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Friday, May 22, 2026

Community comes together to support local man in need



NORTHBRIDGE — In the middle of one of the coldest nights this past January, a man arrived at the Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter carrying far more than the weight of homelessness. He was exhausted, frail, and living out of his car while undergoing cancer treatments.

That night, he quietly shared devastating news: his doctors had told him his cancer was terminal. The treatments had already taken a tremendous toll on his body, yet after each appointment, he faced the reality of returning to a freezing car to sleep. It was clear that no one should have to endure

something so difficult alone.

What happened next was a powerful reminder of what can happen when a community comes together with compassion and purpose.

With the help of a dedicated community health worker, social workers from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Milford Regional Medical Center, along with the support of the Uxbridge Saint Vincent de Paul, made arrangements to place him in a skilled nursing and rehabilitation center in Milford. For the first time in a long while, he had warmth, care, medical support, and people surrounding him who genuinely cared about his well-being.

Over the following months, his health continued to decline. He battled COVID, the flu, and pneumonia, moving back and forth between the nursing center and the hospital. Yet through all of it, he held onto one deeply important goal: he wanted to live long enough to see his daughter graduate from college.

In an extraordinary act of kindness and humanity, the school worked with the family to move the graduation ceremony forward. Last week, in a room filled with love, his daughter received her diploma at his bedside. It was a moment of dignity, pride, and peace that none who witnessed it will ever forget.

This week, he passed away peacefully with his daughter by his side.

His story is heartbreaking, but it is also a story of hope. It is a reminder that even in the hardest moments, people can come together to ensure that someone is not forgotten. Police officers, shelter volunteers, hospital staff, social workers, community partners, and healthcare providers all became part of a circle of care around one man and his family.

He was not served by a single organization. He was served by a community that cared.

Whitin Community Center gears up for 12th anniversary of Cars In The Park

WHITINSVILLE — The Whitin Community Center (WCC) is excited to invite all automotive enthusiasts and families alike to celebrate the 12th Anniversary of our highly anticipated “Cars In The Park” event. Join us for a day of automotive excellence and community fun on Saturday, Aug. 15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the picturesque seven-and-a-half-acre Whitin Park, located at 60 Main St., Whitinsville.

This year’s Cars In The Park promises an unforgettable showcase of classic and contemporary cars, trucks, and motorcycles. Participants can vie for the prestigious Best In Show title and 25 other trophy categories, People’s Choice Award, with the first 100 registered vehicles again this year receiving exclusive Show Dash Plaques and Goodie Bags. The event will also feature a selection of food trucks, exhibit vendors, a 50/50 raffle, and live entertainment, ensuring a fun-filled day for the entire family. Entry is complimentary for all spectators, making it the perfect summer outing.

Last year’s event had a turnout of over 300 cars! In anticipation of this year’s event, vehicle owners are encouraged to register early and take advantage of a special \$10 donation fee before July 15th, after which the registration donation will increase to \$20. Pre-registration closes on Aug. 12. Registration for vehicles is available online at www.WhitinCommunityCenter.com, in-person at our Member Services Desk, or on the day of the event. Additionally, we are now welcoming applications from exhibit and food vendors looking to be part of this exciting event.

Funds raised during Cars In The Park will directly support the Whitin Community Center’s mission as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to enhancing the health, well-being, and community spirit of the Blackstone Valley. For a century, the WCC has been a cornerstone of the community, offering a diverse range of social, recreational, educational, and outreach programs.

We are also calling on community members to join us as volunteers for this summer event. Volunteers will not only enjoy complimentary refreshments and a free t-shirt, but also the satisfaction of contributing to their community. Opportunities include coordination, ballot input, event setup and teardown, fee collection, flyer distribution, overseeing children’s activities, and more.

For more information on vehicle and vendor registration, volunteering, or any other inquiries, please visit our website at www.WhitinCommunityCenter.com or contact Tammy Bodwell, Director of Operations, at Tammy.Bodwell@OurGym.org or call 508-234-8184, ext. 118.

Join us at the 12th Annual Cars In The Park for a day of automotive admiration, community engagement, and family fun. Let’s drive into a new decade of this cherished event together!

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

Northbridge science team wins OpenSciEd Program award in Boston

NORTHBRIDGE — Students from the Northbridge Middle School 6th and 7th grade science classes traveled to Boston on May 8 to participate in the One8 Applied Learning Hub Student Showcase, a statewide event that highlights student learning and innovation from schools across Massachusetts.

During the showcase, student teams presented their projects to more than 500 industry professionals, receiving both verbal and written feedback designed to recognize their work and connect their learning to real-world careers and applications.

The team of Danielle Germain, Meyer Ihesiene, Ashley Johnson, and Madelyn Otteman won the overall OpenSciEd Program Award for their project focused on ecosystems.

Congratulations to all three Northbridge teams for their dedication and hard work. In addition to presenting their projects, students gained valuable experience collaborating and engaging with judges, educators, and visitors throughout the showcase.

The students were guided by teachers Mr. Michael Santiago-Silvestri, Ms. Erin Mercier, and Dr. Kim Kelly.



WCS competes at DECA International Career Development Conference



DECA and WCS Class of 2026 Members Ethan Hand, Madison Amati, Kacy Brochu, and Addison Boone.

WHITINSVILLE — Members of the Whitinsville Christian School DECA chapter recently attended the annual DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC), held April 25 –28 in Atlanta, Ga.

Known as #DECAICDC, the conference brings together DECA’s top student performers from nearly all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, Puerto Rico, and Germany. The event celebrates student achievement while showcasing innovative business partnerships

that empower emerging leaders and entrepreneurs to navigate today’s evolving global economy.

Four Whitinsville Christian seniors earned the opportunity to compete at this prestigious international conference. Madison Amati competed in the Sports and Entertainment Marketing Series event, while Kacy Brochu participated in the IGNITE Leadership Development Academy.

Addison Boone and Ethan Hand represented the chapter in

Turn To DECKER page A7

Coast Guard Auxiliary offers boat safety checks

WEBSTER/DOUGLAS — Local boaters will have two opportunities in June to make sure their watercraft are ready for a safe summer season during free Vessel Safety Check events hosted by the Tri-State Flotilla 10-2 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The free inspections will take place Saturday, June 13, at the Memorial Beach Boat Ramp on Webster Lake in Webster and Saturday, June 27, at the Wallum Lake Boat Ramp inside Douglas State Forest in Douglas. Both stations will operate from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Weather-related reschedule dates will be the following Sundays at the same times and locations.

Boat owners are encouraged to bring all types of watercraft for inspection, including kayaks, canoes, personal watercraft, sailboats, fishing boats, pontoon boats, ski boats, and cabin cruisers. Vessels may be inspected either on trailers or while afloat.

According to organizers, the inspections are designed to help recreational boaters comply with both federal and state boating safety regulations before heading out onto the water for the busy summer season.

Volunteer Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel Examiners will conduct what organizers describe as a “stem to stern” review of required safety equipment and overall vessel condition. Items reviewed include registration and hull identification numbers, life jackets, navigation lights, fire

extinguishers, flares and expiration dates, ventilation systems, sound-producing devices, and general vessel safety standards.

Boats that successfully meet the requirements will receive a 2026 Vessel Safety Check decal. Organizers noted that the decal may help indicate to law enforcement officers on the water that the vessel is in compliance with safety regulations and could potentially qualify boat owners for insurance discounts.

Importantly, organizers stressed that the inspections are voluntary and educational rather than punitive. No citations are issued, no penalties are assessed, and no reports are filed with law enforcement agencies if deficiencies are found.

Instead, examiners provide guidance to help boaters correct any issues. In many cases, organizers said, a simple stop at a marine supply store for missing equipment is enough to pass a same-day reinspection.

“Vessel Examiners are qualified and experienced to answer any boating-related questions or concerns along with being trained to spot any potential problems,” organizers stated in the event announcement.

The Webster Lake event at Memorial Beach includes accommodations for trailered boats that are not launching. Organizers said vessels without a Webster access sticker may still be inspected at the entrance gate if they are remaining on trailers.

At the Wallum Lake station in Douglas, personal watercraft are not permitted to launch on weekends, but organizers noted they may still be brought to the ramp area for inspection.

Both inspection stations can also accommodate vessels arriving by water.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary also conducts vessel safety examinations at various unscheduled times throughout the boating season, though organizers noted that inland examiners are limited and not always readily available.

Boat owners unable to attend either event may also schedule a free inspection online through the national Vessel Safety Check website.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary serves as the uniformed civilian component of the United States Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in a variety of mission areas. The organization was established by Congress in 1939.

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Students named to Dean's Honor List at Cedarville University

CEDARVILLE, Ohio — Students at Cedarville University have been named to the Dean's

Honor List for the Spring 2026 semester. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.75 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Daniel Bourguignon of Whitinsville
Hannah Bourguignon of Whitinsville
Cedarville University, an evangelical Christian insti-

tution in southwest Ohio, offers undergraduate and graduate residential and online programs across arts, sciences and professional fields. With 7,265 students, it is among Ohio's largest private universities and is ranked among the nation's top five evangelical universities in The Wall Street Journal's 2026 Best Colleges in the U.S. Cedarville is also known for its vibrant Christian community, challenging academics and high graduation and retention rates. Learn more at cedarville.edu.

A "F.I.N.E. Day" at Northbridge Senior Center

NORTHBRIDGE — If you would like to explore what we are all about, come meet us and sign up for a new membership or renewal! Please join us at this year's F.I.N.E. Day on Thursday, May 28 from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. at Plummer Place.

One year \$10; Two years - \$20; Three years - \$27

We look forward to seeing everyone and having a spirited kick-off to another great fundraising season to support our fabulous seniors!

Strawberry Festival to feature local farm presentation

NORTHBRIDGE — Residents will have an opportunity to learn more about one of the Blackstone Valley's long-time family farms during a Strawberry Festival event scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, from 1 to 2 p.m.

The program, titled "From Seedlings to Sweetness: The Story of Our Strawberries," will feature Ken Foppema of Foppema's Farm, a family-owned and operated farm that has served the region since 1983.

During the presentation, guests will hear about the history of the farm and the process of growing strawberries and other seasonal crops on the family's 75-acre property. Foppema's Farm is known throughout the region for its strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, sweet corn, tomatoes, apples, and other fresh produce sold at its farm-stand.

Organizers say the event will also include themed refreshments and a free raffle for attendees.

Admission is \$5 cash, payable at the door on the day of the event. Participants are encouraged to sign up in the main office in advance.

WCS to host Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast

WHITINSVILLE — Whitinsville Christian School will be holding the annual Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast on Monday, May 25, from 7AM - 11AM. Veterans - free, Adults - \$12, Children ages four to 10 \$6, and children three and under are free. The volleyball and softball teams will also be hosting their annual car wash during the Pancake Breakfast. Please come and support those teams and have your car washed while you relax over breakfast.

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<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21191223350>

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



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**FRANK G.
CHILINSKI**
PRESIDENT &
PUBLISHER

**BRENDAN
BERUBE**
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

When compassion becomes a community's greatest strength

There are some stories that remind us what kind of communities we truly live in. Not because they are easy stories to hear. Quite the opposite.

The story shared this week by the Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter is heartbreaking in every sense. A man battling terminal cancer, living in his car during one of the coldest stretches of winter, trying to survive treatments while carrying the crushing reality that his time was running short. It is difficult to imagine the loneliness and exhaustion that must have accompanied those nights.

And yet, within that painful story is also something deeply powerful.

At a time when it can sometimes feel as though the world has become colder, more divided, and more hurried, this man encountered something extraordinary: people who refused to let him face the end of his life alone.

No single organization solved the problem. No single agency stepped forward and magically fixed everything. Instead, what happened was something much more meaningful. A community formed around one human being in need.

Shelter workers recognized his vulnerability. Social workers coordinated care. Medical professionals advocated for him. Volunteers and faith organizations stepped in quietly and without fanfare. A nursing and rehabilitation center opened its doors. People from different backgrounds and different professions came together with a shared belief that dignity still matters.

Perhaps the most moving part of all was the effort to help him fulfill one final wish: seeing his daughter graduate from college.

There is something profoundly human about that moment. A father, weakened by illness but still holding on long enough to witness one of the proudest moments of his child's life. A school willing to move a ceremony so that memory could happen. A daughter receiving her diploma beside her father's bed instead of on a stage. It is impossible to hear that story and not feel something.

In small towns like ours, people sometimes underestimate the importance of local organizations and community partnerships. Stories like this remind us why they matter so much. Emergency shelters are not simply buildings. Social workers are not simply administrators. Nurses, police officers, volunteers, clergy members, and healthcare workers are not simply doing jobs. Often, they become the final safety net standing between a person and complete despair.

The Blackstone Valley has long been defined by hard work and resilience. But perhaps its greatest strength has always been compassion. Again and again, local residents step forward quietly to help neighbors through illness, loss, addiction, homelessness, hunger, or grief. Most of those acts never make headlines. They happen in hospital rooms, church basements, food pantries, shelters, kitchens, and living rooms every single day.

That kind of compassion does not erase hardship. It cannot cure terminal illness. But it can restore dignity. It can provide comfort. It can remind someone that their life still matters.

This man's final months were undoubtedly difficult. But because of the people around him, they were also filled with care, humanity, and love. He did not die forgotten in a freezing car. He died with his daughter beside him, after witnessing her accomplishment, surrounded by people who chose kindness over indifference. That matters.

In the end, communities are not measured only by budgets, buildings, or economic growth. They are measured by how they respond when someone is at their most vulnerable.

This week, the Blackstone Valley offered a powerful answer.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Honoring the women of the Revolution

To the Editor:

In this 250th anniversary year of our glorious Declaration of Independence, it is time to remember the women! It's our Semiquincentennial!

Did you know that Colonial women fought in the Revolutionary War to win independence for the American colonies from 1775 to 1781 just as much as their men did? In the America of the 1770's, women were full participants in the war, even though they did not serve as soldiers. They did not sit at home, drinking tea.

They did men's work. They farmed. They spied. They fed the army. Perhaps, most importantly of all, they prayed. They were unable to merely observe the war that was waged in their towns, their farm fields, or on their very doorsteps.

One the morning of April 19, 1775, at the James Barrett House, built circa 1705, one Christian wife acted. Her husband was Colonel James Barrett, a French & Indian War veteran, a respected leader in Concord, and a delegate to the Provincial Congress. Barrett was in charge of storing the colony's military supplies for the patriot cause. This put his family in danger. By 1775, only three children remained at home. The other six of nine children had grown up and left home.

British General Thomas Gage received intelligence from Loyalist spies that Barrett's farm in Concord was the hiding place for rebel arms and munitions. He ordered 700 British soldiers to march on the night of April 18 to capture these supplies and the "traitors" John Hancock and Sam Adams.

Barrett and townspeople had fair warning and moved the military supplies and four cannon to safety. At dawn on April 19, 1775, Colonel Barrett and his 200 militiamen mustered in the farm field above the North Bridge in Concord.

His wife, Rebekah, stayed home. British soldiers arrived at her front door and demanded to search the property. Permission granted. British officers complained of hunger after the forced march of 16 miles. Rebekah offered them food and drink, but refused their offer of pay. She said: "[as Christians], we are commanded to feed our enemy if he hunger." The officers threw shillings into her lap and ominously replied, "This is the price of blood!" The price of blood, indeed! We know what happened next! Do our school children know?

Many women worked the farms while their men fought. One woman wrote of her week in her journal: "Washed. Ironed. Scoured pewter. Scoured rooms. Scoured furniture, brasses, put up chintz bed and hung pictures. Sowed Sweet Marjoram.

Sowed peas. Sowed cauliflower. Sowed beans. Pulled radishes. Set out turnips. Cut asparagus. Killed pig. Made bread. Put beef in pickle. Salted pork, put bacon in pickle. Made 6 cravats (for husband). Quilted two petticoats (for self). Made 5 shirts (for husband)." Could any of us modern women do that?

She wrote phonetically: "I have not had won minutts (one minute's) rest."

Although most American women were farmer's wives, few had done the tasks of men: mending fences, cutting firewood, repairing tools. Now, in addition, to cooking meals, watching numerous children, and weeding gardens, women had to do the work of men. Women who had never purchased farm equipment, sold crops or hired laborers had to learn how to do it... while raising five or nine or 12 kids!

Revolutionary War letters written from wives to husbands went from "your farm" to "our farm" to "my farm." One wrote: "What was done, was done by myself."

Some sacrificed more. In 1776, as British occupying forces entered New York City, a woman joined those who set fire to the City rather than surrender it to the British. In 1777, Caroline Schuyler in Saratoga, NY, set fire to her ripe wheat fields to prevent British General Burgoyne from using the grain to feed his troops.

Many women were spies by opportunity. When a Colonial soldier galloped into her yard and conferred with her father, Deborah Champion's adventure began. The exhausted soldier had to get intelligence to General Washington. Deborah's father sent her with a trusted family servant to Boston. A British sentry stopped her.

He saw a young woman on her way "to visit an ailing relative" and released her. When she arrived in Cambridge, she delivered the papers into Washington's hands.

Before the Battle of Bunker Hill, Reverend Samuel Mather obtained intelligence about British plans. An ardent Patriot, he sent his teenage daughter, Hannah, to deliver the letter, hidden in her clothes, to Dr. Joseph Warren in Watertown. She passed British sentries, walked all the way, and delivered the item into Warren's own hands. Had she been discovered, she would have been arrested or worse.

Signed, an American patriot honoring the strong and brave women of the American Revolution.

BEV GUDANOWSKI
UXBRIDGE

For the record...

To the Editor:

I guess I really poked the bear this time...the barely articulate. Ol' Binary Bertha Kuik - she who either agrees with everything you write, or disagrees with everything you write - which obviates the need to parse anything presented to her - lumbered out of her lair, stumbled over her tongue, and gave me a severe blatherskiting! One can only surmise from this prodigious profundity, that her mind, like all vacuous spaces, is impervious to intellectual stimuli. I present facts, not my opinion - the complete opposite of Fox Faux Noise, who's lawyers, in sworn testimony, used these exact words in court "No reasonable person would believe that what Fox says on air is truthful." So to "disagree with anything I write," must mean that Phyll...I mean Binary Bertha is an acolyte of Kellyanne Conway and her theory of 'alternative facts'. I just wish that Bertha would select one of my statements that she disagrees with, and make a cogent refutation. I have no problem with being found factually false. It's one way that people with a measurable IQ learn. So, bring it on, Bertha!

Here is Trump on the White House lawn, before leaving for China: "I don't think about Americans financial situation, I don't think about anything. I just know that we can't allow Iran to have a nuclear weapon." So, he cares nothing about us facing record gas prices, high food prices - and soon to be higher prices when the impact of no fertilizers hits - soaring inflation, etc., because of his gross miscalculation in Iran. But Bev says that "Trump is for us!"

So, why all this 'Iran' desperation now? We had a nuclear treaty with Iran that Trump cancelled, so they can't really be much of a concern. Russia and North Korea have nuclear weapons, but we don't seem to be concerned with them. In fact, under Trump, we are no longer helping Ukraine repel the Russian invasion of their democratic country. The truth is that we have nothing to fear from Iran...but Israel does. Israel has had their own nuclear weapons since the 60's. But Netanyahu finally found chump Trump to do his dirty work. Why are we even involved in the Middle East? Trump said America would "drill baby drill," and no longer need Arab oil. We are now the largest oil producer in the world. We could have even more energy independence by increasing wind and solar power, like China. Instead, Trump is cancelling wind farms all along the east coast. So Trump uses our tax money, military equipment, and soldier's lives, to fight Israel's battles. All because of Jewish/AIPAC donor money. This is "America First," right?

Overheard someone say that Iran just killed 7000 protesters, so war is justified! That happens in African countries on a monthly basis. Do we get involved? By all accounts, Trump is responsible for over 200,000 American deaths due to his cover-up of the severity of COVID, and de-emphasizing distancing and mask wearing. As of early 2026, research indicates that cuts to USAID funding initiated by the Trump administration have caused an estimated 600,000 to 762,000 deaths, with projections suggesting over 14 million preventable deaths could occur by 2030 due to the 83 percent reduction in aid. Over 500,000 children are believed to be among the deceased. Maybe we should be bombing the White House instead of Iran?

In other great news, the United States dropped from 3rd to 18th in the 2026 Best Countries Ranking, primarily due to declining scores in specific quality-of-life categories. While the country maintained high marks for economic development

and culture, it suffered from notable weaknesses in health, infrastructure, and civic health. Experts noted that while the U.S. shows economic strength, it faces an "affordability crisis" and a "K-shaped economy" where lower-income households struggle with stalling wages and high inflation. Additionally, international travel to the U.S. has slowed as global tourists skip the country due to concerns over safety. The 'economic development' mentioned means that the rich are getting richer, as income inequality expands. The World Press Freedom Index just rated the U.S. as 64th in terms of freedoms, the lowest our country has ever been ranked. We've also been downgraded from a full democracy to a flawed democracy on the Global Stage Democracy report, falling to 28th in the world. So, our peer nations are more free and more democratic than us. This downward trend started in 2016, with Trump's 1st term in office. Along with the unparalleled corruption, this is Trump's greatest accomplishment! We are a nation in decline.

Last week Trump brokered a one-day ceasefire deal between Putin and Zelensky. The deal was for Ukraine to let Putin have his May 9 WWII Victory Military Parade, and in return, there would be a prisoner swap, 1,000 soldiers from each side. The parade is now over, and Putin says the swap is off. Zelensky says that Trump made guarantees that the agreement would hold, and that this is Trump's responsibility, to make it happen. Maybe Putin hasn't read Trump's 'The Art of the Deal'? If Trump cannot even guarantee the terms of a one-day ceasefire, how can he negotiate a permanent peace deal with anybody? This does not bode well for the legitimacy of Trump's «Board of Peace» or «Shield of the Americas» or any of his other phony schemes to win the Nobel Prize.

Putin, an ally of Iran, has reportedly been providing Iran with intelligence on American troop movements. This may have been instrumental in Iran taking out all of our bases throughout the Mideast, resulting in deaths and injuries to our military members, and huge losses in military equipment and supplies. Ever notice that Trump never says anything bad about Putin? Russia was the only country that he didn't impose tariffs on, and he ended all U.S. military support for Ukraine to defend itself. But Trump is definitely not a Russian asset, right?

The Climate-change hoax: Human-caused warming has already been increasing at an unprecedented rate. The past 11 years are also the 11 warmest years on record. "We're not moving at a speed that is good enough," said Martial Bernoux, senior natural resources officer at the FAO's Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Environment. "And we have, really, a residual risk that is increasing."

"Heat is estimated to kill almost half a million people a year. That's about 30 times more than tropical cyclones. We know what is driving it: fossil fuel-charged, human-induced climate change. And we know it's going to get worse." Extreme heat is already wiping out soy, coffee, berries, and Christmas trees. But Bev and Trump keep telling us it's all a big hoax perpetrated by ...who?...and for what reason?

Along these same lines ...It's been almost a year since the Energy Department began issuing emergency orders to prevent aging coal plants from closing as planned. Running the plants has cost hundreds of millions of dollars, much of which will most likely wind up on household electricity bills. The plants contributed to the reversal of a longstanding decline in mercury

The quiet things we carry home

There's a certain sound to Memorial Day in small towns.

It's the distant thump of a bass drum echoing down Main Street. The squeak of folding chairs being opened along a parade route. The soft flutter of little American flags planted in damp cemetery grass before sunrise by volunteers who probably didn't tell anyone they were doing it.

When I was a boy, Memorial Day seemed simple to me. It meant a day off from school, a parade, maybe the smell of charcoal grills drifting through the neighborhood by late afternoon. I remember old veterans standing straighter than usual in their uniforms, though I was too young then to notice how some of them walked a little slower than others.

As a kid, you don't fully understand why grown men go quiet during the playing of "Taps."

You just know they do.

Now that I'm older, Memorial Day feels different. Not heavier exactly, but deeper. The older you get, the more you realize every town has names carved into stone somewhere. Boys who grew up on the same streets we drive every day. Young men who probably fished the same ponds, sat in the same diners, worked summer jobs, complained about cold winters and muddy springs just like the rest of us.

And then one day, they left home wearing a uniform and never came back.

That's what Memorial Day really asks of us. Not grand speeches. Not perfect patriotism. Mostly remembrance.

Just remembrance.

I think that's why New England towns observe Memorial Day the way they do. There's something modest about it here. The ceremonies are rarely flashy. A few speeches. A prayer maybe. Flowers placed carefully at a monument. Veterans standing shoulder to shoulder, even when age has bent their backs a little.

People still show up.

That matters.

I've always noticed how children behave differently during Memorial Day ceremonies too. Even the fidgety ones somehow

LANTERNS
ALONG
MAIN
STREET
By CHARLES

sense this is not quite like the Fourth of July. There's usually one little boy waving a flag too enthusiastically until his mother gently lowers his arm. Somebody's toddler starts asking questions halfway through the ceremony. Teenagers stand around trying to look uninterested while quietly paying attention anyway.

That matters too.

Because remembrance has to keep getting handed down.

The older generation understood that. My father certainly did, though he wasn't much for emotional speeches. He belonged to that old school of men who believed you showed respect by showing up. Rain or shine. Suit jacket on. Hat off during the anthem. Handshake firm. No fuss made about it.

A lot of those men are gone now.

Truth be told, Memorial Day can feel a little lonely sometimes because of that. You look around town greens and realize many of the veterans who once led the parades now ride quietly in the passenger seat instead of marching. Some are missing altogether.

Time catches everybody eventually.

Still, there's comfort in the traditions staying put even as generations change. The local scout troops still help. High school bands still miss a few notes halfway through the march. Volunteers still place flags at gravesites. Somebody still brings extra donuts nobody asked for.

And somehow that ordinary kindness feels connected to the meaning of the day itself.

Memorial Day was never really meant to glorify war. At least I don't think so. It's about honoring sacrifice while quietly hoping future generations won't have to make the same sacrifices quite so often.

That may sound old-fashioned nowadays. So be it.

I suppose I've reached the age where I don't mind sounding a little old-fashioned now and then. There are worse things a man can be.

Over the years, I've noticed something else too. The people who attend Memorial Day ceremonies most faithfully are often not the loudest people the other 364 days of the year. They're usually steady people. Humble people. Folks who understand gratitude doesn't always need a microphone.

Maybe that's the lesson I keep carrying home from Memorial Day each year.

A healthy town remembers.

Not perfectly. Not dramatically. But sincerely.

It remembers the people who built the community, protected it, sacrificed for it, and never made it back to enjoy the peaceful little moments the rest of us often take for granted. Ballgames. Backyard cookouts. Kids riding bicycles at dusk. A quiet evening with family while the screen door creaks open and shut.

Ordinary American life.

The kind of life somebody else once gave up everything to protect.

And every Memorial Day, whether we realize it or not, we carry that gift home with us.

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

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

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

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

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

A list of classmates the committee is hoping to locate appears below. With the community's support,

they hope every member of the Class of '86 will have the opportunity to join this milestone celebration.

- Peter Allain
- Beth Antonopoulos
- Marie Aperges
- Andrew Baca
- Austin Bailey
- David Beardsley
- Frank Belanger
- Carolyn Bembenek
- Richard Bernier
- Sheila Bialonck
- Beth Bialy
- Jason Borski
- Doreen Bourget
- Eric Brisbois
- Kathleen Brown
- Paul Browning
- Paul Bugan
- Cindy Bullens
- Sandra Butt
- Mont Canterbury
- Stephen Carlson
- Daniel Chapdelaine
- Kelly Cobb
- Ken Courmoyer
- Timothy Decker
- Tammy Deschenes
- Aaron Dorcas
- Daniel Doyle
- Dorothy DusoSelina Fife
- James Gardner
- Jeffrey Gatto
- Tina Giakoumis
- Alicia Goudreau
- Richard Guerin
- Robert Hamm
- Scott Horanzky

- Jane Houle
- Todd Hufault
- Joseph Hughes
- Melissa Jankowski
- Thor Johnson
- Nena Johnston
- Lisa Kozlowski
- Robert Krasnecky
- Jill Krause
- Michael Kryger
- Rick Lawson
- Deborah Leite
- Linda Lifer
- Patricia Majewski
- Renee Marchand
- Jennifer Marsh
- Jennifer Mason
- John Meagher
- Fumiyo Mochizuki
- Deborah Munsch
- Brett Napierata
- Wayne Parmentier
- Brian Poplawski
- Gary Poplawski
- Edward Powers
- William Radcliffe
- James Remy
- Debra Ross
- Collin Salmon
- Dale Schleis
- Theresa Sergel
- Henry Skiba
- Alan Standowicz
- Jeffrey Surozenski
- Karen Toukonen
- Joseph Veronick
- Douglas Waldron
- Robert Wheeler
- Edward Zdrok

LETTERS

continued from page A4

emissions nationally, a New York Times analysis found. But Trump is obliged to his fossil fuel donors, regardless of the impact on we-the-people.

Last July, Trump signed the largest cuts to Medicaid and SNAP in American history. About 10.9 million people are projected to lose health coverage over the next decade. 2.4 million could lose food assistance by 2034. The Center for American Progress called it the largest transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich in a single law in U.S. history. His 2026 budget goes further. It slashes the WIC fruit and vegetable benefit for breastfeeding mothers from \$54 to \$13. It freezes new Section 8 housing vouchers. It cuts LIHEAP, the program that keeps grandma's heat on in January. Working moms will have to prove they "deserve" groceries. Disabled Americans will have to re-prove they need healthcare every six months. Rural hospitals will shut their doors.

And then Trump boards a plane with a gaggle of the richest men on the planet, and personally lobbies China to open markets so Tesla, Apple and others can sell

more products in Shanghai.

This is not policy. This is not "America First." This is a President working as a personal concierge for oligarchs while stripping food off the tables of American children to pay for it.

Finally, in response to Bev saying that there isn't a single Republican Senator or Representative in all five New England states, she overlooked Senator Susan Collins of Maine, who, I agree, should be overlooked. But I need to hear more about the "severe Gerrymandering" that has taken place in the New England states. Since Bev loves history, let's hear the story behind her accusation. Having no Republican congressmen in Massachusetts couldn't have anything to do with us being proclaimed the smartest state in the Union, could it? Maybe Bev is really referring to the latest round of southern states redrawing districts to disenfranchise black voters right before the mid-terms? The GOP mantra: if you can't win, cheat - eliminate vote-by-mail, implement voter-ID, gerrymander, and blame illegal immigrants, or Democrats. All in a Republican day's work!

RICK BEVILACQUA
WHITINSVILLE

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.



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Lisa Bernard – Director
Gail Boutiette – Outreach Coordinator
Donna Oncay – Transportation Coordinator
Omer Boucher – Van Driver
Sally Selvidge – Activities Coordinator
Pat Ordway – Chef
Center.

DIRECTOR'S NEWS FOR JUNE 2026

The Second Annual Golden Gala was a success! Thank you to the Uxbridge Elderly Connection for hosting this event! We especially thank all the sponsors who helped support us with donations for the beautiful centerpieces and other items. Thank you, Sally Selvidge, for the extra time and effort to make this event a wonderful experience. A fun time was had by all!

We are going to the WooSox Game on Wednesday, June 3rd. Sign up to join us to attend the WooSox game. Space is limited and transportation is available to all. This trip is sponsored by the Uxbridge Elderly Connection. Please call the senior center for more information.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is Monday, June 15th. The purpose of WEAAD is to provide an opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older adults by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect. Recognizing the warning signs of elder abuse can help determine if your loved one is being neglected or disrespected. Some indicators of abuse or neglect may include a change in behavior or appearance, a rapid display of injury marks like bruising or scarring, or a sudden change in financial resources. For more information or assistance, please call the senior center.

In celebration for all the dad's out there! Our Father's Day party will take place on Friday, June 26th at 12 noon. The Uxbridge Elderly Connection is sponsoring this event. RSVP required.

Come join our Knitting Group! Our

Knitting Group meets every Tuesday at 1:30pm at the Senior Center. Even if you don't know how to knit or crochet, come and visit us! The group members are always willing to teach you. The group also has some beautiful handmade gifts available for sale at the senior center. If you need a baby shower or birthday gift, please stop by, and check out the selection of items! All sales go to the Uxbridge Senior Center Activity Donation Fund.

Stay safe and enjoy the summertime weather! Lisa

Monday, June 1st – 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm - Computer Tutoring with students from Blackstone Valley Tech. Please call ahead to book an appointment. This will be held on the first Monday of each month.

Wednesday, June 3rd – 11:05 am - WooSox vs Buffalo Bisons Game at Polar Park. Sign up to join us for another WooSox game. Tickets are limited and transportation is available. If there is an overwhelming response, names will be picked in a lottery. The vans will leave the senior center at 9:45 am. This trip is sponsored by the Uxbridge Elderly Connection, Inc!

Thursday, June 4th - 10:30 am – Veterans' Services with Carl Bradshaw by appointment only. Call 508-278-8622 to sign up.

Friday, June 5th – 12:00 pm – Lunch & Learn with Chief Montminy & UFD Quarterly Talk. There is typically a wait list for these events. Be sure to RSVP.

Saturday, June 6th – 11:00 am – 1:00 pm – 2026 Sheriff's Annual Senior Picnic Drive Thru Extravaganza – Attendees must register by May 20, 2026 by calling 508-796-2638 – leave message with name, address & phone number or email nydia@worcestercountysheriff.org. Held at SAC Park, 438 Lake Street, Shrewsbury, MA. BBQ meal, lottery tickets, tons of giveaways, desserts & raffle bonanza! No extra bags to go. Must be present to participate. The Senior Center van is full but folks are encouraged to attend on their own.

Monday, June 8th – 10:00 am – Trip to see the Trolls in Charlestown, RI at

Ninigret Park. Come with us to see the trolls in RI: Greta Granite and Erik Rock. Please note this trip requires some walking and is for those who are more physically able to get around. Space on van is limited.

Tuesday, June 9th – 1:00 pm – Uxbridge Library Book Club. They will be discussing "Every Tom, Dick & Harry" by Elinor Lipman. You are welcome to join us for lunch on this day, just be sure to call ahead to "book" yours! Next book club meeting is on Tuesday, July 14th.

Tuesday, June 9th - 1:00 pm – Benefit Enrollment Specialist – Tri-Valley, Inc. Call the senior center to book an appointment. Next date will be Tuesday, July 14th.

Thursday, June 11th – 1:30 pm – Free Afternoon Movie at the Senior Center! We will be watching Dan Aykroyd & John Candy's "The Great Outdoors". Refreshments to be served and transportation is available.

Friday, June 12th – 12:00 pm – Talk on Uxbridge 300th Anniversary with Amanda Gallerani. Call to RSVP.

Monday, June 15th – 1:30 pm – 4th of July Flowers w/Sally. Cost is \$7.00 per person. Stop by and sign up.

Tuesday, June 16th – 9 am – SHINE Appointments. Pat Nectow will be available for your health insurance questions. Call to book an appointment.

Tuesday, June 16th, 23rd & 30th – 1:30 pm – Learn to play Mah Jongg every Tuesday! All equipment will be provided to learn the game. Sign up by May 20th.

Thursday, June 18th– 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm – Big BINGO at the Uxbridge Senior Center. Join us for a fun afternoon of BINGO & cash prizes! Packets of 10 games for \$10. Transportation will be provided. Let us know if you'd like to join us for lunch on this date by calling or stopping by to RSVP. You must sign up by 12 noon the day before game day.

Friday, June 19th - The Senior Center will be closed in observance Juneteenth. We will re-open on Monday, June 22nd at 8:00 am.

Wednesday, June 24th - 11:30 am - 12:30 pm – "PopUp Library". Books will be on display to check out, library card sign-ups, book hold pick-ups, etc. This program is being offered by the Uxbridge Free Public Library.

Thursday, June 25th – 12:00 pm – Celebrating Frank & Alice Susskey's 80th Anniversary! This is a special luncheon celebration. Cake will be served, compliments of the Susskey's. Space may be limited, please RSVP.

Friday, June 26th – 12:00 pm - Annual Father's Day Celebration! This event is sponsored by the Uxbridge Elderly Connection, Inc. Kevin Driscoll will be here with Paul Revere & Friends. Please be sure to sign up early as these events fill up quickly and space is limited.

Monday, June 29th – 11:00 am – 1:00 pm – Pout Pond Outing. Please call ahead to RSVP. Transportation is available and you are more than welcome to meet

up there. Bring comfortable seats. This event is weather permitting. In-case of rain, it will be held at the senior center.

Monday, June 29th – 1:30 pm – "Ask the Attorney" with Attorney Ralph Tepper by appointment only. Please call 508-278-8622 to schedule your appointment.

Tuesday, June 30th - 11:00 am – 12:00 pm – Ask the Nurse Free Blood Pressure Clinic with the Salmon Health VNA. RSVP if you'd like to join us for lunch.

Friday, June 26th - 12 noon – June Birthday Cake Celebration. We will celebrate all the June birthdays!

Card Game played during lunch on Mondays. No game on June 8th or 29th.

Walk & Talk Every Monday @ 9:00 am. Join Doreen Cedrone, our wellness coordinator, to walk the Town Loop every Monday morning. Weather permitting. Pre-registration required! Get enrollment forms at the center. Meet at the McCloskey School.

Hannaford grocery shopping every Tuesday. Pick up begins at 8:30 AM. Please sign up in advance by calling 508-278-8622 to reserve your seat on the van.

Knitting Club every Tuesday @ 1:30 pm – Even if you don't know how to knit or crochet, come and visit us! The group members are always willing to teach you!

Every Wednesday – 9 am – 3 pm – The Uxbridge Senior Center Transportation Program Community Shuttle. This shuttle is for seniors and individuals with disabilities to destinations such as post office, pet care appointments, hair salon or barber, bank, pharmacy & shopping anywhere in the Uxbridge/Northbridge area. Call 508-278-8622 for more information and to book your FREE ride. Requests require a 48-hour notice. NO SHUTTLE JUNE 3RD.

Every Wednesday– BINGO is played during lunch! No Game June 3rd.

Wednesdays - "Canasta" Hand, Knee & Foot Card Game @ 1:15 PM. Let us know if you'd like to join us for lunch! No Games on June 3rd.

Wednesdays – Play Scrabble! – 1:15 PM – Come by for an afternoon playing Scrabble. Boards are supplied by the senior center. Let us know if you'd like to join us for lunch! No Games on June 3rd.

Medical Transportation is accepting appointments. Call 508-278-8622 to schedule your rides.

Feel free to contact us at 508-278-8622 or visit us on our web page at Uxbridge-ma.gov/coa or like us on our FB page or by googling Uxbridge Senior Center and our new YouTube Channel or even dropping by.

www.facebook.com/UxbridgeMASeniorCenter

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNh_Rlq99rucmFH-UO7VFBw
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Tuesday: Walking club 9am, Cribbage 9:00am, Lunch & Bingo 11:30am, Technology class 1pm (call to make an appt.), Line dancing 2pm
Wednesday: Balance & strength 10am, Darts 11:30am, Mahjong 12:45pm, Dominoes 1 to 2:30pm
Thursday: Walking club 9am, Pitch 9:00am, Chair Yoga 9:30am, Tai Chi 10:45am, Hand and Foot card game 12:30pm
Friday: Balance & strength 10am, Zumba 11:30am

GET ME HOME SAFE PROGRAM: A new form is being released for caretakers and family members of dementia patients or developmentally disabled people. All you have to do is fill out this paper and keep it in a safe place. If you have a file of life card that would be the best place to store it on your refrigerator. In the event of an emergency, if your loved one is missing this information will be very helpful to emergency services personnel. If you need assistance filling out the information or attaching a picture we are available to assist you. If you have a loved one that could wander off, become disoriented, or has other health issues please take a moment to fill out the personal information form. This form will be available on the Police, Fire and Adult Social Center websites.

Tuesday & Thursday lunch club, please call the Friday before to sign up. Lunch is \$4.00 per person. If you would like to attend we offer free rides to & from the center and are willing to waive the lunch fee if necessary.
June Lunch Menu:
Tuesday 6/2: Shepherd's pie baked potato, biscuit & cake
Tuesday 6/9: Hot dog, tortellini pasta salad & fruit
Tuesday 6/16: Spaghetti w/ meat sauce, salad, garlic bread & pudding pie
Thursday 6/18: Taco salad bar & fruit
Tuesday 6/23: Chicken salad sandwich, garden salad & fruit
Tuesday 6/30: BBQ pork chops, sea-

soned potatoes, green beans & ice cream
Friday Shopping Schedule: Please call 48 hours in advance to schedule your ride. Grocery shopping pick up starts at 9:30.
Hannaford: 6/26
Walmart: 6/5 & 6/19
Price Chopper: 6/12

JUNE EVENTS: The center will be closed on Friday June 19th in observance for Juneteenth.

WELLNESS CLINIC DATES: Monday June 8th & Tuesday June 23rd. Clinic is open from 10 am to 12 pm.

Hip Hop Square Dance: Wednesday June 3rd @ 1:00. Rondae is back for an instructional program. There is no charge for this event. This one hour class is sponsored by the Douglas Cultural Council. Sign up by 6/2 or stop in and register the day of the class.

FREE craft day: Thursday June 11th @ 12:00. We will be making coasters. There are different patterns & colors for you to choose. All supplies will be supplied for you. Refreshments will be served! Sign up by 6/9.

Lunch & a movie: Thursday June 18th @ 11:30. We will be enjoying the movie, "Last Breath." This movie is about a team of experienced underwater explorers face off against turbulent oceanic forces. Meanwhile, they strive to extract their imperiled teammate from the crushing depths. Their colleague remains ensnared hundreds of meters beneath the surface, fighting for survival in the unforgiving aquatic realm. Lunch is \$4.00 per person. Sign up by 6/12.

Annual Police BBQ: Monday June 29th @ 12:00. Residents of Douglas are invited by the Douglas Police Department for lunch at The Grill on Main. Stop in the center to sign up & pick your menu choices. Sign up by 6/20.

PLEASE CALL (508) 476-2283 TO SIGN UP FOR PROGRAMS & CLASSES

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<https://www.douglas-ma.gov/202/AdultSocial-Center-Senior-Center>



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DECA

continued from page A1

the Small Business Enterprise – Food category with their DECA Diner project.

“DECA ICDC was an incredible opportunity for our students to compete among some of the best young business leaders in the world,” said Eliot Deters, Whitinsville Christian School faculty member and DECA Advisor. “The level of competition was intense, and it was inspiring to see our students step onto such a big stage and represent our school so well.”

For students, the conference offered not only competition but also unforgettable experiences and personal growth.

“I made countless memories that I’ll cherish for the rest of my life,” said Madison Amati, WCS Chapter President. “There were so many amazing moments that I truly can’t pick a favorite. To any student considering DECA, I would absolutely encourage you to join. It changed my life, and it can change yours too.”

This year’s #DECAICDC welcomed more than 26,000 members, advisors, and business professionals, making it the largest conference in DECA history. In addition to career-focused competitions, students participated in leadership academies, networking events, and professional development opportunities with more than 85 internationally recognized businesses.

Throughout the school year, more than 250,000 of DECA’s 315,000 student members participate in competitive events at the local and regional levels. These competitions simulate real-world business scenarios and allow students to apply academic knowledge while developing critical leadership and career skills. The top state and provincial competitors advance to the international level, where they showcase their talents on one of DECA’s biggest stages.

DECA is a career and technical student organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs with a career interest in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. DECA enhances preparation for college and careers by providing co-curricular programs that integrate with classroom instruction, apply learning, connect with business, and promote competition. DECA student members leverage their DECA experience to become academically prepared, community-oriented, and professionally responsible leaders. DECA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with more than 298,000 members in more than 4,450 high school and college chapters in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, and Germany. For more information about DECA, visit www.deca.org.

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OBITUARIES

Carol Tosoonian, 97



Whitinsville- Carol (Arakelian) Tosoonian, 97, of Whitinsville, MA, passed away on Saturday, May 9, 2026. Born in Whitinsville to the late Hagop and Mary (Ohanian) Arakelian, Carol was

predeceased by her husband of 38 years, Leo Tosoonian. Carol is survived by her daughter, Laura Boghosian; her son, John Tosoonian; two grandchildren, Taline and Aram Boghosian; and many nieces and nephews. Carol was also predeceased by seven sisters, Aznive Arakelian, Anna Palulian, Varsenig Papazian, Asadouhi Goshgarian, Verkin Arakelian, Katherine (Katchy) Iobst, and Nancy Gigarjian, as well as a brother, Arakel (Arco) Arakelian.

Carol attended Northbridge High School, where she played basketball and softball, and was awarded the Gold Medal, the school's highest honor for academic achievement. Following her graduation in 1946, she worked until her marriage as an office clerk in the Whitin Machine Works.

At age 36, while raising her two children, Carol enrolled in Worcester State College to become a teacher. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in education in 1969 and later earned her master's degree in 1980. While at Worcester State, Carol and other older students organized the Antique Scholars club; she was also inducted into the Kappa Delta Pi Honor

Society.

Upon graduation, Carol taught middle school mathematics in the Uxbridge public schools for 16 years. She was a proud member of the National Education Association, a teacher's union, and upon retirement, she joined the Massachusetts Teachers Association-Retired and the Southern Worcester County Retired Teachers' Association.

Carol was a devoted member of Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church of Whitinsville from its inception in 1957. She served as treasurer on the board of trustees; sang in the choir; taught Sunday School; was a member and chair of the Ladies Guild; frequently chaired the church bazaar and picnic; and was elected to serve as her church's delegate to the National Representative Assembly.

A former member of the Armenian Youth Federation, Carol was honored in 2013 as a founder of the AYP's Camp Haiastan in Franklin, MA.

Carol was an avid bowler in a local league for many years, enjoyed gardening and travel, and served on the organizing committee for her high school class reunions. She also read widely, relished playing cards with her sisters and friends, and was a dedicated Red Sox fan. A force of nature, Carol will be remembered for exuberantly leading Armenian line dances at weddings and picnics until her health declined.

Calling hours and a funeral service were Friday, May 15, at the Armenian Apostolic Church in Whitinsville. Burial followed at Pine Grove Cemetery, 241 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church, 315 Church Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588 or the Perkins School for the Blind, 175 North Beacon Street, Watertown, MA 02472, www.perkins.org. Carr Funeral Home, 24 Hill St., Whitinsville, has been assisting the family. To share a memory or condolence, please visit www.carrfuneralhome.com

John F. "Jack" Greene, 95



Douglas- John F. "Jack" Greene, 95, of Wallis St., passed away on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at Advinia Care in Northbridge after a period of declining health.

He is survived by his two daughters Lisa McDonald and her husband Dave of Manchaug, and Lori Greene and her partner Eric Weitzel of North Port, FL; and several nieces and nephews. He was brother of the late Barbara E. Lavalley, Catherine Turiano, Robert A. Greene, Richard F. Greene, and Alfred F. Greene, who passed away when he was 4 years old. His companion of 23 years and love of his life, Jacqueline Silverstein, died in 2022 and his former wife, Gloria (Leveille) also died in 2022.

Born in Uxbridge on March 26, 1931, he was the son of Alfred A. Sr. and Margaret (Tracy) Greene and lived in Douglas 27 years. He lived in Whitinsville for at least 20 years and was a member of the Northbridge Conservation Commission.

Mr. Greene worked as a repairman for the Bell Telephone Co., which later became AT&T. He was employed for 35 years eventually becoming the head lineman. Previously, he worked for General Motors in Framingham several years. He was an Uxbridge High School graduate, class of 1950. He then enlisted in the U.S. Air Force serving as a MP, in Saudi Arabia. Jack was a longtime parishioner of St. Denis Church, where he passed the collection basket and opened the church early in the mornings. A member of Mumford Council 365

Knights of Columbus, he had many good times performing in their Knights and Maids Group with friends. He enjoyed golfing, travelling with Jackie, and trips to visit his daughter

Lori in Florida, where they would attend Native American Pow-wows each year and visit the dog track. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and took many angling trips to Canada, and also visited Alaska. A self-taught artist, he painted many beautiful works of art, many of which were dispersed to family and friends, and belonged to the Blackstone Valley Art Association. He also belonged to the Greendale Men's Retirement Club.

In his later years he looked forward to meeting friends for coffee in the mornings, and for fish and chips on Fridays. He loved his quiet home in Douglas where he would grow tomatoes and feed the birds, and was fastidious about his yard for as long as he could.

Following cremation, Jack's Funeral Mass will be held on Monday, June 1st at 11 AM in St. Denis Church, 23 Manchaug St., Douglas, with a luncheon to follow. His burial with full military honors will be held on Tuesday, June 2nd at 11 AM in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Providence Rd., Whitinsville. There are no calling hours. Memorial donations in his memory may be made to St. Denis Church, 23 Manchaug St. Douglas, MA 01516. To leave a condolence message for his family please visit jackmanfuneralhomes.com



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LEGALS

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

Docket No. 26 SM 001568
TO:

Joseph A. Leblanc, Jr.

ORDER OF NOTICE

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

Servbank, N.A. f/k/a Allied First Bank, SB d/b/a Servbank

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Northbridge, numbered 82 Jefferson Avenue, given by Joseph A. Leblanc Jr. to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, its successors and assigns, dated March 17, 2016, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 55072, Page 163, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated January 23, 2019, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 60174, Page 271, and further affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated August 10, 2025, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 72640, Page 200, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this

court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before 6/29/2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 5/13/2026
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson Recorder
May 22, 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. WO26P1553EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:

Theodore Sidney Koopman
Also known as:

Theodore S Koopman
Date of Death: 12/01/2022

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by Dawn M Lefrancois of Uxbridge 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:

Dawn M Lefrancois of Uxbridge MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** 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 be-

fore: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/09/2026.**

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: May 11, 2026

Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate

May 22, 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. WO26P1590EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:

Barbara H. LeClaire
Date of Death: 04/26/2026

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Rep-**

resentative has been filed by **Brian P. LeClaire of Naple FL** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:

Brian P. LeClaire of Naple FL be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the estate 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 06/09/2026.**

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: May 14, 2026

Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate

May 22, 2026

Mechanics Hall Welcomes students for special screening of the Metropolitan Opera's "Cinderella"

WORCESTER — Mechanics Hall invites students and educators to a free school-day screening of the Metropolitan Opera's Cinderella on Wednesday, May 27 at 10 a.m. This special matinee brings a filmed Metropolitan Opera performance to the big screen, offering students the opportunity to experience world-class opera in one of Worcester's most iconic cultural venues.

Presented in partnership with the Metropolitan Opera — and drawn from its HD Live in Schools program — this event marks the beginning of a new

collaboration that connects local students with world-class productions in an accessible format.

Meghan Montaner, executive director of Mechanics Hall, commented, "We're thrilled to kick off this national partnership with the Metropolitan Opera and bring experiences of this caliber to Worcester. Events like these expand access to the arts and foster engagement with music and storytelling. This partnership is a meaningful way to connect students to a vibrant and historic cultural space in their own community."

Based on Jules Massenet's Cendrillon, with a libretto by Henri Cain and inspired by the classic tale by Charles Perrault, the English-language presentation brings the beloved fairy tale to life. Starring mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard as its rags-to-riches heroine, this abridged version preserves the work's musical richness while offering a clear and accessible introduction to opera.

Designed for elementary through high school students, this program supports interdisciplinary learning aligned with

Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts (Grades 4-8). Illustrated synopsis and educator materials prepared by the Metropolitan Opera are available through Mechanics Hall. Educators can register students and chaperones for free tickets at www.mechanicshall.org or contact the Box Office at box-office@mechanicshall.org.

About Mechanics Hall Steeped in the rich history of 19th century Worcester, Mechanics Hall is internationally regarded as one of the world's great concert

halls. Regionally, it is a meeting place beloved for the central New England location, its architecture, and the legacy of prominent figures engaged. The world's most renowned orchestras and performers — including the London Philharmonic, Yo-Yo Ma, Ella Fitzgerald, and Linda Ronstadt — have taken the Hall's stage. Among the many luminaries who have spoken at Mechanics Hall are Charles Dickens, Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass, and Mark Twain. In addition to serving as a premiere venue and recording site, Mechanics

Hall offers inspiring cultural experiences for diverse audiences through a variety of creative initiatives, including free concerts, community events, a youth chorus, and collaborative programs with local colleges and nonprofit organizations. Mechanics Hall is a nonprofit organization owned and operated by the Worcester County Mechanics Association, est.

1842. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Learn more at MechanicsHall.org.



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St. Mary's Church
4 Howard Street, Brookfield, MA 01506
Distribution: Wednesday 9:30 AM-11 AM:
Saturday 9:30 AM-11AM

CHARLTON

Chip - In Food Pantry
McKinstry Building
37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507
Distribution: 3rd Saturday 9 AM-12 Noon

St. Joseph's Church, Charlton
Tuesday 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Wednesday 9-11 a.m.
Everyone is welcome.

LEICESTER

Leicester Food Pantry
St. Joseph-St. Pius X Parish
759 Main Street, Leicester, MA 01524
Distribution: Tuesday 5 PM-7 PM

NORTH BROOKFIELD

St. Joseph's Food Pantry
Located in the church hall at 296 North
Main St. North Brookfield
Distribution is the 1st Thursday of the
month from 5:00-6:30PM
the 3rd Thursday of the month from 12
Noon-1:15PM
Any questions should be directed to the
Rectory office 508 867-6469.
St. Joseph's Food Pantry is a community
partner affiliated with the Worcester County
Food Bank.

OXFORD

Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf
Oxford Community Center
4 Maple Road
Oxford, MA 01540
Distribution: Thursday 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

ROCHDALE

The Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry
Greenville Baptist Church
674 Pleasant St.
Rochdale, MA
Distribution: Every Monday from 12:00 -
2:00 p.m. Open to everyone.

SOUTHBRIDGE

St. John Paul II Parish Food Pantry
279 Hamilton St., Southbridge
Tuesday 3-5 p.m., Wednesday 9-11 a.m.
(508) 765-0245

Southbridge Food Share
Located at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church,
Lower Level

PLUMMER PLACE

Home of the Northbridge Senior Center

The following events will take place at Plummer Place, Home of the Northbridge Senior Center. We are located at 20 Highland Street in Whitinsville. Telephone: (508) 234-2002. Northbridge residents have priority for all programming and events. Please call the main office to sign up for special events and programs, so we can plan accordingly.

Medical Drivers

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

Regular Programs:

Meditation with Kelly
Every Thursday morning at 9:30am
Book Club:
3rd Wednesday at 10:30am
Please call Kelly to find out what book we are reading.
Brew Crew:
First Wednesday at 9:30am
Wednesday, June 3rd
Guest Speaker ~ Adam Gaudette, Northbridge Town Manager
Dull Men's Club:
4th Tuesday at 9:30am
Tuesday, May 26th
Guest Speaker ~ Mark Dermugrditchian, Armenian-American author, musician, motorcycle enthusiast and longtime Massachusetts resident.
Scrabble:
First and Third Mondays at 9:30am
June 1st, 15th, and 29th
Women's Collective:
2nd Thursday at 10:00am
June 11th: Eating for Health the Mediterranean Way
Please call Amy for more information.
Writing Your Way
2nd and 4th Thursdays at 2:00pm
Please call Lori for more information.

Special Events and Programs:

Wednesday, May 27th
1pm -2pm
The Art of Cats
Cats have long captivated us, going beyond their role as mere pets to become powerful symbols and icons in art, literature, and more. From ancient civilizations to modern society, the allure of cats has left a mark on our culture, inspiring countless works of creativity and fascination. Do you have a story to tell about a cat? We hope you can join us for this wonderful program. Sign up in the main office.

The Plummer Place Pluckers

Concert and Sing-A-Long
Wednesday, June 3rd
1pm-2pm
Come travel back in time with Plummer Place Pluckers on a musical journey through the past. This sing-a-long concert will feature a wonderful collection of favorites that might take you all the way back to your elementary school days!! Bring your singing voices. This group loves audience participation! Sign up in the main office.

Favorite Songs, Familiar Faces: An Afternoon with Mark and Raianne

Thursday, June 4th
1pm-2pm
Mark and Raianne are a married couple

who entertain with unmistakable vocal harmonies, poetic lyrics and down-to-earth personae. These musically talented artists have contributed over seventeen albums within their first decade and toured consistently throughout the US and Canada. These artists blend distinctive voices with rich tantalizing harmonies and a wide range of accompaniment (guitar, mandolin, banjo, harmonica, ukulele, clarinet and penny whistle) featuring original and traditional acoustic Folk/Americana songwriting. Their live performances are both musically captivating and spiritually uplifting as audiences are carefully balanced between serious songs and humorous commentary. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Northbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the MA Cultural Council, a state agency. Sign up in the main office.

Strawberry Festival ~ Wednesday, June 10th 1pm-2pm

From Seedling to Sweetness — The Story of Our Strawberries

Join us as we hear from Ken Foppema of Foppema's Farm, a family-owned and operated farm in the Blackstone Valley! Since 1983, the Foppema family has been cultivating fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables — starting with strawberries in mid-June and extending through a diverse harvest of berries, sweet corn, tomatoes, apples and more — all grown on their 75-acre farm and sold directly at their farmstand.

Wednesday, June 10th from 1pm-2pm.
Light "themed" refreshments and free raffle!

Admission is \$5 cash payable at the door on the day of the event.

Sign up in the main office. Northbridge Residents have priority

Thursday, June 18th
10am-11am

The Apollo 11 Mission ~ America's Proudest Moment

This program describes the origins of the space race, rocketry, the Cold War, the training, the astronauts and the Mission! It will also cover the media frenzy and how America fell in love with the heroes who were responsible for it. You won't want to miss this one! Sign up in the main office.

Wednesday, June 24th
12:30pm-2:00pm The Great Summer Kickoff Party and Luncheon

Featuring the Driveway Chicks
Menu: Chicken Salad/Tuna Salad Sandwiches, Red Bliss Potato Salad, Cubed Watermelon, Potato Chips, and Lemon Squares. \$10 per ticket/2 ticket limit per person. Northbridge Residents have priority and you must have a ticket to attend. Tickets are on sale now in the main office. You must come to the senior center in person to purchase your ticket/s. Sponsored in part by a grant from the Northbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, Unibank, and the Friends of Northbridge Elders (FINE).

Thursday, June 25th

1:30pm-3:00pm
Beachy Keen Craft Class
Carol and Ginny will be back bringing the beach to the craft table! This relaxed, coastal-inspired class blends creativity, conversation, and seaside vibes for a fun, feel-good experience.

\$7 Cash/per person. Payable on the day of the event. Space is limited. Northbridge Residents have priority.

New Bocce League open to community

SOUTHBRIDGE — Bay Path Continuing Education & the Southbridge Italian Club have teamed up to launch an exciting new bocce league on Tuesday nights throughout May and June.

Bocce is a game that all can enjoy—no special skills or talents are required! If you can roll a ball, you can play! These two community organizations are thrilled to bring this sport to a wider audience. Both Bay Path Continuing Education and the Southbridge Italian Club are dedicated to offering various events for people to engage, socialize, and have fun. This new league is a perfect fit. Here are the details:

Tuesdays: May 12 – June 30 (eight weeks)

Teams of four to eight players

\$240 per team

One game per week at either 6 or 7 p.m.

Maximum of eight teams – don't wait!

Only team captains need to register for their team.

A brief informational captain meeting will be held before the season starts.

Gather your friends (18 and older), form a team, and come join us for a fantastic time on the court!

Games will be held at:

Italian American Club
20 North St., Southbridge

To register your team, call Bay Path Continuing Education at 508-248-5971, ext. 1715. Spots for teams are limited, so don't hesitate—call today!

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Southbridge - 14 Servant Way
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Gently used, well maintained RANCH on a cul-de-sac! 1,300 sf +/-, 3 BRs, 2 full baths, gas fireplace, central AC. A comfortable open space w/lots of natural light, private main BR w/California closets, a remodeled Bath w/handicap accessible wide-door roll-in shower. Offers a half acre of land Close to I-84 & Sturbridge. List Price: \$459,000

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

Thompson ~ 6 Lillian Ave
Bonnette Acres on Webster Line



Young (2019) Pristine Raised Ranch, 1800+ SF, 3 BRs, LL Family Rm, 2-1/2 Baths, Primary BR Suite, Central AC, Country Setting with .70 Acre Lot & Lg Fenced Area on Cul-de-sac!
\$489,900

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



Webster - 34 Eastern Ave Condos
~Unit M~



Original Owner, 1st Time Offered, Well-Kept, 2-BRs, 1-1/2 Baths, 1,500+ SF, LL Living Potential, Private Deck, 20-Unit Complex, Desirable Setting, 1395 in mins.
List Price: \$310,000

Featured Listing
Webster ~ 33 Slater Street



Webster - 24 Cooper Rd
New Construction - Craftsman Style home



On the shores of Lake Chargoggagogmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



Webster Lake Waterfront
22 Union Pt
Snug Harbor Villa

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.
List Price: \$1,050,000.

Webster Lake Waterfront!!
On Indian Point # 10



Astounding Panoramic Views across mid-section of Webster Lake! View the lake from all windows. Located on a peninsula providing 2 Shorelines. Fireplaced Living Room! 2 Baths. FHW Oil Heat! Central Air. Garage.
\$900,000.

Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island



Lakefront home w/1,700+/- sq ft. Open kitchen/dining/living w/cathedral ceilings + wall of windows. Full baths. Lower level family room w/ walkout to water.
\$775,000

Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!



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



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*Sided
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*2 Full Baths
* 1st Floor Laundry

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*Center Fireplace * Open Living Concept for Cabinet packed Kitchen/ Dining Area/ Living Room

20 Deer Run \$285,000

WORCESTER- SPACIOUS 3 UNITS



*3 bedrooms each unit
*Gas Heat
*Sided
*De-Lead Certificate

25 Almont Ave \$825,000

SOUTHBRIDGE CONDO



*2 bedrooms
*2 Baths
(*Open Living Concept Kitchen/ Dining room.
Livingroom
*Deck

18A Maria Ave \$219,900

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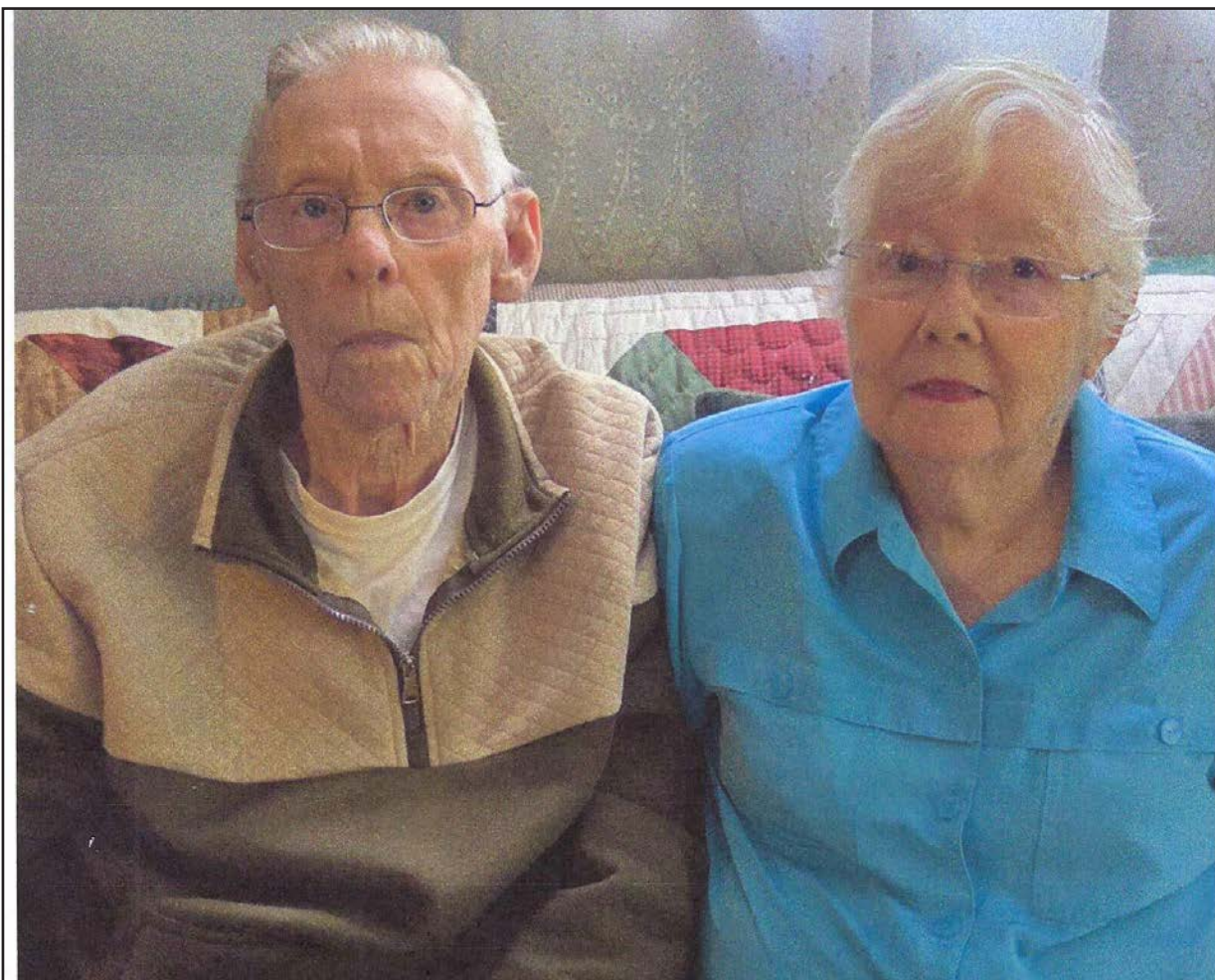
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Courtesy

KENNETH & JANET ZUIDEMA CELEBRATE 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Kenneth and Janet Zuidema of Northbridge will celebrate their 70th anniversary on June 23. They were married at St. Peter's Church in Northbridge. Kenneth is retired from Lehi Sheet Metal in Westboro and Janet retired as owner of Joe's Barbershop in Uxbridge. They have three children, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

BVT named a 2025-26 PLTW Distinguished School

UPTON — The hard work and continued dedication of students and staff at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT), have once again earned national recognition from the nonprofit organization Project Lead the Way (PLTW).

“We are proud to honor BVT for providing students with hands-on, career-connected learning that builds the confidence, knowledge, and skills to navigate their futures,” said Dr. David Dimmett, PLTW President and CEO. “Their commitment to real-world, project-based learning

ensures students experience education that is meaningful and directly connected to what comes next.”

“It is an honor to be named a 2025-26 PLTW Distinguished School for the ninth consecutive year,” said Superintendent-Director Anthony E. Steele II. “This recognition reflects our shared commitment to high-quality instruction and the dedication of those who make it possible.”

The PLTW Distinguished School designation recognizes schools committed to increasing student access, engagement,

and achievement in PLTW programs. To qualify, schools must meet rigorous criteria, including the number of PLTW courses offered, and the percentage of students enrolled in multiple PLTW courses.

BVT remains proud to be part of the PLTW community, united in preparing students for school, work, and life through engaging and empowering learning experiences. The school continues to expand its PLTW course pathways, strengthening opportunities for student success.

About Blackstone Valley Regional

Vocational Technical High School (BVT) Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the heart of the Blackstone Valley, BVT creates a positive learning community that prepares students for personal and professional success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of rigorous vocational, technical, and academic skills. For more information about the school, visit www.valleytech.k12.ma.us.



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