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WEBSTER TIMES

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Friday, July 25, 2025

11-year-old publishes graphic novel with dad’s help

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — What were you doing at age 11? Most of us were likely playing and going to school. Allen Oliver Jean-Paul certainly does those things. But he also already had a book published in his name. The St Joseph School student recently visited Booklovers’ Gourmet to promote his graphic novel “Xavier,” which he described as a science fiction tale about a teenage superhero and friends who seek to “protect the city at all costs” from “threats that are trying to take over the world.” He said it took four months to write, “drawing each day and getting greater at my art skills.” Drawing began when he was age five, but the first stories started emerging at age nine. “I did this all by myself,” he said, noting he doesn’t have a traditional art background. But his school and everyday life fueled it: “If you’re in a classroom, you might want to look around and see what’s happening ... and what you can do [with it] in the future,” he said. His father, who has the same name but spells it the French way, Alain, said he contacted some publishers before deciding to hire some assistance to publish it himself. Alain said he quickly found “there’s no business with new authors” in many publishers’ eyes. Although he also considered publishing through Amazon, he rejected it in part because it has so many AI books that “aren’t really made by people.” But he did publish through another online firm, and went through the process of copyrighting and so forth. Noting he had no previous publishing background



The author autographs a copy.

Gus Steeves

Dudley procures state funds for temporary replacement of Mill Race Bridge

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The Mill Race Bridge in Dudley has served as a source of frustration for town officials and residents alike since its closed in 2019, but now the bridge is one huge step closer to reopening with a temporary fix thanks to recently procured state funds. The Mill Race Bridge was closed originally closed due to structural concerns and has since been completely torn down. For years the town has sought a solution as the closure cut off a major connecting point between Dudley and Webster adding significant traffic to the Main Street area. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) had

Turn To **BRIDGE** page **A10**

Oxford selectmen thank Prefontaine for 25 years of service

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — Selectmen rolled into the new fiscal year by honoring the retirement of a veteran firefighter/paramedic July 8. On July 3, Jessica Prefontaine concluded 25 years on the force when she did her formal “last walk-out” to end her shift. Town Manager Jen Callahan praised her particularly for her dedication to running the department’s SAFE education program and thereby “leaving a lasting impact on children and seniors.” Fire Chief Butch McDonald said Prefontaine was one of the department’s original part-timers to become full-time, and is now the

first full-timer to retire. Over the years, the department has “received many cards thanking her for her service,” he said. Callahan played a short video of Prefontaine’s walkout, in which Prefontaine said she’ll miss “the camaraderie” and “the community that’s welcomed me and allowed me to care for them.” After honoring her in person, the board and Town Clerk Michelle Jenkins swore in her replacement, Shrewsbury resident Nick Bohigian, who has been an EMT for three years and just finished paramedic training. The board then switched gears to deal with fire’s opposite – water. Aquarion

Vice President John Walsh and Community Relations Director George Logan came forward to announce that Eversource is selling Aquarion’s Massachusetts and New Hampshire branches to Unitol Corp. Walsh said the company’s staff will remain the same for at least the next five years. Rates will also not change, at least for now. Callahan said the sale’s value is about \$100 million, including \$30 million in debt. She’d read past cases indicating Unitol plans to “recover transaction costs ... [but] only if they could show savings.” How would the firm communicate that and how would it affect rates, she asked.

Walsh said he’s “not familiar with a lot of those financial details.” But “if that ever happens, that’ll be a separate proceeding with the Department of Public Utilities,” that typically takes a year and involves public hearings in both Oxford and Boston. “There will be definitely no surprises there,” he added. Most of the rest of the meeting involved Callahan’s regular report. She summarized a few recently-received grants – two for \$10,000 for Community Center operations and Senior Center lunches, plus one for \$20,775 for bike and pedestrian upgrades. She said she hopes the be able

Turn To **PREFONTAINE** page **A10**

Volunteers pitch in to clean up Webster Lake

WEBSTER — The first Webster Lake Cleanup, organized by Linda Sopp in collaboration with Keep Massachusetts Beautiful, took place on July 12. More than 20 volunteers participated, working together to clean Memorial Beach, Gore Road, and several coves and swamps around the lake. Twelve volunteers,

including Girl Scout Troop members led by Michelle McLaughlin, focused their efforts on Memorial Beach. Another team, led by Betsy and Dave Kruger, collected more than eight bags of trash along Gore Road. Two boats with about seven volunteers removed more than 700 pounds of debris from the lake, including

artificial turf from South Pond, a large abandoned wharf near the Pt. Breeze gas station, a deteriorating sunken wharf near Little Island, and a 40-foot irrigation hose in Maple Cove. Additional volunteers cleaned other sections of the shoreline and coves. With this year’s success, organizers Linda Sopp,

Betsy Kruger, and Robin Jewell are now planning a second annual cleanup. A key aim for the group is to establish a Webster chapter of Keep Massachusetts Beautiful, a nonprofit dedicated to inspiring community involvement in cleanups and beautification projects, while encouraging participation from businesses and local

government leaders. Special thanks go to Webster Conservation Commission members Brian Anderson, Robin Jewell (Vice Chair), and Chair Richard Parent for their involvement. Appreciation is also extended to Jay and the team from JP Shoreline Services, who donated their time and use

of a work boat, as well as to Conservation Commission Agent Joey Wigglesworth for his advice and support. Linda Sopp said, “We’re all looking forward to next year’s cleanup, bigger and better, and we encourage everyone to help keep the lake clean.”



Webster Conservation Commission honors Fred Bock with Community Environmental Leadership Award

WEBSTER — The Webster Conservation Commission is proud to announce the launch of its annual Community Environmental Leadership Awards program, which recognizes individuals or groups who have made significant contributions to the protection and preservation of Webster's natural

resources. This year, the Commission is honored to recognize former Commissioner Fred Bock for his exceptional service and steadfast dedication to environmental stewardship. After seven years of service on the Commission, Bock is being celebrated for his leadership, commitment,

and lasting impact on the conservation of Webster's wetlands. During his tenure, Mr. Bock played a pivotal role in safeguarding the ecological integrity of the town's wetlands, ensuring that development projects adhered to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and local conservation policies. His

collaborative approach helped balance responsible land use with the protection of sensitive habitats, waterways, and open spaces. "I have a sincere respect and admiration for Fred," said Joey Wigglesworth, Conservation Agent. "He has been a strong advocate for our town's environment, including

brooks, ponds, streams, a river, and our crown jewel, Webster Lake. Fred always brought a calm demeanor, deep knowledge, passion, and a collaborative spirit that has left a lasting impression on his fellow commissioners, our community, and most importantly, our natural landscape." Rich Parent, Chair of

the Webster Conservation Commission, added, "Fred's leadership in conditioning hundreds of projects, his insightful contributions to conservation policies, and his direct mentorship of me during Conservation Commission activities exemplify his profound and lasting impact on Webster's environmental stewardship."

In recognition of his service, Mr. Bock will receive a special certificate of appreciation, and his name will be added to a perpetual plaque displayed in the Conservation Commission office at Town Hall—an enduring tribute on the community's Environmental Leadership "Wall of Fame."

The Commission and Bock's fellow members extend their heartfelt thanks for his years of volunteerism and environmental leadership, which have helped ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy the beauty and biodiversity of Webster's natural environment.

School Committee considers policy changes

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — The Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee is examining policy updates regarding fundraising and student admissions for non-residents which are expected to be finalized later

this year. Five separate policies were examined by the school committee on July 10 that could replace or alter existing language or are completely brand new to the district. The first three policies are an update to student fundraising rules and facilities use as well as a new document pertaining to public solicitations in schools. The remaining two policies are updates to the school admissions residency restrictions and a new policy in advance of the district's potential move to allow foreign exchange students to pay to attend local schools.

The policy changes regarding student fundraising clean up some language and incorporate the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's requirements into the documents. The updates also make clear that the district doesn't support door-to-door fundraising, breaks down different types of fundraising that would be conducted in the schools, and clarifies the application process and supervision requirements among other changes.

Another update to the policy regarding facilities use adds nonprofit and charitable organization terminology and requiring proper liability insurance where applicable among other small adjustments. The brand-new policy in the mix involves public solicitation in schools relating to limitations the school committee would place on commercial activity from companies such as Coca-Cola or Amazon.

The School Committee shared some concerns if these changes or additions would impact organizations like the PTO or solicitations for yearbook and class ring sales. Superintendent Steven Lamarche confirmed that the organizations are their own entity and are not governed by the limits of the district concerning fundraising and that the sales

of items like yearbooks and rings might involve third parties at times but are organized and initiated by the schools rather than a third-party commercial retailer.

All three of these policies will now be presented for public input and were to be subject to the district's Policy Subcommittee during a meeting on July 23. They are expected to be addressed by the full School Committee as early as the next meeting in August.

The remaining two policies involve the future of out-of-district student admissions in Dudley and Charlton. One policy simply sought for clear up some language within the school admissions residency, specifically creating consistency in cutoff times for residency changes and clarifying details and limits for non-tuition exchange students. However, a second brand new policy expands on the exchange student discussion by implementing proposing a general document for "Admission of Foreign Exchange Students" with the expectation that the district could soon be approved to accept foreign students who are willing to pay to attend Dudley and Charlton schools.

Superintendent Steven Lamarche gave insight into where the district stands in that process.

"[Shepherd Hill Regional High School] Principal Darren Elwell had gone through a very extensive process with Homeland Security to have students who may want to pay to come here and have our school approved. So, we may at some point in time have tuition based foreign exchange students coming to our district as well," Lamarche said.

The new policy, which totals half a page, solidifies the district's support for increased educational opportunities including participation in an International Exchange Student Program and while it does specify that tuition won't be charged "whenever possible," it makes clear that students will be asked to pay accordingly if a fee is deemed necessary.

These policies will also be available for public input and examined by the Policy Subcommittee before the School Committee's August meeting.

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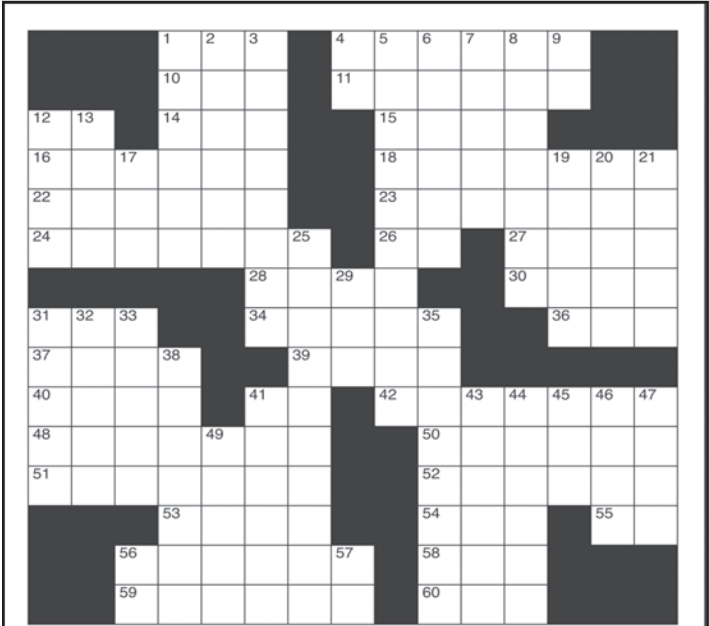
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Pacific standard time

4. Extracts through heating and melting

10. Express delight

11. More curvy

12. Expression of uncertainty

14. Indicates before

15. Daughter of Hera and Zeus

16. Southwestern CA city

18. Unified

22. Less attractive

23. Base of jellies

24. A large and noisy party

26. He was traded for Luka

27. Wolverine genus

28. "Happy Days" actress Moran

30. Root of taro plant

31. Student environmental group (abbr.)
34. Silk garments

36. Unique power

37. Ray Liotta cop film

39. Leak slowly through

40. Notion

41. Atomic #55

42. Fixed in one place

48. About heat

50. Type of baseball pitch

51. Seedless raisin

52. Large wading birds

53. Similar

54. Time zone

55. Atomic #34

56. Program

58. Old world, new

59. Contrary belief

60. "To the __ degree"

CLUES DOWN

1. Plain-woven fabric

2. Classed

3. Suppositions

4. Midway between south and west

5. Tropical American trees

6. Leveled

7. Published false statement

8. Adolescent

9. Junior's father

12. Aurochs

13. Not low

17. Boxing's GOAT

19. Short musical composition

20. Small immature herrings

21. Eavesdropper
25. Parcels of land

29. Anger

31. Irritations

32. Hindu holy man

33. Wicker basket for fish

35. Natural object

38. Transporting in a vehicle

41. A dog is one

43. Smaller portion

44. Sew

45. Belonging to a thing

46. Horsley and Greenwood are two

47. Scottish language


49. Producer

56. Exclamation of surprise

57. Russian river

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PUBLISHED BY
STONEBRIDGE PRESS

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THE WEBSTER TIMES (USPS#024-928) (ISSN 1945-6611) IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS, INC., 25 ELM ST., SOUTHBRIDGE, MA 01550. PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT SOUTHBRIDGE, MA AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICE(S). POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO WEBSTER TIMES, P.O. B ox 90, SOUTHBRIDGE, MA 01550

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AUBURN

\$550,000, 19 Zabelle Ave, Earley, Joseph F and Earley, Amy L, to Lawson, Frank, and Djan, Ekua B.

\$525,000, 39 Loring St, Beauregard Irt, and Beauregard, Mark R, to Derobbio, Steven, and Derobbio, Elizabeth.

\$475,000, 62 Rockland Rd, Rostom, Roni, to Enriquez, Erick G.

\$467,000, 4 Murray Ave, Derobbio, Elizabeth, and Derobbio, Steven, to Rector, Christi, and Rector, Michael.

\$250,000, 18 Carroll St, Carroll, Maureen M, and Carroll, John J, to 4j Real Estate Group LLC.

\$55,000, 31 Reithel St, Belles, Donald M, to Schoonmaker, Linda A, and McCabe, Susan C.

DUDLEY

\$750,000, 166 Klondike Rd, Mackenzie, Jennifer D, to Siegmund, Darlene A.

OXFORD

\$722,000, 12 History Dr, Cor Group LLC, to Hink, Paul L, and Gleason-Hink, Kimberly K.

\$515,000, 13 Carey Ln, Karłowicz, Jessica M, to Rodriguez, Jordan, and Nelson, Breanne.

\$450,000, 17 Sherwood Dr, Earle 4th, Edmund T, to Cote, Daniel, and Cote, Madison.

WEBSTER

\$500,000, 64 Union Point Rd, Zicaro Lake 002 LLC, to Simonelli, Joseph.

\$450,000, 25 Black Point Rd, Kimani, Polly W, to Wellington, Victor A.

\$410,000, 1 W Hollow Ln, Morris, Dorothy, to Awad, Mahmoud A, and Awad, Abdul R.

\$50,000, 13 Overlook Ave, Didonato, Gayle, to Nptc-Network Professional.

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Oxford Community Center presents Movies on Main

OXFORD — Drum roll please! This summer's Movies on Main got off to a late start, with our first film delayed by rain. But, on Tuesday, July 15, the Kane School of Drums joined us in ushering in the season with an interactive drum circle before the showing of Moana 2. Children were allowed to play along to the rhythms of the movie soundtrack on Djembes and hand drums while waiting for the film to start. The drum circle was sponsored through a grant from the Oxford Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council.

On Wednesday, July 16, the fun continued with friendship bracelet crafting and a showing of "Wicked."

With generous funding provided by the Cecelia J. Smolenski-Millette Charitable Trust, Janet Malser Humanities Trust, and Taft Charitable Trust, the Community Center and BDJ Entertainment will present a family-friendly movie each Wednesday evening, weather-permitting, with free movie-themed crafts before the show. Popcorn, candy and drinks are available for purchase. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, some bug spray, and prepare to enjoy the show!

Upcoming: July 23 – The Unbreakable Boy – in celebration of National Disability Independence Day, July 30 – IF, Aug. 6 – Dog Man, Aug. 13 – The Minecraft Movie, and Aug. 20 – Raya and the Last Dragon. All events are weather-permitting. Rescheduled dates, if needed, will be announced on the Town website and Facebook pages and the electronic signboard at Town Hall.

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., with one Thursday a month 9 a.m.- 7 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 two 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 fruit or dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, July 29: Beef chili, brown rice, mixed vegetables, fresh fruit. Wednesday, July 30: Garlic brown sugar chicken, lemon seasoned potatoes, green beans, ambrosia. Thursday, July 31: Ziti with meat sauce, Roman blend vegetables, baked apples. Friday, Aug. 1: Soup and sandwiches.

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 on 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.

We are now offering MOVIE MATINEES every Wednesday at 1:00 pm! Popcorn is provided, no registra-

tion is needed. The last movie in July will be The Goodbye Girl on the 30th.

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.

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!

Calling all bridge players! Are you looking to spend an afternoon playing Bridge? We're looking to get a group together! If you're interested, please leave your name and number with the front desk. Once we have enough sign-ups, we'll see what day works best for everyone!

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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The History of the Auburn Library, Part 7: The Auburn Bookmobile

BY HELEN POIRIER
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AUBURN — A bookmobile is a library on wheels. It allows the library to expand its service to people who, for whatever reason, cannot come to the stationery, main library of the town, or live in underserved remote areas. The bookmobile had many different looks throughout the years, bicycles, horse drawn wagons, trains, boats, donkeys, horses and mules, camels, elephants, almost any animal that can carry sacks. There have been companies who have created traveling libraries such as Harper & Brothers who in 1839 published the "The American School Library." There have also been group advocates for the traveling library like the women's clubs which had a strong start in the 1800s in Texas and expanded to other states throughout the country by 1898. Eventually, the primary promoter for bookmobiles was the

United States Women
Clubs.

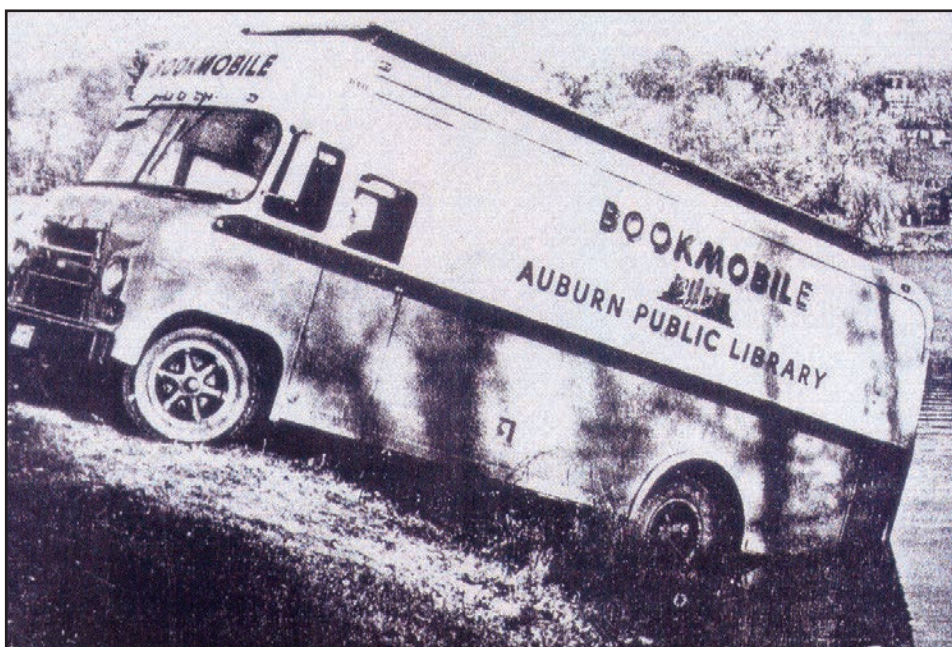
In Auburn, the first mention of the idea of a bookmobile in the town reports was in 1938. It would have expanded the delivery of books to the Boyce Street, Pakachoag, and West Auburn Schools as well as service to some of the outlying areas of the town. The idea was tabled due to the repairs needed at the Merriam Library from the hurricane that year. The next mention of a bookmobile in the annual town report was in 1942 along with the suggestion of enlarging the library after the war was over. It was too costly to do anything like that until then. Once the war was over, Library Trustees kept mentioning the need for the bookmobile and in an article in *The Auburn News*, the benefits of a bookmobile were touted over the cost of a new library building.

A 1952 report stated that a 40-year-old, 30-by-40-foot building

erected when the town had less than 2500 people, and was done with no cost to the town, is not adequate to the needs of the Auburn population. Building a proper branch library with the facilities required was too costly, as well as building a brand-new library at an estimated cost of \$100,000. Adding on to the present library wasn't cost effective, being in the \$30,000-\$50,000 range.

The trustees recommended taking steps towards the purchase of a bookmobile. It could serve the community for many years and expand its service to schools in other parts of the community, according to the same news article. Some of the advantages of the bookmobile would be a flexible service, and it can be varied according to the amount of funds, the staff, and the books at their disposal. It could follow people to new developments and serve them when the concentration of homeowners and families is sufficient. Services can be increased or decreased as the occasions warranted and can be utilized to the advantage at the main library if necessary. A bookmobile would better serve the schools and the children. It can make many more books available, and inventory can be rotated to other community schools or community stops. Lastly, the bookmobile service costs should be little. It'll last for five to 10 years. The maintenance overall cost could easily be met by the town if put into the town budget.

Finally, in 1954, the town meeting members voted for the purchase of the



vehicle with the help of a donation from the Phillips Foundation. The Foundation was started after the death of Albert M. Phillips who died in 1919. Mr. Phillips was a friend of Leander Merriam and donated the first encyclopedia set the library had in 1923, as well as its first typewriter. As stated in a previous article, Mr. Phillip left \$10,000 in a trust fund for the benefit of the people of Auburn.

The bookmobile was dedicated on Sunday, Oct. 31, 1954. Through the courtesy of the businessmen and towns people, who gave permission for the installation of electrical outlets on their property so the bookmobile would have electricity, the bookmobile made the following stops in its first year of service:

Mondays: Dooleys at Auburn St. and Bryn Mawr Ave., Freed Gas Station, & Hall Square.
Tuesdays: Elbridge Rd., Warren Rd., Bryn Mawr Ave., Phillips Market
Southbridge St., Appleton Rd.

Wednesdays: Idlewood St., Oakwood St, Red Circle Store on Oxford St., & Boyce St. Thursday: Roger T Lee's, 31 S St. on alternate weeks Pakachoag Community Church 63 Hampton St.

Fridays: Wallace Ave. at Rochdale St. Calverley's Market, Summer St. and Oxford St. The bookmobile staff include Miss Frances Adams, Mr. Anthony Savulis, Mrs. Albert Olson, and Mrs. Lawrence Newton who were librarians and drivers. The bookmobile total circulation was 32,143.

In 1960, after seven years of service, 228,769 books had been circulated. There were a few issues that started to show up as the town continued to grow. The vehicle was small and required reloading often, the heating system was not adequate on cold days, and it didn't have air conditioning for hot days. The need for external electrical outlets made it difficult to expand to some areas where the cost for installing an outlet could run anywhere from \$20 to \$50 depending on where the bookmobile could park.

By 1963, the bookmobile had almost ten years of use on it. More than 303,299 books had been borrowed from the neighborhood locations, with thousands more being dropped off at schools for classroom deposits. Small repairs become more frequent, causing disruptions in service to the town. In 1964 the library trustees met with various bookmobile firms to put together a proposal to present to the town meeting members. In June 1966, a new bookmobile was delivered by the Thomas F. Maroney Company of Shrewsbury for \$15,000. It was a bigger vehicle with better heating and air conditioning system, and better lighting. Through the following years the scheduling was adjusted to meet the demands of a still growing town. There were at least 20 stops per week and by 1971 there was a stop at each elementary school during school hours which supplemented the growing library of each school rather than supplying each classroom. These stops also

allowed the kindergarten classes the opportunity to apply for a library card and get a tour of the bookmobile. There was one mishap with the bookmobile parking brake that failed, and the vehicle wound up in Auburn Pond. Due to the quick action of the library staff, only the back tires got wet, no books. After eight years of use, the bookmobile had to have some bodywork done and got a new paint job. The schedule was reduced to four days, but with the same number of stops. In 1978, evening stops during the summer were added.

As the years went on, the population was more mobile and the need for a bookmobile was diminishing. By 1981, the bookmobile didn't stop at town schools anymore and the schedule was compressed into two afternoons a week. In 1982 the Trustees voted to discontinue the bookmobile citing the repairs needed to keep the 10-year-old vehicle on the road, schools having their own libraries and Prop 2 ½. The main library was getting more usage even when it closed at 5:30 p.m. on Fridays. The library staff did step up with Helen Gray delivering books to those who were shut ins for at least the following year after the bookmobile was permanently garaged. For almost thirty years, the bookmobile helped to promote literature to those who could not get to the main library. It gave adults and children something to look forward to each week.

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.

*Trinity Semo of Dudley graduates
from Hofstra University*

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Hofstra University student Trinity Semo of Dudley graduated Summa Cum Laude (GPA of 3.85 or higher) with a degree in Dance Education on May 18, 2025.

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Alanna
Age 12
Registration # 6228

Alanna is a bright, easygoing, and adventurous young lady who enjoys exploring new experiences. She is often described as a “great kid”—easy to talk to, helpful, and kind-hearted. Alanna loves staying active and dreams of joining a gymnastics team one day. Taking gymnastics lessons is something she’s very excited about. Creative and thoughtful, Alanna enjoys arts and crafts, especially making origami. She also has a deep love for babies and often says she would babysit for free just to be around them. Her nurturing side really shines through in moments like these. Alanna is also an animal lover—though she’ll pass on snakes, worms, and bees! One of her favorite activities is visiting the library

and picking out books to read, showing her curiosity and love for learning. Alanna would thrive in a supportive, active, and loving family that encourages her many interests and gives her space to grow and express herself.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/24476869950>

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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.



University of Tampa announces Honors Dean's List students

TAMPA, Fla. — University of Tampa has honored 2,340 students who were named to the dean's list for the Spring 2025 semester. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.75 or higher to be eligible for the dean's list.

Amanda Audette of Webster earned dean's list honors as a Sophomore in the Spring 2025 semester. Audette is majoring in Marketing BS.

Cassidy Semo of Dudley earned dean's list honors as a Freshman in the Spring 2025 semester. Semo is majoring in Marketing BS.

The University of Tampa is a private, comprehensive university located on 110 acres on the riverfront in downtown Tampa. Known for academic excellence, personal attention and real-world experience in its undergraduate and graduate programs, the University has about 200 programs of study and serves approximately 11,450 students from 50 states and most of the world's countries.

OBITUARIES

Thomas D. Bolio, 62



DUDLEY – Thomas D. Bolio, 62, of Dudley-Oxford Road, died unexpectedly on Sunday, July 20, 2025, at UMass Memorial Medical Center – University Campus in Worcester.

He is survived by two sons, Thomas N. Bolio and his wife Jacquelyn of Sturbridge, and Nicholas F. Bolio and his wife Julie of Marlborough; his partner, Maxine A. Schmidt of Dudley; his mother, Angela (Ferrante) Bolio of Oxford; two brothers, Paul Bolio of Oxford, and Jeffrey Bolio and his wife Lorna of Oxford; a sister, Kim McDonald of Oxford; a grandson, Westley A. Bolio of Sturbridge; his former wife, Rosemarie Conley of Dudley; and many nieces and nephews.

He was born in Worcester, son of the late Francis Bolio, was raised in Oxford and lived most of his life in Dudley. He graduated from Oxford High School in 1980.

Mr. Bolio worked at Cool Air Creations in Smithfield, RI, for 12 years. Previously, he owned and oper-

ated Bolio Sporting Goods in Webster for 33 years. He was a 3-sport athlete for Oxford high school, playing football, basketball, and baseball, and remained active in sports throughout his life. He was the former president of South County Pop Warner Football and coached several sports, including his son Nick's Pop Warner team when they competed in the national championship.

Mr. Bolio loved to travel and especially loved cruises. He had a special place in his heart for his dog, Jackson. He will be remembered as a great father to his sons, and an amazing son, brother, uncle, and grandfather. He was a wonderful man and always enjoyed a good time with family and friends.

A funeral will be held on Friday, July 25, 2025, 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 follow at St. Roch's Cemetery in Oxford. Calling hours are Thursday, July 24, 2025, from 4-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Save-A-Dog, 604 Boston Post Road, Sudbury, MA 01776.

UMass Amherst announces Spring Dean's List

AMHERST — The following students were named to the Spring 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 completed a minimum of 12 graded credits and have earned a grade point average of 3.500 or better.

Auburn
Matthew Adams
Nishil Adina
Abdullah Ahmad
Shivani Allada
Samantha Anusauskas
Nathaniel Archambault
Sofia DiDonato
Reece Dupont

Savana Giurleo
Patricia Howk
Lydia Kirkorian
Shea Kobel
Tracy Le
Thomas Lutz
Thomas Maillet
Ryan Mechery
Chloe Norwood
Eric Pietrewicz
Farreen Qadus
EllaMargarete Sanchez
Peyton Scopetski
Amanda Seifer
Samuel Soloperto
Jenna Stencel
Rachel Toth
Leah Wentworth
Adriana White
Dudley
Ethan Casey
Stephanie Chege
Nyla Clark

Shelly Condon
Treyden Finlay
Colin Humphries
Ola Jaroszewski
Jacob Luke
Isabella O'Brien
Leo Perry
Aml Rachid
Zachary Robinson
Demetria Teguis
Nicholas Veronis
Webster
Rachel Bonney
Felipe DeOliveira Sena
Caroline Doering
Robert Gatzke
Cassidy Jones
James Kokernak
Noalani Perez
Daria Piwowarczyk
Gabriela Piwowarczyk
Edison Rosario



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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Make it a summer of no regrets

As the final days of summer approach, we find ourselves standing at a crossroads. The days grow shorter, the evenings cooler; and the carefree essence of summer seems to slip away. It's time to seize the moment, to cherish every opportunity, and to make August a summer of no regrets.

Living in the picturesque region of New England, we are fortunate to be surrounded by a breathtaking landscape. From majestic mountains to serene lakes, our backyard is a playground of adventures waiting to happen. The time has come to embark on those road trips we have been postponing and explore the hidden gems that lie within our reach.

Whether you're an avid hiker or a casual nature lover, our region's mountains offer an escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Take a day to venture into the wilderness, breathe in the crisp air, and marvel at the natural wonders that lie before you. The memories forged amid the towering pines and breathtaking vistas will last a lifetime.

Equally enticing are the serene lakes scattered across the area. Pack a picnic, gather your loved ones, and head to the waterside. Be it swimming, kayaking, or simply basking in the sun's warmth, lakeside retreats provide a tranquil refuge to unwind and savor the joys of summer.

For those who seek a taste of city life, why not take a drive to the vibrant metropolises of Boston and Portland? These urban centers share a rich cultural heritage, bustling streets, and delectable culinary scenes. Lose yourself in the museums, explore the historic landmarks, and indulge in the local cuisine – each moment a treasure to hold on to.

However, amid our grand adventures, we must not forget the simple joys that have brought us together year after year. Backyard barbecues offer a nostalgic charm that fills the air with laughter and the scent of sizzling goodness. Gather family and friends for a fun filled evening, where the flames of the grill light up not only the darkening skies but also our hearts with warmth and camaraderie.

And as the sun sets lower, take the opportunity to relive the carefree days of youth by playing hoops at the local park. Feel the thrill of competition and the joy of teamwork as you shoot hoops and chase the ball. The courts become a canvas for unforgettable moments and lasting memories. August is our chance to make amends for any missed opportunities from earlier in the summer.

As we look back on this summer, we'll be filled with the contentment of knowing that we embraced the season wholeheartedly. We laughed with abandon, explored with wonder, and lived with joy. When we bid farewell to August, we'll do so with hearts full of cherished memories, knowing that we made the most of every fleeting moment.

So, unite in spirit and determination to make August a summer of no regrets. Whether we climb mountains, swim in lakes, stroll through cities, or gather in backyards, seize the remaining days with gusto.

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.

VIEWPOINT

Tips for a Great Summertime Lawn

It's the height of mid-summer and the heat is on – literally! The recent heat wave and intense summer heat can take a toll on your lawn. If you find your grass is scorched and stressed, read on. The following golden rules of watering, as well as a few tried and true lawn tips can help revive your lawn to make it lush once again!

Golden Rules of Watering:



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

1. Water early in the day – before 10 a.m. is best. On days when temps are expected to be higher than usual, water before the dew dries. Watering at this time allows time for the water to soak into the ground, and keeps the lawn cooler throughout the day.
Can't water during the day? Early evening between 6 and 8 p.m. is the next best time. Avoid watering later at night when the lawn doesn't have enough time to dry off. Keeping well-watered lawns wet overnight can encourage fungus.
 2. Lawns need approximately one inch of water per week (including rain). In the hot days of summer, two inches of water per week should be the goal.
Not sure if your lawn is watered enough? Try the simple screwdriver test. Push a long screwdriver into the soil. If it's hydrated enough it should go all the way down into the soil. If it is resistant to push down, you likely need to water.
- Read on for some trouble shooting lawn tips, courtesy of Turf Masters Lawn Care:
- Overwatering and Underwatering: Did you know that overwatering can cause more damage to your lawn than underwatering? Watering your lawn every day or even every other day can ruin your turf as the result of overwatering. The soil underneath your grass contains porous spaces containing oxygen vital to plant growth. Daily watering will push the air out of those spaces, filling the pores with water. This can cause the roots to suffocate and die. And this can result in a shallow root system and more susceptibility to weeds, disease and insect damage.
- Signs that you are overwatering
- Development of thatch—A layer of decomposed plant material that builds up when overwatering prevents beneficial soil bacteria.
 - Fungus—Thin or weak grass that has a reddish-orange color could be a sign of fungus from overwatering.
 - Weeds—Overwatered lawns will develop weeds that are harder to control such as nutsedge and crabgrass.
 - Insects—Too much water creates a conducive habitat for pests. Damage from armyworms, cutworms or other insects could be the result of overwatering.
- On the other hand, if your lawn is being underwatered, it can experience drought damage, weeds and other symptoms.
- Signs that you are underwatering
- Dry patches—If you notice your lawn has developed patchy areas of straw colored grass, this could be a result of too

little water.

- Visible footprints on grass—If your turf is not springing back up when you step on it, this could be a sign that the grass blades are dehydrated.
- Slowed growth—If you notice you are not having to mow as often, your lawn's growth may be stunted as a result of too little water.

To help prevent drought damage in cool-season grasses like Fescue, a professional core aeration and seeding treatment every fall is imperative.

Here are some lawn mowing minders: Experts say a common mowing mistake is cutting your grass too short, particular for cool season grasses. Higher heights usually provide for a deeper root system, looks better, and is less likely to have weeds invading, particularly crabgrass.

Lawn pros advise adjusting your blade so that you never remove any more than one third of the grass leaf at any one cutting. By doing so, you can safely leave clippings that will quickly decompose and add valuable nutrients back into the soil.

The direction you mow your lawn is also important. For best results, your lawn in a different direction with each mowing... Altering the direction gives you an even cut and will prevent your grass growing in a set pattern.

To ensure a good cut, make sure your lawn mower blade is sharp, which may translate into sharpening it at least three times during mowing season.

Want to up your odds of a lush lawn? Try mowing during the moon phases. Here's how: If you want your lawn to grow, mow it during new or first quarter moon. If you want your lawn to grow more slowly, mow it during a full or last quarter moon.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (or whenever enough submissions are received) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or email KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why the Dudley Conservation Land Trust is so important

To the Editor:

Let's face it, land conservationists are not all that common. What drives us? Why do we do what we do? For many readers I will be stating the obvious, but for some others this explanation may be instructive.

It may be helpful to start by considering what would happen if all unprotected land was developed. That's called "total build out," and can be observed in many towns in eastern Massachusetts. Left unchecked, it is conceivable that in many areas all available land would be developed. We, in the land conservation movement, believe that would be unfortunate. The reasons we in land conservation want to preserve some land in its natural state are many and varied, but some of the more common ones are: preservation of wildlife habitat, protection of natural resources, appreciation of the aesthetic value of the natural world, and protection of a certain quality of life that is only available with the availability of natural open space.

Most people, even if they are not avowed land conservationists, share some or most of these of these concerns, yet there is no local government entity responsible for overseeing and insuring a balance between develop-

ment and open space. Theoretically, and in some communities, conservation commissions take a more active roll in procuring open space, but I suspect our situation in Dudley is more typical. The Conservation Commission, being a volunteer board charged with wetlands protection and permitting for development, devotes little time or effort to this aspect of their purview.

The Planning Board too gives some consideration to these matters, but protection of open space has not been a priority for this board for some time. While an Open Space Residential Development bylaw is in place, my observations have been that when the letter of the bylaw is applied, little quality open space is left for community use. To be fair, the Conservation Commission and Planning Board have been supportive of some of our projects, but generally speaking, these town boards that might have a role to play in assuring some open space is preserved, have demonstrated a clear bias in favor of development, at the expense of natural places.

On a state level, the Department of Fish and Game is active in purchasing property for public use. Typically they pursue large tracts that are contiguous to their existing properties, which

You have an estate plan – whether you know it or not



FINANCIAL FOCUS
DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

Think estate planning is only for the wealthy or elderly? Think again. If you own anything – a home, a car, a savings account, even a pet – you already have an estate plan. The only question is: Did you create it, or will your state do it for you?

When someone passes away without an estate plan, state laws take over, deciding who gets what and when. This legal process may not reflect your wishes. That's why taking control of your assets through a personal estate plan should be a top priority.

At its core, estate planning is about clarifying your wishes and making things easier for your heirs. It ensures your assets are distributed according to your preferences, designates who will make decisions on your behalf if you can't and provides guidance for your care in a medical crisis. Most plans include four key components:

A will – This document outlines how your assets should be distributed after your death and names an executor to oversee the process in probate court. It can also designate guardians for minor children. Keep in mind that a will doesn't cover everything – certain transfer on death (TOD) accounts and jointly held property may bypass your will entirely.

Power of Attorney – If you become incapacitated, you'll want someone you trust to be able to make decisions on your behalf. A durable power of attorney designates such a person, helping to ensure your bills are paid, your business continues (if you have one) and your wishes are honored.

Health Care Directive – Sometimes called a living will, this document spells out your preferences for medical treatment if you're unable to speak for yourself. It can also designate someone to make health care decisions for you.

Beneficiary designations – Accounts like 401(k)s, IRAs, and life insurance policies transfer directly to the people you name, regardless of what your will says. It's essential to review these beneficiary designations regularly, especially after significant life events such as marriage, divorce, death of a spouse or the birth of a child.

One common myth is that a will is all you need. But wills only take effect after death; they don't help if you're alive but unable to make decisions. Another misconception is that estate planning is only for the wealthy. In truth, planning is about more than money – it's about making things easier for the people you love during difficult times.

An effective estate plan can prevent costly legal battles, reduce confusion, and give your loved ones a clear roadmap to follow. It also allows you to leave a legacy that reflects your values and priorities.

As your life changes, your estate plan should change along with it. Review your documents every few years or after major life events. It's often a good idea to seek help with such reviews. Your financial advisor or attorney can guide you through the process, ensuring your plan fits your unique circumstances.

In the end, estate planning isn't just about planning for what happens when you are gone. It's about feeling confident, knowing that what matters most – your family, your purpose, your legacy – is protected.

Edward Jones, its employees, and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

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

Latest auction news

In my next column, I'll discuss number 1 on our top 10 list. It's been well over a month since I shared the latest auction news, so I'll bring you up to date on that today. A book from the early 1600s and a handbag from the 1980s are two of the things that recently made auction news.

Galileo Galilei's first book from 1604, "Dialogo in perpuosio de la stella nuova" recently sold at auction in the United Kingdom. The book discussed a "new star," which was very controversial when the heavens were considered perfect and unchanging, according to the Antique Trader. Only eleven other editions are known to exist, and all are owned by institutions. It brought £1,129,000 (\$1,535,400 U.S.). Moving ahead late into the 20th century, Hermès designed and created a handbag for the late actor



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
• • • • •
WAYNE TUISKULA

and singer Jane Birkin in 1984. The Hermès Birkin bag became a symbol of luxury and status. The first Birkin bag originally owned by Jane Birkin that was "scuffed, scratched and stained" recently sold for \$7 million (\$8.2 million), according to CNN.

An antique toy also recently brought good results at auction. The circa 1904 Marklin Ferris Wheel was manufactured by the German company Marklin, known for their precision model trains. The Ferris Wheel retained "its six original gondolas, attractive stained glass, and original figures," according to WJW TV in Cleveland, Ohio. It went for \$156,000. Moving later in the 20th century, the 1941 film "Citizen Kane" is considered one of the best films ever made. The film was



hailed both for its plot and cinematography. It used a film technique known as deep focus where the foreground, background, and middle are all in sharp focus. Low angled filming and innovative lighting also contributed to the film's acclaim.

Orson Welles directed and acted in the film about a newspaper magnate Charles Foster Kane, who resembled William Randolph Hearst. Kane's dying word "Rosebud" was the name of his childhood sled. It was "a nostalgic callback to the

days before wealth and power ultimately ruined the mogul's life," according to Parade Magazine. It was anything but tough sledding at a recent auction when one of the original sleds showcased in the film sold for \$14.75 million, making it the second highest price paid for a Hollywood prop. As I mentioned in a previous column, a pair of Judy Garland's ruby red slippers from the "Wizard of Oz" set a record when it sold for \$32.5 million in December.

We are still working on multiple online auctions including a Civil War auction, Laurel and Hardy memorabilia auc-

tion and a Pennsylvania transportation museum. Other auctions will have gold jewelry, sterling silver, art, and advertising signs, along with a wide variety of other items. We are always accepting valuable pieces and collections for upcoming sales. Please visit our website <https://central-massauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

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

Cymatics

ably. The sound didn't just move matter. It is organized, formed by frequency alone.

Jenny called this phenomenon "visible music."

You can see an experiment online where a woman sings, "Una Donna A Quindici Anni," into a tonoscope and a perfectly symmetrical seven-pointed star is created—not generated by a machine, but by resonance. Sung—with breath, with intention, with the human voice.

This idea—that sound can shape the unseen—was not foreign to the ancients. The Vikings had a word for it: Galdr.

Galdr wasn't just melody—it was spoken intention, sharpened into sound. It was the intentional chanting of runes. Warriors, seers, and shamans would speak or sing these runes aloud, believing they could influence the forces of nature, shield themselves in battle, or open gateways to hidden knowledge.

Each rune had a sound, and each sound had power. To chant a rune was to call a pattern into being, much like the seven-pointed star rising from the sand on the tonoscope.

Galdr was the understanding that the human

voice—charged with intent—was not passive. It was a tool for shaping.

In early Chinese tradition, the philosopher Confucius taught that the key to harmony in the kingdom was to "rectify names"—to speak words that accurately reflected truth and order. If names became distorted, if language no longer matched reality, society would unravel. Disorder in words meant disorder in the world.

And this idea? It's not foreign to Christian tradition.

The Apostle James called the tongue "a small part of the body, but it's like a spark that can set a whole forest ablaze. The tongue, he warned, carries disproportionate power.

Paul compared it to a rudder on a ship—tiny, yet able to steer the entire vessel. In other words, your words guide your direction.

But the most striking example comes from the prophet Isaiah.

In a vision, Isaiah finds himself in the throne room of the Almighty. He sees the Lord, high and exalted, surrounded by seraphim.

It is a scene of perfect glory. But Isaiah doesn't feel worthy to join in. He falls to his knees and cries,

"Woe is me! For I am a man of unclean lips..."

He doesn't say, I am unclean because of what I've done.

He says, I am unclean because of what I've said.

In that moment, a seraph flies to him with a burning coal, taken from the altar. And touches Isaiah's mouth. In this divine encounter, it's not Isaiah's actions that are purified—it's his speech.

It all seems to point in one direction:

What we say has power.

Today, in the field of modern psychology, we've rediscovered the same truth. The language we use—especially the words we speak about ourselves—shapes our perception, our emotions, even our identity.

Say "I'm worthless" enough times, and it becomes more than a thought—it becomes a worldview.

Say "I'm loved. I'm here for a reason." You carry yourself differently, with a spring in your step. You begin to live into the shape of the words you've spoken.

Just as sand arranges itself under sound, your life begins to align with your language.

Your words do not vanish. They echo. Speak with care, for what you say becomes a reality.

LETTER

continued from page A1

would have precluded Dudley. Fortunately, as a result of DCLT initiating the Slater Woods project, Fish and Game partnered with us and holds the conservation restriction on that property.

So we have established that little local governmental energy or resources are directed to land conservation. So should we conclude that the government doesn't support it or think it is important? Hardly! Let me point out some of the very strong and positive assistance we receive from the state and federal government. Recognizing the importance of land conservation for the health of society, the state and federal government have established a number of mechanisms to encourage and promote conservation work. Most fundamentally is our legal corporate 501c3 status as a private non-profit charitable organization. As such, like non-profit schools, churches and humanitarian charitable organizations, we are exempt from paying taxes. This is crucial, for as a non-profit, we exist on a bear bones budget supported primarily by membership fees, donations, and grants. State grants in particular have been vital to our projects in some cases providing one half of the funding. State and federal tax incentives also help encourage land conservation. On the state level, there are tax credits available for people who donate parcels with approved conservation value to conservation organiza-

tions like us. On a federal level, contributions to legitimate conservation organizations are illegible for tax deductions for charitable contributions.

These laws, grants, advantages and incentives provide strong support for land conservation by organizations like the Dudley Conservation Land Trust. We, the DCLT, are the tool that the government enables to do this work. The responsibility is ours. The work is rewarding and essential.

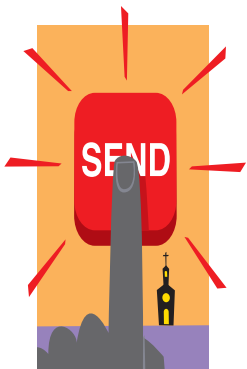
I recently saw a CNN report on countries with the happiest people. Denmark was determined to be number one. There is a high value placed on open space in Denmark, with Copenhagen having a law that requires that all residence be able to walk to a park within fifteen minutes.

My personal idea of the appropriate balance between developed land and open space might be tilted in favor of open space more than the average person, but that is not the point, if you believe there should be a balance at all, then the DCLT is worthy of your support, because no other entity is looking out for those interests in this area. When lands are developed they will never be natural open spaces again. They are lost forever. Without land conservationists doing our work, it is likely that eventually all remaining unprotected lands will be developed. That is why the DCLT is so important.

MARK SMITH
DCLT MEMBER
DUDLEY

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Email Us @



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LEGALS

(SEAL)
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
25 SM 002150
ORDER OF NOTICE**

TO:
James D. Callahan a/k/a James Callahan
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*): Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation as Trustee for Freddie Mac Seasoned Credit Risk Transfer Trust, Series 2019-1
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Auburn, numbered 3 Arrowhead Avenue, given by James D. Callahan to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Mackinac Savings Bank, dated November 18, 2005, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 37836, Page 75, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.
If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before September 1, 2025 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on July 16, 2025.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
July 25, 2025

**TOWN OF DUDLEY
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
71 WEST MAIN STREET,
DUDLEY MA 01571**
Please take notice that:
Norman Boilard
Has applied to the Zoning Board of Appeals to vary the terms of the Zoning By-Laws Section: 2.03.02 Density Regulations
Location: 21 Intervale Road
In the following respect: Special Permit for Chickens
The Public Hearing will be held on Thursday August 7, 2025 @ 7:00pm at the Town Hall room 321A, at which time you may be hard relative to this Public Hearing.
Please contact Amanda Jacobson at 508-949-8012 or building@dudleyma.gov to attend the meeting.
George Slingo, Chairman Zoning Board of Appeals
July 18, 2025
July 25, 2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Joanne M. Nealley a/k/a Joanne Nealley, Mark R. Nealley to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., dated April 11, 2013 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 52388, Page 238, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:
JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. to Nationstar Mortgage, LLC, recorded on March 30, 2015, in Book No. 53528, at Page 123
Nationstar Mortgage, LLC to Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc., recorded on August 5, 2024, in Book No. 70853, at Page 139
for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on August 25, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 6 Henry Road, Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,
TO WIT:
Real property in the City of WEBSTER, County of WORCESTER, State of Massachusetts, described as follows: The land with the buildings thereon situated on the easterly side of Henry Road, Webster, MA and shown as Parcel B on Plan recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 515, Plan 6 and further bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the southerly side of tract herein conveyed on the easterly side of Henry Road; THENCE N. 9° 10' 40" W. by Henry Road, a distance of 125.60 feet; THENCE by Henry Road, on a curve having a radius of 40.00 a distance of 27 .59 feet; THENCE N. 47° 08' 20" E. a distance

of 51.65 feet; THENCE S. 43° 30' 40" E. by Parcel A a distance of 102.78 feet; THENCE S. 46° 28' 20" W. a distance of 149.53 fed to the point of beginning. The above described premises are subject to a twelve (12) foot right of way as shown on said Plan. Being shown as Parcel B on Plan entitled "Plan of Land in Webster, Mass. Surveyed for Edward J. Horniak et ux, dated June 21, 1982, Robert F. Para, Land Surveyor."
For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 22019, Page 189.
These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.
TERMS OF SALE:
A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.
Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC.
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
27046
July 25, 2025
August 1, 2025
August 8, 2025

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET NO. 25 SM 002132
ORDER OF NOTICE**
TO: Richard T. Dumouchel, Jr.
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. C. 50 §3901 (et seq): Webster Bank, N.A.
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Dudley, numbered 55 Brandon Road, given by Richard T. Dumouchel, Jr. to Webster Bank, National Association, dated August 19, 2004, and recorded in Worcester County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 34444, Page 110, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.
If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 9/1/2025 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 7/15/2025
Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder
July 25, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO25P2317PM.
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OF OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 & §5-405
In the matter of:
WAYNE G MOULTON
Of: AUBURN, MA
RESPONDENT**
(Person to be Protected/Minor)
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by
Glenn A Moulton of **Webster, MA**
in the above captioned matter alleging

that Wayne G Moulton is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that
Glenn A Moulton of **Webster, MA**
(or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservative to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **08/04/2025**. 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: July 07, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
July 25, 2025

**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. WP25P0800EA
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**
Estate Of:
**Maria Econome
Date of Death: June 9, 2024**
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner
Lynn E. Econome of Framingham MA
A Will has been admitted to informal Probate.
Lynn E. Econome of Framingham MA
has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the 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.
July 25, 2025

**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. WO25P2336EA
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**
Estate Of:
**Richard P. Conley
Also Known as Richard Conley
Date of Death: May 24, 2025**
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Kevin Conley of Port Charlotte, FL
Petitioner Michael Conley of Topsfield MA
A will has been admitted to informal probate.
Kevin Conley of Port Charlotte, FL
Michael Conley of Topsfield MA
has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without Surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachu-

setts 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.
July 24, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. W023P1202EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR REMOVAL
Estate of:
Sophie Kozaczka
Also known as: Sofia Kozackzka
Date of Death: 12/18/2022**
To all interested persons:
(Person to be Protected/Minor)
A petition has been filed by
Michelle A. Kelly of **Sutton, MA**
requesting that **Chris S. Kozaczka** of **Sutton, MA** be removed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate.
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have the right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court on or before **10:00 A.M.** on the return date of **08/19/2025**.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a timely appearance and objection if you object to the proceeding. If you fail to file the written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date action may be taken without further notice to you. WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 07, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
July 25, 2025

**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. WO25P2238EA
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**
Estate Of:
**Marjorie G Smith
Date of Death: 02/02/2025**
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Robin E Hicks of Webster MA
Robin E Hicks of Webster MA has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of the 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.
July 24, 2025

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ALLEN
continued from page A1

(he’s a doctor) but “learn[s] fast,” he said he doesn’t yet know if he’d be willing to publish other authors.

Alain said the book’s heroes and his publishing firm have the same name – Team of 7: Seven kids in the story and his four family members plus “God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit” for publishing.

Not surprisingly, Allen described his inspiration as “When I was a little kid, I used to watch a lot of cartoons. ... I wanted to challenge myself and see if I could better my

art and my creativity.”

“I actually put maybe 70 percent of my life in it,” Allen later said.

As he was writing it, he said he tried to focus on “how to make the ending make sense and more complete, like a simulation.”

They’re already working on a second book in which Xavier deals with being betrayed by his twin, but it’s set before this one, chronologically. Alain said he’s hoping to publish it a year after Xavier was published (in June), while also seeking TV time, community connections, Youtube, and other promotional opportunities.

“This is a very ambi-



The Booklovers’ Gourmet audience was quite supportive of young Allen Oliver Jean-Paul’s debut graphic novel “Xavier.”

tious project,” Alain added.

Allen said he hasn’t yet tried to write textual

novels, although he occasionally has had ideas for some. But when he reads books for fun, he makes

a point of reading them twice, and Alain said he’s encouraging Allen to read such books, too.

Audience members were enthusiastic about Allen’s effort, with one noting, “You’ve done so much of substance” at age 11. Another noted “We can all do amazing things no matter what our age is.”

A third observed the book is largely aimed at young people, but sometimes shows more mature themes.

Alain was particularly encouraged by the fact most of the store’s audience were older people.

“It’s beautiful seeing your generation supporting him,” he said.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

BRIDGE
continued from page A1

offered a temporary ACROW bridge to the town, but Dudley lacked the resources to fund the installation. On July 14, the Dudley Board of Selectmen welcomed State Representatives John Marsi and Joe McKenna, along with Sen. Ryan Fattman, who revealed that they successfully championed an allocation from the state that will cover costs associated with the installation of the temporary bridge and will soon allow traffic to resume while Dudley works through the Mass. Department of Transportation process to fund a permanent replacement.

The project has been a major priority for Marsi since his days on the Dudley Board of Selectmen having seen the bridge close and heard the frustrations from citizens as both a state and local lawmaker. The project has remained one of his main focuses in Boston which led him to work collaboratively with McKenna and Fattman to procure money through the state’s Fair Share Amendment, designed to fund education and transportation projects in the state.

“We know the pain that it’s caused a lot of people – We filed an amendment to get our ‘fair share,’ and we were successful in securing some money,” Marsi told selectmen.

The lawmakers successfully lobbied for \$600,000 to be allocated to install the temporary ACROW bridge which was made official by the Governor’s signature in June.

Fattman, whose district includes both Dudley and Webster, complimented Rep. Marsi’s tenacity and called it a collaborative effort between many different departments to secure the funds.

“We were all able to get the Town of Dudley, the Town of Webster, Mass DOT, and the legislative delegation together to have a conversation and secure enough money to complete the project and get this bridge back open,” Fattman said.

McKenna, whose district includes Webster, explained that while the project is mostly focused on Dudley, there was a mutual benefit to help champion the initiative to assist traffic concerns and bring back the convenience of the bridge for Webster commuters as well.

“It really is a connecting bridge. It runs directly to the town border with Webster. We’ve all traveled this bridge many times. We have a personal understanding of the impact that this bridge has on east-west traffic to avoid congestion on Main Street,” McKenna added. “I certainly believe there should be a rightful partnership with the Town of Webster if and when the next step is necessary.”

Looking at the long-term solution, Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda confirmed during the July 14 meeting that the town successfully added both the Mill Race Bridge and an adjacent bridge in Webster to the MASS DOT’s federally funded TIP (Transportation

Improvement Program) sheet, but it will likely take several years to work towards installing and funding a new permanent bridge. According to the Town Administrator’s office, MassDOT deemed the permanent bridge eligible for funding in January of 2023 and approved an estimated cost of \$6,235,000. At the time, it was reported that state and federal money would fund the \$6.2 million project, while Dudley would be responsible right-of-way acquisitions.

For now, Dudley is one step closer to reopening the bridge and allowing traffic to move once more. The estimated \$1.3 million installation of the ACROW bridge will be covered by a combination of the state allocated funds and Chapter 90 money according to Ruda.

“The town is anxious to get the project underway, and I am very grateful to MassDOT for agreeing to donate the temporary bridge and for having worked so closely with our towns,” Ruda said. “I’d like to thank Webster for their ongoing support and advocacy for the project and most of all, I’m personally very grateful to Sen. Fattman and Representatives Marsi and McKenna for advocating for Dudley and Webster to secure the key funding to get the project moving. I look forward to working with (Webster) Town Administrator Rick LaFond and our legislative delegation to make sure that this project remains front and center on the state’s TIP.”

Dudley has contracted with engineers at Tighe and Bond for the work who will coordinate with MassDOT to procure the temporary bridge and reopen the roadway. The Town Administrator’s office could not provide a precise timeline for the installation.



PREFONTAINE
continued from page A1

to connect the later to an upcoming Trails grant for a larger project.

She also noted the town’s receipt of its fifth distinguished budget

award, its ongoing fiscal audit, work on the Community Center’s LED and weatherization project, and progress on the school renovation work at Barton and Chaffee. For more fun stuff, she mentioned Movies on Main

(Wednesdays 7-10 p.m.) and concerts on the common (Sundays 3-5 p.m.). Both schedules are on the Web site.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

Reduce maintenance and boost your garden enjoyment

Every gardener has personal reasons for gardening whether it be the hope that their garden brings joy, productivity, beauty, or peace throughout the growing season. Embrace what makes you happy as you tend, view, and enjoy every aspect of your garden.

Weather, busy schedules, and life in general can interfere with the best laid plans for any garden and landscape. Take some time now to evaluate what is working so you can do more of that and decide what needs changing in your garden plantings, designs, and maintenance.

If you are feeling overwhelmed with the maintenance but still want seasonal interest, consider filling garden beds with shrubs. Look for low maintenance varieties suited to your growing conditions and climate. Select those with multiple seasons of beauty from flowers, foliage, fall color, and interesting form and bark. Include some that provide birds with food, shelter, and protection from predators. You’ll appreciate the beauty and motion these winged visitors provide.

Consider using fewer species of low-maintenance perennials and more of each. You’ll have fewer plants to try to identify as the garden comes to life in spring and as you weed throughout the growing season. Look for those that are disease and insect-pest resistant, need minimal or no deadheading and pruning, and attract and support pollinators as well as provide winter interest and food for songbirds in the winter.

Then add season-long color with pockets or containers of annuals. With fewer to buy and maintain you may decide your schedule and budget will allow you to change them out as the seasons change.

Accept and embrace the beauty of a less-than-perfect garden. Most visitors won’t notice the imperfections unless you point them out. Plus, faded flowers and seed pods can provide unique texture and food for songbirds.

Do minimal cleanup that is better for the plants, pollinators and songbirds. Do remove or cut back diseased and insect-infested plant material as needed. Leave fall leaves in the garden to serve as mulch, a home for some beneficial insects, and insulation for toads, queen bumblebees, and others that overwinter underground. Allow perennials to stand for winter, increasing hardiness, providing homes for beneficial insects, food for songbirds, and adding winter interest. Leave some of these stems standing throughout the upcoming growing sea-



Melinda Myers

A Pearl Crescent butterfly on a firefly petunia.

son to serve as homes for some of the native bees.

Ask for or hire help if needed. As much as you love gardening, securing help for some of the larger tasks or those that just aren’t getting done can help boost your enjoyment. It can be hard to find gardening help so you may need to get creative. Consider sharing your gardening space with someone who loves to garden but lacks a garden. Barter your knowledge and skills for help in your garden. Or plan a round robin of fun and gardening with a few friends. Take turns visiting and tending each other’s gardens. You’ll enjoy the time spent together in each other’s gardens as you tackle a gardening task or two. Then top off the visit with a favorite beverage and snack or meal.

Don’t let your list of unaccomplished tasks or weeds stop you from enjoying your garden and what you have accomplished. Relish every bloom, fresh tomato, or visiting bird or butterfly.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the *Midwest Gardener’s Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything”* instant video series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda’s Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake - 53 Colonial Rd



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Webster Lake Waterfront 88 Union Point



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Webster Lake Waterfront 8 Long Island



ON DEPOSIT
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Members of the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge, the Doric Chapter and their families, and friends. Next year's cookout will be with the new Masonic Lodge, Major General Salem Towne Lodge.

For every ending, there is a new beginning

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Saturday, July 19, the upper parking lot of Westville Dam recreational area in Southbridge was filled with cars from Masonic family members from the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge and the Doric Chapter of Southbridge for its summer cookout gathering. Both highly respected organizations have been organizing this great family event since 1991.

There was a great turnout on this beautiful summer day for this gathering of Masonic family and friends. All enjoyed the walking trails. The scenic beauty and the beauty of the Westville Dam area has been the go-to recreation area for our lodge for the past 34 years. We must reserve the large pavilion area at least a year in advance. The children were running around laughing, and games were played by young and old. Most pleasant of all were the tasty food and the comradery felt by all.

For every ending, there's a new beginning. On Oct. 4 of this year, the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge and the Webster Masonic Lodge will be merging. Our new Masonic Lodge name will be "Major General Salem Towne Lodge." If you are interested and would like more information about Freemasonry, go to www.massfreemasonry.org and find a lodge nearest you.

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