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SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS Friday, October 2, 2026

Douglas Common Fall donation drive, thank you drawing offers major prizes

DOUGLAS — Organized to help fund the popular Douglas Common events, including the Holiday Lighting Celebration With Santa, Scarecrow Contest, Hummingbird Festival, and Month of Love, the Fall Donation Drive and Thank You Drawing is now underway — offering donors a chance at winning one of three amazing prizes sure

to appeal to the community and made possible by sponsors. If you could use extra income, Prize 1 may be for you — a package of 75 “\$2,500 a Week for Life” Scratch Tickets with a retail value of \$750! Who wouldn’t love winning an extra \$130,000 a year over the course of the years ahead — that’s \$1.3 million per 10

years! This awesome prize was generously donated by Kearns Collision Repair, Northbridge.

Or if you would like to get away, Prizes 2 and 3 might appeal to you. If you like the Berkshires, The Williams Inn, located in Williamstown, is the destination for you! The beautiful Williams Inn has generously donated a one-night stay at the Inn and one dinner for two at the Barn Kitchen & Bar as Prize 2.

Maybe Cape Cod would be your destination of choice. The Bayside Resort Hotel in West Yarmouth has generously donated a one night mini-vacation, valid Sept. 15 through May 1, Sunday through Friday, as Prize 3.

Showing its gratitude to participants in the Fall Donation Drive for their support, the Douglas Common Preservation Society, Inc. is making 15 drawing entries in the donors’ names for EACH \$25 donated between now and Nov. 30. Donors get to choose which drawing(s) the entries go into. The drawing will take place on Dec. 1, and the winners will be notified to make arrangements for pickup of their prizes

To take part in the Fall

Donation Drive and Thank You Drawing, make your donation by November 30 by check payable to the Douglas Common Preservation Society, Inc. mailed to 76 NW Main St., Douglas, MA 01516. Donations may also be made by Venmo @ Kathleen-Sugrue-Richards — and please include your telephone number, email and mailing address, as well as your choice of prizes.

More information is available on the Douglas Common Preservation Society, Inc. Facebook page, and winners will be announced there as well. Any questions can be emailed to douglascommonpreservation@gmail.com

Relying totally on donations from the community, both individuals and businesses, the Society offers its annual Holiday Lighting Celebration With Santa on Saturday, November 28, inviting families to take part in this free community tradition — see the lights turned on at the Common as well as other decorations, meet and take photos with Santa, listen and sing along with Holiday music played by the DJ, take photos with the “herd” of deer or with the tree in the gazebo, and



Courtesy

Last year’s Holiday Celebration with Santa, one of the annual events funded by the proceeds from the Douglas Common Preservation Society’s Fall donation drive.

share the season over beverages with friends and neighbors.

Your participation in the Society’s Fall Donation Drive enables them to continue offering the free community-building events and beautification/maintenance

projects at the Douglas Common. The Society is run completely by volunteers and relies on donations to continue their work — and since they are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, your donations are tax deductible

Historic Southbridge newspaper building heads to auction

OPENING BID: \$25,000

SOUTHBRIDGE: A nearly 200-year-old Southbridge landmark is heading to auction with an opening bid of \$25,000, offering prospective buyers an opportunity to acquire a substantial historic property.

Stonebridge Press is selling its building at 25 Elm St., known as the Tiffany-Leonard House and long associated with the Southbridge News. Online bidding through Crexi.com is scheduled to begin at noon on October 5, 2026, and run for two days. The listing describes approximately 9,536 square feet on a 0.32-acre lot.

Stonebridge Press says the decision reflects how its employees now work. Staff members operate remotely from home offices, on the road and throughout the communities the newspapers serve. Digital tools allow them to coordinate their work without gathering in one central office, leaving the company with more building than it needs.

The company continues serving its readers and advertisers through that arrangement, with employees working in their local markets. Selling the Elm Street property will allow another owner to make use of space that no longer fits the publisher’s daily operations.

“We’d love to see someone in our communities get this property at a bargain price and put it to good use,” said Frank Chilinski, president and publisher of Stonebridge Press.

Purchased by the local newspaper company in 1997 for \$190,000, the building has been vacant and for sale since January 2024. The most recent asking price was \$295,000. Its municipal assessment is \$480,300.

Built around 1832, the Tiffany-Leonard House has a history reaching back to the region’s early manufacturing economy. Its original owner, Bela Tiffany, was a business partner of Samuel Slater in establishing a cotton mill in nearby Webster. The property later belonged to Manning Leonard, another prominent local businessman. Bela Tiffany’s lineage was the renown jewelers on 5th Avenue in New York City.

The two-story brick house was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. Its Greek Revival architecture includes four tall columns supporting a triangular pediment, giving the front of the building the appearance of a classical temple. The brickwork and graceful proportions offer the kind of character that may appeal to a buyer who values older buildings.

Located near downtown Southbridge, opposite the Elm Street Fire House, the property is listed as an office building. Crexi’s description includes central air conditioning and two bathrooms identified as ADA compliant. Buyers considering a different use should review the property’s suitability and any required approvals.

The bidding will open at \$25,000, subject to reserve and auction terms. Prospective bidders should review all auction terms and property documents. This will be a non-contingent sale closing in early November.

Photos, property information and registration details are available at Crexi.com by searching for 25 Elm Street, Southbridge. For more information or a building tour, contact Jonah Glickman at 508-868-3765 or email Audrey Hanna at ahanna@crexi.com.

The Home Brew Dam is history, and Meadow Brook restoration is a wrap

BY DAVID TAPSCOTT
UXBRIDGE

UXBRIDGE — Thanks to a group of vigorous local volunteers, the banks of Meadow Brook are in great shape to become a home to a diversity of wildlife and to protect the immediate

area from flooding.

Until removal of the Home Brew Dam on Uxbridge’s Water Division property at 105 Blackstone St. this July, a pond existed behind the deteriorating dam, which was

adjacent to a municipal well. After the removal, the exposed banks of Meadow

Brook were seeded with native grasses to prevent immediate erosion and the Brook was allowed to make its own way, meandering through the exposed muddy bed of the pond.

By early September, the muddy area had filled in naturally with green grasses and plants. On Sept. 18

and 19, this area was planted with native shrubs and trees to give it

more stability and create a habitat which will support biodiversity. It will become a wetland which can absorb heavy rains and prevent flooding. A total of 626 plants were given

Turn To BROOK page A10

Uxbridge Elderly Connection turns 20



UXBRIDGE — The Uxbridge Elderly Connection knows how to throw a party, and this one was a Par-Tee at the Whitinsville Golf Club, the highly rated, nine-hole golf course in Whitinsville. On Monday, Sept. 21, at the 20th Annual Uxbridge Elderly Connection Golf Outing, 18 foursomes enjoyed the beautiful last day of summer with prizes going to the First, Second, Third and Fourth Place teams and a Last Place tease.

The success of fund-

raising events such as this relies heavily on community support from businesses like Unibank as a Platinum Level Sponsor and sponsor for all 20 years, and Builders First Sources as a Gold Level Sponsor. More than thirty chose to be Bronze Tees Sign Sponsors and many businesses and individual supporters donated prizes and silent auction items. Additional guests enjoyed the buffet supper including former Director Marsha Petrillo and Pete Petrillo, Jack Daley and Jeanne



Daley, long time Board of Directors members.

For a sport not known for speed in its practice, this time a three-way tie went to the team of Sean Thornton, Eric Brockett, Q Moores and Austin Costa with the earliest finish garnering them the \$150 gift cards to Alicante Restaurant and Lounge. No one claimed the \$5,000 prize for a hole in one.

The Uxbridge Elderly Connection has been the supporting organization for the Uxbridge Senior Center for more than 30 years,

raising funds to supplement its municipal budget to provide necessary services, a lunch program, education, entertainment, and socialization opportunities. The Board of Directors consisting of Russ Rosborough, President; Phyllis Dunn, Vice President; Marianne Shanley, Treasurer; Cathy Thornton, Secretary; Donna Oncay, Harriet Platt, Karen Beane, Karen Sherlock, Sharon Emerick once again collaborated with Director Lisa Bernard and the senior center staff with awesome results.

Fall Clean Up at Manchaug Pond set for Oct. 24



SUTTON/DOUGLAS — The Manchaug Pond Foundation will be holding their Fall Clean Up of scenic Manchaug Pond on Saturday, Oct. 24, volunteers are invited to join members and Friends of the Manchaug Pond Foundation in cleaning up Manchaug Pond and its watershed. Volunteers with boats are also welcome to help us clean up coves. The Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) public charity dedicated to the welfare and correct use of Manchaug Pond and its watershed. The effort is scheduled to take place Saturday, Oct. 24 from 9 a.m. to noon, with volunteers meeting at the state Public Access Boat Ramp on Torrey Road in

Sutton. Everyone will hit the pavement with garbage bags in hand to clean the roadsides, shoreline, and boat ramp - all areas within the Manchaug Pond watershed and volunteers are not required to stay for the duration of the clean up. Good company, beautiful scenery, safety vests, rubber gloves, and garbage bags will be provided. Rain date will be Sunday, October 25th and a rain date notice will be posted on the Manchaug Pond Foundation's Facebook page and website early Friday the 23rd. The Manchaug Pond Foundation's educational events look to improve the water quality of the picturesque 380-acre com-

munity lake, which lies within Douglas and Sutton, through the education of the many users and watershed residents. Educational information on residential Low Impact Development (LID) techniques such as landscaping with buffer zones and rain gardens to limit runoff of fertilizer nutrients are available on the Foundation's website. Educational materials have been made possible by the MPF's previous three water quality grants awarded by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. For more information, visit manchaug-pond.org.

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Blackstone residents to participate in 38th Annual Jimmy Fund Walk for Dana-Farber presented by Hyundai

BLACKSTONE — Nine residents from Blackstone will participate in the 2026 Jimmy Fund Walk for Dana-Farber presented by Hyundai on Sunday, Oct. 4. Adrienne Myerson-Raymond, Mary Benjamin, and Jeanne Lunny, along with several other Blackstone residents and thousands of other walkers, will participate in the annual event that will unite the community to raise funds to support all forms of adult and pediatric care and research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Last year marked a historic milestone, with the Walk raising more than \$11.2 million for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and setting the stage for an even greater impact in 2026. “Each year, the Walk brings our community together in a powerful way, with people of all ages supporting Dana-Farber’s groundbreaking research and patient care,” said Jessica Abbott, assistant vice president of the Jimmy Fund. “For more than three decades, this event has been a celebration of hope, where every step helps fuel breakthroughs, support patients, and inspire progress.”

Together Against Cancer The Jimmy Fund Walk for Dana-Farber takes place along the famed Boston Marathon® course. Participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options ranging from a 5K to a full marathon. Walkers can also participate virtually at a time and location that works for them. Whatever route participants choose, they will be supported by hundreds of

volunteers and treated to refueling stations with refreshments throughout the course. Walkers will be motivated by posters of Heroes, the Walk’s adult and pediatric patient partners, that appear along the course as inspiration. All routes will conclude at the Jimmy Fund Walk for Dana-Farber Finish Line sponsored by Schneider Electric at Boston Common, by the corner of Charles and Beacon Street. Finish line activities will include a celebration with food, entertainment, and more. To register for the Walk or to support a walker, visit JimmyFund.org/Walk or call 866-531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Walk T-shirt. You can also sign up to volunteer on Walk Day.

Uxbridge Booster Brewfest returns Nov. 7 to support students and athletes

UXBRIDGE — Get ready for an evening of great drinks, delicious food, live music and community spirit. The Uxbridge Boosters - USABC will host the Booster Brewfest on Saturday Nov. 7 from 6 - 10 p.m. at the Polish Hall in Uxbridge. Tickets are \$35 per person or two for \$50, can be purchased at <https://brews-for-boosters.cheddarup.com>. Featuring beer, wine and seltzer tasting from Rushford & Sons Brewhouse, Murder Hill Brewery & Taproom, Shovel Town Brewery, Surfside and more. Guests can also enjoy food from Mendon Street Kitchen and live music from Junior Jefferson. Proceeds from Brewfest will benefit the Uxbridge Boosters - USABC a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting Uxbridge High School athletes and students. Fundraising helps support programs and scholarships. Questions or if interested in being a sponsor please email USABC19@gmail.com.

Friday's Child

Hanna
Age 11
Registration #9518

Hanna is an enthusiastic and happy girl whose lovely smile can light up any room. She has a natural appreciation for the world around her and finds a lot of joy in spending time outdoors. One of her favorite places to visit is the beach, where she enjoys exploring, taking in the scenery, and collecting seashells. Hanna is also caring and eager to help others. She enjoys being involved in group projects and events and takes pride in knowing that she has contributed. She is motivated by encouragement and does her best when she is given opportunities to participate and feel that her contributions matter. Hanna thrives when the people around her recognize her efforts and encourage her to keep trying new things. With her cheerful personality, beautiful smile, and willingness to lend a helping hand, Hanna has a lot of joy to share with the people around her. She would benefit from a family who will encourage her interests, celebrate her accomplishments, and give her opportunities to be an active and meaningful part of family life.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/60245393446>

Can I Adopt?

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

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

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

A landmark worth a second look

A newspaper’s work has never been confined to four walls. It happens at town meetings, along Main Street, on school sidelines and in conversations with the people who call our communities home.

Still, a building can become part of a newspaper’s identity. That is true of 25 Elm St. in Southbridge, the historic Tiffany-Leonard House, long associated with the Southbridge News and Stonebridge Press Newspapers.

Now, we hope someone will give it a new purpose.

Stonebridge Press is putting the property up for online auction through Crexi, with bidding beginning Oct. 5 at noon. The opening bid is \$25,000. The auction will be live for just 48 hours.

That number deserves a second look. It raises the possibility of acquiring a historic building for less than the price of a new car. But an opening bid is a starting point, not a promised selling price. The auction is subject to terms that prospective buyers should read carefully.

Why are we selling? Because the way we produce your newspaper has changed over the years.

Our employees now work from home offices, on the road and throughout the communities we serve. Stories, photographs, advertising and page layouts can move between colleagues without everyone gathering under one roof. We still need people who know their communities. We no longer need the space that once brought those people together.

The building has been vacant since January 2024. Keeping it empty serves neither our needs nor the property’s future.

Built around 1832, this brick landmark has nearly two centuries behind it. Its columns and distinctive architecture are reminders that buildings can contribute something to a town beyond square footage. They give a place character and connect one generation to another.

Of course, character alone does not make a project practical. Any interested buyer should tour the property, examine its condition, understand the costs and investigate what uses would be permitted. An attractive purchase price is only one part of the calculation.

We have a financial interest in this sale, and readers deserve that acknowledgment. We also would welcome seeing a familiar landmark occupied and useful again.

Perhaps the right person is reading this newspaper. Perhaps you know someone who should take a look.

Visit Crexi.com and search for “25 Elm Street, Southbridge” to see photographs, property information and auction details. Bidding is scheduled for Oct. 5 & 6.

An old newspaper building has room for new ideas. We hope someone in our communities will see a possibility worth pursuing.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author’s name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author’s name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Six years of S.C.E. Real Estate: Still local, still personal

To the Editor:

Six years ago, S.C.E. Real Estate began with a simple idea: real estate could feel more personal. We wanted to create a local brokerage where people never felt like a number or just another transaction. A place where relationships mattered, where doing the right thing mattered, and where the experience of

buying or selling a home received the care and attention that such an important decision deserves.

Six years later, that remains at the heart of who we are.

Since opening our doors in 2020, S.C.E. Real Estate has had the privilege of helping hundreds of families buy and sell homes throughout our community and beyond. We have watched first-time buyers receive keys to their very first homes, helped families say goodbye to homes filled with decades of memories, celebrated new beginnings, navigated difficult decisions, and been welcomed into moments that are often much bigger than real estate.

That trust is something we have never taken lightly.

Real estate is personal. A home can represent years of hard work, a family’s financial future, a fresh start, a growing family, or the closing of an important chapter. Our clients trust us to guide them through some of the biggest decisions they will make, and we believe that responsibility deserves more than a one-size-fits-all approach. That belief is why S.C.E. was created, and it continues to shape the way we work today.

We are proud to be an independent, local brokerage. We know the communities

we serve because they are our communities, too. Our business has grown largely through relationships, referrals, repeat clients and the simple act of one person trusting us enough to recommend us to someone they care about.

Perhaps the most meaningful part of the past six years is how many clients have become familiar faces and, in so many cases, friends. We have been invited back for the next move, referred to parents, children, siblings and neighbors, and allowed to remain a small part of people’s lives long after the closing table.

Those relationships mean more to us than any number of homes sold ever could.

As S.C.E. Real Estate celebrates six years, we are proud of how much has changed and grown, but equally proud of what hasn’t.

We are still local. Still personal. Still committed to giving each client the kind of experience we intended to provide from the very beginning: thoughtful, honest, hands-on and personally, for you.

To every client who has trusted us, every family who has referred us, every friend who has supported us, and every person who has played a part in these first six years: thank you.

We are incredibly grateful for the years behind us and genuinely excited for everything still ahead.

Cheers, my friends, to the years behind us and everything ahead.

SANDRA CONSIDINE
S.C.E. REAL ESTATE
DOUGLAS

Charles and Bev are a breath of fresh air

To the Editor:

I would like to say how much I enjoy the column “Lanterns Along Main Street” by Charles. I’ve started to collect them — they are worth reading over and over again. Charles should write a book – or maybe just keep on writing about his wonderful, nostalgic, and insightful observations. So refreshing.

I have also been collecting Bev Gudanowski’s letters for a few years now, and am impressed by all the research she does. I’m saving these from posterity.

It’s great that your paper presents differing opinions — then we can make up our own minds on current affairs. I’d love to watch a debate!

LORRAINE BURNAT
DOUGLAS

Suburban stagnation: Why the Blackstone Valley can’t afford transit neglect

To the Editor:

Suburbs and historic mill towns across Central Massachusetts pride themselves on character and community, but a quiet crisis is brewing beneath the surface: structural stagnation driven by an utter lack of flexible transportation.

While billions in transit investments flow into dense urban hubs, outlying communities like Uxbridge remain stuck in a rigid transit loop. Traditional fixed-bus routes often require impractical transfers and hours of travel for a simple trip that takes ten minutes by car.

When micro-transit pilots or modern on-demand options are launched, smaller towns are systematically bypassed or left completely out of service zones. This lack of infrastructure creates a compounding trap.

Local businesses struggle to recruit a stable labor pool because potential workers without cars cannot bridge the distance.

Younger residents and those looking to build independent lives find themselves boxed in, forcing them to look elsewhere and draining towns of future growth.

For months, active residents have tried to bridge this gap by writing formal public comments, reaching out to regional planning commissions, and asking transit authorities for basic accountability—only to be met with bureaucratic delay and silence.

A region cannot claim to support economic development while ignoring the foundational mobility needs of its workforce.

If we want to prevent our towns from declining into isolated commuter dormitories, regional planners and local officials must prioritize extended, flexible micro-transit. It is time to open the lanes of communication—and the roads of our region—to everyone.

TAYLOR GODIN
UXBRIDGE

Our schools and Communism

To the Editor:

During our 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, let’s declare what is going on in our schools and who the teachers are following.

Since 2021, Massachusetts has increased school spending by \$8 billion. This year’s math and reading scores? Down again, failing every year since 2019. Obviously, the teachers and unions need more money. Burden local communities with higher property taxes and get no results, except lots of ignorance and poverty. It’s a purposeful recipe for a Communist takeover.

The “1619 Project” is one of the prime culprits. The book is adored by teachers’ unions. It has been adopted by blue-state schools. This racist political propaganda is promoted by a dimwit: Nikole Hannah-Jones. A journalist not an historian, she concocted her theory that America began in 1619 predicated on slavery. Her book was roundly criticized by most real historians, but instantly praised by Leftists. The New York Times Magazine lavishly promoted her trash ideas.

Let’s discuss. In 1619, Jamestown, Va. was a British company, owned privately by investors to return a profit. A pirate ship brought a group of captive Angolans to Jamestown. The pirates had captured a Spanish galleon bound for slavery in South America and the Caribbean. Slavery made the Spanish very rich. No one talks about the 11.5 million Africans that the Spanish transported to South America and Caribbean to work in mines and on sugar plantations.

The pirates abandoned the Angolans in Jamestown. Some were indentured. Others became slaves. In 1619, the Jamestown law ordained that “every particular person” had legal rights. No law mentioned slavery because it was unknown in Britain and America in 1619. Angolans had the right to sue in Jamestown.

“America was a place [of] sheer possibility,” writes Peter W. Wood in his book, “1620”. These involuntary immigrants recognized it. Some Angolans bought their freedom, planted farms, brought suits in

Turn To LETTER page A8

Stay one step ahead of cybercriminals



FINANCIAL FOCUS

DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

Your financial security is only as strong as your digital security. A single stolen password, convincing scam or fraudulent investment offer can lead to lost savings, damaged credit or hours spent recovering compromised accounts. As our financial lives move increasingly online, protecting your personal information is part of protecting your financial future.

Cybercriminals are getting smarter, and technology like AI is making their job easier. But fortunately, some consistent habits can help protect you from many of today’s common threats.

Watch out for phishing. Phishing is a common way criminals break into accounts and steal money. These attacks often arrive as emails, texts or phone calls that appear to come from your bank, employer or another trusted organization. Fake websites can trick you into typing in your password or financial details.

To protect yourself, verify unexpected requests through a separate channel, such as calling a company directly using a number from its official website rather than one provided in a suspicious message. Avoid clicking unexpected links and consider using a password manager which auto-fills your login information only on legitimate websites.

Strengthen your accounts. Stolen passwords give criminals easy access to your email, banking and social media accounts. Try using a unique password for every account and enable multifactor authentication whenever it’s offered. When possible, choose phishing-resistant options like passkeys or security keys; they’re harder for scammers to bypass than basic text message codes.

Be skeptical of urgency. Scammers increasingly use deepfakes, which leverage AI-generated voices, videos and images to convincingly impersonate trusted people, including company executives, advisors and even family members. These messages often create pressure to send money or share sensitive information immediately.

If you receive an urgent request that feels off, slow down. Hang up and try calling back to the person or organization using a known phone number. Many successful scams rely on emotional pressure rather than technical tricks, so a moment of skepticism can go a long way.

Protect your money and identity. Fraudulent investment platforms and cryptocurrency schemes continue to cost Americans billions of dollars each year. Be cautious of investment opportunities promoted through unsolicited messages or social media contacts and always verify a platform independently before sending money. If you’re unsure whether an opportunity is legitimate, a financial advisor can help evaluate it before you invest.

Data breaches can also put your information at risk, even when you’ve done everything right. It’s smart to check your bank and credit card statements regularly for unfamiliar charges, and to freeze your credit if you suspect your information has been compromised. You may also choose to freeze your credit preemptively.

Keep your devices updated. Software updates often fix security weaknesses that criminals could otherwise exploit. Backing up important files, whether to the cloud or an external drive, also protects you if ransomware ever locks you out of your own data.

Small habits matter. Unique passwords, multifactor authentication and skepticism help stop many scams before they start. Take steps to help safeguard your money, identity and long-term financial goals.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Dennis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert St., Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.

That is a perfectly good box

My wife tried to throw away a box the other day. Not some battered old thing that had spent six months in the garage. This was a good box. A very good box. Clean. Sturdy. Nice square corners. Medium-sized. The kind of box that immediately makes a man think, “We should keep that.”

LANTERNS
ALONG
MAIN
STREET
By CHARLES

“For what?” my wife asked.
I didn’t appreciate the interrogation. I didn’t know what it was for yet. That’s not how boxes work. You keep the box first. Its purpose reveals itself later.

This particular box had arrived with something we ordered, and after unpacking it my wife broke down the packing material and headed toward the recycling.

I rescued the box.
“We don’t need that,” she said.
“We might.”
“For what?”

Again with the questions. This is one of the differences between us after 30 years of marriage. My wife sees an empty cardboard box. I see potential. Maybe somebody will need to mail something. Maybe we’ll need to store something. Maybe one of the kids will move someday and suddenly require exactly one medium-sized cardboard box. Who’s going to look foolish then? Not me.

The box went downstairs. It joined several other boxes. There is the long narrow one that could someday be useful for something long and narrow. There is the small heavy-duty box that is obviously too well-made to discard. There is a shoebox, which hardly counts because shoeboxes have been official household storage containers since approximately the beginning of civilization.

Then there are the truly elite boxes. Anyone over 50 knows what I mean. These are boxes so well constructed that throwing them away would be an insult to manufacturing. You pick one up and admire it.
“Look at this thing.”

Nobody else in the house looks.
“Double-walled.”
Still nothing.
“That’s a good box.”

At this point, your spouse leaves the room. Fine. Some people appreciate craftsmanship.

The problem, of course, is that boxes reproduce. You save one because it might be useful. Then another arrives that is slightly smaller, which means it serves an entirely different hypothetical purpose. Then you get a big one, and obviously you can’t throw that away because big boxes are hard to find when you need one. Soon, there is a section of the basement that looks as though you are preparing to relocate without telling anybody.
Every few months, my wife notices.
“Are we keeping all these?”

I know this is not really a question. So I conduct an inventory. This generally involves picking up each box, examining it and deciding that, yes, we apparently are keeping all of them. Occasionally, I sacrifice one to maintain domestic peace. Usually the weakest. A bent corner will do it.
“Fine,” I’ll say. “This one can go.”

Then I flatten it with unnecessary solemnity and put it in recycling. The others survive another round.

I realize there is a certain absurdity to all this. Cardboard boxes are not rare. Stores have them. Neighbors have them. The world is not facing a cardboard shortage. But try telling that to a man who once needed a box at 7:30 on a Sunday morning and didn’t have one. That experience changes you. Besides, every now and then, the system works. Somebody needs to ship a Christmas present, pack up old dishes or carry something to the car.
“Do we have a box?”

That’s my moment. I don’t say anything. I simply walk downstairs and return carrying exactly what the situation requires. My wife looks at the box. Then she looks at me. I try not to appear smug.

Thirty years of marriage has taught me many things. One of them is knowing when you’ve won. Another is knowing enough not to say so.
The good box stays.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What’s the worst that could happen?

To the Editor:

Confucius said, “When you hire a clown, don’t be surprised when you get a circus!” (Actually, he said “Zhòng guā dé guā, zhòng dòu dé dòu,” for all you Mandarin scholars.) What was true in 500 BCE obviously remains true today. American voters, displaying their vaunted ‘exceptionalism’, voted into the presidency a convicted felon, an adjudicated, and self-proclaimed sexual abuser, a pathological liar, tax fraud, malignant narcissist, serial bankruptcy filer, fake ‘reality show’ star, draft dodging, incontinent, classless, tasteless, dictator wannabe. Twice! And they asked, with child-like wonderment, “What’s the worst that could happen??” The answer is – props to Confucius - you get a circus.

Case in point – the Trump clown car administration. Plato is often credited with saying: “When a fool gains power, the first thing he does is silence the wise. The next thing he does is gather other fools around him. The final thing he does is destroy the nation.” It is widely known that Trump doesn’t read, so we can assume that he isn’t up on his Greek philosophers. But his management style is right out of Plato’s playbook. Take for example Robert F. Kennedy, Jr: ‘Bobby’ is an acknowledged (ex?) heroin addict, a serial philanderer, and renowned for anti-vaccine rhetoric and misinformation, so what better fool to nominate for Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Documents and investigative reports detailed his 2019 trip to Samoa, where he met with local anti-vaccine activists around the time that a deadly measles outbreak occurred—an epidemic that followed a sharp drop in local vaccination rates. Coincidence? Given his history, he was Trump’s guy!

As of September 2026, the U.S. has now recorded over 3,500 confirmed measles cases and 1 official CDC-acknowledged death for 2026, alongside 4 additional deaths reported locally by Pennsylvania that remain under ongoing federal review. Measles deaths?? Measles was declared eliminated from the United States in 2000. This year, 93 to 97 percent of infected individuals are unvaccinated or have an unknown vaccination history. The entire year of 2025 saw 2,289 confirmed cases, and 3 deaths. Kennedy was confirmed in February of 2025 – all but one Republican voted for his appointment. The circus used to be a fun place, now it’s a death zone.

Then we have Pete Hegseth, the circus sword swallower, a former Fox talking head, which makes him as qualified to be the U.S. Secretary of Defense/War, as is my grandmother. Actually, my grandmother would never have allowed 23 American dead, and 861 wounded, so far, in a nonsensical, misguided attack on Iran. Not to mention the current \$40 billion price tag. But the show must go on!

The Trump clown car made Bozo and Clarabelle jealous: Pam Bondi, Kristi Noem, Lori Chavez-DeRemer, Jared Kushner, Howard Lutnick, Dr. Oz, Doug Burgum, Linda McMahon, 22 year old Thomas Fugate, at the Department of Homeland Security, Todd Blanche, keeper of the Epstein files, Bill Pulte at National Intelligence...none qualified to clean your toilet, never mind run your government. But Trump’s criteria is blind loyalty, not capability.

Abandoning ship: At least 27 Senate-confirmed officials have departed from the second Trump administration as of mid-2026, representing a historic turnover rate that is roughly two and a half times higher than his first term and six times the average of recent administrations. Beyond high-level officials,

an unprecedented 934 non-career Senior Executive Service (SES) and Schedule C appointees have also exited the government within the first 18 months of his second term. So even the inmates are no longer running the asylum....so who is? Meanwhile, due to DOGE department cuts and elimination of regulations, we have new pathogens and insects (screw-worm), entering the U.S., every week there are new foods that we can’t eat because of contamination, meat of questionable quality is being imported from countries that are being hidden from the public. We have now entered Plato’s “destroy the nation”. phase

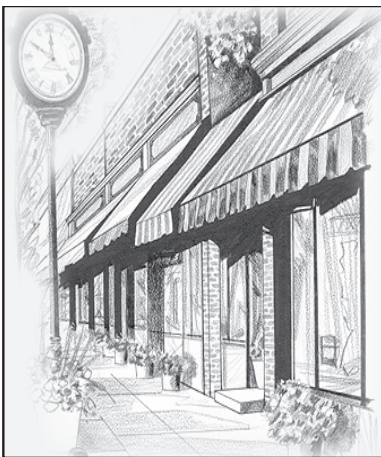
Every one of the inept, unqualified, and, in some cases, corrupt members of the Trump administration was approved by the Republican congress. They are complicit in everything, including the deaths of American citizens. But they will be re-elected because they have discovered that giving the uneducated, misinformed, racist public someone to hate – immigrants, gays, trans people, minorities, women, intellectuals – is enough to distract them from the real damage – the corruption, the division, the eroding of democracy taking place. Trump is now trying to restrict the free press, after failing to silence comedians.

Republicans are the party of fiscal responsibility, yet the deficit has gone up by trillions. Republicans are the party of peace, yet have started the Persian Gulf War, the Afghanistan War, the Iraq war, and now the war with Iran, in just the last 35 years. They have a track record of tax cuts for the wealthy, and not much else. They promise to “stop spending”, but only on the things that we need – health care, social security, child care, education, safety. There is always money for the military, for war, for a ballroom, golden arch, fancy presidential airplane, trips to Irish golf courses...What’s a few million here or there! The most recent tax cuts for the rich amount to a projected \$4.5 trillion savings for them. How much of that will you get? Enough to pay for medical insurance and out-of-pocket expenses? Enough to pay for higher education? Enough to afford a house? Enough to buy food and medicine? They think we are stupid. If you vote for any Republican, at any level, you certainly are.

From the 3 Stooges Files: Moe of Uxbridge quoted the Boston Herald’s 2024 and 2025 shelter system budgets. This is 2026, and I posted the projected figures for next year – \$270 million, down almost 70 percent. Never one to let facts affect her narrative, she is still beating the immigration dead horse by finding a few isolated cases of bad immigrants, while the statistics that have been reported over and over show that most crime – by a huge percentage - is committed by U.S. citizens, which she completely ignores. When will she spotlight one of the fraudsters pardoned by Trump, so they don’t have to repay a penny of their ill-gotten loot? Just Moe being Moe, stoking the hate.

Curly says we are going to get the \$5,000 Trump promised. Unfortunately, that tariff money has already been returned to the businesses that collected it. They have no idea which of their customers should get what, so will just hang on to it, and then donate it to elect Republican politicians. Rinse and repeat. The only way we would get anything from Trump, without adding another trillion to the deficit, would be to squeeze his head. You could get the same crap, more easily, from one of his diapers.

RICK BEVILACQUA
WHITINSVILLE



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Uxbridge Police Chief Marc Montminy discusses a road closure with a member of the Uxbridge Highway Department.

QCC knocks it out of the park at WooSox Community College Night



QCC students Maya Henry (left) and Robert Osimo at the WooSox Community College Night.

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College showed off its school

spirit yesterday during the Worcester Red Sox’s Community College Night. Students, faculty, staff and alumni from community colleges throughout the state showed up to cheer on the WooSox as they faced the Durham Bulls.

Guests of Community College Night greeted the crowd with a pre-game parade and QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja threw out the ceremonial first pitch.

“Community colleges across the Commonwealth work hard to train and support the individuals who end up as the backbone of our cities and towns,” Pedraja said. “We also know how to celebrate, and this WooSox game was the perfect opportunity to do just that.”

The event was organized by the Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges (MAACC) as a way to celebrate the impact that institutions offering associate degrees, certificates and noncredit training have on their communities. According to MAACC, community colleges represent over 40% of students in the Massachusetts public higher education system as of fiscal year 2024.

Practical Nursing Open House at BVT Oct. 26

UPTON — The adult education program in Practical Nursing at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) prepares students for personal and professional success as practical nurses. Those 18 and older who are interested in pursuing a career in health care are invited to attend an Open House from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 26.

The evening will provide an opportunity to tour the practical nursing classrooms at 65 Pleasant St. in Upton, speak with faculty, staff and students, observe state-of-the-art equipment and participate in a question-and-answer session. Attendees will learn more about the part-time, 60-week evening program, including admission requirements, the application process and enrollment.

All interested applicants must take the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS), which is required for admission to the Practical Nursing program. The program administers the TEAS entrance exam to applicants and accepts TEAS results from other testing locations.

“It is a great time to enter the nursing field because there’s such a need for skilled nurses,” said Practical Nursing Coordinator Joann L. Monks, MBA, MSc, RN-BC, RMA.

The affordable program offers small class sizes and accepts in-district, out-of-district and out-of-state applicants. For more information about the program and to register for the Open

House, visit www.valley-tech.k12.ma.us/pnopen-house.

About Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the heart of the Blackstone Valley, BVT creates a positive learning community that prepares students for personal and professional success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of rigorous vocational, technical, and academic skills.

Northbridge Historical Society meets Monday

NORTHBRIDGE — The Northbridge Historical Society will meet Monday, Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. at the Singh Theater at Open Sky/Alternatives, located at 60 Douglas Rd., Whitinsville.

Austin Alexander, Visitor Services Supervisor of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation will present an illustrated program on Israel Plummer.

The east end of

Northbridge is full of Plummer place names: Plummer’s Corner, Plummer Park, Plummer’s Landing, Plummer Apartments and Plummer School. How did this man come to be so honored?

The program, our first of our fifty sixth season, will be preceded by a short business meeting led by Society President John W. Walker, Jr.

The Northbridge Historical Society collects,

organizes, preserves and shares Northbridge history; its headquarters is the Colonel James Fletcher homestead at One Elm Place. Membership is open to everyone interested in our programs and purposes.



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Principal

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LETTER

continued from page A4

court and prevailed. But by 1622, Native Americans killed hundreds of settlers. Disease killed them too. King James revoked the Company’s charter. He made Virginia a British royal colony.

But never mind all the facts! Hannah-Jones became famous. While she was promoting racism and communism, she was failing her daughter. Jones put her only child in a failing New York public inner-city school to prove that by highlighting a failing school, her brilliant light would improve it.

Wrong. Jones overly inflated herself and her influence. The New York Times Magazine praised her alleged genius, her accurate reading of American history, and promoted her crappy ideas. No rational

person agreed.

Her daughter suffered in a chaotic school, with students fighting, staff uninterested. She got all A’s in math and writing! Years went by before Ms. Famous finally sat down to look at her daughter’s math homework. She was shocked: the answers were all wrong. Her daughter’s writing was abysmal, despite all A’s all the time. The reason, according to this genius: Racism.

Jones’ daughter said: “I wish instead of thinking about all the other kids, you would have thought about me.” Her daughter begged to go to a “selective school.” When her Commie Mom finally relented, her daughter could not cope with homework or independent study. Jones said she had no idea her daughter could not do algebra even though she failed the state algebra test in 8th grade. The daughter said: “I never got the education I

wanted [because of your ideology].”

What person, whose child asks for a fish, gives them a snake? A Communist. Commies will put their ideology even above their own kids. So why vote for them?

Have you looked at your child’s math? They apparently do not teach the times tables now. A teacher explained to me how to do a multiplication problem. It takes so many steps! What took one step in Old School multiplication, now takes five or six steps. It’s all addition, not multiplication. Wait, what?

Remember multiplication? 2x2=4, 2x4=8, 2x5=10, 6x6=36, 7x7=49. Middle school multiplication tables stay with you. We chanted them as a class back in the old white supremacy days. Students stood up and repeated the 8 tables: 8x1=8, 2x8=16, 3x8=24, 5x8=40, 8x8=64, etc. Teachers

were mean! They made you memorize. They made you learn.

Of course, we all know that math is racist. So is memorizing the multiplication tables. It’s just a white supremacist Capitalist plot!

Time for a Declaration of Independence from teacher union tyranny and state mandates. They have degraded, not educated, our students. We need local control of schools, an end to teacher union mandates of teaching “gender theory” to kindergarteners, and an end of teaching America bad, Communism good.

Have you had enough? Stop voting for the same old dimwits.

BEV GUDANOWSKI
UXBRIDGE

LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court Worcester
Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No.WO22P1110PM
CITATION GIVING NOTICE
OF CONSERVATOR’S ACCOUNT
In the matter of: Laura L Powdrell
Of: Northbridge, MA
Protected Person/Disabled Person/
Respondent**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the Fourth Account account(s) of Trevor Powdrell of Nortl] bridge, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been

presented to the. Court for allowance
You have the right to object to the ac-count(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M on the return date of **10/13/2026** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court

You have the right to send to the Con-servator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.Date: September 16, 2026

Stephanie K. Fattman
October 2, 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.WO26P2096EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Carol A Pelletier
Date of Death: 06/02/2026**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Deborah J Sisk of Finger TN** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: .
Deborah J Sisk of Finger TN be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond in **supervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court be-

fore: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/20/2026.**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 21, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 2, 2026

MORTGAGEE’S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Richard W. Padovano and Eleanor R. Padovano to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Advanced Financial Services, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated April 12, 2004 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 33324, Page 312, subsequently assigned to IndyMac Bank, FSB, its successors and/or assigns by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (“MERS”) as nominee for Advanced Financial Services, Inc., its successors and/or assigns by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 33639, Page 17, subsequently assigned to Deutsche Bank National Trust Company as Trustee for Residential Asset Securitization Trust Series 2004-A8, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates Series 2004-H by Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as Receiver For IndyMac Bank, F.S.B. by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 53997, Page 350 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM on October 9, 2026 at 86 Kingsnorth Street, aka 86 Kingsnorth Road, Northbridge (Whitinsville), MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

The land in the Town of Northbridge (Whitinsville section), Worcester County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, located in the subdivision known as “The Heights at Hill Street 2”, and shown as Lot 12 on a plan entitled “The Heights at Hill Street 2” Subdivision of Land in Northbridge, Massachusetts (Worcester County) Scale: 1” =40’ July 17, 1987, Rev. 9/21/87, Rev. 10/15/87, Rev. 11/9/87”, Roger M. Corbin, Professional Land Surveyor, which plan is recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 588, Plan 11, and which parcel of land herein granted is more particularly bounded and described as follows:
BEGINNING at a point which is the most southwesterly corner of Lot 9, as shown on said plan, and the most southeasterly corner of said Lot 9 and the most southwesterly corner of Lot 10, as shown on said plan;
THENCE North 13°47’38” East one hundred ten (110.00) feet by said lot 9 to a point which is the most northwesterly corner of said Lot 9 to a point which is the most northwesterly corner of said Lot 9 and the most southwesterly corner of Lot 10, as shown on said plan;

THENCE North 03°34’09” East two hundred seventy-seven and fifty-six one hundredths (227.56) feet by said Lot 10 and by Lot 11, as shown on said plan, to a point on the southeasterly line of Road “A”, as shown on said plan, which point is the most westerly corner of said Lot 11;
THENCE South 45°59’05” West twenty-three and eight tenths (23.80) feet by the southeasterly line of said Road “A” to a point;
THENCE running by a curve to the right, having an arc length of one hundred seventy-six and two tenths (176.20) feet, and a radius of three hundred ten (310.00) feet by the southeasterly line of said Road “A” to a point which is the most northeasterly corner of Lot 13, as shown on said plan;
THENCE South 09°50’49” West two hundred forty-eight and thirty-four one hundredths (248.34) feet by said lot 13 to land now or formerly of Daniel J. & Genevieve Puccio at a point which is the most southeasterly corner of said Lot 13;
THENCE South 76°12’22” East one hundred seventy-five (175.00) feet by said land of Puccio to the point of beginning.

For title reference see Deed dated June 25, 1998 and recorded Book 20103, page 3 & deed prior hereto
The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney’s fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE:
A deposit of FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$15,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer’s check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer’s check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee’s attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee’s attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY as Trustee for RESIDENTIAL ASSET SECURITIZATION TRUST Series 2004-A8 MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES Series 2004-H
Present Holder of said Mortgage, By Its Attorneys, ORLANS LAW GROUP PLLC
PO Box 540540
Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800
25-007057
September 18, 2026
September 25, 2026
October 2, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608**

**(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P3000EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
Estate Of:
Michael Robert Bates
Date of Death: 2/19/2025**

To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Susan L. Bates of Millville MA**
Susan L. Bates of Millville MA has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without surety on the bond.

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

October 2, 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.WO26P3127EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Elaine E Bentley
Date of Death: 08/27/2026**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Michelle Bentley of Webster MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: .

Michelle Bentley of Webster MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/27/2026.**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 23, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 2, 2026

OBITUARIES

Paul Mitchell Buma, 84



Whitinsville--Paul Mitchell Buma, 84, entered into eternal glory on September 23, 2026. He cherished life but wasn't afraid to die. His confidence was in the love and redeeming grace of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

He will be dearly missed by his devoted wife of 65 years, Marian J. "Boots" (Vander Baan) Buma; two sons: Scott M. Buma, of Douglas, MA and Brett M. Buma, and his wife Iona, of Whitinsville, MA; a daughter, Shelley J. Buma of Whitinsville, MA; a granddaughter, Brittany J. Bergner and her husband Douglas, of Medford, MA; and two grandsons: Jonathan P. Buma and Jarrod M. Buma, both of Whitinsville, MA. He also leaves behind his sister-in-law Mildred Buma and many cousins, nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his brother Raymond P. Buma and a daughter-in-law, Gail C. (Hiskes) Buma.

Mr. Buma was born December 5, 1941, the son of Peter Buma, a Friesland, Netherlands immigrant, and Mary Ann Mitchell, a Newfoundland immigrant. He grew up in the Plummer's section of town and lived in Whitinsville, MA until retiring to Naples, FL.

After education at Northbridge High School and Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Mr. Buma spent most of his professional career in the electronics industry, joining Avnet Electronics in 1979 as a field sales representative. While at Avnet he distinguished himself as the "Architect of ASIC Distribution" and as New England field sales manager. In 1989 he joined Plus Logic as Vice President of North American sales. Following an acquisition by Xilinx Inc., he became Director of North American Distribution for that S&P 500 company. To customers, "We can do that" was his slogan and then he delivered. He retired from Xilinx in 2001.

Mr. Buma was a longtime active member of the Christian Reformed Church. He assisted in the incep-

tion of the Whitinsville Christian School Endowment Committee and served from 1970 to 2022. He was Chairman of FINE (Friends of Northbridge Elders) and President of the Naples, FL Yorktown homeowner's association. He also served as a UniBank Corporator, Whitinsville Social Library Trustee, Sunday School teacher, church deacon, and for a decade as Chairman of the Northbridge School Committee.

Mr. Buma enjoyed working in his yard, reading, golfing (even scoring a hole in one at Kensington, Naples, FL) and traveling with his wife. He possessed the art of elegantly starting and sustaining a dialogue with stranger and friend alike. He took great joy in telling stories from his life to any captive audience. Paul was well liked and respected in both his professional and personal circles. A consummate diplomat, he was able to deal with sensitive matters and people in a tactful manner. Most of all, he loved his family and time with them. We are blessed as a family by the love and example of Paul and by God's perfect

plan for his life. Although he will be sadly missed and lovingly remembered, we rejoice in knowing we will see him again in his heavenly home.

A funeral service to honor the faith and life of Paul M. Buma was held Wednesday September 30, 2026, at 11 am in Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church, 305 Goldthwaite Road, Whitinsville. Burial followed at Pine Grove Cemetery, Whitinsville. Calling hours were Tuesday September 29, 2026, from 5-8 pm at Carr Funeral Home 24 Hill St. Whitinsville.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial donations be made to the Whitinsville Christian School's Endowment Fund, 279 Linwood Ave. Whitinsville MA 01588 or to Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church, 305 Goldthwaite Rd. Whitinsville, MA 01588. To share a memory or condolence with the family, please visit www.carrfuneralhome.com

"Absent from the body and present with the Lord." 2 Cor. 5:8



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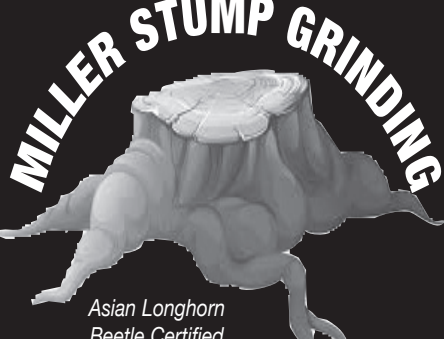
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331 Main St.
(508) 476-2283
Hours of operation: Monday through Thursday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m. to noon

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 9am, 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, Pitch 9am, Chair Yoga 9:30am, Tai Chi 10:45am, Hand and Foot card game 12:30pm
Friday: Balance & strength 10am, Zumba 11:15am

Friday Shopping Trips: Please call 48 hours in advance to schedule your ride. Grocery shopping pick up starts at 9:30.
Hannaford: 10/30
Price Chopper: 10/9
Walmart: 10/2 & 10/16
Rider’s choice: 10/23

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 & from the center and are willing to waive the lunch fee is necessary.
October Lunch Menu: Tuesday/Thursday lunch club please call the center the Friday before to sign up!
Tuesday 10/6: Pasta primavera, garden salad, garlic bread & ice cream
Tuesday 10/13: Stuffed peppers, candied carrots & brownies
Tuesday 10/20: BBQ pork chops, seasoned potatoes, fiesta corn & corn
Thursday 10/22: Butternut bisque, ham salad sandwich & cheesecake pudding w/ strawberries
Tuesday 10/27: Chicken fajitas, tater tots & pudding

October Events:
WELLNESS CLINIC DATES: Monday October 5th & Tuesday October 20th. Clinic is open from 10 am to 12 pm.
Saturday October 3 from 9 to 4: Oktoberfest indoor yard sale. The Sunshine Club will be selling chili, chips, & beverages. Be sure to stop by check out the yard sale and grab a serving of chili before it’s gone.
Wednesday October 7 from 9 to 11: Flu vaccine clinic: Call the center to schedule your appointment. If transportation is needed request a ride when you call for your appointment.
Thursday October 8 @ 1:00: Hip Hop Square Dance This is a one-hour class & is free of charge. We had so much fun with Rondae the last time she was here! Sign up by 10/8.
Thursday October 15 @ 12:00: Bemis Nursery will be here to make an Everlasting Flower Box. This craft is \$25.00 and must be paid for when you sign up. You get a pretty wooden box, to arrange dried flowers in. Sign up by 10/8.
Thursday October 22 @ 11:30: Lunch & a movie, Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris. Lunch is \$4.00 per person, soup, sandwich & dessert. Sign up by 10/16.
Friday October 30 @ 12:30: Sunshine Club Annual Halloween Party. Refreshments, friends, fun & laughs. Prizes will be awarded for costumes. Sign up by 10/23.

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>

BROOK

continued from page A1

a new home. Speckled alder, silky dogwood, sweet pepperbush, buttonbush, pussy willow, silky willow and five red maples were put into muddy soil with care and well wishes. A temporary community of planters consisting of Uxbridge High School interns, 4H Club members, Boy Scouts, Beta group employees, neighbors, families, and visitors with Uxbridge connections was created. It was hard work but fun, and we connected to earth and water in a deep and visceral way.
Thanks to Truly Ecological, our scientist/engineering consultants for leading the way, the DPW Water Division for helping coordinate the logistics, the Conservation Commission

agent who monitored our progress, and the High School Internship program for their outstanding crew. A host of partners—the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative, the Blackstone River Watershed Association and the Blackstone Heritage Corridor—supported this work. The final documentation using video and time-lapse photography is being created by 124 productions. This project is funded through the Town of Uxbridge with a Commonwealth of MA Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant.
The restoration of Meadow Brook is a small step for Uxbridge to create resiliency in the face of climate changes ahead. The area will be monitored over the next three years.

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October 10th and 11th

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. Please call the main office to sign up for special events and programs, so we can plan accordingly.

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:
NEW Tech Cafe!
2nd Monday of the month
1:30pm-3:00pm
Bring your tech questions — drop-in appointments — no need to sign up in advance
Meditation with Kelly:
Every Thursday morning at 9:30am
Book Club:
3rd Wednesday of the month at 10:30am
Please call Kelly for more information.
Brew Crew:
1st Wednesday of the month at 9:30am
Wednesday, October 7th: Northbridge Disability Board Members Jill Patnode Krause and Donna Gorzela
Please call Amy for more information.
Dull Men’s Club:

4th Tuesday of the month at 9:30am
October 27th: David Pickart, Northbridge Conservation Agent
Please call Amy for more information.
Scrabble:
Mondays October 5th and 19th at 9:30am
Women’s Collective:
2nd Thursday of the month at 10:00am
October 8th: Taking Care of You
Please call Amy for more information.
Writing Your Way:
2nd and 4th Thursdays at 2:00pm
October 8th. Please call Lori for more information.

Special Programs and Events
Flu and Covid Clinic
Vaccinations Available
Monday, October 5th 9am-12pm
Call Pam at (508) 234-2002 to sign up.
Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy!
Tuesday, October 6th at 1:00pm
Back by popular demand!
Please join us for an afternoon of Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune fun! Light refreshments will be provided along with chances to win prizes. Admission is \$5 cash per person, payable at the door. Grab your friends, form a team or two, and head over to Plummer Place for a great afternoon!

Carr Funeral Home Program
Tuesday, October 13th at 1:00pm
Please join Heather and Abbie from Carr Funeral Home on October 13th at 1pm for an informative and welcoming discussion on funeral planning. During this session, they will explain the benefits of preplanning a funeral, discuss why prepaying funeral expenses may be a valuable

option, and clarify the differences between a traditional funeral, a celebration of life, and a memorial service. This thoughtful presentation offers an opportunity to learn about important end-of-life planning decisions in a comfortable, no-pressure setting. We invite you to join the conversation and gain valuable information that can help you and your loved ones plan with confidence.

Medicare with Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Oct 14th 1pm-2pm
Are you Ready for the Medicare Annual Election Oct 15th through Dec 7th ?
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts will be here presenting Medicare Health Plan Options— this presentation is geared towards individuals on Medicare or approaching Medicare who may have questions about their health plan or other available plan types. The presentation will focus on the differences between Medigap and Medicare Advantage plans and explain when enrollees can switch plans. All are invited to attend regardless of insurance coverage.

Sweet Stuff: New England’s Confectionery History with Susan Bregman
Thursday, October 15th at 1:00pm
A chocolate mill opened along the Neponset River in the late 1700s, setting the stage for New England’s enduring love affair with sweets. Over the following centuries, the region has become home to an extraordinary variety of baked, fried, dipped, sugared, and frozen confections. Author Susan Mara Bregman will share stories from her book New England Sweets about this sugary legacy – from Necco Wafers to Fluffernutters

Uxbridge Youth Soccer League hosts Fifth Annual RC Air Show

UXBRIDGE — The Uxbridge Youth Soccer League will host its 5th Annual RC Airshow on Sunday, Oct. 18, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Sutton Street Fields (285 Sutton St., Uxbridge). The popular, family-friendly event brings together some of the region’s top award-winning RC pilots for an afternoon of spectacular stunts and a few surprises.
This year’s event features several famous area food trucks, including Anzios Brick Oven Pizza, Big Daddy’s Bites, Big T’s BBQ, Twisted Beveragez, and Wickid Weiners. The show also includes more than a dozen sought-after vendors selling crafts, food items, and other gifts.
The RC Air Show offers fun for the whole family, including yard games, kids’ activities, crafts, Touch-a-Truck, and more. You’ll also have a chance to press your luck with a variety of raffle prizes. Celebrity guests will be announced soon.
All proceeds from the RC Air Show go to fund programs, equipment, and opportunities for local youth athletes. Last year’s Air Show raised enough funds to aerate the Sutton Street fields, allowing the league to use them all season long. This year, the league is looking to raise enough funds to install an irrigation system.

Bring the whole family for an afternoon of thrills. Entry is \$3 per person or \$10 per family. Visit the “5th Annual UYSL RC Air Show” Facebook page for the latest updates and for a list of this year’s generous sponsors. For questions or to sponsor the show, email info@uxbridgeyouthsoccer.com.

Local students enroll at Eastern

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — Eastern Connecticut State University welcomed 1,444 new students to campus this fall 2026 semester. The new Warriors are among the largest incoming classes in the University’s 137-year history, with 1,180 first-time students and 264 transfer students enrolled in full-time undergraduate and graduate-level programs.
Among the students are Zoe Greenough of Douglas, a full-time first-year student majoring in Psychology, and Alexander Lund of Northbridge, a full-time first-year student majoring in Political Science.
The new students join an overall student body of 3,850 full-time matriculated students and a residential campus that is 100 percent occupied. The cohort represents 145 of Connecticut’s 169 towns and comes from 20 U.S. states - the farthest student coming from Turlock, CA, 3,044 miles from Eastern’s Willimantic campus.
“We are tremendously excited to welcome our newest students this fall,” said Eastern President Karim Ismaili. “They will experience what makes Eastern so distinctive: the rigor and breadth of a public liberal arts education within a vibrant, primarily residential campus community located in the vibrant Town of Windham. Their arrival brings tremendous energy to Eastern, and I cannot wait to see how they learn, grow, and contribute to our community.”
The new students are a scholarly bunch with an average GPA of 3.3, and top declared majors being health sciences, business administration, psychology, nursing, and criminology. Fifty-four percent are the first in their families to attend college, 172 are student-athletes, and 25 are enrolled in the academically competitive University Honors Program.

St. Patrick’s announces Autumn recycling event

WHITINSVILLE — St. Patrick’s Spring Recycling Event, 7 East St., Whitinsville, will take place on Saturday, October 3rd from 8am - 1pm in the Church parking lot. The profits will benefit upcoming YIA service projects. Please keep items for each station separate. If you cannot make it on event day, please call office to donate. For more information & electronics pricing, call 508-234-5656 or email officesupport@mystpatricks.com. Thank you for your support!

Electronics Recycling for a fee - No batteries/light bulbs/propane tanks. All equipment must be bone dry of oils/liquids.
Cans/Plastic Bottles - Please rinse. Items must be returnable in Massachusetts. No glass.
Textile/Clothing Collection - Clothing; handbags/totes; accessories; table linens; shoes; bed linens; window treatments; yarn; fabric by the yard/quilting squares (no scraps), etc. No rags/rugs. No toys/housewares. Items must be gently used (no stains), and in a condition to be resold.
Books - donate gently used books (no encyclopedias)
Media - donate magazines; CD’s; DVD’s; video games; vinyl records, etc.



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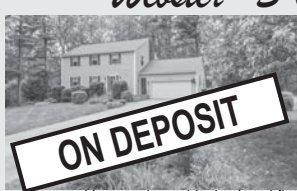
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Webster- 3 Oakwood Dr



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



ON DEPOSIT

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

Featured New Listing!
24 Laurelwood Dr
Webster Lake Waterfront



ON DEPOSIT

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

Webster ~ 33 Slater Street



Sprawling fieldstone faced Ranch! Located on a +/- 0.5-acre, 2 car garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 2 stone fireplacesFHW BB heat. Open floor plan kitchen, living rm, dining rm, breezeway w/sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom **MLS # 73500183 \$464,900**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake Waterfront
22 Union Point Snug
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78 Blackmer Rd. \$415,000

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\$535,000

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Uxbridge Historical Society announces
October events at Farnum House

Sing with
the BVCC!

UXBRIDGE — The Uxbridge Historical Society invites the community to enjoy two special October events at the historic Cornet John Farnum House, 44 Mendon St., beginning with the Society’s first Fall Harvest Fair on Sunday, Oct. 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Originally planned for late September, the Fall Harvest Fair has been rescheduled to Oct. 11 and will feature live music, local vendors and artisans, food by Mendon Street Kitchen, raffle baskets, a fall photo area, children’s activities, and a special Town Department Fall Display Contest.

Visitors will be able to stroll the grounds, enjoy the fall festivities, tour the historic Farnum House, and vote for their favorite town department or committee display. The winning group will take home the Golden Pumpkin Award and bragging rights for the year.

The fun continues on Sunday, Oct. 25, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., when the Historical Society presents “Miniature Warfare: A Revolutionary War Game Demo.”

Uxbridge resident Christopher Rett of the Historical Game Club of Uxbridge will bring the American Revolution to the tabletop using detailed 28mm miniature figures and the Muskets & Tomahawks game system. Visitors can watch the action or take part, commanding colonial soldiers, Minutemen, British Regulars, and Native forces as a Revolutionary War scenario unfolds.

Rett, a longtime historical gamer, founded the Historical Game Club of Uxbridge in 2018. The demonstration offers visitors of all ages a different and interactive way to explore the tactics, choices, and uncertainties faced during the Revolutionary era.

Both events will be held at the Cornet John Farnum House, 44 Mendon St., Uxbridge.

The Farnum House is owned and cared for by the Uxbridge Historical Society. Community support through memberships and donations helps the Society preserve the house, care for its collections, and continue offering programs and events throughout the year.

For more information, contact the Uxbridge Historical Society at uxbridgehistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

DOUGLAS — The Blackstone Valley Community Chorus welcomes new and returning singers to Open Call for our 2026 holiday concert season! Open Call will take place on Sunday, Oct. 4, at 6 p.m. at the Douglas Municipal Center Resource Room located at 29 Depot St. in Douglas.

New members do not need to prepare an audition song, but should come ready to sing. There is a \$40 membership fee to join, payable by cash, check or credit card (credit card payments are subject to a \$2 service fee). Rehearsals take place on Sundays at 6 p.m. beginning on Oct. 11. This season the BVCC is preparing a holiday program to be performed with a full orchestra on December 13th at Valley Chapel in Uxbridge.

The Blackstone Valley Community Chorus is a non-audition, multi-generational chorus with people of varied musical abilities brought together by a shared love of music and a commitment to providing our community with exceptional musical experiences. The BVCC has been singing throughout Central Massachusetts for over twenty years at concerts, community events, and holiday festivals. We have also performed at the Hanover Theater and Worcester Art Museum, the Massachusetts State House and Fenway Park. We welcome anyone who would like to join us, we only ask that you have the ability to carry a tune and are committed to coming to rehearsal prepared. Whether you enjoy singing at your school, with a church choir, or in your car or shower, we hope you will consider joining our friendly musical family! For more information on the BVCC, visit us on Facebook or at www.bvccchorus.org.



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Douglas Sunshine Club
announces upcoming
events

DOUGLAS — The Douglas Sunshine Club is having their Annual Indoor Tag Sale on Oct. 3 at the Douglas Adult Social Center during Octoberfest in Douglas from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We are located in the basement of the Post Office at 331 Main St., Douglas. There are plenty of bargains to be found and we will be offering our famous chili , corn-bread,snacks and beverages. Stop by to see us during the day while at the fun festivities of Octoberfest.

The Sunshine Club is also having a plant swap on Oct. 12, Columbus Day or Indigenous People’s Day, at the Douglas Adult Social Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come with any identified indoor or outdoor plants that you have TOO many of or that you are dividing since they outgrew their garden spots or planters. Not everyone has a green thumb. So this could very well be just the place to come learn more about plants from those who grew them and take some home to try, you do not have to bring a plant in order to take some home. Gardeners are also welcome to bring seeds that are labeled from your favorite flowers or veggies to share with others. We are located at 331 Main St., Douglas in the basement of the Post Office. Any questions, call 508-476-2283.



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