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Friday, September 18, 2026

Webster and Dudley unite in remembrance on 25th anniversary of 9/11



Courtesy

Ikebana demonstration and last call for Bites, Books and Blooms tickets

WEBSTER — Summer may be ending, but get ready for flowers, flowers everywhere! Friends of the Gladys Kelly Library announce that this year, for the first time, there will be a free floral art event to kick off the week of the big Bites, Books and Blooms fundraiser. Diana Hart Smith, a Sogetsu Master of Ikebana, will conduct a Japanese Floral Arrangement Demonstration on Monday, Sept. 21 at 6 p.m. at the library, 2 Lake St., Webster. Sogetsu designers use flowers, fruits, vegetables, and assemblages of unconventional things (clock parts, metal tubes, electronic components, etc.) to construct designs. Note that although the demonstration is free, registration is required on the library website, gladyskellylibrary.org, or at the library. Then, on Wednesday, Sept. 23, 6 – 8 p.m., return to the library for its fourth annual fund-

Turn To TICKETS page A10



Dudley celebrates agricultural roots at first Agrifest

DUDLEY — The Town of Dudley celebrated its agricultural heritage Saturday with its first Agrifest, bringing together local farmers and gardeners, food vendors, musicians and first responders for a family-friendly afternoon at the Dudley Municipal Complex. Children enjoyed a variety of activities, including a scavenger hunt, an up-close visit with an opossum from Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue and the chance to explore a fire truck.

Turn To AGRIFEST page A10

Church of the Reconciliation expresses gratitude to Janet Malser Humanities Trust

WEBSTER — On Aug. 27, JV Mechanical finished the installation of a new boiler replacing the 40-year-old furnace in the Fellowship Hall at the Church of the Reconciliation in Webster. A generous grant from the Janet Malser Humanities trust combined with our own fund raising efforts made it possible for this much needed project to proceed. Established in 2009, the Janet Malser Humanities Trust continues Janet Malser’s legacy of sup-

porting educational, cultural, historic, and charitable initiatives throughout the

communities of Webster, Oxford, and Dudley.

Turn To TRUST page A10



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Dudley Conservation Land Trust announces fall events

DUDLEY — The Dudley Conservation Land Trust (DCLT) today announced its vibrant line-up of upcoming autumn events designed to connect community members with local protected open spaces. Highlights include an educational mushroom forage, the highly anticipated celebration of the newly acquired Antos Farm sanctuary, and the Annual Member Meeting. In tandem with these gatherings, the all-volunteer organization is extending a popular promotional drive to help fund ongoing conservation efforts.

The autumn programming kicks off with a Mushroom Foraging expedition at Wieloch Woods, located at 380 West Main St. in Dudley, on Saturday, Sept. 19 from 10 a.m. to noon. Led by expert mycologist Jonathan Kranz, this walk covers the basics of mushroom ecology, habitat, and safe identification. While the event is entirely free to the public, space is limited and interested participants should register ahead of time on the DCLT Events Calendar.

The schedule continues on Sunday, Sept. 27 with the Annual Member Meeting at the historic Black Tavern, located at 138 Center Rd. in Dudley, from 5 to 7 p.m. This meeting serves as a core event where active members will cast votes for the incoming Board of Directors, review accomplishments, and discuss future goals. Attendees will also enjoy dinner from The Rose Room, featuring carefully curated, locally sourced ingredients. Interested individuals can sign up for a yearly membership to gain voting eligibility and support local conservation efforts by visiting the DCLT Membership Page.

Public celebrations resume on Saturday, Oct. 3 at Antos Farm (90 Marsh Rd., Dudley). The morning kicks off with a pre-celebration mini hike from 8 to 8:45 a.m., giving community members of all ages and hiking experience levels a chance to explore. The main Antos Farm event will follow immediately from 9 to 10 a.m., celebrating the important acquisition and commemorating the landmark 100th anniversary of the farm's founding in 1926. Attendees will have the unique opportunity to meet descendants of the founding family and learn about the wildlife corridor being developed through Dudley and Oxford. The celebration ends at 10 a.m., allowing attendees to head to the Grange (139 Center Rd., Dudley) for the annual Apple Festival.

To support its ongoing land preservation goals, DCLT is extending a promotion offering free merchandise for new recurring monthly pledges. Anyone who commits to a monthly recurring gift of \$15 or more before the start of the annual meeting on Sept. 27 will receive a free DCLT hat or t-shirt. Enrolled supporters can pick up their merchandise during the Annual Member Meeting or at the Dudley Grange Apple Festival. To sign up, select the "Monthly" option on the secure DCLT Donation Page.

Further details, event RSVPs, and background information available through DCLT's new Website: <https://dudleyclt.org>.

Upcoming history talk examines fact vs. fiction in “Death By Lightning” series

WEBSTER — Paul E. Lambert, Sr., a 31-year member of the History department at Nichols College in Dudley and a staff member of the Samuel Slater Experience, will give a presentation on Sunday, Sept. 20, entitled “Fact vs. Fiction – ‘Death by Lightning’ and the assassination of President James A. Garfield.” The talk will begin at 1 p.m., and is free to attend with registration. Samuel Slater Experience is located at 31 Ray St. in Webster.

Everyone loves a good story. Seeing it unfold before your eyes on a theater screen or on TV can really make it come alive and make it something to remember. When that story is about an actual event from the past, however, the historian wants to be sure that what viewers are getting is both memorable and accurate.

“Death by Lightning” is a television miniseries that was released by Netflix in November 2025. It is based on the events historian Candice Millard writes about in her 2011 book “Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of the President.” This four-part program tells the story of how James A. Garfield rose to the presidency in 1880. A political reformer and supporter of civil rights for the slaves freed by the U.S. Civil War, he would frequently find himself at odds with many fellow Republican politicians – including his own Vice President, Chester A. Arthur. Only four months into his term, he would be shot by a disgruntled office-seeker, Charles Guiteau; he would suffer a long, agonizing decline in health at the hands of incompetent doctors until he finally died on September 19, 1881. His successor, Chet Arthur, would unexpectedly become the reformer that Garfield had hoped to be.

Garfield is one of our lesser-known presidents; his short term left little time to establish a legacy, and many Americans simply aren't aware of the facts behind his assassination and death. Did Hollywood get the story right?

Register for this free event by calling 508-461-2955, or email admin@samuelslaterexperience.org.

Auburn resident sets out to raise awareness for Frontotemporal Degeneration

REGION — The Jim Tobin Memorial is inviting the community to support two upcoming events dedicated to raising awareness of Frontotemporal Degeneration (FTD), advancing research, and advocating for families affected by the disease.

The Third Annual Jim Tobin Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26 at Holden Hills Country Club. Registration is now open for foursomes at \$500 per team, and individuals who do not golf are welcome to attend the Italian buffet lunch for \$40 with advance registration. The event will also feature raffles, contests, and sponsorship opportunities. Net proceeds will benefit the Frontotemporal Disorders Research Center at UMass Chan Medical School and The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (AFTD).

On Sunday, Sept. 6, Auburn resident and David Prouty High School graduate Devyn Tobin will take on the “From Lab to Legislator” Walk, a 40-mile one-man journey from UMass Chan Medical School in Worcester to the Massachusetts State House in Boston. Wearing a 40-pound weighted vest to symbolize the weight FTD places on families, he hopes to increase public awareness, support research, and encourage legislative action for those living with Frontotemporal Degeneration.

Both events honor the memory of Jim Tobin, a longtime Spencer resident, Air Force veteran, husband, father, and grandfather who lived with FTD. Many members of the Tobin family, including Jim's wife, continue to call Spencer home and hope the community will join them in honoring Jim's legacy and supporting efforts to improve the lives of families affected by FTD.

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests from Aug. 30 to Sept. 12.

Michelle Irena Kitowska, age 31, of Worcester and Deymi Reyes, age 41, of Southbridge were arrested on Aug. 30 for Disorderly Conduct. A 50-year-old male from Worcester received a summons in lieu of arrest on Aug. 30 for Disorderly Conduct and Interfering with a Police Officer.

Two adult males whose identities have been withheld from publication, ages 59 and 37, both of Webster, were arrested on Aug. 31 for Assault & Battery.

Anne M. Mandeville, age 43, of Quinebaug, Conn. was arrested on Sept. 1 in connection with a warrant.

A 32-year-old female from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Sept. 3 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Shaun P. Gaboury, age 47, of Thompson, Conn. was arrested on Sept. 3 in connection with a warrant.

Billy Joe Beno, age 55, of Oxford was arrested on Sept. 4 in connection with a warrant of apprehension.

A 53-year-old female from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Sept. 5 for Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon.

Noel Rivera, Jr., age 41, of Hartford, Conn. was arrested on Sept. 5 in connection with a warrant.

Kristen Ann Piskator, age 43, and Matthew Richard Bardier, age 39, both of Webster, were arrested on Sept. 9 in connection with warrants.

Sadye B. Grochowski, age 49, of Webster was arrested on Sept. 11 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Possession of an Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle.

Karolina Franco Rijo, age 29, of Webster was arrested on Sept. 12 in connection with a warrant.

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Twenty-five years later, remembrance becomes a responsibility

Twenty-five years is a milestone that forces a nation to confront an uncomfortable fact about memory.

There are now millions of American adults who were not alive on Sept. 11, 2001. Many more were too young to remember where they were when the first plane struck the World Trade Center, when a second plane confirmed that the nation was under attack, when the Pentagon was struck and when Flight 93 crashed into a field in Pennsylvania.

For them, Sept. 11 is history. For millions of others, it remains memory.

That distinction made Friday’s observance at Webster Fire Headquarters especially meaningful. Veterans stood alongside police officers, firefighters, military representatives and officials from Webster and Dudley as the American flag was raised and lowered to half-staff. There were no elaborate gestures necessary. The simple act of gathering, remembering and speaking the names and meaning of that day served its purpose. On the 25th anniversary, however, remembrance carries a new responsibility.

Webster Selectman Elaine Davies captured it well when she said it is the task of those who remember Sept. 11 to pass those memories to people who were not yet born.

That responsibility extends beyond recounting where we were that morning. Future generations should understand the nearly unimaginable scale of the loss. They should know about the firefighters who climbed stairwells while thousands of others descended them. They should know about police officers, emergency medical personnel and ordinary civilians who remained behind to help strangers. They should know about the passengers and crew aboard Flight 93 who acted after learning what was happening elsewhere. They also should understand that the consequences did not end when the smoke cleared.

Military members were sent into wars that followed the attacks. First responders, recovery workers and others developed illnesses associated with their work at the attack sites. Families lived with losses that did not become less real simply because anniversaries accumulated.

Those stories are part of the history that must be preserved. But there is another memory worth carrying forward. It is the memory of what happened in communities across America afterward.

People displayed flags. Blood donation centers filled. Neighbors checked on neighbors. Police officers and firefighters received expressions of gratitude from strangers. Political and cultural differences did not disappear, but for a period they seemed smaller beside something much larger.

Dudley Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda spoke after Friday’s ceremony about that sense of shared purpose and the possibility of finding it again. That may be one of the most worthwhile lessons to draw from this anniversary.

Unity does not require agreement on every issue. A community does not have to think with one mind to recognize common obligations. People can disagree strongly and still treat one another decently, support those who serve them and come together when a neighbor needs help. Webster and Dudley demonstrated a small version of that Friday morning.

Town borders mattered little. Titles mattered little. Veterans, emergency responders and municipal officials gathered for the same reason. A quarter-century after Sept. 11, ceremonies such as this one are becoming increasingly important rather than less so.

Children born this year will learn about the attacks entirely from others. Eventually, firsthand witnesses will become fewer, as happens with every defining event in history. That makes remembrance an obligation passed from one generation to another. The photographs must be preserved. The stories must be told. The sacrifices must be explained. The names must continue to be read. And perhaps the most difficult part of remembering is recognizing that remembrance should influence how the living conduct themselves. Honor the firefighters by respecting service. Honor the military members by understanding sacrifice. Honor the civilians who helped strangers by helping neighbors.

Honor those who died by refusing to allow Sept. 11 to become merely another date printed in a history book. Twenty-five years have passed. The responsibility to remember now belongs not only to those who witnessed that day, but to everyone who inherits its history.

Viewpoint

Gravestone Girls Come to Auburn

BY HELEN POIRIER
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Auburn Historical Society and Museum will present the Gravestone Girls at their Sept. 17 meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. at the newly renovated Camp Gleason. The Gravestone Girls will start with the burial grounds of New England in 1600 and 1700s, of which Auburn has two, through the 19th century nation-wide rural cemetery movement. They will conclude with the 21st century locations. Learn why we have cemeteries and grave-stones and why they look like they do. See how styles and art have evolved over

the past 400 years. And yes, there is art in them there burial places. The meeting will be free and open to the public.

Camp Gleason was opened in June 1942 by the South Works American Steel & Wire Company. Over fifteen hundred people attended the opening of the camp that was named after George D. Gleason who was a general superintendent of the South and Electric Cable works. George was born July 29, 1890, in Worcester to John H. and Lillian L. Ford Gleason. He first worked as a civil engineer then entered American Steel and Wire

in 1917 as a draftsman at the South Works. He was made assistant superintendent of the South Works in 1930 and general superintendent in 1939 where he remained until his retirement in 1955. According to the article about his retirement, George love living and working in the area and passed up promotions because he would have to leave Worcester. Many of the highlights of his career include direction of a project that kept the company’s Worcester steel furnaces going during World War II, direction of the merger of North and Central with South Works, and supervi-

Turn To AUBURN page A5

What does financial fulfillment actually feel like?



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Feeling financially fulfilled means so much more than just the number in your bank account. It’s about being able to take your family out to dinner without calculating whether you can afford it. It means sleeping soundly on a Sunday night, knowing that if the water heater gives out tomorrow, you can handle it. And it’s saying yes to a vacation because you planned ahead and the money is there.

In short, financial fulfillment is the feeling that your money is supporting the life you want.

Yet true fulfillment is surprisingly rare. Only 16 percent of Americans are financially fulfilled, according to a 2026 study by Edward Jones and Gallup, “Money and Meaning: Understanding Financial Fulfillment.” Those at the other end of the spectrum, the financially stressed (32 percent), often say that money regularly controls their daily decisions. Most Americans (51 percent), however, fall in the middle — the financially conflicted. They manage to get by but often carry a persistent under-current of worry.

Notably, where you land on this spectrum has less to do with your income than you might expect. More than half of households earning \$175,000 or more are still financially conflicted.

Building the foundation

So, the question becomes, “What do financially fulfilled people do differently?” Simply put, they tend to have foundational planning structures in place. Five behaviors show up consistently among the financially fulfilled, and they’re simple steps you can take, too.

Build an emergency fund (98 percent of fulfilled have this). Aim for saving three to six months of living expenses in a liquid, easily accessible account. When you know you can handle the unexpected, you stop bracing for it, and lower stress gives you a higher quality of life.

Create a financial plan for retirement (91 percent of financially fulfilled have one). It’s hard to feel in control if you don’t know where you’re going. A retirement plan puts a real number on what you’ll need and lays out a clear path to get there, with built-in protection against life’s unexpected curve-balls.

Save intentionally for major milestones (87 percent of financially fulfilled do). A home renovation, a new vehicle or a child’s education don’t have to feel disruptive. Setting money aside deliberately for the milestones you anticipate means you can say yes without scrambling.

Put an estate plan in place (66 percent of financially fulfilled have). Estate plans are not just for the wealthy. A will and basic estate plan help ensure what you’ve worked for still reflects your wishes after you’re gone.

Work with a financial advisor (60 percent of financially fulfilled who sought any guidance have used an advisor in the past year). The internet is great, but real guidance comes from a credentialed person who knows you and your family and what you want your money to do for you.

Knowing that your money is working toward the life you want doesn’t happen by accident. Feeling financially fulfilled is worth the effort and may be more achievable than you realize.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Election choices

To the Editor:

As election season is upon us all, we are bombarded with tv. and radio commercials, signs everywhere, and political messages in the mail. Much of what I see and hear from many candidates or supporters is, ‘We’re going to fight Trump!’ ‘We’re going to stand up to Trump!’ ‘We’re going to do this and that,’ and everything else anti-Trump! That may be enough for some of the voters reading this. Their minds are made up already, and will cast their votes for anyone saying or writing such things. They will vote by the D or R, blue or red that those letters represent, without ever finding out from these candidates what exactly it is they are going to do.

How are you going to lower my taxes instead of the constant rise that takes place? How are you going to make all the things you talk about free, free, free without actually raising everyone’s taxes to pay for it? Nothing is free; it is simply a way of everyone paying while only a few actually use.

With socialism on the rise, how are you going to tell everyone that spent 20 or 30 years paying off a mortgage that their

house is no longer theirs. Socialism does not allow for personal property rights, only certain possessions. And are you going to mandate what possessions we are allowed? Such as which cars we can and cannot own or pay even higher taxes for something not approved of? Are you going to mandate how we heat your homes in the winter or cool in the summer? They are, in fact, government property now.

Or are you going to uphold the Constitution and Bill Of Rights that each of us has to protect us from such things, or give in to the special interest groups that make huge donations?

These may sound like foolish questions, but as usual, I will ask anyone reading this, don’t take my word for it; look it up. The information is easy enough to find.

Some of these questions need to be asked because some of the candidates that sound so good have a long list of things they will push forward that will not end so great for anyone, D or R. We will all be the same (the have nots), while the same politicians stay rich and in power forever.

JOHN GIAQUINTO
DUDLEY

Dudley deserves a break

To the Editor:

So, residents of Dudley have to vote on a Proposition 2 1/2 override again. Again. Just as they did in 2023.

That vote and revote, some three years ago, pretty much squandered the credibility of the selectmen and Town Manager Jonathan Ruda to a depth that still reverberates. First, they attempted to raise property taxes by 33 percent to meet the unconscionable demands of the Regional School Committee. When that was rejected, they held hostage the town’s treasured Public Library, effectively firing a much-admired head librarian and decimating its staff.

Finally, it was left to a private citizen to find a less painful path through the crisis, underlining the abject incompetence and apathy of town officials. Months later the town manager magically found money for, among other things, enhancing his executive assistant’s retirement package and creating a new position of assistant town manager to replace her. Their playbook for this override seems pretty much the same. This time, however, the hostages are police, firefighters and the Public Works Department.

After voters resoundingly rejected the first attempted override last June, town officials spouted their usual, disingenuous apologies and proposed cutting the earlier \$1,985,187 request by roughly \$1.27 million. My first question is why were these savings not included in the initial request? My second question is why should anyone believe that there are not even more compromises to be found in the budget - say about \$717,630 worth, which they’re seeking in this latest request?

Nobody wants to skimp on public safety. But do the schools really need a full-time police officer patrolling their halls? What about that Public Information Coordinator? The town’s current budget provides a pittance, \$1,000, for the Senior Center, which is forced to depend on legions of unpaid, dedicated volunteers for most of its services. Meanwhile it pays a Public Information Coordinator nearly \$22,000. For what?

Many municipal, state and federal agencies, as well as private companies, employ Public Information Officers to answer inquiries from the public or journalists. That’s not what happens here. To obtain most serious information in Dudley and other small towns you have to file a request

with the town clerk, who is a designated “Records Access Officer.” (RAC). The town’s Public Information Coordinator is not involved. Apparently, her duties include writing occasional puff pieces about town activities for local newspapers and managing the town’s Facebook page. By the way, neither Webster, Southbridge, Oxford or Charlton - all towns larger than Dudley - employ a Public Information Officer.

And if Mr. Ruda were truly concerned about preserving essential public safety services, he might consider some compromises of his own. His employment contract provides him the option of accepting \$6,000 a year for using his own personal vehicle or, alternately, using a town-owned vehicle for his personal transportation. He’s not chasing fires or pursuing law breakers. Wouldn’t it be a gracious example for him to forego that prerequisite and commute the few miles to his office on his own dime like the rest of us?

Also, don’t get me going on the shameless School Department’s consistently tone-deaf demands on already financially-strapped residents of Dudley and Charlton. Now it wants \$11,183,734 for capital improvements, few of which seem urgent, from residents already struggling with exorbitant prices for fuel, groceries, electricity, housing and health care.

After that you have the pathetic refusal of Nichols College, legally a not-for-profit, tax-exempt institution, to contribute even a penny to compensate the town for its many services through a Payment in Lieu of Taxes agreement - payments that nearly every other private college in the state makes to their communities. Never mind that Nichols often boasts about being the town’s historic center and rakes in thousands from its golf course, which is classified for property taxes under Chapter 61B, limiting its assessment to no more than 25 percent of its actual value, because it’s a recreational property open to the public.

Considering all this, the bottom line for voters seems clear. This is not the time to pour more money into the School Department. And simply arguing that the override must be approved just to preserve essential services is just not good enough. Dudley voters deserve better leadership. Certainly, they deserve a more detailed and honest explanation of why this seems to happen here over and over again.

Even more, they just deserve a break.

FRANK MAGIERA
DUDLEY

Somebody is stealing the daylight

It happens every September, and every September, I somehow manage to be surprised by it. I look out the window sometime after supper and think, “Why is it getting dark?” As though there has been some sort of mistake. As though I should call somebody.

For most of the summer, daylight spoils us. You can finish supper, look around the house, decide you ought to do something useful and still have enough daylight left to avoid doing it for another hour.

There is time to mow a little grass, putter around outside, talk to a neighbor or stand in the driveway staring at something that needs fixing while making absolutely no progress toward fixing it.

Then September arrives. At first, nothing seems particularly alarming. The afternoons can still be warm. The trees are mostly green. Nobody has put the snow shovel by the back door yet, unless that person is either extremely organized or knows something the rest of us don’t. But the daylight is quietly packing its bags.

One evening you are outside at 7:30 without giving it a thought. A couple of weeks later, you glance at the clock at 7, and the windows have turned into mirrors. That is when you know summer has begun slipping away.

My wife handles this transition better than I do. She accepts that seasons change because she is a rational adult. I behave as though daylight is something we purchased and therefore ought to receive in the quantity promised.

“It’s dark already,” I’ll announce.

“Yes,” she’ll say.

“It wasn’t dark this early last week.”

“I know.”

“Seems awfully early.”

This conversation has taken place every September for roughly 30 years.

Marriage is partly about love, partly about companionship and partly about listening patiently while another human being reports the same seasonal phenomenon three decades in a row. There is something about these September evenings that changes the rhythm of a small town.

In July, evening stretches. People are still outside. Lawnmowers are running. Somebody is washing a car. Kids are squeezing another half-hour out of the day. A neighbor wanders over and a five-minute conversation becomes 25 because nobody is particularly concerned about the clock.

September puts everybody on notice. The shadows stretch across the yard earlier. Porch lights appear. Cars traveling down Main Street have their headlights on before supper has had much time to settle.

You start measuring outdoor jobs differently. In June, you might think, “I’ll get to that after supper.” In September, “after supper” is no longer a time. It is a threat. You also discover how many things are harder to find in the dark.

I recently went outside to retrieve something I had left in the yard. I knew precisely where it was. At least I knew precisely where it had been when there was daylight. I spent several minutes wandering around before admitting defeat and going back for a flashlight. The object had not moved. Apparently, my ability to locate stationary objects disappears shortly after sunset.

There is a melancholy side to all of this, of course. Summer always seems as though it ought to last longer. We spend months waiting for warm evenings, open windows, cookouts, gardens and those long stretches of daylight when 8 o’clock somehow feels like the middle of the afternoon. Then suddenly, the sun starts keeping bankers’ hours.

But I’ve reached an age where I appreciate September more than I once did. There is something comforting about lights coming on in houses a little earlier.

Drive through one of our towns around dusk and you see lamps glowing through kitchen windows. Porch lights flicker on. Restaurants and little businesses look warmer against the darkening street. The world seems to draw inward a bit.

Soon enough, there will be leaves to rake, furnaces to consider and the annual mystery of discovering what happened to the gloves you distinctly remember putting somewhere sensible last spring. I’m in no hurry for any of that. For now, though, I’m trying to appreciate these September evenings for what they are. They are the hinge between seasons. Summer has not entirely left us, and autumn has not entirely arrived. There is still warmth in the afternoon, but evening carries a warning. Use the daylight while you’ve got it.

Take the walk. Finish the yard work. Sit outside for another few minutes. And when you look up one evening and discover that darkness has arrived much earlier than expected, don’t bother announcing it to your spouse.

Trust me. They already know.

Poets at Large presents Knowles and Aeroelastic Flutter

POMFRET — Poets at Large will continue its seventh season on Saturday night, September 26th with two disparate types of poetry. The show begins at 7 p.m. at The Vanilla Bean Café, 450 Deerfield Rd. in Pomfret, and featured that night will be Frederick-Douglass Knowles II and performance artist duo Aeroelastic Flutter. Suggested donation is \$10.

Knowles is a Hartford Poet Laureate Emeritus, an English Professor at CT State Community College and author of “BlackRoseCity” (Author House 2011). He is the recipient of The Nutmeg Poetry Award, a Connecticut of the Arts Fellow in Artistic Excellence in Poetry/Creative Non-Fiction, and a two-time Pushcart Prize nominee. He will be showcasing work from his newest book, “Sinking in Moonlight Alone.”

Aeroelastic Flutter is a spoken word and sound collaboration, combining the often-absurdist poetry of Jim Whitten with the guitar work and sound exploration of Nicholas Pecsok. Their project experiments with lo-fi audio and borderline performance art, challenging audiences to reevaluate how poetry can be performed and defined.

Poets at Large has brought over 150 published and awarded poets to the area since 2020 and dozens of people have participated in the open mic portions during that time. Poets at Large is a project of Windham Arts. All events are ADA compliant and are recommended for ages 16 and up. Readings

AUBURN

continued from page A4

sion of construction for the new wire rod and power cable mill here.

He was a member of the special gifts committee of the Worcester Community Chest, director of the Worcester Taxpayers Assoc, director & officer of Worcester Chamber of Commerce, director of the New England Council and member of the American

Iron & Steel Institute. He was also a Trustee of the Park Avenue Methodist Church.

This article was 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.auburn-historicalmuseum.org or follow us on Facebook at Auburn Historical.

for the rest of the season are sponsored in part by donations from bankHometown, Charter Oak FCU, WHZ Financial and The Putnam Area Foundation. Contact karen.warinsky@gmail.com to sign up for the open mic; five-minute max as time allows.

Advertise Here

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.

OBITUARY

Murial L. Lariviere, 97



WEBSTER - Murial L. (Desilets) Lariviere, 97, died Friday, September 4, 2026 in Lanessa Extended Care Facility after a period of declining health. Her husband of 43 years, Laurent Lariviere, died in 1993. She leaves her companion and caregiver of over 30 years, Jeremiah “Jerry” DiDonato; a nephew, Larry Leclair of South Carolina and also Gerry DiDonato of Dudley; a Niece, Anne Marie of Connecticut and several cousins, including Sister Janine Blanchard of North Grosvenordale, CT. She was preceded in death by her brother Bernard Desilets. She was born at home in North Grosvenordale, CT on May 27, 1929, the daughter of Frank and Flora (Blain) Desilets and graduated from Putnam Catholic Academy in

1946. She moved to Webster in 1996. Muriel was clerk at her family’s store, Desilets Variety in North Grosvenordale, until 1966. She was a member of Saint Joseph’s Church in North Grosvenordale. She loved cooking, baking, shopping, traveling and visiting the casino. She participated in several Poker runs on a Harley Davidson with her dear friend Jerry to sponsor charitable activities. Together they attended many car shows, particularly in Hershey, PA. Her funeral was held on Saturday, September 12, from Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main Street, with a Mass at 11:00 AM in Saint Joseph Church, 12 Main Street, North Grosvenordale. Burial will be held privately. Visitation was held Saturday in the funeral home from 9:30 to 10:30 AM, prior to the Mass.

Donations in her name may be made to St. Joseph Food Pantry, c/o St. Therese of Lisieux Parish, PO Box 665, Putnam, CT 06260-0665. www.websterfunerals.com

Girl Scout troops welcome new members

AUBURN — Girls entering grades K and 1 in the fall are invited to join Troop 65600, which meets in Auburn every other Tuesday 5:30-6:30 p.m., and Troop 655999, which meets every other Thursday in Dudley from 6-7:15 p.m. Girl membership registration fee is \$111, and is active until September 30, 2027. Financial Assistance is available.

Girl Scouts is the premier organization for girls to learn about leadership, financial literacy, life skills, the outdoors, community service, science and technology.

Girl Scout programming is customizable for all types of learners!

Previous Girl Scout experience is not necessary.

You can register for a spot in the troop at <https://go.gscwm.org/troop65600>

Questions? Email info@gscwm.org or call 508-365-0115.

About Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts serves nearly 6,000 girls in grades K through 12 with the strong support of over 2,500 adult volunteers in 186 towns and cities in central and western Massachusetts. The Girl Scout program allows girls to discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together while building their personal leadership qualities. GSCWM supports girls by giving them extraordinary opportunities to explore, experience, and learn about their world and helps girls recognize that they are vital members of their communities.

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Friday's Child



Aiden
Age 16
Registration #5427

Aiden is a resilient, calm, and friendly young man with a warm and easygoing personality. He enjoys spending time with others and has a positive presence that makes him easy to connect with. Aiden is also active and loves participating in sports, especially basketball and football. He enjoys being outside, staying active, and having opportunities

to play and have fun. When he’s not outside or playing sports, Aiden enjoys relaxing with some of his favorite activities. He likes playing video games and watching television, especially his favorite show, Supernatural. Aiden appreciates having time to unwind and enjoy the things that interest him.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22543252044>

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.



Zion Lutheran Church thanks Abissi family for Sign of Faith

OXFORD — Janet Abissi, Zion Lutheran Church’s oldest member at 93 years of age, is a vivacious soul who is deeply rooted in her faith. When she notices that something needs to be done for Zion’s church property or ministries, she always gives back to the church she loves. She shared that her mother and father were “always at church doing one project or another” and she carries on that tradition. She also related that her late husband Frank “loved this church because he found members to be so friendly and welcoming.” Janet sang with Zion’s choir for years and shared a delightful memory of Frank passing by the choir after Communion and giving her a wink. The choir loved those winks, too! When it became apparent that Zion’s roadside church sign, built by Bay Path more than thirty years ago, was looking shabby, this nonagenarian conceived of a plan to give “glory to God” and to honor Frank’s memory. After planning meetings and family conversations, the Abissi family decided to donate a new sign to create a lasting invitation to members, visitors and passersby along the busy highway. Janet and her children, Frank Jr and Leana, Carl and Cathy, Kim and Bob, and Mark and Maria made this dream a reality. The gift that welcomes all was dedicated by Pastor Michael on the last Sunday of July. Zion’s thankful congregation celebrated after the dedication with beautifully decorated cake for coffee hour.



Francis N “Skip” Szczepanski 1914-2005 Floral Collection on exhibit at Gladys E. Kelly Public Library



Francis “Skip” Szczepanski
WEBSTER — Francis

N. “Skip” Szczepanski expressed his love of the natural world and beauty of flowers, not only in the loving care and the enjoyment of tending his home garden, but also in creating a series of floral paintings. He had a passion to capture the beauty of flowers before they faded. This persistent passion is revealed in many oil paintings that include anniversary floral arrangements, landscapes, as well as fresh cut flowers from his own garden.

“Skip’s” paintings span the 1950s through the late 90s. This exhibit will

make for a beautiful backdrop to the Friends of the Library’s annual fundraiser,

Bites, Books, and Blooms. “Skip” Szczepanski’s work will be on display in the

Community Room at the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library through Oct. 13.



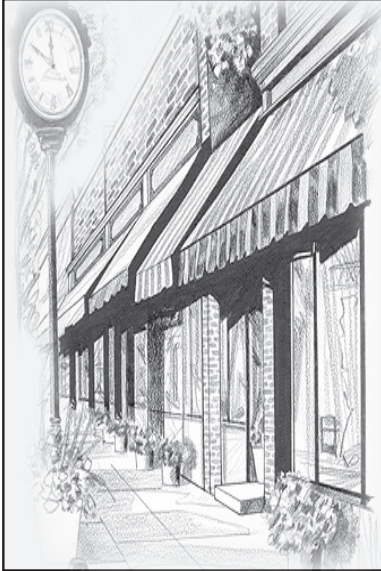
The Dudley Woman’s Club 19th year kick-off event was a wild west success! More than 40 members plus guests gathered at the Mill@French River on Sept. 10 for an evening of games, laughs and comradery while sporting some cowgirl glam. The theme was fun, yet some serious club work unfolded with the awarding of \$20,000 in donations to local charities: HANDS (Helping Address the Needs of Dudley Seniors), REAS (Residential Energy Assistance for Seniors), and Stars of the Future. Members also generously donated school and art supplies to the Boys & Girls Club of Webster - Dudley valued at \$421. We thank The Mill at French River for hosting our events! Learn more about the DWC at www.dudleywomansclub.org.

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news@stonebridgepress.news

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Library Hours: Monday-
Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.;
Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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@cwmars.org

Special Events
Friends of the Library Annual Meeting – Thursday, September 17th at 6:00pm

The Library staff will present statistics and accomplishments from the previous fiscal year. The Friends will also update members regarding the state of the organization. All Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library are invited to attend.

Elephant and Piggie Party! – Saturday, September 19th 10:30-11:30am

It's time for an Elephant and Piggie Party! Drop by for silly activities, themed snacks, and the chance to meet Elephant and Piggie themselves.

Bites, Books, and Blooms: Friends of the Library Annual Fundraiser – Wednesday, September 23rd at 6:00pm

Enjoy local hors d'oeuvres, beverages, music, and books in bloom. A magical night of stunning floral displays inspired by books, plus local food and live music! Proceeds benefit the Friends of the library. This is a ticketed event. You must purchase a ticket to participate.

Goose Returns!! – Saturday, September 26th at 11:00am

Join us in welcoming back our dear friend Goose, the Water Monitor Lizard. Our pals from Rainforest Reptile Shows will be here with Goose to welcome him back to where his lore began.

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 Monday and 4th Saturday of the Month (6:30pm on Mondays; 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 Meg 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.

Ikebana Japanese Floral Arrangement Demonstration – Monday, September 21st at 6:00pm

Ikebana Japanese Floral Arranging Demonstration and Lecture by Diana Hart Smith. This program is for adults and requires registration.

Ayurveda 101: Fall Edition – Tuesday, September 22nd at 6:30pm

As autumn brings cooler temperatures, shifting routines, and a sense of transition, Ayurveda offers grounding practices to help us stay balanced, steady, and well-supported throughout the season. This introductory session explores how daily rhythms, including what we eat, when we eat, how we move, and how we care for ourselves, can support well-being during the dynamic energy of fall. No prior experience is needed. Attendees are encouraged to come as they are and leave with simple, supportive practices they can easily incorporate into daily life throughout the fall season.

Writing Group – Monday, September 28th at 6:00pm

Do you enjoy writing but struggle to find the time or excuse to sit down and do it?

Join us for a low pressure evening where you can sit and write creatively with others

in a cozy setting. There will be prompts available, and time to share and discuss our projects, or just chat about the writing process, but sharing is not required. Bring something you are currently working on, or start something new! Snacks and drinks will be available.

Digital Literacy Course: Essential Computer Skills – Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30pm, beginning September 29th

Ready to get comfortable using a computer? This six-week course is designed for adults with little or no computer skill or experience who want to build confidence using technology for everyday life, work, and education. Students will learn the essential computer skills needed to navigate today's digital world. Through hands-on instruction and guided practice, participants will gain confidence using a computer, the internet, and common online tools in a supportive, beginner-friendly environment. Classes meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, through November 10th, at 5:30-7:30PM. If you have any questions, email websterabelinkages@webster-schools.org or call (508) 949-8282 to register. Registration through Adult Basic Education is required.

“Balance” All Levels Yoga – Tuesday, September 29th at 6:30pm

Join Anais at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. This class aims to release tension, build stability, and leave you feeling refreshed, grounded, and restored. A typical class includes awareness of breath, linking breath to movement, and fluid transitions through mindfully aligned poses that target both sides of the body equally. Class ends with a restorative period of rest. This monthly class is funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

Programming for All Ages
Library for All: Crafts – Mondays and Fridays 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! September-February, the crafts will rotate between coloring and painting. We'll provide the space and supplies,

you bring the creativity!

Children's and Young Adult Programming
NEW Toddler Storytime – Mondays, 10:30am

Join us every Monday from 10:30–11:30am for a storytime designed for toddlers and their caregivers! We'll read stories, sing songs, and enjoy fingerplays together before diving into hands-on sensory free play. Together we'll build early literacy skills, spark curiosity, and discover the joy of learning through play!

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!

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.

Snack Club: Apple Treats, Monday, September 21st at 5:30pm

Snack Club is back! Each month, kids ages 7-12 will get to make their own tasty treats or try out fun new flavors with friends. This month's snack: Apple Treats! Due to limited supplies, this program requires registration. Please only sign up your child if they fall within the required age range

Kim the LEGO Lady – Tuesday, September 22nd at 4:00pm

Do you love building, creating, and having fun with LEGO? Look no further! Kim the LEGO Lady is here and we want YOU to be part of our LEGO CLUB adventure. Join us for interactive building challenges, new skills and create fabulous imaginative builds. For ages 5 to 11. Registration is required.

Fluffy Slime - Monday, September 28th at 4:00pm

Celebrate the school year by creating your own fluffy slime! This fun, hands-on activity is perfect for kids who love to mix, stretch, and get a little messy. Drop-in anytime between 4:00-5:00 PM

WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

5 Church St.
(508) 949-3845
Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov
Senior Center hours are Monday- Friday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.
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, 9/15: Ziti with meat sauce, broccoli, and peppers. Wednesday, 9/16: Vegetarian chili with cheese, roasted potatoes, green beans. Thursday, 9/17: Garlic brown sugar chicken, mashed potatoes, country blend vegetables. Friday, 9/18: Soup du jour, corned beef sandwich, coleslaw.

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.

A SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) counselor is available at the Webster Senior Center from April through December. Please call (508) 949-3845 to schedule an appointment.

Come down to 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.

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 the 21st and the 28th from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm for \$3 a class. Donations go directly to Shriner's Children's Hospital. Everyone of any skill level is welcome! Closed toed shoes are required.

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.

We offer Movies every Wednesday afternoon at 1:00 pm! September's movies will be 'Support Your Local Sheriff' on 9/16, 'Indiscreet' on 9/23, and 'Thunder Road' on 9/30

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. 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.

LEGALS

(SEAL)
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
26 SM 002424
ORDER OF NOTICE
TO:
Kelly L. Oliveira, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Gail A. Fleming a/k/a Gail Morton; Kelly L. Oliveira; Kimberly J. Rizzo; William J. Fleming

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq): Longbridge Financial LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Auburn, numbered 28 Rock Avenue, given by Gail Morton to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Longbridge Financial, LLC, dated September 16, 2021, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66630, Page 114 and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before October 26, 2026 or you may

lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on September 8, 2026.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
29715
September 18, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Town of Dudley Planning Board

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L., Chapter 40A, Section 9 and 11, the Town of Dudley Planning Board will hold a public hearing for a modification of a subdivision at 28 Budd Drive on Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 7:15p.m. in the Dudley Municipal Complex, Room 321-A (DMC, Veterans Memorial Hall), 71 West Main Street, Dudley, Ma 01571. A copy of the proposed modification plans may be viewed in the office of the Planning Board located in the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street, Dudley, Ma 01571, during regular office hours.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated.

David Durgin, Chairman
Dudley Planning Board
September 11, 2026
September 18, 2026

Public Notice MARICOPA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Petitioner's Name: Christopher Ngari
Mailing Address:
30117 W Weldon Ave

City, State, Zip: Buckeye, AZ 85396
Phone Number: 774-242-6781
Petitioner's Name:
Christopher Ngari
Case Number: FN2026-070585

SUMMONS
Respondent's Name: Nancy Frandsen
THE STATE OF ARIZONA TO :

Nancy Frendsen
YOU ARE SUMMONED and required to appear and defend within the time applicable in this action in this court. If served in Arizona, you shall appear and defend within 20 days of service on you of the Summons and Petition, excluding the day of service. If served outside of Arizona, you shall appear and defend within 30 days of service on you of the Summons and Petition, excluding the day of service. Direct service is complete when made. Service by publication is complete 30 days after the first publication.

If you fail to appear and defend within the time applicable, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

In order to appear and defend, you must file a Response in writing with the clerk of this court, accompanied by the necessary filing fee, within the time required, and you must serve a copy of any Response on the Petitioner.

A copy of the pleading being served may be obtained from the Clerk of Superior Court, Maricopa County Courthouse, 201 W Jefferson St, Phoenix, AZ 85003.

Requests for reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities must be made to the court by parties at least three (3) working days in advance of a scheduled court proceeding.

If this is an annulment, divorce, or legal separation, either party can ask the court for counseling or mediation to try to reconcile or to come to agreements about the case outside of court. You can find a form at the Law Library. Leave this blank. This is for the court to fill in.

SIGNED AND SEALED this date: May 11, 2026

Clerk of Superior Court
Revised May 2024

Clerk of Superior Court
By Deputy Clerk: /s/
September 11, 2026
September 18, 2026
September 25, 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 September 25, 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: 2025 OTH MC Moped
VIN# L2BB6BCH1SB126065
Owner: Mark A Williams, 47 Orchard Hill Dr Bldg C, Oxford, MA 01540
This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. c.225, Section 39 A
September 4, 2026
September 11, 2026
September 18, 2026

LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE
DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT
68 DUDLEY-OXFORD ROAD
DUDLEY, MA 01571
Phone (508) 943-6888
Fax (508) 943-1077

The Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee hereby invites sealed bids for “SNOW PLOWING AND SALTING.” Snow plowing and salting services are for three (3) years commencing October 31, 2026 and terminating June 30, 2029. Specification and bid proposal forms are available at.

Office of the Superintendent
Dudley-Charlton Regional School District
68 Dudley-Oxford Road
Dudley, MA 01571
(508) 943-6888

The Commbuys bid number is:
BD-26-1500-DO001-DO001-133123
The forms are also available upon request by email to spusateri@dcrsd.org. All bids must be in conformity with all pertinent statutes and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. All bids must be sealed and labeled “SNOW PLOWING AND SALTING BID 2026-2029-01”

and received in the Office of the Superintendent, Dudley Charlton Regional School District 68 Dudley-Oxford Road, Dudley, MA not later than 10:00 a.m. on October 2, 2026 at which time and place bids will be publicly opened and read.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid walkthrough will be conducted on Thursday September 17, 2026 at 08:00 starting the Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 68 Dudley Oxford Road, Dudley MA 01571
The School Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or any part thereof, when it appears to them that the best interests of the district are served by doing so.
Joseph DeSantis
Director of Finance and Operations
September 18, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01876
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P2713EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
Estate Of:
CINDY ANN HUDON
Date of Death: 05/11/2026

To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **RICHARD H WETHERBEE of SOUTHBRIDGE MA**
RICHARD H WETHERBEE of SOUTHBRIDGE MA has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
September 18, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE
Premises: 26 Perryville Road,
Webster, MA 01570-3073

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Virginia D. Gogolinski to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Genworth Financial Home Equity Access, Inc., and now held by **Longbridge Financial, LLC**, said mortgage dated September 28, 2011 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 47914, Page 339, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Genworth Financial Home Equity Access, Inc. to Reverse Mortgage Solutions, Inc. by assignment dated January 25, 2016 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 54873, Page 209; said mortgage was assigned from Reverse Mortgage Solutions, Inc. to Broad Street Funding Trust I by assignment dated August 16, 2018 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 59398, Page 330; said mortgage was assigned

from Broad Street Funding Trust I to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee of RMF Buyout Acquisition Trust 2018-1 by assignment dated June 4, 2019 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 60582, Page 143; said mortgage was assigned from Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee of RMF Buyout Acquisition Trust 2018-1 to Reverse Mortgage Funding, LLC by assignment dated November 19, 2021 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 66665, Page 378; said mortgage was assigned from Reverse Mortgage Funding, LLC to Longbridge Financial, LLC by assignment dated October 30, 2023 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 69944, Page 161; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on** October 6, 2026 at 11:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: *A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon of every nature and description and all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated in the Town of Webster, County of Worcester, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at an iron pin at the northerly line of Perryville Road fifty three and twenty one hundredths (53.21) feet westerly from a proposed W. C. H. bound point and at land of William H. Sherwood;*

Thence N. 18° 16' 28" W. by land of said William H. Sherwood one hundred fifty seven and fifty eight hundredths (157.58) feet to an iron pin; Thence S. 67° 44' 20" W. seventy nine and forty nine hundredths (79.49) feet to an iron pipe; Thence southwesterly one hundred seventy and forty one hundredths (170.41) feet on Goodwin Street, so called, to the northerly line of said Perryville Road; Thence easterly by the northerly line of said Perryville Road one hundred eighty one and sixty five hundredths (181.65) feet to an iron pin and the point of beginning. Less and excepting that parcel that was conveyed to William H. Sherwood in Book 4402 at Page 478 of the Worcester County Registry of Deeds. For Title reference see deed as set forth in Book 6071 at Page 304 of the Worcester County Registry of Deeds.
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 November 18, 1976 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 6071, Page 304.
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 Longbridge Financial, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
September 4, 2026
September 11, 2026
September 18, 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. WO26P287 4EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Maureen Ann Wooldridge
Also known as:
Maureen Wooldridge
Date of Death: 06/18/2026
To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Christopher Nasis of Dudley MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: .
Christopher Nasis of Dudley MA ap-

pointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/13/2026.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 02, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
September 18, 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. WO26P2739EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Paul G Chabot
Date of Death: 05/23/2021
To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **James P Chabot of Webster MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: .
James P Chabot of Webster MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/06/2026.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 03, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
September 18, 2026

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket 26 SM 002792
ORDER OF NOTICE
To:
Fred Stout; Sylvia Stout AKA Syvlia Stout
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):
JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association,
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Oxford (North Oxford), numbered 2

Themeli Court, Unit No. 2, Pinewood on the Green Condominium, given by Fred Stout and Sylvia Stout to Washington Mutual Bank, FA, dated August 21, 2003, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 31395, Page 318, and now held by plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before October 12, 2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.
Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on August 28, 2026.
Attest: Deborah J. Patterson

Recorder
26-007632
September 18, 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. WO26P1361EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
David Phillip Hayes
Date of Death: 04/26/2004
To all interested persons:

A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kathleen E Haran of Worcester MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: .
Kathleen E Haran of Worcester MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/22/2026.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 24, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
September 17, 2026

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email:
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AGRIFEST

continued from page A1

Throughout the after-

noon, visitors browsed vegetables, perennials, cut flowers and prepared foods on display and available for purchase while enjoy-

ing live music by The Bad Tickers.

The event offered residents an opportunity to celebrate Dudley's agricultural

roots, support local growers and vendors, and enjoy an afternoon of community

activities.

AgriFest was sponsored by the Dudley Agricultural

Advisory Commission and the Dudley Recreation Commission.

TICKETS

continued from page A1

raising gala, Bites, Books and Blooms (BBB). Tickets for this night of good food, live music, and floral art representing favorite literary works are still available. A limited number of tickets may be sold at the door on the night of the event, but get yours now for \$50 at gladyskellylibrary.org, or at the library. You won't want to miss this wonderful evening. There will be door prizes, a 50-50 cash prize, and raffle baskets and even an Ikebana arrangement

awarded to some lucky winners, thanks to our generous sponsors.

Why do the Friends of the Library raise money? They want to keep all of the excellent programs offered by the library free for all children and adults of our community. If you have enjoyed the concerts, yoga classes, book clubs, historical talks, or visits from storybook characters or even from Goose, Webster's famous runaway lizard, please consider supporting this event. Even better, become a Friend yourself.

Can't make it to either the

Ikebana demo or the BBB but still want to see the creative displays? The Ikebana arrangements will stay in the library for public viewing during library hours Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 22 & 23, and the BBB's books in bloom will remain on site for everyone to enjoy through the day after the gala—Thursday, September 24th from 9am to 8pm.

Tickets for Bites, Books and Blooms, at \$50, may be purchased on the library Web site, gladyskellylibrary.org, or in person at the library, 2 Lake St.

TRUST

continued from page A1

Through its generous investment in local organizations, the Trust has helped strengthen the fabric of the communities it serves.

Located at 21 North Main St. in Webster, the Church of the Reconciliation has been a place of worship, fellowship, and community service for more than 150 years. In addition to its historic sanctuary, the church's former rectory now serves as Reconciliation House, a sober living residence that provides housing for up to six residents and a live-in house manager.

The church's Fellowship

Hall serves as the heart of parish and community life. Open and in use seven days a week, it hosts two Scouting groups, a daily Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, a women's 12 step meeting, a Narcotics Anonymous gathering, Al-Anon meetings, the monthly Building Bridges luncheon for veterans, Sunday fellowship gatherings, and other community activities.

The replacement of the aging boiler ensures that these vital programs can continue uninterrupted while also allowing the church to expand its outreach and service to the community. Without the

support of the Janet Malser Humanities Trust, maintaining this essential community space would have been a significant challenge.

The Church of the Reconciliation extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Trustees of the Janet Malser Humanities Trust for their vision, generosity, and commitment to strengthening our community. Their support will benefit not only our parish but the many individuals, families, veterans, and community organizations who gather in our Fellowship Hall every week.

The church is deeply grateful for this investment in our shared future.



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MLS #73512426 \$ 615,000

* June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan * Lori Johnson-Chausse * William Gilmore II * Maureen Cimoch * Bryan Pelletier

Webster - 3 Oakwood Dr

ON DEPOSIT

Presenting a meticulously maintained Colonial! This inviting home, spans 2,042 sf +/-, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths. Offers a refined living experience designed for comfort & convenience. The kitchen is a culinary enthusiast's delight, featuring a dining area w/picturesque views! Sleek stainless steel appliances, elegant maple wood cabinets & stone counters that provide both functionality & aesthetic appeal. The living room offers a sophisticated ambience, enhanced by hardwood floors, crown moldings & custom built in shelves. For special occasions enjoy the formal dining rm & a cozy everyday fireplace family rm w/sliders to a very private deck. Also provides a 2 car att'd garage for secure parking & storage. Discover the exceptional lifestyle afforded by this distinguished residence! We invite your inquiry & a private viewing! **MLS#73523347 \$589,900**

Featured New Listing!
Webster Lake Waterfront - 86 Bates Point Rd

ON DEPOSIT

This Beautifully Maintained Two-Level Waterfront Panoramic WATER VIEWS from almost every Single Window!! 50 Ft of Sandy Shoreline!! Front-row Northwest-facing Sunsets !!...The House Layout is Designed for a Seamless Indoor-Outdoor Lifestyle. Weather-Protected Patio! The Gem of the House is the Living/Dining room Combination !! Offering a sweeping Wall of Windows to enjoy watching Mother Nature at her Finest!! Granite Countertops, Stainless-steel Appliances, White "Soft-close" Cabinets and Solid Wood Flooring!!...This Main Level has an Effortless Layout adding a Roomy Convenient Bedroom & Large Closet, Full bath, 1/2 Bath & Laundry!!...Downstairs, the Walk-out Lower Level Transitions into a phenomenal Guest Retreat with 2 Bedrooms, Living space, and Full Bath!! 2 Car Garage! **MLS#7356983 \$1,050,000.**

Featured New Listing!
**24 Laurelwood Dr
Webster Lake Waterfront**

On the shores of prestigious Webster Lake! Experience ultra-luxury lakefront living with direct water access. This young modern craftsman lake home is masterfully designed to maximize panoramic Western views through a two-story architectural tower. The home boasts 3,790 +/- square feet of sophisticated, three-story living space, complete with multilevel waterside decks, a radius stone faced patio, and a tiered landscape with its own waterfall. From morning coffee to sunset gatherings, you will enjoy every minute overlooking your waterfront. The 1,735 +/- square feet main level features a spacious open floor plan, welcoming you into a kitchen, dining, and living area tailored for intimate social hosting. The living room flows seamlessly onto an expansive open deck and into an exquisite sun-drenched sitting room. A magnificent primary bedroom suite offers a private full bath, double sink vanity, walk-in closet and dressing room. The purposely designed lower level delivers effortless, large-volume entertainment, featuring a full second kitchen and a sprawling recreation room that opens to a substantial lakeside patio. With 2 additional bedrooms and bath, this level easily serves as a private guest floor. This Lake property is designed to create long-lasting memories! **MLS#73563787 \$1,750,000**

Webster ~ 33 Slater Street

Open House Saturday 11:30-1

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 **MLS # 73501183 NEW PRICE \$464,900**

**Webster - 24 Cooper Rd
New Construction - Craftsman Style home**

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 11:30-1:00
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 bds, 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 **MLS # 73534271 \$649,000**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

**Webster Lake Waterfront
22 Union Point Snug Harbor Villa**

Open House Saturday & Sunday 12-2
Waterfront Lake Snug Harbor Villa End Unit!
Most Luxurious & Largest on the Lake!

Presenting a distinguished condo residence that will provide an exceptional waterfront lifestyle! Offers an expansive 4600 sf+ featuring 4BRs, 4-1/2 baths, 3 frpics & more, all designed for relaxation & convenience! Nothing quite compares! Priced to Sell.
VIEW REALTOR MLS # 73507605 FOR MORE DETAILS \$975,000

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RARE WEBSTER LAKE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY ~ Two (2) Strategic Building Lots with Direct Waterfront Ownership. Discover an unmatched real estate package combining the financial benefits of off-water property taxes with the luxury of premium, direct Webster Lake access. This rare offer features two cleared, build-ready contiguous lots paired with a commanding 2/3 fractional ownership interest in a prime waterfront parcel, complete with a private beach and boat dock. **MLS# 73564208 \$525,000**



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21 Fox Run Brookfield Meadows Brookfield \$230,000

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9/11
continued from page A1

was honored to attend today's ceremony alongside fellow Dudley officials, and I am grateful to Webster's officials, veterans and community for bringing us together to remember not only those we lost, but who we were as a nation in the days that followed, and who we are still capable of being."



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