

WEBSTER TIMES

Free by request to residents of Webster, Dudley and the Oxfords

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS

©2026, Issue #39 Friday, September 25, 2026

Webster’s Linda Sopp honored with Environmental Leadership Award for grassroots cleanup efforts



Dudley Grange Apple Festival returns Oct. 3



WEBSTER — True conservation is driven by the power of community mobilization. This week, the Town of Webster celebrated a local champion of this very philosophy. At the Sept. 14 Conservation Commission meeting, and again at the Keep Webster Beautiful Steering Committee meeting on Sept. 15, Webster resident Linda Sopp was officially recognized as the recipient of this year’s Environmental Leadership Award.

Awarded annually by the Webster Conservation Commission, the Environmental Leadership Award honors outstanding individuals who demonstrate exceptional commitment, dedication, and leadership in safeguarding the town’s precious natural resources, including its

wetlands, forests, and waterways. By celebrating these environmental champions, the Commission hopes to inspire future generations of stewards to protect our community’s unique natural heritage.

Sopp, an avid kayaker and lakeside homeowner, has made protecting our local environment her retirement mission. Rather than simply enjoying the view from her kayak, she recognized the critical need for a structured approach to combat regional litter and debris. She founded “Keep Webster Beautiful,” an official chapter of Keep Massachusetts Beautiful, a grassroots movement dedicated to litter prevention,

waste reduction, and making the town a cleaner, greener place to live, work, and play.

The real-world impact of her leadership is already undeniable. Together with her grassroots network of volunteers, Sopp has successfully intercepted and removed thousands of pounds of litter from our public roadways and local lake waters. But beyond the impressive amount of debris she meticulously tracks and removes from the Webster Lake watershed, the true cornerstone of

her work is community building. By bringing adults together to form the Keep Webster Beautiful Steering Committee and actively mobilizing youth volunteers, she is fostering a lasting culture of environmental stewardship for Webster’s next generation.

Putting that mission into action, Sopp is currently organizing a major town-wide cleanup event scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 3. She will once again be teaming

Turn To SOPP page A6

DUDLEY — If you are looking to get out and enjoy the fall color, crisp air and a fun community event, stop in at the Annual Dudley Grange Apple Festival located at 139 Center Rd. in Dudley, across the street from the Back Tavern Craft Fair.

Enjoy the live music by the “Old Fiddler’s Club of Rhode Island” and “Acoustic Ruckus” formerly “The Grey Whisker Pickers,” sponsored by the Massachusetts and the Dudley Cultural Councils. Shop handmade goods available by local vendors and artisans. Kids will enjoy the Records and Burpee Petting Zoo and our children’s games and activities. The First Congregational Church of Dudley is serving hot dogs, chili dogs, cheese burgers and chili and New England clam chowder. Also available is our famous hand cut French fries. Don’t miss out; get your delicious Hot Apple Crisp before we run out!

As always, the Apple Festival is a rain or shine event. Mark your calendar for Oct. 3!

Saint Joseph School commemorates 25th anniversary of Sept. 11 attacks



Courtesy

Members of the Saint Joseph School Grade 7 class gather at the altar of Saint Joseph Basilica following a special Mass commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The students helped lead the school community in prayerful remembrance of the victims, their families, and the heroic first responders.

Spotted Lanternfly infestation located in Dudley

DUDLEY — The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) has notified the Dudley Agricultural Advisory Commission that their survey team followed up on reports and confirmed that an infestation of the invasive insect species Spotted Lanternfly, has been located in Dudley.

Residents and municipal staff may see surveyors from MDAR and/or the USDA checking trees in town to determine the extent of the infestation.

The Spotted Lanternfly damages plants and trees by piercing the bark and sucking the sap. This pest has been found on nearly 100 different types of plants and trees. They include birch, black walnut, poplar, tree of heaven, Asiatic bittersweet, highbush blueberry, lilac, mulberry, rose, staghorn sumac, sycamore, willow, Virginia creeper, apple trees, peach trees, and maple trees.

The Spotted Lanternfly may also interfere with outdoor recreation if the infestations reach high levels. Adult Spotted Lanternflies may swarm in late summer and fall. The insects do not bite or sting but are known to be a nuisance when they gather in large numbers and emit a sticky, sugary waste product, otherwise known as honeydew.

To report a Spotted Lanternfly sighting, go to <https://massnrc.org/pests/slfreport.aspx>.

To view a video with information, go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=229GTwmo_S&list=PLmQQV2mhy-YPIfOxaa_5sR_ehsvdoB67n.

More information on ways to manage an infestation at <https://massnrc.org/pests/linkedddocuments/SLFMgmtGuideMA.pdf>.

Look Before You Leave! The Spotted Lanternfly can attach itself to various items. Here is a link to a helpful checklist: <https://massnrc.org/pests/linkedddocuments/SLFChecklistForResidents.pdf>.

WEBSTER — Students and faculty of Saint Joseph School in Webster gathered at Saint Joseph Basilica on Friday, September 11, for a special Mass commemorating the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks that forever changed the nation.

The observance provided students with an opportunity to learn about the events of Sept. 11, 2001, remember the nearly 3,000 people whose lives were lost, honor the courage of first

responders, and pray for all who continue to protect and serve their communities and country.

Giorgios Sgouritsas opened the commemoration by reflecting on the significance the date now holds for Americans.

“Today, we come together to pray for and remember the victims and families of 9/11 on the 25th anniversary of that tragic day in our country’s history,” he said. “For years, 911 simply

meant a call for help. Now, those numbers also remind us of Sept. 11, 2001—the date of the worst terrorist attack on the United States of America and one of the deadliest days ever on American soil.”

Sgouritsas also explained the designation of Sept. 11 as Patriot Day and its later recognition as a National Day of Service and Remembrance. He reminded those gathered that Americans are called

not only to remember those who were lost, but also to honor them through prayer and service to others.

Kirollos Ibrahim continued the ceremony, saying, “We gather here today to honor and pray for those whose lives were forever changed on Sept. 11, 2001.”

As Ibrahim recalled the events of that day, four students reverently carried stars to the altar. Each star represented a different

Turn To ST. JOSEPH’S page A6

REAL ESTATE

AUBURN

\$1,882,500, 206 Southbridge St, 206 So Bridge Street LLC, to Kmk Capital Holding LLC.

\$617,800, 25 Vinal St #30, Mast Futures LLC, to Allain, Steven, and Allain, Rose.

\$539,000, 3 Brain Dr, Bissonnette, David F, and Bissonnette, Steven C, to Nrestatement Of The Ln Ft, and Lane, Nancy A.

\$365,500, 181 Boyce St, H2 Asset Solutions Inc, to Prc Const Company LLC.

\$300,000, 38 South St, McCallum Lt, and McCallum, David S, to Rotatori, Cassandra, and Rotatori, Anthony.

\$300,000, 7 Perry Pl, Sullivan Sally I Est, and O'Brien, Melissa A, to Sullivan, Brendan M.

\$279,000, 41Waterman Rd, Brick, Dawn E, to 4J Real Estate Group LLC.

DUDLEY

\$630,000, 22 Carpenter Rd, Wilson, Richard E, to Powers 3rd, Paul.

\$600,000, 71 Eagle Dr, Gorski, Martin, and Gorski, Lisa A, to Puccio, Kirsten Elissa, and Marhefka, John Howard.

\$512,629, 3 Chestnut St, Piazzarollo, David Dazili, to Delgado, Laura Santiago, and Valle, Roberto Rodriguez.

\$490,000, 14 Circle Dr, Labouef, Dorothy M, and Labouef, Robert D, to Loce, William George, and Kung, Susan.

\$450,000, 12 Charlton Rd, Lotter, Dennis D, to Ogboe, Precious Aghama, and Lator, Ifeanyi Larry.

\$355,000, 72 NW Schoolhouse Rd, Manchester Ent LLC, to Mugford, Scott Hall.

\$350,000, 27 Hall Rd, Dorothy Sosnowski Irt, and Sosnowski, Gary, to Morin, Joel, and Morin, Kaitlin.

\$212,500, 17 Corbin Rd, Gavaletz, Douglas B, and Gavaletz, Jennifer L, to Gavaletz, Jennifer.

\$112,500, W Main St, Alexander Apostol Ret, and Apostol, Alexander, to Labrec Rlty Solutions LLC.

\$60,000, Lynn Ln, Thibeault, Kevin J, and Thibeault, Linda K, to Rudnicki, Krzysztof W, and Rudnicki, Magda J.

OXFORD

\$740,000, 31 Fort Hill Rd, Tudor, Roger L, and Tudor, Patricia A, to Bergeron-Brytowski, R P, and Brytowski, Heather M B.

\$535,000, 6 Laurelwood Dr, Rumrill, Benjamin M, to Drummond, Corey.

\$475,000, 221 Main St, Swiss Cottage Mgmt Inc, to Long Run Prop Soln Inc.

\$420,000, 3 Henry Marsh Rd #B, Coy, Benjamin, and Coy, Ashley, to Mehugh, Danielle.

\$340,000, 12 Newton Ave, Latuga, Tara B, and Latuga, Gary P, to Silva, Luiza K Rodrigues.

\$271,300, 8 Meadowbrook Ct #8, H&M Investments LLC, to Finnegan, Stephanie.

\$220,000, 1535 Main St, Bell Point LLC, to White Pong Rd LLC.

WEBSTER

\$650,000, 175 Killdeer Rd, Jarosz, Pamela, to Hutchins Esperti Re LLC.

\$570,000, 201 Treasure Island Rd #201, Pnl Realty Corp, to Melnychuk, Andre J, and Melnychuk, Kelly E.

\$277,760, 10 Elm St, Rocket Mortgage LLC, to Rohena Inc.

\$248,500, 9 Humes St, Sudyka, Jan, and Sudyka, Malgorzata, to O'Brien, Michael T.

\$10,000, Westwood Rd, Ciesla, Thomas R, to Resq LLC.

Elks ride to support veterans

AUBURN — Elks throughout the state gathered in Auburn recently for its 19th Annual Veterans Motorcycle Run. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has a longstanding commitment to serving communities nationwide, with a particular focus on youth and veterans.

According to Massachusetts Elks Association President, David Charbonneau, of the Auburn Lodge No. 2118, “This run has become one of our association’s signature traditions. It’s loud, it’s proud, and carries the unmistakable spirit of Elksdom: patriotism, community, and service.”

Throughout its 19-year history, the motorcycle run has raised over \$200,000 for donations to various veteran service organizations throughout the state, including donating iPads to patients of veterans’ hospitals, equipment and accommodations for participants in the Adaptive Veterans Olympics, and personal assistance through

Operation Homefront in Boston. The funds raised have also provided therapeutic outdoor experiences to veterans, as well as installing Mobi mats at beaches to enable wheelchair or physically challenged veterans to cross the sand.

“The Elks pledge that so long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them,” states Michael Zellen, Past Grand Exalted Ruler and Massachusetts State Sponsor, of the Saugus-Everett Lodge No. 642. “The Elks in Massachusetts take that pledge one step further and promises service to our nations veterans and military members with a special focus on service to those in need.”

Tim Landry, of Gardner Lodge No. 1426, along with a group of dedicated members, set a goal to raise over \$10,000 for veterans services through this ride, and at the time of this writing, though the numbers are still being tallied,

stated that “we are over our goal.” Christopher Stannard, Exalted Ruler of Auburn Lodge No. 2118, was excited to host the ride this year, and looks forward to doing so again next year for the ride’s 20th Anniversary.

“Being a 12-year veteran myself...I understand how important it is to support, recog-

nize, and stand behind the men and women that have served our country,” said Stannard.

To learn more about the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and their services to veterans and the community, contact a local lodge near you, or go to www.elks.org.

TAX PREPARATION

Michael Jarominski
Certified Public Accountant
(508)864-3542
jarominskicpa@spectrum.net



Todd A. Ethier
B.U.I.L.D.E.R.

- REMODELING EXPERT
- PROFESSIONAL INSTALLED
- WINDOWS AND SIDING

774-230-3967
Quality Building Since 1985



HARVEY WINDOWS

◆ FINISHED BASEMENTS ◆ ADDITIONS ◆ KITCHENS ◆ BATHS ◆ GARAGES ◆ SIDING
◆ ROOFING ◆ DECKS ◆ WINDOWS ◆ DOORS ◆ AUTHORIZED HARVEY DEALER
◆ LICENSED & INSURED ◆ HONEST, CLEAN & DEPENDABLE

Poets at Large presents Knowles and Aeroelastic Flutter

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

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

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

Poets at Large has brought over 150 published and awarded poets to the area since 2020 and dozens of people have participated in the open mic portions during that time. Poets at Large is a project of Windham Arts. All events are ADA compliant and are recommended for ages 16 and up. Readings for the rest of the season are sponsored in part by donations from bankHometown, Charter Oak FCU, WHZ Financial and The Putnam Area Foundation. Contact karen.warinsky@gmail.com to sign up for the open mic; five-minute max as time allows.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



news@stonebridgepress.news



LOWEST PRICES • FULL SERVICE

Serving Worcester County for almost 60 years!

Shrewsbury's Own...



www.alsoil.com

We accept most major credit cards

24-HOUR EXPERT BURNER SERVICE • 508-753-7221

Friday's Child



Michael
Age 14
Registration #6309

Michael, who prefers to be called Mikey, is a bright, friendly, and lovable young man with a wonderful sense of humor. He has a warm and joyful personality that can light up a room, and his smile and laughter are truly contagious. Mikey has a natural ability to make others laugh and connect with the people around him. Mikey is very curious and loves asking questions when there is something he doesn't understand. He is an avid reader, especially enjoying book series that allow him to get immersed in different stories and adventures. He is currently in 8th grade and is a bright and capable student, though he may occasionally need some support staying focused on his schoolwork. Mikey also has a creative and adventurous side. He is a great dancer, although he can be a little self-conscious when others are watching, and he is learning to play the guitar. He recently played on a football team and absolutely loved it, proving to be an excellent player. When he's not playing sports, Mikey enjoys fishing, hiking, camping, and spending time outdoors. With his curiosity, sense of humor, and infectious personality, Mikey is a wonderful young man who is sure to bring joy to those around him.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22549117966>
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.



PEPIN
WASTE SERVICE

Your Local Roll-Off Specialist

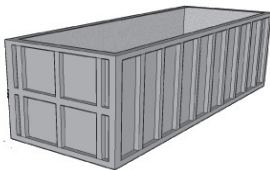


FALL
SPECIAL

\$375

10 yd. Rental 1 Ton

3 sizes available. Call for pricing.



10-15-20 Yd.

Roll Off Containers
Weekend Dumpsters
for the Homeowner
Houses • Attics • Cellars
Construction Sites

508-892-4193 • Leicester, MA

Fully Insured





A STONEBRIDGE PRESS WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
25 ELM STREET, SOUTHBRIDGE MA 01550
TEL. (508) 764-4325 • FAX (508) 764-8015
www.StonebridgePress.com

FRANK G. CHILINSKI
STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

One person can make a cleaner community

There are some community problems that seem so large and persistent that it is tempting to assume they belong to somebody else. Litter is one of them.

A discarded bottle along a roadside, a plastic bag caught in the brush or debris floating along the shoreline can seem insignificant by itself. Multiply those items across miles of streets, neighborhoods and waterways, however, and the scale of the problem becomes much clearer.

Webster resident Linda Sopp decided to do something about it.

Sopp was recognized this month with the Webster Conservation Commission’s Environmental Leadership Award, an honor given annually to individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to protecting the town’s natural resources. It is a fitting recognition for someone who has turned concern for the environment into organized community action.

An avid kayaker and lakeside homeowner, Sopp could have limited her efforts to picking up whatever litter she encountered during her own trips around Webster Lake. Instead, she recognized that lasting progress would require more people working together.

That realization led to Keep Webster Beautiful, an official chapter of Keep Massachusetts Beautiful focused on litter prevention, waste reduction and improving the appearance of the community.

The results are measured partly in thousands of pounds of trash and debris removed from local roads and the Webster Lake watershed. Those numbers matter. Every piece of litter removed is something that will no longer wash into a storm drain, collect along a shoreline or remain beside a neighborhood road. Yet the more important measure may be the number of people Sopp has encouraged to participate.

Environmental stewardship works best when it becomes a community habit rather than the project of a handful of dedicated individuals. By organizing volunteers, developing a steering committee and involving young people, Sopp has helped establish a framework that can continue well beyond a single cleanup day.

That involvement of younger residents is particularly important. Children and teenagers who spend a Saturday morning picking litter from a roadside are likely to look at that roadside differently afterward. They see firsthand both how quickly careless actions can damage a shared space and how much improvement can be accomplished when neighbors work together.

Webster will have another opportunity to put that principle into practice during a town-wide cleanup planned for Saturday, Oct. 3. High school students, residents and other volunteers are expected to participate in clearing debris from local streets and shorelines. It is the sort of civic activity that deserves broad participation.

Keeping a community clean should not fall entirely upon municipal employees, conservation officials or a dedicated group of volunteers. Public spaces belong to everyone, and caring for them is one of the simplest ways residents can demonstrate pride in the place they call home.

There is also something encouraging about environmental work at this scale. Large environmental challenges can sometimes feel distant or overwhelming. Cleaning a neighborhood street, protecting a local wetland or removing trash from Webster Lake is tangible. The difference can be seen at the end of the day.

Sopp’s Environmental Leadership Award recognizes considerable work already accomplished, but its greater value may be in the example it provides.

One person noticed a problem. She organized others. Those people recruited still more neighbors and students. Thousands of pounds of debris were removed, and a community organization took root. That is how lasting civic improvement often begins.

Webster is fortunate to have residents willing to provide that first push. The best way to honor their efforts is for others to pick up a pair of gloves, grab a trash bag and help carry the work forward.

Viewpoint

Auburn Grange #60

BY HELEN POIRIER
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The national Grange was organized in 1867 in Washington, D.C. and was originally called Order of Patrons of Husbandry. Its purpose was to support farmers in their social and economic conditions, especially after the Civil War. It was a way to share agricultural knowledge and advocate for farmers’ rights. It became a way for the farmers to unite as a political force to address issues like railroad regulation and agricultural education. It also allowed for community building and support, offer social events and highlight the latest innovations in farming. Today the Grange has broadened its focus on various social issues and invites members beyond just farmers. It still promotes agricultural interests and service activities.

The Auburn Grange started to organize in 1874, and by January 1875 had 56 members and were meeting at town hall on Thursday evenings. The annual election results done in January 1876 showed that John W. Hicks was Worthy Master, D.W. Darling -overseer, S.P. Perry -lecturer, Samuel B. Eddy – Steward, Frank Nye- assistant steward; J. Ed. Algier- chaplain; David Whitney -treasurer; L.L. Hicks- secretary, Willie Stone -gate keeper; Mrs. D.W. Darling- Ceres; Miss Emma Stone- Pomona; Miss Annie Eddy- Flors, and Miss Mary Marsh- lady assistant steward.

Jan. 12, 1978, the Worcester County Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry annual meeting was at Horticultural Hall. There were 600 members with delegations from Worcester, Barre, Auburn, Paxton, Phillipston, Sterling Harvard, Holden, Grafton, Warren, W. Brookfield, Spencer, Princeton, Hardwick, Petersham and Charlton. Elections were held with Thomas S. Eaton from Auburn, elected Treasurer. Addresses were made by John W. Hicks, with select readings by Mrs. Elia Newton and singing by the Quartetts [sic] of Auburn. In August of that year 250 people attended the “field meeting”, with Granges from Worcester, Shrewsbury and Grafton that was held on James Algers’ s farm. The program consisted of speeches by Mr. Wetherell editor of the Boston Cultivator, Rev. Elnathan B. Hadwen of Worcester Grange, J.E. Waters of Millbury, Mr. O.B. Hadwen of Worc., member of the state board of agriculture, A.W. Cheevers of the N.E. Farmer, Boston, Mr. O.B. Hadwen of Worcester and a member of state board, John W. Hicks past master of Auburn Grange, George H. Mellish formerly of Auburn now living in New York, Joseph P. Eaton, Samuel A. Newton & W.L. Sibley of Auburn. Discussions were held on labor and financial questions which opposed the Butler theory of inflation as a cure for the evils of the time; and in favor of a paper currency down to the limit of having a solid representative gold basis, and more union effort to promote their own interests. The Worcester Grange Glee Club directed by Mr. G.C. Rice and music by

the North Oxford Brass Band entertained the gathering. Mr. Alger was able to highlight the part of his land near the Norwich RR with 20 acres set aside for house lots laid out on soon to be streets, Chestnut, Andrews, Williams, Charles and Grove. One of the lots sold to Fran A. Nichols. Alger had his annual party for railroad engineers on Aug. 31. The arrangements done by the master mechanic of the Boston & Abany Railroad and included the superintendent, Hon. Ginery [sic] Twitchell and other officers.

Through the years the Auburn Grange #60 contributed to the beautification of the town. In December of 1876, it was decided to plant trees around the town common in spring and it was finished in November. Next, the School House #2 was done with the intention of doing all schools. In the winter there were weekly or fortnight meetings with a lecture series done by Professor Stockbridge of the Mass Agricultural College.

There have been many prominent town families involved in the Grange. In 1900 G.M. Allen was elected as Master, along with William Gilber - overseer, Joel Prouty- Secretary, Lecturer M.L. Henry, and steward was William Barrows.

Abbie Wiley was a 70-year-old member and served as its chaplain for 52 years. George W. Warden was dairy farmer who owned and operated a farm on Millbury Street was a 68-year member serving as a past master.

Dorothy Warden 65-year member and past master and was secretary of the Auburn Grange for 35 years and was active in the Grange until her death in 1988.

Howard “Bud” Stone was a 67-year member, Agnes M. (Goldsberry) Warden over 75 years, Clifton Stone was past master and past lecturer with a 50-year membership and Alfreda L. Warren, Donald O. Prouty, Anna G. Mars Howe, Raynard E. Witcher, Mildred J. Knowlton Bjork, Emma C. Conroy Whitney just to name a few.

The Auburn Grange 60 had its last meeting in 2007 at Camp Gleason. Earlier in the year there were 25 remaining members that decided the time had come to “close the doors” after 133 years. Avis B. Britton, 81, was interviewed for an article in the Worcester T & G. Along with her husband Benjamin, who was the steward at the time, the remaining members would join other Granges in the areas like Charlton. When it disbanded the Grange distributed about \$5,000 to be shared by the Auburn Public Library, Auburn Youth and Family Services and the Auburn Historical Society.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Which freedoms would you be willing to forfeit?

To the Editor:

To be clear, democracy is a team endeavor. It can truthfully be called a sport because every individual can play a role as long as it supports our 250-year form of government. When minority interests make up an opposing team all of us have an obligation to be understood as agile learners and realistically understand what we are faced with going forward. We are faced with loss of democracy and the growth of fascism.

In 2026, there is virtually a plethora of independent media sources that have not yet been taken over by our growing autocracy. There is ample consensus and factual backed evidence for the consistent reporting on current federal government impacts since Jan. 20, 2025. The impacts are not insignificant because they include the forfeiture of many of our freedoms and earned rights. Examples are the right to vote by mail and without intimidation, the right of due process guaranteed for all under the constitution, the right of free speech and assembly to speak truth to power, the right to live without government surveillance, the freedoms that come from separation of church and state as detailed in the constitution and many more. We all have the right to elect leaders who respect the constitution and resist corruption and intentional chaos.

Norman Rockwell summarized four important and fundamental freedoms very well in paintings during World War II timeframe. Freedom from Want, Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Worship, Freedom of Fear. That too was a time where we as US Citizens supported everyone who was fighting the growth of fascism. The paintings are iconic and timeless, particularly in New England. In November, it will be useful to reflect briefly on which of those freedoms individuals are willing to forfeit when they engage in the democratic duty of voting on Nov. 3.

BILL MAY
DUDLEY

The chair that knows summer is over

There is a chair sitting in my backyard that knows something I have been refusing to admit. Summer is over.

Technically, I suppose there are arguments to be made about calendars and equinoxes. I am not interested in them. The chair has rendered its verdict.

It is one of those outdoor chairs that spent most of June, July and August getting dragged around the yard. Sometimes it was on the patio. Sometimes it migrated under a tree. Occasionally it wound up near the grill, where I would sit with a cold drink and offer completely unnecessary supervision to whatever was cooking.

For three months, that chair had a purpose. Now it sits there alone. I walked past it the other morning and realized nobody had occupied it in at least two weeks.

This is how September works in New England. Summer does not really end. We simply stop using summer things. Nobody holds a ceremony for the garden hose. One day, it is stretched across the lawn because the tomatoes need water. A few weeks later, it is still lying there, except now you step over it and think, “I really ought to put that away.” You do not put it away. You simply continue thinking about putting it away until sometime in October, when the weather forecast contains a word such as “freeze,” and suddenly the garden hose becomes an emergency.

The same thing happens with the citronella candle. Back in July, that candle was essential equipment. It sat proudly on the table, bravely defending civilization from mosquitoes. Now it contains three drowned moths, two leaves and approximately half an inch of rainwater.

Still, I cannot throw it away. There is wax left. That is how they get you.

My wife has begun making subtle observations about the collection of summer equipment lingering around the house.

“Are you going to put those chairs away?”

Eventually.

“What about the fan in the bedroom?”

Still warm occasionally.

“The cooler?”

Could need it.

“For what?”

You never know.

This is not procrastination. It is seasonal caution.

Anyone who has lived in Massachusetts long enough knows that September cannot be trusted. It will give you a 48-degree morning, convince you to locate a sweat-shirt, then produce an afternoon warm enough to make you regret every decision you have made since breakfast.

So we hesitate. The window fan stays upstairs. The rake comes out, but the lawn mower remains ready. There might be a pumpkin on the front steps while a beach towel is still hanging in the garage. This is the only time of year when the household inventory makes absolutely no sense.

Eventually, of course, autumn wins. The chairs get folded. The hose gets drained. The grill gets used less often. That forgotten bottle of sunscreen gets moved somewhere mysterious, where nobody will be able to find it next Memorial Day. But I am not quite ready yet. The chair can stay out another week.

Maybe we’ll get one of those unexpectedly warm September afternoons. Maybe I’ll sit outside for a while with a cup of coffee and enjoy the yard before the leaves really start coming down. Or maybe I won’t. Either way, putting the chair away feels a little too much like admitting something. And around here, summer deserves at least a decent argument before we let it go.

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.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!

Email Us @

news@stonebridgepress.news



GLADYS E. KELLY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!

Want to receive updates about our upcoming events? Sign up for email alerts by visiting our website or contacting our Assistant Director, Evan Hale, at ehale@cwmars.org

Special Events

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

Enjoy local hors d'oeuvres, beverages, music, and books in bloom. A magical night of stunning floral displays inspired by books, plus local food and live music! Proceeds benefit the Friends of the library.

SNHU announces summer Dean's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Summer 2026 Dean's List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Samya Alves of Dudley
Nicole Faulkner of Dudley
Eryk Chamberlin of Webster
Roberto Lopez of Webster
Robert Bombard of Webster
Kaitlin Littleton of Oxford
Jillian Stapleton of Auburn
Kelly Szafarowicz of Auburn

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 94-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, New Hampshire. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

SNHU announces summer President's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Summer 2026 President's List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Jordan Keefe of Dudley
Florah Migwi of Dudley
Emma Snow of Oxford
Alexa Desantis of Webster
Tatiana Landin of Oxford
Alyssa Tomaszewicz of Oxford
Christian Collette of Oxford
Alexis Megas of Dudley
Mark Bennett of Webster
Duane Day Jr of Oxford
Basil Larkai of Dudley
Spencer Byrnes of Oxford
Christian Roman of Oxford
Will Cardinal of Auburn

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 94-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, New Hampshire. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

This is a ticketed event. You must purchase a ticket to participate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yoga – Saturdays at 9:15am

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

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

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

Join us for a low pressure evening where you can sit and write creatively with others in a cozy setting. There will be prompts available, and time to share and discuss our projects, or just chat about the writing process, but sharing is not required. Bring something you are currently working on, or start something new! Snacks and drinks will be available.

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

Ready to get comfortable using a computer? This six-week course

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

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

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

Sultana Performs The American Story in Song – Thursday, October 1st at 6:30PM

In their new program, The American Story in Song, created for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the duo Sultana weaves history, original songs, and a slideshow for a unique and fun

look at U.S. history and legends. It is a story of heroes and celebrities, immigrants and indigenous peoples, injustices and progress. Visits are paid to a legendary heroine, a sports superstar, a technological feat, a media circus and much more. The program is part of the series "Live Music Making History Live."

Programming for All Ages

Library for All: Crafts – Mondays and Fridays at 10am

Library for All is an inclusive program for teens and adults of all abilities and their caregivers. Please let us know if you need any special accommodations! Join us every Monday and Friday! September-February, the crafts will rotate between coloring and painting. We'll provide the space and supplies, you bring the creativity!

Marigold Seed Harvesting – Tuesday, October 6th at 4:30PM

Join Miss Rita from the Garden Committee for a marigold seed harvesting program! You will begin in the garden to collect the dried flowers, and then Miss Rita will demonstrate how to harvest the seeds for your future enjoyment. This program is open to all ages and registration is required.

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

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

Creators Club – Mondays at 4:00pm

Come explore our Creators Club, where each month features a new theme highlighting a different art supply for kids to experiment with and turn into their own masterpieces!

Tiny Groovers – Tuesdays at 10:30am

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

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

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

STEM Beginnings: Young Scientists – Thursdays starting 10/1, 10:30AM

Children, ages 3-6, with a parent/caregiver will learn STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) concepts through hands-on activities, storytime, challenges, and simple experiments in this weekly STEM series facilitated by STEM Beginnings. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to help their child and join in the fun during each class! Siblings are welcome and must be supervised. Registration is required. "Young Scientists" is sponsored by the YMCA Family & Community Partnership (YFCP), a Massachusetts Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) Grant program funded by the Department of Early Education & Care and awarded to the YMCA of Central Massachusetts.

WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

5 Church St.
(508) 949-3845
Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov

Senior Center hours are Monday-Friday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

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

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least three business days in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation for 65 and up, and \$5 for 55- 64 is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday,

9/22: Chicken Fajitas, Spanish rice, black beans and corn. Wednesday, 9/23: Lasagna and meatballs with marinara sauce, Tuscan vegetables. Thursday, 9/24: Beef with onions and peppers, gemelli pasta, broccoli. Friday, 9/25: Soup du jour, ham salad sandwich, macaroni salad.

Need Transportation? Contact SCM Elderbus at 1-800-321-0243 at least two business days in advance to schedule transportation. Elderbus is available Mondays- Fridays 8:30 am- 3:00 pm.

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

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

Fridays by appointment only from 10:00 am- 3:00 pm. Please call (508) 341-8724 to schedule an appointment.

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

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

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

We offer Movies every Wednesday afternoon at 1:00 pm! September's movie will be 'Indiscreet' on 9/23, and 'Thunder Road' on 9/30

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

Calling card players or

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

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

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

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

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

**For Advertising Information
Call 774-200-7308
email:
mikaela@stonebridgepress.news**

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Sept. 13-19.

Kelly Ann Lesage, age 60, of Lady Lake, Fla. Was arrested on Sept. 15 for Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon against a person over the age of 60 and Assault & Batter on a person over the age of 60 and/or disabled.

A 21-year-old male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Sept. 16 for Intimidation of a Witness, Juror, Police Officer, or Court Official, Larceny From a Person, and multiple counts of Vandalization of Property.

Sean Michael Orgel, age 54, of Webster was arrested on Sept. 19 in connection with a warrant.



Courtesy

At Webster Town Hall on Monday, Sept. 14, Rep. Joe McKenna presented Webster with the 250th Anniversary Replica of the Declaration of Independence. Right to left: Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director Courtney Friedland, Selectman Mark Rogers, Representative Joseph McKenna, Selectman Tom Klebart, Selectman Elaine Davies, and Selectman Scott Dziedzic.

ST. JOSEPH'S

continued from page A1

group of victims and heroes whose lives and sacrifices remain part of the nation's collective memory.

Logan Silverman presented the first star as the school community remembered all those whose lives were forever changed by the attacks. Annelise Palaia carried the second star in remembrance of those who died at the World Trade Center in New York City. Liam Dvoryaninov presented the third star as the community remembered those killed at the Pentagon and the families and friends who faced the painful reality that their loved ones would not return home.

Natalia Androlewicz carried the fourth star as the school honored the 40 passengers and crew members aboard Flight 93 who courageously resisted the hijackers. Their actions prevented the plane from reaching its intended target before it crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

The ceremony also paid tribute to the firefighters, police officers, emergency medical personnel, and Port Authority officers who

rushed toward danger to rescue others. Their selflessness provided students with a powerful example of courage, sacrifice, and service to one's neighbor.

Jewelanna Stepka concluded the observance with a prayer for the victims, their families, and all those who continue to serve in public safety and the military.

"Holy God, as we remember those who died that day, we also remember those who stand ready to go into the heart of the ruin for us today," she prayed. "Put Your great arms of protection around all our firefighters, police officers, and members of our military who stand in our stead to protect our lives, our property, our community, and our country. Grant them protection and cover them with Your amazing grace. Amen."

Rev. Richard Polek, headmaster of Saint Joseph School and pastor of Saint Joseph Basilica, served as celebrant. During his homily, Fr. Richard asked students to pray for those who lost their lives, those who continue to grieve, and the first responders who courageously serve and protect

others.

He reminded students that, although many people understandably felt anger and wanted revenge following the attacks, something powerful also happened: people came together in faith and prayer. Fr. Richard encouraged the students to remember that Jesus calls everyone to choose goodness and kindness — always, even during times of sadness, anger, and uncertainty.

Charlotte Dollar, Andrew Hachigian, and Julianna Androlewicz also participated in the Mass.

The ceremony was organized by Grade 7 home-room teacher Miss Lillian Krynski and Curriculum Coordinator Mrs. Karen Lefebvre. Through their efforts and the participation of the students, the observance ensured that a generation born long after September 11, 2001, would understand the importance of remembering those who were lost, honoring those who responded, and praying for peace.

Although 25 years have passed, the Saint Joseph School community remains committed to ensuring that the victims and heroes of Sept. 11 are never forgotten.

SOPP

continued from page A1

up with local high school students and neighbors to roll up their sleeves and clear debris from Webster's streets and shorelines.

Sopp's efforts are a pow-

erful reminder that while an individual can clean a shoreline, an organized movement can transform a town. Her passion and hard work serve as a wonderful inspiration for future environmental leaders across our community.

To learn more about the upcoming Oct. 3 cleanup, see photos of the team's incredible progress, or find out how you can get involved, please visit the Keep Webster Beautiful Facebook page!

Park Avenue Curriculum Highlight



Courtesy

Pamela Minarik (2nd Grade Teacher at PAE) listens to a student talk about safe hands in the hallway!

WEBSTER — At Park Ave, we are fortunate to have such a dedicated and hardworking team of teachers. Our teachers put countless hours into developing engaging lesson plans, meaningful learning experiences, and classroom routines and procedures that help our school run smoothly. We want to celebrate these curriculum highlights and recognize the incredible work our teachers do every day for our students.

One important part of that work is practicing routines. Routines include the small things students do throughout the school day, and taking the time to practice them helps students build habits and understand expectations.

We have already seen many great examples at Park Ave Elementary School. Second-grade teacher Pamela Minarik turned hallway expectations into a game by having students practice what they should do with their hands while walking in the hallway. First-grade teacher Stephanie Lit practiced getting up, retrieving laptops, and returning to their seats with her students, helping them understand exactly what the routine should look like.

Our Kindergarten team spent time during the first week of school practicing how to walk in a line, helping our youngest students learn how to move safely and respectfully throughout the building.

Third - grade teacher Jacob Bond practiced specific stopping points in the hallway with his students — places where students need to stop, regroup, and recalibrate before entering a particular classroom or learning space.

Our fourth-grade team has also been working hard to help students understand when it is appropriate to maintain a Level 0 voice. By practicing and reinforcing what Level 0 looks and sounds like, students are learning to recognize when silence is expected and to respect the learning environment around them.

"A few minutes spent practicing routines can save valuable instructional time later while creating a calmer, safer, and more predictable school environment," said Assistant Principal Jessica Ochocki, or Ms. O, as the students know her.

Ms. O works with Kindergarten on a daily basis and sees firsthand the importance of establishing routines with our youngest learners.

These examples demonstrate the intentional work our teachers are doing to build routines into the school day. Whether it is getting laptops, going to the lavatory, getting materials, lining up, transitioning, maintaining a Level 0, or moving through the hallway, practice helps students develop habits and become more successful and independent.

Thank you to everyone at Park Ave for your dedication, hard work, and commitment to our students. The time and effort you put into preparing, teaching, practicing, and reinforcing these routines makes a tremendous difference every day. We appreciate everything you do!



Community Connection

Morin JEWELERS
Fine Jewelry & Gifts

The Jewelry store where you buy with confidence

WE BUY GOLD

Specializing in Custom Designs
All types of Jewelry Repairs

MASTER JEWELERS™
BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®

409 Main St. Southbridge, MA
morinjewelers.com • 508-764-7250
Located at CVS Plaza

Charlton Oil
Propane

508-248-9797

Don't Pay Too Much for Propane

PROPANE	PRICE PER GAL	PROPANE	PRICE PER GAL	Tanks Filled to 80%
0-50	\$4.99	301-500	\$2.25	
50-75	\$3.49	500 PLUS	\$2.10	
76-150	\$2.95	Duel Fuel	\$3.75	Driver Discretion
151-300	\$2.55	Drop off Tanks	\$3.00	

DON'T PAY TOO MUCH FOR OIL!
Wednesday price 9/21/26 was **\$5.75** per gallon*
100 gallon minimum
ONLINE ORDERING NOW AVAILABLE AT www.charltonoil.com

"Call Us First!"
*prices subject to change

Crooked Creek Farm
East Brookfield, Massachusetts

Stock up now!

Retail Cuts, Quarter, & Half sides of Beef Available!

To purchase your meat packages
CALL/TEXT: (774) 200-7308
www.crookedcreekfarmma.org

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY!

PLUMBING

JOHN DALY PLUMBING
The Homeowners Plumber, SINCE 1988

Faucets, Toilets, Pipe Repair, Garbage Disposals, Sinks, Vanities, Shower Valves, Outside Hose Connections, New Kitchen Sink Strainers and Undersink Re-Pipes, Sump Pumps, Sink Drain Cleaning,
Buy What You Like And I Will Install.

Fully Licensed And Insured, License Number MPL-21763-J
Call 508 304 7816 • jdrainman714@aol.com

For Advertising Information Call 774-200-7308 email: mikaela@stonebridgepress.news



Courtesy

The Shepherd Hill Regional High School Class of 1976 held its 50th reunion in the Pinnacle Room at Point Breeze restaurant in Webster on Labor Day weekend, Sept. 5. The names of classmates in the photo are, left to right, sequentially, front and back (using the classmates names at graduation): Joan Szlyk, Lynn Gelineau, Mindy Ditch, Paul Pikora, Dave McCloud, Kathy May, Mark Bessette, Pauline Williams, Gail VanLeuvan, Nancy Burgess, Lori Wilson, Denise Gagnon, Barbara Thom, JoAnn Tyree, Mary Pitak, April Didonato, Mark O'Connor, Doreen Ziemski, Joanne Thompson, Diane Duval, Greg Bruell, Cindy Piehl, Nancy Deary, Donald Paciorkowski, Jody Walters, Brian Biernacki, Carol Grzyb, John Jarocz, Dave Meehan, John Sielawa, Alan Pakulski, Mark Roberts, Anne Marie Plouffe, Suzanne Blaire and Marie McMuray.

OXFORD — Join Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf volunteers and others on Sunday, Oct. 18, for the annual Crop Hunger Walk. Everyone is welcome! The walk begins at the First Congregational Church, 355 Main St., Oxford, at 1 pm. Please arrive at 12:30 p.m. to sign in and gather to walk an easy three and a half miles through Oxford together. A small monetary donation is suggested.

We're looking to raise \$4,000 this year, which will help stock the shelves of the Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf, Oxford's community food pantry, in the weeks ahead.

To participate, go to: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/event/oxfordma> and follow the steps from there, or just show up on the 18th. Volunteers will be at the church to help you get started.

For more information, check the Oxford Food Shelf page on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/OxfordMAFoodShelf>) or call 508-987-1062.

The Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf is a free non-profit food pantry in Oxford MA. We are available to every resident in Oxford who needs groceries to help feed themselves or their family.

Thank you for your continued support of the Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf.

A black and white portrait of a middle-aged man with a mustache, wearing a dark suit jacket, white shirt, and dark tie. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera. The portrait is set within a white border.

Francis "Skip" Szczepanski

WEBSTER — Francis N. “Skip” Szczepanski expressed his love of the natural world and beauty of flowers, not only in the loving care and the enjoyment of tending his home garden, but also in creating Library’s annual fundraiser, Bites, Books, and Blooms. “Skip” Szczepanski’s work will be on display in the Community Room at the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library through Oct. 13.

Dudley Cultural Council accepting grant applications

DUDLEY — The Dudley Cultural Council is accepting grant applications from qualified local organizations, schools, and individuals for community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs.

Application submission ends on Oct. 15. Applications may support a variety of artistic projects and activities in Dudley including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies, or performances in schools, workshops, and lectures.

Dudley Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils representing every city and town in the Commonwealth. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

This year, the Dudley Cultural Council will distribute \$12,000 in grants.

Mass Cultural Council online application and processing information may be found at

<https://massculturalcouncil.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program/application-process/>.

Dudley Cultural Council application guidelines and priorities may be found at <https://massculturalcouncil.org/local-council/dudley>.

NAI Glickman Kovago & Jacobs

25 ELM STREET | SOUTHBRIDGE, MA Listed For Auction

**To be Auctioned to the highest bidder.
Two-Day Auction Starts October 5th, 2026.
For details, go to [Crexi.com](https://crexi.com)**

- Historical building, also known as Tiffany-Leonard House, built in 1832
- Large Executive Offices with Elegant Finishes and High Ceilings
- Large Open Concept Cubicle Areas

- Building size: 9,536 SF
- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished

JONAH D. GLICKMAN
Vice President

508-868-3765
jdglickman@glickmankovago.com

JAMES GLICKMAN
Principal

508-769-5007
jglickman@glickmankovago.com

LEGALS

**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. WO26P3068EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
**Raymond S. Shivick
Date of Death: 08/15/2026**
To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Cynthia L. Shivick of Blairsville, GA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: .
Cynthia L. Shivick of Blairsville, GA 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 10/20/2026**. 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 17, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
September 25, 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 Wayne R. Miller and Carol M. Miller to Beneficial Massachusetts, Inc., dated April 23, 2004, and recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 33459, Page 156, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by an assignment of mortgage from Beneficial Massachusetts Inc., by Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. as Attorney in Fact, to DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc., dated October 30, 2017, and recorded at said Deeds in Book 57976, Page 229; by an assignment of mortgage from DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc. by Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. its Attorney In Fact, to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Legal Title Trustee for BCAT 2019-22TT, dated October 7, 2022, and recorded at said Deeds in Book 68376, Page 276; by an assignment of mortgage from Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Legal Title Trustee for BCAT 2019-22TT, by Meridian Asset Services, LLC, its Attorney-In-Fact, to Citibank, N.A., as Trustee for CMLTI Asset Trust, dated February 6, 2025, and recorded at said Deeds in Book 71669, Page 222; by an assignment of mortgage from Citibank, N.A., as Trustee for CMLTI Asset Trust, by Fay Servicing, LLC, its Attorney-In-Fact, to US Bank Trust National Association as Trustee for Pad Annex Series VI Trust, dated May 8, 2026, and recorded at said Deeds in Book 73589, Page 231. For breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 P.M. on the 21st day of October 2026, at 12 Dragon Road, Webster, MA 01570, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,
To wit:
FIRST TRACT: A TRACT OF LAND SITUATED IN WEBSTER WHICH IS BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO WIT: BEGINNING AT A BLACK OAK TREE BEING THE SOUTHWESTERLY CORNER OF ONE BIXBY’S LAND, NOW OR FORMERLY; THENCE E. 21 DEGREES N.; THENCE FROM THE SAME CORNER N. 10 DEGREES 30’

E. TO RUN AN EQUAL DISTANCE ON EACH OF SAID LINES AND COURSES, A SUFFICIENT DISTANCE; TO INCLUDE TWO (2) ACRES BY A STRAIGHT LINE CUTTING ACROSS ABOVE WRITTEN; BOUNDED NOW OR FORMERLY SOUTH ON LAND OF CAP. JEREMIAH KINGSBURY, WEST ON LARNED, EASTERLY ON SAID BIXBY.
SECOND TRACT: A TRACT OF LAND SITUATED ON THE EASTERLY SIDE OF CEMETERY STREET, AND IS BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A WALL IN THE EASTERLY LINE OF SAID CEMETERY STREET AT THE NORTHWESTERLY CORNER OF THE GRANTED PREMISES: THENCE EASTERLY BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF MORES LARNED AS THE WELL AND FENCE BOUNDED ON SAID LARNED LAND, NOW STAND TO A FENCE; THENCE TURNING AND RUNNING SOUTHERLY BY LAND FORMERLY OF WLADYSLAW AND JOSEPHINE WACKIEWICZ AND AS THE WALL AND FENCE BOUNDED ON LAND OF SAID WLADYSLAW AND JOSEPHINE WACKIEWICZ AND OF H.W. SLATER ESTATE AND OTHERS NOW STAND TO A FENCE. THENCE TURNING AND RUNNING WESTERLY AS THE WALL AND FENCE NOW STAND AND BY SAID SLATER LAND TO CEMETERY STREET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. CONTAINING ABOUT 25 ACRES AND BEING THE FIRST DESCRIBED TRACT RECORDED IN BOOK 1912, PAGE 480 IN WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS.
BOTH TRACTS BEING THE SAME PREMISES AS DESCRIBED IN BOOK 2903 PAGE 382, EXCEPT FOR THE PREMISES CONVEYED IN BOOK 3025 PAGE 557; BOOK 3126 PAGE 509; BOOK 3237 PAGE 175; BOOK 3412 PAGE 212; BOOK 3763 PAGE 329; BOOK 3880 PAGE 533; BOOK 4023 PAGE 191; AND IN BOOK 4476 PAGE 310.
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.
U.S Bank Trust National Association as Trustee for Pad Annex Series VI Trust, Present holder of said mortgage,
By its Attorneys,
Demerle & Associates P.C.
10 City Square, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02129
(617) 337-4444
September 25, 2026
October 2, 2026
October 9, 2026

**Public Notice
MARICOPA COUNTY SUPERIOR
COURT**
Petitioner’s Name: Christopher Ngari
Mailing Address:
30117 W Weldon Ave
City, State, Zip: Buckeye, AZ 85396
Phone Number: 774-242-6781
Petitioner’s Name:
Christopher Ngari
Case Number: FN2026-070585
SUMMONS
Respondent’s Name: Nancy Frandsen
THE STATE OF ARIZONA TO :
Nancy Frandsen
YOU ARE SUMMONED and required to appear and defend within the time applicable in this action in this court. If served in Arizona, you shall appear and defend within 20 days of service on you of the Summons and Petition, excluding the day of service. If served outside of Arizona, you shall appear and defend within 30 days of service on you of the Summons and Petition, excluding the day of service. Direct service is complete when made. Service by publication is complete 30 days after the first publication.
If you fail to appear and defend within the time applicable, judgment by de-

fault may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition. In order to appear and defend, you must file a Response in writing with the clerk of this court, accompanied by the necessary filing fee, within the time required, and you must serve a copy of any Response on the Petitioner. A copy of the pleading being served may be obtained from the Clerk of Superior Court, Maricopa County Courthouse, 201 W Jefferson St, Phoenix, AZ 85003.
Requests for reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities must be made to the court by parties at least three (3) working days in advance of a scheduled court proceeding. If this is an annulment, divorce, or legal separation, either party can ask the court for counseling or mediation to try to reconcile or to come to agreements about the case outside of court. You can find a form at the Law Library. Leave this blank. This is for the court to fill in.
SIGNED AND SEALED this date: May 11, 2026
Clerk of Superior Court
Revised May 2024
Clerk of Superior Court
By Deputy Clerk: /s/
September 11, 2026
September 18, 2026
September 25, 2026

**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. WO26P2724EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
**Mark A Thibodeau
Date of Death: 07/07/2026**
To all interested persons:

A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Sherry L McWhorter of N Brookfield 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: .
Sherry L McWhorter of N Brookfield 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 10/13/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 15, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
September 25, 2026

**A.C. 75A
COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
The Trial Court
Worcester. SS
Probate Court
WO25P1447EA**
To all persons interested in the estate of Norman C. Wagher late of Webster, *in said County, deceased*. A petition has been presented to said Court for authority to sell at private sale - certain real estate of said deceased. If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the thirteenth day of October 2026, the return day of this citation. Witness, Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court, this fifteenth day of September 2026
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
September 25, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family
Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO26P2933PM
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF
CONSERVATOR OR
OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER
PURSUANT TO
G. L.c. 1908, § 5-304 & § 5-405
In the matter of:
Michael McLaurin
Of: Webster, MA
RESPONDENT**
(Person to be Protected/Minor)

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Michael McLaurin Jr of Arcata, CA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Michael McLaurin** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Mark McLaurin of Baltimore, MD (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance 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 file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
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 08, 2026
Stephanie K. Fattman
September 25, 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. WO26P2946EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
Estate Of:
**Kurt Andrew Johnson, Sr.
Also Known As:
Kurt Johnson
Date of Death: May 7, 2026**
To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Kurt A. Johnston, Jr. of Hubbardston MA**
Kurt A. Johnston, Jr. of Hubbardston MA has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
September 25, 2026

LEGALS

Department of Environmental Protection
Waterways Regulation Program
Notice of License Application pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 91
Application Number 26-WW01-0097-APP

Applicant: Women's Health Realty, LLC
Project Location: 325 Thompson Road, waters of Webster Lake, Webster, Worcester County
Notification Date: September 25, 2026
Public Comment Deadline: October 26, 2026

Public notice is hereby given of the Chapter 91 License application by Women's Health Realty, LLC to authorize and reconstruct an existing marina and establish a marina reconfiguration zone within waters of Webster Lake, Webster, Worcester County. The proposed project has preliminarily been determined to be a Water-Dependent Use.

The Department will consider all written comments on this application received by October 26, 2026 (Public Comments Deadline). Failure of any aggrieved person or group of ten (10) citizens or more to submit written comments to the Waterways Regulation Program by the Public Comments Deadline will result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with 310 CMR 9.13(4)(c). The group of citizens must include at least five (5) citizens who are residents of the municipality in which the proposed project is located. A public hearing may be held at the request of the Municipal Official. Project plans and documents for the application are on file for public viewing electronically at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/EEA/PublicApp/> (enter 26-WW01-0097-APP in the Search Page in the field for Record ID). If you need assistance, please contact Donald.e.giard@mass.gov or if you do not have access to email, please leave a voicemail at (617) 292-5929 and you will be contacted with information on alternative options. It is recommended that documents and correspondence be filed electronically with the email address specified above

when possible. Alternatively, comments may be mailed to MassDEP Waterways Regulation Program c/o Don Giard, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114. The Department provides language access interpreter/translation services to limited English proficient individuals free of charge. If you need an interpreter for any documents and/or to participate in a public hearing, translation services can be found at the following link: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massdep-language-translation-assistance>.
September 25, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 192 Southbridge Road, Dudley, MA 01571

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Richard M. Reddick to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Norwich Commercial Group, Inc. D/B/A Norcom Mortgage, its successors and assigns, and now held by **Freedom Mortgage Corporation**, said mortgage dated November 6, 2012 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 49917, Page 312, as affected by a Loan Modification dated June 29, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 65688, Page 27; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Norwich Commercial Group, Incorporated, doing business as Norcom Mortgage, its successors and assigns to Wells Fargo Bank, NA by assignment dated February 12, 2021 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 64453, Page 256; said mortgage was assigned from Wells Fargo Bank, NA to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment dated August 6, 2026 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 73995, Page 115; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on October 26, 2026 at 10:00 AM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land with the buildings and

improvements thereon situated on the northeasterly side of Southbridge Road, in Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts, and being shown as Lot 9A on a plan of land entitled "Plan of Land in Dudley, Massachusetts, Scale 1" = 40', September 5, 2001, Prepared for Richard Chojnacki" recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 774 Plan 8 and to which plan reference may be had for a more particular description of said lot.

Lot 9A contains 44,236 square feet according to said Plan. For title see deed of Richard Chojnacki recorded with said Deeds in Book 49917, Page 311.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated November 6, 2012 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 49917, Page 311.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
September 25, 2026
October 2, 2026
October 9, 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. WO26P3066EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Frances L. Shivick
Date of Death: 08/10/2026

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Cynthia L. Chivick of Blairsville GA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: .

Cynthia L. Chivick of Blairsville GA 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 10/20/2026**. 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 17, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
September 25, 2026



Home Fall Auto

For Advertising Information, Call 774-200-7308

email:mikaela@stonebridge press.news

AUTO BODY / REPAIRS



KEARNS COLLISION REPAIR

Since 1969
Always Going The Extra Mile For Our Customers

Free Written Estimates • Damage Appraisal
Color Matching Specialists • Rental Car Services
Warrantied Work & Repairs
Diagnostics • A/C Repair
Tune Ups & Engine Repair
Brakes • Alternators • Starters • ABS
Alignments • Tires...and more

Major Insurance Referral Shop
Honoring All Insurance Estimates

1734 Providence Road (Rt 122)
Northbridge, MA 01534
Ph: 508-234-5211 • Fax: 508-234-2231
www.kearnscollision.com
Fully Certified • RS# 2678

Advertise on this page
for one low price! Get 7 papers.
Call 774-200-7308

LAWNMOWERS



Worcester County LAWNMOWER

ALWAYS THE BEST SERVICE



**Snowblower & Generator Repair
Tractor Service
Tune-Ups & Repairs
Pickup & Delivery**

508-987-2775
492 Main St Oxford
WORCESTERCOUNTY
LAWNMOWER.COM

Painting

FRESH COLOR PAINTING

YOUR VISION IN COLOR

Brighten Your Curb Appeal With a Power Wash

**Locally Owned, Operated And Insured.
Ask About Senior And Veteran Discounts
Call Today For A Free Estimate**

Over 15 Years Experience

Call Today: 774-241-6399

Stump Grinding



MILLER STUMP GRINDING

Asian Longhorn
Beetle Certified

Fully Insured • Free Quotes

**REASONABLE RATES
PROMPT SERVICE**

ROD MILLER • NICK MILLER
OWNERS / OPERATORS

508-688-2159

CHIMNEYS/MASONRY

CHIMNEY CLEANINGS

Starting at \$99

ALL KINDS OF MASONRY & CONCRETE WORK

New & Repairs, Re-pointing, Rebuilding, Re-lining, Waterproofing, Foundation & Chimney Repair, New & Stair Repair, Concrete Walkways, Stonewalls, New Roofs, Construction & Carpentry.

Need to get it done? Call me!

-FREE Estimates-
Quality Chimney
(508)752-1003

GJ LEDUC PAINTING

Interior and Exterior

**Power Washing
Wallpapering
General Repair
Fully Insured
Over 40+ Years Experience**

**508-764-8548
774-230-8373**

MASONRY



CJ MASONRY

MASONRY HARDSCAPE
RETAINING WALLS
OUTDOOR
LIVING CONSTRUCTION

**Chimney Repair
Foundation Repair
Steps, Patios
Water Proofing
Walkways
Stone Veneer
Brick and Block Work
Cord Wood**

**Brian French
(413)222-5542**
cjmasonryhardscape@gmail.com

Roofing

SAUNDERS & SONS ROOFING

When you need a new roof hire a roofing company .We are the only local company dedicated to roofing only .We install roofing only everyday

Read our reviews at the Better Business Bureau. A+ rating and accredited member since 2009.

Call Bill Toll-Free 1-866-961-Roof 508-765-0100

Lifetime material warranty & 25 yr. labor warranty available
MA Reg #153955 CSL #095459 CT-HIC #0638641

**Fully Insured, Free Estimates
Family Owned and Operated**

ROOFING

David Barbale ROOFING

Roofing/Gutters Repair Work

Fully Licensed and Insured

MA LIC #CS069127
MA HIC. LIC #1079721
INS. # CAC032585

**C: 508-397-6709
O: 508-248-6709**

davidbarbale.com

GUTTERS

GUTTER CLEANINGS

30+ years exp
Licensed & Insured

**508-867-2877
508-754-9054**

A. Eagle Gutters
aeaglegutters.com

Plumbing



MIKE LAMBERT'S PLUMBING & HEATING INC.

Commercial,
Residential,
New Construction

369 Main St,
Ste 4
Spencer, MA
1-833-969-4330
Fully Insured

MIKELAMBERTSPANDH
@GMAIL.COM

Got Space?

we do.

Contact Mikaela Today
774-200-7308
mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

OBITUARIES

Marquerite “Marge” Jalbert, 78



Charlton: Marguerite “Marge” (Silvestri) Jalbert, 78, of Ash Rd., passed away on

Sunday, Sept. 13th, surrounded by the love of her family, after a courageous and determined fight that surprised no one who knew her.

Marge was not one to go quietly — she loved life, her family, and her town with everything she had.

Born on June 7, 1948, in Putnam, CT, Marge came to Charlton at the age of five and never left. Charlton was not just where she lived — it was who she was. She graduated from Charlton High School in 1966 and spent the next six decades giving herself to her community through music, service, friendship, and an open door that never seemed to close. In 1986, she and Ed moved to the lake house on Glen Echo Lake, built on land her parents had loved as a summer home and lovingly passed down to their daughter. From that day forward, Marge called it what it truly was — a vacation home that just happened to be permanent. The

lake, the boats, the jet skis, and the grandchildren running through the yard in summer were her paradise, and she cherished every moment. Music was the language of Marge’s soul. For more than fifty years, she shared her extraordinary gift with anyone who would listen, playing piano, organ, guitar, and her beloved

accordion. She served as church organist for weddings, funerals, and every sacred moment in between. For more than thirty years, she coordinated the Christmas tree lighting on Charlton Common and presented a beloved Christmas concert to the community. She taught music at VBS summer camps, performed at the Masonic Home, and devoted herself to St. Joe’s Women’s Club, the Charlton Garden Club, the Glen Echo Lake Association, and the founding of Boy Scout Troop 338. The town of Charlton honored her with the Individual Community Service Award — a recognition she wore quietly and deserved completely.

At the center of everything was her family. She and her husband, Ed, shared 56 years of devoted partnership — a love story told every morning when Ed would catch her coming down the stairs and call out, without fail, “Here she is — Miss America.” She would roll her eyes. She secretly loved every word of it.

Her kitchen was the heart of her home, always fragrant with homemade sauce and full of people gathered around the promise of something delicious. Marge believed that food, like music, was meant to be shared. She was also a fierce and devoted cribbage player — known to run a 17-game winning streak from a hospital bed — and was not above bending the rules if the moment called for it.

Her home on the lake was always open — to family, grandchildren finding their way, and anyone who needed a place to land. She and Ed freely gave their table, their time, and their roof, and watched with quiet pride as the people they welcomed

went on to build lives of their own. Marge was blessed with friends who showed up for her the way she had always shown up for others. Over the past two years, cards arrived nearly every day. Food was brought without being asked. Phone calls came, visits were made, and musicians traveled to the lake to play for

her — a serenade she received with the joy of someone who had spent a lifetime giving music away and now felt it returned. Her friends held her up in the way only true friendship can, and her family is forever grateful for every one of them.

The family also wishes to extend their deepest gratitude to the extraordinary medical teams who cared for Marge over the past two years — especially her oncologist, Dr. Holstead, and her palliative care physician, Dr. Murphy; the hospital staff who cared for her throughout those two-plus years; and the dedicated doctors and nurses in infectious disease. A special thank you goes to the Acute Rehab team on the second floor of Overlook, who met every challenge with compassion, creativity, and an unwavering willingness to try. Because of them, Marge had more time, more life, and more mornings on the lake. There are no adequate words for what that gift has meant.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Ed Jalbert; her four children and their families: John Jalbert and his wife, Alison, and their children, John, Michael, and Sarah; Jim Jalbert and his wife, Renee, and their children, Nicholas and Emma; Deb Lambert and her husband, Ritchie, and their children, Ethan and Owen; and David Jalbert and his wife, Danielle, and their children, Dylan and Addy. She is also survived by her brother, Ken Silvestri and his wife Sandra.

She was preceded in death by her beloved parents, Anthony and Beatrice (Liguori) Silvestri; her sister, Barbara Bonin; and her brother, Joseph Silvestri.

Marge filled every room she entered and left it better than she found it. She fed people, taught people, and loved people — loudly, faithfully, and on her own terms. Charlton will not be the same without her.

In her final days, Marge found peace in the music she had given her whole life to — Christian hymns and the oldies that had always made her feel at home. For those who loved her, the sound of a church organ or a familiar melody will forever carry her presence within it.

A funeral Mass for Marge will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26th at 12:00 pm in St. Joseph’s Church, 10 H. Putnam Rd. Ext., Charlton. Burial in Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton, will be private at a later date. Calling hours in the church will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26th, from 10:00 to 12:00 pm, prior to the Mass.

Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge is directing the arrangements.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Cholangiocarcinoma Research Foundation, 5526 West 13400 South, #510, Herriman, Utah 84096 or online at www.cholangiocarcinoma.org www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Doris Davis Johnson, 102



Doris Davis Johnson was a 2 year resident of Rockhill Health Care Center in Sellersville, PA where she passed away peacefully on the morning of August 11, 2026 at the age of 102. She was formerly a resident

of Daytona Beach, FL, Woodstock and Danielson, CT. Doris, best known as Dotty, was born at the family home in Danielson, CT on March 4, 1924, daughter of Frank Clifford and Celinda Viens Davis. She is predeceased by her husband of 22 years, Walter E. Johnson, her brothers Milton W. Davis and George R. Davis, nephews, Dean Randall (Randy) Davis and Gordon A. Davis. She is survived by her step-children Jeri C. Musumeci, Richard T. Johnson, and Alan H. Johnson (wife Donna), many step-grandchildren and great grandchildren. Dotty is also survived by nieces Gwenda Davis Humpherys and Pamela Davis Cabbage (husband Pete), nephews Barry W. Davis (wife Jean) and

Roger W. Davis (and Heather Fairfield), many great-nieces, great-nephews and their children. As a graduate of Killingly High School, Dotty worked as a switchboard operator in the early years of telephone service. But for most of her working career, she was office manager for the family business, F.C. Davis Transportation Company. She was a lifelong member of the Cornerstone Baptist Church where she was treasurer and an active volunteer. Dotty lived her faith, as she was a caregiver for all generations of her family and her friends, into her late 90’s. Services will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2026 with a graveside service at 10:00 am at Elmvale Cemetery, 453 Roseland Park Rd, Woodstock, CT. At 11:30 am a memorial service will be held at Cornerstone Baptist Church, 247 Broad St, Danielson, CT, with a reception to follow at the church. In lieu of flowers, a memorial donation may be made in Doris’ name to the Cornerstone Baptist Church, 247 Broad St. Danielson, CT 06239.

Priscilla V. Stefanik, 89



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Priscilla V. Stefanik of North Falmouth, MA, she passed away peacefully on Thursday, September 10, 2026, at the age of 89. Born on

December 6, 1936, in Dudley, MA to her loving parents Frank and Anastasia (Olsza) Branczyk.

A graduate of Bartlett High School, Priscilla pursued her dream of being a fashion designer and went to the prestigious Fashion Academy of New York where she earned her Associates Degree in Fashion Design. She was an accomplished fashion designer before meeting the one and only love of her life, Justin Stefanik. She then became a military wife of 22 years after they were married. Priscilla was a strong woman, holding the family together while Justin was on remote tours from Alaska to Antarctica and in The Vietnam War.

After Justin retired, they both enjoyed traveling and went on many cruises throughout the Caribbean and the Panama Canal, including a cruise on The Queen Mary. Priscilla also enjoyed family ski trips, shopping, and spending winters in Florida. She had a green thumb, loved her gardens, flowers and birds, and was a master cookie baker at Christmas.

Priscilla is survived by her son, Frank Stefanik of Webster, MA; her daughter, Laurie Stefanik (fiancé, Dr. Mark Garrity) of Mashpee, MA; and her brother, Robert Branczyk of Cape Coral, FL. She is predeceased by her devoted and loving husband Justin Stefanik, her parents Frank and Anastasia Branczyk, and her brother Gerald Branczyk

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to her caregivers at the Pavilion in Hyannis, MA and Beacon Hospice Care, especially Henny, for all their care and compassion

Services will be private per Priscilla’s request.

*Send all obituary notices to
Stonebridge Press,
PO Box 90, Southbridge,
MA 01550,
or by e-mail to
obits@
stonebridgepress.news*

Home Town Service,
Town-to-Town
CLASSIFIEDS
774-200-7308



WAR RELICS & WAR SOUVENIERS WANTED:
WWII & EARLIER CASH WAITING!
Helmets, Swords, Daggers, Bayonets, Medals, Badges, Flags, Uniforms, etc.
Over 40 years' experience.
Call David (508) 688-0847.
I'LL COME TO YOU!

2011 Lincoln Town Car
205,000 miles
Leather seats, airbags, recent michilan tires.
Very dependable.
New manifold.
\$2,900 OBO
774-635-9056

SCOTT PECK
508-320-9776
General Construction and Handyman Svcs

WE'RE HIRING!

EXPERIENCED CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONAL

We're looking for an experienced, dependable construction professional to join our team.
This is not an entry level position. We need someone who knows construction, takes pride in their work, pays attention to details, and can be trusted to keep a job moving and make sure the work is being done the right way.

INTERESTED? CALL OR TEXT 508-320-9776

If you are experienced, dependabe and looking for a great opportunity with a local construction company, we'd love to talk with you!!

FOR SALE - FALL SPECIAL

1995 Pro 17 Basstracker Boat \$2,200.00

7.5 Johnson 2 stroke \$150.00 like new

Honda EX 650 Generator \$150.00

225 Volt Arc Welder \$150.00

Table Saw \$75.00

CALL 508-892-8481

www.StonebridgePress.com

RENTAL:

Winter storage for vintage vehicle(s).
Dry, safe, super-secure.
Electricity provided for battery tender.
Available Oct. 1st-May 1st.
\$150/month.
Contact Joe
@ 508-476-3490
for details.

REAL ESTATE



43 East Main Street Webster, MA 01570
Finest Realtor Associates to Serve You!

hope2own.com
508.943.4333

Sharon Pelletier - Owner Broker
Licensed in MA, CT & RI

We Want Your Listings!

Webster - 106 East Main St (Rte 12)
Commercial Opportunity!



Corner Lot, 275' +/- Road Frontage, Extremely High Traffic Count, 6,200 SF (75x80) Commercial Building, Currently 2 Units -> Potential for More. Economical, Efficient Natural Gas FHA Heat & Cooling. Its close proximity to Successful National Franchised Businesses generates Significant Commerce at this Location. Convenient Access.
MLS #73512426 \$ 615,000

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

Webster- 3 Oakwood Dr



ON DEPOSIT

Presenting a meticulously maintained Colonial! This inviting home, spans 2,042 sf +/-, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths. Offers a refined living experience designed for comfort & convenience. The kitchen is a culinary enthusiast's delight, featuring a dining area w/picturesque views! Sleek stainless steel appliances, elegant maple wood cabinets & stone counters that provide both functionality & aesthetic appeal. The living room offers a sophisticated ambiance, enhanced by hardwood floors, crown moldings & custom built in shelves. For special occasions enjoy the formal dining rm & a cozy everyday fireplace family rm w/sliders to a very private deck. Also provides a 2 car att'd garage for secure parking & storage. Discover the exceptional lifestyle afforded by this distinguished residence! We invite your inquiry & a private viewing! **MLS#73523947 \$589,900**

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 multilevel waterside decks, a radius stone faced patio, and a tiered landscape with its own waterfall. From morning coffee to sunset gatherings, you will enjoy every minute overlooking your waterfront. The 1,735 +/- square feet main level features a spacious open floor plan, welcoming you flows seamlessly onto an expansive open deck and into an exquisite sun-drenched sitting room. A magnificent primary bedroom suite offers a private full bath, double sink vanity, walk-in closet and dressing room. The purposely designed lower level delivers effortless, large-volume entertainment, featuring a full second kitchen and a sprawling recreation room that opens to a substantial lakeside patio. With 2 additional bedrooms and bath, this level easily serves as a private guest floor. This Lake property is designed to create long-lasting memories! **MLS#73563787 \$1,750,000**

Webster ~ 33 Slater Street
Open House Saturday 11:30-1



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

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



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

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

Featured New Listing!
60 WAKEFIELD AVE



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

WHERE WILL RETIREMENT TAKE YOU?

Discover how a HECM can help you enjoy a more secure retirement!

Call Today for a FREE Consultation
Ruta Convent NMLS#484339
Reverse Mortgage Specialist
(508)641-1464



REAL ESTATE



PUT YOUR TRUST IN US
TEAMWORK AND EXPERIENCE
Jo-Ann Szymczak 774-230-5044
Diane Luong 774-239-2937
Maria Reed 508-873-9254
Bob Berk 508-367-9226
Deb Listewnik 508-847-0872

ReMax Vision • 25 Union St., Worcester MA 01608
CALL FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS **Licensed in MA & CT**

CHARLTON-30X4- SPLIT ENTRY



*1.5 Acres
*3 Full Baths
*Main Bedroom with Tray Ceiling
*Central Air
*Office
*Completely Finished Lower Level

95 A.F. Putnam Rd \$675,000

CHARLTON -"STONEBROOK GARDENS"



*4 Bedrooms *3rd Level Au Pair Suite *24'x24' Great Room
*2 Fireplaces * Koi Pond with Waterfall
*Underground Sprinkler System • **MLS #73536242 30 Knollwood \$849,900**

SUTTON-NEW PRICE!



\$545,000

*7 Rooms *1.5 Baths * Skylight
*1st Floor Familyroom
* **MLS #73555830**
9 Colonial Rd \$545,000

HOLDEN- 1500 sq. ft. RANCH



* 2 Baths *1/2 Acre Lot
*Family Room *3 Bedroom
* **MLS #73546247**
1994 Main St. \$519,000

GRAFTON- Charming Antique Cape



*3 Bedroom *Country Kitchen
*Wide Pine Floors*FANTASTIC
1/2 Acre Lot with Botanical Like Grounds
***MLS # 73543247**
41 Worcester St. \$449,500



MEET YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

Perfect for Realtors, Mortgage Companies, Banks, Real Estate Attorneys, Home Inspectors, Chimney Inspectors, Lead Removal businesses, Insurance Companies, etc... any business involved in the buying or selling of real estate.

To join this section, please contact your local sales rep, 774-200-7308 or email mikaela@stonebridgepress.news



ERA Key Realty SERVICES
Donna Flannery Realtor®
508-612-6771
Donnaflanneryrealtor.com
Donnaflannery@erakey.net

OVER 30 YEARS SELLING LOCAL REAL ESTATE
NATIONAL ERA FINALIST TWICE FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE

TOP AGENT YEAR AFTER YEAR FOR # OF UNITS SOLD & SOLD DOLLAR VOLUME
ERA HALL OF FAME

415B Main Street Spencer, MA 01562



When Experience and Commitment Matter

Mary Vigliatura Stolarczyk
ABR, GRI, CRS, C2EX RE/MAX Hall of Fame
508.612.1382
MESRealty.com
Mary@WillSellit.com





One Level Living
Beacon Park Condo
Fantastic Views of Webster Lake
*2 BR * 2 Baths
* New Renovation

Jo-Ann (Nedorosick) Szymczak
CRS, GRI, SRES
508-943-7669
774-230-5044





ReMax Vision
25 Union St., Worcester MA 01608
CALL JO-ANN FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS **Licensed in MA & CT**



REAL ESTATE

