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Courtesy

Last week, the Webster Police Department wished Emma, its summer intern, farewell as she prepares to head back to school next week. Emma was a huge help to our Detective Bureau and played a big role in our Junior Police Academy, helping out all week. Deputy Chief Wentworth oversees our internship program and has done a phenomenal job ensuring the interns have an experience that immerses them in what Webster Police Officers do. Please join us in wishing Emma the best as she leaves us, and we hope she comes back to visit! Photo courtesy of the department’s Facebook page.

Help shape Oxford’s future by taking Master Plan survey

OXFORD — What should Oxford look like 10, 20, or even 30 years from now? That question is at the heart of the Town of Oxford’s Master Plan process—and residents are being asked to help provide the answer.

The town is encouraging residents, business owners, property owners, and anyone who has a connection to Oxford to participate in the Master Plan survey. The survey provides an opportunity for the community to share its thoughts about the future of the town, particularly how Oxford should approach land use and development.

A Master Plan is more than a planning document. It establishes a long-term vision for the community and provides a framework to help guide future decisions about growth, development, infrastructure, housing, open space, transportation, and other issues that affect the character and quality of life in Oxford.

One of the most important components of developing a successful Master Plan is understanding what residents value about their community—and what they would like to see change.

Oxford has experienced significant growth and change over the years, and additional changes are likely in the future. Decisions about where and how development occurs can have lasting impacts on neighborhoods, businesses, natural resources, municipal services, and the overall character of the community.

The Master Plan survey gives residents a chance to weigh

Turn To SURVEY page A6

Dudley’s First AgriFest & Family Fun Day set for Sept. 12

DUDLEY — The Dudley Agricultural Advisory Commission and the Dudley Recreation Commission are excited to announce a AgriFest & Family Fun Day, on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Dudley Municipal Building, 71 West Main St. Rain or Shine!

This exciting community event will give local residents and visitors an opportunity to engage with local farmers and vendors. It’s a great way to support local agriculture while bringing the community together for a fun-filled day.

Event features include:

- Heaviest Tomato Contest
- Think you’ve grown a prize-winning tomato?

Enter our Heaviest Tomato Contest for a chance to win a gift card prize! Contest entries must be brought to the event in person—photos will not be accepted.

Free family fun for everyone

In addition to shopping from local farms:

- Food vendors
- Live music
- Access to Dudley’s new Fun Zone Playground
- Family-friendly activities

Local farm vendors wanted

Local farms are invited to participate by selling farm products or promoting agricultural-related services.

Whether you offer farm-raised meats, riding lessons, fresh produce, flowers, or other agricultural services, we’d be happy to include you in this event.

Reserve your space

Farmers or Food Vendors interested in participating should reserve a vendor space by emailing: LLorkiewicz@dudley-ma.gov

Please Note: Vendors will be reviewed by the organizers and upon approval must provide their own tables, tents, and display equipment.

Vendor Registration Deadline – Friday, Sept. 4.

Red, White and Bluegrass Family Day to celebrate America’s 250th in Oxford

OXFORD — History, music, family fun, and a little bit of time travel are coming together in Oxford! Community Center staff and volunteers invite the community to Joslin Park on Sunday, Aug. 23, for Red, White and Bluegrass Family Day, a special celebration honoring America’s 250th anniversary.

Festivities kick off at 2 p.m. with a very special trip back in time—the opening of Oxford’s 1976 Bicentennial Time Capsule, prepared by the Oxford Middle School Seventh Grade Class as part of the nation’s Bicentennial celebration 50 years ago.

Members of that 1976 seventh-grade class are especially invited to join members of the Bicentennial Celebration Committee for the exciting unsealing of the time capsule and a chance to rediscover a piece of Oxford’s past.

The afternoon will offer plenty of opportunities to experience history firsthand. The Ebenezer Learned Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will bring history to life with traditional lawn games for children, along with local genealogy information. Visitors can also step inside Oxford’s Little Schoolhouse for tours led by members of the Historical Commission.

And while we’re looking back, Oxford will also be looking ahead! A new time capsule will be compiled during the celebration, capturing important events and memories from Oxford during this milestone year in America’s history.

Then, from 3–5 p.m., settle in for some toe-tapping fun with SloGrass, a local bluegrass/Americana band. Their lively sounds will provide the perfect soundtrack for an afternoon of community, celebration, and Americana.

Bring the family, bring your lawn chairs, and come celebrate 250 years of America—and the history, memories, and community that make Oxford special. Come for the history, stay for the music, and help make a little history of your own!

Bites, Books & Blooms Ticket Sales begin Aug. 24

WEBSTER — Don’t miss out! The fourth annual gala event, “Bites, Books and Blooms” is coming to the Gladys E. Kelly (Webster) Library on Wednesday, Sept. 23, from 6 to 8 p.m. The Friends of the Library invite you to an evening of live music, food, a beer and wine cash bar, and, of course, Books in Bloom. Local florists, clubs, churches and some crafty individuals are busy designing displays made from flowers and whatever props spring to their imaginations to represent their chosen book or poem.

For example, Flower Garden of Webster created this take on Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets featuring Hedwig in some mood-setting vegetation. Owner Lisa Grzyb hints that her submission this year might require a power source—? We can’t wait to see what it will be!

As in past years, Bistro Eighty Ates will provide delicious hors d’oeuvres, and the Latin jazz and instrumental trio RioFlow (led by Peruvian-born guitarist Dr. Carlos Odría) will lend a smooth vibe to the evening.

Tickets, \$50 each, will go on sale on Aug. 24 on the library Web site, gladyskellylibrary.org, and in-person at the library. Proceeds from ticket sales help to keep all programs free to the public. Stop by the library to hear what’s available to our community: yoga classes, book clubs, historical walks and talks, trivia nights, Dungeons & Dragons events, children’s book character appearances, music programs, Lego building, and many more! While you’re there, we hope you’ll want to sign up as a Friend of the Library,

too, to add your support and stay informed about all the events and opportunities.

Generous supporting individuals and businesses have donated more than 20 gift baskets and gift certificates to the fundraiser as well. These and a 50-50 raffle prize will be awarded to some lucky winners at the BB&B. Come as you are or “dress to the nines” and make this a great night out while supporting the community!

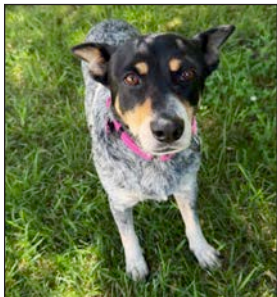
Courtesy

A Book in Bloom from Flower Garden Florist & Gifts of Webster.





PAW of the WEEK
MASERATI
4 YRS./40 LB./FEMALE/BLUE HEELER MIX./
GOOD WITH KIDS, CATS & DOGS!
Hi, I'm Maserati — but my friends call me Momma Masi. Life didn't start out easy for me. I was found in a shelter-less community after my owner passed away, scared of people and covered in fleas and ticks. Despite everything I've been through, I never let my difficult past harden my heart. I'm more comfortable with women and tend to warm up to them more quickly. I may need a little time to settle in and learn that I'm safe, but once I trust you, I become the sweetest Velcro dog. With patience, kindness, and the freedom to move at my own pace, my loving personality begins to shine.
My favorite place in the world is right beside my person—and if I had my way, we'd probably be touching at all times. Whether you're relaxing on the couch, working around the house, or heading out for a walk, I'm happiest when I'm close enough to feel your presence. On walks, I gently lean against your leg as we go, almost as though I'm checking to make sure you're still there. It's one of my sweetest little quirks and a glimpse of just how deeply I bond with the people I love.
I get along wonderfully with other dogs and I'm also cat-friendly. I'm affectionate, gentle, and incredibly grateful for every bit of love I receive. After spending years raising puppies and surviving largely on my own, I'm finally ready for something I've never truly had—a patient, loving family who will give me the time I need and cherish me for the rest of my life.
If you're looking for a loyal companion who will adore you with her whole heart, I just might be your girl.





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Girl Scout troops welcome new members

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

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

Girl Scout programming is customizable for all types of learners! Previous Girl Scout experience is not necessary.

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

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

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\$480,000, 8 Horseshoe Dr, Paolino, Steven, and Paolino, Ariana, to Cabral, Kayla, and Cabral, Derek.
\$410,000, 1 Rockland Rd Ct, Samwel, Tamer, and Ayad, Mariam, to Alsaifi, Raed, and Alothmany, Kawther M.
\$341,250, 46113 Victoria Dr #12-1, Gallagher, Arthur Joseph, to T&Jd LLC.
\$300,000, 39 Oxford St, Laramée, Paul F, to Perez, Daisy.

DUDLEY POLICE LOG

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

Julie Ann Karlowicz, age 31, of Dudley was arrested on July 16 in connection with a warrant.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was taken into protective custody on July 18.

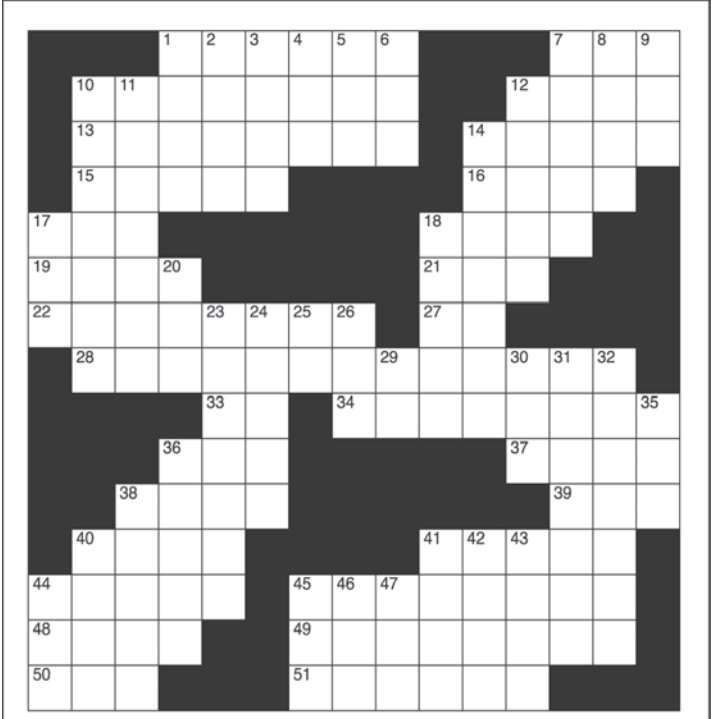
An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on July 19 for multiple counts of Domestic Assault & Battery.

John Adrien Gauvin, age 62, of Webster was arrested on July 22 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor-fourth offense) and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

Paul Robert Summa, age 41, of Webster was arrested on July 24 in connection with multiple out of agency warrants.

Petr Szczotka, age 37, of Webster was arrested on July 25 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle, operating an Unregistered and Uninsured Motor Vehicle, operating a vehicle with No Inspection Sticker, and Operating Under the Influence (liquor).

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on July 27 for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order and in connection with an out of agency warrant.



CLUES ACROSS

1. A vast desert in Africa
7. Reciprocal of a sine
10. Type of phone
12. Biblical figure
13. One who renounces a religious belief
14. Warren and Monroe are two
15. Wild ox
16. Dismounted a horse
17. Cave dweller
18. Where infants sleep
19. Popular type of shoe
21. Clumsy large person
22. Evil-like
27. Integrated circuit

28. Austin-based athlete
33. Postscript
34. Follows 18
36. People of Gambia
37. Popular actor Nicolas
38. Platform for a lectern
39. Taxi
40. American songwriter Sammy
41. Iranian city
44. Heavy clubs
45. One who is expelled
48. In bed
49. Lifelessness
50. Former CIA
51. Most slick

CLUES DOWN

1. Slovenly person
2. In addition
3. Hovels
4. Pie ___ mode
5. Subway rodent
6. They ___
7. Indigenous S. American people
8. Fine sand
9. Central nervous system
10. Nightclub entertainment
11. The perfect example of something
12. Supreme Islamic leader
14. Pain
17. Binary-coded decimal
18. Projecting corner of an angle
20. "Succession" actor Brian
23. Dinner table decor
24. Ancient settlement in modern Turkey

25. You can call Paul Simon this
26. Opposite of a pro
29. Atomic #28
30. Type of drug (abbr.)
31. Arrives at
32. Nullifies
35. Bird's beak
36. Partner to "ooled"
38. Ray-finned fishes
40. Taxis
41. Sat on and controlled
42. Sea eagles
43. Remain as-is
44. Chinese revolutionary
45. Tooth caregiver
46. Snakelike fish
47. Compensate

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Nichols College named Presenting Sponsor of Joe Andruzzi Foundation’s Young Professionals Council

DUDLEY — Nichols College and the Joe Andruzzi Foundation (JAF) today announced that Nichols College has been named the 2026 Presenting Sponsor of JAF’s Young Professionals Council (YPC), establishing a new partnership designed to engage the next generation of philanthropic leaders in the Foundation’s mission.

Through the partnership, Nichols College students, alumni and faculty will have opportunities to connect with JAF and participate in YPC events, volunteer initiatives, advocacy efforts and community engagement activities throughout New England. The collaboration will also highlight Nichols College’s development of future leaders who understand the importance of service and giving back to their communities.

JAF’s Young Professionals Council brings together emerging professionals who share a passion for making a difference. Members support the Foundation through fundraising, volunteerism, advocacy and community engagement while developing leadership skills and building meaningful personal and professional connections.

“Partnering with the Joe Andruzzi Foundation reflects Nichols College’s commitment to preparing students to become leaders who make a meaningful difference in their professions and communities,” said Nichols College President William C. Pieczynski. “Through the Young Professionals Council, our students and alumni will have an opportunity to build connections, put their skills into action and support cancer patients and families throughout New England. We are proud to join JAF in advancing this important mission.”

As Presenting Sponsor, Nichols College will be recognized throughout the Young Professionals Council’s programming and communications. Representatives from Nichols College will also participate in future Council meetings and work alongside JAF to expand engagement among students, alumni and young professionals throughout the region.

“Nichols College’s investment in the next generation of philanthropic leadership will help us grow the Young Professionals Council and create even more opportunities for emerging professionals to connect, lead and give back,” said Hunter Andruzzi, Community Engagement Manager, Joe Andruzzi Foundation. “We are grateful to welcome Nichols College as our Presenting Sponsor and look forward to engaging its students and alumni in support of New England cancer patients and their families.”

The partnership will be publicly celebrated during

the Young Professionals Council’s second annual Putting for Patients fundraiser on Thursday, July 23, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Puttshack Boston – Seaport, located at 58 Pier 4 Boulevard in Boston. The event will bring young professionals together for unlimited mini golf on Puttshack’s technology-driven courses, networking, light bites and a chance drawing featuring a variety of prize packages. Proceeds will support JAF’s efforts to provide financial assistance to New England cancer patients and their families.

The event will also introduce Nichols College as the Council’s Presenting Sponsor and recognize students, alumni, interns, and other emerging professionals working throughout the Greater Boston area. A Nichols College representative will participate in the evening’s speaking program.

Tickets are \$40 for guests ages 21 and older and \$30 for guests under 21. Tickets and additional information are available at <https://onecau.se/26ypc>.

About The Joe Andruzzi Foundation

The Joe Andruzzi Foundation is committed to providing help, hope, and a reason to smile, for New England cancer patients and their families by contributing financial support when it is needed most. Founded in 2008 by former New England Patriots three-time Super Bowl Champion offensive guard Joe Andruzzi and his wife Jen, the Joe Andruzzi Foundation grew out of Joe’s own successful battle with cancer. In 2007, Joe’s football career abruptly ended when he was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin’s Burkitt’s lymphoma. Disease-free less than a year later, Joe and Jen chose to dedicate their lives towards solving the financial distress a cancer diagnosis can cause in the lives of patients and families. For more information or to make a donation, please visit: joeandruzzifoundation.org.

About Nichols College

Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols College transforms today’s students into tomorrow’s leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth – combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage – equipping students to exceed their own expectations. To learn more about Nichols College, visit www.nichols.edu.



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NEW PICNIC TABLE AT THE PEARLE DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF NORMA WATERHOUSE

DUDLEY — The Friends of the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library are pleased to announce the donations made in Norma Waterhouse’s memory have been used to purchase and dedicate a round picnic table in front of the library.

This special space was created as a gathering place where community members, family and friends can spend time together, a value that Norma cherished throughout her life.

We invite you to stop by, have a seat and enjoy the new area dedicated in her honor. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this meaningful tribute and helped recognize Norma’s commitment to the library and our community.



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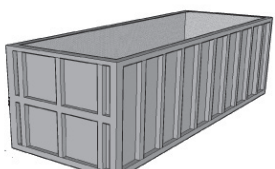
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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Oxford’s future deserves more than a handful of voices

The Oxford of 2056 will be shaped by decisions made long before many of its future residents arrive.

Where homes are built, where businesses locate, which areas remain open, how roads accommodate additional traffic and how much development municipal services can support are decisions that can alter a community for generations. That is why Oxford’s current Master Plan process deserves the attention of far more than the people who ordinarily attend town meetings or follow the work of local boards.

The town is asking residents, business owners, property owners and others with connections to Oxford to complete its Master Plan survey. It may require only a small investment of time, but the questions behind it are substantial.

What should Oxford become?

That question becomes increasingly important as development pressures continue throughout Central Massachusetts. Growth is not inherently good or bad. New housing can provide opportunities for families and strengthen the tax base. Commercial and industrial development can create jobs and generate revenue. At the same time, poorly planned growth can increase traffic, strain schools and municipal services, consume open space and permanently change neighborhoods.

The challenge is finding the balance.

A Master Plan cannot predict everything Oxford will face over the next 10, 20 or 30 years. It can, however, give future town officials something extremely valuable: a well-considered expression of what the community wants. That requires broad participation.

Too often, residents become involved in land-use decisions only when a particular project appears before a board. By then, the discussion can become narrowly focused on one parcel, one neighborhood or one proposal. A Master Plan provides an opportunity to have the larger conversation before the next controversial project arrives.

Where should additional housing go? What kinds of businesses does Oxford want to attract? Where does commercial development make sense? Which natural areas, neighborhoods and characteristics of town should be protected? What infrastructure will be necessary if the population continues to grow?

Residents do not need to understand the intricacies of zoning bylaws to have worthwhile answers.

The person who drives Route 12 or Route 20 every morning knows something about traffic. Parents know what attracted their families to Oxford. Business owners understand some of the challenges of operating here. Longtime residents remember how particular neighborhoods have changed. Newer residents can explain why they chose Oxford over another community. Those experiences are useful planning information.

There is also an important responsibility on the other side of the process. Once residents have been asked what they think, town officials should make the results accessible and demonstrate how that public input influenced the eventual plan. Participation works best when people can see that their participation mattered.

No Master Plan will produce unanimous agreement. Oxford is far too diverse a community for everyone to share the same vision of growth. The goal should not be unanimity. It should be a thoughtful plan based on the broadest possible understanding of what residents value and where they believe the town should go.

Thirty years from now, today’s survey will be long forgotten. The development decisions influenced by the planning being done today may still be plainly visible.

That is reason enough to participate.

Oxford residents have been offered a chance to help decide what kind of community they want to leave to the next generation. The more people who answer, the more accurately that vision can belong to Oxford as a whole.

The future will arrive whether the town plans for it or not. It is far better to have a say in what that future looks like.

Viewpoint

Auburn’s military men who were in the Air Force

BY HELEN POIRIER
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Auburn Historical Society and Museums has come across a file of World War II documents of the Auburn military men who lost their lives while defending their country. Several of these men were in the Air Force or Army Air Corps. The Air force started as part of the army and was called the Army Aeronautical Division; US Signal Corps in 1907, in 1914 it was Aviation Section, Army Signal Corps, 1918 U.S. Army Air Service, later was called the Army Air Corps and General Headquarters (GHQ) Air Force. By 1941 it was the U.S. Army Air Forces, then lastly, the United States Air Force.

So far, the veterans of Auburn entered into the database, 26 have been listed as in the Air Force or Air Corps, not all of them dying in the line of duty. Some, unfortunately, didn’t make it out of basic training, while others had some adventures. The following six men were the only Killed in Action soldiers that were in the Veterans’ Project database.

Roger Leon Aldrin was a Lieutenant and a Douglas C-47 pilot assigned to the 305th Squadron, 442 Troop Carrier Group of the U.S. Army Air Force stationed in Belgium. The Skytrain transport aircraft had a nickname of “Lady Eve”. Roger died in a non-battle mid-air collision on November 30, 1944, near Rance Belgium. He received the AAF won Air Medal, 2 Oak Leaf Cluster and President Unit Citation.

Allen J. Avery was a technical sergeant serving with the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron and was a pararescueman who was specially trained to parachute to a site for search and rescue mission. The 37th was a notable unit of the United States Air Force recognized for its role in search and rescue operation especially during the Vietnam War. Allen served 3 years and received the Air Medal for aerial achievement in Vietnam 8 times, a Silver Star for aiding in rescue of 8 airmen from the wreckage of a crashed plane in Vietnam. It was on his 3rd tour of duty that he became the 209th Central New England resident killed in SE Asia, his remains were positively identified in 1997, from a crash that happened on April 6, 1972, while trying to rescue another airman. The 1988 movie, “Bat 21,” recounts that rescue mission.

Earl William Broghamer was the son of Ernest F. and Minnie Pearce Broghamer of 14 Preston Ave. He was a graduate of Auburn High School class of 1941 and was employed at Crompton & Knowles Company in the payroll department. He enlisted in January 1942 and was an Aviation Radioman second class when his plane crashed at the Chincoteague Naval Air Station.

Gerald F. O’Shea was 18 years old when he enlisted in the Army Air Force in September of 1942. He trained as a pilot in Nashville Tennessee, Maxwell Field Alabama, and Douglas & Marcon Georgia. He was a second Lieutenant in the 2135 Base Unit at Tyndal Field when the plane’s engine failed causing it to stall and crash while he was on a training run on Sept. 3, 1946. His family ran the Mt. Auburn Dairy Shop in town.

Richard D. Pastick was a sergeant in the Army Air Corps being part of the 792 Battalion Squadron, 468th Bombing Group which flew missions against Japan after moving to Tinian during February 1945. The group took part in mining operations and doing incendiary raids on targets in the area. It dropped incendiaries on Tokyo and Yokohama in May 1945. The headstone application dated 1959 for Sargent Pastick had him listed as missing in action on May 25, 1945, with the death date as May 26. He was listed as being buried in Honolulu, but the headstone was placed in Notre Dame Cemetery in Worcester. Before he enlisted in December 1943, Richard worked at Coderre Mfg. Co. on Oxford Street in Auburn as toolmaker and die sinker & setter. Richard received the Air Medal and Purple Heart.

Alfred J. Yursha was born in 1922 to Joseph and Agnes Yursha and lived at 90 Auburn St. He attended Auburn High School and graduated in June 1942. Alfred enlisted in August of that year in the Army Air Force and was eventually a gunner for a B-17 bomber. He went overseas in

February 1943 where he was deployed in North Africa and Italy for five months before going missing then later reported killed.

The following service men made it home from their tours of duty; Paul J. Blais who entered the Army Air Corps in December 1942 and got his wings in 1944. He was with the 64th Troop Carrier Squadron in the Philippines and New Guinea. He was awarded the WWII Victory & Philippines Liberation Medals, President Unit Citation and Purple Heart.

Ralph J. Conroy was a captain with the 1409th Army Air Force Base unit Army, Air Transport Command. He entered as a 2nd Lieutenant in Sept 1942, and the following March was made a captain. He was discharged in January 1946. He eventually was the manager of the Auburn Airport his family started.

Everette Merle Day was a corporal in the Army Air Corps and was a radar Mechanic bombardment APQ-7 [867] from Boca Raton Army Airfield Florida in June 1945. He was a radio mechanic from 1944-1946.

Raymond Desrosiers was a US Air Force Airman 2nd class. He was a mechanic on flight lines between 1957-1961 in Newfoundland, Florida, and Greenland, which was the Korean War time frame.

Herbert N. Eaton was a sergeant first class in the First World War. He was unique in that he was trained in Aerial Photography and was attached to different aerial squadrons throughout in military career. Detachment 1 of Aerial Photography in Washington D.C. was established in 1918, marking a significant advancement in aerial mapping and photography. This unit was part of the U.S. Army Air Service.

Carl E. Johnson enlisted in 1942 at Fort Devens and was sent to Cocran Field Georgia then Greenwood Mississippi where he trained on single engine aircraft. He then went to Freeman Field Indiana and was trained in larger aircraft and maintenance. After that he went to Lock Borne Air Force Base in Columbus Ohio and was a trained machinist for B-17s. He was discharged December 1945 as a Sergeant.

Robert G. Raymond was a first Lieutenant in the 8th Air Force B-17 Flying Fortress in April 1943, army air base in Romulus Michigan. He was discharged in October 1945.

Sven L. Sandstom was a sergeant with the 342nd Fighter Squadron which was known as the “Scourgers.” The unit was established in 1943 as part of the 348th Fighter Group and used the P-47 Thunderbolt fighter aircraft in the Southwest Pacific theater.

Albert Senecal was in the Korean War as a sergeant in the Air Force from 1951 – 1955. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Occupation Medal and a Good Conduct Medal.

Mathew Smith was in active duty from May 1942 – January 1946 as part of the US Army Air Force 394 Bomb Merdon. The 394th Bombardment Group was a medium bomber unit that served with the Ninth Air Force in Europe, taking part in the D-Day invasion and the campaign that followed.

Donald Ward enlisted in 1942 for four years in the Army Air Corps airplane engineer training and instruction in Missouri and Illinois and gunnery school in Las Vegas.

Auburn’s most famous airman was Jeffery Lind, who was featured in a previous article. He enlisted in February 1942 and trained with B-18, B-23, and PT-17 aircraft. He was part of Company A, Army Air Force B-25 Mitchell Bomb Squadron. He was promoted to captain in 1945 where he earned the bronze star in Italy and Austria as a combat intelligence officer in the Dept of Air Force overseas.

If you are, or are related to a Veteran from Auburn, lived in Auburn, or have a connection to Auburn, we ask that you take a couple minutes to help us with this project and fill out the form, which can be found here: Auburn Veterans Project – <https://forms.gle/mBbo65JjBD91yJHbA>

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

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.

The great household thermostat negotiations

LANTERNS
ALONG
MAIN
STREET
By CHARLES

There are few subjects capable of revealing the fundamental differences between two people quite as efficiently as the thermostat.

My wife and I have been married for roughly three decades. We have successfully navigated mortgages, children, home repairs, family holidays and countless decisions involving considerably more money and consequence than the temperature inside our house. Yet we remain unable to agree on what number should appear on that little box on the wall.

This becomes particularly complicated in August.

New England summers have a way of producing days when the house feels perfectly comfortable at breakfast, slightly tropical by lunch and suitable for growing orchids by late afternoon.

This is when the negotiations begin.

I tend to believe that air conditioning should be used with restraint. I am not against modern technology. I simply have an ingrained suspicion that every degree I lower the thermostat causes the electric meter outside to spin fast enough to affect the Earth’s rotation.

My wife takes a different approach. If we own an air conditioner, she reasons, perhaps we should occasionally experience the benefits of air conditioning. It’s difficult to argue with that.

I will walk past the thermostat and notice that it has been lowered. I raise it two degrees. An hour later, I walk past again. It has been lowered. Nobody says anything.

This is important. We are not arguing. We are participating in a silent competition involving climate control. Eventually, one of us breaks the silence.

“Did you change the thermostat?”

“No.”

This answer is technically incorrect but strategically useful. Then comes the inevitable question.

“Why is it 74?”

I explain that 74 is a perfectly reasonable indoor temperature.

Apparently, it is not.

The funny thing is that nobody ever agrees on what “comfortable” actually means. One person says the house is warm. Another says it feels fine. Someone opens a window. Someone else points out, correctly, that opening a window while the air conditioner is running makes absolutely no sense. The window gets closed. Ten minutes later, somebody turns on a fan.

This raises another question: If the air conditioner is running and the ceiling fan is running and a portable fan is running, at what point are we simply attempting to manufacture weather?

I remember growing up without any of this. On hot nights, we opened windows. We had box fans that sounded like small aircraft engines. If it was still hot, we complained about it. That was our cooling system.

Nobody checked an app to see what the “feels like” temperature was because we already knew what it felt like. It felt hot. Of course, nostalgia becomes much easier when you’re sitting in an air-conditioned room.

I have no intention of returning to the days of lying awake on an August night hoping a breeze might wander through the bedroom window sometime before sunrise. I’ve become soft. I accept this.

Still, there is something amusing about the amount of thought modern households devote to achieving the perfect indoor temperature.

We can heat our homes in January and cool them in August. We have programmable thermostats, remote controls and fans with six speeds.

And yet two adults who have shared a house for decades can stand beneath the same ceiling and experience entirely different climates.

Perhaps that’s the real lesson of marriage. Compromise is important. Communication is essential. And if you quietly change the thermostat, always remember what number it was on before.

Mechanics Hall expands Club 321 to year-round concert series

WORCESTER — Mechanics Hall announces the 2026-2027 season of Club 321, expanding its popular live music series to 12 performances spanning July 2026 through June 2027.

The season opens July 30 and introduces a new full-season subscription, giving audiences more opportunities to experience outstanding regional, national, and international artists in an informal club setting.

With the launch of Club 321 in 2022, Mechanics Hall created an inviting listening room in the iconic landmark's Washburn Hall, showcasing exceptional musicians across blues, jazz, soul, folk, Americana, and world music.

Now presented one Thursday evening every month, the series has earned a loyal following for its relaxed atmosphere and outstanding live performances.

New this season, audiences may purchase a full-season subscription, receiving tickets to all 12 performances for the price of 10. Individual tickets are \$30, while a season subscription is \$300. Mechanics Hall members receive an additional 10 percent discount on both individual tickets and subscriptions.

“Club 321 gives audiences the chance to discover incredible musicians in a setting where every seat feels close to the stage,” said Christon Carney, education and outreach manager for Mechanics Hall and the curator of this season's series. “This season brings together artists representing a wide range of musical traditions—from returning audiences' favorites to performers making their Club 321 debut. Every concert offers something unique, while maintaining the high caliber of musicianship audiences have come to expect from Mechanics Hall.”

Club 321 takes place in Washburn Hall at Mechanics Hall, with cabaret tables, theater seating, and standing room creating a relaxed club atmosphere.

Doors open at 6:15 p.m., with performances from 7 to approximately 9 p.m. Events are open to guests ages 18 and older and include a cash bar, a featured signature cocktail, and charcuterie prepared by Worcester local Charcuterie by Cherise.

Tickets available at mechanicshall.org.

2026–2027 Club 321 Schedule

July 30 – Robbie Pate (jazz, soul & R&B)

Aug. 20 – Carlos Odria & RioFlow (Latin jazz & world music)

Sept. 24 – Albino Mbie (Afro-pop & global music)

Oct. 22 – Greg Piccolo & Heavy Juice (blues & R&B): Presented in partnership with 90.5 WICN's Brian Barlow Series

Nov. 12 – Mark Mandeville & Raianne Richards (folk & Americana)

Dec. 10 – Michelle “Evil Gal” Willson (blues & soul)

Artists for the following dates will be announced:

Jan. 21

Feb. 18

March 11

April 8

May 13

June 10

About Mechanics Hall

Steeped in the rich history of 19th-century Worcester, Mechanics Hall is internationally regarded as one of the world's great concert halls. Regionally, it is a gathering place celebrated for its architecture, acoustics, and vibrant cultural programming. In addition to serving as a premier performance venue and recording venue, Mechanics Hall offers inspiring cultural experiences through concerts, educational initiatives, community events, a youth chorus, and collaborative partnerships.

Mechanics Hall is a nonprofit organization owned and operated by the Worcester County Mechanics Association, established in 1842. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Learn more at MechanicsHall.org.



Oxford resident, Marianapolis graduate earns UF Business degree in two years

OXFORD — Andrew Shultz of Oxford recently graduated from the University of Florida's Warrington College of Business. Shultz earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a major in Finance, successfully completing the rigorous program in just two years.

Shultz is a 2024 alumnus of Marianapolis

Preparatory High School in Thompson, Conn. While at the University of Florida, Shultz maintained a highly active campus presence. He was a brother of the Delta Sigma Pi professional business fraternity and served as an analyst in the Gator Wealth & Asset Management program. He was also a member and mentor within the Freshman Leadership Council, an

ambassador and mentor for the Heaven Business Ethics Ambassadors, and served as Head Team Lead in the Business Law Society's Legal Analyst program.

Following this accelerated undergraduate achievement, his future career plans include pursuing a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree followed by law school.

Auburn resident sets out to raise awareness for Frontotemporal Degeneration

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

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

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

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

For golf registration, sponsorship information, or to learn more about the awareness walk, contact jimtobinmemorial@gmail.com or visit the Jim Tobin Memorial social media pages.

Local residents named to Simmons University Dean's List

BOSTON — The following local residents were named to the 2026 spring semester dean's list at Simmons University in Boston.

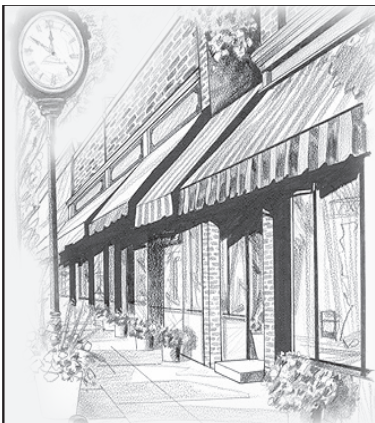
* Zalma Abshir, Webster		
* Abigail Kibaru, Webster		
* Dakota Vaudreuil, Webster		

To qualify for dean's list status, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.

About Simmons University

Located in the heart of Boston, Simmons is a respected private university offering nearly 50 majors and programs for undergraduate women and graduate programs open to all on campus, in blended formats or entirely online, in nursing and health sciences, business, communications, social work, public health, library and information science, and more. Founded in 1899, Simmons inspires a culture of education, connection, and action through high-impact learning with engaged faculty, an immersive community that forges lifelong networks, and career-centered programs that accelerate professional success. The result is a Simmons experience that prepares graduates to thrive as they launch and advance in their careers. For more information, please visit www.simmons.edu.

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bankHometown strengthens Retail Banking team with key leadership appointments

OXFORD — bankHometown is pleased to announce the addition of four experienced banking professionals across its retail network. These appointments reflect the bank's continued investment in customer service, employee development, and community-focused banking throughout Central Massachusetts and north-eastern Connecticut.

Jerusa DeBrito appointed AVP, Branch Officer in Leominster

Jerusa DeBrito has joined bankHometown as assistant vice president, branch officer of the bank's 9 Sack Blvd., Leominster office.

With nearly 30 years of retail banking experience, DeBrito most recently served as AVP, bilingual branch manager at M&T Bank. She is known for her relationship-focused approach and commitment to serving customers and the community.

DeBrito serves as a board member of Fresh



Jerusa DeBrito

Start Furniture Bank and She's Local and is a member of the American Heart Association's Go Red Awareness Committee. She earned a Certificate in the Fundamentals of Banking from the New England College of Finance and has participated in the Certified Financial Educators' Financial Wellness Program.

Alison Tozzi named AVP, Branch Officer in Putnam

Alison Tozzi has joined bankHometown as assistant vice president, branch officer of its 182 Main St., Putnam, Connecticut office.



Alison Tozzi

Tozzi brings nearly 30 years of banking experience to the organization. Most recently, she served as branch manager at KeyBank and previously worked as a senior personal banker at Bank of America. Her extensive background in branch leadership and customer service will support the continued success of the Putnam team.

Dhimitri Piluri joins Worcester Office as Branch Officer

Dhimitri Piluri recently joined bankHometown as branch officer of the bank's 1001 Millbury St., Worcester office, bringing more than 10 years of banking experience to the role.

Most recently, Piluri served as branch manager at Savers Bank and previously held positions as a relationship banker at Main Street Bank and Santander Bank. He has developed expertise in customer service, relationship management, and retail banking operations.

Piluri holds a Bachelor's degree in marketing from La Sapienza University in Italy and a master's degree in information technology from Southern New Hampshire University. A strong advocate for financial education, Piluri has volunteered with Junior Achievement, assisting with lessons on budgeting, saving, credit, and



Dhimitri Piluri

loans. He has also participated in financial workshops for immigrants and low-income families and served through the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

Maria Baker joins Sturbridge office as Assistant Branch Manager

Maria Baker recently joined bankHometown as assistant branch manager of its 331 Main St., Sturbridge office.

Baker has 25 years of banking experience and most recently served as market manager at Cornerstone Bank. Her extensive knowledge of retail banking and customer relationship management will be an asset to the Sturbridge team and its customers.

"At bankHometown, our success is driven by the tal-



Maria Baker

ented individuals who serve our customers and communities every day," said Robert Morton, president & CEO of bankHometown. "We are excited to welcome these accomplished banking professionals to our team. Their experience, leadership, and commitment to relationship banking will strengthen our ability to deliver exceptional service, build meaningful customer connections, and support the communities we proudly serve."

About bankHometown
Founded in 1889, bankHometown is headquartered in Oxford, Massachusetts. We have \$1.6 billion in assets and offer a complete line of consumer and business deposit and lending products and services through 15 locations throughout Central

Massachusetts and north-east Connecticut. We're proud to fulfill our community banking mission—providing individualized financial support, comprehensive products and services, and banking tools—to ensure our customers can unlock their potential and build a successful future.

Through our charitable giving program, The Giving Tree, we support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties. In 2025 alone, The Giving Tree donated more than \$550,000 and over the last decade donated more than \$3.3 million. bankHometown was named a Corporate Citizenship Award winner by Boston Business Journal for the past six years, reaffirming our status as one of Massachusetts' most charitable companies. Additionally, we were named a 2025 Top Place to Work award winner by The Boston Globe, and both bankHometown and our parent company, Hometown Financial Group, were recognized as five-time USA Today Top Workplaces award recipients. For more information, visit bankHometown.com.

TOWN OF POMFRET POSITION OPENING – HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Qualified self-starter wanted for Town of Pomfret Highway Department. Must hold Class B CDL license/valid medical card and have a background in operating heavy equipment. Position includes, but is not limited to, assignments on all municipal road work including road grading, snowplowing, landscaping, building maintenance, and any other duties as needed and assigned. Five years of driving/equipment operation experience is preferred. Thirty-five hour work week but must be available to work nights and weekends as needed, able to lift up to 100 pounds, possess mechanical aptitude in heavy equipment repair, pass a DOT physical and drug screen, and consent to random drug/alcohol testing as required by the DOT. Salary dependent upon qualifications and experience. Attractive benefit package. Interested persons should forward resume/application and three references to the Selectman's Office, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret Center, CT 06259 on or before August 26, 2026. Application form available at www.pomfretct.gov/first-selectmans-office. EEO/AA

TOWN OF POMFRET PART-TIME ASSISTANT TREASURER

The Town of Pomfret seeks to hire a PT Assistant Treasurer. Responsibilities include receipt and deposit of town funds, reconciliation of accounts, processing purchase orders and invoices for disbursement, transfer of funds and entry of expenses into town's accounting system, and perform any and all duties as may be required with this position and as required under CT General Statutes. Work in cooperation with municipal officials and provides financial reports as needed. Must be able to work independently. Flexible work hours. Offices closed on Fridays. Knowledge of Tyler Infinite Vision Accounting Software preferred. Five years of related experience in accounting/bookkeeping, municipal work is a plus. Salary dependent upon qualifications and experience. Interested persons should forward resume/application and three references to the Selectman's Office, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret Center, CT 06259 or email Selectmansclerk@pomfretct.gov on or before August 31, 2026. Application and full job description is available at www.pomfretct.gov/first-selectmans-office. EEO/AA

Webster First Federal Credit Union promotes Colleen Carney to Chief Risk Officer



Colleen Carney

WORCESTER — Webster First Federal Credit Union has announced the promotion of Colleen Carney to Chief Risk Officer. The appointment reflects the growing importance of risk management within the credit union and recognizes Carney's leadership in supporting Webster First's continued success.

"Colleen brings a strong and well-rounded background in banking, operations, finance, revenue management, and risk management," said President and CEO John Thomasian, "As Webster First continues to demonstrate strong performance and sustained growth, the importance of a comprehensive and proactive risk management function has never been greater. I am confident that Colleen will excel in this important leadership role."

Before joining Webster First, she spent 10 years at Flagship Bank in Worcester. She earned a B.S. in Business Administration, magna cum laude, from Worcester State University.

Carney joined Webster First in October 2007 as Spencer Branch Manager. During her tenure, she earned an M.S. in Management from Worcester State University and later transitioned to the Accounting Department as Assistant Vice President of Risk Management in July 2018. She was promoted to Vice President of Revenue in October 2020, and in January 2024 assumed responsibility for risk management as Vice President of Risk and Revenue. In this role, she expanded and strengthened the credit union's risk management function, enhanced the work of the Risk Committee, and helped ensure that risks across the organization are appropriately assessed, evaluated, mitigated, and managed. She is currently pursuing an M.S. in Enterprise Risk Management at Boston University.

Carney said "I am honored to step into the newly created role of Chief Risk Officer and grateful for the opportunity to help shape this important function for the credit union. Establishing this position reflects our continued commitment to strong governance, thoughtful risk management, and long-term organizational strength. I look forward to working collaboratively across the organization to protect and support our members, employees, and community while helping guide sound decision-making and responsible growth."

About Webster First Federal Credit Union
Webster First Federal Credit Union ranks among the largest credit unions operating in Massachusetts. Since its founding in 1928, Webster First has grown its operations, services, and membership to serve four counties across the state, Worcester, Essex, Middlesex, and Suffolk with branches throughout. For more information, visit websterfirst.com.

SURVEY

continued from page A1

in on these issues.

Do you think Oxford has the right balance of residential, commercial, and industrial development? Are there areas where additional development would make sense? Are there places where development should be limited or carefully managed? What characteristics of Oxford are important to preserve as the community grows?

These are the types of questions that community members can help address through the Master Plan process.

Importantly, residents do not need to be experts in

planning, zoning, or development to participate. The survey is designed to gather the opinions and experiences of the people who live, work, own property, operate businesses, and spend time in Oxford every day.

Every response helps provide a clearer picture of the community's priorities. While the survey is only one part of the Master Plan process, broad participation will help ensure that the plan reflects the community rather than the views of only a small group of residents.

The Master Plan will ultimately serve as a roadmap for Oxford's future. It can help the Town identify priorities, establish policies, and make informed

decisions about how land is used and how future development should occur.

Your participation matters. Whether you have lived in Oxford for decades or recently made the community your home, you have a perspective that can contribute to the conversation.

Take a few minutes to complete the Master Plan survey and help shape the future of Oxford.

Oxford's future is a community decision. Make sure your voice is part of it.

To take the survey, visit <https://cmrpc.typeform.com/oxfordmp>.

Paper copies are available t Town Hall, the Public Library, and the Senior Center.

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41st Valley Friendship Tour raises nearly \$110,000 for Open Sky Community Services



Courtesy

Worcester-based nonprofit Open Sky Community Services brought together over 250 participants for its 41st annual Valley Friendship Tour fundraiser. The community event, for all ages and abilities, was held on June 6 in Whitinsville to support Open Sky's programs throughout Central Massachusetts.

WORCESTER — The 41st annual Valley Friendship Tour drew more than 250 partic-

Bay Path Continuing Education's fall catalog available

CHARLTON — We are excited to announce that the Fall 2026 catalog is now available at www.baypath.net/bpce. There is something for everyone, featuring offerings in trades exam preparations, continuing education, professional development, health & wellness, art, food & entertaining, financial wellness, and much more.

Here are some of the new classes available:

- Basket Weaving
 - Breadmaking and more
 - Gluten-Free Pasta Making
 - Japanese Ikebana Flower Design
 - Professional Writing
 - Tai Chi
 - and more
- Additionally, we have returning favorites including:
- Line Dancing
 - Ballroom Dancing
 - Stained Glass Making
 - Bob Ross Art Classes
 - Yoga for All
 - Classes for Two People to Take Together
- Registration Opens on July 20 – Make sure to sign up early for the classes that catch your interest so you don't miss this opportunity! You can reach us at www.baypath.net/bpce or call 508-248-5971, ext. 1715. Bay Path has been providing engaging adult continuing education classes for the past 30 years, conveniently located at 57 Old Muggett Hill Rd., Charlton.



Lorie Martiska (right), Open Sky Executive Vice President and Chief Advancement Officer, poses with Teresa Pitaro, the 2026 Valley Friendship Tour top fundraiser. Pitaro, of Norwood, has been the top fundraiser for five years in a row and she raised nearly \$7,000 for this year's community event.

ipants who walked, ran, and rolled through the Blackstone Valley on June 6 and raised nearly \$110,000 to benefit Open Sky Community Services, a nonprofit behavioral health and human services organization.

The Valley Friendship Tour, which starts and ends at Alternatives' Whittin Mill, is Open Sky's signature fundraising event for the agency's nearly 150 programs serving children, adults, and families with mental health challenges, intellectual and developmental disabilities, substance use disorders, brain injury, homelessness and other complex challenges. Since it began just over four decades ago, the tour has raised millions in support of individuals and families in Central Massachusetts.

"The Valley Friendship Tour is a visual representation of Open Sky's mission – individuals of all abilities coming together in the community with purpose," said Ken Bates, President & CEO of Open Sky Community Services. "We are grateful to this community that has been created over the past four decades and for its unwavering support of our neighbors throughout Central Massachusetts facing complex challenges. Thank you to our participants, attendees, sponsors, and staff for making this year's Tour another one to remember."

Teresa Pitaro, a resident of Norwood who has a family member served by Open Sky, was the top fundraiser for the fifth year in a row. She raised nearly \$7,000 for the 2026 Valley Friendship Tour.

The individual and team participants of all ages and abilities had the option of a 1-mile walk, 5K run or walk, or a 30-mile bike ride through the Blackstone Valley. The all-day event featured lunch, live music, raffles, and entertainment on the Dennis H. Rice Community Plaza at Alternatives' Whittin Mill.

About Open Sky Community Services

Open Sky Community Services

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

Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall

Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall This two-bedroom cottage near Tignish provides sweeping views of the ocean, the beach, and the North Cape lighthouse. Enjoy kayaking, bicycling, walking the beach, swimming in the warmer Gulf Stream waters, and exploring the community of Nail Pond and the many PEI attractions. Full Appliances. The cottage sleeps six comfortably. Weekly rent is only \$1,100. Contact Scott, for more information at 603-254-5032, or scottm@plymouth.edu.

YEAR-ROUND SHORT-TERM RENTAL Egrets Landing-31A - LIGHTHOUSE POINT CONDOMINIUMS -TYBEE ISLAND, GEORGIA

Oceanfront 2-bedroom condo. Gated community with pool. Full Appliances. Ocean views of ships and birds with a short walk to the beach. Bookings Contact: Oceanfront Cottage Rentals, (800) 786-5889 <https://www.oceanfrontcottage.com/rentals/egrets-landing-31a>

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Wing Wednesday
Aug 26
Half Priced Apps
Tues-Friday from 2-5pm
New Summer Mocktail Menu

MUSIC BINGO EVERY THURSDAY 7 TO 9
2025 BEST OF CENTRAL MASS COUNTY

Please call 774-449-8333 for reservations, take-out or reserve online 308lakeside.com

2025 BEST OF CENTRAL MASS COUNTY

New Summer Menu & Hours (11-9)

Friday's Child

Julian, Darion
Age 14, 12
Registration #9438 9439

basketball. They thrive in environments where they can stay active, work as part of a team, and build connections with others. Participating in sports and other extracurricular activities gives them opportunities to strengthen their teamwork skills, confidence, and sense of accomplishment. With encouragement, guidance, and consistent support, Darion and Julian continue to grow their interests, develop their strengths, and build confidence in who they are. They would benefit from a family who will celebrate their individuality, support their goals, and provide a nurturing environment where they can continue to thrive.

<https://www.mareinc.org/recruitment-group/51030325292>
Can I Adopt?

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

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

10TH ANNUAL
HARVEST CRAFT FAIR

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Celebrate the Season!

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WheelSmith (9/13)

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LEGALS

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUPERIOR COURT
JUVENILE MATTERS

Notice to: Brytni Craft, mother of female child born on 11/25/2011 to D. Boatwright, of parts unknown.
A petition has been filed seeking: Commitment of minor child(ren) of the above named or vesting of custody and care of said child(ren) of the above named in a lawful, private or public agency or a suitable and worthy person.
The petition, whereby the court's decision can affect your parental rights, if any, regarding minor child(ren) will be heard on: 10/1/2026 at 2:00 p.m. at 20 Franklin Sq. 3rd Floor, New Britain CT 06051.
Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the hearing of this petition be given by publishing this Order of Notice once, immediately upon receipt, in the: Webster Times, a newspaper having a circulation in the town/city of: Webster.
Judge: Hon. Norma Sanchez-Figueroa
Signed: Melissa C. Lapent, Admin. Asst.
Date signed: 8/6/2026
Right to counsel: Upon proof of inability to pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure that an attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public Defender.
Request for an attorney should be made immediately in person, by mail, or by fax at the court office where your hearing is to be held.
If you are named as the alleged genetic parent of the child, you have the right to appear before the court on the date and time indicated and perfect your parentage in accordance with the Connecticut Parentage Act.
If you fail to appear in court on the date and time indicated, the court may enter orders concerning your parentage.
August 21, 2026

The Dudley Historical Commission is in receipt of an application for a demolition permit
For 2 Conant Avenue, Dudley, MA 01571
A public hearing will be held as per section 12.04.00 of the Dudley MA Demolition Delay Bylaw, at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571
On Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 6:30 pm, in Room 315. A representative of the property owner must attend.
“Within forty five (45) days of the Commission's receipt of a copy of the application for a demolition permit, the Commission shall hold a public hearing on such application, and shall make a determination as to whether the structure is a significant structure under one or more criteria set forth in sections 12.05.00a, and 12.05.00b. The Commission shall give written notice of the time and place of the hearing, not less than seven (7) days prior to the hearing, to the owner by certified mail, and by posting and by publication once in a local newspaper. The Commission may conduct a site visit prior to the hearing.”
Respectfully,
David Proulx, Secretary
Dudley Historical Commission
((revised 11/2018)
August 21, 2026

DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
WETLANDS PROGRAM
401 Water Quality Certification
Application Public Notice

Pursuant to 33.U.S.C.1341 and MGL c21 §43, notice is hereby given of a 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) application for the hydro-raking project at Pout Pond in Webster, MA by The Webster Lake Association at PO Box 156 in Webster, MA 01570. The property is owned by the Webster Lake Association. The project proposes hydro-raking and herbicide treatment of the pond for the purpose of improving water quality and aquatic habitat. There will be no work within the parcel containing the Treasure Island Condominium Association, marina, and associated channel, as amended from a previous 401 WQC application. The hydro-raked material will be stored at Devens Recycling Center at 45 Independence Drive in Devens, MA 01434. Additional information may be obtained through the Applicant's representative, Goddard Consulting LLC, at 1442 North Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Written comments on this 401 WQC Application may be emailed to: David Wong
(David.W.Wong@mass.gov)
Department of Environmental Protection
Wetlands Program
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 874-7155
Within 21 days of this notice. The

Department will consider all written comments on this 401 WQC Application received by the Public Comments Deadline. Any group of ten persons of the Commonwealth, any aggrieved person, or any government body or private organization with a mandate to protect the environment that has submitted written comments may also appeal the Department's Certification. Failure to submit comments before the end of public comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing.
August 21, 2026

Notice is hereby given by S.H. Auto Repair, LLC., 120 Schofield Ave, Dudley, Ma 01571 pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39A, that on September 4. 2026 @ 5:00 PM at: S.H. Auto Repair, LLC 120 Schofield Ave Dudley, Ma 01571.
The following motor vehicles will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

Vehicle: VIN# WBAYL1C53DVR87981
2013 BMW X1, Reg: 4BVV98 MA
Owner: Ashley Jordan, 147 Center RD, Dudley, MA 01571

Vehicle: VIN# 5TDDK4CC8AS032329
2010 Toyota Sienna, Reg:-----
Owner: Bridgette Rocheleau, 177 North Main ST, Webster, MA 01570

Vehicle: VIN# 4T1BE46KX7U558818
2007 Toyota Camry, Reg:-----
Owner: Jomarie Angeliz Garcia Casanova, 126 Centerbury ST, Worcester, MA 01571

Vehicle: VIN# 4S3BMBC67E3019207
2014 Subaru Legacy, Reg:-----
Owner: Laurie Russell, 17 Central Ave APT 1, Dudley, MA 01571

This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39A
August 14, 2026
August 21, 2026
August 28, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P2606EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:

Denis F. Roussel
Date of Death: 07/12/2026
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Lisa R. Salonic of Whitinsville MA and Kenneth Roussel of Pulaski NY** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: .
Lisa R. Salonic of Whitinsville MA and Kenneth Roussel of Pulaski NY be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Withoutl Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/08/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 11, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate
August 21, 2026

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 Laurence Shuman to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Financial, Inc., dated January 15, 2015 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 53272, Page 329, as modified by a certain modification agreement recorded on September 22, 2020, and recorded with said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 63306, Page 273, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Financial, Inc., its successors and assigns to NewRez LLC f/k/a New Penn Financial, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, recorded on July 12, 2019, in Book No. 60690, at Page 364

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 September 11, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 23-8 Thayer Pond Drive, Unit 23-8, a/k/a 23 Thayer Pond Drive #8, Thayer Pond Village Condominium, Oxford, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,
TO WIT:

Unit “23-8” Phase V in Thayer Pond Village Condominium, created by Master Deed dated September 28, 1983 and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 7930, Page 203, as amended by Amendment dated November 4, 1986 and recorded in Book 9945, Page 366, by Amendment dated December 8, 1986 and recorded in Book 10040, Page 198, by Amendment dated February 27, 1987 and recorded on March 2, 1987 in Book 10255, Page 51 in accordance with M.G.L. c. 183A. The post office address of the Unit is 23-8 Thayer Pond Drive, North Oxford, Massachusetts.
Said Unit is laid out as shown on a plan attached to Unit Deed recorded with the Worcester District Registry of deeds in Book 10291, Page 310, to which is affixed a verified statement in the form prescribed by M.G.L. c. 1 83A, Section 9, and which plan is a copy of a portion of the plans filed with an amendment to the Master Deed. Percentage interest after Phase V .6550%. Interest after all phases .5814%

The Unit is conveyed together with:
(a) The above-listed Percentage Interest in the Common Areas and Facilities of the Condominium, which shall be reduced upon the annexation of each subsequent phase of the Condominium pursuant to the provisions of the Master Deed.
(b) All rights, easements, agreements, interests and provisions contained in the Master Deed, the Declaration of Trust of Thayer Pond Village Condominium recorded with said Deeds in Book 7930, Page 233, and any rules and regulations promulgated from time to time thereunder (the “Declaration of Trust”),
The Unit is conveyed subject to and with the benefits of:

(a) The provisions of M.G.L. c. 183A, as amended.
(b) The provisions of the Master Deed, the Declaration of Trust, both as they may be amended.
(c) All easements, covenants, restrictions, conditions and other matters of record, insofar as now in force and applicable.

The Unit is intended to be used solely for residential purposes and is subject to the further restrictions set forth in the Master Deed.
For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 53272, Page 326.

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

TERMS OF SALE:

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

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
29003
August 14, 2026
August 21, 2026
August 28, 2026

INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Webster Department of Public Works is requesting sealed bids for two (2) new 2026 Ford F450 4x4 cab/chassis and one (1) new 2026 F550 4x4 cab/chassis or equal. Sealed bids will be received at the Town of Webster Highway Department 23 Cudworth Road, Webster, MA 01570, until 10:45 am September 8, 2026, and bids will be publicly opened at 11:00 am.

The Town of Webster is seeking proposals from qualified vehicle dealerships and authorized vendors for the purchase of fleet vehicles. Preference may be given to vendors that can demonstrate the ability to provide prompt, reliable, and local warranty, maintenance, and repair services to support fleet operations and maximize vehicle availability. The Town values vendors with the capacity to provide timely service that minimizes vehicle downtime and helps ensure efficient fleet operations. Delivery of the specified vehicles shall be on or before November 15, 2026.

The Invitation for Bid (IFB) is available August 19, 2026 on Commbuys or by request made to the following: Webster Highway Department rjones@webster-ma.gov, 508-949-3862 ext. 1041. All envelopes must be marked “BID TRUCKS”

Office hours are Monday- Friday 7:00 am - 3:00 pm

The Town of Webster through its Board of Selectmen reserves the right to reject any all bids if deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.

August 21, 2026

August 28, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01876
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P1433EA
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
Estate Of:

Joan J. Dirlam
Also Known As: Joan J. Crooks
Date of Death: December 10, 2025
To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Dale M Golden of Oakland CA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Dale M Golden of Oakland CA
G. Jeffrey Crooks fo Cypress TX 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.
August 21, 2026

OBITUARIES

Sally Ann Carlson



WEBSTER – Sadly to say, Sally Ann (Katrenak) Carlson died Saturday, August 9, 2026 to join her sister Shirley Katrenak, her parents Joseph and Wanda (Gulczynski) Katrenak, and her daughter-in-law Katrina Carlson. She leaves her husband and love of 55 years, David Carlson, Sr; her son, David Carlson, Jr. who was the “rainbow in her eyes”; her grandsons Colby and Garrett; her dear sister, Nancy French and her

husband Bob French; her brother Joseph Katrenak and his wife Jeannie; her favorite nephew Rob French and his husband Randy; her nieces Kim Fountain and Angie Goodney; her nephew Justin Barrows, and her niece Ashly Barrows of whom she was so proud; her brother-in-law, Walfred Carlson; and hers sister-in-law Candy Payne and Jeanine Carlson. Sally came from a family of hairdressers and owned Sally’s Hair Express. She worked with her sister Shirley at Shirley K’s and with her sister Nancy at Nancy’s House of Beauty. Sally treated her customers like kings and queens.

Sally loved her John Deere tractor and would be in her yard all day working on her flower beds and vegetable garden. She greatly enjoyed being with Bob French: she loved his farm in Dudley and said she was a “farmerette.” She was especially close to her sister Nancy whom she called her “partner in crime and grime”; her brother-in-law Bob would shake his head and say: “Don’t ever underestimate what these two do!” Always ready to help anyone at any time, Sally always had a smile on her face . She hosted wonderful Christmas parties. She had many friends on Facebook. In her

sickness she never complained. She liked to go to the ice cream stand and order a sundae (but hold the ice cream and topping and just fill the cup with whipped cream). Her favorite saint was Saint Anthony of Padua: he was her co-pilot in sickness and in health. We hope that she has met him and the gang above. Rest in Peace! Services will be held privately at the convenience of the family. Donations in her name may be made to Dana Farber Cancer Institute, PO Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284. Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Sydrick Speight, Angela Speight to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Caliber Home Loans, Inc., dated October 5, 2018 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59513, Page 137, as modified by a certain modification agreement recorded on February 26, 2025, and recorded with said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 71675, Page 101 and as affected by a judgment recorded with said Registry on May 5, 2026, in Book No. 73533, at Page 226, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:
Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Caliber Home Loans, Inc., its successors and assigns to Caliber Home Loans, Inc., recorded on August 19, 2019, in Book No. 60899, at Page 74
Caliber Home Loans, Inc. to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, recorded on August 16, 2024, in Book No. 70901, at Page 16

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on September 9, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 24 Perry Street, Auburn, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,
TO WIT:
The land in Auburn, on the Southeasterly side of Perry Street, in Worcester County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the most northerly corner thereof at a stake and nail set in the southeasterly line of Perry Street and at Lot #2 on a plan hereinafter referred to:
Thence South 53° 30’ East, 372.08 feet by said Lot #2 to a stake and nail at land now or formerly of Israelson;
Thence South 56° 15’ West 78.66 feet to a stone bound;
Thence South 51° 32’ West 85.7 feet to a point at land now or formerly of Holstrom;
Thence North 53° 30’ West 311.5 feet by said Holstrom land to the southeasterly line of Perry Street;
Thence Northeasterly 66 feet by said line of Perry Street to a stone bound

set in an angle in said street line;
Thence North 27° 21’ East 93.5 feet by said line of Perry Street to the point of beginning.
Being Lots 1 and 103 as partly shown on a plan of property of Florence M. Pinsonneault, Perry Street, Auburn, Massachusetts, June l8, 1949, by F.B. Cullinan, Registered Land Surveyor, recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 204, Plan 81.
For mortgagor’s(s’) title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59513, Page 134.
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 Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.
Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
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August 7, 2026
August 14, 2026
August 21, 1206

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

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least three business days in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation for 65 and up, and \$5 for 55- 64 is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and desert. This week’s menu: Tuesday, 8/25: Teriyaki beef, steamed rice, roasted broccoli. Wednesday, 8/26: Ham and cheese chicken bake, red bliss potatoes, Scandinavian veggies. Thursday, 8/26: Salisbury steak with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, herbed carrots. Friday, 8/28: Soup du jour, roast beef sandwich, bean salad.

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.

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

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

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

Line Dancing with Forty will be held on the 24th and 31st from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm for \$3 a class. Donations go directly to Shriner’s Children’s Hospital. Everyone of any skill level is welcome! Closed toed shoes are required.

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

We offer Movies every Wednesday afternoon at 1:00 pm! The last movie in August will be “The Great Escape” on 8/26.

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

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

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

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

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

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

2 Lake St., Webster
508-949-3880
Library Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Library is closed on Saturdays from July 4th – Labor 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

Special Events

The Nest: Local Business Success Stories - Lionizing Entertainment – Monday, August 24th at 6:00pm

Luis, founder of Lionizing Entertainment will discuss challenges he’s faced, including wearing every hat in a business, overcoming setbacks, and learning to trust the process before seeing results. He will also discuss milestones such as building a recognizable local brand and creating opportunities for future growth. More importantly, he will ask attendees to reflect on their own goals and aspirations, asking “what would you attempt if you knew you couldn’t fail? And what’s stopping you from taking the first step today?”

How to do Business with the State of Massachusetts: A Practical Guide for Brazilian Entrepreneurs – Thursday, August 27th at 11:00am

In this workshop, you’ll learn how public contracting works in Massachusetts, what certifications and registrations are required, where to find bid opportunities, and the first steps to becoming eligible to work with state and local agencies. We’ll discuss common misconceptions, practical tips, and resources available to help small businesses compete successfully. This session is designed for Brazilian entrepreneurs who want to expand their business, diversify their clients, and better understand how to access the public

sector. No previous experience with government contracts is required. **Please note, this presentation will be offered in Portuguese**

Mount Wachusett Hiking Guide and History Presentation – Thursday, August 27th at 6:30pm

Join author Matt Landry for an engaging presentation on the trails, stories, and rich history of Mount Wachusett. Based on his book Mount Wachusett Hiking Guide and History, this talk combines a brief overview of the hiking trails, with fascinating local history, offering something for both outdoor enthusiasts and those who simply love the mountain. It’s a meaningful look at one of Massachusetts’ most beloved landmarks, and the many ways it has inspired adventure, community, and connection over the years.

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

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

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

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

Yoga – Tuesdays at 6:30pm
Join Meg at the Gladys

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

Adult Education Community Advising Hour – Monday, August 24th at 10:30-11:30am

Adult education advising is available at the library! Meet one-on-one with an advisor to discuss earning your high school credential, improving English language skills, preparing for college or a career, and accessing community resources. Whether you’re just getting started or ready to enroll, we’re here to help.

Digital Literacy Bootcamp 1: Workplace Software Applications – Monday August 31st– September 8th at 5:30pm

Build the digital skills you need for work, education, and every day life! This hands-on, 5-Day Digital Literacy Bootcamp is designed for adults who want to develop confidence using the most common workplace software applications, specifically Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and Google Docs. If you have any questions, email websterabelinkages@webster-schools.org or call (508) 949-8282. Registration through Adult Basic Education is required.

Programming for All Ages Library for All –Mondays and Fridays at 10am

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

Puzz Fest – Thursday, August 20th at 6:00pm

Assemble your team (up to 5 people!) and join us to see which team can complete their puzzle first. We’ll have snacks to keep you fueled as you tackle your 500 piece jigsaw. Registration is required.

Children’s and Young Adult Programming Sensory Bin Explorations – Mondays at 10:30am

Bring your little ones outside for sensory bin exploration! Each Monday morning will feature a new theme, offering hands-on fun for children ages 2–6.

Creators Club – Mondays at 4:00pm

Come explore our Creators Club, where each month features a new theme highlighting a different art supply for kids to experiment with and turn into their own masterpieces! August’s Theme: Friendship Bracelets! Kids will make their own bracelets to share with family and friends. All creations left behind will be displayed in the Children’s program room for the rest of the month.

Tiny Groovers – Tuesdays at 10:30am

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

Mighty Builders – Tuesdays at 4:00pm

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

Messy Art Storytime – Thursdays at 10:30am

Join Miss Paige for storytime and messy, hands-on fun! Each week, children ages 2–6 will enjoy a new art project that lets their creativity shine. Dress for a mess and get ready to create! No registration required.

Nichols College named Presenting Sponsor of Joe Andruzzi Foundation’s Young Professionals Council

DUDLEY — Nichols College and the Joe Andruzzi Foundation (JAF) today announced that Nichols College has been named the 2026 Presenting Sponsor of JAF’s Young Professionals Council (YPC), establishing a new partnership designed to engage the next generation of philanthropic leaders in

the Foundation’s mission.

Through the partnership, Nichols College students, alumni and faculty will have opportunities to connect with JAF and participate in YPC events, volunteer initiatives, advocacy efforts and community engagement activities throughout New England. The collaboration will also highlight

Nichols College’s development of future leaders who understand the importance of service and giving back to their communities.

JAF’s Young Professionals Council brings together emerging professionals who share a passion for making a difference. Members support the Foundation through fundraising, volunteerism, advocacy and community engagement while developing leadership skills and building meaningful personal and professional connections.

“Partnering with the Joe Andruzzi Foundation reflects Nichols College’s commitment to preparing students to become leaders who make a meaningful difference in their professions and communities,” said Nichols College President William C. Pieczynski. “Through the Young Professionals Council, our students and alumni will have an opportunity to build connections, put their skills into action and support cancer patients and families throughout New England. We are proud to join JAF in advancing this important mission.”

As Presenting Sponsor, Nichols College will be recognized throughout the Young Professionals Council’s programming

and communications. Representatives from Nichols College will also participate in future Council meetings and work alongside JAF to expand engagement among students, alumni and young professionals throughout the region.

“Nichols College’s investment in the next generation of philanthropic leadership will help us grow the Young Professionals Council and create even more opportunities for emerging professionals to connect, lead and give back,” said Hunter Andruzzi, Community Engagement Manager, Joe Andruzzi Foundation. “We are grateful to welcome Nichols College as our Presenting Sponsor and look forward to engaging its students and alumni in support of New England cancer patients and their families.”

The partnership will be publicly celebrated during the Young Professionals Council’s second annual Putting for Patients fundraiser on Thursday, July 23, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Puttshack Boston – Seaport, located at 58 Pier 4 Boulevard in Boston. The event will bring young professionals together for unlimited mini golf on Puttshack’s technology-driven courses, networking, light bites and a

chance drawing featuring a variety of prize packages. Proceeds will support JAF’s efforts to provide financial assistance to New England cancer patients and their families.

The event will also introduce Nichols College as the Council’s Presenting Sponsor and recognize students, alumni, interns, and other emerging professionals working throughout the Greater Boston area. A Nichols College representative will participate in the evening’s speaking program.

Tickets are \$40 for guests ages 21 and older and \$30 for guests under 21. Tickets and additional information are available at https://one-cau.se/26ypc.

About The Joe Andruzzi Foundation

The Joe Andruzzi Foundation is committed to providing help, hope, and a reason to smile, for New England cancer patients and their families by contributing financial support when it is needed most. Founded in 2008 by former New England Patriots three-time Super Bowl Champion offensive guard Joe Andruzzi and his wife Jen, the Joe Andruzzi Foundation grew out of Joe’s own successful battle with cancer. In 2007, Joe’s football career abrupt-

ly ended when he was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin’s Burkitt’s lymphoma. Disease-free less than a year later, Joe and Jen chose to dedicate their lives towards solving the financial distress a cancer diagnosis can cause in the lives of patients and families. For more information or to make a donation, please visit: joeandruzzifoundation.org.

About Nichols College Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols College transforms today’s students into tomorrow’s leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth – combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage – equipping students to exceed their own expectations. To learn more about Nichols College, visit www.nichols.edu.

Ryan Rushford joins Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates

WORCESTER — Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates is proud to announce Ryan Rushford has joined their Worcester office. Rushford joins a dedicated team of knowledgeable agents at Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates, who bring many years of combined real estate expertise to their clients. Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates, located at 470 Park Ave., is an independently owned and operated affiliate of Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. For more information, please contact Julia Acquaah-Harrison at (508) 795-3885 or jharrison@hope-homes.com. About Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.

Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. is a top real estate franchisor established in 2001 by Jim Weichert, president, chairman and CEO of Weichert Companies, which has been in operation since 1969. The company provides a clearly defined business model for operating, managing, and marketing a real estate brokerage, along with industry-leading technology, marketing tools, and support. Its first affiliate opened in 2002, and the franchise network has since grown to over 330 offices, serving markets in over 40 states. The company has appeared on the Entrepreneur Franchise 500 list as a top residential real estate franchise and been identified by Franchise Business Review as a top franchise for owner satisfaction 11 years in a row. For more information about Weichert, visit Weichert.com. For more information about franchise opportunities, visit WeichertFranchise.com.

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Webster - 18 DiDonato Ave



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Featured New Listing!
24 Laurelwood Dr
Webster Lake Waterfront



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

Webster ~ 33 Slater Street



Sprawling fieldstone faced Ranch! Located on a +/- 0.5-acre, 2 car garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 2 stone fireplaces FHW BB heat. Open floor plan kitchen, living rm, dining rm, breezeway w/sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom MLS # 73500183 **NEW PRICE \$479,900**

Webster - 24 Cooper Rd
New Construction - Craftsman Style home



Tucked away on Cooper Rd. Webster Lake with access at Lakeside beach/boat ramp. 3rd of 4 homes being built at this site. Offers 2,155 sq. ft +/- of living area, 7 rms, 4 brs, 3 1/2 baths, 9ft ceiling, wood flooring throughout with ceramic tile baths. Spacious main BR Suite w/ walk-in closet, and private full bathr, double sink vanity, finished lower level walk-out w/ slider. Central AC, garage MLS # 73534271 **\$649,000**

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Major collaborative milestone marked at QCC Center Topping Off



Courtesy

Left to right: Deputy Commissioner Dr. Richard Riccardi of the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education; QCC Trustee Dr. Barur Rajeshkumar; QCC Trustee Dr. Satya Mitra; Commissioner Adam Baacke of the Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM); QCC Board Chair Dr. Linda Maykel; QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja; State Sen. Robyn Kennedy; State Rep. James O'Day; Assistant Secretary Robert LePage of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education; Worcester Mayor Joseph Petty; QCC Student Trustee Dawit Quilty and Craig Skurka, operations manager for Gilbane Building Company.

dents.

"This project is so important to the mission and vision of Quinsigamond Community College, the region it serves and the Commonwealth," Riccardi said. "We know that holistic student success incorporates curricular and co-curricular initiatives, and this project provides the infrastructure to check both of those boxes."

Speakers highlighted the collaborative partnership among the college, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and project stakeholders that have made this investment possible.

"It is a necessity that we continue to improve our community college environments," O'Day said. "The legislature has made it very clear that not only is higher ed important, but certainly the community college segment is equally as important. It's been an honor to be able to represent the college."

While the majority of the renovation is funded by DCAMM, the project reflects the type of transformational campus investment envisioned through the Commonwealth's BRIGHT Act (An Act to Build Resilient Infrastructure to Generate Higher Education Transformation). The statewide initiative is designed to support modernization of public higher education facilities.

"I want to thank our legislative partners for championing the BRIGHT Act to date and hopefully getting it across the finish line so we can keep doing impactful projects like this one," Baacke said. "As someone whose parents both worked at community colleges, I know there are few things we do that are more important in changing the lives of residents across the Commonwealth than what community colleges do every day."

Designed to achieve LEED Gold certification, the facility will support improved energy performance, enhanced indoor air quality and long-term sustainability goals.

"Buildings like this bring jobs to your community — great-paying opportunities for advancement. We are looking forward to continuing to make these investments. They are about the future of the economy," LePage said.

Skurka recognized the efforts of the construction team and project partners in reaching the milestone safely and efficiently.

"Today's event celebrates a significant construction milestone and the many people and partnerships helping us bring this project to life," Skurka said. "At Gilbane, we are committed to creating healthy, safe and sustainable spaces that have a lasting effect on the community. We are honored to partner with QCC on this transformative project."

The QCC Center is expected to open in Fall 2027 and will serve as a centerpiece of the college's campus, creating new opportunities for hands-on learning, workforce training and community engagement.

"When we look at this structure, we aren't just looking at steel beams and concrete; we're looking at the literal framework of Worcester's economic future," said Petty. "True progress means lifting everyone up. By expanding physical accessibility and producing state-of-the-art, energy-efficient systems, QCC is ensuring our green energy and equity goals move forward."

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College celebrated a major construction milestone with a Topping Off Ceremony for its new QCC Center, marking the completion of the building's structural frame. State and local leaders, project partners, and members of the college community gathered to witness the raising of the final beam and celebrate the progress of this transformational project.

"Through careful planning, advocacy, fundraising, design and construction, the vision is now becoming a reality," said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja. "Most importantly, this will create opportunities for students to develop the skills they need to succeed in today's workforce and strengthen the connection between education, industry and our community."

The event featured a ceremonial beam signing and remarks from Pedraja; State Sen. Robyn Kennedy; State Rep. James O'Day; Worcester Mayor Joseph Petty; Assistant Secretary Robert LePage of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education; Deputy Commissioner Dr. Richard Riccardi of the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education; Commissioner Adam Baacke of the Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM); and Craig Skurka, operations manager for Gilbane Building Company.

"The raising of the beam is a moment for us to give gratitude and thank those who have stepped up to make this a reality," Kennedy said. "As you join into the growing skyline of Worcester, we continue to grow with you. By signing our names to these beams, we are signing our commitment to make sure the school continues to be successful."

The Topping Off Ceremony commemorated the progress of the \$37.4 million renovation and expansion project, which is transforming a 1960s-era athletic facility into a modern, accessible hub for learning, workforce development and student life.

Upon completion, the 57,000-square-foot facility will feature advanced manufacturing and robotics laboratories, hospitality training spaces, flexible classrooms and revitalized athletic facilities. The project also includes significant upgrades to aging infrastructure and accessibility improvements designed to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all stu-

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