'm the kind of guy who will happily toss a toy around one minute and then roll over for belly rubs the next. I love my people deeply and bond closely with "my" humans. Once you're in my circle, you're in for life. I'm happiest when I'm playing, relaxing near you, or soaking up affection. I have a big heart, a playful streak, and a soft side that just wants to feel safe and loved.

A Few Honest Notes (Because Communication Matters)
I'm not a cat guy - it's just not my vibe.
I've been around other dogs at the rescue and have done fine, but I didn't have much proper socialization before coming here. When dogs rush up to me, I can feel unsure and a little overwhelmed. Because of that, I'd feel most confident being your one-and-only pup while I continue building skills and confidence at my own pace.
Vet visits used to make me nervous too - especially nail trims and being confined for exams. But guess what? I've made amazing progress. With the help of our awesome trainer, Jackie, I learned to file my own nails (yes, I'm basically a DIY king), and I've been muzzle trained so I can safely and successfully handle checkups and vaccinations! With a little medication beforehand and the right support, I'm doing so much better already. I'm proof that patience and training truly work.





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Web page offers information on Dudley Prop 2 1/2 override

DUDLEY — The Annual Town Election is set for 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. June 15 at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main St. The Town Finance Team has created a Web page dedicated to the Proposition 2 1/2 override question on the June 15 ballot. Residents may find override information, including the method to determine the estimated tax impact for their property, at: <https://www.dudley-ma.gov/522/FY27-Override-Information>.

The Web page also explains the FY2027 budget. Although the Town passed a balanced FY2027 budget at its Annual Town Meeting in May, that budget was balanced by reducing operating accounts and using all available reserve/stabilization funds. That approach avoided immediate staff cuts and layoffs, but it did not solve the Town's recurring revenue issue and would leave Dudley without a meaningful reserve to respond to emergencies, repairs, fuel, utilities, health insurance, retirement, and other cost increases during the fiscal year.

The ballot holds one contested race: Incumbent Kerry Cyganiewicz Sr. is challenged by newcomer Cynthia M. Iwanski for Board of Selectmen.

Running unopposed on the ballot are:
Conrad M. Allen for Assessor
Maureen Chickering for Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee

Richard P. Clark for Bay Path Regional School Committee
Pamela M. Humphrey for Planning Board
Spenser Lee Bell for Planning Board
Kathleen E. Horne for Library Trustee
Heather B. Bowes for Library Trustee

The ballot holds no candidates for Moderator, Board of Health and Water-Sewer Commission.

Residents may see a change to the traffic flow and parking at the Municipal Complex on election day due to storm water management construction.

Those requiring the use of an elevator are asked to park in the upper lot, use the second-floor entrance (opposite side of building from main entrance) and use the elevator to the first floor. The handicapped parking near the main entrance will be accessible.

DUDLEY POLICE LOG

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported the following arrests during the month of May.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on May 12 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on May 13 for Interfering with a Police Officer or Criminal Investigation, Domestic Assault & Battery, and Strangulation or Suffocation.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on May 15 for Domestic Assault & Battery.

Daniel P. Summa, age 39, of Webster was arrested on May 27 in connection with an out of agency warrant.

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\$750,000, 51 Old Cart Rd, Leblanc, Stephen J, and Leblanc, Frances C, to Swift, Peter R, and Chin, Dawt E.

\$450,000, 34 Preston Ave, Robinson, Martin D, and Robinson, Sandra J, to Paquette, Haelie, and Juskavitch, Christian.

DUDLEY

None

OXFORD

\$620,000, 7 Tower Hill Rd, Abbott, Alan, to Rose, Jamie, and Rose, Scott J.

\$505,000, 169 Sutton Ave, Addington Properties LLC, and Nigro, David L, to Wilcox, Hunter C.

\$428,000, 35 Pine Ridge Dr, Smith, Jessica, and Burque, Steven, to Padilha, Luan C S.

\$400,000, 1 Cole Dr #1, Eaton, Donna, and Eaton, Clark, to Cazeault, Susan M.

\$394,900, 1 Shady Ln, Whamond, Emily, and Smith, Gabriel, to Brytowski, Sonja.

\$375,000, 13 Park St, Bear, Craig Standing, and Bear, Eileen M-Standing, to Mills, Michael, and Mills, Heather.

\$250,000, 19-21 Wells St, Racki, Patricia M, to R&W Pitts Ft, and Pitts Jr, Robert P.

WEBSTER

\$485,000, 5 Summit St, Dasilva, Aparecida, to Acosta-Hernandez, Yanibel, and Acostagil, Oliver.

\$400,000, 85 Lower Gore Rd, Grzyb, Karen A, and Cooke, Carol A, to Wozniak, Mark, and Bombard, Sara.

\$360,000, 210 Beacon Park Rd #9-A, Jeffrey, Jerold J, to Springer, Sandra C.

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Board of Selectmen and Town Clerk Hours

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Wednesday9 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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Tuesday-Thursday8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Sealed with a kiss | 34. Notes |
| 5. Large sandwich | 39. Move away from land |
| 8. Swiss city | 42. Vulcanite |
| 12. Japanese persimmons | 44. More ignoble |
| 14. When you hope to get somewhere | 46. Child actor Kirk |
| 15. Wings | 47. Written works |
| 16. A name of God | 49. Sea vessel |
| 18. Elected official (informal) | 50. Residue |
| 19. Abnormal breathing | 51. Engraved |
| 20. "Seinfeld" character | 56. Having sufficient skill |
| 21. Yearly tonnage (abbr.) | 57. One and only |
| 22. Something for sale | 58. Erase |
| 23. Gets rid of | 59. Broad inlets |
| 26. One who touts | 60. Nightmarish street |
| 30. Blemished | 61. Play again |
| 31. Less than exciting | 62. Formerly (archaic) |
| 32. Born of | 63. Add a color to change the color |
| 33. N. German town | 64. Move swiftly and lightly |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Scottish island | 35. Midway between northeast and east |
| 2. River in the Netherlands | 36. Space station |
| 3. Asian people | 37. Relating to the ears |
| 4. Fuzzy fruit | 38. Congressman |
| 5. Ninth month (abbr.) | 40. Yelled at |
| 6. An idealistic social reformer | 41. Rudely assertive |
| 7. What you owe | 42. Defunct European money |
| 8. Colorless mineral | 43. Shared one's soul |
| 9. Overjoyed | 44. Onion rolls |
| 10. Rattling breaths | 45. A way to state clearly |
| 11. Tropical Old World tree | 47. Relating to a lobe |
| 13. A citizen of Senegal | 48. Underlying message |
| 17. Greek mythological beauty | 49. Hollywood pig |
| 24. Wrath | 52. Indicates pitch |
| 25. Instrument to measure wind speed | 53. Filament of a feather |
| 26. Luxury carmaker | 54. Small ornamental ladies' bag for small articles |
| 27. Bitterly regret | 55. Diminish |
| 28. Not or | |
| 29. Google certification | |

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Worcester Polytechnic Institute students complete intensive capstone research projects

WORCESTER — Worcester Polytechnic Institute students completed a capstone thesis called the Major Qualifying Project (MQP), a research-driven, professional-level project that challenges students to solve the kinds of problems they would typically encounter in their professional discipline. This project is required of all graduating seniors as part of the university's distinctive project-based educational experience.

"It's inspiring to see the creativity and skills that our students bring to these projects, as well as the professionalism with which they present their research," says Arne Gericke, interim dean of undergraduate studies and director of the Office of Undergraduate Research. "Their experience managing a major project like this—including identifying a problem and researching all of the implications and possible solutions while also managing team dynamics over an extended period of several months—sets them up well for success not only in their first jobs after graduation but throughout their careers."

WPI's innovative undergraduate education is centered around project-based learning, a hands-on approach that offers students opportunities to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to real-world, open-ended problems. These projects produce tangible results that affect the quality of people's lives, an experience that changes both the student and their world.

MQPs are usually team-based and often focus on specific issues or needs of an organization that has partnered with the university to sponsor the students' work. In addition to providing practical work experience that proves valuable to future employers, MQPs often lead to publications in peer-reviewed journals, presentations at regional and national conferences, patents, and entrepreneurial ventures. Others become useful innovations and products for their corporate sponsors.

The following local students completed projects:

Oxford resident Elijah Gray, class

of 2026, majoring in Computer Science, completed a project titled "7Factor Webhooks 2025-2026."

Webster resident Szymon Mamro, class of 2026, majoring in Computer Science, completed a project titled "From Gaming Miniapp APIs to Peer-to-Peer Payment Application."

Webster resident Jessica Peets, class of 2026, majoring in Mechanical Engineering, completed a project titled "Project Early Bird: Developing an Ultrasonic Alarm Clock."

North Oxford resident Matthew Arndt, class of 2026, majoring in Mechanical Engineering, completed a project titled "Palm Print: Portable 3D Printer."

Oxford resident Catherine Sauter, class of 2026, majoring in Biomedical Engineering, completed a project titled "Development of a Custom Walking Aid for Leg Discrepancy."

Webster resident Sofia Napierata, class of 2026, majoring in Interactive Media and Game Development, completed a project titled "SINE Lab: Game Sound Studio."

Dudley resident Kaitlyn Nguyen, class of 2027, majoring in Interactive Media and Game Development, completed a project titled "Billionaires are Bad: Exposing Inequality Through Gameplay."

Webster resident Talia Gardner, class of 2026, majoring in Biology and Biotechnology, completed a project titled "Artemisinin Effects on ER Signaling in Breast Cancer."

Dudley resident Marlee Donohoe, class of 2026, majoring in Mechanical Engineering, completed a project titled "Microfluidic Device with Oscillatory Flow for TEHVs."

Webster resident Amanda Warchal, class of 2026, majoring in Biology and Biotechnology, completed a project titled "KhpA & KhpB Roles in Mycobacterium smegmatis Stress Response."

Dudley resident Benjamin Perry, class of 2026, majoring in Computer Science and Interactive Media and Game Development - Technology, completed a project titled "Playout Buffer Algorithms and Settings for

Cloud Gaming."

Webster resident Gabriel Colebourn, class of 2027, majoring in Chemical Engineering, completed a project titled "Development of Photocatalytic Methane Activation in Flow."

Oxford resident Zoe Butzke, class of 2027, majoring in Mechanical Engineering, completed a project titled "Underwater Deployment of an Encapsulated Aerial Vehicle."

Dudley resident Patrick Ryan, class of 2026, majoring in Physics, completed a project titled "Characterization and Optimization of a Raman Spectrometer."

Dudley resident Piotr Skoczylas, class of 2027, majoring in Computer Science, completed a project titled "NASA Lunabotics 2025-2026."

Auburn resident Nicholas Palumbo, class of 2026, majoring in Computer Science and Robotics Engineering, completed a project titled "Robotic Solution for Automated Loading of Centrifuges."

Auburn resident Tien Nguyen, class of 2026, majoring in Computer Science, completed a project titled "Improving PMKS+: A Web Application for Mechanism Simulation."

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) is a top-tier, STEM-focused university with an R1 research classification and global leadership in project-based learning. Founded in 1865, WPI's distinctive approach integrates classroom theory with real-world practice, preparing students to tackle critical challenges through inclusive education, impactful projects, and interdisciplinary research. With more than 70 Bachelor's, Master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments and more than 50 global project centers, WPI advances knowledge and innovation in fields such as life sciences, smart technologies, advanced materials and manufacturing, and global innovation. Learn more at www.wpi.edu.

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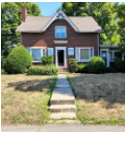
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Worcester Polytechnic Institute Students complete intensive research projects

WORCESTER — At Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology to addresses an important societal need or issue.

Known as the Interactive Qualifying Project (IQP), this project is a core part of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI. Centered around project-based learning, this hands-on approach offers students opportunities to help develop thoughtful solutions to open-ended problems. These real-world problems affect the quality of life for people in the communities where students work, giving students a chance to make a difference in the world before they graduate. All WPI undergraduates are required to complete an IQP, usually in their junior year, through which they apply science and technology to address an important societal need or issue. About two-thirds of WPI students complete their IQP at one of the university's 50+ off-campus project centers located in more than 30 countries around the world.

"The WPI project-based curriculum's focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones and into the global community to apply their knowledge and to solve problems," said Professor Kent Rissmiller, professor of International & Global Studies and associate dean of The Global School. "Students are immersed in all aspects of a different culture—from the way people live and work to the values they hold to the foods they eat, all valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today's global marketplace. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference in their host community; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application."

The following students completed projects in the spring of 2026:

- Auburn resident Finn O'Donnell, class of 2027, majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering.
- Auburn resident Zachary Cote, class of 2027, majoring in Mechanical Engineering and Robotics Engineering.
- Dudley resident Rami Rachid, a member of the class of 2027 majoring in Biomedical Engineering.

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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and global leadership in project-based learning. Founded in 1865, WPI's distinctive approach integrates classroom theory with real-world practice, preparing students to tackle critical challenges through inclusive education, impactful projects, and interdisciplinary research. With more than 70 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments and over 50 global project centers, WPI advances knowledge and innovation in fields such as life sciences, smart technologies, advanced materials and manufacturing, and global innovation. Learn more at www.wpi.edu.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Lessons that last beyond graduation

Graduation ceremonies are often filled with familiar traditions: caps and gowns, proud families, diplomas, and speeches about the future. Yet beneath those traditions lies something far more important. A graduation is not simply a celebration of academic achievement. It is a reflection of the values, relationships, and experiences that have helped shape young people into the adults they are becoming.

The recent graduation of the eighth-grade Class of 2026 at All Saints Academy offered a powerful reminder of what education can accomplish when it focuses not only on the mind, but also on character.

Academic success remains essential. Students need strong foundations in reading, writing, mathematics, science, and critical thinking to prepare for the challenges of high school and beyond. But the most successful schools recognize that education is about more than test scores and report cards. It is also about developing compassion, responsibility, integrity, and a sense of purpose.

The accomplishments celebrated during the ceremony reflected those broader goals. Awards honoring kindness, service, leadership, and commitment to community highlight qualities that matter just as much as academic excellence. In many ways, these traits become even more important as students move into adulthood. Knowledge opens doors, but character determines how people walk through them.

One of the most meaningful aspects of the graduation ceremony was its emphasis on gratitude. The graduates took time to recognize the parents, grandparents, teachers, parish leaders, and community members who helped guide them along the way. In a culture that often celebrates individual achievement, it is valuable to remember that no one succeeds alone. Every graduate stands on a foundation built by people who invested their time, patience, encouragement, and love.

The messages shared during the ceremony also carried lessons that extend far beyond the walls of a school. The call to become peacemakers, bridge-builders, and people of kindness speaks to challenges facing communities everywhere. Today's young people are growing up in a world that often rewards division, quick judgments, and conflict. Encouraging students to listen, show respect, and seek understanding is not merely a religious lesson or a school lesson. It is a civic lesson that benefits everyone.

The example of St. Francis of Assisi, highlighted during the ceremony, remains relevant eight centuries after his life. His message of humility, service, compassion, and care for others offers guidance in an era when those qualities can sometimes feel in short supply. Communities are strengthened when individuals choose cooperation over confrontation and generosity over self-interest.

As these graduates move on to high school, they will encounter new opportunities and new challenges. They will experience successes and setbacks. They will discover new interests, meet new people, and begin making decisions that help shape their futures. The academic preparation they received will serve them well, but the lessons of character, faith, kindness, and service may prove even more valuable.

Graduations often focus on what comes next. That is understandable. The future is exciting. Yet they also provide an opportunity to appreciate what has already been accomplished. The Class of 2026 leaves All Saints Academy with more than diplomas. They leave with friendships, memories,

Letter submission policy

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.

values, and experiences that will remain with them for years to come.

Viewpoint

THE DEADLINE to submit letters to the editor and commentaries for next week's newspaper is Friday at noon. SEND ALL ITEMS to Editor Brendan Berube at THE WEBSTER TIMES — news@stonebridgepress.news

Auburn's National Spelling Bee Champion

BY HELEN POIRIER
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Recently, the 2026 National Spelling Bee, which started in 1925, champion was determined in a dramatic way, with a Spell-Off, that was introduced in 2021. The two remaining contestants had 90 seconds to spell correctly as many words as they could. The one with the most correct words spelled, won. The winner received \$52,000, a medal and other prizes. Auburn had their national champion speller in 1939, twelve-year-old Elizabeth Ann Rice.

Elizabeth's family originally came from Maine. Her great grandfather was a boat builder in the 1870 census. They had 12 children, one being Ernest Rice Sr. who was living in Leicester according to the 1900 census and was a farmer, by 1910 he was a wagon driver for a hat factory and living in Grafton. His son, Ernest Pettengill Rice Jr., was born in 1900 and married Jane Durgin in 1924. Elizabeth was born Oct. 2, 1924, in Utica New York. The family moved to Byland Ave. Auburn in the 1930's.

In an interview after her win in 1939, Elizabeth states that she got interested in spelling bees in the 7th grade and entered the Central Massachusetts

Spelling Championship along with her class that was sponsored by Worcester Telegram & Gazette. She won her school contest but was 4th in the finals in Worcester. This was after she was in an accident riding her bike and hit a trolley car a few days before the contest. She came out of it with a bruised face, missing tooth and her arm in a plaster cast. She was given a special cup award for courage.

The following year after winning the school spelling bee, she prepared for the Central Massachusetts competition by going through the dictionary with her father and teacher spelling all the words. Winning that competition allowed her to go to Washington, D.C. There were 21 students from all over the country. Elizabeth won on the word, homogeneity. She was royally treated with tour of the city, a trip to Annapolis with a parade with the midshipman in parade attire. She had lunch with Congressman McIves and Senators Walsh and Lodge. She saw Mt. Vernon, the White House, Capital building and Arlington. She returned by train to Worcester with her trophy, prizes, and \$500 and was greeted by a band and parade. She was taken in an open car through crowds in Worcester and Auburn

to the high school athletic field where she was interviewed in front of the gathered students, parents and dignitaries.

Elizabeth went on to have a very full life. According to her obituary, she worked 25 years as the office manager of the Eli Sandman Company of Worcester, 1959-1984. She then became the business manager of the Worcester Children's Friend Society 1984-1996. In 1979, she became a runner and completed six marathons, three of them were in Boston. She did fundraise walks for March of Dimes, Avon Breast Cancer Foundation, Multiple Sclerosis and the Jimmy Fund organizations. Elizabeth volunteered for WISE, VNA Care Network and Hospice. When she died at the age of 85 on April 18, 2012, she had been married to James Riza for 54 years. She had three sons, three daughters, 19 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

This article is made possible by the Auburn Historical Society & Museum, 41 South St. The museum is open Tuesday and Saturday mornings 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and may be reached at: auburnmuseum@verizon.net or 508-832-6856, www.auburnhistoricalmuseum.org or follow us on Facebook at Auburn Historical.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A tribute to David Gould

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Board of HANDS (Helping Address the Needs of Dudley's Seniors), I want to express our deep sadness over the passing of David Gould.

Dave served as Treasurer for HANDS from its inception in 2008 to 2020, making deposits, writing checks and meticulously keeping our bank records accurate. He attended every HANDS meeting scheduled, always having some entertaining, anecdotal story to tell. Dave participated in every one of the HANDS bucket brigades that took place for several years on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend on West Main Street by the Dudley/Webster town lines, and took responsibility for counting and depositing the many bags of money donated. With a smile on his face and a sparkle in his eyes, he brought joy to our Board

while helping make a positive impact here in Dudley. Our little corner of the world is a better place because David Gould made it so. Well done, good and faithful servant. You are deeply missed.

For those looking to honor David in some way, the family has requested that donations be made to HANDS. Checks should be made out to HANDS and sent to HANDS,

PO BOX 343, DUDLEY, MA 01571. Since 2008, HANDS has given out 244 grants totaling \$158,715, aiding Dudley seniors with oil, gas, electric and/or water bills. To learn more about HANDS, visit the Web site at HandsOfDudley.weebly.com.

With deep gratitude for all you've done, Dave,

SARAH WHITE
HANDS FOUNDER
DUDLEY

Don't let polluters off the hook for toxic coal ash

To the Editor:

The Environmental Protection Agency is proposing dangerous rollbacks to coal ash protections that would endanger the health of communities across the country. Coal ash, the toxic waste produced from burning coal, contains arsenic, mercury, lead, and other hazardous pollutants that are linked to cancer and serious illness.

For decades, utilities dumped this waste into unlined ponds and landfills, allowing it to leak into drinking water. Strong federal safeguards put in place in 2015 and expanded in 2024 finally began holding polluters accountable. Now, those protections are being dismantled, exempting hundreds of toxic dump sites and allowing companies to

delay or avoid cleanup altogether.

This is a direct threat to public health. Industry data already shows that groundwater at most coal plant sites is contaminated above federal safety standards. Weakening these rules only ensures more pollution, more illness, and more communities left to deal with the consequences.

The EPA's job is to protect people, not corporate polluters. We must speak out and demand that these safeguards remain in place. Our health, our water, and our future depend on it.

Sincerely,

GLORIA M. WILSON
AUBURN

Goodbye, Hallmark!

To the Editor:

If this doesn't leave you shaking your head, you may not be breathing.

Our neighbors to the west have come up with yet another way to chip away at the traditional family.

According to Senate Bill 9316, which has been passed by the New York State Legislature and awaits the governor's signature, the terms mother and father will be replaced by "non-gestating parent" for father and "gestating parent" for mother. Sadly, Gov. Hochul, the Empire State's Maura Healey, is running so hard to earn her merit badge in leftist nonsense that her signing is almost a given.

If this doesn't put Hallmark out of business nothing will. How many greeting cards for Gestating Parent Day do you think will be flying off the shelves?

We all knew that Yankee fans were suspect, but this proves beyond any reasonable doubt that drinking from the Hudson does result in brain damage.

Imagine a new version of Pavarotti's "Mamma." What is the woke Italian equivalent verbiage for «gestating parent?»

All of this gender-neutral Orwellian nonsense is supposedly to benefit the courts as they try to figure out who's on first when it comes to custody issues. A whole new legal lexicon loaded with nebulous terminology will no doubt be of great benefit to lawyers as more confusion equals more billable hours.

If you erase Mom and Dad after having already confused the heck out of what a woman is, you have pretty much gutted what we once thought of as family.

Some have suggested that these terms are better suited to a livestock catalog. Further research might prove those catalogs to be the origin.

Be Well.

RICHARD CLARK
DUDLEY

Five questions that could change how you see retirement



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Saving for retirement is important, but it's only part of the picture. If you're within five to 10 years of your target retirement date, it's time to start thinking about what you actually want your retirement to look like. After all, getting to retirement isn't the end goal — it's what you want to do once you're there that matters.

Start by asking yourself these five questions.

When do you want to retire? The age at which you retire matters more than you may realize. Retiring early sounds appealing, but it means saving more and having less time to do it. It can also create gaps in health care coverage and income before key benefits kick in. For example, Social Security benefits can begin at 62, but at a reduced amount. Full benefits are available between ages 66 and 67, depending on birth year, and waiting until 70 means the maximum benefit. Medicare doesn't start until age 65, and penalty-free withdrawals from retirement accounts generally aren't allowed until age 59 and a half.

For couples, timing gets even more complicated. Staggering retirement dates can sometimes maximize benefits; in other cases, retiring at the same time works better.

A financial advisor can help you sort through these decisions and find the approach that makes the most sense for your situation.

How do you want to spend your time in retirement? Many new retirees are surprised to find that having unlimited free time feels disorienting rather than freeing. Thinking ahead about how to fill the days with meaningful activity — whether that's travel, volunteering, pursuing hobbies or spending more time with family — can make the transition smoother.

It helps to sketch out what a typical week, month or even first year might look like. If there are big gaps, it's worth thinking now about what might fill them in rewarding ways.

Where do you want to live as a retiree? Some retirees stay put, while others downsize or relocate entirely. Either way, it's wise to consider whether a chosen location will work well as you get older, taking into account factors like proximity to family, access to health care, cost of living and climate.

What will your retirement lifestyle cost? It's not uncommon for retirees to discover that their travel, entertainment or leisure expenses were higher than expected. The more active and involved you plan to be, the more you will likely need to budget.

Does your retirement involve giving back? Retirement often brings both the time and motivation to be more generous. Whether the goal is helping family members, donating to charity or volunteering in the community, it's worth defining those goals and building them into an overall plan.

Now that your vision is taking shape, turn it into a plan. Work with your financial advisor to align your savings with the life you want — and revisit that plan as your priorities evolve so your retirement keeps pace with you.

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

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The last person who knows how

I was standing in a small shop not long ago when I heard a sentence that stuck with me.

"The problem is that he's the last one who knows how to do it."

The speaker wasn't talking about some high-tech computer system or complicated piece of machinery. He was talking about a repair that had been done the same way for decades. The man who knew how to do it was nearing retirement. Nobody had replaced him. Nobody had learned the skill. Suddenly everyone realized that something they had taken for granted might disappear.

That conversation got me thinking. Every town has people like that. They're not usually famous. They don't make headlines. Most folks outside their circle have no idea who they are. Yet they possess a kind of knowledge that doesn't exist in instruction manuals.

They know how things work. Not just machines, but communities. They're the woman who remembers why a tradition started, the volunteer who knows where the spare keys are kept, the carpenter who can look at an old building and immediately understand how it was constructed, or the mechanic who can identify a problem by sound alone. They are the librarian who somehow remembers where every odd document is stored and the farmer who can tell what the weather is likely to do simply by watching the sky.

These people carry enormous amounts of knowledge in their heads. What's remarkable is that much of it was never formally taught. It was handed down. One person learned it from another, who learned it from someone before them. For generations, that was how communities worked. You learned by watching. You learned by helping. You learned by making mistakes while somebody older stood nearby and patiently explained why the mistake happened.

There is something wonderfully human about that process. The information isn't separated from the person sharing it. A lesson about repairing a fence might come with three stories, two jokes, and an opinion about the Red Sox. The knowledge arrives wrapped in personality.

LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET

By CHARLES

These days, of course, we can find instructions for almost anything in seconds. Need to replace a faucet? There's a video. Need to bake bread? Thousands of recipes are available online. Need to identify a bird?

An app can probably help. That's all useful, and I'm glad we have those resources.

But information and wisdom are not quite the same thing. Information tells you what to do. Wisdom tells you when to do it, when not to do it, and what might happen if you ignore the obvious. That's harder to search for online.

I sometimes worry that we don't always recognize the value of these local experts until they're gone. We assume they'll always be around. Then one day they retire, move away, or simply decide it's time to slow down. Suddenly people are asking questions nobody can answer. How was this event organized every year? Who maintained that old piece of equipment? Why was this tradition started in the first place? The answers often leave with someone who never thought to write them down.

Fortunately, I also see reasons for optimism. Across Massachusetts, there are still people willing to teach. Retired tradesmen help younger workers. Grandparents pass along recipes. Volunteers show newcomers how things are done. Coaches mentor assistant coaches. Gardeners share cuttings and advice over backyard fences. The knowledge continues to move from one generation to the next, just as it always has.

The trick is making sure we pay attention while the teachers are still here. Ask questions. Listen to stories. Learn why things are done the way they are. You might discover that what looks like ordinary conversation is actually the transfer of something valuable.

Every community depends on people who know things that cannot easily be replaced. Their knowledge helps keep traditions alive, solves problems before they become crises, and quietly holds communities together. If we're lucky, somebody is learning from them right now. Otherwise, someday we'll all be standing in a shop somewhere, shaking our heads and saying, "The problem is that she was the last one who knew how to do it."

Dudley Grange to host 91st Annual Strawberry Festival June 18

DUDLEY — The annual Dudley Grange Strawberry Festival is Thursday, June 18 this year, starting at 4 p.m. "until the berries are gone". The Strawberry Festival is a generational event in Dudley where friends, family and neighbors come out to enjoy live music, great food, children's activities and so much more and not to forget, our famous strawberry shortcake!

Recently, while doing some research in our Grange records, we discovered that the Annual Strawberry Festival is older than we originally thought. The festival is first mentioned in our Secretarial Notes of 1935. This is the earliest mention of the festival itself. Around the late 1890's, Dudley Grange members held a Children's Night which was supper on the Grange lawn with the Grange members and their families, and strawberry shortcake was dessert. It is unclear at this point when the Children's Night evolved into the Annual Strawberry Festival, however we can say with certainty that this year's festival is at least the 91st!

The event is free to the public. Strawberry shortcake tickets are \$8, and are available on the day of the festival. Tickets can also be purchased ahead of time at the Dudley Town Hall Treasurer's office at 71 West Main St. in Dudley. Also available at the Courtesy Booth at Dudley Park N' Shop on Airport Road in Dudley.

As you pick up your strawberry shortcake from the Dudley Grange building, experience some of Dudley's history as you walk through to the serving area. The Grange Building was built in 1840 and used as the Center School for the town with a second floor added on by townspeople for a meeting place called Washington Hall. George Tracy bought the building in 1891 at auction for \$113 and moved the building from the south side of the First Congregational Church to the north side where it is situated today. Dudley Grange members met in the building until it was no longer large enough to accommodate their growing membership. George Tracy in 1892 sold the building to the Dudley Grange for \$1,100. Members bought shares to raise the money.

Dudley Grange members have been holding their meetings and events consistently in this building ever since. The Dudley Grange Hall is an important historic Dudley landmark and part of the National Register of Historic Places - Dudley Hill Historic District.

So come out on Thursday, June 18 and bring the family. Children will enjoy competing in the old-fashioned frog jumping contest on the common, registration is at 5:00 (please bring your own frog and return it to where you originally found it). Children can learn what to do in case of a fire with the Dudley's Fire Department Smoke House; they can enjoy the animals at the Records and Burpee Petting Zoo and participate in other fun activities. The Dudley Police Department will display their new equipment used to serve and protect our community, to include Dudley Police Department's K-9 and Maverick. Meet some of our community's non-profit organizations that provide resources and services to our area.

Randy Orwig will be performing as the "Living Statue", delighting all ages, questioning is he real or not?? There will be live musical entertainment by the "Old Fiddlers Club of Rhode Island." Don't forget to get your delicious strawberry shortcake before "the berries are gone." The Conant Memorial First Congregational Church will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers and chili dogs. Get our delicious hand cut French fries to go with your burger or dog.

Dudley Grange #163 is a family oriented, community service organization with its roots in agriculture. The Grange membership is open to anyone interested in building strong community in Dudley, participating in community service and helping to preserve and restore this historic Grange building for future generations.

For more information on Dudley Grange, visit our information table in front of the Grange Hall during the Strawberry Festival or visit, Dudleyfarmers.com or our Face book page Dudley Grange #163.

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Like the Webster Senior Center Facebook page to view our photographs, news and announcements. Please stop by to pick up our monthly newsletter for a complete list of activities, upcoming events, and our monthly lunch menu. You may also join our email list to view our newsletter online. You do not have to be a resident of Webster to participate in our activities and programs. ALL Seniors are welcome!

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least three business days in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation for 65 and up, and \$5 for 55- 64 is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, 6/16: Beef bourguignon, garlic mashed potatoes, and country blend vegetables. Wednesday, 6/17: Lasagna and meatballs with marina sauce, peas, and carrots. Thursday, 6/18: Stuffed chicken with gravy, cranberry stuffing, and 23 v 6Abrussels

sprouts.

Need Transportation? Contact SCM Elderbus at 1-800-321-0243 at least two business days in advance to schedule transportation. Elderbus is available Mondays-Fridays 8:30 am- 3:00 pm.

Come down to the Bomba Beauty Salon at the Webster Senior Center! Call 508-341-8724 for an appointment. Bomba Beauty Salon is open for walk in appointments on Wednesdays from 10:00 am- 1:00 pm, and Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays by appointment only from 10:00 am- 3:00 pm. Please call (508) 341-8724 to schedule an appointment.

We will be having our Father's Day Party on Monday, June 22nd at 1 PM! Make sure you come in and sign up for an afternoon of fun... and dad jokes!

Chair Dancing Exercise classes with Forty Arroyo are the perfect workout for any fitness ability! The cost is a recommended \$3.00 donation per class. A new video class will be offered Thursday and Friday mornings, free of charge.

Line Dancing with Forty will be held on Mondays the 1st, 8th, 15th, and 29th from 11:00 am- 12:30 pm.

Bingo is every Tuesday and starts promptly at 1:00 pm. Please plan to arrive by 12:30 pm to allow time to buy your bingo sheets. Bingo sheets are not sold after 12:45 pm.

Do you like to play Cribbage? Our weekly Cribbage group meets every Thursday at 1:00 pm. Feel free to join us!

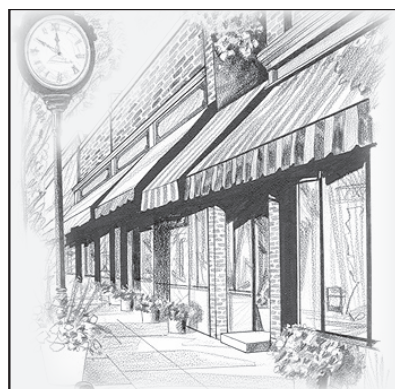
Calling card players or interested persons to the Webster Senior Center! Come join us for six-card or thirteen-card pitch! Six-card pitch meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. Thirteen-card pitch meets on Thursdays at 1:00 pm.

Mahjongg group meets every Friday at 1:00 pm. Beginners welcome!

We now have an official Bridge group! We will be meeting every Friday from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm in the upstairs activity room. All that are interested are welcome to join!

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office House Numbering Program will create a custom wooden sign with your house number free of charge. One sign per senior household. Please contact the Webster Senior Center at (508) 949-3845. If you are interested in having a house number sign made for you.

Senior SAFE is a program that supports fire and life safety education for seniors. The Webster Fire Dept. will do a home visit to ensure that you have the correct smoke and CO2 alarms, and that they are working properly. This is at no cost to you! All you have to do is give them a call at (508) 949-3875.



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The Library will be closed on Friday, June 19

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!

Want to receive updates about our upcoming events? Sign up for email alerts by visiting our website or contacting our Adult Services Librarian Jessica Fontaine at jfontaine@cwmar.org

Special Events
Cookbook Club – Wednesday, June 10th at 6:00pm

Join our cookbook club this month as we cook recipes from the same book. We always have a great time eating and discussing our experiences with the book. This month we're reading and cooking from *Weekday Vegetarians* by Jenny Rosenstrach. Extra copies are available at the circulation desk. To be added to the list, please email jfontaine@cwmar.org

Basics of Using AI for Small Businesses – Monday, June 15th at 6:00pm

John Biske, Founder of Support Savvy Consulting, will discuss opportunities for small businesses to take advantage of Artificial Intelligence to save time and streamline business operations. For more information about John Biske's work, please visit <https://www.support-savvy.com/>

Adult Book Group – Wednesday, June 17th at 6:30pm

Join the adult book group for their monthly book discussion! This group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. In June we are reading *Lafayette in the Somewhat United States* by Sarah Vowell. Copies of the book are always available at the circulation desk, but please notify Jess at jfontaine@cwmar.org to be added to the list.

Threaded Together: Mill Work and Life in Webster, MA Film Screening – Thursday, June 18th at 6:00pm

An original 40-minute film featuring stories and memories of working in the Webster Mills from 1950-1975. A collaboration between the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, Nichols College, Karen Warinsky, and the Webster Senior Center. Join us for a screening of our original film: *Threaded Together: Mill Work and Life in Webster, MA*. The screening will be followed by a Q and A.

Historical Walking Tour of Downtown Webster with the National Park Service – Saturday, June 20th at 10:00am

Join Allison Horrocks from the National Park Service for an historic walking tour of downtown Webster. Whether you're a lifelong resident, new to the area, or just visiting for the day, you're sure to learn something new! This event is for all ages and participants will meet in the lobby

before their guided tour.

Adult Programming
Literacy Volunteers:
ESL Classes – Tuesdays at 6:00pm

The Literacy Cafe is a free weekly English conversation class offered by Literacy Volunteers of South Central Massachusetts (LVSCM). This class is free to attend and is open to all adults. For more information, email us at info@lvscm.org.

Grief Support Group – 2nd Tuesday and 4th Saturday of the Month (6:30pm on Tuesdays; 10:00am on Saturdays) in the Local History Room

Losing a loved one is never easy. Please know that you are not alone. If you need support in trying to navigate the changes in your life, join us in a place of safety and comfort with others who have also experienced loss. This grief support group is a place to find understanding as we explore our grief, share coping strategies, and begin to heal.

Yoga – Saturdays at 9:15am

Join Julie at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. A typical class involves centering the mind with the breath, aromatherapy, movement of the body to release energetic blockages, and, finally, rest and relaxation. Classes are free. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

Yoga Nidra with Jess – Fridays in June at 9:00am

Join Adult Services Librarian Jess for a relaxing yoga nidra practice to start your day. Jess will guide participants through a few simple yoga asanas to release physical tension. Participants will then settle into a reclined position for a guided relaxation (yoga nidra). Registration is required and Jess will meet you at the program door. If you have your own yoga mat, please bring it and be sure to dress in comfortable clothing.

Worcester County Sheriff's Office Hour – First Friday of the Month 9am-10am

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office, Webster Regional Resource Center offers a variety of support services including; support groups, case management, education (including Hi-Set), employment opportunities, health insurance assistance, MA State ID/B.Cert, substance use and mental health referrals, transportation, recovery coaching and overall support. Their friendly case managers will be offering support the first Friday of every month from 9-10am.

Decoupage Soap Dispenser with Sincerely, Michele – Tuesday, June 16th at 6:00pm

Get creative and craft your own beautiful mason jar soap dispenser in this hands-on workshop with Sincerely, Michele! In this fun and relaxed class, you'll design a unique piece using decorative napkins - choosing from a wide variety of themes

like ocean scenes, animals, bees, butterflies, dragonflies, and florals. Michele will guide you step-by-step through the decoupage process, making it easy for all skill levels to create something both functional and eye-catching. Participants will leave with a personalized soap dispenser that adds a charming touch to your home, or makes a perfect gift! All materials provided. This program is for adults. Registration is required.

Programming for All Ages

Library for All – Mondays and Fridays in June at 10am

Library for All is an inclusive program for teens and adults of all abilities and their caregivers. Please let us know if you need any special accommodations! Join us every Monday and Friday! The 1st week of the month is coloring, the 2nd week is LEGO, the 3rd week is chair yoga, and the 4th week of the month is painting.

Mini-Bookshelves – Thursday, June 18th at 5pm and 6pm

Calling all book lovers! Join Paige and Jess for a fun, hands-on program where you'll create your very own miniature bookshelf. Registration is required.

Children's and Young Adult Programming
Play-Doh Storytime – Mondays at 10:30am

Join us for an engaging storytime filled with interactive stories and Play-Doh fun! Kids are

invited to explore, squish and make new creations each week. This sensory-friendly program is perfect for young learners and their grown-ups.

Creators Club – Mondays at 4:00pm

Come explore our Creators Club, where each month features a new theme highlighting a different art supply for kids to experiment with and turn into their own masterpieces! June's Theme: Paper Chain Jellyfish! Kids will practice cutting out paper and weaving pieces together to make some amazing jellyfish.

Tiny Groovers – Tuesdays at 10:30am

Join Miss Paige for a groovy storytime! Toddlers ages 2-5 and their caregivers will dance to popular kids' tunes while using instruments and playful props, and enjoy an interactive story each week.

Mighty Builders – Tuesdays at 4:00pm

Unleash creativity in our free-build program featuring LEGOs, magnet tiles, wooden blocks, marble runs, and more!

Teen Advisory Board – Wednesday, June 10th at 2:45pm

Do you want to make the teen room and teen programs work for you? We want to do that, too. Join Jess and Paige for informal conversation about what works and what doesn't in the teen room. Ideas? Bring them! Concerns? Bring those, too!

PEARLE L. CRAWFORD LIBRARY

40 Schofield Ave., Dudley
508-949-8021

To register for events or sign up for the newsletter, go to www.crawfordlibrary.org or call 508-949-8021.

The Library will be closed on Friday, June 19 in observance of Juneteenth.

Summer Reading Kick-Off with Gilbert the Party Pig

School is out...come enjoy an ice cream, VISIT WITH THE PIGGIES and collect your first Summer Reading tickets for 2026. It is going to be "sow" much fun!

Tuesday, June 16th 1:00-3:00

Gentle Yoga
Every Monday
10:00-11:00

Join yoga instructor Patricia for a traditional "on the mat" yoga class with chair yoga modifications. This truly is a one-size-fits-all class. Bring your own mat. Wear layers, do not eat heavily 1.5-2 hours before class. Registration is required.

Mahjong at the Pearle
Every Wednesday
10:00-12:30
Fels Community Room

The game consists of players competing to form distinct sets or pairs of tiles, similar to gin rummy.

Everyone is welcome; registration is not required.

Quilting Group
Every Wednesday
1:30-3:30
All quilters and would-be

quilters are invited to join our new group. Bring your projects!

Knit & Crochet Group
Every Thursday 5:30-7:45 and Friday 10:00-12:00.

All stitchers are welcome to this informal group. Bring your project and enjoy the company!

Bathsheba Spooner Book Talk with Andrew Noone
Thursday June 11th
6:00-7:00

Join local author Andrew Noone to find out what possessed Bathsheba Spooner, a woman from the elite of eighteenth-century New England society to conspire with American and British soldiers to murder her husband at the midpoint of the American Revolution. It's the most sensational "true crime" tragedy of the American 1700's. The book is available for checkout at the library.

About the author: Andrew Noone is an independent scholar with graduate degrees in art history and musicology from Syracuse University. He was music specialist in the Worcester Public Schools and has taught courses in the humanities at several colleges in Massachusetts, including Clark University.

The Missing Piece Puzzle Race

Monday, June 15th
6:00-7:30

Teams will compete against each other, with the ultimate goal of completing a puzzle faster than their

opponents. Teams can have up to six members. The first team to assemble the puzzle wins! Registration is required. There is room for seven teams; only one person from each team should register.

Plants for Monarchs and Other Garden Good Guys
Thursday, June 18th
6:00-7:00

Join Lanette Lepper, a member of the Dudley Agricultural Commission and Quiet Corner Garden Club, to learn about plants for monarchs and other garden good guys.

"Cook the Book" Book Club-Everything's Good: Cozy Classics You'll Cook Always and Forever
Monday, June 22nd
6:00-7:00

"Cook The Book" Book Club will meet on the 4th Monday of every month at 6:00

You will pick one recipe from the book selected for the month-the dishes don't have to be complicated or fancy, any recipe from the book is fair game, except alcoholic beverages-sorry! Prepare the recipe at home and share it at the library. We cannot reheat or keep food warm, so consider this when choosing your recipe.

You are responsible for bringing serving utensils. We will provide paper goods and utensils for eating.

AI for Everyday Life
Thursday, June 25th
6:00-7:15
Join us for a 60-min-

ute beginner's session designed to demystify Artificial Intelligence. We will explore two essential pillars: Utility - how to use simple, free AI tools to make daily life easier, and Defense - how to spot and protect yourself from the new wave of AI-enhanced scams.

Crawford Library Book Group
Thursday, June 25th
Prague Winter by Madeleine Albright
6:00-7:30

Books are available at the circulation desk for checkout one month before the discussion.

No Registration Required

Children's & Family Programming

Once Upon a Storytime with Kelsey
Every Monday
10:00-10:45

For ages 3-5 and their caregiver (siblings always welcome!). Join us for stories, songs, fingerplays, scarves, shaker eggs, moving our bodies to music, activities, bubbles, a craft, and free play!

Summer Reading Kick-Off with Gilbert the Party Pig

Tuesday, June 16th
1:00-3:00

Enjoy an ice cream, VISIT WITH THE PIGGIES and collect your first Summer Reading tickets for 2026!

Peaceful Projects with Raleigh

Every Wednesday starting June 17th
2:00-3:00

Join Raleigh for a drop-in craft. There will be something a little different every week! Painting, slime-making, doodling, watercolor, and more! Best for ages 5-12.

Registration requested! Best for ages 5-12. This is not a drop off event.

Pokemon Trading Card Club is back!
Thursday, June 18th
6:00-6:45

Do you love everything Pokemon? Join us for Pokemon Club where you can meet other Pokemon fans and trade cards if you want to! Best for ages 6 and up. No registration required. This is not a drop off program.

"The Library Boogie" with Tom Knight
Thursday, June 25th
1:00-1:45

Come join the fun while entertainer Tom Knight performs his exciting combination of music, puppets, and stories in "The Library Boogie"! This show is fun for the whole family, with lots of laughter and audience participation. No registration needed, but when the room reaches capacity, the program will be considered full - so come early!

Family Yoga
Friday, June 26th
11:00-11:45

Stretch and grow this summer! Join certified Yoga instructor, Buffy, for a 45-minute yoga class for families! Caregivers and their children between the ages of 3+ are welcome to register. Please bring your own mats. Registration is required as space is limited.

Seed Art & Mosaics with Hands on Nature
Tuesday, June 30th
11:00-11:45

Join Hands on Nature for a simple lesson on the life cycle of a plant and the importance of seeds. After, use your creativity to make a mosaic with beautiful seeds! This program is for ages 4 and up. No registration needed, but when the room reaches capacity, the program will be considered full - so come early!

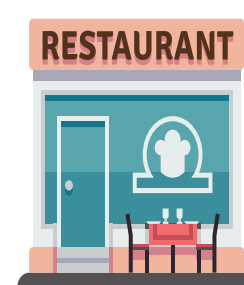
Teen Programming

Dungeons & Dragons Game
Every Thursday
6:00-7:30
Ages 14-19

Needle Felted Carnivorous Plant for Teens
Tuesday, June 23rd
1:30-3:00

Join Pop Up Art to make this quirky and cute needle-felted carnivorous plant, complete with fangs and a bright red tongue, all rooted in a real terra-cotta pot! This teen program is for ages 12-17 only. Registration is required, as spots are limited.

ALL WE KNOW IS LOCAL ~ StonebridgePress.com



Local residents earn degrees from Clark University

WORCESTER — Clark University held its Commencement exercises at the DCU Center in Worcester, Mass., on Monday, May 18. The University awarded 612 bachelor's degrees and 636 graduate degrees and conferred two honorary degrees during two ceremonies; graduates represented 49 states and 69 countries.

The following students earned degrees from Clark: Eunice Artey, of Webster graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology. Artey is a member of the Alpha Sigma Lambda honor society.

Katherinne Cornejo, of Webster graduated with a Master of Public Administration.

Dillon Palmer, of Oxford graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Interactive Media.

Nicole Ucher, of North Oxford graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Biology.

Sydney M. Lyons of Auburn received a Bachelor of Science with highest honors in Physics.

Clark University President David B. Fithian urged the graduates to be engaged global citizens.

"The world needs you to exhibit the value of higher education, to exercise principles of free expression, to believe in the progress of ideas, and to defend democracy and individual rights - even, and especially, when doing so requires listening across deep differences," President Fithian said.

Dr. Wendy L. Freedman, one of the world's most accomplished astrophysicists, delivered the undergraduate ceremony address. Freedman, currently the John and Marion Sullivan University Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the University of Chicago, is widely recognized for her leadership of the Hubble Space Telescope Key Project, which produced the first precise measurements of the Hubble constant (the rate at which the universe is expanding) and dramatically refined scientific understanding of the scale, age, and expansion of the universe.

Early in her career, Freedman told the graduates, her research arrived at a conclusion different than the accepted view of those in her field. She carried on despite opposition. Freedman noted that Clark physicist Robert H. Goddard, who 100 years ago launched the world's first liquid fuel rocket, an advancement that helped pave the way for man to reach the moon, faced similar skepticism. After experiencing multiple failures and widespread derision, Goddard in 1926 launched his rocket, which traveled 2.5 minutes, rose 41 feet into the air, and landed in a cabbage patch.

"From a cabbage field to lunar and even farther missions," said Freedman, "it is an important reminder of the power of persistence."

Dr. Wendy Freedman was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science, honoris causa.

Student speaker William Stafford '26, a political science major and aspiring lawyer, spoke to his peers about how choices shape a person.

"We don't always get to choose our circumstances, but we always get to choose how we respond to them, and who we become because of them," said Stafford. "And now we're about to step into a world that won't always give us clear directions. There won't always be a syllabus. No one's going to tell you exactly what

to do next. But you will always have the ability to choose."

Sir Andrew Steer, one of the world's foremost climate experts, addressed Clark University students receiving master's and doctoral degrees, and encouraged them to act boldly and remain hopeful, no matter their path.

In his address after receiving a Doctor of Humane Letters degree, Steer acknowledged that the students are graduating into a world with several major challenges - among them, AI, the erosion of trust in facts and truth, and dysfunctional governments. The last half-century has seen unimaginable progress and growth - demographically, technologically, and economically. "But this explosion of the human economic footprint has put unprecedented pressure on the planet and created severe inequality and social challenges."

Steer praised Clark's new School of Climate, Environment, and Society for including economics in its interdisciplinary lineup, which «is pointing precisely to the systems change we will need to address climate change.» And every single member of the Class of 2026 has a part to play, he said, whatever their field - education, finance, social work, healthcare, the arts.

Steer then turned his gaze fifty years into the future. "What will the world look like? My prediction is that it will be cleaner, greener, healthier, more prosperous, and more just. It's up to you."

Nourhan Beshir Attia, graduating with a master's in environmental science and policy, delivered the graduate student address. A native of Egypt, she shared that the COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of her bachelor's degree ceremony in 2020.

"When I came to Clark, I thought I was looking for acceptance as someone coming from Egypt," Beshir Attia said. "As a modest Muslim hijabi woman, I wondered: Will I belong here? And yes, I found people who respected me. But the most important thing I found was something I wasn't expecting. I found the moment I stopped waiting for permission to be myself."

Founded in 1887, Clark University is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow's most daunting challenges and embrace its greatest opportunities. Through 33 undergraduate majors, more than 30 advanced degree programs, and nationally recognized community partnerships, Clark fuses rigorous scholarship with authentic world and workplace experiences that empower our students to pursue lives and careers of meaning and consequence.

Recycling Center Manager
STURBRIDGE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
 The Town of Sturbridge D.P.W. and Board of Health are accepting applications to fill the Recycling Center Manager Position. This is a full-time position. Valid Class A or B CDL and Equipment Hydraulic License 2A is required. Effective communication skills are required. Responsibilities include overseeing the day-to-day operations of the recycling center and landfill. See the Job Description for more information. Applications are available at the Sturbridge Municipal Garage, New Boston Road Extension, Sturbridge, MA, or on the Town of Sturbridge website under job opportunities. Application review shall begin on June 8th, 2026. Position will be open until filled. The Department is a Union shop. The Town is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE). Hours are as required by the Recycling Center operations (Tuesday to Saturday, 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM) and shall be 40 hours per week. Applicant will be required to take part in the DPW overtime list and snow and ice activities. Starting pay will be \$35.05/hr. Applicants, in addition to the application, shall provide a resume and a written statement of why they want the position and why they are qualified for the position.

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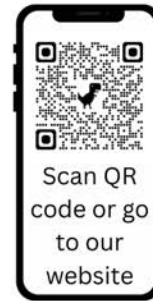
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Websterabelinkages@webster-schools.org

Local residents receive degrees at WPI's 157th Undergraduate Commencement

WORCESTER — Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) celebrated the accomplishments of the Class of 2026 during its 157th Commencement exercises, honoring graduates whose innovation, perseverance, and purpose-driven achievements will help shape the future. Ceremonies were held on May 14 and 15 at the DCU Center, where WPI awarded nearly 1,200 bachelor's degrees, over 600 master's degrees, and more than 60 doctoral degrees to graduates across a broad spectrum of disciplines in science, engineering, technology, business, and the humanities. Together, these graduates join a global network of WPI changemakers prepared to lead with knowledge, creativity, and impact.

WPI President Grace Wang and Board of Trustees Chair William Fitzgerald presided over the university's undergraduate Commencement exercises.

In her address, Wang reminded graduates that their WPI education has prepared them not only with technical expertise and ethical leadership skills, but with the resilience, critical thinking, teamwork, and global responsibility needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

"We stand at the dawn of a new technological age," said Wang. "There's a good chance you will do jobs that are yet to be invented. You will work in companies that are yet to be established. You will address issues that are yet to be defined. This does not mean we should feel uncertain. This means everything can be questioned, and everything can be new. Never before has so much possibility existed to make the world better, the future brighter."

Delivering an inspiring

undergraduate address was multiplatinum, Grammy Award-winning artist, tech founder, philanthropist, and STEAM education advocate will.i.am. Known globally for his groundbreaking work at the intersection of music, artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship, education, and through his i.am Angel Foundation, will.i.am challenged graduates to embrace creativity, innovation, and service as they forge their own paths.

"How intentional are you going to be with this technology as you unearth tomorrow's industries?" asked will.i.am "Pick a problem, solve it. That solution is an industry. This is the time for imagination, and AI is not imagining. It's regurgitation of the human imagination. Turn that off."

As part of the undergraduate ceremony, honorary doctoral degrees were bestowed on will.i.am and Paul Covec '64, an entrepreneur and investor who has played a formative role in advancing technologies that have shaped modern industry.

This year's undergraduate student remarks were delivered by Mena Youssif, who received a bachelor of science in civil engineering. In his speech, "We Didn't See It Coming," he reflected on the pace of change in the world and the unexpected growth and personal changes students experienced.

The following students earned their bachelor's degree:

Auburn resident Nicholas Palumbo who majored in Computer Science and Robotics Engineering

Auburn resident Tien Nguyen who majored in Computer Science

Dudley resident Patrick Ryan who majored in Physics

Webster resident Jessica

Peets who majored in Mechanical Engineering

North Oxford resident Matthew Arndt who majored in Mechanical Engineering

Dudley resident Marlee Donohoe who majored in Mechanical Engineering

Webster resident Talia Gardner who majored in Biology and Biotechnology

Webster resident Amanda Warchal who majored in Biology and Biotechnology

Oxford resident Catherine Sauter who majored in Biomedical Engineering

Webster resident Sofia Napierata who majored in Interactive Media and Game Development

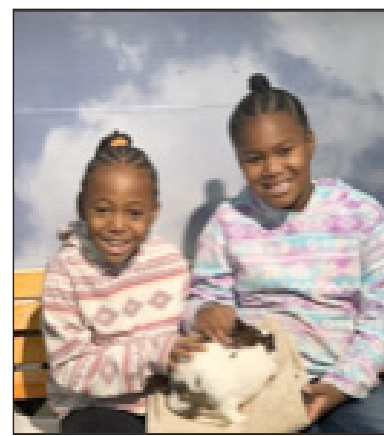
Dudley resident Benjamin Perry who majored in Computer Science and Interactive Media and Game Development - Technology

Oxford resident Elijah Gray who majored in Computer Science

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) is a top-tier, STEM-focused university with an R1 research classification and global leadership in project-based learning. Founded in 1865, WPI's distinctive approach integrates classroom theory with real-world practice, preparing students to tackle critical challenges through inclusive education, impactful projects, and interdisciplinary research. With more than 70 Bachelor's, Master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments and more than 50 global project centers, WPI advances knowledge and innovation in fields such as life sciences, smart technologies, advanced materials and manufacturing, and global innovation. Learn more at www.wpi.edu.

Friday's Child



Halo and Chantce
Age 10,11
Registration
#8753 & 8603

Chantce and Halo are energetic, creative sisters who share a very close bond. They enjoy spending time together, being active, and exploring new activities. Both girls love playing outside, getting creative with art projects, and making the most out of every adventure together. Chantce, the older sister, is outgoing, social, and confident. She makes friends easily and enjoys staying active through sports, especially soccer, basketball, and hockey. Chantce also enjoys arts and crafts and loves opportunities to express her creativity. She is caring toward her younger sister and enjoys encouraging and supporting Halo. Halo is a sweet and curious girl who may be shy at first, but once she feels comfortable, her playful personality shines through. She enjoys swimming, gymnastics, and creative activities like drawing and coloring. Halo loves spending time with people she trusts and values the strong connection she shares with her sister.

<https://www.mareinc.org/recruitment-group/23723011938>

Can I Adopt?

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.



Brigham Arthur Dubey of Dudley has been named to Clarkson University's Dean's List

POTSDAM, N.Y. — Brigham Arthur Dubey of Dudley, a junior majoring in engineering and management, was named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2026 semester at Clarkson University.

Dean's List students must achieve a minimum 3.25 grade-point average and also carry at least 14 credit hours.

Clarkson University is a proven leader in technological education, research, innovation and sustainable economic development. With its main campus in Potsdam, N.Y., and additional graduate program and research facilities in the Capital Region and Hudson Valley, Clarkson faculty have a direct impact on more than 7,800 students annually through nationally recognized undergraduate and graduate STEM designated degrees in engineering, business, science and health professions; executive education, industry-relevant credentials and K-12 STEM programs. Alumni earn salaries among the top 2 percent in the nation: one in five already leads in the c-suite. To learn more, go to www.clarkson.edu.

Eileen Lindemann graduates from Northern Illinois University

DeKALB, Ill. — More than 2,300 students received their bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Northern Illinois University in May.

Among those who graduated is Eileen Lindemann of Oxford, who earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Health Sciences.

About Northern Illinois University

Northern Illinois University is a student-centered, nationally recognized public research university with a global network of nearly 260,000 alumni. With expertise that benefits its region, the country and the world, NIU offers more than 170 bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs across seven colleges: Business, Education, Engineering and Engineering Technology, Health and Human Sciences, Law, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Visual and Performing Arts. Through its main campus in DeKalb and education centers for students and working professionals in Naperville and Rockford, NIU serves a diverse and international student body of more than 15,400. The 16 NIU Huskies Division I athletic teams compete in the Mid-American Conference. For more information, visit NIU.edu.

Auburn resident named to Fairfield University Dean's List

FAIRFIELD, Conn. — Sofia Fortunato of Auburn received Dean's List Honors for the Spring 2026 semester.

In order to be placed on the Dean's List, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours in a semester, have no outstanding or incomplete grades for that semester, and have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better.

Area residents named to dean's list at Quinnipiac University

HAMDEN, Conn. — The following area students were named to the dean's list for the Spring 2026 semester at Quinnipiac University:

A u b u r n
Annika Berg, Giuliana Fortunato
Oxford
Caitlin Diaz, Katelyn Marshall, Nicole Moore
Webster
Maya Podskarbi

To qualify for the dean's list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits in a semester, with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible. Part-time students must complete at least six credits during a semester. Names followed by an asterisk denotes with honors.

About Quinnipiac University

Quinnipiac is a private, coeducational institution located 90 minutes north of New York City and two hours from Boston. The university enrolls 9,700 students in more than 100 degree programs through its Schools of Business, Communications, Education, Computing and Engineering, Health Sciences, Law, Medicine, Nursing and the College of Arts & Sciences. Quinnipiac is ranked 51st in The Wall Street Journal/College Pulse "2026 Best Colleges in the U.S." and is also recognized by U.S. News & World Report and The Princeton Review's "The Best 391 Colleges." The university is expanding innovative programs for both traditional and adult learners and developing dynamic corporate partnerships. Quinnipiac recently completed a significant capital expansion on its main campus, including a state-of-the-art new School of Business and an interdisciplinary science and innovation hub. For more information, please visit qu.edu. Connect with Quinnipiac on Facebook and Instagram and follow Quinnipiac on X @QuinnipiacU.

Western New England University recognizes Dean's List students

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University (WNE) is proud to recognize 805 students who have earned a place on the Spring 2026 Dean's List, reflecting their dedication to academic excellence, perseverance, and commitment to achieving their educational goals.

WNE congratulates these outstanding students for their accomplishments and applauds their continued pursuit of academic success.

Evelyn Smith of Oxford
Amber Quadarella of Dudley

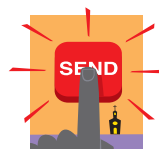
Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield, Massachusetts as a division of Northeastern College, WNE's 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including over 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its 90+ undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30% remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut.

WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

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Open Sky raises \$210,000 for LGBTQIA+ Youth program, honors advocates at Safe Homes Gala

WORCESTER — Open Sky Community Services raised over \$210,000 during its annual Safe Homes Gala to benefit its programming for LGBTQIA+ youth. Six individuals and organizations were honored with People of Courage Awards for their support of equity and justice in Central Massachusetts.

"Safe Homes has been a lifeline for LGBTQIA+ youth in the Central Mass. for over three decades, and we are indebted to the community for its unwavering and generous outpouring of support to make this program possible," said Open Sky President and CEO Ken Bates. "This year's six honorees represent the courageous spirit that drives our work. Their commitment to supporting the region's LGBTQIA+ community and advocating for marginalized groups represents Safe Homes' mission to its core."

The Safe Homes Gala, which was held at Mechanics Hall in Worcester on March 6, supports the program's educational programming, Transgender Resource Center, leadership training, free mental health counseling, weekly drop-ins, food and toiletry pantry, recreational activities, and emergency supports for LGBTQIA+ youth ages 14 to 23. The program operates two sites, Safe Homes Worcester and Safe Homes North, as well as an active online community.

The People of Courage Awards began in 2005 to honor passionate and dedicated individuals and organizations who have demonstrated commitment, courage, and allyship in support of LGBTQIA+ youth and other marginalized groups. This year's honorees are:



Ken Bates (left), Open Sky President and CEO, and State Senators Michael Moore (from right) and Robyn Kennedy joined the 2026 People of Courage Awardees onstage at Open Sky's Safe Homes Gala in Worcester. Six individuals and organizations were recognized for their outstanding actions in support of equity and justice in Central Massachusetts.

Kristine Shaw (she/her) of Worcester, received the Public Service Award for lifelong commitment to the wellbeing of youth of all developmental abilities and advocacy for children in the foster care system as Program Associate at CASA Project Worcester County. Shaw has supported many LGBTQIA+ youth in the foster care system, ensuring their voices and needs are amplified with dignity and integrity, and in doing so, making a lasting impact on individuals and families in the system.

Amanda Dellea-Rheume (she/her) of Auburn, was honored with the Community Champion Award for fos-

tering inclusive spaces for queer adults in her role as a macro social worker, community organizer, President of Queer Scouts, and Executive Director of Queer Scouts Worcester Troop #6. Under her leadership, the nonprofit Queer Scouts empowers authentic self-expression in the LGBTQIA+ community through substance-free programming for queer adults to build connection, engage in the community, and develop new skills.

Queer Worcester Art Club (QWAC) was awarded with the Inspiration and Innovation Award. The initiative was founded in 2023 by Cypress Provvedini and Ellie Sienkiewicz to welcome LGBTQIA+ artists and makers in the greater

Worcester area to socialize, share skills, and inspire one another. The Creative Hub Worcester has provided the Queer Worcester Art Club with a safe, accessible place to gather weekly for over two years.

Worcester Earn-A-Bike was selected by Safe Homes youth participants to receive the People's Choice Award. The nonprofit community bicycle shop provides hands-on bike repair and maintenance training, and tools for community members to repair and earn a donated bike. The shop promotes community health, mobility, and wellbeing, while encouraging an empowering, economical, and accessible alternative to cars.

Nico T. (he/they) was selected by Safe Homes staff to be the recipient of the Youth Award. Nico carries the values of Safe Homes beyond its doors and is an active participant of the program as a peer supporter/mentor. Nico also studies emergency medicine and is involved in grassroots efforts to advocate for marginalized groups, particularly LGBTQIA+.

Tanya Neslusan (she/her) of Sturbridge, was honored with the Social Justice Advocacy and Action Award. She is the Executive Director of MassEquality, a statewide LGBTQIA+ advocacy organization, and was a founding member of Boston Pride for the People. Neslusan was

a Showing Up for Racial Justice Worcester Chapter leader, member of the Massachusetts Women of Color Coalition, and a 2018 Democratic Nominee for State Representative. She was Co-chair of the Bay State Stonewall Democrats and the LGBTQ Outreach Subcommittee of the Mass. Democratic Party.

Open Sky applauds the generous support from its many event sponsors, including VIP reception sponsors Webster Five and 401k Quote. Connor Hayden, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner at Compass Health Network, and Danielle Spring, Co-owner of Femme Bar in Worcester, emceed the Gala.

About Open Sky Community Services

Open Sky Community Services is a 501(c)3 non-profit agency based in Worcester that has been helping individuals in our community achieve more than they imagined possible for over 50 years. The agency provides a wide range of services throughout Central Massachusetts for children, adults and families with mental health challenges, intellectual and developmental disabilities, substance use disorders, brain injury, homelessness and other complex challenges. Open Sky Community Services has more than 1,300 dedicated employees and nearly 150 programs throughout the region, supporting more than 8,000 individuals annually. Open Sky is committed to equity and belonging and promotes a trauma-informed, whole-person care culture. For more information, please visit www.openskycs.org.

United Church of Christ Federated announces Father's Day brunch and concert

WEBSTER — The United Church of Christ is thrilled to announce its upcoming community-wide Father's Day Celebration, taking place on Saturday,

June 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This event aims to honor, uplift, and celebrate the positive impact of fathers, grandfathers, father-figures, and male

mentors. "Fatherhood is a precious and important calling, and we believe it is vitally important to pause and rec-

ognize the men who guide our families and strengthen our community," said Pastor Sabina Terrades.

food, and fellowship," says Rev. Terrades.

A \$10 donation is welcomed to cover the cost of the event and benefit our ministries. Children 5 and under eat for free!

An all-you-can eat brunch buffet of pancakes, sausages, eggs, bagels, home fries, homemade baked beans, assorted pastries, and fruit salad will be served. Guests will also be serenaded by the Pulaski Brass Band!

"Whether you're a dad, a dad-figure, a mentor, or simply looking for a welcoming place to celebrate the holiday, we invite the entire community to join us for a time of gratitude, great

The United Church of Christ Federated is located at 4 Church Street, across from Town Hall, 508-943-0061, uccfedwebster.org.



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SUMMER EATS

OBITUARIES

Marjorie Lucille Sanford, 83



Marjorie Sanford Passed away Saturday May 30, 2026 at the age of 83.

Marjorie was born in Charlton Ma to Donald and Arlene Burlingame. She lived her life in the surrounding towns until

2009 when she moved to New Port Richey FL.

Life was not easy for Margie. She was a single Mom and worked many jobs over the years to provide for her family.

Her most enjoyable was at Superior Cake where she would bring home chocolate eclairs for her family to enjoy.

She moved on helping the world to see at Gentex Optics until 1998. She always wished she could work, never quite enjoying her retirement to the fullest.

Marjorie would never ask for help but was the first one to offer it when needed.

Summer months you would find her with her toes in the sand and the sun on her face surrounded by friends and loved ones. Everyone has a memory of being at the Beach with her. Some of the best days were spent at East Matunuck in RI or Lake Chagogaggogmanchaug-gaggaggchaubunagungamaugg in Webster MA.

She loved smelling the flowers and smoking them too. She was amazed on her first trip to a dispensary and her second and

her third. Then she had to go home, that was a very sad day for her.

She loved music, Country and classic being her favorites. She was no stranger to the dance floor.

She loved decorating for the holidays and singing Christmas carols.

Margie loved going out to eat but also enjoyed cooking, preparing everyone's favorites. She made the BEST fudge, Apple pie, and the family's traditional baked bean recipe.

She was a member of the Red Hat Society and enjoyed many afternoon lunches with the ladies.

She leaves many loved ones behind brokenhearted. Her Husband of 31 years Kenneth Sanford, their fur baby Benny. A Son Kevin Kozlowski and his wife Carmella. A daughter Holly Slauenwhite and her husband Jason. A Stepdaughter Kim Walker. Nine grandchildren Tonya, Kyle, Kayla, Jenson, Caza, Kenzie, Brandie, Megan, Brendan and 7 great grandchildren. Two Sisters Joan Cobb, Amy Catron and her husband William. Many Nieces and Nephews.

She lost many loved ones in her life. Her son Scott Kozlowski, Two step-sons Kenny and Kyle Sanford, Four brothers Kenny, Donald, Earl, Douglas & two sisters Dolly and Dolores.

Margie was treasured, and will be missed by all.

Services will be private.

Library program celebrates New England's maritime heritage

WEBSTER — The Gladys E Kelly Public Library will celebrate the diverse maritime heritage of New England Coastal Region by presenting a performance by Parents' Choice Award winning storyteller Davis Bates.

Entitled "Sea Songs & Stories: From Shore to Deep Water," the program will involve the audience in a variety of cultural traditions. It will include ghost ballads & sea chanteys, Native American stories, folk tales and family tales. There will be plenty of sing-alongs, and even a short lesson in how to play music with spoons from a kitchen drawer.

Pete Seeger called Davis "thoughtful, creative, human, and a fantastic storyteller." Davis' traditional and participatory performance style empowers

and encourages audiences of all ages to join in the fun, and to take the songs and stories home with them to share with others. He also encourages listeners to remember and share stories and songs from their own family and cultural traditions.

Davis Bates has been singing and sharing stories for over forty-seven years, in schools, libraries, colleges and community settings around New England and across the country. His recording of Family Stories won a Parent's Choice Gold Award and was named one of the year's best Audio Recordings by Booklist Magazine. Davis has also served as director and consultant for several local and regional oral history and folk arts projects. Davis lives in the village of Shelburne Falls, and when

he isn't collecting or learning stories, he spends his time gardening and working with the Clapping Hands Farm Arts Camp in North Carolina and volunteering with the Family Table Collaborative on Cape Cod.

The performance will take place at the Gladys E Kelly Public Library on Thursday, June 25 at 6:30 p.m. Be sure not to miss this wonderful program of traditional interactive entertainment celebrating the magic and power of the sea. This program is funded, in part, by a grant from the Webster Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and by the Friends of the Gladys E Kelly Public Library. For information, please call (508) 949-3880.

How to Submit an Obituary

Guidance in Your Time of Need.

Posting an obituary is a meaningful way to honor the life of someone who has passed, share the loss with the community, and support the grieving process. It celebrates their life, family, memories, and accomplishments while bringing people together in remembrance. An obituary also helps loved ones find comfort and closure during a difficult time preserves the individual's story as an important part of the family's history and legacy.

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Please note this price is per newspaper.

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Abigail Alicandro named to Western New England University President's List

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University (WNE) is proud to recognize Abigail Alicandro of North Oxford as one of nearly 600 students who have earned a place on the Spring 2026 President's List, one of the University's highest academic honors.

This year, the President's List celebrates 597 students who have achieved exceptional academic success through their dedication, discipline, and pursuit of excellence by earning a GPA of 3.80 or higher, while the Dean's List honors students who earned a semester GPA of 3.30 or higher. Their accomplishments reflect a strong commitment to learning and exemplify the high standards of achievement that define the Western New England University community.

WNE congratulates these outstanding students on their remarkable academic performance and applauds their continued pursuit of excellence.

Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, compre-

hensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield, Massachusetts as a division of Northeastern College, WNE's 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,500 students, including over 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 50,000 alumni have earned degrees through its more than 90 undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 26 U.S. states and territories and countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30% remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut.

WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

Assumption students named to Spring Dean's List

WORCESTER — Assumption University has announced those who have been named to the University's Dean's List for the spring 2026 semester. Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on this prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters.

Logan Alexander of Auburn
Jay Beaudet of Auburn
James Deneault of Auburn
Owen Fitzgerald of Auburn
Emma Gilmore of Auburn
Hannah Murray of Auburn
Katie Paulino of Auburn
Olivia Salem of Auburn
Jordan Tatro of Auburn
Ashley Wilbur of Auburn
Isabella DiReda of Oxford
Benjamin Duquette of Webster
Daniel Gronck of Oxford
Deana Korkidis of Oxford

Vanessa Piwowarczyk of Webster
Abigail Ruda of Dudley
Annabella Tran of Webster
Charlotte Worster of Oxford
About Assumption University
Assumption University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is a premier New England university for high-quality education, integrating career preparation and education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and centuries-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption's graduates are known for their intellectual seriousness, thoughtful citizenship, and devotion to the common good. The University offers 37 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, nursing, professional studies, and other areas, as well as graduate degrees and professional credentials. For more information about Assumption University, please visit assumption.edu or follow us @AssumptionUMA.

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Spring Dean's List announced at Stonehill College

EASTON — Stonehill College is pleased to recognize the students named to the Spring 2026 Dean's List. To qualify for this honor, undergraduate students must have achieved a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher with

a minimum of 12 credits from courses graded with standard letter grades.

Remonda Mankarios of Dudley
Matthew Anderson of Webster
Briana Reidy of Auburn
Sarah Dawson of Auburn

About Stonehill College Stonehill College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1948. Located on the beautiful 387-acre campus and former estate of Frederick Lothrop

Ames in North Easton, Massachusetts, it is a community of scholarship and faith, anchored by a belief in the inherent dignity of each person.

Through more than 100 academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, busi-

ness and pre-professional fields, Stonehill College provides an education of the highest caliber that fosters critical thinking, free inquiry and the interchange of ideas for over 2,500 students.

Stonehill College edu-

cates the whole person so that each Stonehill graduate thinks, acts and leads with courage toward the creation of a more just and compassionate world.

LEGALS

Request for Proposals

The Worcester Community Action Council, Inc.'s (WCAC) Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program (DOEWAP) is currently accepting proposals for the following activities:

Full Service Residential Weatherization Contractors:

including cellulose/fiberglass insulation, blower door assisted air sealing, general carpentry

and energy efficiency related repairs and window installation, asbestos, mold and mildew remediation,

Electrical Contractors:

Knob and Tube Wiring inspection and mitigation, bath fan/whole house fan installation.

To obtain a procurement package, please contact the Energy Department at Worcester Community Action Council, Inc., 18 Chestnut Street, Worcester MA 01608-1810. Inquiries may be made by calling Elizabeth C. at (508) 754.1176 x 116.

Completed packages must be received at WCAC Inc., no later than 4:00 pm on Tuesday, June 30th, 2026.

This advertisement is subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of the Request for Proposals.

Small, women, and minority owned businesses and individuals are encouraged to apply.

WCAC is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

Marybeth Campbell, Chief Executive Officer, WCAC

June 5, 2026

June 12, 2026

June 19, 2026

Notice is hereby given by: Precision Auto Rebuilders, Inc., 243 W Main St, Dudley, MA 01571 pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39 A that on June 26, 2026 at 5PM at: Precision Auto Rebuilders, Inc., 243 W Main St, Dudley, MA 01571, the following motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles:

Description of vehicles:

Vehicle: 2001 Nissan Pathfinder

VIN# JN8DR07X31W503163

Owner: Pedro Ponce Cirilo 813 Locust St Fall River MA 02720

This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. c.225, Section 39 A

June 5, 2026

June 12, 2026

June 19, 2026

Important Information about Your Drinking Water

Availability of 2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for Dudley Water Department

As required by US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), our water system has completed the 2025 Annual Consumer Awareness Report for the Dudley Water Department. A copy of the report is available on our website at: www.dudleyma.gov/wp-content/uploads/consumer.pdf

What should I do?

You do not have to do anything but as our customers you have a right to know that this information is available. You may share this information with other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, food establishments, medical facilities and businesses).

For more information

For additional information on your water and the 2025 Consumer Awareness Report (a.k.a. the Consumer Confidence Report) see the contact information below.

For information on Consumer Confidence Reports, visit the MassDEP website

(<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/>

massdep/water/drinking/ccr-frequently-askedquestions.html).

If you want to speak with someone at the Dudley Water Department about the report, please contact George Patrinos at 508-949-8007 or by mail at Dudley Water Department, 71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA, 01571.

This notice is being sent to you by: Dudley Water Department

PWS ID#: 2080000

June 12, 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. W023P2678EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FOR ALLOWANCE OF ACCOUNT In the matter of: Robert John Miller Date of Death: 07/19/2023

To all interested persons:

A Petition has been filed by: **Christine M. Jacob of Webster MA** requesting that the court authorize therequesting allowance of the first and final account(s) as Personal Representative and any other relief as requested in the Petition.

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 **06/23/026**. 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.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: May 26, 2026

Stephanie Fatman,

Register of Probate

June 12, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 10 Sutton Avenue, Oxford, MA 01540

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Marco Pacheco and Renee Pacheco to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for First Eastern Mortgage Corporation, and now held by **Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC**, said mortgage dated October 8, 2010 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 46452, Page 308, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for First Eastern Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association by assignment dated March 21, 2017 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 56886, Page 380; said mortgage was assigned from JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by assignment dated November 2, 2023 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 69841, Page 201; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on June 29, 2026 at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in said Oxford, with the buildings thereon, situated on the north side of Sutton Avenue, containing about thirty one (31) square rods, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the southwest corner of said tract at land formerly of one Savery; THENCE northwesterly by said Savery land nine (9) rods to a stake and land now or formerly of one Toomey; THENCE easterly by land of said Toomey

three and one-half (3 1/2) rods to a stake at land formerly of Henry J. Clarke; THENCE by said Clarke land southerly nine (9) rods to said avenue; THENCE westerly by said avenue three and one half (3 1/2) rods to the point of beginning. Said premises are conveyed subject to rights of way of record.

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 July 28, 2010 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 46452, Page 306.

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 Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
May 29, 2026
June 5, 2026
June 12, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 8 Day Lane, Webster, MA 01570

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Bruce Fortin to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Lendia, Inc., and now held by **U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust**, said mortgage dated February 15, 2007 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40680, Page 85, as affected by a Judgment dated June 27, 2019 and recorded at said Registry in Book 60655, Page 248; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to Federal National Mortgage Association by assignment dated March 11, 2008 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 42569, Page 373 as affected by a Confirmatory Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to Federal National Mortgage Association dated February 23, 2009 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 43917, Page 362; said mortgage was assigned from Federal National Mortgage Association to Nationstar Mortgage, LLC by assignment dated July 19, 2010 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 46062, Page 240; said mortgage was assigned from Nationstar Mortgage LLC to Federal National Mortgage Association by void foreclosure deed dated April 30, 2012 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 48983, Page 289; said mortgage was assigned from Nationstar Mortgage LLC to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust by assignment dated March 15, 2023 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 69252, Page 92; said mortgage was assigned from Federal National Mortgage Association to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust by assignment dated April 14, 2026 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 73457, Page 63;

for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on July 9, 2026 at 09:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

Exhibit A

A certain tract of land, together with the buildings thereon and all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated in Webster, County of Worcester, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, more particularly described in a deed dated May 25, 2006 and recorded on December 21, 2006 at the Worcester Registry of Deeds in Book 40384, Page 334.

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 February 15, 2007 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40680, Page 83.

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 U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
June 5, 2026
June 12, 2026
June 19, 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. INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

Estate Of:

RAYMOND M ANDROLEWICZ Date of Death: MARCH 16, 2026

To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **CHRISTOPHER R. ANDROLEWICZ of BROOKFIELD MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

CHRISTOPHER R. ANDROLEWICZ of BROOKFIELD 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.

May 15, 2026

For Legal Advertising Information, Call 508-909-4127

email: legals@stonebridgepress.news

Dudley Water Department 2025 Consumer Awareness Report Public Water Supply ID # 2080000

We are pleased to present to you, our customers, the Dudley Water Department's 2025 Consumer Awareness Report. The report provides our 2025 testing results, reminders about water conservation and source protection, and an overview of our efforts in 2025 to deliver high-quality drinking water to more than 8,000 people in the town. The Dudley Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street, Room 315. The Water Department meetings are open to the public and all are invited to attend. If you have an item to be brought before the Board, please call 508-949-8007 the Thursday before the meeting to be placed on the agenda.

Your Drinking Water Sources

The Town of Dudley's water system includes three groundwater supplies and pumping stations, two water storage tanks and 35 miles of water main. Presently three pumping stations have backup generators to supply water to customers in the event of power loss. The three groundwater supplies consist of two gravel packed wells and one gravel packed well field consisting of three sources.

- Station 1: Well 08G (formerly Well 01G) West Main Street - gravel well field
- Station 3: Well 03G & Well 07G Schofield Avenue - gravel packed well
- Station 6: Well 06G New Boston Road – gravel packed well

The two storage facilities hold a combined 1.5 million gallons of water for daily use, emergencies and fire protection. During 2025, the Water Department supplied approximately 195,130,000 gallons of water, with a daily average of approximately 534,600 gallons. The Water Department provides disinfection to the water by adding sodium hypochlorite, a common drinking water treatment practice, at all three of the sources following the approval by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). Treatment for the removal of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) is also provided.

Contaminants and Health Risks

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and MassDEP prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contamination. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Contaminants in Source Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial Contaminants** - such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic Contaminants** - such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- **Pesticides and Herbicides** - which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic Chemical Contaminants** - including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive Contaminants** - which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining

Other Important Health Information

Lead: If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for people who are pregnant and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Dudley Water Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Sodium: Sodium-sensitive individuals, such as those experiencing hypertension, kidney failure, or congestive heart failure, who drink water containing sodium, should be aware of levels where exposures are being carefully controlled.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS): Some people who drink water containing these PFAS in excess of the MCL may experience certain adverse effects. These could include effects on the liver, blood, immune system, thyroid, and fetal development. These PFAS may also elevate the risk of certain cancers.

Immune-compromised Persons: Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking water. EPA/Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infections by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Water Quality Monitoring

The Federal and State governments require regular testing of all public water supplies. Monitoring for bacteria is done once per month. Tests for other contaminants are conducted less frequently, according to the sample schedule provided by MassDEP. The Town of Dudley Water Department complies with all these mandates to ensure the highest quality of drinking water possible.

Important Definitions – understanding this report

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Massachusetts Maximum Contaminant Level (MMCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in Massachusetts drinking water. MMCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant (chlorine) allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.
- **90th Percentile:** The level that determines lead and copper compliance; 9 out of 10 homes were at or below this level.
- **Units of Measurement:**
 - ppm - parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
 - ppb - parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)
 - ppt – parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
 - pCi/L – Pico-curies per liter, a measurement of radioactivity
 - ND - Not detected, the contaminant value measured was not above the detection level of the test method
- **Unregulated Contaminants:** Contaminants for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether further regulation is warranted.
- **Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL):** These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

- **Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
- **Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG):** This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse non-cancer health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

2025CCR Water Quality Data Tables

The following water quality test results were from water quality sampling performed during 2025 or during the most recent monitoring period for each contaminant group, as required by MassDEP. Only the detected contaminants are shown below.

Lead and Copper	Dates Collected	90 th Percentile	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	Exceeds AL (Y/N)	# of Sites Sampled	# of Sites above AL	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	April 2025	1.8	15	0	N	40	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper (ppm)	April 2025	0.38	1.3	0	N	40	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Bacteria	Highest # of Positive Samples in a Month	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source
Total Coliform and E. coli (monthly)	3*	0	0	N	Human and animal fecal wastes

* Follow-up samples were negative

MassDEP Regulated Organic Contaminants	Date Collected	Highest Detect	Range Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source
Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances – PFAS6* (ppt) (MassDEP Regulated)	Monthly	<2.0	<2	DEP 20	0	No	Discharges and emissions from industrial and manufacturing sources associated with the production or use of these PFAS, including production of moisture and oil resistant coatings on fabrics and other materials. Additional sources include the use and disposal of products containing these PFAS, such as fire-fighting foams.
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid- PFOA (ppt) (MassDEP & EPA Regulated)	Monthly	0.16	<2.0 - 0.16	DEP 20 EPA 4	0	No	Discharges and emissions from industrial and manufacturing sources associated with the production or use of these PFAS, including production of moisture and oil resistant coatings on fabrics and other materials. Additional sources include the use and disposal of products containing these PFAS, such as fire-fighting foams.
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid- PFBS (ppt) (MassDEP & EPA Regulated)	Monthly	<2.0	<2.0	DEP 20 EPA 4	0	No	Surfactant or emulsifier, used in fire-fighting foam, circuit board etching acids, alkaline cleaners, floor polish, and as a pesticide active ingredient for insect bait traps; U.S. manufacture of PFOS phased out in 2002; however, PFOS still generated incidentally
Perfluorononanoic Acid- PFNA (ppt) (MassDEP & EPA Regulated)	Monthly	<2.0	<2.0	DEP 20 EPA 10	0	No	Manmade chemical; used in the production of fluoropolymers; also used in aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) for fire suppression.

MassDEP Regulated Organic Contaminants	Date Collected	Highest Detect	Range Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source
Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid- PFHxS (ppt) (MassDEP & EPA Regulated)	Monthly	<2.0	<2.0	DEP 20 EPA 10	0	No	Manmade chemical; used as a surfactant to make fluoropolymers, in water- and stain-protective coatings for carpets, paper, and textiles in consumer products, such as food-contact papers, water-proofing agents, cleaning and polishing products and in firefighting foams; also an impurity from industrial production processes
Perfluorohexanoic Acid- PFHxA (ppt) (MassDEP Regulated)	Monthly	<2.0	<2.0	20	0	No	Manmade chemical; used in products to make them stain, grease, heat, and water resistant
Perfluorodecanoic acid- PFDA (ppt) (MassDEP Regulated)	Monthly	<2.0	<2.0	20	0	No	Manmade chemical; used in stain and grease-proof coatings on food packaging, furniture, upholstery, and carpet and as a lubricant; also used as a wetting agent, plasticizer, and corrosion inhibitor
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid – PFBS (ng/L) (EPA Regulated)	Monthly	<2.0	<2.0	2,000	0	No	Discharges and emissions from industrial and manufacturing sources associated with the production or use of these PFAS, including production of moisture and oil resistant coatings on fabrics and other materials. Additional sources include the use and disposal of products containing these PFAS, such as fire-fighting foams.
Hexafluoropropylene Oxide Dimer Acid – HFPO-DA/Gen X (ng/L) (EPA Regulated)	Monthly	<2.0	<2.0	10	0	No	Discharges and emissions from industrial and manufacturing sources associated with the production or use of these PFAS, including production of moisture and oil resistant coatings on fabrics and other materials. Additional sources include the use and disposal of products containing these PFAS, such as fire-fighting foams.
PFAS Hazard Index: $\sum (PFNA \times 10 \text{ ppt}) + (PFHxS \times 10 \text{ ppt}) + (\text{Gen X} \times 10 \text{ ppt}) + (PFBS \times 2,000 \text{ ppt}) =$ $\geq 1 =$ non-compliance $< 1 =$ compliance (unless) (EPA Regulated)	Monthly	HI<1	HI<1	HI<1	0	No	Discharges and emissions from industrial and manufacturing sources associated with the production or use of these PFAS, including production of moisture and oil resistant coatings on fabrics and other materials. Additional sources include the use and disposal of products containing these PFAS, such as fire-fighting foams.

* MCL is a Massachusetts-specific contaminant level and is based on a quarterly average.

* PFAS6 compounds are regulated in Massachusetts under a Massachusetts Maximum Contaminant Level.

* EPA MCL for PFAS was issued on April 10, 2024, and goes into effect in 2029.

** HI = Hazard Index

Inorganic Contaminants	Date Collected	Highest Detect	Range Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source
Arsenic (ppm)	04/03/25	<1	<1	0.010	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	04/04/24	0.018	0.011–0.018	2	2	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	04/04/24 05/15/24	0.067	0.05 – 0.067	4	4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nickel (ppm)	05/15/24	0.011	0.011	-	0.1	N	Naturally occurring; used in electroplating, stainless steel and alloy products, and industrial discharges.
Nitrate (ppm)	04/03/25	1.5	0.9 – 1.5	10	10	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits
Perchlorate (ppb)	04/03/2025	0.18	0.11 – 0.18	2	N/A	N	Rocket propellants, fireworks, munitions, flares, blasting agents

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Date Collected	Highest Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source
Total Trihalomethanes (THM) (ppb)	08/11/25	5.6	<0.5 – 5.6	80	N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination for disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	08/14/25	3.55	<1 – 3.55	60	N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination for disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	Monthly in 2025	0.48	0.34 – 0.82	4	N	Water Additive used to control microorganisms

Radionuclides	Date Collected	Highest Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	01/09/25	<2.77	<2.77	15	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 (pCi/L)	01/09/25	<0.97	<0.97	5	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	01/09/25	<0.776	<0.776	5	N	Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated and Secondary Contaminants	Date Collected	Highest Detected	Average Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source
Iron (ppm)	04/05/25	0.18	0.06	0.3	0.3	Use of water containing iron at concentrations above the secondary MCL may result in aesthetic issues including the staining of laundry and plumbing fixtures and water with an unpleasant metallic taste and rusty odor.
Manganese (ppm)	04/05/25	0.01	0.011	0.05	0.3	Erosion of natural deposits
Perfluorohexanoic Acid – PFHxA (ppt)	Monthly	<2.0	<2.0	-	0	Manmade chemical; breakdown product of stain- and grease-proof coatings on food packaging and household products.
Sulfate (ppm)	05/14/2018	10	8.2	250	--	Natural sources
Sodium (ppm)	04/04/24 05/15/24	39	26.25	--	20	Natural sources; runoff from road salt

Most of the data presented in the above tables are from testing performed between January 1 - December 31, 2025. We monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations for those contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. As a result, some of our data, though representative, is more than a year old. For those contaminants, the date of the last sample is shown in the table.

Compliance in 2025

We are committed to providing you with the highest quality drinking water available. As part of this commitment, we routinely monitor for the presence of contaminants to ensure the safety of the water supply. On July 14, 2025, we were notified that water three samples collected from the water system tested positive for total coliform bacteria and negative for E. coli. As required, follow-up samples were collected from the original sample locations, as well as additional upstream and downstream samples. All of the follow-up samples were bacteria free, indicating the initial results were false positives. None of these events was considered a violation of the drinking water regulations or the water quality standards. These false positive results can occur for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to improper sampling techniques or sample handling, issues with the bottles supplied by the laboratory, and/or improper handling by the laboratory.

On October 2, 2020, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) promulgated a drinking water regulation and Massachusetts Maximum Contaminant Level (MMCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (a.k.a. PFAS6). Testing of the Dudley Water System in 2020 identified elevated levels of PFAS6 in the drinking water samples collected from Station 3 (Well 03G). Since that time the Dudley Water Department took steps to minimize the PFAS concentrations in the water system, including blending sources and installing temporary treatment equipment and Station 3 (Well 03G & Well 07G). Recently the Water Department completed the construction of a permanent PFAS water treatment facility at Station 6 (Well 06G) to treat all of the sources.

On April 10, 2024 the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for the group of PFAS compounds listed in the tables above. Compliance with the EPA MCL is determined by a Running Annual Average. Public Water Systems have three years to complete initial monitoring (2027) and five years to meet the water quality standards (2029). As noted above, the Dudley Water Department will be treating all of the water in the system for PFAS in 2024. We are required to provide you with these materials to make you aware of PFAS so you can make informed decisions about your drinking water. More information on the PFAS in drinking water is available at the following websites: EPA (<https://www.epa.gov/pfas>) MassDEP (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>) Dudley Water/Sewer (<https://dudleyma.gov/departments/water-and-sewer/>)

Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program

We are all concerned about the quality of the water we drink. Drinking water wells may be threatened by many potential contaminant sources, including storm runoff, road salting, and improper disposal of hazardous materials. Dudley citizens and our local officials can work together to better protect our drinking water sources. The MassDEP completed the Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) report for the Dudley Water Department. The complete report is available at the Water Department or online at www.mass.gov/departments/water-drinking/2080000.pdf. The SWAP report contains important information on land uses and potential threats within the protected areas of our wells. Dudley's susceptibility ranking was determined by

MassDEP to be *High*, which means we need to be extra vigilant in monitoring or restricting activities that might contaminate our water supply.

Dudley was advised to 1) inspect the Zone I(s) regularly and, when feasible, remove any non-water supply activities; 2) educate residents on ways they can help protect drinking water; 3) work with emergency response teams to ensure they are aware of the stormwater drainage in our Zone II(s) and to cooperate on responding to spills or accidents; 4) partner with local businesses to ensure the proper storage, handling, and disposal of hazardous materials; 5) monitor progress on any ongoing remedial action for known oil or contamination sites in the Zone II; and 6) implement a wellhead protection plan.

The Dudley Water Department has been commended by MassDEP for taking an active role in promoting source protection measures in our Water Supply Protection areas. Citizens can also help protect our water supply by proper maintenance of septic systems. You can help by pumping out your septic system every two years, and do not use septic system cleaners. Never dump hazardous substances down septic or storm drains. For additional information or to offer suggestions or ideas to generate public awareness, please call the Water Department office at 508-949-8007, the shop at 508-949-8038, or stop by the office at the Town Hall, 71 West Main St., Room 305.

Water Conservation

The Water Department encourages efficient use of water to ensure an adequate supply for the future. Good practices include using water efficient fixtures and appliances (toilets, showerheads, washing machines & dishwashers), repairing leaky faucets and toilets, and watering lawns early in the morning or late in the evening when evaporation rates are the lowest and only when needed. Reducing water use will also serve to reduce your water and sewer bills. Another excellent way to save water is through the practice of using "low water use plants" and limiting lawn size.

In 2020, a Water Use Restriction By-Law was adopted at the Spring Annual Town Meeting. The Board of Water Commissioners also amended the new service regulations, which prohibit the use of automatic lawn irrigation systems. If you would like more information on water conservation, please call or visit the Water Department Office located at the Town Hall.

Water Use Restrictions

Standard drought monitoring and permitted withdrawal limits were followed in 2025. No additional Water Use Restrictions were imposed by the Dudley Water Department. If you need more information on this topic, please visit the town's website at www.dudleyma.gov.

What's New

Water system improvements made in 2025 include: A town-wide leak detection survey was conducted on the water distribution system to reduce unaccounted for water by identifying water leaks. As a result, several repairs were made to leaking service connections, water mains, and hydrants; New efficient chemical feed pumps were installed at the water treatment plant and plumbing modifications were made to address air issues in the plant; A number of malfunctioning water meters were replaced; The Dudley Water Department has initiated a town-wide water resources study to identify additional water sources beyond those that have served the Town to date. As part of this study, the Groundwater (Aquifer) Protection Overlay District Map adopted in 2022, was updated to protect areas identified during this study that could support future water sources for the Town.

Residential Cross Connection Protection

A cross connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a polluted source. The pollution can come from your own home. For instance, if you want to spray fertilizer on your lawn, you might hook up your hose to the sprayer that contains the fertilizer. If the water pressure drops (say because of fire hydrant use in the town) while the hose is connected to the fertilizer, the fertilizer may be sucked back into the drinking water pipes through the hose. Using an attachment on your hose called a backflow-prevention device can prevent this problem.

The Water Department recommends the installation of backflow-prevention devices, such as low-cost hose bib vacuum breakers, for all inside and outside hose connections. You can purchase them at a hardware store or plumbing supply store. This is a great way for you to help protect the water in your home as well as the drinking water system in our town. For additional information on cross connections and on the status of Dudley's cross connection program, please call.

Contact Us

If you have any questions about this report or if you'd like additional copies, please contact Administrative Assistant, Jennifer Cournoyer by calling 508-949-8007 or by email watersewer@dudleyma.gov, or Water Superintendent, George Patrinos at the shop at 508-949-8038. After hours: If there is an emergency, please contact the Dudley Police Department at 508-943-4411.

GRADUATION

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included Noah Beaudette, Kallie Fales, Samantha Gardner, Maggie Keegan, Dominic Kistner, Caleb Latino, Gianna Monticelli, Benjamin Mukuha, Connor Shelburne, and Alanna Yelu-Attigah.

Following the presentation of diplomas, school leaders recognized the graduates for their hard work, dedication, leadership, and commitment to living out the values of the Catholic faith. During their time at All Saints Academy, students not only grew academically but also developed qualities of kindness, compassion, service, and respect for others.

The ceremony continued with special recognition of students who exemplified excellence in academics, leadership, service, and

character.

The Bishop Daniel P. Reilly Book Award, established by the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Worcester, is presented annually to a student who best exemplifies the bishop's motto, "In Kindness and in Truth," while demonstrating duty, honor, sacrifice, and accomplishment within the school community. This year's recipient, Alanna Yelu-Attigah, was recognized for her enthusiasm for learning and her commitment to serving her school, church, and community.

The Pearson Memorial Scholarship honors the memory of Deborah Pearson and her dedication to enhancing the quality of life and education of students. Awarded to an outstanding eighth-grade student continuing at a private secondary school, the scholarship recognizes

achievement and a commitment to excellence. This year's recipient was Kallie Fales.

The All Saints Academy Award recognizes students who demonstrate outstanding effort, responsibility, honesty, maturity, positive peer relationships, service, and dedication to the school community. This year's recipients, Samantha Gardner and Connor Shelburne, were honored for their commitment to the mission and values of All Saints Academy.

Throughout their years together, the Class of 2026 shared many meaningful experiences, including classroom learning, school activities, service opportunities, prayer, and celebrations. Faculty members noted the strong bonds of friendship formed among classmates and the support they offered one another through both successes and

challenges.

A heartfelt portion of the ceremony was dedicated to the families who supported the graduates throughout their journey. Members of the class shared personal messages of gratitude, thanking parents, grandparents, siblings, and loved ones for their sacrifices, encouragement, and unwavering support. Their reflections highlighted the essential role families played in helping them grow both academically and personally.

The school also expressed its deep appreciation to the parents, families, teachers, staff, and parish community whose guidance and encouragement helped shape the students into confident, faith-filled young adults.

In her address, Mrs. Matys reflected on the Franciscan Jubilee Year, commemorating 800

years since the passing of St. Francis of Assisi, and encouraged students to follow his example by living with humility, courage, and a deep love for God's creation.

She reminded graduates that true peace is not simply a feeling but a way of life.

Quoting Pope Leo XIV, she shared, "Peace is not a formula of courtesy, but the certain proclamation of Christ's victory over death." She challenged students to become peacemakers in their communities by making choices rooted in kindness, compassion, and faith.

Each graduate then received a special keepsake - a St. Francis prayer coin and prayer card - as a reminder of their connection to God, the beauty of creation, and their responsibility to care for others and the world around them. Students were encouraged

to be "bridge-builders" who listen, include others, and lead with kindness and integrity, echoing Pope Leo XIV's call to "build bridges where the world raises up boundaries."

As they move on to high school, these graduates leave All Saints Academy with a strong foundation of faith, knowledge, and character. The school community wishes them continued success and God's blessings as they pursue their dreams, embrace new opportunities, and serve as peacemakers in the spirit of St. Francis.

Congratulations to the Class of 2026 and its award recipients. Their accomplishments reflect not only their hard work, perseverance, and faith, but also the steadfast support of the families, teachers, and community members who have accompanied them along the way.

TRUST

continued from page A1

Fund by the Greater Worcester Community Foundation. It was designed and developed by Habby Design Co.

As you may remember, we concluded a busy year in 2025 with a generous gift from the Perron family, which included a historic dwelling and barn, along

with the purchase of an adjoining lot. This property connects DCLT's Slater Woods and Mass Audubon's Pierpont Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary across Dudley Oxford Road. Our vision for these structures is to transform them into a future headquarters and storage facility for our stewardship equipment. With support from grants provided by the Janet Malser Humanities Trust and Preservation Massachusetts,

in partnership with The 1772 Foundation, we plan to replace the barn roof and begin renovations on the 1830s-era house this year.

Mark your calendars for June 13, as we will officially celebrate our new Perron House on Dudley Oxford Road! Join us to meet the donors, Lou Perron, and his sisters, Julie Perron and Susan Lyman. The Board will share updates on this and other ongoing projects at DCLT, and

will be available to address any questions from the public. Enjoy light refreshments, connect with like-minded local conservators, and take a peek at our new home!

Sign-up for the event will be available on our new website's Events Calendar page. Stay tuned for more updates on our next sanctuary...

Questions? Contact us at DudleyConservationLandTrust@gmail.com or check our website

at www.dudleyclt.org for the latest developments. We look forward to the positive impact these enhancements will have on our conservation efforts. Your support and engagement are invaluable to us as we work to fulfill our mission. Whether you're a seasoned nature enthusiast or new to conservation, there's a place for you at DCLT.

MAKE-A-WISH

continued from page A1

els. He ran seven marathons, on seven continents, in seven days in The Great World Race. As if that weren't impressive enough, Murphy raised nearly \$300,000 for the organization through that effort, funding the wishes of 24 children.

Over his years of giving, the mission has been very personal to Murphy. He has involved his own children in his fundraising efforts, and he has formed bonds

with many of the wish recipients whose wishes he's helped grant.

That includes Julio Varella, from Grafton, whose wish for tuition assistance for his freshman year at UMASS Amherst was granted in 2023. Varella was on-hand last fall to surprise Murphy as guest presenter of the Wish Champion Award to Murphy at the Wish Night in The Woo fundraiser hosted in Worcester by Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

It also includes Bethany

Parke of Rochdale, who traveled to Walt Disney World® Resort in 2017 for her wish. Parke first met Murphy when, due to an injury, he crutched 26.2 miles on the track at Worcester State University to fulfill his commitment as a member of Team Make-A-Wish for the Boston Marathon. In 2024, Parke ran the final mile of the Great World Race with Murphy, and was inspired to begin training as a runner. Murphy helped Parke train to run the Falmouth Road Race for Team Make-A-Wish.

"Bill's phenomenal support of our

wish children reflects his relentless belief in hope and possibility, which are both also central to the Make-A-Wish mission," says Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island CEO Sean Holleran. "We are incredibly grateful to him for his unparalleled generosity, which sets an inspiring example for our community of supporters."

Murphy, a mortgage industry professional and best-selling author of "Thriving in the Storm: Nine Principles to Help You Overcome Any Adversity," is always looking for his next challenge and his next way to give back. He sees no limit to

his support for Make-A-Wish and is determined to keep that total growing to advance the charity's vision to grant the wish of every eligible local child.

"Make-A-Wish doesn't just grant wishes. It gives families something to hold onto during the hardest seasons of their lives. That ripple effect is real, and I've felt it in ways I never anticipated. But the work isn't done," asserts Murphy. "A million dollars is a chapter, not the ending. There are more kids. More families. More wishes waiting to be made real. And there is so much more awareness to raise about what this orga-

nization actually does and the profound impact it creates. If you've already been part of this journey — thank you, from the bottom of my heart. If you've been on the sidelines and wondered how to get involved, now is the time. The way I see it, the next million starts today."

To learn more about Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island and opportunities to get involved in supporting the mission as the charity works to fulfill 130 wishes for local children this summer, visit www.massri.wish.org.



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church member Tom Boyd, Church Historian, and his team of specially trained docents, these 20-minute tours will reveal the fascinating story behind the windows' creation — and the remarkable connection between famed inventor Hezekiah Conant and the legendary Louis Comfort

Tiffany himself.

Come hear the rich history of Dudley, marvel at the breathtaking artistry of the windows, and be part of an exciting effort to help preserve these irreplaceable treasures for the Church's 300th anniversary in 2032!

Tours begin at 4 p.m.,

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REALTOR MLS # 73523347 \$5589,900

Webster - 18 DiDonato Ave
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THIS IS THE ONE: AN AFFORDABLE-ONE-LEVEL-MOVE-IN-READY-RANCH! Offers 980 SF+, 2 BRs, 1 Bath & partially finished walk-out LL Family Room. Situated on a 7,104 sf (0.16 Ac) level lot w/80' road frontage, a fenced backyard, & 2 CAR GARAGE! Conveniently located in East Village, just a short putt to shopping, restaurants & Webster Lake's Memorial Beach! 1st Time Offered
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Sprawling fieldstone faced Ranch! Located on a +/- 0.5-acre, 2 car garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 2 stone fireplaces FHW BB heat. Open floor plan kitchen, living rm, dining rm, breezeway w/sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom, hardwood & c-tile floors,
\$525,000

Webster - 24 Cooper Rd
New Construction - Craftsman Style home



Tucked away on Cooper Rd. Webster Lake with access at Lake-side beach/boat ramp. 3rd of 4 homes being built at this site. Offers 2,155 sq. ft +/- of living area, 7 rms, 4 brs, 3 1/2 baths, 9ft ceiling, wood flooring throughout with ceramic tile baths. Spacious main BR Suite w/ walk-in closet, and private full bath, double sink vanity, finished lower level walk-out w/ slider. Central AC, garage
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22 Union Point Snug Harbor Villa

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Webster Lake Waterfront!
On Indian Point # 10



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Webster Lake -
302 Killdeer Island



Lakefront home w/1,700+/- sq ft. Open kitchen/dining/living w/cathedral ceilings + wall of windows. Full baths. Lower level family room w/ walkout to water.
\$775,000

Webster Lake Waterfront -
31 Bayview!!



Panoramic View, from this absolutely lovely home. 2600 +/- SF 3+ Beds, 2 full baths, 2 car detached garage! 63' +/- waterfront. .37 Acres! Sandy Waterfront!
\$1,100,000



131 Pine Ave Sturbridge \$160,000

Welcome to Sturbridge Retirement Cooperative 55+ community. 2 bedroom 1 bath home built in 1985. Brand new propane furnace. Central Air, storage shed. Open floor plan, bright and sunny kitchen. Easy 1 level living centrally located only minutes to area markets, restaurants, shops and easy access to I-90, 84, 20. Monthly HOA includes water, sewer, trash, recycling, basic cable, land lease, taxes, road maintenance. Park share of \$25,000 NOT included in list price.



1 First Street Sturbridge \$150,000

Welcome to Sturbridge Retirement Cooperative 55+ community. 2 bedroom 1 bath home built in 1980. Spacious 3 season enclosed porch, oversized living area w/vaulted ceiling & wood burning fireplace. Newer windows throughout, mini splits for air conditioning. Open floor plan, kitchen with center island. Easy 1 level living centrally located only minutes to area markets, restaurants, shops and easy access to I-90, 84, 20. Monthly HOA includes water, sewer, trash, recycling, basic cable, land lease, taxes, road maintenance. Park share of \$25,000 NOT included in list price

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Webster resident Szymon Mamro receives BS/MS degree at WPI's 157th Commencement

WORCESTER — On Friday, May 15, Szymon Mamro, who majored in Computer Science, was bestowed a BS/MS degree at WPI's 157th Commencement. Nearly 1,200 undergraduate degrees were awarded during the ceremony.

WPI President Grace Wang and Board of Trustees Chair William Fitzgerald presided over the university's undergraduate Commencement exercises.

In her address, Wang reminded graduates that their WPI education has prepared them not only with technical expertise and ethical leadership skills, but with the resilience, critical thinking, teamwork, and global responsibility needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

"We stand at the dawn of a new technological age," said Wang. "There's a good chance you will do jobs that are yet to be invented. You will work in companies that are

yet to be established. You will address issues that are yet to be defined. This does not mean we should feel uncertain. This means everything can be questioned, and everything can be new. Never before has so much possibility existed to make the world better, the future brighter."

Delivering an inspiring undergraduate address was multiplatinum, Grammy Award-winning artist, tech founder, philanthropist, and STEAM education advocate will.i.am. Known globally for his groundbreaking work at the intersection of music, artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship, education, and through his i.am Angel Foundation, will.i.am challenged graduates to embrace creativity, innovation, and service as they forge their own paths.

"How intentional are you going to be with this technol-

ogy as you unearth tomorrow's industries?" asked will.i.am "Pick a problem, solve it. That solution is an industry. This is the time for imagination, and AI is not imagining. It's regurgitation of the human imagination. Turn that off."

As part of the undergraduate ceremony, honorary doctoral degrees were bestowed on will.i.am and Paul Covec '64, an entrepreneur and investor who has played a formative role in advancing technologies that have shaped modern industry.

This year's undergraduate student remarks were delivered by Mena Youssif, who received a bachelor of science in civil engineering. In his speech, "We Didn't See It Coming," he reflected on the pace of change in the world and the unexpected growth and personal changes students experienced.

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) is a top-tier, STEM-focused university with an R1 research classification and global leadership in project-based learning. Founded in 1865, WPI's distinctive approach integrates classroom theory with real-world practice, preparing students to tackle critical challenges through inclusive education, impactful projects, and interdisciplinary research. With more than 70 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments and more than 50 global project centers, WPI advances knowledge and innovation in fields such as life sciences, smart technologies, advanced materials and manufacturing, and global innovation. Learn more at www.wpi.edu.

Explore the world of adventure at Sea Scout Open House June 23

WEBSTER — Anchors aweigh! All adventure seekers, maritime enthusiasts, and young sailors-to-be are invited to join us at the Sea Scout Open House on Tuesday, June 23 from 4-8 p.m. at the Webster Sailing Association, 4 Bates Point Rd.

Hosted by Sea Scout Ship 1935, this event promises to be a thrilling voyage of discovery for all ages.

Sea Scouting is an exciting program that offers young individuals an opportunity to learn the skills and values necessary for a lifetime of water-based adventures, leadership, and community engagement. Our Open House is the perfect opportunity for families, potential Sea Scouts, and anyone interested in maritime adventures to learn more about what we have to offer. Sea Scouts

is a co-ed program for youths between 14 and 20 years of age.

Event Highlights:
Meet Our Crew: Speak with our Sea Scouts and adult leaders to learn about the program, its benefits, and opportunities.

knot tying
team building challenges
boat maintenance

Refreshments: Enjoy light refreshments and connect with fellow maritime enthusiasts.

Sea Scouts are known for their strong sense of camaraderie, leadership development, and a passion for all things aquatic. This open house is an excellent chance to witness this firsthand and understand how you or your child can embark on an adventure of a lifetime.

Admission to the Sea Scout Open House is free, and all are welcome. So, whether you're an experienced sailor or just

curious about the sea, mark your calendar for June 23 and come join us for an unforgettable evening of nautical exploration.

For more information, contact Dan Scotti, Skipper, Sea Scout Ship 1935, at his email address, dan.scotti@hnescouting.org.

Local student earns Dean's List recognition at Norwich University

NORTHFIELD, Vt. — Norwich University is pleased to announce that Maria Piekarczyk, of Dudley, has earned Dean's List honors for the Spring 2026 semester. Founded in 1819, Norwich University is recognized for its emphasis on experiential education and leadership development.

Dean's List recognition is awarded to full-time undergraduate students who achieve a semester grade point average of 3.4 or higher, acknowledging sustained academic achievement and dedication to scholarly success.

About Norwich University
Norwich University is a diversified academic institution that educates traditional-age students and adults in a Corps of Cadets and as civilians. Norwich offers a broad selection of traditional and distance-learning programs culminating in baccalaureate and graduate degrees. Norwich University was founded in 1819 by Captain Alden Partridge of the U.S. Army and is the oldest private military college in the United States of America. Norwich is one of our nation's six senior military colleges and the birthplace of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). www.norwich.edu

LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

BROOKFIELD
Brookfield Ecumenical Food Pantry
St. Mary's Church
4 Howard Street, Brookfield, MA 01506
Distribution: Wednesday 9:30 AM-11 AM;
Saturday 9:30 AM-11AM

CHARLTON
Chip - In Food Pantry
McKinstry Building
37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507
Distribution: 3rd Saturday 9 AM-12 Noon

St. Joseph's Church, Charlton
Tuesday 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Wednesday 9-11 a.m.
Everyone is welcome.

LEICESTER
Leicester Food Pantry
St. Joseph-St. Pius X Parish
759 Main Street, Leicester, MA 01524
Distribution: Tuesday 5 PM-7 PM

NORTH BROOKFIELD
St. Joseph's Food Pantry
Located in the church hall at 296 North Main St. North Brookfield
Distribution is the 1st Thursday of the month from 5:00-6:30PM
the 3rd Thursday of the month from 12 Noon-1:15PM
Any questions should be directed to the Rectory office 508 867-6469.
St. Joseph's Food Pantry is a community partner affiliated with the Worcester County Food Bank.

First Congregational Church
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located in the church office building at 144 North Main Street.

OXFORD
Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf
Oxford Community Center
4 Maple Road
Oxford, MA 01540
Distribution: Thursday 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

ROCHDALE
The Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry
Greenville Baptist Church
674 Pleasant St.
Rochdale, MA
Distribution: Every Monday from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Open to everyone.

SOUTHBRIDGE
St. John Paul II Parish Food Pantry
279 Hamilton St., Southbridge
Tuesday 3-5 p.m., Wednesday 9-11 a.m.
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