



BLACKSTONE VALLEY TRIBUNE

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Free by request to residents of

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Friday, March 13, 2026

Whitinsville Christian School DECA recognized for outstanding School-based Enterprise



Maddi, Cadence, Ethan, Milla, and Addison serving in the DECA Diner.

WHITINSVILLE — DECA Diner & Sacred Sips Café, the school-based enterprise at Whitinsville Christian School, was among 989 school-based enterprises worldwide achieving Gold level of certification for the 2025-2026 school year and will be recognized during DECA's International Career Development Conference this April 25-28 in Atlanta, Ga.

A school-based enterprise (SBE) is an entrepreneurial operation in a school setting that provides goods and services to meet market needs. SBEs are managed and operated by students as hands-on learning laboratories that integrate National Curriculum Standards in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. DECA advisors have used this effective educational tool for over 4 decades to provide their students with realistic, practical learning experiences that reinforce classroom instruction, enhance 21st-century skill development, and prepare students for college and careers.

The Whitinsville Christian School DECA members who contributed to the certification were Addison Boone and Ethan Hand, with the assistance of their DECA chapter advisor, Eliot Deters. This achievement is extremely hard to earn in your first year of business, but the SBE DECA Diner and Sacred Sips should be commended for this achievement.

"DECA's School-based Enterprise Certification Program is a rigorous process designed to help DECA members demonstrate their classroom learning in a practi-

Courtesy/Courtesy

Turn To DECA page A10

Asa Waters Mansion invites families to enjoy Breakfast with the Easter Bunny



MILLBURY — Families are invited to celebrate the joy of Spring, and the magic of Easter at the historic Asa Waters Mansion, on Saturday, April 4, located at 123 Elm St., Millbury, for Breakfast with the Easter Bunny.

This festive family-friendly event offers families and the community the opportunity to enjoy a delicious buffet breakfast while celebrating the season in one of Millbury's most beloved historic landmarks. Guests will be welcomed at

Turn To BREAKFAST page A10

Silver Club planning Cape Cod trip

UXBRIDGE — The Silver Club of the Uxbridge Senior Center will be taking a three-day trip to Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard from July 28-30. The cost is \$439 and includes the bus, hotel, two breakfasts, two dinners, the ferry ride to Martha's Vineyard, and guided tours of Hyannis, Sandwich, and the outer Cape (including stops in Provincetown and Chatham).

Please call Sue at 508-341-0797 for more information.

Whitin Community Center hosts free Annual Kids Fair

WHITINSVILLE — The Whitin Community Center (WCC), Blackstone Valley Children's Place (BVCP), and Beginning Bridges CFCE are thrilled to announce the Annual Kids Fair, taking place on Saturday, March 28, from 10 a.m. to noon. This free event will be held at the Whitin Community Center, located at 60 Main St., Whitinsville, and promises a morning filled with activities, interactive learning, and excitement for kids and families alike.

The free Kids Fair is a celebration of fun, family, and

community, featuring Informational Booths to learn about regional resources and programs for children and families. Enjoy tasty and nutritious treats to fuel the fun. Engage in activities & giveaways from interactive games to creative crafts, there's something for everyone! Last but certainly not least, enter to win a free bike! Don't miss your chance to take home this exciting prize!

Returning this year is the theme, "Passport to Healthy Communities," encouraging children and families to explore health and wellness in a fun and engaging way. With support from WCC's Blackstone Valley Children's Place (BVCP) and Beginning Bridges CFCE, the FREE Kids Fair highlights the importance of building a healthy, connected community.

Ginny Alicea, WCC's BVCP Director, shared her enthusiasm, noting, "The Free Kids Fair is a fantastic opportunity to bring families from all over the Blackstone Valley together in a fun, supportive environment. It's all about creating connections, fostering wellness, and celebrating the vibrant community we're so proud to be part of."

This event is free and open to the public. Families are encouraged to join us for a memorable day of fun and learning at the Whitin Community Center, the Blackstone Valley's most comprehensive family and recreation center. A very special thank you to our sponsors, UniBank, Koopman Lumber & Hardware, Gaudette Insurance Agency, and the Osterman Family Foundation.

For more information about the Kids Fair, please contact Ginny Alicea, BVCP Director at 508-234-8184, ext. 105, contact Emily Murray at 508-278-5110, or visit www.WhitinCommunityCenter.com.

The Whitin Community Center is committed to enhancing the health and well-being of individuals and families and building a strong community in the Blackstone Valley. We offer social, recreational, educational, and outreach programs that bring community members of all ages and backgrounds together. The Whitin Community Center is the Blackstone Valley's most complete family and recreation center with two swimming pools, a gym, fitness center, early learning programs, summer camps and a seven and a half acre park. For more information call 508-234-8184 or visit www.WhitinCommunityCenter.com.



Courtesy

Members of the Girl Scouts visited the Douglas Police Department recently. School Resource Officers Fulone and Wright gave them a tour of the station, which included the dispatch center and booking area. Afterwards, they were brought to the sally port to check out a cruiser! We also couldn't leave out that Comfort Dog Finn was around to lend a paw too! The group asked awesome questions, were attentive and very well behaved! Photo courtesy of the department's Facebook page.

PET of the WEEK



MEET Lizzy

Looking for a scruffy ray of sunshine? Meet Lizzy—a gorgeous, adorable, and truly one-of-a-kind girl who is guaranteed to brighten your days.

At 5 years young, Lizzy is playful, sweet, and full of joyful energy. She loves to play—especially when her favorite ball is involved. Toss it once and she's all in, happily bringing it right back and waiting (very politely) for the fun to continue. Zoomies, big smiles, and happy greetings are all part of the Lizzy experience.

When playtime winds down, Lizzy is just as happy to cuddle up and soak in affection. She's a good girl through and through—loving, wiggly and eager to be close to her people. She's also food-motivated and smart, already knowing "sit" and enjoying learning new things.

Lizzy can be a bit nervous with some new people at first—especially men—but with patience and gentle introductions, she warms up quickly. Once she does, she's all love and devotion and wants to be everyone's best friend.

We're still learning about Lizzy with other animals, and at this time she would likely do best as a solo dog, where she can soak up all the attention and love she deserves.

Training Scholarship Included: Lizzy's adoption comes with a bonus training scholarship thanks to Lizzy and the Good Dog People! Her adopter will receive a free consultation to help with the transition, plus a scholarship to the virtual course Recall for a Healer. Ask our team for details!

If you're looking for a playful, affectionate, scruffy sweetheart with a heart of gold, Lizzy might just be your perfect match.



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BVCC invites community to 26th Annual Home & Community Expo!

WHITINSVILLE — The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce (BVCC) is thrilled to announce the return of its highly anticipated 26th Annual Home & Community Expo, to be held on March 14 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Northbridge High School Fieldhouse, 427 Linwood Ave, Whitinsville.

Presented by UniBank, this signature community event welcomes more than 1,200 guests each year and features more than 75 local and regional exhibitor booths, making it one of the largest and most anticipated gatherings in the Blackstone Valley.

Admission is free with a physical ticket, digital ticket (available online and via the event flyer QR code or shown on your phone), or with a donation of a non-perishable food item to benefit Peace of Bread. Guest without a ticket may attend for a \$3 admission fee.

The BVCC Home & community Expo offers something for everyone, including:

The "Best of the Valley" Chowderfest Competition—Sponsored by ALLCare, Sample and vote for your favorite!

The crowd favorite Mascot Dance-Off

The expanded Pot of Gold Scavenger Hunt, with a chance to win incredible prizes!

Live Entertainment and interactive demonstrations throughout the day

Performances by Murphy's Irish Step Dancers

A showcase by H&H Dance

A K9 demonstration by the Massachusetts State Police K9 Unit, courtesy of Massachusetts Vest-A-Dog

A performance by Family Karate Center

An Animal CPR demonstrations presented by What's Up With Your Pup

Giveaways, prizes, and

exclusive exhibitor specials

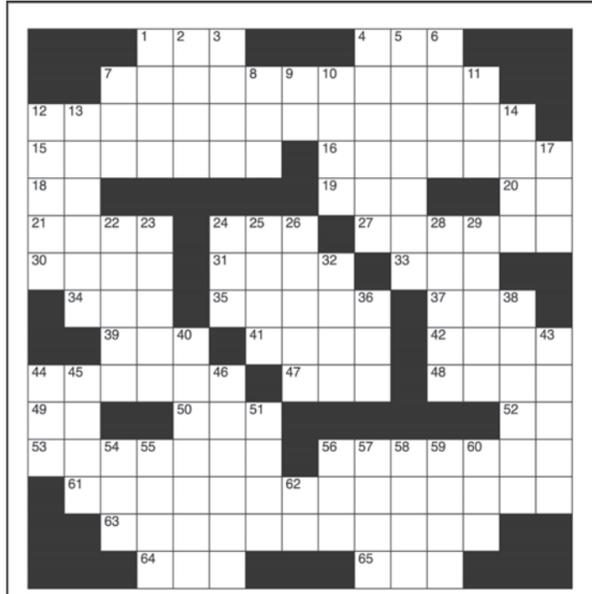
New! This year, in partnership with the Autism Alliance Program of Advocates, Inc., the Expo will debut a dedicated Autism Welcoming Room, providing a supportive, inclusive environment to ensure all families can comfortably enjoy the event.

"The Expo is a true celebration of the Blackstone Valley," said BVCC Executive Director, Liz O'Neil. "It brings together businesses, families, non-profits, and community partners for a day filled with connection, fun, and local flavor."

Free digital tickets are available at: www.blackstonevalley.org/events.

For more information about this event, please visit our website, www.blackstonevalley.org/ events or contact BVCC Executive Director, Liz O'Neil at 508-234-9090 or email Liz at, lonel@blackstonevalley.org for more information.

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



- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Blockchain-based entity
 4. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
 7. Painted with glue
 12. Legendary crooner
 15. Structure made with strips of wood
 16. Tropical fruits
 18. Commercial
 19. Comedienne Gasteyer
 20. The Ocean State
 21. Ancient Scot
 24. Basics
 27. Stated propositions
 30. Scottish island group
 31. Expression of annoyance
 33. Large tree
 34. Engine additive
 35. Conspiracy
 37. Drunkard
 39. Someone who is morally reprehensible
 41. Ancient Syrian city
 42. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
 44. Carry (slang)
 47. Sweet potato
 48. European river
 49. The Golden State
 50. Windy City ballplayer
 52. New Testament
 53. Possess spiritually
 56. A treeless grassy plain
 61. Popular historical novel
 63. In a law-abiding way
 64. A place to sleep
 65. Criticize

- CLUES DOWN**
1. Impression in a surface
 2. Computer language
 3. Relating to the ear
 4. Occupant
 5. Member of Great Plains people
 6. Social media firm
 7. Digital audiotape
 8. Midway between east and southeast
 9. Chronic, progressive disease
 10. Chinese lute
 11. Not wet
 12. Moves wings up and down
 13. Communication devices
 14. Swiss river
 17. Female sibling
 22. Receive
 23. Relating to a type
 24. General's assistant (abbr.)
 25. Steep bank
 26. Taxi driver
 28. Moves into without difficulty
 29. Bicycle manufacturer
 32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
 36. Fugitives are on it
 38. Bitter-tasting organic substance
 40. Die
 43. Matched
 44. Literary genre __-fi
 45. Cannot
 46. Pounded
 51. British rock group
 54. Debt relief order
 55. 2006 NL Cy Young winner
 56. Green vegetable
 57. Tough outer skin of fruit
 58. __ Spumante (Italian wine)
 59. Ailments
 60. Famed singer Charles
 62. Camper

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Douglas Democrats called to caucus Saturday

DOUGLAS — Douglas Democrats are called to caucus on Saturday, March 14 at 10 a.m. at the Douglas Municipal Center at 29 Depot St. in Douglas.

The purpose of the caucus is to elect delegates to the state convention to be held in Worcester on Friday and Saturday, May 29 and 30. At that time, delegates from around the Commonwealth will vote to nominate candidates for statewide offices including governor, lieutenant governor, senator and secretary of state among others.

The caucus is open to the public, but only Douglas registered Democrats can be nominated and can vote for delegates. The municipal center is handicapped accessible. Please contact Lisa Moczynski at 508-341-4876 for more information.

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Masonic Annual Fish Fry is back!

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

DOUGLAS — The Olive Branch Masonic Lodge, located at 7 Depot St. in Douglas, which is off Route 16, will host its Annual Fish Fry on Friday evenings through April 3 during Lent from 5:30-7:30 p.m. All proceeds from the sales of this event go to The Masonic Awareness Fund. This fund last year in 2025 has raised and given away 5-\$500 scholarships to local students in the community. The lodge will serve dinners featuring half a pound of baked or fried fish, homemade hand-cut fries, coleslaw, clam chowder, tartar sauce, and a slice of lemon. For children chicken finger dinners with French fries will be provided for children who prefer chicken to fish. Dine in or take out. Adults cost is \$18 and \$8 for children. To order, just call 508-499-9605.

If you would like additional information about Freemasonry, go to www.massfreemasonry.org and read about this great fraternity and find a lodge nearest you.

Don't miss a two for one experience on March 14

UXBRIDGE — Snow is piled high, but customers still travel from far and wide to browse the Plant Land wonders displayed at 125 North Main St. in Uxbridge. An endless variety of plants for indoors and out occupy racks, tables, even the ceiling. Tropical fish swim in tanks, large and small; Koi and crayfish (five different colors!) in ponds. Also, at Plant Land, you will find a unique selection of gifts, of non-plant and aquatic variety, perfect for soon-to-arrive holidays- St. Patrick's Day, Easter, and Mother's Day.

Add to your shopping pleasure on Saturday, March 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aldrich Bakehouse, located in South Uxbridge, will visit Plant Land. A wide selection of its most popular baked goods will be offered for sale. Come in out of the cold to enjoy a two for one experience; bask in springtime greenery and munch on something yummy, too. See you at Plant Land soon, because what's not to like?

Asa Waters Mansion presents Clover Meets Contraband: A Speakeasy at the Mansion

MILLBURY — The historic Asa Waters Mansion exclusively invites you to an unforgettable evening of hushed passwords, Irish flavors, with a Prohibition-era feel. Clover Meets Contraband: A Speakeasy Supper at the Mansion, will take place on Saturday, March 14; doors will open with secret password only at 5 p.m. at Asa Waters Mansion, located at 123 Elm St., Millbury.

Guests are invited to

step beyond the gates, past the velvet rope, and into the shadows of the Mansion for a unique dining experience inspired by the intrigue of the Roaring Twenties, with the warmth of Irish hospitality.

This unique evening will feature an Irish-inspired buffet supper, coffee and sweet indulgences, live entertainment throughout the evening, a speakeasy-style cash bar and more! Guests are encouraged to

embrace the spirit of the evening by dressing in vintage attire; tweed, flat caps, lace, and timeless glamour are all welcome!

“This exclusive event is designed to transport our guests,” said Traci Parath, Executive Director, Asa Waters Mansion. “Clover Meets Contraband blends history, mystery, and hospitality in a way that only Asa Waters Mansion can. It’s more than a supper, it’s an experience you won’t want to miss!”

Register online at <https://unipaygold.unibank.com/transactioninfo.aspx?TID=37072> or scan the QR code on our flyer. The cost to attend is \$65 per person, with limited seating available, and advanced ticket purchase is required. Receive your secret password for entry upon booking! For more information, please contact Traci Parath at 508.865.0855 or email Traci at, tparath@millburyma.gov.

Asa Waters Mansion & Millbury Historical Society present “Meet the Waters Family”

MILLBURY — The Asa Waters Mansion and Millbury Historical Society exclusively invite you to step into the past on Friday, March 20 to Meet The Waters Family. A captivating evening that will explore the lives, legacy, and lingering mysteries surrounding the Waters Family, doors will open at 6:00PM at Asa Waters Mansion, located at 123 Elm St., Millbury.

Uncover the stories behind the Waters Family

in an evening where history meets mystery. This special event will explore the whispered lore to fascinating truths, that will delve into their day-to-day lives, controversies, world travels, stolen armory, and curiosities that still spark conversation today! Enjoy a feature presentation by local historian, Keith Downer at 7 p.m., titled “Fact or Lore?” and exploration of truths and myths woven into the Waters family story.

Guests will also enjoy light refreshments hosted by the Friends of Asa Waters Mansion, and have the opportunity to explore local treasures in the newly remodeled Historical Society.

“This event invites the community to connect with local history in a way that feel immersive and meaningful,” said Traci Parath, Executive Director, Asa Waters Mansion. “We hope our guests leave not only informed, but inspired

to continue discovering the stories that shape Millbury, and the Asa Waters Mansion.”

Please register by contacting Mary Lou Mulhane at 508-865-9831. A \$10 donation is appreciated to attend. Donations will directly support the Millbury Historical Society. For more information, please contact Traci Parath at 508-865-0855 or email Traci at, tparath@millburyma.gov.

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BHS Class of 1986 seeks community’s help locating classmates for 40th reunion

REGION — As the Bartlett High School Class of 1986 prepares to celebrate its 40th reunion on Sept. 26, organizers are asking the community for assistance in locating classmates who have not yet been reached through social media or via text.

To make the process simple, the reunion committee has created a short contact-information form and is encouraging residents, friends, and former classmates to help spread the word. If you know someone on the “missing classmates” list, organizers ask that you text them the link to the form so they can update their information.

Contact Info Form: <https://tinyurl.com/BHS1986-40Years>

If it’s easier, you may also complete the form on a classmate’s behalf—so long as you have their current contact details. Organizers emphasize that any help tracking them down is truly appreciated, as personal connections often succeed where digital outreach falls short.

A list of classmates the committee is hoping to locate appears below. With the community’s support, they hope every member of the Class of ’86 will have the opportunity to join this milestone celebration.

Peter Allain
 Beth Antonopoulos
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 Andrew Baca

Austin Bailey
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 Richard Bernier
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 Beth Bialy
 Jason Borski
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 Jeffrey Gatto
 Tina Giakoumis
 Alicia Goudreau
 Richard Guerin
 Robert Hamm
 Scott Horanzy
 Jane Houle
 Todd Hufault
 Joseph Hughes
 Melissa Jankowski

Thor Johnson
 Nena Johnston
 Lisa Kozlowski
 Robert Krasnecky
 Jill Krause
 Michael Kryger
 Rick Lawson
 Deborah Leite
 Linda Lifer
 Patricia Majewski
 Renee Marchand
 Jennifer Marsh
 Jennifer Mason
 John Meagher
 Fumiyo Mochizuki
 Deborah Munsch
 Brett Napierata
 Wayne Parmentier
 Brian Poplawski
 Gary Poplawski
 Edward Powers
 William Radcliffe
 James Remy
 Debra Ross
 Collin Salmon
 Dale Schleis
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Thank You!

Retirement on the Horizon

After 39 years in business (and being 39 years older than when we started) one notices that there is now a shorter distance left to travel on life’s journey than the distance that has already been traversed. That thinking led us to the decision to begin to wind down our business during the first quarter of this year and retire by the end of March 2026. This wind down period has allowed us plenty of time to honor and fulfill all our current customer special orders in progress. Due to some products’ extended lead times, we will only be processing new orders that will be able to be shipped completely within the above-mentioned time. In the meantime, we have lots of super budget-friendly deals to be found as we draw down our inventory of windows, doors, patio doors, locksets...., and bargain-bay items. Also, our fully functioning, beautiful kitchen cabinets, windows & doors displays are being made available for sale as well.

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EDITOR

EDITORIAL

The importance of preserving our history

One of the quiet strengths of communities in the Blackstone Valley is the way history remains visible in everyday life.

In towns such as Douglas, Uxbridge and Northbridge, historic buildings, old mill structures, early churches and preserved homes stand as reminders of how these communities developed over generations. Unlike places where growth has erased much of the past, the Valley still carries physical evidence of its long story.

Many residents pass these landmarks every day without giving them much thought. A former mill building may now house apartments or small businesses. A colonial-era home might blend easily into a modern neighborhood. A stone wall along a wooded road may have been placed there centuries ago by early farmers.

Yet each of these features connects the present to the people who lived and worked here long before today's residents arrived.

Preserving those connections requires ongoing attention. Buildings age. Historic properties sometimes face redevelopment pressure. Maintenance and restoration projects can be expensive.

That is why local historical commissions, preservation groups and town officials play an important role in protecting the Valley's heritage.

Historical commissions often review proposed changes to historically significant structures. Their goal is not to prevent progress but to ensure that important pieces of a town's identity are not lost without careful consideration.

Historical societies contribute as well. Across the Valley, these organizations collect photographs, documents and artifacts that help tell the story of each community. Their volunteers maintain archives, organize exhibits and offer programs that keep local history accessible to residents and students.

These efforts may not always attract large crowds, but they quietly preserve the stories that define a place.

The Blackstone Valley, after all, occupies a unique place in American history. The region was one of the birthplaces of the Industrial Revolution in the United States. Early textile mills, canals and manufacturing facilities transformed the area into a center of economic growth during the 19th century.

Many of those structures still stand today, though their purposes have changed.

Historic preservation helps ensure that these sites remain part of the landscape rather than fading into memory. When an old building is carefully restored instead of demolished, it maintains a visible connection to the town's earlier chapters.

Preservation also supports community identity. Residents often take pride in living in places where history is visible and respected. Historic districts, well-maintained landmarks and restored buildings help maintain the distinctive character that draws people to small New England towns in the first place.

Visitors notice these details as well. Historic architecture and preserved mill buildings contribute to tourism across the broader Blackstone Valley region, bringing attention to the area's cultural and industrial heritage.

Of course, preservation must exist alongside responsible growth. Communities still need housing, modern infrastructure and economic development. The challenge is finding ways to move forward without discarding the features that make each town unique.

Fortunately, many Valley communities have shown that balance is possible. Through thoughtful planning, careful renovation and respect for local history, towns can protect their heritage while still adapting to changing needs.

History does not belong only in museums or textbooks. In the Blackstone Valley, it remains part of the everyday landscape. Protecting that legacy ensures that future generations will continue to understand where their communities came from and how they were shaped over time.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ICE are not the ones who merit comparison with Nazis

To the Editor:

Do you notice that all the pro-Hamas and Free Palestine protests have disappeared? Ever notice how the paid agitators never compare Hamas to Nazis? What Hamas did to Israel on Oct. 7, 2023 [during Biden] was Nazi to the core.

After Israel and President Trump crushed Hamas, the hostages were released slowly, like drips from a leaky faucet. Some alive with injuries and others, deceased. One of the Israeli hostages recently testified that Hamas did not allow him to see the sun or have fresh air for 500 days.

Some days, he received only a bottle of water. No food. He lost 70 pounds.

It took France until 1995 to finally admit it was responsible for deporting thousands of Jewish people to death camps. It took France 50 years to admit they were Nazis.

But ICE are Nazis? ICE just corrected the lying Mayor of Boston and affirmed that Boston ignored 167 ICE detainees for illegals charged with, for example, strangulation, felony assault with a weapon, indecent assault on a child, operating a vehicle under the influence of who knows what, and improper disposal of a human body. A human body? Just nice illegals yearning to be free...of prison.

While we spent \$4 billion on criminal illegal aliens and just plain illegals here, ICE arrested 4,000 criminal illegals in Minneapolis in just 6 weeks. Here in Massachusetts, ICE arrested the following, without local law enforcement aid:

Emilio Peneda from El Salvador re-entered the U.S. several times under Biden after he was deported under Trump. ICE recently arrested him. He was charged with assault and battery, violating a restraining order, drunk driving, aggravated assault on a family member, leaving the scene of an accident, failure to carry required auto insurance, and failure to show up in court. Oh, and illegal entry.

Now awaiting deportation.

Eladio Santos Ortiz, a criminal alien from the Dominican Republic, was convicted of trafficking 400 grams of fentanyl, heroin, and cocaine – fentanyl was not enough – and sentenced to five years in federal prison. He will be deported after he completes his federal sentence, living on our tax money.

ICE arrested Eduardo Ramirez, a Guatemalan illegal criminal, in Boston. He was convicted of aggravated assault with a weapon and abduction. Ticket on ICE AIR.

Miguel Chavez, an El Salvadoran illegal, was convicted of sexual assault. Arrested by ICE in Boston on charges of re-entering

the country illegally after he was deported by Obama in 2013. In ICE custody, pending deportation.

The photos of these guys make your skin crawl. Paid agitators love them!

Jorge Estaban Luerbert Acuna from Mexico was convicted of assault, burglary, fraud, and lying to ICE agents [a federal crime]. He was arrested by ICE in Boston.

An illegal from Brazil, Luiz Soares DeLima, was arrested by ICE in Boston. He was convicted of aggravated assault and sexual offenses. Get him outa here!

Mahmoud Shamseddine from Sierra Leone was convicted of assault, aggravated assault, selling cocaine, and "police officer strong arm." Arrested by ICE.

ICE arrested an illegal Guatemalan for rape of a child by force and three Portuguese nationals for the death of a child in Pawtucket. Recently, a Boston City Councilor complained that a serial criminal illegal was "abducted" off the streets of Roslindale, merely guilty of trafficking cocaine and fentanyl and identity theft!

On Feb. 26, our U.S. Attorney in Boston indicted two Venezuelan illegals, members of the Trendy Gang, and charged them with massive ATM fraud. Our U.S. Attorney. Not our state Attorney General, who "does not do crime."

When you see paid anti-ICE agitators in Minneapolis, think of the criminal illegals they protect. Think of the massive fraud by Somalis in non-existent child care centers, non-existent Autism centers, and millions in U.S. dollars flowing out of the Minneapolis airport, screened by Somalia TSAs, to Somali Land.

Paid anti-ICE agitators tell you that Renee Good was a "Mom of three children," but she lost custody of two children to her ex-husband. Her third child attends a school in which six year olds "study social justice," while Mom went to anti-ICE training. Would Martha Stewart say that was a "good" thing?

Massachusetts criminal defense lawyers remain on strike, and criminals are set free due to lack of representation. Beacon Hill refuses to give them a raise, but Boston Commies propose to make us taxpayers pay for "free" legal counsel for criminal illegal aliens in danger of being deported by ICE.

I pay taxes not to defend them, but to deport them before they commit more crimes against Americans.

Will you stand if you agree that the job of the American government is to protect American citizens, not illegal aliens?

BEV GUDANOWSKI
UXBRIDGE

The Corbomite rules

To the Editor:

Wasn't it truly sad when we all read that a seemingly good Volvo was about to get its lithium battery packs corbomite-nuked into the next sector of our AC, electrically powered galaxy?

Caveat Emptor rules are at work whenever some of the fools among us are presented with some vastly underpriced EV hook up that cannot possibly protect those battery packs for all that long after the spring sunshine returns to us all in earnest.

Having lost a 4 amp hour, 40 volt Ryobi tool battery to that very same Corbomite Mandate myself, I know whereof I speak.

Such is the nature of the Corbomite Rules, Laws and Edicts that the universe has dumped upon us all, as such have existed since the very dawn of our mutually shared planet.

Of course, as anyone with sense knows, those Corbomite Scientific Mandates long ago predated the "Star Trek" episode that first gave us the word "corbomite" back in November of 1966. "The Corbomite Maneuver" aired during the legendary

show's first season.

Did you know that the 1951 sci-fi classic "The Day the Earth Stood Still" was based on the very same, scientifically valid principles of alternating currents and their respective, wide-ranging energy fields?

Did you know that, thanks to the Corbomite Effect, any DC generating photovoltaic array, whenever overwhelmed by an all-powerful AC source in its vicinity, can quite catastrophically and precisely reverse its polarity back and forth a good many times per second?

Should we consult the child of some leftist on such matters or should we consult with some real electricity experts?

Do you know what a "Corbomite Induced Pulse" might be, or what such an effect might have been called many years prior to 1966?

So here's a wild and crazy idea. Let's all refresh our memories in regards to the exact words that actor William Shatner spoke as Captain James Tiberius Kirk back during that alleged tenth episode. Here's the quote, complete with its closing error of scientific omission:

"This is the Captain of the Enterprise. Our respect for other lifeforms requires that we give you this warning. One critical item of information that has never been incorporated into the memory banks of any Earth ship. Since the early years of space exploration, Earth vessels have had incorporated into them a substance known as corbomite. It is a material and a device which prevents attack on us. If any destructive energy touches our vessel, a reverse reaction of equal strength is created..."

We all know that a reverse reaction of greater than equal magnitude is the devoutly maintained, scientific mandate with such an effect, don't we?

These are scientifically established, fundamental principles of electricity that Maura Healey and her highly devoted fans in the greater Whitinsville area must know by heart. Isn't that so?

STEPHEN GAMBONE
NORTHBRIDGE

Spring sneaks in, one morning at a time

Every year about this time, I start noticing small things.

Not the big, dramatic signs of spring. Those come later, when the trees turn green all at once and people start dragging lawn chairs out of the garage. I mean the quiet little hints that winter is loosening its grip on Massachusetts.

It might be a patch of grass showing up along the edge of the driveway. Or that first morning when the sun comes through the kitchen window a little earlier than it did the week before.

You notice those things when you've lived somewhere long enough.

The other morning, I stepped outside to grab the newspaper, and the air felt different. Still cold, mind you. This is Massachusetts, after all. March has a habit of pretending to be spring one day and January the next. But the cold felt lighter somehow.

That's the best way I can explain it.

When I was younger, I used to think spring arrived all at once. One day, it was winter, and the next day, it was warm enough to play catch in the yard. But the older I get, the more I realize spring actually sneaks in quietly, one small sign at a time.

The birds know it before we do.

**LANTERNS
ALONG
MAIN
STREET**
By CHARLES

You start hearing them earlier in the morning, carrying on like they've got important business to attend to. I'm not sure what they're saying to each other, but they sound awfully cheerful about it.

Then there's the sunlight.

In February, the sun always seems tired, like it's putting in only a half day. By March, it sticks around longer, stretching across the sidewalks and warming the side of the house in the afternoon. My wife noticed it first the other day when she said the living room suddenly felt brighter.

I told her that happens every year. Still, it's nice when it does.

Around town, you start seeing the early signs too. Someone has already swept the winter sand off their walkway. A neighbor is standing in the driveway looking thoughtfully at the snowblower, as if trying to decide whether to keep it out a little longer or finally push it to the back of the garage.

That's always a gamble in Massachusetts.

I've made the mistake before of putting away winter too early. The moment you do that, it seems like the weather hears about it and decides to send one last snowstorm just to keep you humble.

So I leave the shovel handy for now.

But even with that possibility hanging in the air, there's a different feeling around town this time of year. People walk a little slower when the sun comes out. You see neighbors lingering a moment longer at the mailbox. Someone opens a car window for the first time in months just to let the air in.

None of this happens all at once. It unfolds gradually, the way most good things do.

When my kids were younger, the arrival of spring meant baseball gloves coming out of the closet and muddy sneakers by the back door. These days the house is quieter, though every once in a while I still catch myself noticing things the same way I did back then.

The smell of thawing earth. The sound of melting snow dripping off the edge of the roof.

The first afternoon when you realize you don't need your heavy coat anymore.

I suppose that's the real magic of a New England spring. It reminds you that even after the longest winters, the world eventually wakes up again.

Not with a grand announcement.

Just a little sunlight on Main Street, a few birds singing before breakfast, and the quiet feeling that warmer days are on their way.

And after a long Massachusetts winter, that's usually enough.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Amateur hour

To the Editor:

Ted Mack is alive and well. Using the alias Don-the-Con Trump, he is festering in Washington, D.C., in what remains of the White House. To avoid detection, Ted has been reanimated as a fat, lecherous, incontinent, pathologically lying moron with cankles and orange skin. But as is his wont, Ted/Don has assembled a set of acts and an Amateur Hour, the likes of which 'has never been seen before' — a program that makes up for its dearth of talent, by bringing us close to the brink of death.

The first act, entitled Epic Fury (because a man-baby drunken abuser named Pete Hegseth needs to pretend he is a tough guy), is a sneak attack on a Middle East country, in midst of negotiations for a nuclear treaty, to replace the nuclear treaty revoked by Don-the-Con. Yes, it's Pearl Harbor, updated and MAGAsized for our listening and viewing pleasure. According to a leaked preview, the reason for the sudden attack, which caught Americans traveling in the Middle East unaware and unsupported — how's that for 'amateur' — was due to (pick one of the following):

- fear that Iran, who according to Kuwaiti officials had just agreed to everything that Don-the-Con wanted, would preemptively attack Israel (for some reason), and then attack America (for some reason).

- Iran being close to having enough enriched uranium to build a nuclear weapon, after Don-the-Con just swore that he had destroyed all of Iran's nuclear capability in another unprovoked attack a few months ago.

- Netanyahu, as corrupt as Trump, finally found a president willing to do Israel's dirty work, at the cost of American lives (which Trump said he is "willing to sacrifice", unless they have bone-spurs, of course.) What Netanyahu promised Don-the-Con will eventually be exposed, but a Trump Gaza Hotel & Casino Complex sounds about right. Or maybe a purchase of more millions in Trump family bitcoin.

- Saudi Arabia wants something in return for the \$2 billion given to Trump son-in-law Kushner and Princess Ivanka. Elimination of competition from Iranian oil in world markets would be a good start.

- Don-the-Con needed a war as a diversion from the Epstein files...since everything else has failed. (He was caught on tape screaming that the Epstein files must not be released, because "If I go down, I'm taking everyone with me!")

- the upcoming mid-terms are looking bleak for Republicans. By declaring a 'national emergency', Trump could try to halt the elections while we are engaged in a war.

- the guy who stopped eight wars (that no one knew existed) has a new strategy for winning the Nobel Peace Prize — start real wars all around the world.

Act 2 will be a reading from the Book of Tariffs, where in Don-the-Con repeats for the 92nd time: "We are taking in billions of dollars" from his tariffs, but neglects — again — to add that the money is coming out of our pockets. The Supreme Court has determined that the tariffs are illegal, but King Don-the-Con has immunity, remember?

Act 3 will be a reenactment of the Minneapolis killings of Renee Nicole Good and Alex Pretti, with voice over by ex-DHS secretary Kristi Noem, and accompanying laugh track provided by the ICE MAGA Choir. (All Sponsored by the National Association for the Prevention of Cruelty

to Animals.)

I smell Oscar!

A bit of history might help us understand how we got to this point with Iran:

- for most of the 19th century, Iran was ruled by a weak and corrupt dynasty, which allowed foreign powers to gain control of its natural resources, large sections of its land, and its economic institutions, essentially splitting the country apart.

- Iran was on the verge of disappearing as a nation, when Reza Shah seized power in 1925. He launched a program of radical reform, but the British, protecting their commercial interests, deposed him 16 years later.

- democracy reemerged after WWII, and the elected government wrested economic control back from the British, who were thriving on Iranian oil, while most Iranians lived in poverty. As part of an aggressive revitalization program, Prime Minister Mossadegh nationalized Iran's oil reserves, jeopardizing American and British oil profits. In 1953, America and Britain organized a coup in which Mossadegh was overthrown. That ended the only period of democracy that Iran has ever known. America then helped install Shah Pahlevi, and supported him lavishly through his increasingly repressive 25-year reign, all the while retaining their oil profits.

- half a century later, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright issued a semi-apology: "In 1953, the United States played a significant role in orchestrating the overthrow of Iran's popular Prime Minister Mossadegh. It is easy to see now why many Iranians continue to resent this intervention by America in their internal affairs." The "Great Satan" indeed.

- in 1979, the Shah was overthrown in a popular uprising. Iranian militants, fearing further intervention from the CIA, took American diplomats hostage in what became a 444-day crisis. This crisis played a pivotal role in Jimmy Carter losing his 1980 re-election bid to Ronald Reagan. (Which led to the end of America's middle class.) The hostages were released minutes after Reagan was sworn into office in 1981. While there is no definitive proof of the conspiracy, the allegations suggest a serious effort by the Reagan campaign to gain a political advantage, by advising the militants to hold the hostages until after the election, in return for advantageous arms deals from America. That's the GOP for you. If you can't win — cheat!

- with the removal of the Shah, in 1979, Iran was transformed into an Islamic Republic under Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khomeini. America created the Iranian problem by orchestrating the overthrow of their democratically elected government — all for oil! Sound familiar, Venezuela? Because of our meddling, Iran became a theocracy that has refused to play nice with the rest of the secular world. Over the last 45 years, it has been one of the most sanctioned countries in history.

Don-the-Con created today's problem by ending a viable Iranian nuclear agreement, simply because he is a racist and hates Barack Obama. Now Americans are dying as Trump plays the flatulent hero, fixing the problem he created, costing us billions of tax dollars, and the lives of countless innocents. As comedian Jacov Smirnoff used to say... "What a country!"

RICK BEVILACQUA
WHITINSVILLE

Cornerstone Bank commits \$7,500 to support Abby's House 50th Anniversary Gala

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank has donated \$7,500 to support the Abby's House 50th Anniversary Gala, scheduled for May 29 at the Hogan Center at the College of the Holy Cross. The milestone gift builds on the bank's ongoing commitment to the organization, following donations in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

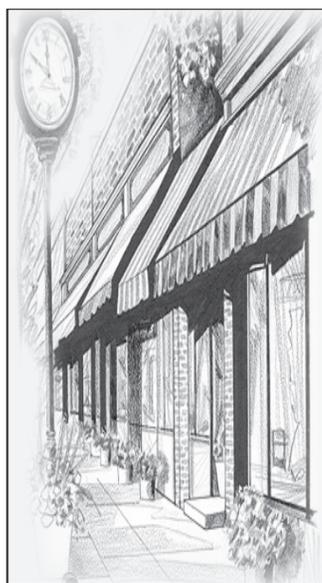
"Abby's House has been opening doors for women and children in Worcester for half a century, and we are proud to stand with them at this historic moment," said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. "Their impact is profound, and this contribution reflects our belief in their mission and our commitment to strengthening the communities we serve."

Abby's House provides shelter, affordable housing, advocacy and support services to women and children. Over the past five decades, the organization has helped more than 16,000 women and their children rebuild their lives and achieve stability and independence. It operates one of the first overnight shelters for women in the country and is now the largest provider of affordable, supportive housing in Worcester designed specifically for women and children.

The 50th Anniversary Gala will celebrate Abby's House's legacy, recognize key community partners and support the organization's continued work to meet the evolving needs of families across the region.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone, which is a subsidiary of PeoplesBankCorp, MHC, operating independently under its own name and brand, provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities through a broad range of deposit and loan products and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.



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Courtesy

The members of the JAK-L Foundation. Front row, from left: David Boucher, Christine Afful, Joy Kochinskas, Devon Renfro, Steve Kochinskas. Second Row, from left: Karen Sisko, Kathy Konkol-Saad, Kim Sterczala, Shirley Shepardson, Kerry Bielicki, Ruth Cahill, Laurie Boucher

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A night of harmony and hope

JAK-L FOUNDATION TO HOST DUELING PIANOS IN AUBURN

AUBURN — Get ready to sing, dance, and make a difference. On Saturday, May 2, the local community will gather at J. Anthony's Italian Grill for a high-energy "Dueling Pianos" event presented by the JAK-L Foundation. The evening promises a vibrant blend of music and laughter, but the mission behind the melodies is deeply personal. Proceeds from the event will directly support youth mental health and suicide prevention programs within the local community.

Turning pain into purpose. The JAK-L Foundation was established in 2023 by President Joy Kochinskas. For Kochinskas, a local salon owner and stylist for more than 25 years, the cause is an intimate one. After losing her sister to suicide in 2017, she became a dedicated advocate, participating in the "Out of the Darkness" walks for years before founding the JAK-L Foundation to cre-

ate a more direct impact on mental health awareness.

"I'm hoping to make more of an impact on the mental health society," Kochinskas said regarding the foundation's mission. Alongside an active event committee, the foundation is working to transform how the community discusses and supports mental wellness.

Event details

The event kicks off at 8:00 PM, though supporters are encouraged to arrive early.

When: Saturday, May 2

Time: 8 – 10 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.)

Where: J. Anthony's Italian Grill, 917 Southbridge St., Auburn

Admission: \$35 per person (plus fees)

Pro-Tip: Guests who

enjoy dinner at J. Anthony's prior to the show will receive priority seating for the performance.

Community support. The success of the JAK-L Foundation is driven by a dedicated team of volunteers. The event committee includes David Boucher, Christine Afful, Joy Kochinskas, Devon Renfro, and Steve Kochinskas. Supporting the front lines are team members Karen Sisko, Kathy Konkol-Saad, Kim Sterczala, Shirley Shepardson, Kerry Bielicki, Ruth Cahill, and Laurie Boucher.

By attending, guests aren't just buying a ticket to a show—they are helping to "spark meaningful change" for local youth who may be struggling in silence.

Center for Living & Working transitions to Your Access Advocates, entering new era of empowerment and access for all

WORCESTER — In a step towards enhancing accessibility and support for people with disabilities, Center for Living & Working (CLW), located in Worcester, is proud to announce its rebranding as Your Access Advocates. This change reflects its ongoing commitment to listen to consumers and better represent the people it serves, especially in today's landscape where inclusivity is more essential than ever.

"As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, we recognize that the name 'Your Access Advocates' better encapsulates our mission and vision for the future. After engaging extensively with our community, we have designed this new identity to signify our dedication to consumer-directed services and to empower individuals across all disabilities," said Meg Coffin, CEO of Your Access Advocates.

Coffin further stated that, "This name change is not just a rebranding; it represents our evolution as an organization. We listened to the voices of our consumers. Our goal is to create an inclusive environment for all individuals."

With the new name, the purpose of the organization is clearer, making it easier for people in need to find them. The new logo also helps to broaden their reach, without the visual reference to just one type of disability.

"Our team of dedicated professionals that the community has come to trust is intact, working tirelessly to ensure that every individual has the access they need to lead fulfilling, independent lives," said Noelle Balutis, Independent Living Manager. "As Your Access Advocates, we will continue to offer the same comprehensive resources, advocacy, and support services that have become synonymous with what we represent."

About Your Access Advocates

Your Access Advocates is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing advocacy and support for individuals with disabilities. With a rich history of 50 years, we are committed to empowering individuals to live independently and ensuring that they have access to essential resources and services within their communities.

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Saving lives through conversation

AK-L FOUNDATION LAUNCHES QPR SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING SERIES

AUBURN — In its ongoing mission to strengthen community mental health resources, the JAK-L Foundation has announced a series of upcoming QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) training sessions beginning this March. The initiative aims to equip local residents with the essential tools needed to recognize and respond to the warning signs of a suicide crisis.

Much like CPR is used to sustain life until medical professionals arrive, QPR is an emergency mental health intervention. The training teaches three simple steps that anyone can learn to help prevent a tragedy.

Empowering the community
The first session is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10 at 6 p.m. at J. Anthony's Italian Grill, located on the Auburn/Oxford line.

Founded by Joy Kochinkas in 2023 following the loss of her sister to suicide, the JAK-L Foundation focuses on youth mental health and suicide prevention. By bringing QPR training to a familiar local venue like J. Anthony's, the foundation hopes to make these life-saving conversations accessible and less intimidating for the general pub-

lic. 2026 training schedule

To ensure widespread impact, the foundation has outlined a schedule of training dates through the summer. Organizers noted that classes require a minimum of five participants to proceed, emphasizing the importance of early community sign-ups.

Upcoming Sessions:
Tuesday, March 10: 6 – 8 p.m. (J. Anthony's)
Wednesday, April 8: 6 – 8 p.m. (J. Anthony's)
Saturday, May 16: 10 a.m. – noon (Location TBD)
Tuesday, June 9: 6 – 8 p.m. (J. Anthony's)
Wednesday, July 29: 6 – 8 p.m. (J. Anthony's)

How to participate
Registration is now open, but spots are limited for each session. Residents, educators, parents, and community leaders are encouraged to visit the foundation's website to secure a seat.

"Come learn the skills that save lives and help spark meaningful change," the foundation shared, highlighting the importance of moving from awareness to active prevention. To register or learn more about the JAK-L Foundation's mission, visit <https://jak-l.com/>.

Quick Facts: Why QPR training matters

QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer—three simple steps that anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. Just as people trained in CPR help save thousands of lives each year, QPR trainees learn to recognize the warning signs of a crisis and provide a "bridge" to professional care.

It's not counseling: You don't need to be a medical professional. QPR is designed for «gatekeepers»—everyday people like parents, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

Recognize the signs: Learn to identify the subtle verbal, behavioral, and situational clues that someone may be struggling.

Break the silence: Gain the confidence to ask the «S» question directly and listen without judgment.

Provide a bridge: Learn how to effectively persuade someone to seek help and exactly where to refer them in our local community.

"The more people in Auburn and Oxford who are trained in QPR, the safer our entire community becomes."

QCC's director of community engagement receives Black Excellence award



Sean Harris

ty, Harris has supported local organizations and initiatives for decades. He is the founder of the Professional Men of Color Dinner Club and serves on the boards of the Business Improvement District for Downtown Worcester and Dress for Success. In 2023, he was recognized with the BIPOC Community Leader Award from the Diverse Professional Roundtable. Additionally, Harris was a founding member of the Worcester Youth Center and later served as its youngest executive director.

Harris has worked at QCC since 2021, becoming the Director of Community Engagement in 2023. In addition to fostering relationships and partnerships between QCC and the surrounding community, he co-chairs the Access to Opportunity Committee and serves as a member of the Advisory Council for Access & Opportunity.

"I'm deeply honored to be recognized among such dedicated leaders from across the state. Working within the Worcester community has always been rooted in unity and what we can accomplish together," said Harris.

The award winners were celebrated last week at a ceremony featuring remarks from Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll and keynote speaker Mechelle Brown, President of the 7uice Foundation and mother of Celtic's star Jaylen Brown.

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College's Director of Community Engagement, Sean Harris, was recently named a 2026 Black Excellence of the Hill award recipient by the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus (MBLLC).

This annual honor celebrates Black and Latino Community leaders who are making a meaning-

ful difference in their communities. Harris was nominated for the award by Massachusetts State Representative David LeBoeuf.

"Sean embodies the best of QCC and the Worcester community. We are incredibly proud to see his impact recognized at the state level with this distinguished honor," said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja.

A longtime pillar of the Worcester communi-

Celtic traditions come to life at Old Sturbridge Village

STURBRIDGE — Celtic traditions will come to life at Old Sturbridge Village's annual Celtic Celebration this March with live music, traditional dance performances, storytelling, and for the first time, the chance to meet two Scottish Highland calves visiting from Moonlit Run Farm in Barre.

Throughout the weekend of March 21-22, visitors will learn about Irish and Scottish history and the ways they shaped 19th-century New England. They will be treated to a host of Celtic traditions including fiddle tunes, bagpipes, and musicians alongside a variety of demonstrations and activities, including:

- Irish poetry readings and folk tales
- Harp performances by Cate Mahoney on Saturday and Shelley Otis on Sunday
- Play Rounders (an Irish game similar to baseball)
- A Celtic magic show with magician Daniel GreenWolf & Bella
- A step dancing performance by the Inishfree Dance School
- Character presentations about an immigrant's experience in early New England

Celtic Celebration is sponsored by Southbridge Credit Union. This event will occur on March 21 and 22 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and is included with general daytime admission or Village membership. To learn more, or to purchase tickets, visit osv.org/event/celtic-celebration.



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OBITUARY

David E. Berglund, 82



David E. Berglund, 82, of Uxbridge passed away peacefully on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at Casa de Ramana Rehabilitation Center in Framingham, Mass.

He was the husband of the late Elaine S. (Chalmers) Berglund. They were married for 45 years and lived in Uxbridge beginning in 1979.

He was born September 17, 1943 in Worcester, the son of the late Earl and Lily (Anderson) Berglund.

He received a Master's Degree in Counseling and Psychology from Assumption College and in Education from Worcester State College. David enjoyed gardening, birdwatching, reading,

classical music, and taking walks with his wife. David had worked as an employment counselor for the Massachusetts Dept. of Employment and Training for 33 years before retiring in 2002.

He is survived by three stepsons, David MacGregor (Lynn Turk) of Schenectady, NY, Stephen (Kelly) MacGregor of Oxford, and James (Barbara) MacGregor of Seabrook, NH; two brothers Raymond (Linda) Berglund of Des Moines IA, and Ted Berglund of Auburn; nine grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

A graveside service will be held at Prospect Hill Cemetery, Uxbridge on March 13 at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Uxbridge Community Gardens (www.uxbridge-ma.gov/uxbridge-community-gardens).

Open Sky Community Services earns two Clubhouse International accreditations

WORCESTER — Open Sky Community Services, a nonprofit behavioral health and human services organization, today announced that its Tradewinds Clubhouse and Crystal House Clubhouse have been awarded three-year Clubhouse International Accreditations for adhering to globally recognized benchmarks and providing the best quality clubhouse services possible.

Tradewinds Clubhouse and Crystal House Clubhouse are free employment and vocational rehabilitation programs utilizing evidence-based mental health recovery models for adults. Tradewinds Clubhouse is located at 309 Main St. in Southbridge and serves 15 surrounding communities. Crystal House Clubhouse is located at 55 Lake St. in Gardner and serves 13 surrounding communities. Both Clubhouses are two of 36 members of the Massachusetts Clubhouse Coalition.

“These Clubhouse programs are an exceptional piece of Open Sky’s programming and have demonstrated the power of employment to open the doors to recovery and further opportunity for over 30 years,” said Open Sky President and CEO Ken Bates. “The Clubhouse International Accreditations signify the dedication of our staff to the recovery of the individuals we serve, as well as the courage and resilience that Clubhouse members demonstrate in their journeys. The accreditations are a remarkable honor and reminder of what is possible when people are given the tools to overcome challenges.”

The Clubhouse International site survey is an in-depth, three-day process during which surveyors from strong Clubhouses around the world visit a center and

observe operations. The surveyors also conduct confidential interviews with employees, board members, and persons served. Findings are translated into a formal report, outlining areas of strength and recommendations for improvement in adherence to each of the eight categories of International Standards for Clubhouse Programs.

In the Accreditation Report, Tradewinds Clubhouse was commended for its approach to transitional employment development, educational resources, diverse Advisory Board, support of members and culture of respect and collaboration. Crystal House Clubhouse was recognized for broadening community member outreach, adding new community voices, and providing ample social opportunities to support mental health recovery.

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 more than 1,300 dedicated employees and nearly 150 programs throughout the region, supporting over 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.

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Friday's Child

William is a funny, energetic, caring, and incredibly charismatic boy. He has an outgoing personality and warms up to new people quickly — in fact, he's rarely shy and is happy to strike up a conversation with just about anyone. His confidence and natural charm make him a joy to be around. William loves staying active and engaged. He enjoys playing with remote control cars, shooting hoops, building with Legos, and playing board games. He also has a hoverboard that he loves riding, always eager to show off his skills. When he's ready to relax, he enjoys watching TV and cheering on his favorite team, the New England Patriots — they're at the top of his favorites list! Using his creative mind and working with electronics are also among William's "top things" to do. He enjoys figuring out how things work, building, experimenting, and bringing his ideas to life. With his big personality, caring heart, and curiosity about the world around him, William has so many strengths that make him truly special.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22545111574>

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.

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The Town of Southbridge seeks qualified applicants for **Treasurer/Collector**. Position anticipated to become vacant March 11. Bachelor's degree required; 3–5 years financial/cash management experience preferred (municipal experience a plus). Ability to become bonded required. MA Treasurer/Collector certification preferred.

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DOUGLAS ADULT SOCIAL CENTER

331 Main St.
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Hours of operation: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-noon

DAILY ACTIVITIES: All our daily activities are free of charge.
Monday: Painting class 9:45am to 11:45am, Balance & Strength Exercise 12pm, Mat yoga 2pm
Tuesday: Walking club 9am, Cribbage 9:00am, Lunch & Bingo 11:30am, Technology class 1pm (call to make an appt.), Line dancing 2pm
Wednesday: Balance & strength 10am, Darts 11:30am, Mahjong 12:45pm, Dominoes 1 to 2:30pm
Thursday: Walking club 9am, Chair Yoga 9:30am, Pitch 9:00am, Hand and Foot card game 12:30pm
Friday: Balance & strength 10am, Zumba 11:30am

Tuesday & Thursday lunch club, please call the Friday before to sign up. Lunch is \$4.00 per person. If you would like to attend we offer free rides to and from the center and are willing to waive the lunch fee is necessary.

March Lunch Menu:
Tuesday 3/3: Baked chicken, mashed potatoes, carrots & pudding
Tuesday 3/10: Chicken gnocchi soup, grilled cheese & ice cream
Thursday 3/12: Corn beef & cabbage (sign up by 3/2)
Tuesday 3/17: Kielbasa, rice, green beans & pudding
Thursday 3/19: Lunch & learn w/ Cornerstone (sign up by 3/12)
Tuesday 3/24: Salad bar & fruit
Tuesday 3/30: Sloppy joes, tater tots & Jell-O

Friday Shopping Schedule: Please call 48 hours in advance to schedule your ride. Grocery shopping pick up starts at 9:30.

Hannaford: 3/27
Walmart: 3/6 & 3/20
Price Chopper: 3/13

MARCH EVENTS:

WELLNESS CLINIC DATES: Monday March 9th & Tuesday March 24th. Clinic is open from 10 am to 12 pm.

Thursday March 5th @ 11:00: FREE craft day: Micro Green Clover Planting, learn about the health benefits of this plant and take one home to grow your own. Refreshments will be served. Sign up by 3/4.

Thursday March 12th @ 12:00: St. Patrick's Day Luncheon with live musical entertainment. Corn beef & cabbage lunch is \$6.00 per person, and must be paid for when you sign up. Sign up by 3/2.

Thursday March 19th @ 12:00: FREE lunch & learn with Cornerstone of Milford. Healthy eating & eating for brain health is the topic of the discussion. Sign up by 3/12.

Thursday April 2nd @ 11:30: FREE craft day, we will be making sticker art photos. Refreshments will be served. Sign up by 3/30.

PLEASE CALL (508) 476-2283 TO SIGN UP FOR PROGRAMS & CLASSES
Check our website for events that may not be listed here
<https://www.douglas-ma.gov/202/AdultSocial-Center-Senior-Center>

PLUMMER PLACE

Home of the Northbridge Senior Center
The following events will take place at Plummer Place, Home of the Northbridge Senior Center. We are located at 20 Highland St. in Whitinsville. Telephone: (508) 234-2002. Northbridge residents have priority for all programming and events.

Medical Drivers

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

Regular Programs:

Mindful Meditation with Kelly
Every Thursday at 9:30 a.m.
Scrabble
Monday, the 23rd at 9:30 a.m.
Bookclub
Wednesday, March 18 at 10:30 a.m.
Call Kelly to find out what book we are reading!
Dull Men's Club
Tuesday, March 24th at 9:30am
Guest: Rod Lee, Author
Writing Your Way with Lori
March 26th at 2pm

Special Events and Programs:

A Conversation with Rod Lee, Author of his newest book, The Poison Pen Club
Tuesday, March 24th 11:00am-12:00pm
This compelling, timely, and commercially strong novel covers the political tensions, small-town dynamics, and a media-driven conflict with a cast of characters! You won't want to miss this one! Books will be available on that day for \$21 by cash, check or Venmo. Sign up in the main office.

Howie Newman Musical Baseball Program

Thursday, March 26th 1:00pm-2:00pm
Newman's musical baseball show blends classic baseball songs, fun trivia, and memorable stories from his years as a sportswriter which creates a lively and interactive audience experience. The show also includes a free raffle for a baseball CD and a display of his personal baseball memorabilia. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Northbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Medicare Supplement vs. Medicare Advantage: Which is Best for Me?

Tuesday, March 31st 10:00am-11:00am
Come and compare Medicare Supplement and Medicare Advantage coverage through real-life examples and helpful resources. Ideal for those new to Medicare or considering a change during enrollment periods. Presented and sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield.

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DECA

continued from page A1

cal, learning laboratory, and then translate that into meaningful outcomes,” said Christopher Young, CAE, Chief Program Officer at DECA Inc. “These DECA members are practicing important workplace readiness skills while preparing for college and careers.”

DECA’s School-based Enterprise Certification Program provides recognition for outstanding achievement by school-based enterprises and motivates SBEs to strive for excellence and growth. SBEs can be certified at three levels: bronze, silver, or gold. To apply for certification, SBEs must submit extensive documentation demonstrating how they meet various marketing and retail standards. A review committee evaluates the documentation to determine which level of certification has been achieved. DECA’s School-based Enterprise program is sponsored by Otis Spunkmeyer Inc.

DECA is a career and technical student organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs with a career interest in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management.

BREKFAST

continued from page A1

9:00am, with a special opportunity for children to meet and take photos with the Easter Bunny, followed by a buffet breakfast at 9:30am. The carefully prepared breakfast menu will include, scrambled eggs with cheddar cheese, poached eggs Florentine on focaccia with spinach mor-nay sauce, applewood smoked bacon, maple breakfast sausage, French toast with blackberry brandy syrup and maple syrup, fruit and toppings on the side, morning potatoes with herbs, peppers and onion, coffee and beverages.

This event is designed to bring families together for a memorable Spring morning filled with laughter, photos, and community connection.

“Events like this create wonderful moments for families to gather, celebrate the season, and experience the beauty and history of the Asa Waters Mansion,” said Traci Parath, Executive Director, Asa Waters Mansion. “We love opening the doors to the Mansion for special community traditions that create lasting memories for children and their families!”

Admission is \$42 for adults, and \$24 for children under age 12. Advanced registration is required. Register online at <https://unipaygold.unibank.com/transactioninfo.aspx?TID=37146> or scan the QR code on our flyer. For more information, please contact Traci Parath at 508-865-0855 or email Traci at, tparath@millbury.ma.gov.

Applications open for 2026 BBB®
Barbara J. Sinnott Student of Integrity Scholarship

WORCESTER — The Better Business Bureau® of Central New England is proud to announce that applications for the 2026 Barbara J. Sinnott Student of Integrity Scholarship are now open.

This prestigious award, funded by the BBB, Central New England’s Consumer Education Foundation, will grant five deserving high school seniors a \$1,000 scholarship to support their college or university education.

Named in honor of Barbara J. Sinnott, a former president and CEO of BBB of Central New England, this scholarship recognizes students who embody the values of honesty,

leadership, and ethical decision-making. Mrs. Sinnott, a trailblazer in consumer education and marketplace trust, dedicated more than 15 years of service to the BBB before retiring in 2003, leaving behind a lasting impact on the business and consumer landscape.

The Barbara J. Sinnott Student of Integrity Scholarship seeks to support students who exemplify strong moral character and demonstrate a commitment to their communities. Applicants will be evaluated based on an essay discussing integrity, the importance of ethical decision-making, and how they inspire others to do the right thing. Additionally, students must provide a

recent transcript and a letter of recommendation as part of the application process.

Open to high school seniors across the 225 communities in Central and Western Massachusetts and Northeastern Connecticut that are served by BBB, Central New England, this annual scholarship continues to highlight and celebrate outstanding young leaders.

“Barbara Sinnott was a steadfast advocate for—and physical embodiment of—the Better Business Bureau’s core values of trust, integrity, and ethics,” said Lisa K. Swanson, CEO of the Better Business Bureau of Central New England. “This annual scholarship is a small way in which we can ensure her impact and legacy live on, inspiring the next generation of ethical leaders and celebrating their commitment to integrity.”

Educators, guidance counselors, and community leaders are encouraged to share this opportunity with eligible students. Applications opened as of March 1, and must be submitted by April 30. Entries will be reviewed by a panel of impartial judges and selected recipients will be announced on or around May 17.

For more information about the Barbara J. Sinnott Student of Integrity Scholarship and to apply, visit our Web page at bbb.org.

LEGALS

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
COURTDocket Number: 26 SM 000698
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: Norman P. Thompson and Larissa L. Thompson
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. App.

§ 3901 *et seq.*:

UniBank for Savings

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Uxbridge, numbered 111 Elmshade Drive, given by Norman P Thompson and Larissa L. Thompson to UniBank for Savings, dated September 16, 2021, recorded with the Worcester (South) County Registry of Deeds in Book 66109, Page 49, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has/ have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendants’ Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 04/13/2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of said Court on 2/27/2026.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson

Recorder

March 13, 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. WO26P0416EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
Nancy E MacKinnon

Date of Death: December 20, 2025

To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Joan L MacKinnon of Uxbridge MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate

Joan L MacKinnon of Uxbridge MA

.has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal

procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
March 13, 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 Jack Alexander and Mary Alexander to Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, a Subsidiary of IndyMac Bank F.S.B., dated February 23, 2006, and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38584 at Page 273, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by an assignment of mortgage from Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Financial Freedom Acquisition LLC, dated October 18, 2009, and recorded at said Deeds in Book 45082, Page 131; by an assignment of mortgage from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Financial Freedom Acquisition LLC to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, dated May 2, 2023, and recorded at said Deeds in Book 69156, Page 296; and by assignment of mortgage from Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to Insource East Properties, Inc., dated October 13, 2025, and recorded at said Deeds in Book 72712, Page 270. For breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 A.M. on the 27th day of March 2026, at 27 Heritage Dr. a/k/a 27 Heritage Dr., Whitinsville, MA 01588, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To wit:

Unit 14 (the “Unit”) in Building 2C (the “Building”) in the Heritage Park Estates Condominium (the “Condominium”) created pursuant to a Master Deed dated January 18, 1985, recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 8533, Page 320 and the First Amendment to the Master Deed, dated February 10, 1985, recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 8574, Page 165.

The mailing address of said Unit is 27 Heritage Drive, Whitinsville, Massachusetts.

Said Unit No. 14 contains 2,225.9 square feet, more or less, said is shown on the Floor Plans and Site Plans filed with said First Amendment to the Master Deed and on the copy of the portion of said plans attached hereto and made part hereof, to which is affixed a verified statement in the form required by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 183A, Section 9.

Together with an undivided interest of 2.58532 percent in common areas and facilities described in Heritage Park Estate Condominium Master Deed, and First Amendment thereto.

Premises to 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 dollars (\$10,000) 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 wire transfer to Demerle & Associates P.C., 10 City Square, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02129 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. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Insource East Properties, Inc.,
Present holder of said mortgage,

By its Attorneys,
Demerle & Associates P.C.
10 City Square, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02129
(617) 337-4444

March 6, 2026

March 13, 2026

March 20, 2026

COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket Number: 26 SM 000646 Date
Filed: 02/24/2026 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: Edward N. Gouin and Melissa J Gouin and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (*et seq*) U.S. Bank National Association not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee for RMP Trust, Series 2021 BKM-TT-V claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Douglas, 100 Perry Street, given by Edward N. Gouin and Melissa J. Gouin to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Salem Five Mortgage, LLC, dated November 7, 2016, and recorded or filed in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 56271, Page 59, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant’s/ Defendants’ Servicemembers status.. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 04/13/2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 02/25/2026. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder.

March 13, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Commercial Mortgage Deed and Security Agreement and Collateral Assignment of Leases and Rents (the “Mortgage”) given by RSR Investment and Construction, LLC to D’Amico Lending, LLC dated January 10, 2025 and recorded with the Worcester County Registry of Deeds (the “Registry”) in Book 71515 at Page 189, of which Mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said Commercial Mortgage Deed

and Security Agreement and Collateral Assignment of Leases and Rents and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11 o’clock A.M. on the 30th day of March, 2026 at 95 Church Avenue, Northbridge, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To wit:

The land with the buildings thereon situated on the northeasterly side of Church Street in the Village of Rockdale, in the Town of Northbridge, in the County of Worcester, containing 11,131 square feet of land, more or less, and being a part of parcel 1 in deed to Landry Realty Corporation which deed is recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 4083, Page 108.

Premises to be conveyed are more particularly bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at the most westerly corner thereof at a brass pipe set in concrete sidewalk in the northeast line of Church Street and land of Choquette, which point is southeasterly a distance of 160.00 from Cross Street;

THENCE by land of Choquete N. 32 degrees 25’ E. 102.60 feet to a stake; THENCE by remaining land of Landry Realty Corporation passing by the garage, S. 55 degrees, 36’ E. 26.37 feet to a stake;

THENCE by Land of Landry Realty Corporation S 53 degrees 20’ E 68.33 feet to a stake; THENCE by land of formerly of Paul Whitin Mfg. Co., following retaining wall S. 31 degrees 06’30” W. 132.81 feet to a cooper pipe set in concrete sidewalk.

THENCE by Church Street N 37 degrees 15”W. 104.05 feet to the place of beginning.

Premises to 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 dollars (\$10,000) 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 the offices of Clavell & Associates, P.C., 355 Union Street, New Bedford, MA 02740 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. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

D’Amico Lending, LLC
35 Fly Jib Court
Jamestown, RI 02835

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Webster - 24 Cooper Rd
New Construction - Craftsman Style home



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Impressive view!
Spencer - 86 Jolicoeur Ave.



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Webster Lake Waterfront Listing!!
On Indian Point # 10 "Private Rd"



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Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island



Renovated + move-in ready lakefront home w/1,700+/- sq ft. Open kitchen/dining/living w/cathedral ceilings + wall of windows. Primary suite w/private bath! 2 add'l bedrooms, 2nd Full bath. Lower level family room w/walkout to water. Wraparound deck, new vinyl railings, terraced yard, sandy beach, professional landscaping. Many updates \$775,000

Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!



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



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New England Water Ski Collective to host State Slalom Championships at Buffumville Lake

CHARLTON — The New England Water Ski Collective (formerly known as the Webster Water Ski Collective) is proud to announce that it will host the Massachusetts State Slalom Championships on July 15 at Buffumville Lake, located on the Oxford/Charlton town line. A competitors practice session will take place on July 14 for this event.

This event marks the first time in many years that a Massachusetts State Slalom Championship tournament will be held in the Commonwealth. The New England Water Ski

Collective is honored to bring this prestigious competition back to Central Massachusetts, where it will showcase the best water skiers from across the state and surrounding regional area.

How Slalom works Slalom skiing is one of the most popular and recognizable disciplines in water skiing. Performed on a single ski, it is the skill that many beginners aspire to master — and what elite skiers make look effortless.

In competition, a slalom course is comprised of six fixed buoys positioned

11.5 meters (37.73 feet) to the left and right of the boat's centerline. The centerline itself is marked by boat guide buoys spaced 2.1 meters (6.89 feet) apart to ensure precise boat path alignment.

A successful pass requires the skier to:

Enter through the starting gates

Pass around the outside of all six buoys

Exit cleanly through the end gates

Only after clearing the exit gates is the pass considered complete.

Depending on a skier's category and ability

level, rope length begins as long as 18.25 meters (60 feet) and can shorten to an incredibly challenging 9.75 meters (32 feet). After each successful pass, the rope is shortened — increasing the difficulty — while boat speeds can increase up to a maximum of 36 mph depending on division.

As rope lengths shorten and speeds increase, the physical demands grow dramatically. Professional skiers are known to generate cross-course speeds between 60–75 mph across the wake as they accelerate from one buoy to the next.

Final scores are recorded based on boat speed, rope length, and the number of completed buoys. The skier who can complete the most buoys at the shortest rope length and highest speed earns the victory.

Competition will be conducted under the standards of the American Water Ski Association (AWSA), whose official rules govern sanctioned tournament slalom events.

Supporting conservation and accessibility

Tournament profits will be donated to support conservation efforts and improvements to the grounds at Buffumville Dam, maintained by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

In addition, the New England Water Ski Collective plans to install accessible beach mats at Buffumville Beach this summer to improve shoreline access for individuals with mobility challenges — ensuring more members of the community can safely enjoy the lake.

Built on partnership and community

The Collective's Slalom/Competition Team has worked diligently to build partnerships with regional ski teams, individual competitors, and the Army

Corps of Engineers to bring this championship event to life. The coordination of athletes, officials, volunteers, and site logistics represents months of collaboration.

Led by director Joe Zmetra, the New England Water Ski Collective's competition team is especially excited to see many of its own members compete on home water as they pursue qualification for AWSA Eastern Regionals and Nationals.

Zmetra reflected on the athleticism required in the sport: "Slalom is as much about strength as it is about precision. The skier has to generate incredible power across the wake, maintain perfect form in and out of their cuts, and carry maximum velocity into each turn. At the buoy, you need the ability to stop on a dime, change direction instantly, and set up your next cut with total control. It's a balance of explosiveness and technique — and when it all comes together, it's an amazing thing to watch."

All abilities — one passion

The championship represents more than just competition — it reflects the Collective's mission of "All Abilities — One Passion."

"Our team is incredibly excited to bring the Massachusetts State Slalom Championships back to Central Massachusetts," said Leonardo Topa, President of the New England Water Ski Collective. "All three divisions of our organization have worked together to make this event possible, while also supporting our other major initiatives this season — including our Learn to Ski programs and our traveling adaptive ski clinics. This tournament shows how our organization continues to grow while making sure every-

one has the opportunity to get out on the water and enjoy the sport we love."

The New England Water Ski Collective is eagerly awaiting the warmer weather as it prepares to begin a busy season that will see its members actively skiing and competing across the New England region.

About the New England Water Ski Collective

The New England Water Ski Collective is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization devoted to making water skiing and water sports accessible to all. Through its Adaptive, Competitive, and Recreational ski teams, the organization works to remove barriers to participation and grow the sport throughout the New England region.

As a nonprofit, the Collective relies on the generosity of donors, community partners, and sponsors to help expand programming, host events, and provide opportunities for athletes of all abilities.

If you are interested in donating to support our Adaptive, Competitive, or Recreational ski teams, please contact our Sponsorship Coordinator, Juliet, at Juliet@NewEnglandWaterSki.org

By supporting the New England Water Ski Collective, you are helping ensure that more individuals — regardless of age or ability — have the chance to experience the thrill and community of water skiing.

For more information about the Massachusetts State Slalom Championships or the New England Water Ski Collective, please contact New England Water Ski Collective at (774) 495-0165 or comp@newenglandwaterski.org.



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