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SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS Friday, December 5, 2025

Dunkin's biggest fan

HOW ONE LOCAL FAMILY FORGED CONNECTION THROUGH COFFEE

BY JESSICA SHOCK
INSPIRE BRANDS

DOUGLAS — When Mike Berthiaume and his wife, Melissa, began planning week-end road trips with their son, they had no idea that making Dunkin' their first stop would transform their lives.

Over the course of the last four years, their 16-year-old son, Matthew, has become Dunkin's biggest fan, who knows the brand like the back of his hand.

"When we say he knows Dunkin', we mean he knows Dunkin'," says Mike. "Especially up here in the Northeast, he knows the art, the style, and the architecture of every Dunkin'. He knows when the menus are changing. He knows which franchisees own what locations. He knows everything."

So how does a teenager become a brand expert? With regular visits and boundless curiosity.

"Matt enjoyed our weekend

Courtesy
Through regular visits and boundless curiosity, 16-year-old Matthew Berthiaume of Douglas has made himself Dunkin' Donuts' biggest fan.

Student-led parent/teacher conferences at Douglas Middle School

DOUGLAS — On Thursday, Nov. 20 and Friday, Nov. 21, Douglas Middle School held its first "Student-Led Parent/Teacher Conferences."

What are Student-Led Parent Teacher Conferences?

"This format of conferences places the student at the center of their learning," commented Robert O'Brien, principal of Douglas Middle School. "It gives students a chance to show parents what they learned, what both their strengths and weaknesses are, and set goals for their future learning. It also empowers students to take ownership of their education."

Prior to the conference, students worked to produce a portfolio of what the work they had completed to date. With teacher input, students selected two to three pieces of evidence from each class that illustrated their work from the first quarter of the school year.

At the time of their conference, students presented their work to their teacher, parents or caregivers. The students stayed in the same location as teachers rotated to be present for their subject area. This continued until all core subjects, ELA, math, social studies, and science were covered.

"It was very interesting to see it from my son's perspective," one parent noted. "I could get a better understanding of what he was learning by listening to both my child and his teacher."

"It was great to see my son showcase his work and be able to communicate about his strengths and weaknesses," an 8th grader's parent stated. "Even though nerves came into play when reading his script aloud."

"The teachers were so thankful to accommodate many more parents this year and we doubled the amount of conferences we could hold over a two-day time span," Mrs. Martinsen, a sixth grade ELA teacher, said. "This gave students an opportunity to take ownership and show pride in the work they presented."

More than 150 families participated in this year's Parent-Teacher Conferences at Douglas Middle School.

adventures, but we realized what he really loved was Dunkin'. And after visiting so many locations, he started noting the differences: older styles, tap systems, Next Gens, drive-thru only — you name it," Mike says.

Mike encouraged his son to seek out the answers to his burning questions about the brand.

"[Matthew] will talk to employees in the restaurant, or get Dunkin' on the phone. It's become a really good thing for him," he added.

As a person with autism, Matthew sometimes feels anxiety in new situations. But at Dunkin', he knows exactly what to expect — and if he doesn't, he has the confidence

Turn To FAN page A10

Santa coming to Whitin Community Center Dec. 13

WHITINSVILLE — The Whitin Community Center is excited to welcome families to one of the most heart-warming events of the season, Santa's Coming to WCC, happening on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the WCC Gymnasium, 60 Main St., Whitinsville.

This free event is open to the public and brought to you by the WCC's Blackstone Valley Children's Place staff. Families are invited to join us for a festive morning filled with holiday games, crafts, cheek art, and a special visit with Santa Claus.

Each child will receive a surprise gift from Santa, and parents are encouraged to bring their cameras to capture these joyful moments.

"This event brings our community together in such a warm and joyful way," says Jenn Castro, Director of Outreach. "It's a chance for families to slow

Turn To SANTA page A10

Northbridge teens get a front-row seat to democracy

NORTHBRIDGE — Students from Northbridge High School witnessed justice in action last week at the Uxbridge District Court. The trip is arranged annually by Mr. Alan Finkel, NHS law teacher and social science academy advisor, and hosted by the Office of the Honorable Judge Gerald A. Lemire.

Students observed "first call" and arraignments of individuals charged with traffic violations, drug possession, and fraudulent transactions. Afterwards, students had the unique opportunity to tour the courtroom booking facility, guided by Assistant Chief Court Officer Greg Gomes, who provided valuable insights into the court's daily operations.

Assistant District Attorney Lisa Wells spoke about the importance of community trust in the justice system and emphasized that transparency and accountability are essential to maintaining public confidence. Likewise, Chad Parry, Probation Officer and Coordinator of Recovery Court, showed students how the justice system helps former convicts reintegrate with society by getting them the assistance they need to be successful.

Tyrone "Smith," an ex-convict, and Public Defender Molly Flanagan shared Tyrone's uplifting story. He spoke about the challenges of leaving a deadly gang environment and the guidance provided by the court system. Through self-reflection, perseverance in the face of setbacks, and assistance from others, he rebuilt his life. As a result, Northbridge students in attendance witnessed firsthand a powerful example of resilience and impact.

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BVT Adams Scholar recipients earn opportunities to advance career training

UPTON — The John and Abigail Adams Scholarship is a merit-based program that provides tuition at a Massachusetts state college or university. Seventy-three Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) seniors are the proud recipients of an Adams Scholarship. The award allows these students to further their vocational and career training with additional education, advanced training, and credentials.

The first-time score on a high school MCAS exam determines eligibility for an Adams Scholarship. Adams Scholar recipients receive free tuition for up to eight semesters of undergraduate education at a Massachusetts pub-

lic college or university, renewable for eight consecutive semesters or four years. Recipients must use the tuition credit in the first fall semester following their high school graduation and maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better.

“The Adams Scholarship reflects our students’ commitment, dedication, and desire to put forth their full effort on exam day,” said BVT Superintendent-Director Anthony E. Steele, II. “We’re proud of their accomplishments and excited for our career and life-ready seniors to benefit from this scholarship.”

The following members of the Class of 2026 have earned a John and Abigail Adams Scholarship (students are listed alpha-

betically by town):

B E L L I N G H A M
Gracie Clinton, Olivia Dalton, Evan Donlon, Evan Gerrish, Justyn Hayes, Gavin Jacobson, Charlie Leighton, Ericka Lizotte, Nicholas Russell, Andres Silva, Madysen Voss, and Justin Walsh.

B L A C K S T O N E
Jack Marino, Isabella Olsen, Ella Ruth, and Jake Thibault.

D O U G L A S
Jayce Boyko, Leopaul Gamelin, Reagan Guthenberg, Caitlin Kelly, Zachary Mitchell, and Sophie Rivard.

G R A F T O N
Amaya Langer, Benjamin Miller, Cooper Often, Henry Slonina,

and Delaney Waldo.

H O P E D A L E
Ella Foster, Evan Griffin, Edward Holland, and Shiv Patel.

M E N D O N
Kethly Bicalho, Greyson Blalock, Aiden Fayer, Charles Lozeau, and Aiden Quimby.

M I L F O R D
Ethan Dahmer, Andrew Dolan, Cecelia Dualu, Arieta Flanagan, Olivia Guido, Myles Guikema, Sherine Matovu, and Dominic Quintino.

M I L L B U R Y
Camden Darrell, Dylan Fleming, Allison Garden, Brandon McGovern, and Kyra Moody.

N O R T H B R I D G E
Esther Alves, Isabelle Balon, Noah Balon, Isabella Dorado, Landon Gibson, Jacob Poole, Benjamin Rivelli, Logan Tetreault, and Jacob Woeller.

U P T O N
Nikol Amburtseva, Justin Fransen, Jack Lupien, Ryan May, and Van Richard.

U X B R I D G E
Gabrielle Gannon, Brooke Gniadek, Matteo Lame, Mackenzie Lavallee, Isabella McLaughlin, Daniel Noel, Daniel Pimentel, and Parker Waugh.

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.

About Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical

DOUGLAS MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

DOUGLAS — Douglas Middle School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

Valerie Aguiar (Highest Honors), Lincoln Alexander (Honors), Mia Alyrd (Highest Honors), Eashan Avunuri (Highest Honors), Abigail Bailey (High Honors), Christopher Ballou (High Honors), Brooke Bangma (Highest Honors), Hunter Barnes (Highest Honors), Makena Bonina (Honors), Isabella Boucher (Honors), Brooke Brennan (High Honors), Hannah Brien (Highest Honors),

Harper Brien (Highest Honors), Olivia Brooks (High Honors), Kenna Brown (High Honors), Rylee Bullock (High Honors), Abigail Butler (Highest Honors), McKenzie Buzzell (High Honors).

Aurora Cathey (Highest Honors), Calvin Cathey (High Honors), Zara Chaudhary (High Honors), Brantley Clauss (High Honors), Kylie Clemmer (High Honors), Anthony Colaizzi (High Honors), Nathan Cook (High Honors), Noah Cook (Honors), Noah Dana (High Honors), Piper Danielson (Highest Honors), Lylah Dauplaise

Grande (Honors), Aiden Halter (Highest Honors), Everly Hann (Highest Honors), Grace Harkness (High Honors), Aliyah Harrington (Highest Honors), Skylar Harris (High Honors), Violet Hart (High Honors), Lucy Herman (High Honors), Joseph Hescocock (Highest Honors), Jax Hetherington (Highest Honors), Sinead Higgins (High Honors), Tenley Hipp (Highest Honors), Matthew Hochen (Highest Honors), Emalie Houle (Highest Honors), Trevor Houle (High Honors), Harrison Hutnak (Highest Honors).

Jack Johnson (High Honors), Mason Johnson (High Honors), Robert Kaczor (High Honors), Sophie Kagels (High Honors), Jacob Kaufman (Honors), Carter Kazijian (High Honors), Chase King (High Honors), Ryder King (Honors), Collin Lachance (Highest Honors), Colton LaFave (Highest Honors), Emersyn Lafond (Highest Honors), Jace Laliberte (High Honors), Joseph Lamoreaux (Highest Honors), Collin Latendresse (Honors), Allison Leaver (High Honors), Hannah Lewis (High Honors), Camden Longchamps (High Honors), Marcus Lozeau (Highest Honors), Olivia Lukason (Highest Honors), Lilah Lynch (High Honors).

Elijah Maldonado (Highest Honors), Oliver Marshall (Highest Honors), Caden George Martin (High Honors), Blake Martinsen (High Honors), Emilie Mascis (Highest Honors), Ethan Mascis (Highest Honors), Parker Masseur (Highest Honors), Liam McBride (Highest Honors), William McCusker (High Honors), Declan Meade (Highest Honors), Liam Meade (Highest Honors), Maisie Mello (Highest Honors), Jordynn Moberg (Highest Honors), Morgan Moreno (Highest Honors), Kaitlyn Morris (Honors), Alanna Mulira (High Honors),

Zoey Musgrove (High Honors).

Zaiyana Naranjo (Highest Honors), Zavion Naranjo (Honors), Adelie Nichols (Highest Honors), Addison Noel (High Honors), Madelyn Norton (High Honors), Rylee Norton (Highest Honors), Amber O’Neill (Highest Honors), Natalia Oliveri (Highest Honors), Jack Ouillette (High Honors), Eva Patel (Highest Honors), Jayce Peters (Highest Honors), Warren Philbrook (High Honors), Kevin Pollak (High Honors), Titus Poole (Highest Honors), Colin Potter (High Honors).

Delia Radzik (High Honors), Alexia Ramos (High Honors), Jax Reardon (High Honors), Nevaan Renjith (High Honors), Liana Robert (High Honors), AJ Robinson (High Honors), Tanner Robinson (Highest Honors), Mason Rodriguez (High Honors), Payzleigh Rodriguez (Honors), Jack Rosenthal (Honors), Hayden Rowell (High Honors), Maxwell Ruiz (Honors), Danny Salvas (Highest Honors), Savanna Salvas (Highest Honors), Carlo Salvucci (High Honors), Gabriella Salvucci (Honors), Jason Sandford (Highest Honors), Anthony Santiago (Honors), Anthony Saunders (Honors), Macy Schimmelpenningh (High Honors), Deven Shenian (Honors), Abram Sheperd (Highest Honors), Alan Slanda (Highest Honors), Gabriel Slater (Honors), Avery Stand (Highest Honors), Austyn Staples (High Honors), Madeline Stockhaus (Highest Honors), Riley Stratton (High Honors), John Swindling (Highest Honors).

Aurora Tebaldi (High Honors), Max Telles (High Honors), Jayden Thomas (High Honors), Zachary Towne (Highest Honors), Cameron Trudeau (Highest Honors), Ava Tuttle (High Honors), Landon Vacca (Highest Honors), Michael Valliere (Highest Honors), Samuel Vargas (High Honors), Gavij Vassar (High Honors), Logan Vitale (High Honors), Bailey Von Rueden (High Honors), Julia Wasson (Honors), Samantha White (Honors), Kira Willsey (Highest Honors), Adelyn Wood (Highest Honors), Dwayne Zabala (Honors).

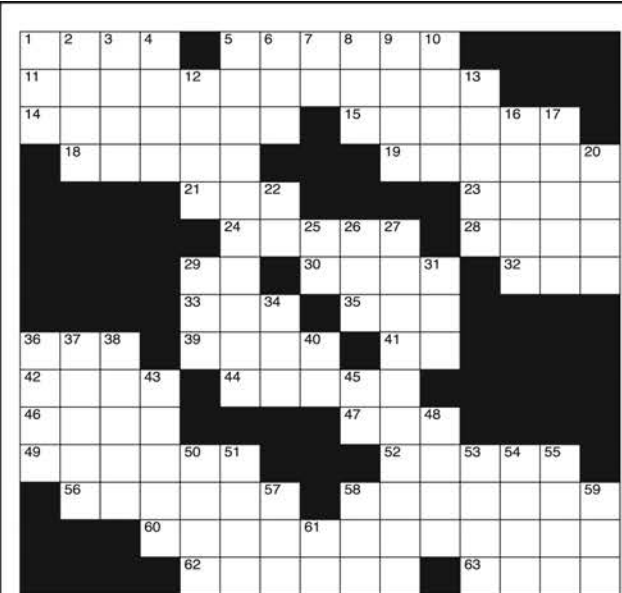
Blackstone Valley UMC invites community to Christmas dinner

WHITINSVILLE — Parishioners and volunteers from the Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church would like to cordially invite everyone to our Free Community Christmas Dinner, including the usual holiday meal favorites, roast turkey, potatoes, vegetables, squash, stuffing, cranberry sauce and dessert.

This year’s meal will be served on Thursday, Dec. 25, from noon to 2 p.m. in the Blackstone Valley United Methodist Faith Hall at, 61 Linwood Ave. Whitinsville. Parking is available behind the church accessible from Church Street.

The dinner is open to everyone free of charge. Please come join us for a joyous Christmas celebration that will include holiday fun, food, and fellowship with many from the community.

For more information, call the church office at 508-234-2275.

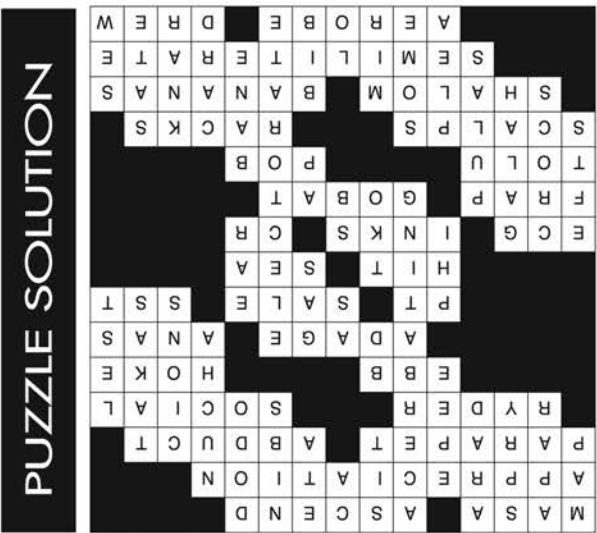


CLUES ACROSS

1. Dough made from corn flour
5. Rise
11. Gratitude
14. A low wall
15. Kidnap
18. A cup golfers want to win
19. Outgoing
21. "Partner" to flow
23. Former Michigan coach Brady
24. Proverb
28. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
29. Helps a body recover
30. Baseball Cy Young winner
32. Very fast airplane
33. Offensive baseball stat
35. Body of water
36. Record of one's heartbeat
39. Signs a contract
41. Atomic #24
42. Bred securely
44. French Jesuit theologian
46. Fragrant brown balsam
47. Post office box
49. Sells tickets at inflated prices
52. Places to hang coats
56. Jewish salutation
58. Yellow fruits
60. Poorly educated
62. Microorganism
63. Talk show host Barrymore

CLUES DOWN

1. A way to plan
2. Three-banded armadillo
3. Mobile
4. Romanian city
5. Making sour
6. Take a seat
7. "The Golden State"
8. When you hope to arrive
9. Pointed ends of pens
10. Extinct flightless bird
12. Sharp-pointed dueling sword
13. Nape of neck
16. Problems (Spanish slang)
17. Narrow carpet
20. To avoid the risk of
22. Spiritual academic degree (abbr.)
25. Equally
26. Traditional cars still need it
27. Eligible voters
29. Greek alphabet letter
31. Body part
34. Referee-declared outcome
36. Means to moving money
37. Popular footwear brand
38. Cockatoo
40. NFL's big game
43. Botswana currencies
45. News-reporting organization
48. Batman villain
50. Urgent request
51. Not all
53. Hallmark's specialty
54. Knot in a tree
55. Satisfy
57. Notable space station
58. Baby's dining accessory
59. Stitch clothing
61. __ and behold



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Learning at sea

SAINT JOSEPH STUDENTS TAKE FIELD TRIP TO BATTLESHIP COVE

FALL RIVER — Students in Grades 5–8 from Saint Joseph School recently traveled to Battleship Cove in Fall River for a memorable field trip on the eve of Veterans Day.

At Saint Joseph School, field trips are carefully chosen to correlate with teaching units and serve as extensions of the curriculum. This year’s visit to Battleship Cove was planned to honor the service and sacrifice of our nation’s veterans, deepen students’ understanding of U.S. military history, and connect classroom learning in social studies, science, and STEM with real-world experiences aboard historic naval vessels.

Battleship Cove is a nonprofit maritime museum and war memorial that houses the world’s largest collection of World War II-era naval vessels. Located along the waterfront in Fall River, the museum is home to several National Historic Landmarks, including the battleship USS Massachusetts, the destroyer USS Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., and the World War II submarine USS Lionfish, as well as historic patrol torpedo boats and other craft. Together, these ships preserve the stories of American sailors and commemorate the sacrifices of



Courtesy

Saint Joseph School seventh grade students stand on the deck of the USS Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. at Battleship Cove during a recent field trip. Behind them is the mighty battleship USS Massachusetts, a powerful reminder of the courage and sacrifice of the sailors who served on these historic ships.

veterans from World War II through the Vietnam era.

For many Saint Joseph School students, the highlight of the trip was stepping aboard the USS Lionfish, a World War II submarine preserved much as it appeared during its service in the Pacific. Students were struck by the submarine’s cramped quarters, narrow passageways, and stacked bunks, all of which offered a powerful visual of what daily life was like for submariners

at sea. They were especially fascinated by the size of the torpedoes and the complexity of the equipment needed to operate the vessel beneath the ocean’s surface. The experience brought to life the courage, precision, and teamwork required of the sailors who served on submarines like the Lionfish.

Adding a very special dimension to the day was the students’ tour guide, Chloe Johnson, daughter of Saint Joseph School’s mid-

dle school math instructor, David Johnson. Chloe is a senior at Massachusetts Maritime Academy, where she is majoring in Marine Engineering. Earlier this year, she completed an immersive internship with the Military Sealift Command, sailing on the USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20) in Gaeta, Italy. During her internship, Chloe gained hands-on experience in the world of marine engineering by performing daily maintenance, trou-

bleshooting mechanical systems, and contributing to the overall operation of the ship.

Johnson shared stories from her time aboard the Mount Whitney and explained how systems like those the students were seeing on the historic vessels continue to function—albeit in more modern forms—on today’s ships. Her firsthand perspective helped students connect what they were observing at Battleship

Cove with real career paths in engineering, maritime service, and the military. Hearing from a young adult who is now working toward a future at sea made the experience especially inspiring.

Throughout the visit, students were encouraged to reflect on the bravery and dedication of the men and women who served aboard these ships, as well as the responsibilities we share as citizens to remember their sacrifices. By walking the decks, climbing the ladders, and peering into the living and working spaces of sailors from another era, students gained a deeper appreciation for the history they study in class and the freedoms they enjoy today.

The Grade 5–8 field trip to Battleship Cove exemplified Saint Joseph School’s commitment to meaningful, experience-based learning. It blended history, STEM, and career exploration while fostering respect for veterans and gratitude for those who serve. As students returned to Webster, they carried with them not only facts and photographs, but also a renewed sense of appreciation for our nation’s military history and the people whose stories are preserved within the steel hulls at Battleship Cove.

Asa Waters Mansion presents a night of candlelight, music & merriment!

MILLBURY — The Asa Waters Mansion warmly invites you to usher in the holiday season with A Night of Candlelight, Music & Merriment, an elegant evening of dining, live music, and festive celebration held under the beautifully lit tent. This event will take place on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 5 p.m., immediately following the Millbury Chain of Lights

tree lighting at 123 Elm St., Millbury.

Returning for its second year, the evening promise’s guests an unforgettable holiday evening experience. Enjoy a candlelit seasonal buffet prepared by Executive Chef Mike Winslett, featuring a Prime Rib and Porchetta carving station, along with a fresh garden salad, sweet

potato-toasted and cauliflower-cranberry winter salad, loaded baked potatoes, penne marinara, and seasonal vegetables. A welcome warm beverage, curated charcuterie spread, custom-crafted cocktails at the cash bar, and the enchanting live cello music of Cellist Skip Vankuske, setting the tone for a night of warmth and sophistication.

“This evening is such a beautiful way to kick off the Winter season,” said Traci Parath, Executive Director of Asa Waters Mansion. “The atmosphere under the tent, the music, and the candlelight, it all creates a truly magical experience. We are thrilled to share this celebration with our community. It is

quickly becoming one of our favorite traditions!”

Register online at <https://unipaygold.unibank.com/transactioninfo.aspx-?TID=35274> or scan the QR code on our flyer. The cost to attend is \$50 per person, seating is limited, and advanced ticket purchase is required. Please

note, should the weather be inclement and prevent the use of the tent, this event will be rescheduled and held inside the Mansion at a future date. For more information, please contact Traci Parath at 508-865-0855 or email Traci at tparath@millburyma.gov.

Blackstone Valley UMC hosting free community Christmas dinner

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The dinner is open to everyone free of charge. Please come join us for a joyous Christmas celebration that will include holiday fun, food, and fellowship with many from the community.

For more information, call the church office at 508-234-2275.

Douglas Sunshine Club hosting gingerbread house decorating event

DOUGLAS — It’s that time again! The Douglas Sunshine Club is having their annual gingerbread house decorating event on Friday, Dec. 5.

This free event will begin at

noon at the Douglas Adult Social Center, 331 Main St., Douglas. We supply the constructed gingerbread houses and all the supplies for decorating. Come have some holiday fun, no experience necessary! Space is limited so please call the center at 508-476-2283 to reserve your spot.

The Douglas Sunshine Club is pleased to be hosting once again a free piano

performance by the Harrington Piano Studio students on Friday, Dec. 12 at 1 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to come enjoy the program as these young people showcase their talents with a variety of music at the Douglas Adult Social Center located at 331 Main St., Douglas.

Light refreshments will be served. Please call the center at 508-476-2283 to let us know you are planning to attend.

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*This dog is currently in foster care. If you're interested in meeting Tuffy, please email info.pawfectlife@gmail.com **



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

When the early sunsets bring us back indoors

As December settles in, the rhythm of daily life across the Valley shifts in subtle but noticeable ways. By late afternoon the sky is already fading, porch lights flicker on, and the familiar routes home take place under a canopy of early evening darkness. For many residents, these shortened days mark the quiet return of a season that asks us to move a little slower.

Early sunsets have a way of rearranging our schedules whether we intend them to or not. Outdoor chores get bumped earlier. After-school practices run beneath field lights. Road crews, police, and firefighters adapt routines to account for the challenges of nightfall arriving during peak activity hours. Even something as simple as walking the dog requires a flashlight tucked in a coat pocket.

There is a practical side to navigating this annual shift. Drivers contend with sharp contrasts between headlights and darkness, and pedestrians in dark clothing become harder to see. Local public safety departments remind residents each year that reflective gear, cautious driving, and patience can prevent accidents during these weeks when our circadian rhythms are still catching up.

But beyond the practical adjustments, this season brings with it a quieter transformation. Across the region, households gradually turn inward. Kitchens glow a little brighter. Windows reveal families gathered earlier around tables. The hum of community life changes, but it doesn't diminish—it simply becomes more interior.

What the early sunsets take in daylight, they often return in time reclaimed. Families reconnect over board games, long-delayed conversations, or a quiet hour with books and music. Woodstoves are lit. Crockpots simmer. The forced pause from outdoor busyness can create room for reflection, rest, and routines that often get overlooked during the long days of summer.

Local organizations also adapt their programming to suit the season—libraries extend indoor offerings, senior centers adjust event schedules, and after-school programs lean into crafts, reading, and community meals. The glow of holiday lights along our town centers takes on greater significance when the afternoon darkness arrives so quickly. In a small way, each strand of bulbs or candlelit window becomes a beacon against the early night.

The early sunsets may challenge us, especially when the season's pace feels compressed. Yet this yearly transition presents a reminder that New England life has always been shaped by the seasons and the ways we respond to them. In the Blackstone Valley, that response often reflects a spirit of resilience and neighborliness—checking on an elderly resident who doesn't drive at night, offering a ride home from an evening event, or simply being a little more attentive on the roads.

As we settle into the weeks ahead, it is worth embracing the slower cadence this season imposes. The light will return soon enough. For now, the early dusk offers something valuable: a chance to reconnect with the quieter parts of our communities and ourselves.

Letter submission policy

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

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

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'C' words: cult, corruption, chaos — Pam Bondi

To the Editor:
Cult: In 1778, Samuel Johnson posited, “Without truth, there must be a dissolution of society. As it is, there is so little truth, that we are almost afraid to trust our ears; but how should we be, if falsehood were multiplied 10 times?” It’s now 2025, falsehood has been multiplied 1000 times, and we have the answer – we would have the pending dissolution of a democratic country. Trump tells lies as a firehose disgorges water – in great torrents. He lies so frequently, and with such fluency that psychiatrists say he seems genetically incapable of being truthful. Lies have become commonplace and acceptable to the MAGA base. As Henry David Thoreau said: “It takes two to speak the truth—one to speak, and another to hear.”

Trump has committed every sin of Christianity, broken every law of the United States, violated the Constitution, transgressed every moral, and ethical precept, has told so many lies that the analyst assigned to maintain a running count, has given up..... yet he was elected to the highest office in the land – twice. This only happens in a cult. So, should evidence be produced that he was a willing participant in Epstein’s pedophile ring, will cult members, and the willfully blind, spineless Republicans, finally be repulsed enough to awake to who and what their toddler-in-chief is? Stay tuned.

Corruption: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) made an investment of \$2 billion into World Liberty Financial, a cryptocurrency startup run by the Trump and Witkoff families — Steve Witkoff is President Trump’s special envoy to the Middle East. Two weeks later, the Trump administration approved the sale of hundreds of thousands of AI chips to the Emiratis, despite concerns that the chips could be shared with China. The Times report did not directly link the two deals, but cast suspicion on the timing. Ryan Cummings, chief of staff at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy, said, “If this is true, this is the largest public corruption scandal in the history of the United States and it’s not even close.”

The deal was engineered by Changping Xiao, a Chinese-born businessman and UAE citizen, who was accused by the Justice Department of causing significant harm to US national security. Xiao and his company, Binance, plead guilty to failing to prevent money laundering - he was essentially using his company as a platform to finance criminal activity by sending money to terrorist organizations, al-Qaeda, Hamas, and ISIS. Binance was fined \$4 billion, and Xiao was sentenced to four months in jail.

Last fall, fresh out of prison, Binance, donated software to Trump’s World Liberty Financial, without which they couldn’t exist. The next month, Xiao applied for a presidential pardon. Shortly after filing the application, he was at the center of the \$2 billion Emirati deal that took World Liberty from being a minor venture, to being one of the largest stable coins in the world, all in a single transaction. The Emiratis entrusted \$2 billion to a currency that had been on the market five weeks. Binance also left the \$2 billion deposited in World Liberty Financial, where it earns approximately \$80 million a year interest for the Trumps and their partners.

On Oct. 21, President Trump signed the

full and unconditional pardon for Changping Xiao. The pardon was not announced, but two days later when it leaked, Trump didn’t seem to know who Xiaio was. Elizabeth Oyer, the woman who was replaced as head of DOJ pardon vetting department by a Trump loyalist, said that Xiao wasn’t close to meeting Justice Department guidelines for a pardon. She said, “This is corruption.”

Chaos: President Trump threatened Ukraine with a new peace proposal that was ‘Take-it-or-leave-it’ as far as continued support from America. The proposal was far more stringent than anything Ukraine had received previously from our five-time draft dodger, Captain Bone Spurs. It involved land concessions, a reduction of Ukraine’s military forces, agreement to never apply for membership in NATO, formal agreement that Crimea and the Donbas were Russian territory, and a secession of fighting at current positions. Trump endorsed it. His spokesperson publicly touted it. Allies condemned it. And Ukraine was told to treat it as an American proposal.

Now, Marco Rubio is denying that this came from American sources. Rubio claims it is a Russian proposal that was sent to the Trump administration. So it isn’t a “leak.” This is a foreign influence crisis reaching directly into U.S. national security decision-making. How did a Russian-drafted ultimatum to Ukraine end up being pushed by Trump’s team as American policy? And why is Rubio now denying involvement after Axios reported he helped craft it?

This is the level of incompetence that we face from this administration, on a daily basis - incompetence that could literally destroy us, never mind continue to embarrass us on the world stage. What does this do to Ukraine, a country trying to survive an unjustified attack on its sovereignty? Trump is a Russian asset. He has done everything in his power to support Putin’s efforts in this illegal war. Trump has been laundering Russian mob money for decades. I don’t know what Putin has on Trump, or what he has promised him, but the evidence of collusion is clear and unmistakable.

Pam Bondi: Bondi is the head of Trump’s Department of Retribution, formerly the Department of Justice. In a lengthy story published on Sunday by the New York Times, former DOJ attorneys described rampant politicization of prosecutions, directives to dig up evidence on Trump’s political foes, and orders to drop investigations into potential terrorist plots and white-collar crimes. In her favor, Bondi has been quite effective at ‘mishandling’ the Epstein files. One minute she had Epstein’s client list on her desk. The next minute, the list doesn’t exist. After 1000 agents were assigned to read through the files looking for names, Bondi said there was nothing there. Now, ‘there is new information.’ Epstein’s own brother just said he has information that the files are being scrubbed of all Republican names, at a facility in Winchester, Va. After doing everything in his power to distract attention from Epstein, Trump just signed a Congressional bill authorizing release of the files, something he could have done unilaterally, months ago. Let’s see what, if anything, is actually released.

RICK BEVILACQUA
WHITINSVILLE

WWII and “It’s A Wonderful Life”

To the Editor:
It’s that time of year, full of joy and great cheer for our Lord and Savior. It is time to remember a World War II moment in history. Time to watch one of the best Christmas films. And time to consider prayer.

In 1946, prayer was frequent, intense, and brought people close to God.

Did you know that, in the first scene of the 1946 Christmas movie “It’s A Wonderful Life,” many voices lift prayers to God for George Bailey? And God, who knows all things, asks Joseph, whose brothers sold him into slavery, why everyone is praying for George Bailey.

Why indeed.

The film gets a powerful performance from an actor who had real life WWII combat experience. Before Jimmy Stewart took the role of George Bailey in “It’s a Wonderful Life,” he was a licensed pilot. In 1941, before Pearl Harbor, at age 33, Stewart walked away from Hollywood stardom to enlist in the Army. He served five years on active duty as a pilot, flying

dangerous bombing missions over Nazi-occupied Europe before making this film. He commanded eleven bombing missions of the 703rd Bomb Squadron, U.S. Army Air Corps, over Germany.

Stewart flew B-24s, known as “widow makers” because so many pilots and aircraft were lost while flying them. Stewart watched from his cockpit as plane after plane, friend after friend, went down. For years afterward, he had nightmares: German planes flying at him, spraying bullets, firing rockets, beside him - burning B-24s spun out of formation and crashed below. Then, in his dream, an explosion blew a hole beneath his seat. He could see Germany, straight down, 4 miles away.

This was no dream. This happened on his last flight. For this true story, read “The Dark Place” by Dave Kindy in the December 2020 issue of World War II magazine. As my Learned Friend said, it was not George Bailey’s brother, Harry, who was the World War II combat pilot hero

Turn To LETTER page A5

Lanterns Along Main Street

There’s a small ritual I’ve noticed in a lot of Massachusetts towns—something so ordinary you could miss it unless you’re paying attention. It happens in the morning, long before the school buses growl to life or the commuter rush begins. Shopkeepers unlock their doors, sweep a few stray leaves from their thresholds, and prop the door open for a minute to “let the day in,” as one fellow once told me.

I’ve always liked that expression. You don’t open the door; you let the day in. As if the day were something

LANTERNS
ALONG
MAIN
STREET
By CHIPPY

polite, waiting on the step with its hat in hand.

That morning moment reveals something about these towns. You learn who gets up early, who doesn’t mind the cold bite of a December morning, who chats across the street as naturally as breathing. You learn that the fellow who runs the hardware store has the same whistle every day, and that the woman who works the bakery counter taps her knuckles on the window before she flips the sign to Open, like a quiet promise that she means it.

What strikes me isn’t the routine itself, but the way people seem to take comfort in it. In a world with so many moving parts—so much technology, so many shortcuts, so many alerts and reminders buzzing for our attention—there’s something steadying about a place where the first order of business is sweeping off the stoop. You don’t need an app for it, and nobody’s angling for recognition. They just do it because it makes the day feel like it’s beginning on the right foot.

I drove through a handful of towns in the area last week and found myself stopping for coffee in one of those little places where the tables wobble and the mugs are mismatched. The man behind the counter asked if I wanted a refill before I had even taken my first sip. It wasn’t pushy—just habit, the way some people press a hand against your shoulder before they walk by. A courtesy without any expectation attached.

At the table next to mine, two men were talking about the high school basketball team. One of them still called the gym the new gym, even though it was built sometime in the mid-1990s. You hear that kind of thing a lot around here. Old labels have a long half-life. A building can be new for decades if the one before it was older still.

That’s the quiet charm of these towns: time doesn’t hurry. Not in a stubborn way, but in a comfortable one. Something might change—a new family moves in, a business closes, a bridge gets repaired—but life doesn’t shove ahead. It ambles. And in that ambling, people notice things that would go unremarked elsewhere.

They notice if the library lights are on a little later than usual. They notice when a regular stops showing up for morning coffee and someone goes to check in. They notice when the town hall flag flaps oddly because the rope has caught, and someone climbs up to fix it without calling attention to the effort.

You don’t need to romanticize small towns to appreciate this. They have their problems, just like anywhere else. But they also have a certain sturdiness—a belief that life is best lived with a bit of care and a steady gait.

I watched an older couple walking down Main Street in a town I won’t name because it could be almost any of them. They weren’t in a rush. They weren’t talking. They were simply keeping pace with each other, stopping once to look at a storefront display of knitted hats and again to check whether the barber’s pole was spinning that day. They walked as though the sidewalk belonged to them in the best way—not possession, but familiarity.

There’s something reassuring in that. We spend so much time thinking about what’s urgent that we sometimes forget what’s simply there. And in these Massachusetts towns, there’s an impressive amount of there—small kindnesses, unspoken habits, a rhythm you can find only if you slow down enough to fall into step with it.

The next time you’re up early, drive through town before the day has fully stretched awake. Watch the shop doors open, the lights flicker on, the first few conversations hover above the sidewalk like breath on cold air. You’ll see what I mean.

You’ll see that a community isn’t built on grand gestures. It’s built on the quiet act of letting the day in.

Christmas tree alternatives that provide year-round beauty

When looking for a unique holiday tree this season consider adding a plant you can enjoy now and throughout the year. Select a larger specimen to use as a floor plant, adding dramatic scale to your indoor décor. Smaller plants can be placed on tabletops throughout the house to add a bit of extra cheer in any room.

Transform a weeping fig, rubber tree or fiddle-

leaf fig into a holiday tree with a few lights, garland and ornaments. All three of these make great additions to an indoor garden and their tree-like appearance makes them a perfect substitute for more traditional Christmas trees.

Grow them in bright, indirect light with evenly moist but not soggy wet soil. Water thoroughly and pour off any excess water that collects in the saucer.

Or place pebbles in the saucer to elevate the pot above the water, creating a gravel tray. The excess water will evaporate, increasing humidity around the plant. Avoid drafts of hot and cold air and be prepared for some leaf drop on the weeping fig with a change in the seasons or growing conditions. It will survive and eventually send out new leaves.

Consider a Norfolk Island pine when looking

for something that looks more like a pine tree. You will often find them decorated and sold for the holidays in garden centers and floral shops. Or add your own decorations for the festive look you prefer.

Grow Norfolk Island pine in a cool, well-lit location that's free of drafts of hot and cold air. Regularly turn the plant to encourage even growth. Avoid dry air and keep the soil evenly moist to retain green, flexible and healthy needles and branches. Boost the humidity around this and other plants while reducing maintenance by using a gravel tray.

Purchase Rosemary wreaths and tree topiaries for a festive as well as fragrant and edible addition to the holidays. Just give the leaves a pet to enjoy the fragrance as it boosts your spirits. Pluck a sprig or two to add flavor to your winter meals and beverages.



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

Growing Rosemary indoors can be challenging so don't let past failures stop you from trying. Experiment until you find the location and maintenance routine that keeps your plant thriving. Grow it in a sunny window or under artificial lights and water thoroughly as the soil begins to dry. If the plant turns brown, move it out of sight to the back of your indoor garden. It still smells good when you give it a pet and only you will know.

Lemon Cypress makes a great miniature holiday tree, centerpiece or gift for a friend. The fragrant char- treuse foliage of this dwarf evergreen continues to brighten your winter décor

long after the holidays are over. Grow it in a sunny window and turn it occasionally to encourage even growth. You'll have the best results if you keep it in a cool location free from cold and hot air drafts.

Investing in one of these plants is sure to brighten your spirits and holiday décor. With proper care you can continue to enjoy them year-round and for next year's holiday celebrations. *Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" streaming courses and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.*

Latest auction news

I hope that you had a Happy Thanksgiving! While most of us were out grocery shopping and cleaning up after the big meal, some major auctions were in the headlines.

Famous puppets made news when Jim Henson's puppets and memorabilia auction took place late last month. Henson was the beloved creator of the "Muppets." Henson's "Crystal of Truth" from "The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance" sold for \$89,600, according to the UPI, while Miss Piggy's high heels went for \$22,400. The auction brought in \$2.6 million total, which will be used to preserve Henson's archives.

A major piece of art that saved a woman during the Holocaust broke a modern art record last month. Gustav Klimt's "Portrait of Elisabeth Lederer" was painted over three years from 1916 to 1918. It depicts the daughter of one of Vienna's wealthiest



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA



which brought \$195 million in 2022. "Portrait of Elisabeth Lederer" sold for a record \$236.4 million.

A different type of art also made news recently, with a rare Fabergé egg coming to auction. "Peter Carl Fabergé and his compa-

ny created more than 50 of the eggs for Russia's imperial family between 1885 and 1917, each elaborately unique and containing a hidden surprise," according to CBS News. Czar Alexander III gifted an egg to his wife every Easter. Nicholas II continued the tradition by presenting eggs to his wife and mother. A four-inch-tall "Winter egg" was carved from carved rock crystal, featuring platinum snowflake decorations and 4,500 rose-cut diamonds. When open, it reveals bejeweled quartz flowers symbolizing spring. There are currently 43 known Fabergé eggs, and most are in museums. The "Winter egg" was originally sold when Russia

was struggling in the 1920s and selling off artifacts. A London antique dealer purchased the egg for £400, which is a little under \$700 at current exchange rates. It exchanged hands several times and was once thought to be lost for decades until being sold in 1994 for 7 million Swiss francs (\$5.6 million at exchange rates then). It was resold for \$9.6 million in 2002. The current auction record for a Fabergé egg is \$18.5 million from a 2007 sale. This egg is expected to crack that record with a \$26 million estimate.

Our single-collector Civil War auction will be taking place this month. Following that, we'll have a major auction with fine jewelry, sterling silver, art, and other antiques and collectibles. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services info@centralmassauctions.com or (508-612-6111).

LETTER

continued from page A4

in the film. It was George (Jimmy Stewart) Bailey! Yet he was humble enough to take the role of George, the "4F loser" who keeps the home fires burning.

In the film, George Bailey saves Bedford Falls from becoming a town full of gin joints, brothels, and ruined people. [Did you ever notice that when the hero fails in the old films, the town becomes derelict, full of dope dealers, violent criminals, and sexual predators? It makes me shudder because this is our modern reality. New York, Chicago, Memphis, and Boston's Mass and Cass neighborhood, the nightmare scenes of It's a Wonderful Life and Back to the Future come to life.]

In the film, George saves his brother, Harry, from drowning in an icy pond so Harry could grow up to become a Navy combat pilot. Harry shoots down 15 bombers to save a U.S. transport full of soldiers and sailors. Loud cheering!

And at the heart of

every good Christmas film is good old Mom. The Woke Grinches try to ban "Mom," but they cannot get rid of Mary Bailey.

Mrs. George Bailey is indispensable to the film, to Christmas, and to us, too. Mary loves George, raises their four children, saves the old Granville House and, in the process, saves George and the town. Mary gives us a "Mom model" of love, faith, and self-sacrifice. A rarity nowadays.

Mary gives up their honeymoon money to save the Bailey Building and Loan. She does not envy her friends with big cars, expensive jewels and clothes, and mansions. If only she had left Bedford Falls to become a fancy executive in New York City! For that, you have to watch the Hallmark Channel Christmas movies. In them, what does the executive do? She goes home, takes over the bakery or the Christmas tree farm from Mom and Dad, and meets her future husband.

The "Wonderful Life"

film begins as Mary's prayer wafts up to Heaven. In response, God dispatches Clarence the Angel on a Rescue Mission. When George gets into real trouble, he prays desperately. And the film ends, with Mary rallying the community to prayer and saving George.

In the olden days, there were many Mary Baileys. They worked, they saved, they married, they raised children. They grew vegetables in the backyard. "Farm to Table" is as old as all the generations behind Mary and George Bailey.

Are there any Mary Baileys today in America? I like to think there are. It takes courage, hard work, self-sacrifice, and confidence in your essential worth. Your God-given essential worth - no matter whether you achieve great or small things. Sometimes you may find that those small things are truly great things in the eyes of the only one who counts: God.

Pray. Eat. Work. Repeat!

BEV GUDANOWSKI
UXBRIDGE



Lemon cypress trees surrounded by poinsettias create a festive holiday display.

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Members of the Millville Fire Association help secure a tree to the roof of a resident’s car on Saturday.

Courtesy




Uxbridge Police Chief Marc Montminy gathers in front of a trailer full of toys during the town’s annual Toys for Tots Drive last Saturday.

Courtesy

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All Saints students join in
World Diabetes Day

WEBSTER — In honor of All Saints Academy students living with Type 1 diabetes, the entire school community joined together on World Diabetes Day to learn more about the condition and show their support. Through engaging videos, food comparisons, and hands-on lessons, students explored how the body uses energy from food to play, learn, and grow.

During the lessons, students discovered that people with Type 1 diabetes are unable to fuel their bodies properly because their pancreas does not produce insulin. Insulin acts like a key, unlocking the door that allows energy from food to enter the body’s cells. Without it, sugar remains in the bloodstream instead of reaching the places where it is needed, which can make a person with diabetes very sick. These activities gave students a clearer understanding of why individuals with diabetes check their blood sugar, take insulin, and use medical devices. Most importantly, they learned that kids with diabetes can do everything their peers can do.



To cap off the day, students created blue backpack rings to hang on their backpacks as a symbol of solidarity with everyone living with diabetes—especially their fellow ASA classmates. The circular shape represents life, health, and unity, while the blue mirrors both the sky that connects all people and the color of the United Nations flag.

The event aimed to raise awareness and foster a supportive, informed, and inclusive school environment—one where every student feels understood and empowered.



Members of both Police and Fire departments in the town of Uxbridge gathered last Saturday for their annual Toys for Tots drive.

Courtesy



Whitinsville Christian Middle School: A place where students grow

WHITINSVILLE — Learning extends well beyond the classroom at Whitinsville Christian Middle School. Students are encouraged to explore their interests, develop their gifts, and discover who God created them to be.

Music plays a central role in the WCS experience. Whether students are harmonizing in Middle School Choir, performing in Band or Orchestra, or leading their peers in Chapel Band, the focus is on more than notes; it's about teamwork, discipline, and joyful praise.

"From beginning musicians just learning an instrument to experienced performers striving for excellence, every student is supported and challenged to grow," said Interim Assistant Principal, Miranda Osterman.

Hands-on learning is also central at WCS.

"Outdoor Challenge pushes students to solve design problems, sometimes in the rain or snow, while Lego Robotics blends coding, creativity, and engineering," said Osterman. "In Scene Works, eighth graders build real set pieces for school drama productions, gaining confidence in craftsmanship and collaboration."

Clubs give students even more ways to connect and grow. Chess, Debate, and Aquarium Science offer academic enrichment, while Flex Time allows students to choose from a wide range of interest-based groups, including Bible Study, Crafts, Guitar, Art, Book Club, Board Games, Flag Football, Prefects, and Student Senate.

"I'm so glad we can offer all of these options to our students," said Osterman. "Together, these programs create a vibrant, Christ-centered environment where students learn deeply, lead confidently, and use their talents to make a difference."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR DECEMBER 5-12

Friday, Dec. 5 — Stretch, sit, think alive

At 10 a.m. sharp on Sutton Hill, the School Budget Subcommittee meets to talk the numbers bill. (Superintendent's Conference Room, 16 Putnam Hill Road, Sutton.) suttonma.org

From noon to 1, it's yoga time in town, Lindsey's gentle poses help you wind back down. ("December Yoga with Lindsey," Sutton Town Hall, third-floor meeting room.) Heyzine

At 6:30 p.m., the music spirits lift, WCS bands and choirs give a Christmas-season gift. (Whitinsville Christian School annual Christmas Concert, Valley Chapel, 14 Hunter Road, Uxbridge.) whitinsvillechristian.org

Saturday, Dec. 6 – Lights, farms, holiday mix

From 10 a.m. to 4, in Sutton's countryside, Christmas on the Farm brings wagon rides and pride. (Whittier Farms, 90 Douglas Road, Sutton; free to attend, fees for rides and food.) Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce

At 11, 12, 1 and 2, the stories twinkle bright, Chain of Lights at Sutton Library makes a cozy winter sight. (Sutton Chain of Lights storytime and craft, Sutton Public Library, 4 Uxbridge Road, Sutton.) Heyzine

Sunday, Dec. 7 – Crafts, games, raffle fun

From 11 a.m.-3 p.m., in Millbury's festive hall,

the School Craft Fair/Winter Carnival has something for us all. (Crafters, vendors, games, lunch and raffles at Our Lady of the Assumption Church Hall, 12 Waters St., Millbury; part of the Millbury Chain of Lights trolley route.) Diocese of Worcester+1

From 1-3 p.m., lace your boots and grab a woolen cap, the Dean Pond Loop is calling for a forest-friendly lap. (Meet at the CCC Camp lot in Upton State Forest's Dean Pond nook, for a recreational hike with winter views on every curve and crook.)

Monday, Dec. 8 – School work on the slate

At 6 p.m. in Sutton, the School Committee convenes, fine-tuning plans and policies behind the classroom scenes. (Sutton School Committee meeting.) suttonma.org

Tuesday, Dec. 9 – Book lovers align

From 1-2:15 p.m., with pages crisp and fine, the Senior Center Book Club chats "The Spectacular" line by line. (Uxbridge Senior Center Book Club, 36 South Main St., Uxbridge.) uxbridgeli-brary.assabetinteractive.com

Friday, Dec. 12 – One more stretch before the snow

From noon to 1, roll out that mat once more, Lindsey's Friday yoga resets you to the core. ("December Yoga with Lindsey," Sutton Town Hall, third-floor meeting room.)

TRINITY CATHOLIC ACADEMY ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

SOUTHBRIDGE — Trinity Catholic Academy has released its honor roll for the first trimester of the 2025-2026 school year.	Kreidemaker, Matthew	Grade 7
	Olson, Jeziah Suarez	High Honors: Aurora Brother, Evelyn Howard-Donlin, Olivia Latour, Michael Poulin, Mia Yanez Velasquez
Grade 4	High Honors: Charlotte Heckendorf, Jameson Howard-Donlin, Emma LaBarge, Elinor Matzelle	High Honors: Angel Delgado, Ainsley Heckendorf, Jayden Zarzycki-Kotarba
	Honors: Emelia Franco, John Nadeua, Elizabeth Nellenback, Owen Quigley, Vincent VLK	Grade 8
Grade 5	High Honors: Lucius Batih, Victoria LaBonte, Joseph Nellenback	Honors: Nicolas Gauvin, Carilynn Norris, Caius Ovalles, Zyon Stockley, Alexio Yacavace
	Honors: Vera Abud Fuentes, Jaime Cruz, Mason Gonzalez, Connor	High Honors: Abigail Frazier, Celia Ladd, Heer Swadia
Grade 6	Honors: Emiliana Boswell, Tesslynn Cahill, Cameron Clifford, Karieliz Colon-Martinez, Juliana Dintino, Theodore Frazier, Elizabeth Gordon, Carson Lazo, Sachi Swadia, Jaydin Wales, Benjamin Zuziak	
	High Honors: Alerix Gonzalez, Kaleigh Haglund, Jake Simanski	

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF SALE, NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE, Premises: 100 Perry Street, Douglas, MA 01516, By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Edward N. Gouin and Melissa J. Gouin to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. , as nominee for Salem Five Mortgage, LLC, dated November 7, 2016, and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 56271 at Page 59, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by assignment, by an assignment of mortgage from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. , as nominee for Salem Five Mortgage Company to ServiceMac, LLC, dated June 23, 2021, and recorded with said Registry in Book 65448 at Page 311, and by an assignment of mortgage from ServiceMac, LLC to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity buy solely as Trustee for RMTP Trust, Series 2021 BKM-TT-V, dated March 15, 2022, and recorded with said Registry in Book 67474 at Page 65, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold by Public Auction at 10:00 o’clock A.M. on the 19th day of December, 2025, at the mortgaged premises located at 100 Perry Street, Douglas, MA01516, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage; To wit: A certain tract or parcel of land, with the buildings thereon, if any, situated on the easterly side of Perry Street, and on the northerly side of Linden Street, Douglas, Massachusetts and being shown as Lot 5 on a plan of land entitled “Plan Of Land on Perry & Linden Streets Douglas, Massachusetts Prepared for Owner D & F Afonso Builders, Inc. Scale:1”=60’ November 8, 2000”, which plan is recorded in Worcester District Registry of Deeds Plan Book 860, Plan 10, and to which plan reference may be had for a more particular description of said Lot 5. Said Lot 5 contains an area of 8.89 acres, more or less, according to said Plan. Said premises are conveyed subject to a Taking by Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company of a 50 foot right of way and easement under Instrument recorded in said Deeds Book 12756, Page 94, as shown on said plan and to the extend the same affects Lot 5. Said premises are conveyed together with and subject to Variance recorded In Book 25393, Page 252 and to Orders of Condition recorded in said Deeds Book 24468, Page 169; Book 28035, Page 293 and in Book 40794, Page 48, as extended of record. Said premises are conveyed together with and subject to a right of way shown as Proposed Shared Driveway & Utility Easement on a plan entitled “Shared Driveway and Utility Easement Plan In Douglas, Mass.” Scale: 1”=30’ Feet Date: August 17, 2007 by Guerriere & Halnon, Inc. Engineering and Land Surveying 1031 Providence Road, Whitinsville, Mass. 10588, recorded in Worcester Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 860 Plan 78, said shared driveway and utility easement being 50 feet wide running In easterly direction from Perry Street to said Lot 5 and to be used for all purposes for which streets and ways are commonly used In the Town of Douglas, Massachusetts, Including the installation, repair and maintenance of utilities. Said Lot 5 is hereby conveyed subject to the rights of the Owner(s) of Lot 6 as shown on said plan recorded in Plan Book 860, Plan 10, their heirs, successors and assignees, to enter upon Lot 5 to connect to the utility pole as currently, or as may be hereinafter constructed upon Lot 5, and to reenter for purposes of repair and maintenance at the sole expense of the owner(s) of Lot 6. This right is expressly contingent upon the said owner(s) of Lot 6 restoring the portion of Lot 5 entered upon to the condition that existed prior to the entry upon Lot 5. This instrument does not constitute all or substantially all of the assets of D & F Afonso Builders, Inc. situated, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. 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 (\$10,000.00) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. High bidder to sign written memorandum of sale upon acceptance of the high bid. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid by certified or bank check at Friedman Vartolo LLP, 1325 Franklin Avenue, Suite 160, Garden City, New York 11530, within thirty (30) days from the date of the 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 National Association not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee for RMTP Trust, Series 2021 BKM-TT-V, Present holder of said mortgage by its Attorneys, **Friedman Vartolo LLP** 1325 Franklin Avenue, Suite 160, Garden City, New York 11530 November 21, 2025 November 28, 2025 December 5, 2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
Premises: 75 Chapin Street, Uxbridge, MA 01569
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Priscilla Thiebault and Bruce Thiebault to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for CitiMortgage, Inc. its successors and assigns, and now held by **Nationstar Mortgage LLC**, said mortgage dated December 29, 2005 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38162, Page 303, as affected by a Loan Modification dated April 1, 2008 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 45619, Page 205; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for CitiMortgage, Inc. its successors and assigns to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by assignment dated August 17, 2011 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 47858, Page 303; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on January 6, 2026 at 09:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: *The land with the buildings thereon situated in Uxbridge, Worcester County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts known and being numbered 75 Chapin Street Being Lot #1 on a Plan of Land entitled, “Powers Acers A Definitive Subdivision Plan located in Uxbridge, MA, Prepared for Edward H. Powers” dated July 23, 2003, recorded in Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 811, as Plan 97, containing 398,599 square feet, 9.15 acres. The premises are conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, easements, appurtenances, reservations, restrictions, and layouts and takings of record, insofar as they are in force and applicable. For title see Deed recorded on October 26, 2004 at Book 34910, Page 274 with the Worcester County Registry of Deeds. Upon information, the deed noted above was affected by a confirmatory Deed recorded 11/23/2009 in said Registry in Book 45133, Page 332.*
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 October 19, 2004 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 34910, Page 274.
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 Nationstar Mortgage LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
December 5, 2025
December 12, 2025
December 19, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO25P3925PO
TRUST CITATION
In the matter of: Nancy L Wetherell
1996 Revocable Trust**
To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: Lesley M Bradshaw of Marlborough MA requesting Remove the Trustee, appoint a successor Trustee to serve as set forth in said petition, and for such further relief as this Court deems proper.
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 12/16/2025.
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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 12, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
December 5 2025

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket Number: 25 SM 003704 Date Filed: 11/25/2025 ORDER OF NOTICE TO: Heirs, Devisees, and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Cheryl Bergeron; Tammy J. McGovern and Kim M. Havunen as Personal Representatives of the Estate of Cheryl Bergeron; Tammy J. McGovern, Timothy N. Bergeron, and Jill M. Lavoie, Heirs at Law of the Estate of Cheryl Bergeron and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq) U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee of LSRMF MH Master Participation Trust II claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Whitinsville, 99 Country Club Drive, given by Cheryl Bergeron to Advanced Financial Services, Inc., dated February 27, 2009, and recorded with the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 43883, Page 287 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 1/12/2026 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 11/25/2025. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder.
December 5 2025

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 Eugene Bufford to Washington Mutual Bank, FA, dated May 8, 2006 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38916, Page 309, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, successor in interest by purchase from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as Receiver of Washington Mutual Bank f/k/a Washington Mutual Bank, FA to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, recorded on July 19, 2016, in Book No. 55661, at Page 173 JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association to Nationstar Mortgage, LLC, recorded on July 19, 2016, in Book No. 55661, at Page 175 Nationstar Mortgage, LLC to Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc., recorded on April 30, 2024, in Book No. 70449, at Page 64 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 4:00 PM on December 12, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 61 Border Street, Unit No. B, 59 & 61 Border Street Condominium, Whitinsville, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT:
Unit No. B, a unit in the condominium at 59 & 61 Border Street Condominium, Northbridge, Massachusetts, created pursuant to and subject to the provisions of Chapter 183A, of the General Laws of Massachusetts, by Master Deed dated May 3, 2006 and registered in the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 38901, Page 258, as the same may be or have been amended from time to time.
The Unit is shown on the floor plans of the building recorded simultaneously with said Master Deed as amended of record, if applicable, and on the copy of the portion of said plans attached to the First Unit Deed to which is affixed a verified statement in the form required by Section 9 of said Chapter 183A. For mortgagor’s(s’) title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38916, Page 303. These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. **TERMS OF SALE:**
A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC.
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
27786
November 21, 2025
November 28, 2025
December 5, 2025

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OBITUARIES

Josiah “Joe” Philip Burch May 18, 1961 - November 26, 2025

 With heavy hearts we announce that Josiah “Joe” Burch of Douglas, MA passed away unexpectedly Nov. 26, 2025, aged 64. Joe is pre-deceased by his parents Philip Burch and Isabel (Ward) Burch. Joe is survived by his wife of 33 years, Jane (Archambault) Burch, his three children, Ashley (Burch) Fitzpatrick and her husband Michael Fitzpatrick of Dudley, MA; Philip Burch and his fiancée, Erin Gallagher of Sturbridge, MA; and Kaitlin Burch of Waltham, MA. He is also survived by three siblings. Cynthia (Burch) Karagosian and her husband Stephen Karagosian of Northbridge, MA; Christopher Burch and his wife Wendy (Shore) Burch of Woonsocket, RI; and Pamela (Burch) Stoddard and her husband Jeffery Stoddard of Milford, MA. He is survived by his aunt, Cindi (Ward) Turner of Washburn, ME, his uncle, Craig “Rocco” Burch of Hamilton,

OH; As well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, several close friends and his best friend, Secundio “JR” Delon of Bridgeport, CT and his beloved dog, Captain Skippy of Douglas, MA. He attended Blackstone Valley Technical High School (BVT) in Upton, MA where he studied electronics and graduated in 1979. Joe went on to start a career in electronics, working for many companies and ultimately retiring as a compliance engineer in 2021. Joe had a passion for politics and even ran for state representative in 1990. He also took pride in serving on many boards within his community over the years including the Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Board of Assessors, and the Planning Board. He was an active member on two boards at the time of his death. Joe had a passion for real estate and even worked as an agent in his younger years. Visiting hours will be held Thursday, December 4, 2025 from 3 – 5 PM and 6-8 PM in the Buma Funeral Home, 101 N. Main Street, Rte. 122, Uxbridge.

Funeral services will be held from the funeral home on Friday, December 5, 2025 at 9 AM followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 AM in St. Denis Church, 23 Manchaug Street, Douglas. A complete and full obituary can be found at www.bumafuneralhome.com



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FAN
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to ask.

To keep up with Matthew’s passion for the brand, he and his parents visit up to three Dunkin’s a day. It’s often one of the hundreds they’ve been to before, but sometimes, it’s somewhere entirely new – like when the town of Stow renamed itself “Dunkin” for a day to welcome its new location.

It was at this milestone celebration that Matthew met Inspire Chief Brand Officer and Dunkin’ Brand President Scott Murphy.

“Scott said, ‘You should come see us at headquarters.’ A few days

later, Dunkin’s Sr. Director of Brand Experience Molly Mills connected with us, and we came home to a big box in our driveway. We opened it up and it was awesome – Dunkin’ cups, bags, shirts, towels, and maps. Plus, a follow-up to come see them in Boston,” says Mike.

Upon arrival at Dunkin’s Boston Support Center, Matthew and his parents were greeted with a culinary tour, meetings with technology and development leaders, and an endless supply of Matthew’s favorite menu items: Dunkin’s Strawberry Dragonfruit Refresher, Sweet Black Pepper Bacon Sandwich, and Snackin’

Bacon.

“They rolled out the red carpet, and Matthew absolutely loved it,” says Mike. “He hasn’t stopped talking about it.”

One of Matthew’s favorite moments? Sharing ‘My Dunkin’ Run’ with leadership, the app he and his father built that tracks each Dunkin’ they’ve visited over the years. It’s a tool that Matthew references daily, tracking things like what unique regional items a location may offer, which franchisee operates it, and architectural aspects of the restaurant. Matthew even has it programmed to send notifications on upcoming activations and openings, which is what originally led him to Stow,

Massachusetts.

“I’m a systems engineer by trade, so it’s been a fun project for us to work on together. Matt will spend hours in the program, comparing Dunkin’s state-by-state, or running reports to find new insights,” says

Mike. “And that’s really what we’re trying to do here: encourage his curiosity while teaching new skills.”

To Mike, the way that Dunkin’ embraced Matt is the experience of a lifetime.

“When you have a child with autism, the little things – the things everyone else may take for granted – truly matter. Dunkin’ has shown us so much love. It’s a memory we’ll treasure forever,” he said.

DOUGLAS ADULT SOCIAL CENTER

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

DAILY ACTIVITIES:
All our daily activities are free of charge.

Monday: Painting class 9:45 to 11:45, Balance & Strength Exercise 12pm, Mat Yoga 2pm

Tuesday: Walking club 9 am, Cribbage 9:00 am, Zumba 9:30 am, Lunch & Bingo 11:30am, Technology Class 1pm (call to make an appt.), Line dancing 2 pm

Wednesday: Balance & Strength 10am, Darts 11:30 am, MahJong 12:45pm, Dominoes 1 to 2:30pm

Thursday: Walking club 9am, Chair Yoga 9:30am, Pitch 9:00am, Hand and Foot card game 12:30pm

Friday: Balance & Strength 10am

Monday- Thursday 9-3 & Fridays 9-12. We will have a basket at the bottom of our ramp, or you can bring donations inside. Please DO NOT leave anything on our ramp after hours.

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

December Lunch Menu:
Tuesday 12/9: Stuffed peppers, carrots, & Jell-O
Thursday 12/11: Soup & salad bar, fruit
Tuesday 12/16: Baked chicken, rice pilaf, cauliflower casserole, & cupcakes
Thursday 12/18: Baked ham, potatoes, green beans, & pie (this is the holiday party luncheon and is \$6.00 per person)
Tuesday 12/23: Baked potato soup, chicken salad sandwich, & cookies
Tuesday 12/30: Pasta with meat sauce, salad, garlic bread, & ice cream

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

Friday 12/5, 12/19: Walmart
Friday 12/12: Big Y
Friday 12/26: Riders choice

DECEMBER EVENTS:
Wellness Clinic Dates:

Monday December 8th & Tuesday December 23rd from 10 am to 12 pm. The nurse is happy to check your blood pressure, can do a finger stick blood sugar. You can read the nurse’s page in our bi-monthly newsletter. If you have any questions or concerns, please stop in and see the nurse.

Lunch & a movie: Thursday December 11th @ 11:30. We will be serving salad bar, soup & dessert. Lunch is \$4.00 per person. After lunch we will be watching the classic It’s a Wonderful Life. Please sign up by 12/5.

Annual Holiday Party: Thursday December 18th @ 12:00. We will have our annual ham dinner, for \$6.00 per person. Musical entertainment provided by The Brian Bender Duo. Please sign up by 12/5.

The Sunshine Club invites you:
Free piano concert: Friday December 12th @ 1pm. Refreshments will be served. Listen to these talented children perform a variety of holiday songs. Please sign up by 12/9.

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

Check our website for events that may not be listed here
<https://www.douglas-ma.gov/202/AdultSocial-Center-Senior-Center>

SANTA
continued from page A1

down, make memories, and truly enjoy the spirit of the season.”

Chrissa Gannon, Director of Marketing & Events, adds, “We love seeing the smiles on the children’s faces when they meet Santa—it’s truly magical. This event is a gift to the community, and we’re proud to offer it at no cost to families.”

For more information, please visit www.WhitinCommunityCenter.com or call 508-234-8184.

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.


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THE FOOD PANTRY IS NOW OPEN TO RESIDENTS. Our food pantry is officially open from 9-3 Monday -Thursday and Friday 9-11:30. We are open to any resident in town who could use some extra help. If you need transportation, please call 508-476-2283 to schedule your free ride. If you are homebound, please let us know we would be happy to make a delivery to you.

We will accept non-perishable items during our regular business hours.

Home of the Northbridge Senior Center

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

Regular Programs:
Mindful Meditation with Kelly
Every Thursday at 9:30am
Bereavement Group
Monday, December 8th 1:00pm-2:00pm
Please call Kelly for more information.
Blood Pressure Clinic
Tuesday, December 9th 11:00 a.m.
Please drop in and have your blood pressure checked.
Women’s Group: NO MEETING on Wednesday, December 10th
Writing Your Way:

December 11th at 2:00pm. Please call Lori for more information.
No Meeting on Thursday, the 18th
Book Club
Wednesday, December 17th 10:30am-11:30am
Please call Kelly to find out what book we are currently reading.
Dull Men’s Club
Tuesday, December 23rd 9:30am-10:30am
Guest Speaker: Vin Femia: All About the New England Patriots

Special Events and Activities:
All programs require signing up by calling or stopping by our Main Office.
Elvis Holiday Concert and Luncheon
Wednesday, December 10th 12:00pm-2:00pm
Award-winning Elvis Tribute Artist, Dan Fontaine will be back to entertain us for an Elvis

Holiday Show! Tickets on sale now at Plummer Place’s main office. Tickets are \$15 a piece and limit of 2 tickets per person. Northbridge residents have priority! You must have a ticket to attend. Don’t miss out on this event — space is limited.

Discover the Secrets of the Blue Zones
Are you interested in beginning a journey to better health, happiness and a longer life? Learn where and how centenarians are living across the world in this exciting three-week program exploring the Blue Zones with Amy Cowen, our program and volunteer coordinator. This program will include a book, a guest speaker, light refreshments, some healthy challenges and more fun surprises! Sign up in the main office. \$20 per person payable in cash the day of the first class (dates and times to be determined, but will be held in early 2026).

Thankful for Uxbridge seniors

UXBRIDGE — The Uxbridge Senior Center wishes to thank all the volunteers, contributors and donors who helped make the 2025 Thanksgiving Meal Distribution Project a success. The Senior Center packaged and delivered over 260 turkey dinners to seniors throughout the Town of Uxbridge on Monday, Nov. 24. This year, the senior center collaborated with the Kapi’s Pub in Uxbridge to cook the luncheon. The Town

is truly blessed to have so many people who care for each other. It is with many hands that we accomplish so much. What a wonderful way for the community to come together for a great cause.


We especially want to thank our major contributors/donors that helped make this project financially feasible- Fallon Health, Hannaford’s, Table Talk Pies, Kapi’s Pub, the Uxbridge Elderly Connection, Uxbridge

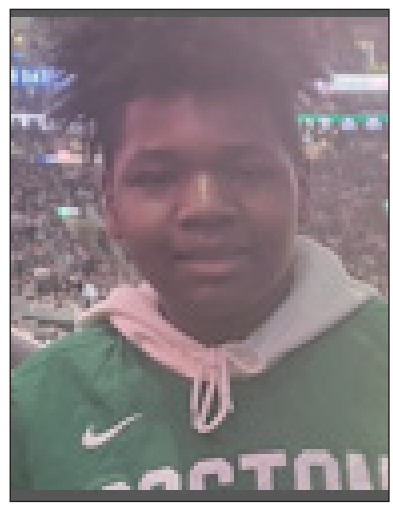
Extended Day Program and Unibank.

The Senior Center also wants to acknowledge all our volunteers, too many to name. (Some are pictured here) Thank you all for allowing the Senior Center to be a part of this endeavor. Our seniors thank you!

The Uxbridge Senior Center is located at 36 South Main St. For a current newsletter and to get more information on our programs and services, please contact Lisa Bernard, Director at the Center by calling 508-278-8622 or email lbernard@uxbridge-ma.gov

www.StonebridgePress.com






Christopher
Age 16
Registration #8213

Christopher (“Chris”) is an energetic, sweet, and lovable young person with a big personality and a heart to match. He’s known for his quick wit, sense of humor, and perfectly timed one-liners that always make the people around him laugh. Chris has a playful, sassy side and brings lighthearted energy wherever he goes. Chris loves being active and outdoors—whether it’s swimming, shooting hoops, or tossing a football, he’s always ready for a game. He enjoys trying new activities and thrives when he’s part of a team. When it’s time to relax, Chris can often be found playing video games or diving into a good book. He especially enjoys sports-themed stories and graphic novels, which combine his love for adventure and creativity. Those who know Chris describe him as kind, thoughtful, and full of life. He’s a caring friend who enjoys connecting with others, sharing laughs, and showing his genuine personality. With his curiosity, humor, and warm spirit, Chris brightens any room he walks into and brings a smile to everyone he meets

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21179006879>

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

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





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Featured Listing
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2 -FAMILY offers 2,354 SF of living area! 2 Large Apartments, 5 Spacious Rms, 2 BRs, 1 Bath each. Beautiful grand front entry foyer with the charm of yesteryear! double French doors & other unique features. Plenty of Natural light that flows into these apartments! 2nd flr apt has a private enclosed rear entry with it's own outside covered porch. Updates were done to electric & roof to accommodate Solar Panels. Property was family occupied \$399,900.

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


Webster Lake -
302 Killdeer Island
PANORAMIC VIEWS!



SORRY, SOLD!

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


Featured New Listing!!!
WEBSTER - 19 FIRST STREET




ON DEPOSIT

Bring an open mind to this unique property & let your creative design ideas flow! This one level 1,040 sf, 3 BR home is reminiscent of an English Country Cottage! It evokes a cozy, rustic, lived-in vibe. The overall aesthetic is one of practical comfort, collected charm and a relaxed, slightly whimsical atmosphere. Key characteristics include spacious rooms, hardwood floors, a primary BR with sliders to a very private deck, retractable awnings, replacement windows, etc. Move right in! \$304,900

WEBSTER - 24 COOPER RD
NEW CONSTRUCTION Craftsman Style Home! Tucked away on Cooper Rd, Webster Lake w/Access at Lakeside Beach/Boat Ramp. 3rd of 4 Homes being built at this Site. Offers 2,155 SF+/- of Living Area, 7 Rms, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 9' Ceilings. Wood Flooring Throughout w/Ceramic Tile Floors in the Baths. Spacious Main BR Suite w/ Walk-in Closet & Private Full Bath. Double-Sink Vanity! Lower level walkout w/ Slider. Basement-rough plumbed Central AC! Garage \$649,900.



WATERFORD CT - 20 AVERY LN.



SORRY, SOLD!

Beautifully updated farmhouse - 5 min. to the ocean. Nothing to do just to move in!! 2 bed, 2 bath New Heating System, Central Air! Huge shed & deck! Oversized garage. 3/4+ acre. assisted sale **\$365,000**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT LISTING! KILLDEER RD



SORRY, SOLD!

Ready for your year round enjoyment. 4 bedroom, 2 bath home. Open floor plan. Garage w/ enclosed entry to mudroom. Open living room with spectacular view! 2 bedrooms - 3/4 bath, on main level. Central air. Lower level, additional 2 bedrooms, bath, bonus family room, summer kitchen! Beachhouse! 51' of sandy beachfront! \$799,000

Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!



SORRY, SOLD!

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

Webster Lake - 53 Colonial Rd



SORRY, SOLD!

WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT! JUST SIMPLY AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY! OVER 31,000 SQ FT OF LAND! Summer Cottage on 9482 SF of land.. assisted sale \$1,199,900

Webster Lake Waterfront 8 Long Island




SORRY, SOLD!

Beautifully Updated Circa 1890s Classic Antique Island Cottage, with Rare Boat House Included! Extremely Unique, Clean & Well Maintained, Modern Conveniences w/the Charm of Yesteryear! 1,240 SF, 6 Rms, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, Hardwood Floors! Fireplace w/Wood Pellet Stove, Wrap-Around Screened Porch, Lg Outbuilding w/Full Bath/Shower/Laundry & Workshop. Patio! Town Wtr/Swr + Private Well for Outdoor &/or Off-Season Water Use! 14,300 SF+/- Level Lot w/100'+ of Shoreline. \$995,000



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Courtesy

On the eve of this year’s Veterans Day, three local servicemen and their friends and family gathered at the E.N. Jenckes Store Museum in Douglas. The special event was coordinated by Susan Martinsen and each serviceman received a Quilt of Valor in recognition of their years of distinguished military service. The quilts were presented by The Freedom Quilters of Millbury and each was carefully stitched and unique to each man along with a pillow and a gift bag. Pictured here, from left to right, are Jeffrey Picotte - US Navy of Whitinsville, Richard Duffy - US Marines of Worcester and Michael Yacino- US Army of Douglas.

Girls on the Run Worcester County celebrates coach for 10 seasons of impactful service

WORCESTER — Girls on the Run Worcester County, a nonprofit that empowers young girls, is proud to recognize volunteer coach Jennifer Bolt for achieving the incredible milestone of 10 seasons of service with the orga-

nization. Jennifer Bolt has made a long-term impact on the lives of more than 232 girls through her consistent dedication, compassion, and belief in the power of positive mentorship.

Girls on the Run inspires girls in grades 3 to 8 to be joyful, healthy, and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum that creatively integrates running. In addition to preparing participants for a celebratory 5K at the end of each season, the program equips them with life skills that last. Local volunteer coaches, like Jennifer, are at the heart of this work, leading teams through lessons that combine fun physical activity with vital social-emotional development.

Bolt first became involved with Girls on the Run in 2018.

In her words, “I love GOTR so much, and I’m so happy to be part of such an important program that helps girls shine!”

She consistently brings energy, compassion, and a commitment to every participant’s growth. Combined with the organization’s evidence-based curriculum, Girls on the Run coaches help meet today’s girls’ mental and physical needs. With an increase in girls reporting greater levels of sadness

and depression, encouraging role models who consistently show up like Jennifer are critical in preparing girls for adolescence and beyond.

Program Director Katie Esposito praised Bolt for her enduring contributions, saying, “Her dedication has become a shining example of what it looks like to live out the GOTR mission every single day. Jennifer embodies the heart of this program. Through her dedication, she has created a space where girls feel supported, empowered, and inspired to reach their full potential. She is an Adjustment Counselor who understands the importance of girl only programming. By showing up consistently, Jennifer not only encourages girls to believe in themselves, but also helps shape a culture of empowerment and community at the school. Leaders like her embody the very essence of programs that aim to inspire and support young women.”

As the organization expands, remarkable role models like Jennifer are essential to ensuring the program reaches girls when they need it most. Girls on the Run Worcester County is always looking for caring and enthusiastic individuals to join its roster of coaches and help the next generation pursue their dreams.

In a recent post-season experience survey of coaches, 97 percent felt Girls on the Run had been a valuable experience for them, 98 percent formed positive relationships with the



Jennifer Bolt

participants on their team, and 95 percent felt that they were making a difference in participants’ lives. In a separate research study, coaches reported that coaching a Girls on the Run team helped them build community connections, enhance their own social-emotional skills, strengthen their professional skills, and gain more confidence.

Visit www.gotr-worc.org for more information about Girls on the Run Worcester County and how to get involved.

About Girls on the Run Worcester County

Girls on the Run (GOTR) Worcester County offers after-school empowerment programs designed for girls in grades 3 through 8. The nonprofit helps girls in Worcester County build confidence, increase their level of physical activity, and learn essential life skills. Facilitated by trained volunteer coaches, the research-based curriculum explores core topics relevant to 8- to 13-year-olds, including managing emotions, expressing empathy, and standing up for ourselves and others. The program includes a Community Impact Project and culminates with a 5K Celebration. GOTR Worcester County is one of more than 160 councils a part of Girls on the Run International (GOTRI). Since GOTR was founded in 1996, this national movement has served more than 2.5 million girls in all 50 states and Canada. Visit www.gotr-worc.org to learn more.

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