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Friday, October 10, 2025

www.StonebridgePress.com

Saint Joseph School honors Mariusz Macko as 2025 Volunteer of the Year

WEBSTER — Saint Joseph School proudly rec-Webster ognized Mr. Mariusz Macko as the 2025 recipient of the Saint Joseph the Worker Volunteer of the Year Award. The award was presented by Principal Beth Boudreau during the Saint Joseph School Family Mass held on Sunday, Oct. 5 at Saint Joseph Basilica.

"It is my honor and privilege to present the 2025 Saint Joseph the Worker Volunteer of the Year Award to someone whose generosity and commitment have touched nearly every corner of our school community— Mr. Mariusz Macko," said Boudreau as she addressed the congregation. "Whether it's coaching our athletes, assisting with robotics, helping at our Thanksgiving and Christmas lunches, or lending his talents behind the scenes with lighting and sound for our pageants and plays he is always willing to step in with a servant's heart."

immigrated to the United States in 1990 and settled in Worcester. He attended Sullivan Middle

Saint Joseph School Principal Beth Boudreau and Pastor and Headmaster Rev. Richard Polek proudly present Mariusz Born in Poland, Macko Macko with a plaque recognizing him as the 2025 Saint Joseph the Worker Volunteer of the Year during the Saint Joseph School Family Mass held on Oct. 5 at Saint Joseph Basilica. Pictured with Mariusz are his daughters, Evelyn, a seventh-grade student at Saint Joseph School, on his left, and Emily, Saint Joseph School Class of 2024, on his right.

School before earning

School and South High his Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 2003. For 22

years, he has served as Boat and has made

past two decades.

At Saint Joseph School, and builder with Electric his volunteer contribu-

has assisted at school festivals, served as an intramural and JV girls' basketball coach, head coach, and cross-country coach, and offered technical support for performances and pageants. He has also shared his time as a mystery reader. assistant athletic director, and supporter of the school's Thanksgiving and Christmas luncheons. In addition, his passion for Lego robotics has inspired countless students over the years.

"As principal, I cannot tell you how grateful I am for Mariusz's constant support and dedication," Boudreau added. "His example of service reflects the very spirit of Saint Joseph the Worker—humility, hard work, and love for family and community."

The Saint Joseph the Worker Volunteer of the Year Award honors individuals who embody the school's mission of faith, learning, and love through acts of service that strengthen both the school and parish community. Saint Joseph School extends heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to Mr. Macko for his many years of devotion and service.

Dudley teacher arrested on child endangerment charges

BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

TAUNTON — A Dudley Charlton Regional School District teacher has been put on leave following an arrest for child endangerment after attempting to meet a minor he says he believed was of age.

A pair of press releases from the Dudley and Taunton Police Departments, respectively, confirmed that Thomas Wilson Southbridge, a Shepherd Hill Regional High School music teacher, has been charged with offenses related to child endangerment. The Taunton Police Department confirmed that an incident on Sept. 18 resulted in an investigation and Wilson's subsequent arrest. Wilson was charged with Reckless Sexual Endangerment of a Child, Enticement of a Child Under Age 16, and Possession of Child Pornography.

While the Taunton Police Department has not released extensive details about the investigation, WCVB news has reported that Wilson appeared in court on Oct. 3, where he admitted to driving to Taunton to meet a 14-year-old girl he had connected with on Reddit who he believed was 18. Wilson has since posted bail and is required to wear a GPS device and avoid contact with anyone under 18.

The Dudley Police Department issued a press release on Oct. 3 that clarified their involvement in the case. The department was first notified of the arrest on Sept. 20 after which they informed school officials who "promptly took appropriate action by placing the teacher on administrative leave," according to Dudley Police Chief Marek Karlowicz.

"Throughout this process, Taunton Police have remained in contact with our department while their investigation continued. In addition, the Dudley Police Department has assigned investigators to this case, which remains active and ongoing. Our highest priority is the safety, security, and well-being of the students in our community," said the chief in a statement. "The Dudley-Charlton Regional School District Administration has been fully cooperative during this investigation. We encourage parents and guardians to speak with their children and to contact our department directly with any ques-

tions or concerns. While our correspondent was unable to contact school administration for this story, the incident does not appear to have involved any students that Wilson taught locally. The case remains an active investigation according to authorities.

a submarine engineer Oxford his home for the

tions have been extensive and heartfelt. He

Dudley Town Meeting to address Eagle Drive water line funding ing warrant. Until the

CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Dudley's fall annual town meeting is on the horizon with a back heavy warrant focusing on a variety of town issues in addition to the typical financial matters usually addressed every October.

Among the topics up for debate are the continued attempt to authorize borrowing for the Eagle Drive neighborhood water main extension, Eagle Drive PFAS remediation funding, the possible renaming of the Board of Selectman, wine and malt license regulation changes, and highway discharge regulations. The Town Meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Oct. 20 in the Connie Vanco-Galli Auditorium at Shepherd Hill Regional High School.

What could potentially be the most debated item of the night is the Eagle Drive water line extension funding which previously failed at the annual town meeting by only a handful of votes required to meet a twothird majority.

The October article is very similar, seeking the borrowing of \$14.2 million for the project which is considered the final solution to ongoing PFAS issues in the Eagle Drive neighborhood. While the town is seeking borrowing of the entire cost, half of that price tag would be covered through an agreement with local company Gentex. Securing the full borrowing amount

would allow Dudley to utilize State Revolving Fund money to help pay for the project. Selectmen reaffirmed their commitment to the project in the months following the annual town meeting promising to engage in a larger public information campaign to hopefully secure the necessary votes for passage which included a public informational session during the board's Oct. 6 meeting. If the item does not pass it will once again put a roadblock in the way of a solution that would eliminate the town's required remediation of PFAS contamination in local well.

That remediation is also on the town meet-

water line project takes place Dudley must continue to fund that commitment as mandated by the state Department Environmental Protection (DEP). An article will seek to authorize borrowing \$222,615.32 to continue remediation including maintaining filtration systems. Dudley's previous borrowing article for remediation took several town meetings to approve, eventually earning enough support at the May annual town meeting but not before putting the town at risk of fines and legal ramifications due to the DEP mandates and the existing remediation contract

Outside of PFAs issues. several other articles could change some regulations in the town and even change the title of the town's executive board. A proposal to seek voter input on changing the Board of Selectmen to a Select Board. In a time when many local and national boards are shifting to more gender-neutral monikers, Dudley will now have its say on what the board will be called for the foreseeable future. Other items up for discussion include accepting provisions of Massachusetts General Law that would allow the selectmen to approve converting on-premises Turn To **DUDLEY** page **A11**

United Church of Christ Federated honors volunteer for 28 years of service

with Gentex.

WEBSTER Sunday, Sept. 14, the United Church of Christ Federated gathered to celebrate the faithful leadership of Edna Patri, who has guided the Golden Bees ministry for the past

28 years. Each Monday morning, from 9 a.m. to noon, a faithful and spirited group of mostly senior citizens gathers to provide warmth, dignity, and care to the homeless. Using donated comforters, blankets, and sheets, the Golden Bees lovingly create sleeping bags that are distributed to shelters, support organizations, and at times, direct-

ly to individuals in need.



Alongside each sleeping bag, the ministry often includes health kits filled with essential personal care items, another small way to offer comfort and

compassion.

The numbers speak volumes. In 2024, the Golden Bees distributed 515

Turn To VOLUNTEERS page A11

Dudley Little League celebrates athletes at annual awards ceremony





Left to right: DLL VP of Softball Amanda St. George, award recipient Quinn Remillard, her coach and DLL Safety Officer Amanda White, DLL League President Dan Colella

Left to right: Family members and the recipient, Timothy King award presenter Renee Paire, and DLL President Dan Colella.

DUDLEY — On Thursday, Sept. 25, the Dudley Little League Board of Directors held their Annual Meeting. The highlight of the meeting included the presentation of the Nellie Twardzik Thompson Outstanding Softball Athlete Award and the John Paire Award for

Baseball Excellence. The Board of Directors, joined by coaches, players, and families, recognized and honored two exceptional young athletes.

Remembering a local legend: Nellie Twardzik Thompson

Nellie Twardzik Thompson, a lifelong resident of Dudley, made history in 1935 as the first female to start on a boys' varsity baseball team at the age of 15. She played first base for Bartlett High School for three years, earning national attention for breaking barriers in the sport. After high school, she continued to play semi-professional baseball, including on her own team, Nellie's All-Stars.

In 2006, Nellie's high school letter and first baseman's glove were permanently displayed in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. as part of the Diamond Dreams: Women in Baseball exhibit. Nellie passed away in 2013, leaving a lasting legacy as a pioneer for women in baseball.

The Nellie Twardzik Thompson Outstanding Softball Athlete Award is given annually to a player that exhibits exceptional athletic ability on the field, displays endless effort, remarkable sportsmanship, and a sheer love of

The 2025 Nellie Twardzik Thompson Outstanding Softball Athlete Award was presented to Quinn Remillard.

Honoring Excellence in Baseball: John Paire

The late John Paire, former principal at Dudley Middle School, was remembered for his "Be Better" philosophy, which continues to influence students and athletes across the community.

To this day, his legacy remains strong as one can easily spot the "Be Better" logo on dozens of t-shirts, hoodies, and stickers throughout the Town of Dudley. A stone at the entrance to Dudley Middle School engraved with the same words serves as a daily reminder to stu-

dents as they enter the building. The John Paire Award for Baseball Excellence is given to a baseball player that demonstrates outstanding talent, a high level of sportsmanship, displays the characteristics of a great teammate and respect for the game of baseball. This player personifies the "Be Better" philosophy Mr. Paire is still known for

in the community. The 2025 John Paire Award for Baseball Excellence was presented to Timothy King, receiving the award from Renee Paire during the ceremony.

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AM-12:00 PM.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Comedic actor Rogen
- 5. Bits per inch 8. Tire pressure measurement
- 11. Angels great Mike
- 13. Own (Scottish) 14. Notable FI racing team
- 15. Upper bract of grass 16. Tax collector
- 17. Electronic counter-
- countermeasures 18. Informal loan clubs
- 20. Skeletal muscle
- 21. Popular fish type
- 22. Salts of acetic acid 25. Arriving early
- 30. Worded
- 31. Single Lens Reflex 32. Amphibians 33. Warm greeting
- 38. Belonging to a thing 41. Segmented worm
- 43. Concerns
- 45. Audacious
- 47. Wings
- 49. Type of drug 50. Wind chill formula scientist
- Charles
- 55. Island close to the U.S.
- 56. "To the __ degree"
 57. Daniel __, French composer
- 61. Spiritual leader
- 62. Of she
- odor (abbr.)

- 59. A way to march
- 60. Where golfers begin
- 63. Mental disorder concerning body
- 64. Tall, slender-leaved plant

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Engine additive 2. Amounts of time
- 3. Fragrant brown balsam used in perfume
- 4. Color properties 5. One who hands over
- 6. Thieves of the sea
- 8. Nocturnal rodents

alphabet

- 9. Pouches 10. Systems, doctrines, theories
- 12. Greek alphabet letter 14. Greek goddess of youth
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. Partly digested food 24. Dictator
- 25. Parts per thousand (abbr.) 26. The 17th letter of the Greek
- 27. A major division of geological time
- 28. Angry
- 29. St. Francis of 34. Romanian monetary unit
- 35. Stale
- 36. Go quickly
- 37. Commercials 39. Canadian city
- 40. One who slices 41. Perform perfectly
- 42. Nest of pheasants
- 44. Tactile sensations 45. Sword
- 46. Climactic 47. Adrenocorticotrophin
- 48. Fisherman's tool 51. Swiss river
- 52. Plant that makes gum 53. A French abbot
- 54. One point east of northeast 58. Get free of
- R E E D 3 H 8 A A 3 T 3 H В Τ SOLUTION H T N a u a u 0 T C ∃ ∀ ┐ N A D A □ B T | I | 8 I 9 S 1 7 0 S T N D E S 1 0 A N N E L SI A H O J D A O T S E D A A H 7 S A B B U T A M B B L Щ A C E S 3 T | A | | 1 | \forall В Τ \forall ٦ s n s n s S 0 О S Я 1 3 7 ∀ A H A \forall U O A H T 3

REAL ESTATE

\$710,000, 24 Goddard Dr, Cariglio, Steven L, and Cariglio, Cindy L, to Rozak, Alexander, and Rozak,

\$670,000, 38 Brook St, Froio Jr, Stephen J, and Froio, Erin M, to Delacruz, Geraldo.

\$650,000, 7 Mayfield Rd, Gary S Petro T, and Petro,

Gary S, to Bitto, Michael, and Strugazow, Amy. \$435,000, 19 Chestnut Ave, Santiago, Ethan C, to Payes, Jose M, and Lopez, Yeni A.

\$415,000, 85 Pinehurst Ave, Wright, Kimberly A, and Minton, Tiyika K, to Garcia, Asdrubal, and Monge, Asdrubal S.

\$950,000, 93 Schofield Ave, Sudyka, Wieslaw, and Sudyka, Jan, to Imperial Group Ads Inc.

\$877,000, 19 Williams St, Menzone, David J, to Srt

\$354,500, 134 Southbridge Rd, Arpin Gail M Est, and Lawrence, Nicole L, to Britton, Alexander K, and Raymond, Shannon.

OXFORD

\$599,900, 3 Jasmine Rd, Morello, Robert G, and Morello, Danielle N, to Harrison, Magda, and Harrison,

\$592,500, 126 Federal Hill Rd, Smith, Brendan L, to Ryel, Alexander, and Bell, Rachael.

\$455,000, 18 Wayne Ave, Fyvie, Andrew D, and Fyvie, Kori E, to Richards, Cameron, and Carneiro, Jessica C. \$382,000, 6 Cole Dr #6, Catullo Judith A Est, and Bagdis, Katherine A, to Nelson Jr, Robert W, and Nelson, Janis E.

\$255,000, 30 Thayer Pond Dr #5, Webber, Christopher J, to Paz, Richard.

WEBSTER

\$530,000, 576-578 School St, Bd Construction LLC, to Sicard, Adrienne, and Sicard-Melanson, Cynthia.

\$456,000, 1200 School St, Chem, Andrew, and Seng, Rachael, to Czelusniak, Jeffrey, and Czelusniak, Aggie. \$400,000, 47 Hillside Ave, Oxsco LLC, to Rosa, Ruth. \$379,900, 21 Granite St, Webster Rentals LLC, to Dao, Kimberly, and Tuong, Kevin.

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Cornerstone Bank supports Dismas House with \$3,000 donation for winter heating assistance

- Cornerstone Bank has donated \$3,000 to Dismas House of Massachusetts, Inc., to help provide winter heating support across the nonprofit's four residential programs for former inmates reentering society. The funds will help cover utility costs during the colder months, ensuring that residents have a safe, warm environment as they work toward rebuilding their lives.

Dismas House offers transitional housing,

pathway back to the community for individuals most in need of recovery, decent work and housing. With locations across Worcester County, the organization provides not only shelter, but also critical programs that foster stability and hope.

"Dismas House plays a vital role in providing dignity and opportu-nity for people in need across our community," said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. "We're proud to continue

support services and a our support for their mission, particularly during the winter months when reliable heat is essential."

> This most recent gift builds on Cornerstone Bank's ongoing partnership with Dismas House, which included a \$2,500 donation in 2024 to support youth hunger initiatives and a \$4,000 donation in 2023 for the same

> Cornerstone Bank is committed to strengthening local communities through charitable giv

ing and volunteerism. Its support of Dismas House underscores the bank's dedication to addressing urgent community needs and improving the lives of neighbors across Central Massachusetts.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts,

Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone, which is a subsidiary of PeoplesBankCorp, MHC, operating independently under its own name and brand, provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to

connect customers with opportunities through a broad range of deposit and loan products and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-

Saints Constantine & Helen offers monthly Living Bread Luncheon

WEBSTER — Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church offers what it calls the Living Bread Luncheon on the first Saturday of every month. These community meals are free for anyone to come and enjoy a delicious meal in a warm and hospitable setting, while meeting with friends and others from around the Webster

Father Luke Veronis, the priest at Saints Constantine and Helen Church, noted how this meal began. "Around ten years ago, our community wanted to join the rotation of other churches in town that were offering a free meal for people in need. We came up with the name Living Bread Luncheon as a reflec-

words, "I am the Bread of Life." We thought that through a delicious meal and welcoming spirit, we could offer the love of Christ to the community of Webster. Instead of just being for people in need, however, our luncheon has become a special event for anyone and everyone who wants to be treated as a special

guest while enjoying a delicious meal. We get to know people by name and offer a loving spirit in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. It's beautiful to see how our guests literally arrive one or two hours before the meal is served, simply to enjoy the welcoming atmosphere while drinking a coffee, eating some pastries, and chatting with

than one guest say that the highlight of their month is coming to our Living Bread Luncheon."

Neal Neslusan and Linda Nizamoff, the main cooks for each meal, oversee a group of faithful volunteers from the Church. Neal describes these meals as, "a monthly fellowship meeting

delicious homecooked food with a lot of friendship." Everyone is welcome to take part in these Living Bread Luncheons!

Doors open at 10 a.m. for pastries and coffee. and food is served at 12:30 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month at Saints Constantine and Helen Church, 37 Lake Parkway, Webster.

Park Avenue Faculty Spotlight



Tracie Vangel (AI), Christina Cabrera (K - Special Education) and Kirsten Larson (K-IA) smiling for a group picture!

WEBSTER — Each year, Park Avenue is filled with remarkable student learning, made possible by the dedication, creativity, support and most importantly hope that is carried by the extraordinary staff here in our town. This week we would like to

highlight three exceptional teachers at PAE -Tracie Vangel (Academic Interventionist .Kirsten Larson (Kindergarten Instructional Assistant) and Christina Cabrera (Kindergarten Special

Education Liaison). Ms. Vangel is a dedi-

cated and hardworking Academic Interventionist who consistently goes above and beyond to support her students. She takes the time to understand each child's individual needs and creates meaningful learning opportunities that help them thrive. Because she

works in many different many kindergarten classclassrooms, she knows most of the students in our school and builds positive connections with them. Faculty members say the children "truly love having Ms. Vangel in their classrooms — she makes learning fun and meaningful for every student." Her commitment,

care, and willingness to go the extra mile make a lasting impact on our school community. Thank you for your dedication.

Ms. Larson is

a kind and flexiinstructional assistant in Kindergarten who is always ready to support both students and staff. She steps in wherever she is needed, offering patience, encouragement, and care. One faculty member notes, "Ms. Larson is always reliable — we can count on her no matter what comes up during the day." Her willingness to help ensures that students receive the attention they need, and her positive presence contributes to the success of the entire school communi-

your dedication. Ms. Cabrera is a dedicated speeducation liaison who goes above and beyond to meet the needs of her students. She works across

ty. Thank you for

rooms, collaborating with staff and supporting learning in every setting. Christina makes a spe-

cial effort to get to know all the students in the building, building strong relationships that help each child feel supported and valued. According to a colleague, "Christina's

expertise in special education is incredible she supports both students and teachers with skill and dedication." Her commitment and care have a meaningful impact on both students and staff alike. Thank you for your dedication.

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The Library will be closed on Monday, Oct. 13 in observation of Indigenous Peoples Day.

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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

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. No pre-registration is required. For more information, email us at info@lvscm.org.

Yoga Nidr – Wednesday Mornings at 8:15am

Join Adult Services Librarian Jess for a relaxing yoga nidr practice to start your day on Wednesdays. 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 nidr). If you have your own yoga mat, please bring it and be sure to dress in comfortable clothing. This program takes place before the library officially opens. Registration is required and Jess will meet you at the program door.

Library for All – First Two Mondays; Last Two Fridays 10AM (Chair Yoga or Craft)

This program includes one chair yoga class and one craft project that will be held on first two Mondays and the last two Fridays of the month. Either join Jess for a one-hour relaxing Chair Yoga class or join us for our craft program. Check the online calendar to see which event is scheduled. No experience necessary. This program is for teens and adults of all abilities and their caregivers. Please call ahead if special accommodations or requirements are needed.

Yoga – Saturdays at 9:30am

Join Julie or Lauren 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.

Fall Concert Series: Dan Cloutier – Thursday, Oct. 9th at 6:30pm

Dan Cloutier is a New England based singer-songwriter with a new album called, The Iceberg, which was released in early summer of 2025. The project was an album and an adventure, as Dan spent the last year traveling to both Greenland and Newfoundland to find icebergs, record music, and make videos. The album is all about finding hope during dark seasons of life. Like an iceberg, you cannot see

what is underneath. At his concert he will be sharing his iceberg songs, the meanings behind each, and stories of his adventures in the great north. The music has been featured throughout New England and beyond.

Afternoon Tea: Chamomile Tea Party for Adults – Friday, Oct. 10th 3:00pm

Adults: Join us in celebrating the chamomile we grew in our garden! One of our garden committee volunteers lovingly dried our chamomile so we could enjoy it together as tea. We'll have biscuits and maybe even do a taste test comparing our own chamomile to the store-bought tea. Tea party attire is recommended for fun, but certainly not required! Registration is required.

Cookbook Club – Tuesday, October 14th at 6:00pm

Join our cookbook club this month as we cook recipes from The Complete Autumn and Winter Cookbook by America's Test Kitchen. Extra copies are available at the circulation desk.

Seasonal Decoupage Wall Pockets with Sincerely, Michele – Thursday, October 16th at 5:30pm

Join Michele Thorne of Sincerely, Michele, in decoupaging 2 seasonal wall pockets. You'll make one fall themed pocket and one winter themed pocket. This program is for adults and requires registration.

Genre Book Group – Thursday, October 16th at 6:00pm

Join our Genre Book Group! Each month we'll read a different genre. October's genre is historical horror: The Buffalo Hunter Hunter by Stephen Graham Jones. Extra copies are available at the circulation desk. To be added to the group list, please email Jess at jfontaine@cwmars.org.

Programming for All Ages Pet Portraits – Friday, October 17th at 3:30pm

Join Jess and Paige for a Pet Portrait painting program! Come with a 5x7 or 8x10 picture of your pet and leave with a framed abstract of your

beloved animal. Registration Required.

Historical Walking Tour of Downtown Webster with the National Parks Service – Saturday, October 18th

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.

Children's and Young Adult Programming

Creators Club – Mondays from 4:00-5:30 PM

We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test! Come explore our newly rebranded Monday night program: Creators Club! Each month features a new theme highlighting a different art supply for kids to experiment with and turn into their own masterpieces. October's theme is Watercolors. Kids can experiment with blending, textures, and colors to make unique works of art. Artwork left behind will be displayed in the children's program room for the rest of the month!

Tiny Groovers - Tuesdays at 10:30 AM Join Miss Paige for a new storytime! Toddlers ages 2-5 and their caregivers will dance to popular kids' tunes using instruments and playful props, and enjoy an interactive story each week.

Mini Block Party – Tuesdays at 3:30pm

Play with magnets, marble mazes, and LEGO.

Busy Baby Storytime – Fridays at 10:00am

Join us for Busy Baby Storytime! Babies and caregivers will enjoy songs, movement, and simple stories that build early literacy skills in a fun and playful way.

STEM Beginnings: Young Scientists at 10:00am

Children, ages 3-6, with a parent/caregiver will learn STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) concepts through hands-on activities, story time, challenges and simple experiments in this weekly STEM series. Caregivers please register as a registrant only and not as attendees. Please add as attendees only children between ages 3 and 6. Please answer all questions to receive approval. "Young Scientists" is sponsored by the YMCA Family & Community Partnership (YFCP), a Massachusetts Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) Grant program funded by the Department of Early Education & Care and awarded to the YMCA of Central Massachusetts.

Me and My Mini – October 16th, and 30th (special Halloween edition on the 30th)

Me and My Mini: A 45 minute creative movement group for ages 0 through 2.5 with a grown-up. Group is focused on adult and baby spending quality time together, fostering attachment, and baby interacting with others their age. Get groovy to upbeat music with fun props, instruments, and a story. Adult participation is required and 1-2 children per adult is recommended.

Craft Adventures: Spooky Slime – Thursday, Oct. 9th at 4:00pm

Join us for our new Thursday craft series, Craft Adventures, tailored for elementary kids! Each month features a different hands-on project, and this month participants will create their own spooky slime to bring home. A great way for kids to get creative and try something new each month!

Clay Animals – Friday, Oct. 10th at 2:00pm

A half day is a perfect reason to come to the library and make your own clay animal! Tweens (ages 7-12) are invited to hang out in the Community Room, make some cute clay creations, and enjoy some snacks with friends. Registration is required.

Kim the LEGO Lady – Oct. 21st 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.

<u>Webster</u> 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., with one Thursday

a month 9 a.m.- 7 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, 10/14: Chicken stir-fry, steamed white rice, roasted broccoli, fresh fruits. Wednesday, 10/15: Vegetable cheese bake, seasoned potatoes, jardinière vegetables, mixed fruit. Thursday, 10/16: Banh Mi pork riblet sandwiches, carrots, coleslaw, baked cinnamon pears. Friday, 10/17: Soup du Jour, Caesar chicken salad sandwiches, pickled beets, grahams.

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 are now offering MOVIE MATINEES every Wednesday at 1:00 pm! Popcorn is provided, no registration is needed. Our October movies include- "The Curse of Bridge Hollow" on 10/15, "The Craft" on 10/22, and "The Conjuring" on 10/29. PLEASE NOTE that some of these movies contain graphic content. Please be mindful of this while you watch!

Looking for a creative way to spend Columbus Day? Join us for our Columbus Day Craft Fair! Browse a selection of handcrafted gifts, and maybe get some holiday shopping in too! Crafter applications are open as well! Please email hackensonc@aol.com for more information.

Are you ready for Halloween? The Friends of the Webster Senior Center will be hosting their Halloween Party on October 31st! Come and enjoy some snacks and music by Dave Mindell from 1-2:30 PM! Come dressed in your best costume for a chance to win a prize!

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.

Knitting/Crochet group meets on Mondays from 10:00 am- 12:00 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!

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.

QCC's updated dental clinic offers free services to seniors and veterans

WORCESTER Quinsigamond Community College's Dental Hygiene Clinic is offering free preventative dental services to anyone aged 55 or older, as well as active military members and veterans. The clinic, located at QCC's West Boylston Street campus, offers dental assessments, teeth cleaning, x-rays and fluoride treatments and serves the general public at a discounted cost of \$25 for adults and \$20 for children.

The clinic was recently outfitted with new dental

chairs and the flooring was replaced, ensuring QCC can effectively operate its 18-chair clinic, which provides hands-on instruction for students in QCC's dental hygiene and dental assistant programs. The clinic also supports QCC's non-credit dental radiology certification program.

"Each patient plays a vital role in helping students develop their skills, gain confidence and prepare for real-world practice. By donating your time as a patient, you're making a

meaningful contribution to both student education and public health," said Dental Clinic Operations and Facilities Manager Rene Cummings.

Since 2021, QCC's Dental Hygiene Clinic has provided free dental care to 900 seniors through a grant from Senior Connection, a nonprofit supporting senior citizens and caregivers. The clinic also works with the Worcester Public Schools' Kidseal program, which provides free dental care to low-income elementary

school children. In 2024, 150 children were served at the clinic.

"In many cases, we are the only access to dental care that these patients have due to financial barriers, lack of insurance or other challenges," said Program Coordinator for Dental Hygiene Education Jane Gauthier.

For more information, visit QCC.edu/dental-clinic. To schedule an appointment, call 508-854-4306.

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First registered healthcare apprentices graduate from QCC, UMass Memorial program

Quinsigamond Community College, in partnership with UMass Memorial Health, the Worcester SHARE union and the Massachusetts Division of Apprentice Standards (DAS), held a

ceremony this week for the first graduates of the Medical Assistant Apprenticeship Program. This is the first registered healthcare apprenticeship program in Central Massachusetts.

Twelve

Local student shines on runway at New York Fashion Week



WEBSTER — Carter Meehan, a fifth-grade student at St. James School, is already turning heads in the entertainment world. The young actor and model recently took the spotlight at New York Fashion Week, walking the runway in the Rookie USA "RookieKids Runway on Broadway" fashion show.

Meehan was selected to model for the debut of 3Brand, the clothing line founded by NFL quarterback Russell Wilson and recording artist Ciara. The exclusive, invite-only event drew a star-studded audience, including Wilson and Ciara themselves, along with celebrities such as Busta Rhymes, Ice-T and Coco Austin, Lil' Kim, Josh Hart, Adrienne Bailon, JWoww, and Dascha Polanco

This isn't Meehan's first time in the spotlight. He has already built an impressive résumé in television, film, and commercials. His work includes the role of Kyle in Season 14 of "Blue Bloods," as well as appearances in "Dexter: New Blood," "Evil Lives Here," and the holiday movie "A Royal Christmas Holiday." His commercial portfolio includes campaigns for Nerf, L.L. Bean, and Transformers.

Next up, Meehan will appear as Danny in the upcoming holiday film "A Royal Christmas Tail," set to premiere this December on the Great American Family

With his growing list of credits and high-profile appearances, Carter Meehan is quickly becoming a young talent to watch.

Memorial employees have successfully completed this training program to become nationally certified medical assistants. The participants underwent 2,000 hours of full-time, on-the-job training, complemented by eight weeks of classroom instruction.

The program uses an "earn-and-learn" model that allows employees to maintain their salary and benefits while in the program.

Kathie Manning, QCC's dean of the Center for Workforce Development and Continuing Education, credits DAS for funding a medical assistant pre-apprenticeship program, which provided supports that enabled students to earn a livable wage while advancing their careers.

"I've seen far too many students who must choose between working and getting an education. When that decision, it doesn't benefit the workforce and it doesn't benefit the student," said Manning.

Lynn D'Angelo, director, Ambulatory Clinical Excellence at UMass Memorial Medical Center, noted that medical assistants are critical as they often serve as the first point of contact for patients.

"We have filled many medical assistant positions and have had a 26 percent reduction in vacancies. Our medical assistants have also helped to increase patient access, enhance patient experience and deliver safe, quality care," said D'Angelo. 'Helping others is

something I always knew I was put on this earth for. Becoming a medical assistant allowed me to do that while building a relationship with my patients, coworkers, and providers, all while Graduate Lindsey Leahy, who works at Spencer Internal Medicine, a part of UMass Memorial Medical

Community Group.

Undersecretary Labor in the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, Josh Cutler, noted that apprenticeships grown as a workforce tool, no longer just for the building trades and applicable to many industries, such as cybersecurity, biotech and advanced manufacturing. He also thanked Gov. Maura Healey and the state legislature for supporting the apprenticeship model.

"In Massachusetts... our greatest natural resource is our people; it's our skilled workforce. You are a shining example of us building and investing in our workforce," Cutler said to the graduates.

Damptey, who works at the Spine Center at UMass Memorial Medical Center, commented that she was apprehensive about the program at first because she hadn't been in school for so long.

"I didn't realize how much this program was going to change me and further my education,' said Damptey. "At UMass Memorial Health, you can become whoever you want to be."

"Quinsigamond College played such an amazing role, ensuring all of us students were provided with everything we needed to succeed, especially our teacher, Cheryl DeCoff (QCC Assistant Professor of Medical Assisting, who constantly braved the storms of the unknown and the new to ensure we met our end goal," Leahy

DWC's beloved fundraiser returns with heartfelt thanks to our sponsors!

DUDLEY — We are excited to announce the return of Pocketbook Bingo at the PACC, located at 37 Harris St., Webster, on Nov. 2 at 2 p.m., with doors opening at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$35 in advance (\$40 at the door) for a chance to win up to 10 fabulous designer handbags along with an entry for our door prize raffle! Enjoy the thrill of

ety of exciting activities throughout the afternoon.

This event promises an enjoyable afternoon of bingo with friends while you vie for stunning designer bags! We want to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude to our generous sponsors who make this event possible:

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Your support is invaluable to us, and we are thrilled to partner with you for this wonderful

As part of our commu-

nity initiative, we invite all attendees to bring non-perishable hot drink donations, such as coffee, teas, and hot cocoa, for the Dudley Webster Food Share. Each donation will earn you an entry for the door prize!

For more information, please visit www.dudleywomansclub.org/pocketbookbingo. We look forward to seeing you there!

Discover the Nipmuc Lithic Trail Oct. 25 at Samuel Slater Experience

WEBSTER — Native Americans in the Nipmuc Territory surrounding Webster and northeastern Connecticut left tangible artifacts, called lithic structures. some can be found today in area fields and woods. Examples are cairns, chambers, anthropomorphic stone art and weirs.

Joe Iamartino, longtime president of the Thompson Historical Society, will present photographic and written

of these historic structures in Class 5 of his presentation series. Learn about the latest finds and efforts to preserve these

The talk will be given on Saturday, Oct. 25, at 11 a.m. with an encore at 1 p.m. Each will last about one hour.

The lecture is free: to register, go www.samuelslaterexperience.org. email admin@samuelslaterexperience.org, or call 508-461-2955. Tours of the

museum before or after For Advertising **Information** Call email: mikaela@ stonebridge

press.news

evidence of the purpose the talk will be available at a reduced ticket price.

> Samuel Slater Experience is at 31 Ray St. in Webster. For information. email admin@samuelslaterexperience.org or call

508-461-2955.

Discover the Nipmuc Lithic Trail is supported by a grant from the Webster Cultural Council and is a part of The Last Green Valley Walktober

What secrets are in deeds?

AUBURN — The Auburn Historical Society & Museum's Oct. 16 meeting will feature Kate Toomey of the Worcester County's Registrar of Deeds who will show how to utilize the information found in deeds. Some of these documents go back to 1731. If you are researching land or tracing the history of a home the place to find this out would be the Registry of Deeds. Come with your questions to answer.

The meeting will be held at the Auburn Sportsman's Club, 50 Elm St., Auburn at 6:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. 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.

UDLEY POLICE LOG

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

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Sept. 2 for Assault on a Family or Household Member and Intimidation of a Witness, Juror, Police Officer, or Court Official. An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested **774–200–7308**

on Sept. 9 for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

Christopher E. Lewis, age 55, of Dudley was arrested on Sept. 11 in connection

with a warrant.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Sept. 14 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member and Strangulation or Suffocation. An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested

on Sept. 21 for Assault & Battery (Domestic). An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested

on Sept. 22 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Andrew Robert Whitman, Jr., age 19, of Pawcatuck, Conn.; Kane Williams, age 19, of Napa, Calif.; and Mason Edward Little, age 19, of Marlborough, Conn. were arrested on Sept. 25 for Possession and/or Misuse of a False Liquor ID Card or

Michael F. Roche, age 63, of Dudley was arrested on Sept. 26 for Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle and Operating Under the Influence (Liquor).

Andrew B. Beresik, age 54, of Webster was arrested on Sept. 29 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor-second offense), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, operating an Uninsured and Unregistered Motor Vehicle, Failure to Stop for Police, and Resisting Arrest.

Green Path Cannabis in Southbridge, Massachusetts, is proud to offer a monthly record expungement program! Each month, Green Path will choose one interested person to receive legal services to evaluate and assist their petitions to seal or expunge a criminal record of cannabis possession. Green Path will give hiring consideration to qualified participants as well as their spouses and children if an employment vacancy exists.

Please apply for consideration at greenpathcannabis.com or email kailyhepburn@kailyhepburnlaw.com.







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Frank G. Chilinski STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

> Brendan Berube **E**DITOR

EDITORIAL

A season for civic care

As summer fades and the daily rhythm of life returns to something steadier, many of us start taking stock of what needs attention before winter sets in-roofs, furnaces, gardens, even cars. It's a familiar New England ritual. Yet while we tend to our homes, our communities also require a kind of seasonal upkeep.

Local government runs on participation, and lately, participation has been thin. Public meetings too often echo with empty chairs. Boards and commissions are left with vacancies. Budget hearings come and go with no one asking a question. The result is decisions that shape our roads, schools, and neighborhoods being made in near silence—not for lack of caring, but because many residents assume someone else is paying attention.

The truth is that "someone else" is often a small circle of neighbors doing their best with limited time. These are people who read the packets, attend the late-night meetings, and field phone calls that no one thanks them for. They are not looking for applause, but they do need merciful heart is a heart that burns with company.

Autumn is a good time to re-engage. As town warrants go to press and next year's budgets take shape, this is the season when ideas and priorities are still flexible. Show up at a select board meeting. Ask your town clerk about open seats on a committee. Spend ten minutes on your town's website looking at what's being discussed. It costs nothing but a bit of time, and it's the surest way to make local government reflect the people it serves.

We can't expect our towns to thrive on autopilot. Just as we wouldn't leave our homes unmaintained through the winter, we shouldn't leave our civic institutions untended. A community that keeps showing up—asking questions, offering help, and watching out for one anotherstays stronger through any season.

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.

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

THE DEADLINE to submit letters to the editor and commentaries for next

Adopting the spirit of the U.S. Navy! Golden Rule

Several weeks ago, during a visit to the nursing homes, I began telling one of our older parishioners that we had our annual Greek Festival coming up. As we talked about the festive spirit, the Greek dancers, and all the delicious food and pastries, she mentioned how she hoped that someone would bring her. So, I asked her, "What are you looking forward to most at the Festival? What Greek food or pastry do you really miss?'

She looked at me with these sad eyes and simply responded, "I don't miss the food. I miss being around people. It's the people I want to see!

Wow! What a statement! "I don't miss the food. I miss being around people. It's the people I want to see!

How do we respond to such people? Are we even aware of them? And will we reach out?

In today's Gospel reading, we heard Jesus say, "Do unto others as you want them to do unto

you..." This is one of the simplest, yet most challenging teachings of our Lord the Golden Rule.

This is not just a nice moral saving. It is the foundation of an authentic life in Christ. Yet, notice how Jesus doesn't phrase it in a negative way. He doesn't say, "Do not harm others or don't do to other what you don't want them to do to you." It's not enough to NOT to do evil toward others. Some of us can manage not to do harm to others.

Jesus, however, calls us to loving action. He wants us to take initiative. 'Do good to others as you would want them to do for you." This means stepping outside of ourselves, going beyond our ego, and thinking first of the other. How can we love others? How should we treat them? How can we reveal the love that God has showered upon us onto others?

Christ calls us to imitate His Divine Love. In today's Gospel reading, He tells us to love our enemies, to do good others, to generously lend, to show kindness without expecting anything back. And then concludes with the most important challenge: "Be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful."

Here lies the heart of God. Mercy is offering undeserved grace. Someone doesn't deserve mercy. It is a gift freely given. Mercy is not weakness but strength, because it imitates the very love of our Heavenly Father.

As St. Isaac the Syrian explains, "A love for the whole creation—for people, for birds, for animals, for demons, and for every creature. ... From the memory of them, and the sight of them, the eyes of a merciful man pour forth abundant

To be merciful means to feel with the other, to enter into their suffering, and to treat them as God has treated us — with compassion, forgiveness, and generosity.

Think of the elderly people in the nursing homes or who are homebound and who long to see people. Think of the isolated person who is getting sucked up into the internet's divisiveness and anger over our country's political division. Think of the confused soul who has gotten lost in our society's delu-

Are we treating them as we want to be treated? Are we reaching out to them with divine love and mercy?

There is a beautiful story of St. Seraphim of Sarov that shows what mercy and love look like. One day, some monks caught a thief stealing potatoes from the monastery garden. They dragged him before St. Seraphim, expecting him to punish the man.

I have struggled for many, many years

with something. I have suffered and

agonized over the question "Am I really

a saved Christian?" The doubt comes

at me in waves. The reason being that

when I gave my life to Jesus, I didn't

have this big, major, quick and instant

change. I wasn't a microwave, I am a

explain. Someone who is a 'microwave,'

is the person who is delivered from the

desire to drink or take drugs, for exam-

ple, when they commit their life to our

Kind of like the way we cook a meal

A 'crock pot,' however, is someone

in the microwave. It is quick and pow-

who has given their life to Jesus, but

there wasn't a big, life-altering imme-

What do I mean by that? Well, let me

To the Editor:

crock pot.



BEYOND

THE Pews

By Fr. Luke A. VERONIS SAINTS

AND HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH,

Webster

CONSTANTINE

Instead, the saint looked at him gently and said: "Brother, vou must have been very hungry to risk such shame. Please, next time, don't steal — come and ask, and we will gladly give you what you need.'

Then he ordered the monks to fill the man's sack with potatoes and bread, and he blessed him to go in peace. The thief was so stunned by this unexpected act of mercy that he repented and began to faithfully follow Christ.

This is the power of mercy and love: it doesn't just avoid harm — it heals, restores, and transforms.

Now, how do we put this commandment into practice? Within our family, some-

times the people closest to us are often the hardest to be patient with and to treat with mercy. We can be more patient with strangers than with our own spouse, children, or parents. There is a rise in the

estrangement of family members in our society. I remember a recent funeral where the child would not even come to the funeral of their parent. Yet the Golden Rule applies first in the home. Mercy begins not in some abstract world, but in the daily challenges of family life.

What about at work or school? How often do we face competition, criticism, and unfairness in the workplace or classroom? Our instinct is to respond in kind: to gossip about the coworker who gossips about us, to cut down the person who cut us down.

Yet, the Lord says: "As you want others to do to you, you also do to them likewise." Imagine if, instead of joining the cycle of negativity, we became known as people of encouragement — people who build others up, who listen, who forgive. That is mercy in practice.

Then we must think about society. We live in a deeply divided world. Politics, social issues, even opinions about the Church can set people against each other. Social media's echo chambers exasperate this situation and lead us to a place of judgment, division, and anger. Yet the Golden Rule teaches us that before posting, before speaking, before condemning, we should ask ourselves: "How would I want someone to treat me if they disagreed with me?

Remember why we show mercy. Because this is how God has treated us. As St. Paul says, "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." God loved us when we did not deserve it. He forgave us when we had nothing to give Him back. He continues to bless us even when we are ungrateful.

If this is how God has acted toward us, how can we do any less toward oth-

The Golden Rule is not just for children's classrooms — it is the rule of life for us who strive to live under the reign of God. Christ expects us to be merciful. to love when it costs us something, to give without expecting in return, to forgive even when wronged.

Think again of St. Seraphim and the thief. Think of the times when someone showed you unexpected kindness and how it changed your heart. Remember the elderly woman in the nursing home. Now imagine what would happen if each of us was determined to live by the words of Christ - "As you want others to do to you, you also do to them likewise. ... Be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful."

If we live this way, then love and mercy will not only transform others it will transform us, and it will help us begin now living in the Kingdom of Heaven.

diate change. It was more like a slow-

cooked dinner. It not only took a long

time, it was something gradual. One

day we look at our life and know that we

have faith in Jesus, but we can't remem-

ber when and/or how it happened... it

Whether a meal is cooked in a micro-

I have spoken to God about this situa-

tion many times. I think He has finally

wave or in a crockpot, it still ends up

took time to simmer.

tasting good.

ETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A microwave or a crockpot?

warships sliced through the Atlantic, crewed by fewer than 2,000 barely trained men-farm boys, fishermen, and dockhands.

Positively SPEAKING

TOBY

MOORE

The newly formed United States was broke, its Navy skeletal, its trade raided by Barbary pirates from North Africa, bleeding off an estimated 20 percent of American maritime com-

Their orders: reach Tripoli and challenge a rogue regime that extorted even the greatest empires. Few expected them to return.

For generations, European powers had bought peace with gold—but as Barbary raids on American merchants escalated, President Thomas Jefferson faced a choice: submit, or fight with a navy that barely existed.

When the Americans arrived, the enemy was waiting-light, fast, and ruthless. They were outnumbered, but not outmatched.

The Americans trapped them in port, daring the pirates to come out and fight.

However, just as momentum was building, disaster struck. The Philadelphia, one of the strongest of the American warships, ran aground off Tripoli and was seized with all 307 aboard. The captured ship was refloated, turned against its own fleet, and now flew the flag of the enemy— one of America's greatest warships, lost in a single day.

Refusing to let the ship be used against them, they launched one of the boldest raids in naval history: Under the cover of night, disguised as Maltese sailors, they floated into harbor on a captured pirate vessel, boarded the Philadelphia, and turned her into a floating inferno.

The raid ignited American morale, but the war dragged on—until one man dared to rewrite the story.

Enter William Eaton—former US consul to Tunis, burning with vengeance, armed with a wild plan. Eaton's target? Derna—a coastal city, lightly defended and exposed to the desert. Eaton would cross the sands and strike it from behind. The goal was to show that the US could do what no European power dared: land troops in North Africa, raise an army, and defeat the pirates on their own soil.

In March 1805, William Eaton assembled a ragtag force of 8 U.S. Marines, 40 Greek and Italian mercenaries, about 100 Arab cavalry, and scattered Bedouin fighters.

Fewer than 500 men—fractured by language, loyalty, and purpose marched forward. They crossed hundreds of miles of desert where water vanished, men hallucinated, and camels collapsed in blinding sandstorms. Sun scorched by day, the cold bit at night. Food ran short, tempers flared, tribal help deserted, and the campaign nearly collapsed over broken promises.

The road to Derna was carved through

After seven weeks, they arrived at the gates ready for war. Eaton attacked as US warships unleashed cannon fire from offshore. The fighting was brutalgunfire ripped through tents, smoke choked the hillside, and Eaton was shot through the wrist, but pressed on with his arm in a sling. After fierce close combat, Derna fell, and for the first time in history, the Stars and Stripes flew triumphantly on foreign soil. It was this moment that inspired the famous line still sung today in the Marine Corps Hymn: 'to the shores of Tripoli'.

The victory stunned the Barbary world. Eaton marched across a wasteland and took a city no one thought could fall. The pirates' resolve broke, and they signed a peace agreement within weeks, and the American prisoners from the Philadelphia walked free. What began as a desperate gamble became one of the boldest military feats in the early history of the United States.

The message was clear: the United States would not just send ships; it would send men, cross deserts, storm walls, and bleed on foreign ground to defend its people and principles.

This October 13th marks the 250th anniversary of the United States Navy—born in uncertainty, and defined by resolve.

From the shores of Tripoli to every ocean since, the US Navy, along with the US Marine Corps and the entire American military, has stood as a shield for freedom and a symbol of courage. To all who have served and continue to serve: Thank You.

Today, we face new adversaries—One nation with a fleet much larger than our own. Once again, we may be outnumbered, but we will never be outmatched.

Like Eaton before us, we'll rise to meet the challenge. May God bless the

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of

Emmy - Nominated A Separate Peace, and the CEO of Cubestream Inc.

revealed to me that, yes, I am indeed a truly saved Christian. Over the years, I have met people who knew exactly the date, time and situation of when they became a Christian.

Each time I heard one of their stories, I had this sinking feeling in my stomach that I must be a fake, because I can't

Turn To **LETTER** page **A7**

Plant flavorful and nutritious garlic in Fall

Lower your blood pressure and cholesterol, fight heart disease, boost your immune system, and add a bit of flavor to your meals by growing your own garlic. This vegetable has been used as both food and medicine for thousands of years.

Purchase firm, healthy bulbs of garlic sold for growing in the garden. One pound of garlic typically fills a 30' row but this can vary depending on the variety. It's best not to use garlic sold at the grocery store as it may have been treated to prevent sprouting and it may not be suitable for growing in your climate.

Select the best variety for your growing conditions and preferred flavor. Hardneck garlic typically prefers colder climates while most softneck garlic prefers warmer climates, but this varies with the varieties within each group. Hardneck garlic varieties develop a stiff flower stalk, tend to have larger cloves, and flavors ranging from mild to spicy. Softneck varieties vary in their adaptability to long cold winters, cool moist springs and warm summers. They lack the stiff flower stalk so the leaves can be braided, and the

bulbs tend to have a longer shelf life.

Garlic b u l b s typically contain seven or more individual

cloves. The larger the clove you plant, the bigger the bulb you'll harvest. Separate the cloves right before planting and do not remove the papery covering. Use the largest cloves for growing and the smaller ones to flavor your favorite fall and winter meals.

Grow garlic in a sunny location with well-drained soil. Prepare the soil by adding organic matter like compost and a low nitrogen slow-release fertilizer. Avoid high nitrogen, fast release fertilizers that promote top growth with smaller

bulbs. Fertilize again in spring as growth begins.

Plant the cloves in the fall about six weeks before the ground freezes in cold climates and late

fall or early GARDEN win-MOMENTS ter in warmer regions. Space MELINDA

MYERS

individual cloves s i x inches apart with the point-

ed side up and the base of the clove two to three inches below the soil surface. Space single rows 12 to 14 inches apart or double rows six inches apart with 30 INCHES between each set of double rows. For more intensive wide row and square foot growing, plant multiple rows with four to eight inches between cloves.

Spread a six-inch layer of weed-free straw over the soil surface after planting to conserve moisture and suppress weeds. This also provides added insulation in colder regions and helps prevent frost heaving that occurs when temperatures fluctuate, causing soil to alternately freeze,



Separate garlic cloves right before planting and plant the largest cloves with their papery covering.

thaw and shift throughout the winter. Cover the straw with evergreen boughs in windy locations to help hold the straw in place.

Water newly planted garlic thoroughly at planting and as needed in fall to encourage the roots and a shoot to form. Water often enough to keep the soil evenly moist during the growing season. Inconsistent moisture when the plants are actively growing results in smaller and misshapen bulbs. Keep the soil around the plants covered with organic mulch to conserve moisture and suppress weeds.

Make this the season you plant garlic. Then enjoy the homegrown flavor and health benefits it provides.

Melinda Myers has 20 gardening

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

LETTER

continued from page A6

remember an actual date. However, I have recommitted my life to the Lord on many occasions, hoping each time that I 'got it right.' Romans 10:9-10 says, "For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved."

I began to wonder, maybe I'm not the only one who has felt this way. Maybe there are other people out there who don't know their dates as well. Ecclesiastes 1:9 says, "What has been, will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun." I have learned, by being open and honest, that I am indeed not the only Christian who has had this same experience.

I can think of a scripture verse that helps to exemplify this. Ephesians 2:8-10 says, "God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago."

Afterall, we don't remember when we were conceived in our mother's womb, yet there is no denying that we were born!

> SJ Sheperd AUBURN

Friends of the Auburn Library Fundraiser celebrates lives of Worcester workers 1830 to the present

AUBURN — Friends of the Auburn Public Library will have a fundraiser on Thursday, Oct. 16 at The Pakachoag Center, 203 Pakachoag St., Auburn.

Join us for a presentation by Robert Stacy, Historian at the Museum of Worcester, entitled "The Lives of Worcester Workers 1830 - Present." The presentation is 6:30 – 8 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m., and admission is \$15 (Cash, Check, PayPal). Preregistration is requested by emailfriendsofauburnplibrary@

The Friends of the Auburn Public Library is a group of citizens who volunteer their time to help financially support the Auburn Public Library (APL). The Friends recognize that the APL is a vital educational and cultural asset to the community. The APL is a comfortable and welcoming place where people of all ages and cultures come together, in person or online, to experience the joy of reading, express their creativity. satisfy their curiosity, and create and share content.

The Friends of the APL is an independent, non-profit 501(c)3, volunteer organization dedicated money through tions, book sales and other activities, and to donate those funds to the Library for materials, services and programs not funded through the municipal budget.

Watch for all the upcoming Friends event dates on the Library website (http://auburnlibrary.org). You will also find notices in the Library Lobby and postings on our Facebook group page 'Friends of the Auburn Public Library'. Meetings are held the 4th Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Merriam Room. New members are welcome! And please add your email to our contact list by writing to friendsofauburnplibrary@ gmail.com because you have too many Friends!



Community Connection

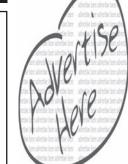
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Former Bay Path Nursing Academy director attends emergency preparedness workshop



Dr. Bolandrina and Lois Luniewicz of CMMRC.

HUBBARDSTON — In a time when natural disasters and public health emergencies are becoming more frequent and severe, proactive preparedness can be the difference between ed the "One Step Ahead... Before the chaos and coordinated care. That was Storm" Emergency Preparedness

the message delivered loud and clear on Saturday, Oct. 4, as the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) hostWorkshop at Hubbardston Center

The event, held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., brought together community members, volunteers, and emergency preparedness professionals from across the region for a day of collaboration, handson learning, and resilience-building.

Representing health, education, and volunteerism

Among the attendees was Dr. Gretheline Ramos Bolandrina, a longtime MRC volunteer, nurse educator, and former Academy Director of the Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton and her husband, Joseph Bolandrina of Athol, also a long-time MRC volunteer. Representing both their commitment to community health and professional education, the Bolandrinas joined fellow volunteers such as Lois Luniewicz (of CMMRC), in refining emergency response skills and fostering connections vital for coordinated disaster readiness.

"As a nurse, educator, and volunteer, I see the value of this kind of community engagement firsthand," said Bolandrina. "Preparedness is not just about knowing what to do; it's about building a network of people who are trained, informed, and ready to act

Training for the unexpected

The workshop focused on three main

Fostering collaboration between area residents, CERT, and MRC members before emergencies happen;

Reviewing critical response skills for disaster events; and

Encouraging preparedness among

individuals and families. Participants rotated through a series

of interactive sessions, including: Emergency Preparedness Bingo -A fun, prize-filled game led by Judie

O'Donnell, teaching participants about essential items to keep on hand for storms and power outages. Stop the Bleed - Taught by Paul

Laitenen and Arthur Elbthal, this crucial hands-on workshop equipped attendees with life-saving techniques to help injured persons before EMS

During Emergencies Hosted by Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), this session explored how effective messaging through social platforms can aid communication during crises.

Shelter Setup and Management -Instructed by Rich Curtis, this course detailed the steps to open, operate, and close a community shelter—something that requires more than just opening

Remember the Pets - With insights from JoAnn Griffin, this session highlighted the importance of including pets in emergency plans, ensuring they remain safe and unharmed during disaster scenarios.

A community effort with national

CERT and MRC programs are federally recognized volunteer initiatives designed to supplement professional responders by training local citizens in basic disaster response. From fire safety and medical aid to shelter logistics and emotional support, volunteers help fill vital roles when communities are overwhelmed.

For Bolandrina, the workshop was a perfect reflection of the mission she promoted at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy and through her public ser-

"This is how we build resilient communities—by coming together to learn, practice, and prepare," she said. "It's empowering to know that we have the tools to help—not just in hospitals or classrooms, but right here in our neighborhoods.'

Looking ahead

With hurricane season and winter storms looming, the timing of the workshop served as a call to action for all residents to review their personal emergency plans, check their supply kits, and consider how they can serve others during times of crisis.

As Bolandrina remarked, "When we prepare together, we respond better

All Saints Academy Preschool explores community helpers



WEBSTER — The preschool students at All Saints Academy have been learning all about community helpers and the vital roles they play in keeping our neighborhoods safe, healthy, and thriving. Through engaging activities such as storybooks, virtual field trips, dramatic play, and assemblies, students are discovering what it means to be a doctor, nurse, police officer, firefighter, farmer, teacher, construction worker, chef, mail carrier, dentist, librarian, and sanitation worker.

As part of this exciting theme, on Oct. 3, both preschool and kindergarten students enjoyed a special visit from the Massachusetts State Police. Officers spoke

with the children about the important work they do, answered questions, and introduced a very special guest—Luna, the State Police comfort dog. Luna brought smiles to every face as she made her way around, happily visiting with the students.

Following the presentation, the children were invited outside to explore various police cruisers and even a police motorcycle. The visit wrapped up with an exciting flyover by the Massachusetts State Police helicopter, demonstrating how officers sometimes travel by air to respond quickly when needed.

It was a memorable and inspiring day for our young learners as they continue to grow in understanding the people who help take care of our com-





Dudley Middle School announces its latest Students of The Month — 5th Grade: Layla D'Andrea, Emily Bell, Ann Pomier, & Gregory Panu; 6th Grade: Hannah Staruk, Carter Lebeau, & Anthony Coccia; 7th Grade - Andreas Niforus-Ortiz, Logan Evanski, & Penny Habib; 8th Grade: Evan Steriti, Jacob Strafer, & Kiersten Plocher.

A journey of heart: From Kenya to care

CHARLTON — For Mutunga Michael Wairimu, nursing is more than a job—it's a vow to serve humanity at its most vulnerable. His path into the profession wasn't linear, nor easy, but it was intentional. Rooted in empathy, resilience, and an unwavering belief in people, Michael's journey has taken him from classrooms in Kenya to nursing homes in Massachusetts—always with a focus on healing, hope, and heart. "My nursing journey was a commitment to the most profound parts of the human experience," says Wairimu. "We meet people where they are, in pain, in fear, sometimes even at the end. That connection—that trust—is sacred."

A global beginning

Originally from Kenya, Wairimu's passion for caregiving emerged at an early age. After completing his education at Moi Ndeffo Secondary School, he pursued a Diploma in Psychological Counseling at Kenya Psychological Counselling College, followed by a Certificate in Computer Literacy from Egerton University. With a solid foundation in both emotional and practical care, he emigrated to the U.S., where he quickly immersed himself in community service and healthcare roles.

Nursing education & growth in Massachusetts

June 2024 from the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton, with a Certificate in Practical Nursing. He also earned certifications in Mental Health First Aid Dementia Training, and BLS/HCP CPR/First Aid—credentials that showcase his commitment to quality care and continued growth.

"The strengths of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy were the learning environment and the professors," Wairimu reflects. "The school was well-equipped, and the faculty had great knowledge. They were there for us-not just as instructors, but as mentors."

Among those mentors were Dr. Ana Olivar, who instilled high standards (always do your best), and Dr. Adelina Healy, whom Wairimu describes as an "angel" in his academic journey. "She told me, 'You will make a good nurse in the future.' And she meant it. They took me under their wings and modeled true professionalism."

WairimualsocreditsDr. Gretheline Bolandrina, whose motivational words and tireless dedication to students left a lasting impact: "Thank you for always supporting us and sharing our little winnings."

Clinical rotations & real-world training

clinical Wairimu's experiences strength-

Wairimu graduated in ened both his technical skills and emotional intelligence. As a Student Nurse at Quaboag Rehabilitation Center (April 2024 June 2024) Holden Rehabilitation Center (January 2024 -April 2024). He administered medications, monitored vitals, assisted with activities of daily living, and collaborated with healthcare teams. He worked under close supervision to sharpen his judgment, professionalism, and bedside man-

> Professional experience & dedication to care

Wairimu has worked in various healthcare settings, including Westside House Nursing Home (LPN, September 2025 - Present), administering medications. recording vitals, and providing compassionate bedside care. Jewish Healthcare Center (LPN, July 2024 – September 2024) Supporting patients with mobility, medications, and recovery. Community Venture (Direct Services Worker, March Care 2022 September Teaching 2025): skills, providing general care, and supporting emotional well-being. Open Sky Community Services (Direct Care Worker, July 2022 – June 2023) Supporting individuals in group homes through meal prep,

appointments, and daily activities.

He shared, makes a good caregiver isn't just the tasks. Its presence, patience, and persistence. You must listen—not just to symptoms, but to people."

Emotional challenges and hard-won resilience Wairimu speaks openly about the emotional toll of nursing—the exhaustion, the burnout,

the struggle to not carry

work home and still be

present for his family. "There were times of deep self-doubt," he says. "I had to fight burnout and learn that asking for help isn't a weakness. It's how we survive."

His greatest personal success? "Resilience. I survived the toughest days and emerged a stronger, more skilled, more compassionate nurse."

Fatherhood, faith & fuel for the future

Now a proud father to Ella, his seven-month-old daughter, Wairimu finds renewed purpose in balancing work and family.

"She's my biggest inspiration," he says. "When I look at her, I'm reminded of why I work so hard. Every shift, every sleepless night—I'm doing it for her."

He also draws daily motivation from the patients he serves—people who, despite their pain or limitations, teach him about courage.

Michael Mutunga Wairimu

The road ahead: A prudent nurse

For Wairimu, the NCLEX-PN was a tough battle, but he remained undeterred.

"I did not give up. I worked hard on my weaknesses, and I passed," he said.

A MassHire Grant Recipient, active volunteer in community clinics and school screenings (Charlton BP

Clinic, Shepherd Hill BP Screening, Charlton Middle School), Wairimu continues to serve and inspire those around him.

He closes, "This isn't just a job. It's a life of service. If you lead with compassion, stay teachable, and never stop fighting for your purposeyou'll always be on the right path.'



Celebrating good food and company at Saint Louis Church on Oct. 4 at the Taste of Saint Louis - a joyful tradition where parishioners from many nations prepare their favorite dishes and share the flavors of their homeland.

75" HDTV



Fran Knapik — Courtesy

James "AJ" Alkire, owner of the Point Breeze Restaurant in Webster (who also runs the Webster-Dudley Foodshare), recently set up this beautifully painted sail boat with lights that sparkle to emulate the sail.

Scarecrows return to Oxford Common Oct. 2

OXFORD — It's that time of year again! The Oxford Community Center is hosting our Sixth Annual Scarecrows on the Common event Saturday, Oct. 25 from 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. In case of extremely bad weather the rain date will be Oct. 26.

Help us decorate Town Common for autumn and perhaps win a prize for your "most creative," "best town spirit," or "funniest" homemade scarecrow. Residents, school groups, town departments, and businesses are invited to show off their creativity in our annual scarecrow contest. The day will also feature a vendor fair, energizing live entertainment by DW and The Shakemakers and the amazing Sutton Dancing Witches, children's games presented by Community Center staff, and free popcorn provided by members of the Oxford Cultural Council.

Scarecrow entry forms are available at the Community Center, 4 Maple Rd., Oxford, and the Oxford Town Hall beginning Oct. 1. You may also find more information and register online at oxfordma.myrec.com.



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UBITUARIES

Tammie A. Weaver, 62



DUDLEY - Tammie (Benkowski) Weaver, 62, Schofield Avenue, died peacefully in her home on Monday, September 29, 2025, surrounded by her family after a battle with cancer.

She is survived by her husband of 40 years, Kimberly "Dutch" B. Weaver of Dudley; three daughters, Kristin L. Prochnow of Dudley, Lauren A. Brien and her husband Shane of Worcester, and Stefanie S. Maldonado Weaver and her husband Estuardo Maldonado of Dudley; a brother, Edward J. Morse and his wife Cindy of Russellville, KY; a sister, Susan A. Reardon of Oxford; seven grandchildren, Makayla, Kiley, Aleciyah, Natalia, Isabella, River, and Lincoln; and many nieces and neph-

She was predeceased by three brothers, Russell E. Morse Jr., Scott S. Benkowski, and Stephen F. DiBonaventura Jr; and two sisters, Deborah L. Peterson and Linda Ann

She was born in Webster, daughter of the late Stephen F. and Mary Agnes (Shaw) DiBonaventura, and lived most of her life in Webster and Oxford before moving to Dudley in 2024. She graduated from Bartlett High School in Webster.

Mrs. Weaver was a homemaker throughout her life, lovingly caring for her home and family. In her younger years, she worked at the Ground Round in Worcester. She enjoyed dancing and was a majorette when she was in school. She enjoyed playing softball, country music, tanning, cooking for her family, and playing slots at the casino. She would always watch her favorite shows every week. Most of all, she was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, and would do anything for her family.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford. Burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery in Dudley. A calling hour will be held on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, from 10-11 a.m. prior to the

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1942.

Marija (Rrufa) Papas 1938 – 2025



Marija (Rrufa) Papas, age 87, beloved wife of the late Ligor Papas, died Thursday, October 2, 2025, at UMASS Memorial UMASS Health Care, Worcester. Marija was born

in Durres, Albania, daughter of the late Vasil and Efterpi (Papakostandini) Rrufa and lived in Albania most of her life before coming to the United States to live approximately 15 years ago. Her father was a successful contractor and owner of a lumberyard and hardware supply store. Her mother was a devoted housewife of three children. Marija remembers devoting themselves to helping others and has many stories about it.

She suffered under communism in Albania and suffered hardship as enemies of the state.

An ardent Orthodox Christian, however, she never complained about anyone, forgiving even those who persecuted her family, befriending those and providing for them as best she could, being as generous as her father and mother had been. Even those most hard of heart could do nothing but love her as she advocated for them and loved them dearly.

During this hard time, even with status, Marija became an Elementary School Teacher. She married a strong, loving, grace-filled hardworking contractor, Ligor Papas, who also was a victim of state repression. They loved each other dearly and had two children, Evis and Shirli. She enjoyed embroidery, singing and listening to music, reading and spending time with her family and grandchildren.

Marija is survived by her daughters, Evis Jordanoglou and her husband Anestis, Shirli Papas; her grandson, Harrison Jordanoglou and her granddaughter, Maria Jordanoglou and many nephews and nieces in Albania. She was predeceased by her brother, Athanas Rrufa and by her sister, Anina Papalilo.

Family, friends and anyone else who'd like to attend are invited to visit with Marija's family on Saturday, October 4, 2025, from 9:00 am to 10:00 am in Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 37 Lake Parkway, Webster. Marija's funeral service will be held at 10:00 am with burial to follow in Mount Zion Cemetery, Webster. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 37 Lake Parkway, Webster 01570. Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home & Cremations, 48 School Street, Webster, has been entrusted with arrangements. A memorial guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com.

October 10, 2025

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court. Date: September 30, 2025 Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS **LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE** TRIAL COURT Worcester South, ss 25 SM 002958 **ORDER OF NOTICE**

TO: Timothy C. Eldredge and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. C. 50 §3901 (et seq):

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, Not in its Individual Capacity, But Solely in its Capacity As Trustee on Behalf of VAK Capital Trust I

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Webster, MA, 01570, 408 High St., given by Timothy C. Eldredge to MERS/WMC Mortgage Corp., dated November 28, 2006, and recorded in Worcester South County Registry of Deeds in Book 40241, Page 24

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 11/17/2025 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 9/30/2025. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder

October 10, 2025

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. WO25P1975EA **INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE** Estate Of: Robert R Latour Date of Death: 04/10/2025

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner

Jessican Girouard of Spencer MA Jessican Girouard of Spencer 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.

October 10, 2025

to you.

Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or and recorded with said Registry of by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Deeds in Book 71773, Page 151; for Highlands, Massachusetts 02461breach of the conditions in said mort-0389, within thirty (30) days from the gage and for the purpose of foreclosing date of sale. Deed will be provided to the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on November 13, 2025 at 11:00 AM purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. MEGA CAPITAL FUNDING, INC.

an error in this publication.

mortgage shall control in the event of

Present holder of said mortgage By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St.

Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500

October 10, 2025 October 17, 2025 October 24, 2025

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. WO25P3212EA **INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

> Estate Of: Anthony S. Mielnicki Date of Death: Jun 7, 2025

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner

Sherri A. Labouef of Oxford MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Sherri A. Labouef of Oxford 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.

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE Gore

October 10, 2025

Premises: Webster, MA 01570

By virtue and in execution

of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by John B. Oliveira and Lillian Oliveira to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Envoy Mortgage, LTD, and now held by Nationstar Mortgage LLC, said mortgage dated March 6, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 62003, Page 233, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Envoy Mortgage, LTD, its successors and assigns to Flagstar Bank, N.A. by assignment dated September 20, 2024 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 71061, Page 177; said mortgage was assigned from Flagstar Bank, N.A. to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by assignment dated March 13, 2025 Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: The land in Webster, situated on Gore Road, Webster, MA shown as Lot 2, on a "Plan of land in Webster owned by John D. Casey Date: September 3, 1996, Scale 1"=50", B.C. Survey & Engineering, which plan is recorded with the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 709 Plan 2, and to which plan reference may be made for a more particular description of said lot. 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 March 2, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 62003, Page 230.

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 Nationstar Mortgage LLC Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701 October 10, 2025 October 17, 2025

October 24, 2025

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. WO23P1240EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF **COMPLETE SETTLEMENT** Estate Of: Kenneth R. Conrad

Date of Death: 02/08/2023 A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Mark Parent of East Douglas MA and Teddianne Parent of East Doug-

requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, 1st and other such relief as may be re-

quested 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 10/28/2025. 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

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Grace Boro to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mega Capital Funding Inc., dated March 17, 2023 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68940, Page 170, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mega Capital Funding Inc., its successors and assigns to Mega Capital Funding, Inc., recorded on August 26, 2024, in Book No. 70937, at Page 59

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on October 31, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 15 Glenview Road a/k/a 15 Glen View Road, Auburn, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

The land in Auburn, County of Worcester, bounded and described as tollows:

Being all of Lot #14 on a Plan of Highlawn Manor Estates, dated July, 1951, drawn by R.B. Cullinan, Surveyor, recorded in Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 186, Plan 61, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a stone bound on the easterly side of Glenview Road, it being the northerly corner of said Lot # 14 as shown on said plan;

THENCE S. 50 degrees 35' 40" E. 142.81 feet by Lot #13 as shown on said plan to a stake:

THENCE S. 35 degrees 14' 30" W. by lots 9 & 10 as shown on said plan 100 feet to a stake;

THENCE N. 52 degrees 37' W. by lots # 15 as shown on said plan 149.77 feet THENCE by a curve to the right a radi-

us of which is 160 feet, a distance of 40.39 feet to a stone bound; THENCE N. 37 degrees 23' E. 19.07 feet to a stone bound;

THENCE by a curve to the right the radius of which is 124.29 feet, a distance of 47.05 feet to the point of

Said last three courses being by Glenview Road.

Containing 15,200 square feet of land, more or less.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68821, Page 330. These premises will be sold

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

A deposit of Fifteen Thousand (\$15,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St.,

DUDLEY

continued from page A1

wine and malt beverage licenses to sell alcohol for on-site consumption as well and an amendment to town bylaws that updates the consequences of property owners allowing the divergence or artificially collected water or other discharges to be diverted onto a town highway. Before all of these items, however, the warrant will begin with the customary budget items usually addressed at the fall town meeting as well as a proposed borrowing to fund revaluation services for Fiscal Year 2028 as required by the state.

A copy of the town meeting warrant detailing all articles is available through the Dudley Town Clerk's office.



VOLUNTEERS

continued from page A1

sleeping bags and nearly as many health kits. And in just the first six months of 2025, they've already distributed more than 400 sleeping bags, putting them on track to exceed 800 by year's end.

During the morning service, Patri was honored with the presentation of a plaque recognizing her many years of commitment and care. Following the service, everyone enjoyed a lunch together, a fitting celebration of the warmth and hospitality that Edna herself has modeled so beautifully. Her inspiring example of faith in action leaves a legacy continued by the Golden Bees. Her leadership has sowed seeds of kindness that will continue to bless others.

The United Church of Christ Federated is 4 Church St. in Webster, and can be reached at 508-943-0061 or uccfedwebster. org, facebook.com/websterfederated.

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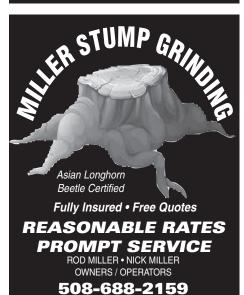
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Emma
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Registration #9192

Emma is a bright, artistic, and resilient young girl with a wonderful sense of humor. She is kind, caring, and energetic, with a natural ability to connect with adults in meaningful ways. Emma is a talented artist who loves drawing and painting, and she also has a passion for helping others. She often talks about pursuing a career in a helping profession and has even expressed interest in the field of biology, which she enjoys learning about in her science classes. Active and adventurous, Emma likes spending time outdoors hiking, playing soccer, and shooting hoops.

She also enjoys creative hobbies such as knitting, writing, and reading, which allow her to express herself and explore new ideas.

https://www.mareinc.org/child/25085695902

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







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Juvenile arrested in connection with Dudley bank robbery

DUDLEY — On Thursday, Oct. 2 at approximately 3:37 p.m., officers were dispatched to Webster First Federal Credit Union on Airport Road in response to a reported bank robbery. Upon arrival, officers obtained a detailed description of the suspect and the vehicle involved. A short time later, officers located the suspect vehicle in Dudley and detained a 17-year-old male.

During the course of the investigation, officers executed a search of a residence and recovered the stolen money, along with a mask, clothing, and additional evidence directly linked to the robbery. The juvenile suspect was taken into custody, transported to Dudley Police Headquarters for booking, and charged with Unarmed Robbery and three counts of Assault.

The investigation was led by Officer Tyler Smith with the assistance of multiple Dudley Police officers. Additional support was provided by the Webster Police Department and the Massachusetts State Police. The Dudley Police Department would also like to thank the staff at Webster First Federal Credit Union for their cooperation in providing critical information regarding the suspect and the vehicle which led to quick apprehension of the suspect.

Deirdre Legasey named to Dean's List at University of Maryland Global Campus

ADELPHI, Md. — Deirdre Legasey of Auburn was named to the Dean's List for the summer 2025 term at University of Maryland Global Campus. To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.

University of Maryland Global Campus was founded more than 75 years ago specifically to serve the higher education needs of working adults and military servicemembers. Today, UMGC is the largest provider of postsecondary education in Maryland and continues its global tradition with online and hybrid courses, more than 175 classroom and service locations worldwide, and more than 135 degrees and certificates backed by the reputation of a state university and the University System of Maryland. For more information, visit umgc.edu.



100 Years Ago This Month: Historical events from October

The month of October has been home to many historical events over the years. Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in October 1925.

• The Lerma River in Guanajuato, Mexico, floods on October 1, leaving thousands of people homeless as a result.

• Three workers are burned alive when the Church Hill Tunnel in Richmond, Virginia, collapses on October 2. The tragedy is partly responsible for the emergence of an urban legend known as the "Richmond Vampire" more than 80 years after the tunnel's collapse.

• The Soviet Union removes all restrictions on the alcohol content of beverages on October 4. Alcohol had been prohibited on a limited basis for 11 years prior to the removal of the limitation.

• Legendary baseball pitcher Christy Mathewson dies of tuberculosis on October 7. Mathewson, who notched 373 wins and five National League ERA titles during his career, developed tuberculosis after being exposed to chemical weapons during World War One.

• On October 9, the Italian state prosecutor absolves 24 officials of any responsibility for the June 1924 murder of Giacomo Matteotti. Matteotti was an Italian socialist politician who accused the fascists of fraud shortly before he was kidnapped and killed by police affiliated with fascist leader Benito Mussolini.

• The Palace Museum is opened to the public in Beijing on October 10. More than 1.1 million pieces of artwork were housed at the museum when it first opened.

• Federal Bureau of Investigation agent Edwin C. Shanahan is killed on October 11. Shanahan is the first FBI agent to be killed in the line of duty.

• Six hundred American troops enter Panama on October 12. The troops enter at the request of Panamanian President Rodolfo Chiari, who was hoping to put down a renter's strike.

• Margaret Hilda Roberts is born in Grantham, Lincolnshire, England on October 13. Roberts would come to be known as Margaret Thatcher and serve as the Prime Minister of England from 1979 to 1990.

• The Pittsburgh Pirates win the World Series on October 15. The Pirates defeat the Washington Senators 9-7 in the decisive seventh game of the series. The Senators had opened the series winning three of the first four games.

• Rebels invade Damascus during the Great Syrian Revolt on October 17. The rebels set several colonial French buildings on fire and take control of Azm Palace during the revolt.

• Hungarian-American explorer and amateur archaeologist Bryon Khun de Prorok begins excavating the Tin Hinan Tomb in the Sahara Desert in French Algeria on October 18. Prorok begins the excavation despite objections from the local Tuareg Berber community.

• "The War of the Stray Dog" between Bulgaria and Greece begins on October 19. The killing of a Greek captain and a sentry by Bulgarian soldiers was one reason given for the start of the conflict.

• John William Carson is born in Corning, Iowa,

on October 23. Carson would grow up and host "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson" for three decades, ultimately earning the nickname "The King of Late Night."

• Seven of 23 U.S. Navy Curtiss CS-1 seaplanes are destroyed by wind gusts on October 25. The planes had been brought to Maryland to compete in the Schneider Cup.

• Nicaragua President Carlos José Solórzano acquiesces to former president Emiliano Chamorro Vargas's day-old demand to make him Minister of War on October 26, effectively ceding control of the country

• American inventor Fred Waller receives a patent for the water ski on October 27.

• The remains of Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamun are found on October 28. English Egyptologist Howard Carter had discovered Tutankhamun's tomb nearly three years before discovering the remains, which had been covered by a death mask made of gold.

• An armored truck is hijacked and robbed of \$93,000 in cash in Buffalo, New York, on October 29. The money is never recovered and Richard Reese Whitemore, who was indicted for the holdup, was never convicted of the crime after a jury could not agree that he was guilty.

• The Persian Parliament formally deposes the exiled Shah of Persia on October 31. The deposition officially ends the Qajar dynasty, which began in 1789.

Boo-tiful Halloween craft ideas



Halloween is a highlight of fall, as children and even adults anxiously await October 31. Similar to the holiday season, people often decorate their homes for Halloween, and even do so well in advance of late October to maximize the amount of time they get to enjoy the trinkets and other items.

Many people enjoy getting hands-on for Halloween. It's possible to craft decorations, personalized treats and festive costumes. Consider these ideas for Halloween craft projects.

3D Pumpkins Carving pumpkins is a popular Halloween tradition. But there are many people who feel the job is too messy. Instead, a fun way to add personality to pumpkins comes by way of some hot glue and paint. Use a hot glue

gun to create a pattern on the outside of the pumpkin. It can be designs, a jack-o'-lantern face or just about anything. Once dry and hardened, use craft paint to go over the entire pumpkin. The raised design will be evident and add dimension.

Spooktacular Wreath

Adorn the front door with something creative. It can be utterly frightening or something more festive. Start with a premade spring greenery wreath or a wreath frame that you cover with your own greenery. Purchase a round, unfinished wooden sign panel, and paint with black chalkboard paint. Add your own message with chalk or chalk paint. "Keep Away" or "Enter at Your Own Risk" are great Halloween phrases to consider. Attach the sign in the middle of the wreath. You also can add some embellishments to the wreath, including black moss and floral stems and leaves. A glittery black and green ribbon or bow is the finishing touch before hanging.

Boo Treasure Box

Purchase a wooden treasure chest or box from the hobby store.

Paint it all black or your favorite Halloween colors. Then add additional designs like spider webs, bats or pumpkins. Fill the box with treats or small toys. Kids can have fun picking out their treasures

Halloween Gnomes Gnomes have been pop-

ular for years, and they keep turning up in different iterations. You can craft your own gnomes for Halloween with a few supplies. Start with a 9-inch-tall foam cone. Cut the bottom off the toe part of a solid colored ankle sock just past the heel, and pull it up so it covers the lower few inches of the cone. Add some hot glue to secure, draw a beard shape on the back of the faux fur and cut it out. Attach the beard to the lower part of the cone over the sock. Use a crew length patterned sock to create a hat for the gnome, and glue to the top part of the cone. Glue on a large wood bead for the nose. Decorate the gnome any way you'd like, such as adding felt patches to the sock hat.

Halloween can be even more fun with some creative crafts the entire family can enjoy.





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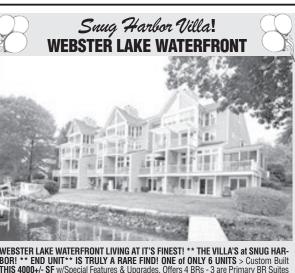


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* June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan* Lori Johnson-Chausse * William Gilmore II * Maureen Cimoch * *Bryan Pelletier*





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Dignitaries members of the Grand Masonic Lodge of Masons of Massachusetts from Boston. 1st row 2nd to right: Past Grand Master of Massachusetts Most Worshipful Brother Albert Ames. Center with colonial hat the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Massachusetts Brother George Forester Hamilton. All participated in this historical ceremony.

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WEBSTER — On Saturday, Oct. 4, the Webster

BRO. JIMMY FALZONEMAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE LODGE SOUTHBRIDGE

Masonic Lodge parking lot in Webster was packed with vehicles from all over the state. All the Master Masons that were present wanted to participate in and witness the merger of two great lodges, the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge of Southbridge and the Webster Masonic Lodge of Webster both in 24th Masonic District. Dignitaries from the Grand Lodge of Masons of Massachusetts in Boston performed the ancient and historical merger ceremony of the two lodges. Here's a little bit of history of both lodges.

The Quinebaug Lodge was chartered in 1860, originally chartered in 1796 as Fayette Lodge under the Most Worshipful Grand Master Paul Revere during that time. The charter was lost during the mid-1800's and a new lodge was formed in 1860. The first regular monthly meeting of the Quinebaug Masonic lodge was held on Jan. 2, 1860, in a building owned by prominent citizen Larkin Ammidown, located on the north side of main street in Southbridge. The Webster Masonic lodge was chartered in 1859, and chartered members were from the Olive Branch Lodge in West Sutton. Wearily of driving the six miles of bad roads to attend lodge meetings, a petition was submitted to the Grand Lodge to form a new lodge in Webster. Their first monthly meeting was held at the old Baptist church, standing on the site of the present stone church on East Main Street in Webster.

Due to the merger of these two Masonic dynasties a new name had to be chosen. Major General Salem Towne was chosen due to the historical value in our community. From 1796-1804, the Masonic meetings were held in Charlton, and the Masonic Lodge was called the Fayette Lodge. The meetings were held at the Maior General Salem Towne House according to historical information obtained from Masonic genealogy. Both father Major General Salem Towne and his son, Salem Towne, Jr., were Master Masons. General Salem Towne was an active and zealous Mason who reflected honor upon his native town with his ability and learning. Master Masons from all around the community, would travel to the General Salem Towne house for these meetings. The Towne family was very prominent in the community at this time.

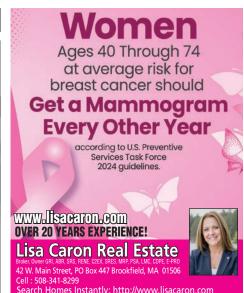
Major General Salem Towne house was built in 1796 in Charlton. In 1952, the Wells family of Southbridge, who owned the American Optical Company in Southbridge, purchased the Salem Towne House. They then proceeded to move the building to Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) in Sturbridge Mass. After moving the building, it underwent some major historical renovations. This beautiful historic house sits in front of the OSV common where hundreds of visitors go to visit this museum depicting the lifestyle of living during that time. The Salem Towne House at Old Sturbridge Village is the "crown jewel" and centerpiece of the town common.

The brethren that attended witnessed this ancient merger ceremony. Afterwards a delicious luncheon was served by the Webster Masonic Lodge and the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge members who are now proud to be called the "Major General Salem Towne Lodge". If you would like more information about Freemasonry and to find a lodge nearest you, visit our

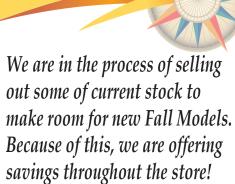


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