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Friday, March 13, 2026

Dudley welcomes new faces

DUDLEY — (Hugh) Bruce Webb was welcomed to the Dudley Town Hall on Feb. 18 as a Town Planner shared with the Town of Blackstone.

Webb is a Land Use and Environmental Scientist with extensive experience in municipal planning, conservation, and environmental and zoning permitting.

“I grew up in a rural town next to a farm, so this kind of area is my comfort zone,” Webb said. “I really value the sense of community and public participation found in places like Dudley. So, the opportunity to use my experience and education to help contribute to that success, while also furthering my career, was an attractive draw.”

He holds a Master of Science in Environmental Science -Soil and Water Science, a Graduate Certificate in Wetland and Water Resource Management, a Bachelor of Arts in History and Sociology, and Bachelor of Science studies in Environmental Geology. He is also a Rhode Island Class IV Licensed Soil Evaluator and Massachusetts Certified Tree Warden. He most recently held the position of Land Use & Planning Director for the Town of Fairhaven.

Webb described his top three job responsibilities as supporting the Planning Board in evaluating applications for new development to ensure standards of the zoning bylaws are met; to support residents by helping them navigate our zoning bylaws thereby making the process of getting things done as painless as possible, while making sure standards of those bylaws are met, and to support town administration and other town departments in providing the best service possible residents and to find

opportunities to improve services while keeping costs down.

“My top three goals for my first year are to speak with residents and stakeholders to understand what people would like to see for the town’s future; to find grant programs that allow for implementing that vision without unduly burdening the taxpayers or Town, and to make doing business in Dudley as simple as possible, while striking an appropriate balance with the characteristics and feel that make Dudley a place people want to call home,” he said.

Webb is available in the Dudley Planning office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, and 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Fridays. He can be reached at 508 949-8014 or by email at planner1@dudleyma.gov.

“I encourage residents to come in and say hi, give a

Turn To NEW page A10

MIAA representative inspires future officials at Bartlett High School



WEBSTER — Students enrolled in Bartlett High School’s RefReps course recently had the opportunity to learn from a guest speaker who has extensive experience in high school athletics. MIAA representative Richard Pearson visited the class on Monday to speak with students about

the value and importance of becoming a high-school sports official.

The RefReps class focuses on teaching the fundamentals of officiating sports such as basketball and soccer. Pearson’s visit provided students with real world insight into the profession and the role officials play in

maintaining the integrity of athletic competition.

During his presentation, Pearson emphasized the “why” to becoming an official. He stressed how officiating is about much more than simply making calls during a game. According to Pearson, officials are considered to be the experts of the game and more importantly have a critical role in helping young athletes understand the rules of the game while ensuring fair and safe competition for all.

Also, Pearson highlighted the growing need for young officials across

Massachusetts and how successful completion of the course can provide different opportunities of employment to officiate local youth basketball and soccer games. At the end, students were given the opportunity to ask questions about training, certification, and the path toward officiating high school athletics in the future.

To commemorate his visit and to encourage students in their officiating journey, Pearson presented each student with a commemorative medallion coin from the MIAA. The coin

serves as a reminder of the responsibility and pride that comes with becoming an official.

Visits from professionals like Pearson are providing opportunities for valuable mentorship while reinforcing the importance of sportsmanship, leadership, and service with-in high-school athletics. With the guidance of educators and support from organizations like the MIAA, Bartlett students are developing the skills needed to become the next generation of sports officials for the game.

A decade of welcome

DUDLEY’S DR. ADELINA HEALY CONTINUES COMMITMENT TO NEW CITIZENS



WORCESTER — On Jan. 28, the historic Hanover Theatre hummed with the collective aspirations of 747 individuals as they took the Oath of Allegiance. While the ceremony marked a new beginning for these citizens, it also celebrated a quiet, steadfast milestone: more than a decade of unwavering service by Dr. Adelina Healy of Dudley.

A legacy beyond the classroom Though the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy concluded its storied chapter of healthcare education in 2025, the spirit of service it fostered in its faculty remains as vibrant as ever. Dr. Healy, formerly a cornerstone of the Academy’s clinical and community outreach programs, continues to embody the mission of “caring for the journey”—a philosophy she instilled in hundreds of nursing students over the years.

Whether mentoring future healthcare professionals or

Turn To HEALYage A10

Auburn Scouts assemble rockets for Centennial Launch

AUBURN — One hundred years ago, Worcester and Auburn’s Dr. Robert Goddard was set to launch his liquid-fueled rocket at the site of what is now Pakachoag Golf Course in Auburn. On March 1st, 2026, local Scouts got together to assemble 100 model rockets that will be launched at the Centennial event on March 16th.

Scouts from Auburn’s Troop 53, Troop 753, Pack 53, Troop 101, and Pack 101 all met at Faith Church for this project. The Heart of New England Council, the governing body of many Scouting America units from Central Massachusetts, purchased and donated 100 model rocket kits to help the town of Auburn celebrate this occasion. Representatives from HNE, David Bosselait and Chris Siano, provided instructions and assistance to Scouts as they took on this challenge.

Scouting America units consist of children in grades K-12. Scouts of all ages participated in this event, with



Courtesy

Sawyer Tubbs, 7, of Auburn’s Pack 53, shows his pride for the rockets he assembled.

some older Scouts guiding their younger peers.

Avery Grensavitch, 11, was especially helpful with some younger Cub Scouts,

and said, “I really like helping out the little kids and working with them. They are fun! It’s important for

Turn To ROCKETS page A10

Friends of the Auburn Library present "Herbs and the Art of Healing in the Middle Ages"

AUBURN — On Friday, April 17, please join the Friends of the Auburn Public Library at a Fundraising Event to support the library titled "Herbs and the Art of Healing in the Middle Ages" presented by Professor Giovanni Spani, Professor of Italian and Medieval Studies in the Department of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures at the College of the Holy Cross.

In the Middle Ages, herbs, flowers, and perfumes were integral to daily life, intertwined with medicine and magic. Medicinal plants and herbs formed a major part of the pharmacopeia. Medical practice followed Hippocratic tradition, viewing the body as composed of four humors balanced by four elements. Treatments

included bleeding, cupping, leeching, and various surgical interventions, using herbal preparations for anesthesia and wine as antiseptic. This presentation examines medieval healing techniques for the cure of multiple diseases as documented in medical manuscripts from different European libraries.

Professor Spani holds a Ph.D. in Italian philology from Indiana University (Bloomington, IN) where he specialized in paleography, codicology, history of the manuscript production and textual culture. Prior to joining Holy Cross, prof. Spani held teaching positions at Trinity College, Middlebury College, and Bowdoin College. His area of interest includes Italian literature of the Middle Ages, Medieval Italian history and historiography, and

his research mainly focuses on the history of medieval medicine.

The presentation will be held on Friday, April 17, 6:30 – 8 p.m. at The Pakachoag Center, 203 Pakachoag St., Auburn. Doors open at 6 p.m., and admission is \$20 (Cash, Check, PayPal). Seating is limited so Pre-registration is required by emailing friendsaofaurnnplibrary@gmail.com.

Libraries need Friends – it's just that simple. The Friends of the Auburn Public Library is a group of citizens who volunteer their time to help financially support the Auburn Public Library (APL). Friends of the APL is an independent, non-profit 501(c)3, volunteer organization dedicated to raising money through donations, book sales and other activities, and to donate

those funds to the Library for materials, services and programs not funded through the municipal budget.

Watch for all the upcoming Friends event dates. You will find notices in the Auburn Library Lobby and postings on our Facebook group page 'Friends of the Auburn Public Library - Auburn, Massachusetts'. Meetings are typically held the fourth Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Merriam Room (please check the Library Calendar in case of a change.) New members are always welcome! And please add your email to our contact list by writing to friendsaofaurnnplibrary@gmail.com because you can never have too many Friends!

PET of the WEEK





BAYPATH HUMANE SOCIETY OF HOPKINTON
Small Shelter Big Heart

MEET Lizzy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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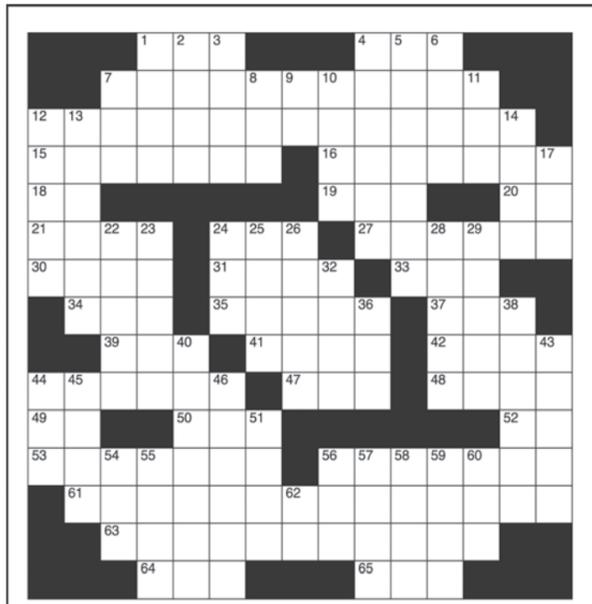
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- ### CLUES ACROSS
- | | |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1. Blockchain-based entity | 39. Someone who is morally reprehensible |
| 4. A woolen cap of Scottish origin | 41. Ancient Syrian city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

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

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Poets at Large presents Schwartz and Reilley March 21

POMFRET, Conn. — Poets at Large will continue its seventh year on Saturday night, March 21 at 7 p.m. at The Vanilla Bean Café, 450 Deerfield Rd., in Pomfret, Conn. Featured poets that evening will be Christopher Reilley and Carla Schwartz.

Worcester poet Christopher Reilley is a two-time Pushcart nominee and former poet laureate of Dedham. He is also a contributing editor at Acoustic Ink and was involved in print and book production for over thirty years, working for such companies as Xerox, EFL, Ricoh USA and Online Print Solutions and is a copywriter for the Bytesized Studios. His books are "Grief Tattoos," "Breathing for Clouds," "One Night Stanzas," and his latest release, "Pour Decisions," was inspired

by his work as a bartender. All are available from Big Table Publishing.

Reilley's poems have appeared in a wide number of publications, including the Boston Literary Journal, Word Salad Poetry, Wild Winds, Coldnoon Travel Poetics and many others, as well as anthologies including Sanctuary, Hot Summer Nights and Silent Consciousness from Acoustic Ink. He also had a poem selected to be in the Lunar Codex, mankind's first interplanetary library, thanks to NASA and lunarcodex.org.

Carla Schwartz is a poet, filmmaker, photographer, and blogger. She lives half the year on an unbridged island in Lake Winnepesaukee, and the other half in the Boston area. Schwartz holds a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from

Princeton University. Her poems have appeared in Rattle and other journals and in her collections "Signs of Marriage," "Mother," "One More Thing," and "Intimacy with the Wind." Learn more at <https://carlapoet.com>, or on all social media @cb99videos. Carla Schwartz received the New England Poetry Club E.E. Cummings Prize.

Poets at Large has brought more than 120 poets to the area since 2020 and dozens of people have participated in the open ic

portions during that time.

Poets at Large is a project of Windham Arts. All events are ADA compliant and are recommended for ages 16 and up. Readings for the rest of the season are sponsored in part by donations from bankHometown, Charter Oak FCU, WHZ Financial and The Putnam Area Foundation. Contact karen.warinsky@gmail.com to sign up for the open mic; five-minute max as time allows.

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Black Tavern programs return

March 19

DUDLEY — On Thursday, March 19 at 7 p.m., The Black Tavern Historical Society will open its 2026 program season with a presentation by historian Gail White Usher entitled "When Two Worlds Met." Ms. Usher will include artifacts and slides to talk about the consequences when Indigenous Peoples came face to face with Colonists. The program is free and open to all. The Black Tavern is located at 138 Center Rd., Dudley.

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Community comes together for inspiring read-in at Clara Barton Elementary



OXFORD — On March 2, Clara Barton Elementary School welcomed members of the community for a special Community Read-In event that filled every classroom with stories, excitement, and a shared love of reading.

All 17 classrooms at Barton hosted a guest reader from the Oxford community. Volunteers included firefighters, EMTs, police officers, nurses, retired teachers, school leaders, and high school students. The event also welcomed several district and town leaders, including the Superintendent of Schools Michael Lucas, School Committee member Corey Burke, and State Senator Ryan Fattman.

Students were thrilled to see so many community members take time out of their day to read with them. The classrooms were filled with smiles, laughter, and attentive listeners as guests shared books and stories. The event helped reinforce an important message: reading is not only essential for learning, but it is also something to enjoy.

A special thank

you goes to Clara Barton's reading specialist, Kelly Delgado, who organized the entire event. Delgado coordinated the guest readers, scheduled the classrooms, and even provided refreshments and thank you gifts. Her dedication and attention to detail made the event run smoothly and ensured a meaningful experience for students and guests alike.

Additional appreciation goes to Senator Fattman, who took time from his busy schedule to spend extra time speaking with Clara Barton's fifth graders. His visit gave students the opportunity to connect with a state leader and ask questions about public service and community involvement. The event also high-

lighted the power of collaboration between schools. Mr. Bell's Spanish class at Oxford High School translated a copy of the book that was read during the event, making it accessible for Spanish-speaking students. Students Sarah Fonseca and Thalyta Souza read the story in Spanish, creating a bilingual reading experience that celebrated language and inclusion.

The Community Read-In was a powerful reminder of what can happen when a town comes together to support its schools. Seeing firefighters, nurses, elected officials, and students all sharing books with young readers showed just how much Oxford values education.

Events like this help students see that reading is important not only in the classroom, but throughout their lives. When an entire community joins together to celebrate literacy, the message is clear: the joy of reading is something worth sharing.

What should you do in the new year? Get your "estate needs in order". No one likes to talk about death, that is why you should have everything done in advance. Make sure your hard-earned money and investments are left to those you want. Call me for a free consultation. Also, handling all types of real estate matters.



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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

The value of knowing your community

One of the quiet advantages of living in a small town is the simple fact that people tend to know one another.

Not everyone knows every neighbor, of course. Communities like Webster, Auburn, Dudley, and Oxford are large enough that many residents pass each other every day without exchanging more than a quick nod. Still, there remains a familiarity in these towns that can be difficult to find in larger places.

A teacher may run into former students at the grocery store. A firefighter might recognize the same residents while responding to calls over the years. Local shop owners greet customers by name.

These small connections are easy to overlook, yet they help shape the character of a community.

Knowing the people who live around us builds a quiet sense of trust. When neighbors recognize one another, they are more likely to look out for each other's homes, offer help during difficult times, or lend a hand with a community project.

It also encourages participation in local life. Residents who feel connected to their towns are more likely to attend events, support local businesses, and take part in community activities.

The same sense of familiarity often extends into local government. Many of the individuals serving on boards, committees, and municipal departments are not distant officials. They are people residents may see at school events, youth sports games, or neighborhood gatherings.

That closeness can make civic life feel more accessible.

Residents who have questions about a project or a town decision often know where to turn. Conversations about community issues may happen at public meetings, but they also occur in everyday places. Local coffee shops, town libraries, and neighborhood sidewalks have long served as informal gathering spots where people exchange ideas about their towns.

These conversations are part of the long tradition of small-town civic life in New England.

Communities change over time, and growth brings new residents and new perspectives. That change is natural. In fact, it often strengthens towns by introducing fresh ideas and new energy.

But the sense of neighborly familiarity that has long defined small towns is worth preserving.

Simple gestures help maintain that connection. A friendly greeting while walking down Main Street. A conversation at a school event. A moment spent welcoming someone new to the community.

These small interactions may seem insignificant, yet they add up to something meaningful.

They help create the environment that allows towns to feel like more than collections of houses and streets. They build a sense of belonging.

In an era when many aspects of daily life are increasingly distant and digital, the value of these local connections becomes even more important.

Communities like ours continue to benefit from the relationships that develop when neighbors recognize one another and share a sense of responsibility for the places they live.

A town's strength is not measured only by its buildings, budgets, or infrastructure.

It is also measured by the willingness of its residents to know their community and the people who call it home.

Viewpoint

THE DEADLINE to submit letters to the editor and commentaries for next week's newspaper is Friday at noon. SEND ALL ITEMS to Editor Brendan Berube at THE WEBSTER TIMES — news@stonebridgepress.news



Courtesy

Oxford Middle School recognizes students each month who exemplify our Be The 3 goals of Respect, Responsibility, and Safety as well as showing that attendance matters, displaying citizenship, and showing growth in a variety of ways. This month, OMS celebrates Yeidiel Hernandez Barreto, Ella Davis, Kaylee Augustynski, Marissa Worden, and Sadie Crouch as our February Students of the Month.

Spring sneaks in, one morning at a time

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

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

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

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

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

That's the best way I can explain it.

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

The birds know it before we do.

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

Then there's the sunlight.

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

I told her that happens every year.

Still, it's nice when it does.

Around town, you start seeing the early signs too. Someone has already swept the

LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET

By CHARLES

winter sand off their walkway. A neighbor is standing in the driveway looking thoughtfully at the snowblower, as if trying to decide whether to keep it out a little longer or finally push it to the back of the garage.

That's always a gamble in Massachusetts.

I've made the mistake before of putting away winter too early.

The moment you do that, it seems like the weather hears about it and decides to send one last snowstorm just to keep you humble.

So I leave the shovel handy for now.

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

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

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

The smell of thawing earth.

The sound of melting snow dripping off the edge of the roof.

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

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

Not with a grand announcement.

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

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

Effie Ward, the other woman behind Dr. Goddard

BY HELEN POIRIER
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The month of March has been designated as Women's History Month, and the Auburn Historical Society & Museum chose to highlight Miss Effie Mary Ward, the other woman in Dr. Robert Goddard's life. Effie's grandmother, Climenta Goddard, was the sister to Robert's great-grandmother, Elvira Goddard. This makes Effie and Robert third cousins.

Effie's parents were Asa William Ward and Mary Elizabeth Alton. Asa's parents were William Ward and Climenta Goddard who were from Royalston MA. William married Ellen Elizabeth Young in 1856 and had two children, Luella Climenta, Herbert William. Ellen died in 1861, Asa then married Mary Alton in 1863 and had three more children — Edward Asa, who only lived five years, Marcus who lived for 48 years, and Effie. The 1870 census showed quite the household with 13 people ranging in age from 3 to 33, by 1889 it was down to 6 and all with the last name Ward.

Asa Ward bought the 13.89 acres of Pakachoag land from David M. Pitts in 1882. In the 1900 census, besides the brothers working the land, there were a nephew and several boarders helping to work on the land. The Auburn tax records for this time show the family had 7 horses, 2 cows, 123 fowls, carriage, boiler, engine, (windmill) house and 13 acres. The 1915 tax records also show that there were two parcels of land on Thayer St, lots 110-111 which were 5,000 feet, and lots 112-115 which measured 10,000 feet. The main house also listed 2 barns, celery house, windmill and pump shed.

In the list of draft cards of Auburn men in 1918, Irving Leander Acker listed being a farmer on Effie M. Ward's farm for employment. Effie's father passed away in 1915 and left the farm to her in his will. It seems that Effie had a green thumb and used some of that land to grow prize winning flowers and vegetables that were shown in many agricultural fairs in the county. She also generously presented flowers at town events and special occasions. Effie was civic minded and gave back to her community. She was a member of the Red Cross Chapter in town and was on the advisory committee. She was a member of the First Congregational Church and worked on the committee that helped raise money for the church budget working alongside Miss Abbie Shute, former town librarian. Effie was even mentioned helping with a Parent Teachers group who was conducting a food sale at the store of Wallace Bulfinch on Maple Ave in 1928.

Effie must have had a great belief in her cousin's dream of liquid-fueled rockets to let him shoot them off on her property then deal with the local farmers who didn't like the effect of the noise and debris that occurred with every launch. Newspapers describe how brush fires had to be extinguished, and every single piece of the rocket had to be retrieved. There was a barn or two that may have had embers land on them. It could be said that the commotion caused the cows to give sour milk and the chickens lay scrambled eggs.

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

Letter submission policy

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

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

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Town of Dudley awarded \$204,195 Green Communities Grant

DUDLEY — The Dudley's Green Communities state Department of Competitive Grant application. Energy Resources, Green State DOER staff select grant Communities Division has applications to fund based on awarded \$204,195 for proj- many factors, ncluding energy ects proposed in the Town of impacts, emissions reductions,

utility incentives, a reasonable budget, and efficacy of mea- sures in terms of energy sav- ings. DOER also looks favor- ably on projects that exhibit innovation and consistency with the Commonwealth's stated clean energy priorities.

The grant-funded projects are:

- \$173,574, Town Hall — Hybrid Heat Pump RTUs
- \$4,950, Mason Road Elementary School — Walk-in Cooler Controls
- \$25,671, Mason Road Elementary School — Air Sealing

"This award demonstrates how patience and persistence in pursuing grant oppor- tunities pays off," Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda said. "The HVAC system serving the Town Hall and Police Headquarters dates back to the original building renovation and replacing it will be a multi- phase effort over several years. Grants like this allow the Town to address major infrastructure needs, while limiting the bur- den on Dudley taxpayers."

In a March 4 letter, Green Communities Division Director Joanne Bissetta wrote, "The Division reviewed Dudley's grant application and has determined these are viable projects that meet the eligibility requirements of our Competitive Grant program. We congratulate you on your grant award and applaud your efforts to create a cleaner energy future for your community and the Commonwealth as a whole."

"I thank everyone who contributed to securing this award, including our town staff who stepped-up during the absence of a Town Planner, the state Department of Energy Resources staff, and our CMRPC partners who helped develop these projects," Mr. Ruda said, adding, "Their collaboration and attention to detail made it possible for Dudley to successfully com- pete for this funding, and we appreciate the continued part- nership in helping our commu- nity improve energy efficiency and modernize our facilities."

UMass Amherst announces Fall Dean's List

AMHERST — The following students were named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Students are appointed to the Dean's List at the end of a semester in which they have com- pleted a minimum of 12 graded credits and have earned a grade point average of 3.500 or better.

- Auburn
- Alyssa Rose Adams
 - Matthew John Adams
 - Nishil Thomas Adina
 - Abdullah Ali Ahmad
 - Evan Baviello
 - Sofia May DiDonato
 - Andrew DiLeo
 - Reece Rachel Dupont
 - Mallory Catherine Graves
 - Julie Hoang
 - Lydia J Kirkorian
 - Shea Kobel
 - Thomas Augustine Lutz
 - Thomas Martin Maillet
 - Ryan Joseph Mechery
 - Chloe Norwood
 - Jake William Rosen
 - EllaMargarete Cecilia Sanchez
 - Peyton Scopetski
 - Amanda Rose Seifer
 - Samuel Remo Soloperto
 - Jenna Nicole Stencil
 - Noah Max Stich
 - Michelle Yi Van

- Dudley
- Alyse Marie Biron
 - Ethan Bradford Casey
 - Stephanie Waithera Chege
 - Nyla Clark
 - Shelly Ryan Condon
 - Ola Julia Jaroszewski
 - Julia Libuda
 - Jacob A Luke
 - Isabella Marie O'Brien
 - Alexander Charles Tsoumakas
 - Nicholas Luke Veronis
 - Alison Elyse Welton
 - Sydney Rose Zmetra

- Oxford
- Muniba Awais
 - Sophia Gracia Balestracci
 - Genevieve Bartlett

- Webster
- Rachel Bonney
 - Caroline Rose Doering
 - Leah Marie Garabedian
 - Dominik Karol Gielarowicz
 - Kira Johanna Gillette
 - Veronica Lynn Graves
 - Cassidy Lorraine Jones
 - James John Kokernak
 - Valerie Magill
 - Noalani Perez
 - Daria Piwowarczyk
 - Edison Aidin Rosario

Masonic Annual Fish Fry is back!

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

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

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

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

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

To make the process simple, the reunion com- mittee has created a short

contact-information form and is encouraging res- idents, friends, and for- mer classmates to help spread the word. If you know someone on the "missing classmates" list, organizers ask that you text them the link to the form so they can update their information.

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

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

A list of classmates the committee is hoping

to locate appears below. With the community's support, they hope every member of the Class of '86 will have the oppor- tunity to join this mile- stone celebration.

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

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

Celtic traditions come to life at Old Sturbridge Village

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

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

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

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



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Saturday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

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

The Literacy Cafe is a free weekly English conversation class offered by Literacy Volunteers of South Central Massachusetts (LVSCM). This class is free to attend and is open to all adults. No pre-registration is required. For more information, email us at info@lvscm.org.

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

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

Yoga – Saturdays at 9:30am

Join Julie or Lauren at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. A typical class involves centering the mind with the breath, aromatherapy, movement of the body to release energetic block-

ages, and, finally, rest and relaxation. Classes are free. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

Yoga Nidra with Jess – Fridays at 8:15am

Join Adult Services Librarian Jess for a relaxing yoga nidra practice to start your day. Jess will guide participants through a few simple yoga asanas to release physical tension. Participants will then settle into a reclined position for a guided relaxation (yoga nidra). This program takes place before the library officially opens. Registration is required and Jess will meet you at the program door. If you have your own yoga mat, please bring it and be sure to dress in comfortable clothing.

Cookbook Club – Wednesday, March 11th at 6:00pm

Join our cookbook club this month as we cook recipes from the same book. We always have a great time eating and discussing our experiences with the book. March's cookbook is Barefoot Contessa Back to Basics by Ina Garten. Extra copies are available at the circulation desk.

Something from Nothing Pantry Series – Monday, March 16th at 6:00pm

Join us for our pantry staples cooking series, Something from Nothing, from January-March. Each month we'll focus on creating a simple recipe from low-cost ingredients that you can put together at home again and again. This month we're hosting Jess Sabine from The Rose Room Cafe. This program is for adults and requires registration.

The Nest: Local Business Success Stories – S6L Pelvic Wellness – Wednesday, March 18th at 6:00pm

Kellyn will be sharing

what it's really been like to start her own physical therapy business just three years out of school. She will talk about the doubts, the imposter syndrome, the burnout, and the pressure to be everything for everyone. She will go through what she's learned so far, what she's still figuring out, and how she's working toward building something more sustainable.

Adult Book Group – Wednesday, March 18th at 6:30pm

Join the adult book group for their monthly book discussion! This month's book is The Women by Kristin Hannah. This group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Copies of the book are always available at the circulation desk.

Expressive Arts Workshop: Soul Collage – Thursday, March 19th at 6:30pm

This spring equinox, we will be hosting a Soul Collage session centered around healing, mindfulness, and growth. Participants will have the opportunity to craft their own tarot and oracle inspired card to welcome the new season. This session will focus on creating a personal, meaningful keepsake entirely by hand. In order to create our card, we will use a mix of natural and found materials. Participants are encouraged to bring along any small trinkets or items from home that hold special meaning to them as well -- this can be in the form of photographs, postcards, buttons -- anything that sparks comfort. These personal touches are what give each card its unique story. Throughout the workshop, we'll also be incorporating tips on mindfulness, breathwork, and coping skills to help guide the creative process and create a calming, intentional atmosphere. No prior art experience is needed!

Programming for All Ages

Library for All – Mondays and Fridays at 10am

Library for All is an inclusive program for teens and adults of all abilities and their caregivers. Please

let us know if you need any special accommodations! Join us every Monday and Friday! The 1st week of the month is coloring, the 2nd week is LEGO, the 3rd week is chair yoga, and the 4th week of the month is painting.

March Miniatures – Thursdays in March at 5:00 and 6:00pm (only 5pm on 3/19)

We're embracing March Miniatures this month! Each Thursday we'll be making miniature-sized crafts for you to take home. March 12th – Teacup Scenes, March 19th – Mini Bookshelves, and March 26th – Painted Pots. Registration is required.

Friends of the Library Spring Concert Series: TJ and the Campers – Thursday, March 12th at 6:30pm

Hailing from the vibrant music scene of Rhode Island, TJ & The Campers is a band born out of long-standing friendships and a shared passion for creating high-energy music. With a sound deeply inspired by the Ska Punk of the 90s and early 2000s, they fuse nostalgic influences with their own unique energy. Whether it's the upbeat rhythms, catchy hooks, or heartfelt lyrics, TJ & The Campers bring a refreshing and invigorating presence to the ska punk scene.

Family Disney Trivia – Saturday, March 14th at 11:00am

Put on your thinking caps and join Miss Paige and Jess for a Family Disney Trivia event! We will have questions for all ages including our youngest Bluey fans to our Disney adults. Registration is required.

Pokémon Party 2 – Saturday, March 21st 11am-1pm

Calling all Pokémon fans! Join us for a

Pokémon Party packed with games, crafts, and Pokémon themed activities!

Children's and Young Adult Programming
Play-Doh Storytime – Mondays at 10:30am

Join us for an engaging storytime filled with interactive stories and Play-Doh fun! Kids are invited to explore, squish and make new creations each week. This sensory-friendly program is perfect for young learners and their grown-ups.

Creators Club – Mondays from 4:00-5:30 PM

We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test! Come explore our newly rebranded Monday night program: Creators Club! March's theme is: Pet Rocks!
Kids will decorate their own pet rock to take home.

Tiny Groovers – Tuesdays at 10:30am

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

Mighty Builders – Tuesdays at 4:00pm

Unleash creativity in our free-build program featuring LEGOs, magnet tiles, wooden blocks, mar-

ble runs, and more!

"Mommy and Me" Workout/Mobility Series – Thursdays, February 19th-March 12th

Join us for a postpartum-friendly "Mommy & Me" class designed to help women feel strong, supported, and confident. All activity levels are welcome, with a focus on recovery during the first 12 months postpartum. The series includes one class on breathing and mobility, one on core, one on pelvic floor, and a final class combining everything to give you tools for safe, effective workouts at home. Mommas are welcome to attend with their baby in a carrier, on the mat, or on their own for some self-care. This program requires registration. This postpartum-friendly "Mommy & Me" class is led by Dr. Kellyn Snow, a pelvic floor physical therapist and owner S6L Pelvic Wellness Studio located in Webster, MA.

Snack Club – Wednesday, March 18th at 5:30pm

Welcome to Snack Club! Each month, kids ages 7-12 will get to make their own tasty treats or try out fun new flavors with friends. This month's snack: Annie's Snacks! Due to limited supplies, this program requires registration.

WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

5 Church St.
(508) 949-3845

Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov

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

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

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least three business days in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation for 65 and up, and \$5 for 55- 64 is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, 3/17: Corned beef, boiled potatoes, cabbage and carrots. Wednesday, 3/18: Marinated pork loin, herbed stuffing, roasted broccoli and carrots. Thursday, 3/19: Cranberry chicken salad, pasta salad, tomato and onion salad. Friday, 3/20: Lentil stew with cheddar cheese, steamed white rice, jardinière vegetables.

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

Come down to the Bomba Beauty Salon at the Webster Senior Center! Call 508-341-8724 for an appointment. Bomba Beauty Salon is open for walk in appointments on Wednesdays from 10:00 am- 1:00 pm, and Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays by appointment only from 10:00 am- 3:00 pm. Please call (508) 341-8724 to schedule an appointment.

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

Now introducing Line Dancing with Forty Arroyo! Classes will be held from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm on the last Monday of the month.

Come play Senior Feud with us on Monday, March 23rd at 1:00 pm! This senior themed version of 'Family Feud' is a great way to show off your competitive side.

Knitting/Crochet group meets on Mondays from 10:00 am- 12:00 pm.

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

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

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

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

We now have an official Bridge group! We will be meeting every Friday from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in the upstairs activity room. All that are interested are welcome to join!

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

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

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Gentle Yoga
Every Monday
10:00-11:00

Join yoga instructor Patricia, for a traditional "on the mat" yoga class with chair yoga modifications. This truly is a one size fits all class.

Bring your own mat. Wear layers, do not eat heavily 1.5-2 hours before class.

Registration is required.

Mahjong at the Pearle
Every Wednesday
10:00-12:30 Fels Community Room

The game consists of players competing to form distinct sets or pairs of tiles, similar to gin rummy.

Everyone is welcome, registration is not required.

Quilting Group
Every Wednesday
1:30- 3:30

All quilters and would-be quilters are invited to join our new group. Bring your projects!

Knit & Crochet Group
Every Thursday 5:30-7:45 and Friday 10:00-12:00

All stitchers are welcome for this informal group.

Bring your project, enjoy the company

AI for Everyday Life
Saturday, March 14th
11:00-12:00

If you don't know what AI is, this program is for you! Join us for a 60-minute beginner's session designed to demystify Artificial Intelligence. We will explore two topics: how to use simple, free AI tools to make daily life easier and how to spot and protect yourself from the new wave of AI-enhanced scams.

Create A Treasure Journal
Monday, March 16th
5:30-7:30

Happy Arts Events will be onsite to teach you various art journal making techniques to create your own unique and beautifully inspired keepsake or gift.

This event is sponsored by the Ages 14+ Registration is required. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Dudley Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Bay Path RTVHS (CTI) Program
Thursday, March 19th
6:00-7:00

This presentation is designed to give community members a clear and comprehensive overview of the CTI program and the opportunities it offers. During the session, we will cover:

An overview of the Career Technical Initiative (CTI) program, the admissions process and eligibility requirements, how candidates qualify for admission, the interview and candidate selection process, the nine career-focused programs we will be offering

for the upcoming school year, career-readiness resources available to participants. In addition, we will be providing informational hand-outs for attendees to take home. More about the program here: <http://baypath.net/web/content/page/334>

"Cook the Book" Book Club- No cook book this month- Bring a Family Favorite

Monday, March 23rd
6:00-7:00

Any family recipe is fair game, except alcoholic beverages-sorry! Prepare the recipe at home and share it at the library. We cannot reheat or keep food warm, so consider this when choosing your recipe.

You are responsible for bringing serving utensils. We will provide paper goods and utensils for eating.

There will be a place to include your recipe selection in the reservation form. Registration required.

The Music of McCartney: The World's Most Successful Songwriter

Thursday, March 26th
6:00-7:00

This program will explore the music of Paul McCartney as he developed his songwriting through the 1960s with the Beatles and beyond. From the influences of his father, a jazz musician in the 1920s/30s, his incorporation of those sounds of ballroom and dance-hall big bands in his music, to his successes as a pop and rock performer in Wings and as a solo musician. The listener will relive a wide spectrum of musical styles covered over Sir Paul's 65-year career.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Dudley Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Crawford Library Book Group
Thursday, March 26th
Yellowface by RF Kuang
6:00-7:30

Books are available at the circulation desk for checkout one month prior to discussion.

No Registration Required.

All About Mushrooms
Saturday, March 28th
10:30-12:00

They're all over the web, all over the news, and if you're lucky (and in the right season), all over your local woodlands. They're mushrooms, the mysterious eruptions from an otherwise hidden world of life and death. When they emerge, they can delight us with beautiful colors, strange shapes, and curious aromas.

About Jonathan Krantz: Kranz leads mushroom walks and talks for libraries, land trusts, clubs, and other interest groups in southern New England. In addition to being a MA Audubon Certified Field Naturalist, Kranz currently serves as vice president of the oldest mushroom club in North America, the Boston Mycological Club, and is a board member of the Pioneer Valley Mycological Association.

CrafterNIGHT-Spring Shadow Box
Monday, March 30th

6:00-7:00
OR
CrafterNOON-Spring Shadow Box
Tuesday March 31st
1:00-2:00

Create a beautiful spring-themed wooden shadow box guided by staff member Jubille! Choose from a variety of fun embellishments — flowers, butterflies, gems, and more — to design a piece that's uniquely yours. Layer textures, play with color, and add the perfect finishing touches to celebrate the season.

Space is limited, registration is required.

Listen Up-Communication Workshop
Monday, March 30th
6:30-7:30

Our library doesn't just lend books- it lends perspectives. Join us for an exciting workshop focused on listening, sharing, and finding understanding. Real-life conversations matter—learn skills you can use in every area of life.

Burned by Billionaires: How Concentrated Wealth & Power Are Ruining Our Lives & Our Planet-book discussion.

Monday, March 31st
6:00

OFF SITE EVENT: LOCATED AT THE CHARLTON PUBLIC LIBRARY 40 Main St Charlton, MA

Author Chuck Collins will discuss his latest book *Burned by Billionaires: How Concentrated Wealth and Power Are Ruining Our Lives and Planet*. He is a senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, DC., and a cofounder of Wealth for Common Good. Chuck is an expert on economic inequality in the US, and has pioneered efforts to bring together investors and business leaders to speak out publicly against corporate practices and economic policies that increase economic inequality.

Charlton Library will hold a book discussion on Tuesday, March 10 at 6pm for anyone interested in reading and discussing the book before the author talk. In collaboration with: Merrick Public Library in Brookfield, Charlton Public Library, Pearle L. Crawford Library in Dudley, Oxford Public Library, Joshua Hyde Library in Sturbridge, and Merriam-Gilbert Public Library in West Brookfield. Children's Programming

Pre-K Power
Every Tuesday -NO SESSION
Tuesday, March 10th
10:00-10:45

For ages 3-5 and their caregiver (siblings always welcome!). Join us for stories, songs, fingerplays, scarves, shaker eggs, moving our bodies to music, activities, bubbles, a craft, and free play!

No Registration needed

Toddler Storytime
Every Wednesday-NO SESSION
Wednesday, March 11th
10:00-10:45

Best for children 6 months - 36 months and their caregiver (siblings always welcome!). We'll have fun with songs, fingerplays, a story, moving our bodies to music, shaker eggs, scarves, and

bubbles! There will be time for free play and socialization, too. No Registration needed.

Tinker Playgroup
Every Thursday in March
10:30-11:30

Join YFCP and the Pearle L. Crawford Library for a FREE 4-week Tinkering Playgroup series. Children, ages 3-6, with a parent/caregiver, will be introduced to hands-on activities to practice and develop foundation STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) skills including problem solving, fine motor, and working together through tinkering activities designed by the Boston Children's Museum. There will be family sheets to extend playgroup activities at home.

Registration is required. Please register for each class separately.

Baby Open Play
Every Friday
10:00-12:00

Open play for babies! Parents and caregivers can let babies play while getting to know others in the community. Come anytime between 10-12 or stay the whole time! No Registration Required

Pokemon Club
Thursday, March 19th
6:00-6:45

Do you love everything Pokemon? Join us for Pokemon club! Each month we will have exciting crafts and activities! Best for ages 6 and up. No Registration Required. This is not a drop off program.

Yoga for Children
Friday, March 20th
10:00-10:45

Join certified Yoga instructor, Patricia (also known as Buffy), for a 45-minute yoga class for children ages 3-5 and their caregivers! Caregivers are encouraged to participate in the class, but it is not required. If you will be participating, please bring your own mat. (Yoga mats will be provided for the children.) Registration is required as space is limited.

Deb's Sing & Swing-Hello Spring!

Friday, March 27th
10:30-11:15

Pre-K Music & Movement offers a 45-minute interactive program featuring singing, guitar music, dancing, rhythm instruments, stories, and a variety of fun props, including a parachute, beanbags, scarves, and pom poms. These programs are theme-based, and cover everything from holidays and seasons to dinosaurs and bugs!

Registration is required.

Teen Programming

Dungeons & Dragons Game
Every Thursday
6:00-7:30

Ages 14-19
Are you looking to play a game that contains action, adventure, and drama?

Come play the world's number one role-playing game.

Create A Treasure Journal
Monday, March 16th
5:30-7:30

Happy Arts Events will be onsite to teach you various art journal making techniques to create your own unique and beautifully inspired keepsake or gift. Ages 14+ Registration is required.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Dudley Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Clay Sea Turtle Bowl for Teens
Friday, March 27th
1:00-2:30

Create your own unique turtle-themed bowl with air dry clay! Pop Up Art will be here to guide you step-by-step to craft and paint a finished piece that's truly your own! Ages 12-17 ONLY. Registration is required

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P0147EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
Estate Of:
**Anne Jennie Gordon
Also Known As:
Anne J. Gordon**

Date of Death: November 21, 2025
To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner
James D Gordon of Salisbury MA
a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

James D Gordon of Salisbury MA
has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
March 13, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Grace Boro to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mega Capital Funding Inc., dated March 17, 2023 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68940, Page 170, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:
Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mega Capital Funding Inc., its successors and assigns to Mega Capital Funding, Inc., recorded on August 26, 2024, in Book No. 70937, at Page 59

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 3:00 PM on March 23, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 15 Glenview Road a/k/a 15 Glen View Road, Auburn, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,
TO WIT:

The land in Auburn, County of Worcester, bounded and described as follows:

Being all of Lot #14 on a Plan of Highlawn Manor Estates, dated July, 1951, drawn by R.B. Cullinan, Surveyor, recorded in Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 186, Plan 61, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a stone bound on the easterly side of Glenview Road, it being the northerly corner of said Lot # 14 as shown on said plan;
THENCE S. 50 degrees 35' 40" E. 142.81 feet by Lot #13 as shown on said plan to a stake;

THENCE S. 35 degrees 14' 30" W. by lots 9 & 10 as shown on said plan 100 feet to a stake;

THENCE N. 52 degrees 37' W. by lots # 15 as shown on said plan 149.77 feet to a stake;

THENCE by a curve to the right a radius of which is 160 feet, a distance of 40.39 feet to a stone bound;
THENCE N. 37 degrees 23' E. 19.07 feet to a stone bound;

THENCE by a curve to the right the radius of which is 124.29 feet, a distance of 47.05 feet to the point of beginning.

Said last three courses being by Glenview Road.
Containing 15,200 square feet of land, more or less.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68821, Page 330.

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 Fifteen Thousand (\$15,000.00) 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.

MEGA CAPITAL FUNDING, INC.
Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.

150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458

(617)558-0500
26353

February 27, 2026
March 6, 2026

March 13, 2026

(SEAL)

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT ORDER OF NOTICE CASE NO.26 SM 000615

TO:

Michael W. Burroughs a/k/a Michael Burroughs; Kristen Burroughs
and all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. App. §501 et seq;
Milford Federal Bank f/k/a Milford Federal Savings and Loan Association

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Oxford, numbered 13 Stuart Street a/k/a Lot 26 Depot Road a/k/a 18 Old Worcester Road, given by **Michael W. Burroughs a/k/a Michael Burroughs and Kristen Burroughs to Milford Federal Savings and Loan Association, dated July 15, 2008, and** registered at Worcester County Registry District of the Land Court on July 16, 2008, Document No. 94425, as noted on Certificate of Title No. 16097, has filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now, or recently have been, in the **active** military service of the United States of America, then you are 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 should file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before 04/13/2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on Attest:
2/25/2026

Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder

March 13, 2026

Docket No. WO25E0010PP Petition to Partition Citation (A.C.92A)

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Worcester Probate & Family Court**
To Tiffany M. Charlestown and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Bobbie F. Holland of Webster in the County of Worcester representing that he hold as tenant in common an undivided part or share of that certain land lying in Webster in said County Worcester and described as follows:

See Attached
setting forth that he/ she desire that all the aforesaid described part of said land may be sold at private sale for not less than five hundred and sixty thousand (#460,000) dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the twenty fourth day of February 2026 the return day of this citation.

Witness, Kathryn M. Bailey, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this twenty-first day of April 26.

Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
March 13, 2026
March 20, 2026
March 27, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court Worcester
Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO20P11972GD
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR
EXPAND THE POWERS OF A
GUARDIAN**

In the interests of:

Neil H. Stockwell of Webster, MA
RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/
Protected Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by UMass Memorial Healthcare Center of in the above captioned matter requestig that the court: Expand the powers of a Guardian The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 03/31/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 03, 2025
March 13, 2026

Notice is hereby given by: Precision Auto Rebuilders, Inc., 243 W Main St, Dudley, MA 01571 pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39 A that on March 20, 2025 5PM at: Precision Auto Rebuilders, Inc., 243 W Main St, Dudley, MA 01571, the following motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles:

Description of vehicles:

Vehicle: 2015 Ford Focus
VIN# 1FADP3K23FL380803

Owner: Paul Bonczyk 2 Trinity Ave
Worcester MA 01605

This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. c.225, Section 39 A
March 6, 2026
March 13, 2026
March 20, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200**

**Docket No. WO25P4066EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
Stephen Richard Angelo
Date of Death: Oct 7, 2025

To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of **Aaron S Angelo of Sebastian FL**
Aaron S Angelo of Sebastian FL
has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal

procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
March 13, 2026

DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
WETLANDS PROGRAM
**401 Water Quality Certification
Application Public Notice**

Pursuant to 33.U.S.C.1341 and MGL c21 §43, notice is hereby given of a 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) application for the **Pout Pond Hydroraking Project**

at **Pout Pond in Webster (0 Birch Island Rd, Webster, 01570)**, by **The Webster Lake Association (PO Box 156, Webster, MA, 01570)** on property owned by **36 Birch Island Rd LLC, 18 Garrison Heights, Oxford, MA, 01540. Work proposed includes hydroraking nuisance vegetation to enhance habitat and treating invasive species.** Additional information may be obtained from **Goddard Consulting LLC at 508-393-3784 or owen@goddardconsultingllc.com.**

Written comments on this 401 WQC Application may be emailed to: David Wong (David.W.Wong@mass.gov)
Department of Environmental Protection Wetlands Program
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 874-7155

Within 21 days of this notice. The Department will consider all written comments on this 401 WQC Application received by the Public Comments Deadline.

Any group of ten persons of the Commonwealth, any aggrieved person, or any government body or private organization with a mandate to protect the environment that has submitted written comments may also appeal the Department's Certification and that failure to submit comments before the end of public comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing.
March 13, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200**

**Docket No. WO26P0193EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Estate of: William J Conley
Date of Death: March 10, 2024

To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner

Anne Marie Thome of Virginia Beach VA

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Anne Marie Thome of Virginia Beach VA
has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
March 13, 2026

**TOWN OF DUDLEY
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
71 WEST MAIN STREET,
DUDLEY MA 01571**

Please take notice that: Scott Szymczak

Have applied to the Zoning Board of Appeals to vary the terms of the Zoning By-Laws Section 2.04.00
Location: 2 Norman Lane

In the following respect: Applicant is seeking a variance of 24 ft on right side setback and 200 ft on lot coverage for a proposed garage.

The Public Hearing will be held on Thursday April 2, 2026 @ 7:00pm at the Town Hall room 321A, at which time you may be hard relative to this Public Hearing.

Please contact Amanda Holmes at 508-949-8012 or building@dudleyma.gov to attend the meeting.

George Slingo, Chairman Zoning Board of Appeals
March 13, 2026

Celebrate the 'Legends of Oxford'

OXFORD — The countdown to America's 250th Anniversary begins in Oxford with a free presentation of Legends of Oxford, a signature event exploring the town's folklore legends. Join us to hear the stories of the Oxford Pirate, Caruncle Pond, Devil's Den, and the Haunting of Oxford Library as shared by local author, Rob Racicot.

This event will be held at the Caruncle Beach House, 12 Caruncle Dr. in Oxford, on Thursday, March 19, at 6 p.m. Light refreshments will be served and there will be ample time to ask questions at the conclusion of the presentation.

Organizers say this kickoff marks the beginning of a series of events that will highlight Oxford's contributions to the American story while encouraging residents to think about the future they want to build together.

More information about Oxford's America 250 initiatives can be found at www.oxford-ma.us/234/Community-Center.

Oxford Lions Club offers scholarships

OXFORD — The Oxford Lions Club is currently accepting applications for three \$1,000 scholarships. The recipients will be selected on the student's academic performance, community service, and financial need. Graduating high school seniors who are residents in the Town of Oxford that will be continuing their education at an accredited college or trade program are eligible to apply.

The Al Dubois Scholarship is named for a former teacher and Oxford Lion president who believed in helping student with special needs. The Lions Club also has two other scholarships available.

Students that are home schooled or at an accredited High School are eligible and encouraged to apply, if they reside in Oxford.

Applications are available at the Oxford High School Guidance Department, Bay Path Regional Technical High School Guidance Department or the Oxford Public Library. Applications must be received by March 27.



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LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage dated November 10, 2022 given by Daniel Yarnie to Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Three Trust u/d/t dated October 25, 2022 (recorded in Book 68416, Page 212), said mortgage recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68476, Page 194, and which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at **10:00 a.m. on the 8th day of April, 2026** on the premises at 64 Leicester Street, Oxford, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

To wit:
Property Address: **64 Leicester**

Street, Oxford, Massachusetts 01537

The following parcels of land in Oxford, Worcester County, Massachusetts: Lots 26A and 26B as shown on that certain plan recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 407, Plan 119. Lots 27 and 28 as shown on that certain plan recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 78, Plan 1. Lot 2 as shown on that certain plan recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 817, Plan 116. For title see deed recorded herewith [Book 68476, Page 190]. 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 and rights of any tenants and parties in possession, if there be any, 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. The successful bidder will pay all costs of recording the foreclosure deed and any other foreclosure documents including, without limitation, all state and county excise stamp fees, and shall also be responsible for any Title V inspection and repair requirements. Terms of sale: A deposit of Fifty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$50,000.00) 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 to Mirrione, Shaughnessy & Uitti, LLC, 2 Batterymarch Park, Suite 202, Quincy, MA 02169 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Three Trust u/d/t dated October 25, 2022 Present holder of said mortgage By his Attorneys, Mirrione, Shaughnessy & Uitti, LLC 2 Batterymarch park, Suite 202 Quincy, MA 02169

March 13, 2026
March 20, 2026
March 27, 2026

ALL WE KNOW IS LOCAL ~ StonebridgePress.com



OBITUARY

William V. O'Brien, Jr., 83



OXFORD – William V. O'Brien, Jr., 83, of West Street, died peacefully in his home on Wednesday, March 4, 2026.

He was predeceased by his wife of 50 years, Judith E. (Munroe)

O'Brien of Oxford, who passed in 2015. He is survived by three children, Thomas R. O'Brien of Oxford, Michael J. O'Brien and his wife Carol of Thompson, CT, and Kelly A. O'Brien-Hartnett and her husband Daniel Hartnett of Oxford; two grandchildren, Brennan M. O'Brien and Kiera E. O'Brien, both of Thompson, CT; his sister, Susan McCrohon of Holden; and a niece and two nephews, Caryn, Timothy, and William McCrohon.

He was born in Worcester, son of the late William V. and Irene S. (Schofield) O'Brien Sr., and lived there before moving to Oxford in 1970. He was a U.S. Army veteran serving during the Vietnam era.

After returning from the Army, Mr. O'Brien worked for The Rendering in Worcester before becoming a tractor-trailer driver for UPS in Shrewsbury for over 30 years, retiring in 2000. During his retirement, he worked at Blackstone National Golf Club in Sutton. He was a member of the Teamsters Local 170 in Worcester, and a member of the former Knights of Columbus Post 1458 in Auburn.

He enjoyed traveling to Florida with his

wife, where they were snowbirds in Hudson for many years. While there, they often frequented Clearwater Beach and Disney. They treasured time there with his aunt and uncle and many of his life-long Army buddies and their wives, who had settled in the same area. The O'Brien home hosted many gatherings for friends and family, the most epic were on Founder's Day, where many great memories were made by all. He looked forward to meeting at McDonald's for the weekly Thursday Coffee Group. He was a handy-man and was always willing to help anyone in need. Most of all, he loved his family. His grandchildren were his greatest pride and joy.

A funeral will be held on Friday, March 13, 2026, from Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford, followed by a Mass at 10 a.m. at St. Roch's Church, 332 Main St., Oxford. Burial will be private at a later date at Worcester County Memorial Park in Paxton. Calling hours are Thursday, March 12, 2026, from 4-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Best Buddies Program at Oxford High School. Please make checks payable to the Town of Oxford, and mail to Oxford High School, 100 Caruncle Dr., Oxford, MA 01540.



NEW
continued from page A1

call, or send me an email, whether with planning questions, or just to say hi and talk about the town," he said, adding, "The more I know about Dudley and the people who call it home, the better job I can do for those people!"

Webb's appointment follows that of the town's Health Agent Justin Lapham in late December.

The Dudley Health Agent serves as the town's lead enforcer of public health, environmental, and safety regulations by conducting inspections, investigations, and ensuring compliance with both state and local health codes. It is also the primary representative and liaison for the Board of Health. Lapham said he was drawn to Dudley because his background in public health, environmental oversight, and residential development can make an immediate and meaningful impact here.

"In my 31 years with Shea Engineering and my 12 years of service at the Douglas Board of Health, I've worked closely with many towns across Central Massachusetts, both a consultant and a Title V inspector. That exposure has given me a deep appreciation for towns like Dudley that



Bruce Webb



Justin Lapham

value strong public-facing services, responsive permitting, community health protections and a unique perspective of both sides of many issues," he said, adding, "Dudley is the right fit because its needs align perfectly with my expertise, and it's a place where I can contribute immediately, while also building long-term relationships with residents and local departments."

For key objectives in his first year, Lapham said he plans to strengthen compliance and inspection efficiency, build strong working relationships across the town and agencies, improve administrative systems and reporting, support public health programs and emergency preparedness and strengthen transparency and accessibility with residents. "My first objective would be to ensure all required inspections—Title 5, hous-

ing, food service, wells, and tobacco—are performed consistently, documented properly, and brought up to current state and local standards. I'll focus on building a predictable inspection schedule and tightening follow-through on enforcement and correction orders" he said.

Both the Town Planner and Health Agent positions had been vacant for some time. Webb and Lapham are bringing both roles up to date and are ready to serve the residents of Dudley.

"Professional, staffing of our town departments is critical in supporting our elected and volunteer boards and establishing clear lines of communication across departments," Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda said, adding, "I look forward to supporting Justin and Bruce in their missions."

HEALY
continued from page A1

welcoming a new neighbor to the nation, Healy's work has been defined by a consistent, decades-long pulse of empathy and pride. For her, the conclusion of the Academy's operations was not an end to her community impact, but a transition into a deeper phase of it.

A family tradition of patriotism

Healy has transformed these naturalization ceremonies into a family legacy. Standing by her side are her daughter, Anne Marie Safae, and her sister, Sylvia Gamache. Representing the Captain Job Knapp Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Dr. Healy has spent more than ten years ensur-

ing that the first experience of a new American is the warmth of a sincere, personal welcome.

"I told my daughter someone must have welcomed our ancestors, so here we are doing the same thing," Healy shared. "It makes you feel patriotic that we live in an America that makes room for immigrants. I get excited each time for the new citizens."

This commitment is a cornerstone of the Captain Job Knapp Chapter's mission. Working alongside fellow members Carolyn Lavallee, Margaret Fournier, Noveline Beltram, and Agnes Lyman, Dr. Healy ensures that the transition to citizenship is marked with the dignity and joy it deserves.

The power of a small flag For Dr. Healy, the most

profound moment of the day is the simple act of placing a small American flag into the hand of a newly sworn-in citizen. To her, it is a front-row seat to the realization of the American Dream.

"When a new individual is given a flag and they start waving it, or kiss it, or hold it close to their chest—their heart—it makes me feel thankful that we are a part of their journey," she said.

As the 747 new citizens departed the theatre with their flags held high, they carried with them more than just a piece of fabric. They carried a piece of a legacy maintained by Dr. Healy—a reminder that the true strength of a country is found in the heart of its welcome.

ROCKETS
continued from page A1

Scouts to be involved so they can help out their town and keep town events going for everyone."

While there were several options of models for the volunteers to assemble, the process was perhaps more challenging than the Scouts

expected.

Tucker Bergin from Troop 53 stated that "this activity, depending on which one of the three rocket kits you chose, could be challenging or easy."

"It was a bit challenging, but fun," added Garrett Paradis of Troop 53. "The best part was having a fun time with other Scouts

while doing an activity."

To commemorate the occasion, Troop 53/753 is selling handmade steel rockets that can be displayed on a desk or shelf for \$20 each. Pack 53 is selling patches for \$10 each.

Leaders from the Auburn units thank the Heart of New England Council for their contribution to the town celebration. Students in Auburn have a half day at school on March 16th so that they may partake in the festivities. Scouts are looking forward to being a part of the launch on March 16th at Pakachoag Golf Course.

According to the Web site www.goddard100th.org, two majors events will be held leading up to the centennial:

Family Fun Fest
March 14
Goddard Park - Auburn
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Centennial Celebration:
March 16
Pakachoag Golf Course- Auburn
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Friday's Child

William is a funny, energetic, caring, and incredibly charismatic boy. He has an outgoing personality and warms up to new people quickly — in fact, he's rarely shy and is happy to strike up a conversation with just about anyone. His confidence and natural charm make him a joy to be around. William loves staying active and engaged. He enjoys playing with remote control cars, shooting hoops, building with Legos, and playing board games. He also has a hoverboard that he loves riding, always eager to show off his skills. When he's ready to relax, he enjoys watching TV and cheering on his favorite team,

William
Age 15
Registration #7297

the New England Patriots — they're at the top of his favorites list! Using his creative mind and working with electronics are also among William's "top things" to do. He enjoys figuring out how things work, building, experimenting, and bringing his ideas to life. With his big personality, caring heart, and curiosity about the world around him, William has so many strengths that make him truly special.

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

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

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

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Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island



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Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!



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



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Master Masons receive 50-year Masonic Veterans Service Medals

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE
LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Monday evening, March 2, the Major General Salem Towne Lodge (MGSTL) filled both its upper and lower parking areas as attendees gathered to recognize and congratulate two distinguished Master Masons. This evening, MGSTL will also be hosting a fraternal visit from Brother Gordon Forsberg, the District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) of our 24th Masonic District, along with his suite.

Brother Forsberg presented two 50-year Masonic Veterans Service Award Medals. The recipients of these two coveted 50-year Masonic Veterans Service Award Medals are Brother Thomas Houston of Webster, who attained the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on May 3, 1976, and Brother Peter Baldracchi of Fiskdale, who achieved the



Courtesy
From left to right, Brother Peter Baldracchi, recipient of the 50-Year Masonic Veterans Service Medal, his wife Lora, and our 24th District Deputy Grand Master, Brother Gordon Forsberg and recipient Brother Thomas Houston and his wife Laurie. These men are proud to call themselves Master Masons.

Sublime Degree of Master Mason on June 19, 1976.

These two men are both Past Master of this great Masonic Lodge. They joined this fraternity in 1976 because of our identity. It's simpler with men who share our values. We're there for our brothers no matter what life may bring, and our brothers are there for us. We help others, not just because it's the right thing to do, but also because it helps us grow. We value honor and integrity. We believe there's always more to learn. After 167 years, this Lodge is still thriving and we as Freemasons thrive to make good men even better. We are dedicated individuals who prioritize family and community, consistently seeking opportunities for both personal and professional growth. For further information regarding Freemasonry or to locate a lodge in your area, please visit our Web site at www.massfreemasonry.org to find a lodge nearest you.

Sheriff's Office successfully brings Random Acts of Kindness Initiative to Worcester County

Courtesy
WCSCO Webster Regional Resource Center teams deliver RAOK bags to the Webster Police Department.



WEBSTER — Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and the Worcester County Sheriff's Office successfully carried out their Random Acts of Kindness Initiative (RAOK), spreading goodwill and encouraging thoughtful gestures during the nationally observed week of kindness, Feb. 16–20.

Throughout the week, Sheriff's Office commu-

nity teams traveled across the region, distributing more than 2,500 donated goody bags filled with snacks and bottled water at public locations, offering a visible reminder of the care, connection, and community focus of local law enforcement.

On Thursday, Feb. 19, Evangelidis joined staff in distributing bags throughout the City of Worcester, includ-

ing a stop at Worcester Regional Airport, where teams shared bags with airport staff and travelers.

The initiative was inspired by the work of the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation, which promotes kindness as a means of strengthening communities nationwide. Founded in the mid-1990s amid concerns about rising violence, the organization helped spark a cultural shift toward promoting everyday kindness. Today, it serves as a leading force behind the observance of Random Acts of Kindness Week across the United States.

“Our role extends beyond enforcement to building trust and strengthening community relationships,” Evangelidis

said. “We were proud to spread positivity throughout Worcester County and remind residents that even the smallest act of kindness can make a lasting difference.”

This year's effort was made possible through the support of CareOne at Millbury, Pepsi of Worcester, McCarty Companies, and Rockland Trust Bank, along with assistance from the Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff's Association. Their generosity provided all 2,500 bags for staff to distribute.

The Sheriff's Office thanks residents, businesses, and community partners for helping make the initiative another success and for continuing to foster a spirit of kindness across Worcester County. The Office hosts community engagement events year-round; to learn more, visit www.WorcesterCountySheriff.com or follow the Sheriff's Office on social media for updates.

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WHIRLPOOL 21 CU. FT. TOP MOUNT REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$899.99 \$699.99	FRIGIDAIRE 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$699.99 \$599.99	FAMOUS MAKER OVER THE STOVE MICROWAVE Reg. \$249.99 \$229.99	LG #3400 WASHER & DRYER Front Load, Reg. \$1599.99 \$1399.99	MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER Reg. \$699.99 \$549.99	WHIRLPOOL SIDE BY SIDE Reg. \$1499.99 \$1199.99

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