Auburn News

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Webster sets five focus areas for Strategic Master Plan

WEBSTER — Webster's Strategic Master Plan Committee (SMPC) has finished gathering information and community feedback and is moving into the next phase of Plan development. Over the last several months, the Committee reviewed relevant town plans and evaluated Webster's strengths and opportunities for improvement. Local businesses, government leaders, and community members expressed their views about Webster and its future through focus groups, a community survey, and interviews.

Five areas on which to focus the Plan emerged from this effort. The Committee now is developing strategic goals and objectives for them. Thanks go to all who took the time to share their ideas with the SMPC.

Information gathered provided valuable information. In general, there was a call for Webster to make better use of its resources, strengthen its economy, and help people feel more connected to the community. Business participants expressed confidence in Webster's potential for economic growth, pointing to its affordability, regional location on a major highway, the Webster lake, existing businesses, and workforce resources. They called for strengthening business support, attracting investment and jobs, and improvements to commercial areas—particularly the Downtown. They also emphasized leadership, coordination and collaboration, well maintained and safe commercial areas, streamlined business processes, and consistent follow through. Community participants expressed a strong attachment to Webster, including its lake, history, public services, and local organizations. They identified opportunities for a more vibrant and appealing Downtown, better transportation connections, and more recreation and community participation. Their feedback emphasized building on what Webster already offers while making it easier for people to take part in community life. Government participants highlighted dedicated employees who respond to residents' needs and emphasized the ability to work across departments. They also identified challenges, including financial pressures, staffing needs, maintaining town buildings and property, and changing community needs. Setting realistic priorities that can be addressed, assigning clear responsibility for work, and tracking progress are important to them.

Based on the information gathered, the Committee agreed upon the following five strategic focus areas on which to center the plan:

Economic Development and Downtown Revitalization will include steps to strengthen the local economy, support

Turn To WEBSTER *page* **A8**

Antonio Marcuccio named Saint Joseph School's 2026 Volunteer of the Year

WEBSTER — During the Family Mass celebrated at Saint Joseph Basilica on Sunday, Oct. 4, Saint Joseph School recognized Antonio "Tony" Marcuccio as the recipient of the 2026 Saint Joseph the Worker Volunteer of the Year Award.

Presented annually, the award honors an individual whose generosity, talents, and commitment have made a meaningful difference in students' lives. Recipients embody the qualities of Saint Joseph through humility, service, faithfulness, and dedication to hard work.

Born and raised in Southington, Conn., Marcuccio moved to Killingly in 1992 and graduated from Killingly High School in 1996. He and his wife, Katie, now live in Thompson with their sons. Jacob graduated from Saint Joseph School in 2026 and now attends Marianapolis Preparatory School, while Johnny is currently in seventh grade at Saint Joseph School.

Marcuccio rarely misses a field trip, school play, athletic event, or opportunity to help. He began coaching intramural basketball in 2022 and continued for three seasons before becoming an assistant coach for the JV boys' basketball team. He has also coached fall cross-country. When spring cross-country needed coaches, Tony and Katie stepped forward immediately. This year, Tony will serve as the varsity boys' basketball coach.

"If you see Mr. Marcuccio at a Saint Joseph athletic event, he is usually wearing a hat," said Athletic Director John Kottori. "As a volunteer in the athletic program, Mr. Marcuccio has worn many hats.



Courtesy

Pictured on the altar of Saint Joseph Basilica following the award presentation are, from left, Father Richard Polek, pastor and headmaster; Antonio Marcuccio, recipient of the 2026 Saint Joseph the Worker Volunteer of the Year Award; and Principal Beth Boudreau.

Each hat is a sign of his dedication to supporting all of the students in our community."

Kottori described Marcuccio as a "champion volunteer" and a role model whose selfless service strengthens the athletic program and demonstrates the school's mission through his actions.

Turn To MARCUCCIO *page* **A8**

A scary good time had by all at Dudley's Spectacular Spooktacular!



DUDLEY — The Halloween fun in Dudley began on Oct. 29, when gaggles of ghosts, goblins, princesses and other costumed characters gathered at the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library for fun and photos.

Dozens of costumed children and their families then paraded to Town Hall, where they enjoyed games, learned about fire safety and shared some s'mores.

The Town of Dudley's annual Halloween Spooktacular was, once again, a big hit with the little ones. And, judging by the smiles, the adults had a good time, too!

The costume contest featured some creative entries, with top honors going to:

Most Unique: Pirate in a pirate ship

Funniest: Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head

Scariest: Headless Horseman

Hosted by the Dudley Recreation Commission, this annual Halloween tradition wouldn't be possible without the many volunteers who generously contributed their time and enthusiasm to make the event a success.

Thanks go out to the Harriet K. Crawford Endowment Fund for the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library, the Dudley Police Department, the Dudley Fire Department and all the dedicated event volunteers.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Spooktacular another memorable community celebration.

Auburn Historical Society and Museum to host Veterans Day remembrance open house

AUBURN — The Auburn Historical Society and Museum will have an open house to honor Veterans instead of a monthly meeting on Thursday, Nov. 19 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Museum, 41 South St.

Military exhibits placed throughout the museum will include uniforms that have a connection to Auburn residents and may have a mini biography with them. There will be military equipment such as ammunition casings, practice bomb, pistols and rifles. Personal items include World War I toiletry kit, instruments used to pass the time, military missal book, and a army navy service book. Letters to and from the home front with one special embroidery done to "my sweetheart" with beautiful detailing. The scrapbooks of articles and pictures from the newspapers which reported on the men and what they were doing or where they were going or those who didn't make it home. Some of the documents include copies of draft cards, discharge orders, and muster rolls.

Some veterans came from a long line of family members who served their country over several generations, like in the Legasey family. William Francis Legasey Sr. was born Oct. 1, 1872, to George J. and Mary E. Kenneway Legasey. He served in World War I as a S2/C2-NI class, which means Seaman Second Class Non-Commissioned. This indicates that William did not specialize in a specific rating or job within the Navy. This is the only information that could be found regarding his service according to his grave marker.

William Francis, Jr. enlisted in the Navy in November 1942 and served in World War II and it is his uniform that the Auburn Historical Museum will have on display. He was a Junior Electricians Mate Third Class. He was stationed on the USS Bangust in the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre and was honorably discharged March 1946.

The women are included with pictures of Carrie Guy Jacox, Pauline McIlvane and Phyllis Gallant, who has the Post Road Cane for being the oldest resident in town. There is also an exhibit case showing what the "Warriors of the Home Front" did while the men were away. There was the Auburn Air Wardens of WWII that patrolled the streets, especially at night to ensure the blackout rules were followed. They are Civil Defense helmets, official first aide kit, cards to identify aircraft flying overhead, and a picture of the Auburn Airport Reserve Corp c. 1940.

There is also the "Veterans' Project" database still available to enter family members and be apart of the those who served especially from Auburn that future generations can search for. The museum is always looking for donations to enlarge and enhance the collection and will be welcome on this day.

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

PAWFECT LIFE rescue
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PAW of the WEEK
IZZIE
GOOD WITH KIDS, CATS & DOGS!
3 MOS/4 LB./FEMALE/TERRIER MIX



Hi, I'm Izzy! I'm 4 pounds of pure adorable, with a face that could get me out of just about anything! I'm a sweet little social butterfly who gets along with both cats and dogs, and I love being right where the action is. Sometimes a little TOO close to the action, actually. I haven't quite figured out that tiny puppies and moving feet aren't the best combination! I'm still learning how this big world works, but one thing's for sure: life with me will never be boring!

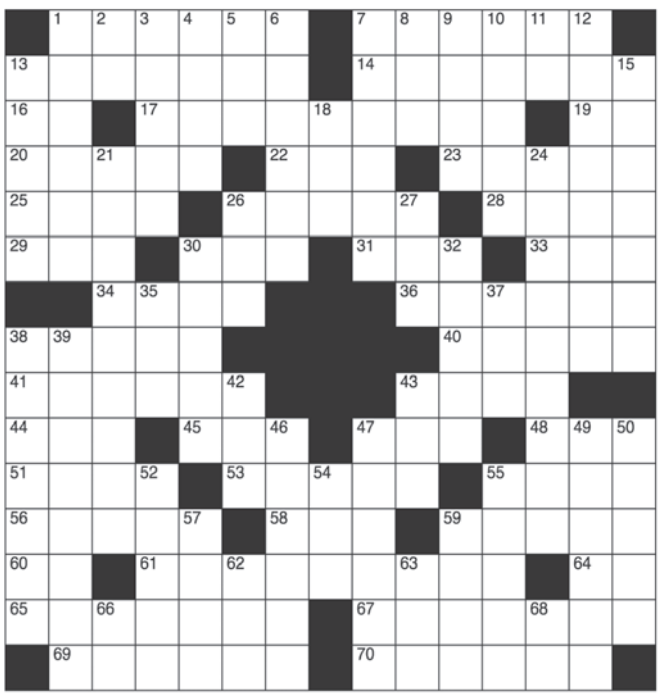
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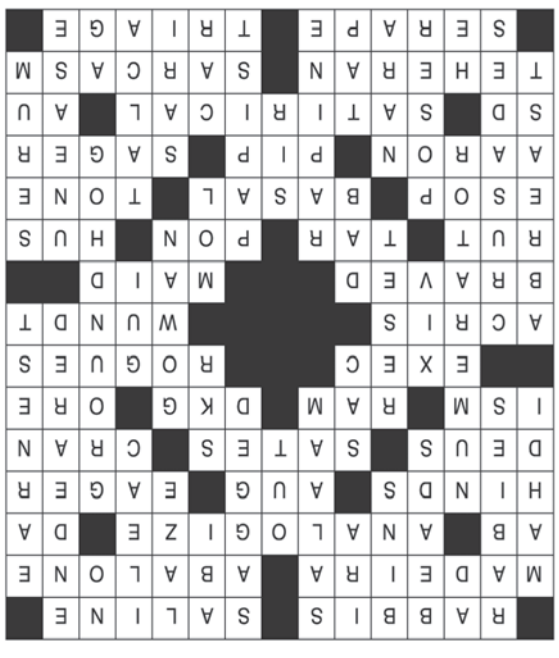
CLUES ACROSS

1. Spiritual leaders
7. Containing salt
13. Fortified wine
14. Edible mollusk
16. Blood type
17. Make a comparison
19. Government lawyer
20. "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran
22. 8th month of the year (abbr.)
23. Very willing
25. __ ex machina
26. Satisfies
28. New Zealand mountain
29. A doctrine
30. Popular Dodge truck model
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid material
34. Company higher-up
36. Villains
38. Cricket frog genus
40. Influential early psychologist
41. Endured
43. Servant
44. You can get stuck in one
45. __ and feather
47. Passive optical network
48. French ballet dynasty
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Forming a bottom layer
55. Sound
56. Yankees slugger Judge
58. Dickens character
59. Beloved late sportscaster Craig
60. "The Mount Rushmore State"
61. Sarcastic and critical
64. Atomic #79
65. Longtime Atlanta Braves pitcher
67. Humor
69. Shawl
70. Preliminary assessment of patients

CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease
2. Commercial
3. Craft supplies
4. Containers
5. A way to save for your golden years
6. Common Arabic greeting
7. Bulged downward
8. Acquired brain injury
9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. Not yes
12. In a way, pleased
13. Messianic figure in Islam
15. Resulting from intense conviction
18. Not in
21. Number above the line in a fraction
24. Lawn pest
26. Pouch
27. Ancient language (abbr.)
30. Start anew
32. Wild flower
35. Fourteen
37. Graphical user interface
38. Facing the same way
39. Campaigns
42. Touch lightly
43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. One who supports the Pope
49. Malaise
50. Body fluid
52. Inauthentic person
54. Title of respect
55. Moth genus
57. Central Japan city
59. Silk garment
62. Draw from
63. Automobile
66. A male
68. Powerful government lawyer

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Book lovers invited to Friends of the Library Book Sale in Dudley

DUDLEY — Book lovers can stock up on reading material and support the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library at the Friends of the Library Book Sale, Nov. 5–7 at 40 Schofield Ave, Dudley.

The sale will feature a wide variety of gently used books and DVDs for readers of all ages, with proceeds benefiting the library and its programs.

Friends of the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library will get an exclusive preview on Wednesday, November 4, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Those who are not currently members can join the Friends at the door and shop during the preview.

The sale is open to the public Thursday through Saturday. Booksellers are welcome to shop on Friday, and the sale will wrap up Saturday morning with a bag sale, offering shoppers the opportunity to fill a bag with books for $5.

Sale hours are:
Wednesday, Nov. 4: Friends Preview, 5:30–6 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 5: 10 a.m.–7 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 6: 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. — Booksellers welcome
Saturday, Nov. 7: 10 a.m.–noon — $5 Bag Sale

Donations of books and DVDs are welcome! Book donations may be dropped off at the library during normal library hours beginning Friday, October 30, through noon on Wednesday, Nov. 4. Books should be in good, sellable condition and please no textbooks, dictionaries, encyclopedias, or magazines.

Whether you're looking for a new novel, children's books, cookbooks, mysteries, nonfiction or something unexpected, the Friends' Book Sale is a chance to find a bargain while supporting programming at the Crawford library.

First Congregational Church of Dudley to host turkey dinner

DUDLEY — First Congregational Church of Dudley will host a turkey dinner Saturday, Nov. 7, with two seatings available for area residents.

The dinner will be held at the church, 135 Center Road, with seatings scheduled for 4:30 and 6 p.m. Tickets are $18 for adults and $10 for children ages 6 to 12. Children age 5 and younger may attend for free. Reservations are required by Friday, Nov. 6, and may be made by calling 508-943-7320. Takeout meals will also be available, but must be ordered in advance.

First Congregational Church is located at 135 Center Rd. in Dudley.

Webster Police Log

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Oct. 25.-31.

Kyle Thomas Jackson, age 29, of Ware was arrested on Oct. 25 in connection with a warrant.

Reinaldo Torres-Acevedo, age 41, of Webster was arrested on Oct. 26 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license, driving at a rate of speed exceeding the posted limit, and in connection with a warrant.

A 41-year-old male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Oct. 27 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member. A 40-year-old female, also from Webster, received a summons in lieu of arrest during the same incident for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member and Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon.

Matthew M. Starr, age 48, of Oxford was arrested on Oct. 28 for Failure to Stop for Police, Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license (subsequent offense), operating an Unregistered and Uninsured Motor Vehicle, a Number Plate Violation, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Possession of a Class B Drug (subsequent offense).

A juvenile, age 16, was arrested on Oct. 30 for Disorderly Conduct, possession of liquor by a person under 21, Assault/Battery, and Resisting Arrest.

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Real Estate

AUBURN

$6,600,000, 735 Southbridge St, Atlanta Re Holdings LLC, to Bocada Milbury LLC.

$725,000, 773 Southbridge St, Taylor, David C, to 773 Southbridge St LLC.

$490,000, 7 Simonds St, Gilles, Patricia, to Lewis, Charles Joseph, and Lloyd, Mackenzie.

$474,000, 304 South St, Provest, F Hilary, to Roskes, Kenay B, and Roskes, Cassidy M.

$470,000, 4 Loring St, Langway, Katie L, and Langway, Michael, to Loubier, Marc, and Loubier, Anurita.

$449,999, 5 Friedel St, Bay State Property Develo, to Kachadoorian, Justin, and Saratini, Elizabeth.

$445,000, 330 Leicester St, Ml Realty Group LLC, to Mikitarian, Michael, and Corrieri, Elaine M.

$415,000, 19 Appleton Rd, Atlanta Re Holdings LLC, to Bocada Milbury LLC.

$390,000, 22 Marion Ave, Harrigan, Eleen M, and Renner, Patricia A, to Matteo L Gentle Ret, and Gentile, Metteo L.

$364,900, 5-4H Tuck Farm Rd, Daniels, Thomas A, and Daniels, Scott D, to Sarolli, Borila, and Mico, Sotiraq.

$360,000, 8 Warren Rd, Ross Jo Ann Est, and Ross, Robert K, to Golden, Jenna.

$350,000, 40 Loring St, Zanauskas, Danial B, and Zanauskas, Donna L, to Langway, Michael, and Langway, Katie L.

DUDLEY

$415,000, 49 Oxford Ave, Szpara, Marek, to Pujols, Juan P Jimenez, and Pujols, Yuleici Jimenez.

$350,000, 152 Southbridge Rd, Maccormack, Sean, and Maccormack, Stacy, to Bills, Nicole E, and Bills, Adam G.

$209,500, 6 Warsaw Ave #2, Rigney 2nd, Jason M, to Damelio, Melissa.

$135,000, 369 Dudley Southbridge Rd, Everlast Realty LLC, to Hampden Communications Co.

$100,000, 7 W Dudley Rd, 7 West Dudley Road LLC, to 7 West Dudley Road LLC.

OXFORD

$354,000, 68 Pleasant St #31, Silun, Jeannine, to Jones, Elizabeth Anne.

WEBSTER

$599,900, 38 Colonial Rd, West View Properties LLC, to Scott, Justin, and Scott, Nancy.

$580,000, 36 Harris St, Escobar, Jose A, to Rivera, Jose Edwin Escoba.

$575,000, 3 Oakwood Dr, Stone, Elaine M, to Good, James David, and Gelardi, Ariana.

$565,000,175 Main St, Ws51Land Holding LLC, to Raph Properties Group LLC.

$515,000, 4 Panarelli Way, Adjei, Kofi, to Oneil, James.

$433,750, 3 Bath House Rd, Gough, Shawn, and Gough, Erin, to Mchale, Evan.

Almanac

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Wednesday .....9 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday.....9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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Friday.....8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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Webster, Dudley to honor veterans with 21st annual Veterans Day Parade Nov. 11

WEBSTER/DUDLEY — Veterans, community organizations and residents will gather Wednesday, Nov. 11, for the 21st annual Veterans Day Parade, continuing a tradition of honoring the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

This year's parade will feature Vietnam War veteran Armand Jalbert, who served in the U.S. Army, as grand marshal. Retired U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. William Conley Jr. will serve as guest speaker during the ceremonies.

The annual observance will begin at 11 a.m. at the Veterans' Court of Honor at the Dudley Municipal Complex, where participants will gather for a ceremony recognizing the service and sacrifices of military veterans.

The program will include a prayer led by the veterans' chaplain, a three-shot ceremonial volley by the honor guard and the playing of Taps. Conley will then deliver a commemorative address.

Following the Dudley ceremony, veterans and participating organizations will march in procession to the Webster Veterans' Court of Honor, where a second ceremony will feature another chaplain's prayer, ceremonial volley and the playing of Taps.

The ceremonies are expected to conclude at approximately 12:45 p.m.

Andrew Kozlowski, a U.S. Air Force veteran, will serve as parade chairman and master of ceremonies. He is joined in organizing the event by co-chairmen James Brinker, U.S. Army; Gary Jacobson, U.S. Air Force; Victor Jankowski, U.S. Army; Alan Martin, U.S. Army; Richard Norton, U.S. Air Force; Ronald Prest, U.S. Navy; and Stephen Rogerson, U.S. Army.

The parade will feature representatives of several veterans organizations, including the Webster/Dudley Veterans Council, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Polish American Veterans and Disabled American Veterans.

Ladies Auxiliary units, Sons of the American Legion and participating Scouting organizations will also take part.

The procession will be led by the honor guard carrying the colors and ceremonial weapons, followed by Jalbert in a vehicle. Representatives of the participating veterans organizations and community groups will follow in the designated marching order.

All former military personnel are welcome and encouraged to participate, regardless of whether they belong to a veterans' organization.

Marching veterans assigned to the honor guard and other organized units are asked to assemble with their respective colors and ceremonial weapons at the St. Louis School yard parking area, next to the gymnasium at the bottom of the entryway, by 10:15 a.m. Bus transportation will depart at approximately 10:30 a.m. for the Dudley Municipal Complex.

Other veterans wishing to march should report directly to the Dudley Municipal Complex by 10:45 a.m. Participating Scouting organizations should also assemble at the complex at 10:45 a.m.

Organizers have arranged three vehicles for veterans who would prefer to ride rather than march. Those planning to use the vehicles should report to the Dudley Municipal Complex by 10:45 a.m.

An additional vehicle will be positioned at the rear of the parade to assist anyone who experiences difficulty completing the march.

For safety, marchers are asked to maintain approximately 30 feet of separation from vehicles and other designated groups in the procession.

Following the ceremonies, the Polish American Veterans on Ray Street in Webster will host refreshments for parade participants. All participants are invited to attend.

Kozlowski emphasized that the purpose of the annual observance is to recognize both those currently serving in the military and those whose service has concluded.

The parade offers residents of both communities an opportunity to come together in appreciation of the sacrifices made by generations of American service members.

Organizers encourage veterans to participate and residents to attend the cere-

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Friends of the Auburn Library offers Storytelling for Grownups

AUBURN — The Friends of the Auburn Public Library announced their next fundraising event. The Friends will have 'Storytelling for Grownups' (like a 'Stories from the Stage' or 'Moth' type evening). Five (5) presenters will each tell a 20-minute story. These are stories about interesting, real life events, people and places. Planned speakers: Lewis Alderton, Michelle Weagle, Julianna Uresch, Sharon Eaton and Robert Tatro.

Storytelling helps us connect with others, boosting our imagination, memory, and empathy while weaving a tapestry of shared experiences and profound insights. Sharing stories increases empathy, making it easier to build relationships. Stories have the power to astonish us, make us laugh and cry, and open our hearts to the world.

The event is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 19 from 6 - 8:30 p.m. at The Pakachoag Center, 203 Pakachoag St., Auburn. Doors open at 5:30pm, admission is $20 and includes light refreshments (Cash, Check, PayPal 'Friends of Auburn Public Library'). Pre-registration is required by emailing to friendsofauburnplibrary@gmail.com to assure we have sufficient seating. The Friends also accept registrations by mailing to the Auburn Library in care of the Friends or dropping a registration in the cash box in the Library lobby. Registration forms are posted in the library lobby for your convenience. Cash, check to Friends of the Auburn Library or PayPal at friendsofauburnplibrary@gmail.com. Make sure the PayPal says Auburn, MA. We hope to see you then!

All proceeds from the fundraiser will be used to fund and enhance services, expand programs and purchase other extraordinary items not included in the library budget. Watch for all the upcoming Friends event dates on the Library website (http://auburnlibrary.org). You will also find notices in the Library lobby and postings on our Facebook group page 'Friends of the Auburn Public Library-Auburn Massachusetts'. Next month's meeting will be Monday, Nov. 16 at 5 p.m. in the Merriam Room. Please check the Library's calendar in case of a change. New volunteers are welcome! And please add your email to our contact list by emailing to friendsofauburnplibrary@gmail.com.

Please join us at our upcoming events. And consider becoming a volunteer because you can never have too many Friends!

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Honoring exceptional care

Dr. Adelina Healy reflects on compassionate nursing

DUDLEY — For Dr. Adelina Healy of Dudley, navigating the final days of her late husband, William Healy, at UMass Memorial Health Harrington was an exceptionally vulnerable time. Yet, amidst the pain of saying goodbye, Dr. Healy found a profound sense of comfort and peace—all thanks to the extraordinary care delivered on the Medical-Surgical unit.

Dr. Healy, an experienced professional who understands healthcare deeply, was struck by the rare combination of technical skill and genuine heart displayed by the staff. One nurse in particular, newly credentialed Registered Nurse Jordana Panarelli, left an indelible mark on the Healy family during Bill's final days.

"There was a nurse who went far beyond expectations right before Bill passed away," Dr. Healy recalled. "She worked the 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. night shift, demonstrating extraordinary compassion and empathy to Mr. Healy and our entire family. She ensured our privacy and offered genuine love and caring."

For Dr. Healy, the level of attentiveness provided during those overnight hours allowed her to step away and rest when her family needed it most.

"In all my years at the bedside, this nurse truly had it all together," Dr. Healy reflected. "I could go home at night with complete peace of mind knowing she was there. Her name was Jordana."

Jordana, whose healthcare journey began as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in 2019 before graduating from Quinsigamond Community College's LPN-to-RN pathway and earning her RN licensure earlier this year, considers that level of human connection central to her philosophy. Her approach—treating every patient with the dignity and warmth she would want for her own family—is what resonated so deeply with Dr. Healy.

Hospital leadership echoes Dr. Healy's gratitude for the exceptional standard of care on the floor.

"From the moment Jordana joined our team, she has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to her patients and their families," said Meaghan Krajcik, Manager of Medical-Surgical Services, ICU, Step-Down Unit, Pediatric Surgery, and Float Pool. "She consistently goes above and beyond to provide compassionate, safe, and thoughtful care."

In a fast-paced medical environment, the heartfelt experience shared by Dr. Adelina Healy stands as a powerful reminder of what matters most in healthcare: the profound, lasting impact of true empathy, human dignity, and quiet moments of extraordinary care.

Novena to St. Jude

St. Jude, glorious Apostle, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor has caused you to be forgotten by many, but the true Church invokes you universally as the Patron of things despaired of; pray for me, who am so miserable, pray for me, that finally I may receive the consolations and the succor of Heaven in all my necessities, particularly (make request), and that I may bless God with the Elect throughout Eternity. Amen. (repeat each day sincerely until granted; publish as granted.)

Thank you St. Jude for answered prayers. **BC**

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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

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

A plan for Webster's future must lead to action

There is something encouraging about a community taking the time to consider where it stands, what it values and where it hopes to be in the years ahead. That is precisely what Webster has been doing through the work of its Strategic Master Plan Committee, which has now completed its information-gathering phase and begun developing goals for the town's future.

The committee's findings offer an interesting picture of Webster. Residents are proud of their community, businesses recognize its economic potential, and municipal leaders understand both the opportunities and the financial realities that come with maintaining a growing and changing town.

Perhaps the most important takeaway is that Webster does not need to reinvent itself to move forward. It needs to make better use of what it already has.

Consider the town's location, its businesses, its history and, of course, Webster Lake. These are tremendous assets that many communities would welcome. Yet having valuable resources and making the most of them are two different things.

Downtown revitalization is an especially important part of that equation. A healthy downtown does more than provide places to shop or conduct business. It gives a community a recognizable center, somewhere residents and visitors can gather, spend time and develop a stronger connection to the town.

Improving downtown Webster will require more than attractive storefronts or occasional special events. It means creating an environment where existing businesses can succeed, new businesses feel welcome and property owners have confidence in the area's future. It also means addressing practical concerns such as maintenance, accessibility, safety and the ease of doing business.

None of these improvements will happen overnight, and none will come without challenges. However, a coordinated approach with realistic objectives could make a meaningful difference over time.

The committee's attention to communication and civic participation is equally worthwhile. One of the frustrations frequently expressed in communities of all sizes is that residents do not always know what their local government is doing until a decision has already been made.

Making information easier to find, explaining decisions clearly and providing meaningful opportunities for public input can help build confidence in municipal government. Residents should not have to become experts in town procedures to understand matters that affect their neighborhoods, schools or property taxes.

Financial stability is another essential consideration. Every improvement comes with a cost, and municipal budgets are already expected to cover a wide range of competing needs. Maintaining schools, public buildings, roads, parks and other facilities requires careful planning, particularly when postponing maintenance today can create larger expenses tomorrow.

That is why the committee's fifth priority, accountable implementation, may ultimately prove the most important.

Communities have produced plenty of impressive planning documents over the years, only to see some of them gather dust. A strategic plan should be more than an attractive report filled with admirable intentions. It should establish achievable priorities, identify who is responsible for carrying them out and provide a reasonable way to measure progress.

Not every recommendation will be affordable immediately. Some may require outside funding, partnerships or several years of preparation. Others may be accomplished through relatively modest changes in how the town operates. Being clear about those distinctions will help residents understand what can reasonably be expected.

Turn To **EDITORIAL** *page* **A5**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A heartfelt thank you to the Janet Malser Humanities Trust

To the Editor:

On behalf of St. Louis League of Catholic Women, I wish to express our

heartfelt thanks to the Janet Malser Humanities Trust for awarding the League a 2026 grant. Their generosity and commitment to the arts, humanities, community service, and conservation have made a meaningful difference in our mission.

This funding will allow us to sponsor a Christmas Concert for the community performed by the Worcester Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Maestro Roderick MacDonald, on Sunday, Dec. 20 at 4 p.m. at St. Louis Church, 14 Lake St., Webster. Admission is free, and tickets are not needed. Light refreshments, provided by the League, will be served at intermission. We deeply admire the legacy of Janet Malser, whose passion for culture, education, and community shines through in the Trust's ongoing support.

With appreciation,

DR. ADELINA N. HEALY
PRESIDENT, ST. LOUIS LEAGUE OF CATHOLIC WOMEN
WEBSTER

Another sad story

To the Editor:

During WWII, the battle for the island of Iwo Jima was fought over a five-week period in 1945.

America lost 5,931 Marines during this battle and the Japanese army lost about 18,000 men. On the day the Marines took control of Mount Suribachi on this eight-square-mile island, six Marines raised the American flag on this summit. The famous photo of this flag-raising became an enduring symbol of determination, sacrifice and courage during WWII. The most famous photo of the war was taken by Joe Rosenthal of the Associated Press.

The Iwo Jima War Memorial statue was delivered and dedicated on Nov. 10, 1954 at the US Marine Training Base in Quantico, Virginia. On Oct. 21, a 27-year-old non-citizen named Miguel Alonso Maldonado Sujano was arrested for taking a sledgehammer to the limestone statue, causing over $100,000 in damage. This non-citizen is not only

ungrateful for living in America for the last 20 years under the DACA program, this action also shows he despises America. It appears there are other non-citizens living in America who care nothing about our history, our culture or the sacrifices of the US Marines who died on the island of Iwo Jima.

Donations are being raised privately to repair the damage to this statue, which has honored our Marines since 1954.

ERIC SPAHL
DUDLEY

Who are you gonna believe?

To the Editor:

The elections will be over by the time this letter is published, and hopefully, voters will have rejected the abhorrent attitudes expressed in Carl W. Wilson's letter published in the Oct. 30 edition of the Webster Times. The issues, however, will likely remain in our national conscience.

Mr. Wilson rails against other people's hatred, but seems to reserve exceptions for his own dislike of undocumented immigrants and Democrats. In his view, President Joe Biden opened the borders and "imported terror" on American families; Gov. Maura Healey squandered billions providing housing; sympathetic mayors declared sanctuary cities; and they all lied about it. He presumes millions of immigrants are all child abusers, rapists and "not good people," who commit " horrific murders." He claims we don't hear about all these crimes because the "news media" doesn't want us to. So just how does he learn about them?

Most immigrants — illegal and legal — that I know of are, very much to the contrary, hardworking, productive people who create businesses, pay taxes and take jobs that most Americans would never consider. Unfortunately, many of these admirable human beings, as well as U.S. citizens, have been swept off the streets, imprisoned, deported and even murdered by ICE agents, who seem to take perverted pleasure in assaulting their victims, terrorizing children and breaking up families, adversely affecting the economy and striking fear in communities all across the country.

Painting all undocumented immigrants as criminals makes no more sense than presuming all college men are drug-addled rapists because of the Cornell University scandal or that all gun owners are potential mass murderers because of the myriad shooting tragedies perpetrated by disturbed, white citizens. How can Mr. Wilson still believe that non-citizens are able to vote in elections to any significant degree? Trump's Justice Department — I'd call it the Injustice Departmen — has lost, what, 26 suits alleging non-citizen voting, mostly for lack of evidence that this is happening, a reality supported by study after study after study.

Mr. Wilson's claim that "everyone gets mail-in ballots with no proof of citizenship required" is just plain wrong. I can't get a mail-in ballot unless I am a registered voter in Dudley and request it. Registering requires a vetting process to confirm both my residence and identity. I don't have to produce evidence of citizenship. But in order to do that I would probably have to acquire a birth certificate, a passport, or some sort of naturalization document that most elderly voters and citizens of modest means would have extreme difficulty obtaining, resulting in their disenfranchisement.

Mr. Wilson fears Democratic hopefuls who have "socialism/Communist ideas." Conservatives make those two words sound like a deadly disease. I don't know of any candidate that has embraced Communism. Many of us, however, understand that socialism has been an important part of American democracy almost since its inception. Socialism, after all, is the root of the term Social Security, probably the most popular government program in history. It is also the theory that provides essential community (uh-oh, there's that terrible Communism-like word again) services like public education, fire and police protection that individuals cannot possibly provide for themselves except by pooling their resources.

As a proud Democrat, I was never conditioned to hate Donald Trump. But Trump has come to personify many things that I do hate: corruption, bigotry, misogyny, pathological lying, gratuitous cruelty, incompetence, narcissism, contempt for the law. I hate fake news, but most of it, these days, comes from the lies uttered regularly by Trump, his Cabinet and the sycophants who tell us we're in the Golden Age of America, when we are quite obviously in the sewer they have created.

To quote Chico Marx, "Who you gonna believe? Me or your own eyes?"

Frank Magiera
Dudley

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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Whatever happened to a little mystery?

LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET

By CHARLES

I was thinking the other day about how much we know about everybody else's business these days, whether we want to or not.

There was a time when you could go a whole week without knowing what your neighbor had for supper, where your cousin went on vacation, or what some fellow you haven't seen since high school thinks about the price of eggs. Now all that information is available before you've finished your morning coffee. And apparently, we're supposed to be interested.

Don't get me wrong. I enjoy hearing from old friends, and I'm glad there's a way to keep up with people who live far away. It's a wonderful thing to see pictures of a new grandchild or hear that somebody's daughter graduated from college.

But somewhere along the way, we seem to have decided that every moment of our lives needs an audience. I don't quite understand it.

The other day, I saw somebody announce on the Internet that they were heading out to buy groceries. Not that they'd found some extraordinary bargain or discovered a new store. They were simply going grocery shopping. A little while later came another announcement. They'd arrived. Then a picture of the shopping cart. And finally, a report that they were back home. I suppose I should have been relieved that the expedition ended safely.

Now, I'm not suggesting that people shouldn't enjoy themselves. If somebody wants to photograph a sandwich before eating it, that's their business. I simply wonder when we started believing that the rest of the world needed to see the sandwich, too.

When I was growing up, there was a certain amount of mystery surrounding other people's lives. You knew your neighbors, of course. You might know where they worked, what kind of car they drove, and whether they were the sort who kept their lawn looking like a golf course.

But you didn't know every thought that passed through their heads. And that wasn't necessarily a bad thing. If somebody had a disagreement with a relative, the entire town didn't hear about it before lunchtime. If a couple went out for their anniversary, they didn't need to provide photographic evidence. And if somebody made a particularly good pot roast, the family enjoyed it without waiting for strangers to offer their approval. There was something comfortable about that.

I'm not pretending the old days were perfect. Small towns have always had their share of gossip. Sometimes people knew more about their neighbors than they had any right to know. The difference was that gossip generally traveled at the speed of conversation. Nowadays, it travels at the speed of a button. And once something gets out there, good luck putting it back.

I sometimes wonder what my father would have thought of all this. He was a man who didn't waste many words, and he certainly wasn't interested in broadcasting his daily activities.

If somebody had handed him a telephone and suggested he use it to tell hundreds of people what he was having for lunch, I suspect he would have looked at them for a long moment before asking whether they had anything useful to do. He had a way of making a point without making a speech.

Of course, the younger crowd might say I'm missing the point. Sharing things is how people stay connected now. And they're not entirely wrong.

I've seen some wonderful examples of that connection. Old friends finding each other after decades. Families sharing happy occasions across thousands of miles. People offering encouragement to somebody having a difficult time. Those are good things, and I'd be foolish to pretend otherwise. But I still think there's value in keeping a few things to ourselves.

Not every pleasant afternoon needs to become a public announcement. Not every disagreement needs a jury of strangers. And not every opinion needs to be delivered to the world before we've had a chance to think it through.

Sometimes an experience is better when we're fully occupied enjoying it instead of figuring out how to describe it afterward.

A good meal tastes every bit as good without a photograph. A beautiful sunset

Turn To **LANTERNS** *page* **A5**

EDITORIAL

continued from page A4

The committee deserves recognition for seeking input from businesses, residents and municipal officials rather than developing its recommendations in isolation. Those different perspectives are necessary because the future of Webster affects everyone, although not always in the same ways.

With the plan expected to be completed by the end of February, the coming months represent an opportunity to turn that feedback into a practical roadmap.

Residents who have not followed the process can review the committee's materials through the town Web site at www.webster-ma.gov. There is still value in understanding the priorities being developed and following the decisions that will come afterward.

Webster has a strong foundation on which to build. Its future will depend less on how ambitious its strategic plan sounds and more on whether its recommendations produce visible, lasting improvements.

The community has helped identify the destination. The next challenge is making sure the town has a workable route to get there.

LANTERNS

continued from page A4

doesn't require an audience. And a conversation with an old friend can be meaningful even if nobody else knows it happened. Maybe that's what I miss most. The idea that a person's life could contain a few quiet chapters that belonged entirely to them.

I'm not planning to throw away my phone or move into the woods. I like modern conveniences as much as anybody, especially when they work properly, which is another matter altogether.

But I am making an effort to keep a little mystery in my life. For instance, yesterday afternoon I went somewhere, did a few things, and came home. Had a perfectly nice time, too. And that's all you're getting out of me.

Powerful drug prevention performance in Oxford Nov. 19

sOXFORD — The Oxford Police Department, Fire Department, Board of Health and Oxford High School are joining forces with Drug Story Theater to present «Back to Life,» a powerful theatrical production designed to educate young people and their families about the dangers of recreational drug use and the potentially deadly consequences of fentanyl and other substances found in illicit drugs.

The performance will take place Thursday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m. in the Oxford High School auditorium.

Based on a true story, "Back to Life" follows a seemingly ordinary night of partying that takes a tragic turn. The approximately 20-minute play is performed by young people participating in Drug Story Theater's treatment program, bringing firsthand perspectives on substance use and its consequences to the stage.

The production is intended to encourage candid conversations among students, parents and community members about the risks associated with experimenting with drugs, particularly the presence of fentanyl and xylazine in counterfeit pills and other illicit substances.

Organizers hope the presentation will help audiences understand that what might appear to be a relatively harmless experiment can have devastating consequences when drugs contain powerful substances that users may not realize they are taking.

Drug Story Theater's educational approach recognizes that adolescents naturally seek opportunities to take risks, socialize and experience pleasure. However, the organization emphasizes that today's illicit drug supply presents dangers that can turn experimentation into a life-threatening situation.

Following the performance, audience members will have an opportunity to participate in an interactive discussion with the young performers and Dr. Joseph Shrand, a nationally recognized expert in adolescent addiction.

The discussion will address the science behind adolescent addiction, the effects of fentanyl and xylazine, and practical steps families and communities can take to prevent overdose deaths.

An important component of the evening will be education about Narcan, the brand name for naloxone, a medication capable of reversing an opioid overdose.

Participants will learn how to recognize the signs of an overdose, understand how Narcan works and recognize the importance of making the medication readily available.

While Narcan can reverse the effects of opioids such as fentanyl, it does not reverse the effects of xylazine, a non-opioid sedative that may be mixed with illicit drugs. Nevertheless, naloxone should be administered when an opioid overdose is suspected, and emergency medical assistance should be sought immediately.

The Oxford Board of Health will provide Narcan free of charge to parents and guardians attending the evening performance.

Organizers also hope to reduce the stigma associated with carrying or administering Narcan, emphasizing that having access to the medication can mean the difference between life and death during an overdose emergency.

Drug Story Theater has presented "Back to Life" at public schools, universities and conferences throughout Massachusetts, reaching thousands of students and other audience members. The performances have been supported through earmarked funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Oxford presentation is being made possible through the cooperation of the Oxford Police Department, Oxford Fire Department, Oxford Board of Health and Oxford High School, along with municipal opioid remediation funds.

By combining live theater, personal experiences and medical expertise, the program seeks to give students and families information they can use to recognize dangerous situations, make informed decisions and potentially save lives.

For more information about Drug Story Theater and the upcoming presentation, visit www.drugstorytheater.org.

Jason Stien competes in NCAA Fall Athletics at Muhlenberg College

ALLENTOWN, Pa. — A graduate of Worcester Academy, Jason Stien of Webster, Mass. has been named a tight end on the NCAA Division III football team at Muhlenberg College for fall 2026, while studying Business Administration at the college.

More than a third of Muhlenberg students participate in the college's 23-sport intercollegiate athletics program. The red and grey Muhls are part of the NCAA Division III, Centennial Conference. The college's athletic programs are designed to motivate and empower students to develop leadership, well-being, sportsmanship and interpersonal skills while nurturing a sense of civic responsibility.

Founded in 1848, Muhlenberg is a highly selective, four-year residential, liberal arts college in the city of Allentown, Pa., with nearly 2,000 bachelor›s and master›s degree-seeking students and a high return on investment. The college›s curriculum and experiences are designed to open doors to new ideas, discoveries, friendships and a lifetime of personal and intellectual growth.

Boys & Girls Club of Webster-Dudley receives Janet Malser Humanities Trust grant for arts programming

DUDLEY — The Boys and Girls Club of Webster-Dudley has been awarded $12,500 from the Janet Malser Humanities Trust in support of Club Creations, the Club's year-round arts initiative for local youth.

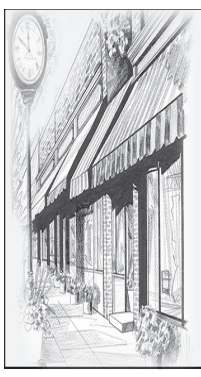
Club Creations gives young people consistent access to visual arts, digital media, and performance-based programming. For many participants, the Club is the only place where structured creative opportunities are available outside of school. The grant will help sustain dedicated program leadership and the day-to-day materials that keep hands-on arts programming running throughout the year.

"We are deeply grateful to the Janet Malser Humanities Trust for this support," said Ian Nugent, Executive Director. "Arts programming is where a lot of our members find their voice. They build confidence, skills, and can find they are good at something they may not have even thought of trying before. This grant makes that possible for another year."

The program serves youth from Dudley, Webster, and the surrounding areas, and work created through Club Creations is shown publicly at Club events.

Janet Malser, a lifelong resident of Dudley and Webster, was an artist, a musician, and a longtime volunteer across the tri-town community. The Trust she established continues to fund educational, cultural, and charitable causes throughout the area.

The Boys and Girls Club of Webster-Dudley is a nonprofit organization providing year-round out-of-school time programming for youth ages five to 13, serving roughly 250 young people annually. More information is available at www.bgcwebsterdudley.org or by calling 508-943-0037.



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Friday's Child



Jasiah
Age 5
Registration #9543

Jasiah is a sweet, silly, and resilient boy who brings lots of energy and fun wherever he goes! He loves staying active and enjoys playing soccer and basketball, running around, and swinging on the swings. Whether he's playing outside or finding a new way to have fun, Jasiah loves keeping busy. When it's time to slow down, he enjoys playing card games like Uno and Go Fish. He is also a big superhero fan, especially Spider-Man, and loves pretending to be an action hero. One of his favorite moves is flipping onto his beanbag! Jasiah attends elementary school and enjoys going each day. With his playful personality and love of both active games and quieter activities, Jasiah has lots of fun interests to share with others.

https://www.mareinc.org/child/62513655906

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

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Major General Salem Towne Lodge honored for community food drives



Courtesy

MGSTL Community Outreach committee member Brother Clay Tull, president of the food share pantry Karen Engell and Brother Joshua Kirkwood, accepts the Certificate of Appreciation from the Southbridge Food Share as committee members look on.



MGSTL members stand beside pickup trucks filled with food collected during the spring 2026 community food drive at Big Bunny Market for the Southbridge Food Share Pantry. Please come down to support the food share pantry.

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Wednesday, Oct. 28, the Southbridge Food Share Pantry, located at Trinity Episcopal Church at 446 Hamilton St. in Southbridge, invited Master Masons to its annual meeting. The pantry has long served Southbridge, Sturbridge, Holland, Wales, Brimfield, and Charlton.

With many local families facing hardship, providing food for children and families remains a shared priority of the pantry and Southbridge's Major General Salem Towne Lodge (MGSTL). Through the lodge's Community Outreach Service Projects, MGSTL has conducted food drives at local grocery stores for years and donated the collected items to the pantry. During the meeting, food share pantry president Karen Engell presented the attending Master Masons with a Certificate of Appreciation for their continued support.

The certificate recognized MGSTL members for years of collecting food—often in harsh weather—for the pantry and the communities it serves. Their commitment to the lodge's Community Outreach Program helps the pantry provide food to local residents in need. MGSTL members are honored and grateful to receive this recognition from the Southbridge Food Share Pantry.

On this coming Saturday, Nov. 7, MGSTL will host a food and coat drive at Big Bunny Market, 942 Main St., Southbridge, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Donations of food, personal-care items such as toothpaste and deodorant, and gently used winter coats and jackets are welcome and will benefit the Southbridge Food Share Pantry. At its March 2026 food drive, the community donated 156 bags of food—enough to fill three pickup trucks. This time, MGSTL also hopes to collect boxes/bags of winter coats and challenges the community to surpass 156 bags of food, filling at least three—and perhaps four—pickup trucks.

Benjamin Franklin, a renowned Master Mason, once asked, "Is There Greatness In You?" If so, join us to support this community food and coat drive. If you would like additional information about Freemasonry, go to www.massfreemasonry.org and read about this great fraternity and find a lodge nearest you.

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The **WEBSTER HOUSING AUTHORITY**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Federal Pacific Panel Replacement at State Aided Development: Golden Heights (667-1) in Webster, Massachusetts, in accordance with
the documents prepared by **JOHN MURPHY JR. ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION & ENGINEERING, INC..**
The Project consists of but not limited to:
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The work is estimated to cost **$702,218.00.**
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Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.
THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at biddocs.com and
received no later than the date and time specified.
General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work, **Electrical,** and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime/General Contractor Update Statement.
General Bids will be received until **20 November 2026 at 2:00PM EST** and publicly opened online, forthwith.
General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates) and made payable to the **WEBSTER HOUSING AUTHORITY.** Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under $50,000.
Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at biddocs.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).
General bidders must agree to contract with minority, women and veteran-owned business enterprises as certified by the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO). The participation benchmark reserved for such enterprises shall not be less than 8% MBE, 5% WBE and 3% VBE for all state and state-assisted construction projects over $150,000. **Request for waivers must be sent to EOHLC (Chad.Howard@mass.gov) 5 calendar days prior to the General Bid date. NO WAIVERS WILL BE GRANTED AFTER THE GENERAL BIDS ARE OPENED.**
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ALL WE KNOW IS LOCAL ~ StonebridgePress.com



Model Railroaders to hold open house Nov. 7 & 8



WEBSTER — The Webster Division of the Worcester Model Railroaders invites families and friends to an open house at 14 Railroad Ave. in Webster to be held on Nov. 7 and 8 From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Folks of all ages will be able to view and operate two large layouts. The first is a 40-by-60-foot HO gauge layout depicting railroad operations in New England. This layout is computer controlled using Digitrax DCC. The second layout is a 10-by-30-foot O gauge layout-a typical Lionel operation that is familiar to most fathers and grandfathers. Both layouts have extensive scenery in place.

During the open house, visitors will have an opportunity to control the trains as they make their way around the layout. Club members will be available to give tours of the layouts and discuss club activities. This is also a great opportunity to donate any railroad equipment that might be languishing in basements and attics. The club will accept any equipment no matter its condition. Members will also be able to discuss and help solve any problems visitors might be having with their own railroad equipment. If visitors have DCC equipped locomotives, they are welcome to bring them to run on the HO layout.

Our open house will be lots of fun for everyone. Refreshments will be served. There is no admission charge but donations will be welcomed. GPS will get you to Railroad Avenue in Webster. (Note: Some GPS units will bring you to Mill Street which is a dead end. Coming from the South, Railroad Ave is one street before Mill. From the North, Railroad Ave is one street after Mill.) Once on Railroad Ave, cross the RR tracks, bear right, keep the brick buildings on your left, head for the smoke stack and the club is in a one story, gray building between the large brick buildings. Follow the signs to the open house. Best of all, come prepared to have fun!

For more information, visit www.wmrr.org, Facebook-Worcester Model Railroaders, Ralph Kimball-ralphkimball@charter.net.

Dudley Woman's Club creates 70 poppy pins for local veterans



DUDLEY — Members of the Dudley Woman's Club recently came together for a special fall craft project, creating 70 handmade felt poppy pins to honor the veterans participating in the Webster-Dudley Veterans' Day Parade on Nov. 11.

The poppies will be worn by veterans on their lapels as they march in the parade, serving as a symbol of remembrance, gratitude, and appreciation for their service and sacrifice.

Club members will continue their tradition of supporting local veterans by volunteering on parade day. Before the parade steps off, club volunteers will serve coffee to the veterans and personally pin a handmade poppy onto each veteran's lapel.

The project reflects the Dudley Woman's Club's commitment to community involvement and its desire to recognize and honor the men and women who have served our country.

The Dudley Woman's Club is proud to honor our veterans and grateful for the opportunity to be part of this meaningful community tradition.

November Art Show at Booklovers' Gourmet spotlights two artistic journeys

WEBSTER — Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 East Main St., Webster, presents Jim Wilton and Laura Cenedella-Two Artistic Journeys in the cafe gallery from Nov. 3-28. A public reception will take place on Friday, Nov. 13 from 5-7 p.m. The show may be viewed during regular business hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. For more information, call 508-949-6232.

Jim and Laura's artwork complement one another seamlessly. Although each artist has traveled a different path, together they express their shared and individual experiences through photography and painting.

Jim R. Wilton is an award-winning, largely self-taught artist who has worked in painting and photography for many years with a strong focus on lighthouses, sunsets, outdoor scenes, landscapes, portraits and plein air work. He began photographing in 2008, which opened up digital photography and wider accessibility for his practice. Jim is active in the arts community as a member of Ruth Wells Arts Center and Blackstone Valley Art Association. He has self-published two coffee-table photo books and been featured in magazines and shares work on Facebook and Etsy. His photography has appeared on book covers and calendars. He has an overall passion for capturing nature and the intricacies of life.

Laura Cenedella is a painter and photographer based in Brookfield, Massachusetts. Her artistic journey began with a focus on art during high school. She has since developed into a semi self-taught artist. Laura's work has been recognized with numerous awards from organizations including the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Blackstone Valley Art Association and the Massasoit Art Guild. She is an active participant in the arts community in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Laura is a board member of the Blackstone Valley Art Association, member of the Massasoit Art Guild, member of the Worcester Art Museum and The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts. Her art has been exhibited in libraries across Massachusetts, a one-woman art show in 2025 and 2026 at the Ruth Wells Center for the Arts and for a second year in a row at the Worcester Art Museum.

While painting remains her primary passion, Cenedella is also an avid photographer. Her photographic work was featured in the Small Stones 2025 and 2026 Art Catalog. Laura works across various mediums, including oil, acrylic, watercolor, and pastels. She has created commissioned pieces such as murals and pet portraits. For more information and to see more of her work, please visit her social media pages on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok.



WEBSTER

continued from page A1

businesses, and revitalize the Downtown.

Community Assets and Webster Identity will lay out strategies for enhancing and better utilizing those places that are key to our community, such as the lake and Memorial Beach, and steps to connect people to Webster.

Communication and Civic Participation will address how the town can best share information and help people learn about and participate in town decisions, government, and community life.

Financial Stability and Municipal Assets will examine ways to keep town finances on a sound footing and maintain and improve schools, municipal buildings, parks, and recreation areas.

Municipal Capacity and Accountable Implementation will emphasize governance, resources, and clear responsibilities needed to provide services, carry out the plan, and track progress. For each of these areas the Committee is drafting goals that describe what Webster wants to achieve and objectives that make those goals more specific. The Plan is on track to be completed at the end of February.

Community members can read the strategic planning background information and reports, as well as watch videos of the SMPC meetings on webster-ma.gov. Go to the pull down Government tab and select Strategic Master Plan Committee. Residents also can take the opportunity to sign up for town updates about town meetings and committees by going to "Notify Me."

MARCUCCIO

continued from page A1

Marcuccio's contributions extend well beyond coaching. He regularly helps set up and break down intramural games. Drawing on his 28 years of construction experience, he repaired large openings in the school's exterior brickwork when ventilation ducts were removed during the conversion of the former kitchen into a STEM lab. He also repaired the school's front steps after vandals damaged them.

During the winter, Marcuccio could often be found at school late at night or as early as 4 or 5 a.m., shoveling and blowing snow from the entrance and sidewalks so students and staff could enter safely. These are only the acts of service known to school administrators; he has undoubtedly helped the athletic program, teachers, and school community in many other ways.

Marcuccio has never asked for reimbursement or recognition. He simply keeps asking what more he can do.

During the presentation, Principal Beth Boudreau recalled the time Bishop Robert J. McManus drew Marcuccio's winning raffle ticket during a recent Open House. When Marcuccio was called to the office over the intercom, he arrived apprehensively, believing he was in trouble with the principal. This time, Boudreau assured him he was being called forward again for a very good reason.

The presentation also included a lighthearted reference to Marcuccio's devotion to the Buffalo Bills, who were playing the New England Patriots that day. Boudreau joked that honoring a Bills fan in Patriots country proved that "Christian charity truly has no limits."

"But all football rivalries aside, there is no question that Tony has always been on Saint Joseph School's team," Boudreau said. "We are incredibly fortunate to have him."

"I love the Saint Joseph School community," Marcuccio said. "I think, as a whole, we really stand out compared to other schools. That is special, and I am proud to be a part of it."

Saint Joseph School is deeply grateful for Marcuccio's humble and generous service and is blessed to honor him as the 2026 Saint Joseph the Worker Volunteer of the Year.

Oxford Women's Club meets Tuesday

OXFORD — The Oxford Women's Club's next meeting will be a fun evening making a floral arrangement to take home. Our guest will be a representative from Herbert Berg Florist. Don't forget to bring $25 to take part and enjoy the fun.

Our meetings are held at the Senior Center behind the Town Hall, the first Tuesday of the month starting at 6:30 p.m.

We welcome new members at any time. Our group makes donations to local town services and other charitable organizations, this month we choose to donate to the Veterans with clothing or personal items.

We hold fundraisers during the year to provide 3 scholarships in the amount of $750 each. They are offered to High School Seniors who reside in Oxford to further their education at a four-year or two-year educational or technical program.

For further information, please contact Paula at phparker1951@gmail.com or (508) 612-8274.

Dudley Woman's Club celebrates the season with holiday treats and giving back

DUDLEY — The holidays are just around the corner, and the Dudley Woman's Club is getting into the spirit with an evening of delicious treats, friendship and giving back!

The club will gather on Thursday, Nov. 12, at 6:30 p.m. at Dudley Town Hall, 71 West Main St., for a festive evening featuring Jackie Valle, who will share easy, palate pleasing holiday appetizers.

The evening will also celebrate the spirit of giving that is at the heart of the Dudley Woman's Club. Members are invited to participate in the club's voluntary November Giving Projects by contributing food for the Veterans' Holiday Baskets and gift bags for the YOU Inc. Adopt-a-Child for Christmas program. These projects offer a wonderful opportunity to spread a little extra kindness and holiday cheer to those who need it most.

No need to be a club member to enjoy a warm evening with the more than 70 members of the DWC. Just walk through the door and be welcomed!

The DWC membership comprises women from many towns in Southern Worcester County and Northern Connecticut. To learn more about the Dudley Woman's Club and its community activities, visit dudleywomansclub.org or email dudleywomansclub@gmail.com.

www.StonebridgePress.com

LEGALS

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
26 SM 003453
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
Pamella P. Ribeiro
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 *(et seq)*:
Truist Bank
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Auburn, numbered 107 Elm Street, given by Pamella P Ribeiro to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Residential Mortgage Services, Inc .., dated January 23, 2020, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61783, Page 56, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated August 9, 2024 and recorded at said Registry in Book 71143, Page 238 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 December 7, 2026 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 October 23, 2026.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
November 6, 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 November 13, 2026 at 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: 2008 Saturn Vue Black
VIN# 3GSDL43N38S544704
Owner: Clemente Perez 219 Hudson St Apt 2 Northborough MA 01532
This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. c.225, Section 39 A
October 23, 2026
October 30, 2026
November 6, 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 November 13, 2026 at 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 Ram 1500 Gray
VIN# 1C6RR7PM3GS113462
Owner: Gary Wright 371 E Main St Southbridge MA 01550
This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. c.225, Section 39 A
October 23, 2026
October 30, 2026
November 6, 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 November 13, 2026 at 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: 2004 Chevy Trailblazer
VIN# 1GNET16S546145282
Owner: Petr Szczotka 69 Myrtle Ave Webster MA 01570
This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. c.225, Section 39 A
October 23, 2026
October 30, 2026
November 6, 2026

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket No. 26 SM 003406
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: **Nicole Magnusson**
Thomas Magnusson
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*)
U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for GS Mortgage-Backed Securities Trust 2022-RPL2
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Oxford, numbered 371 Main Street, given by **Nicole Magnusson and Thomas Magnusson** to **"MERS", Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a separate corporation that is acting solely as nominee for American Mortgage Network, Inc. dba American Mortgage Network of MA, "Lender", and its successors and assigns**, dated December 29, 2006, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40439, Page 224, as may be affected by Home Affordable Modification Agreement dated August 22, 2012 and recorded with said Registry in Book 49699, Page 345, as further affected by Loan Modification Agreement dated August 16, 2019 and recorded with said Registry in Book 61080, Page 106, and now held by 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 12/07/2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 10/21/2026
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
November 6, 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. WO25P2014EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
Estate of:
James Patrick Butrick
Date of Death: 03/14/2025
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by
Olivia J. Butrick of Brooklyn NY
requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/17/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 21, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 6, 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 hydro-raking project at Pout Pond in Webster, MA by The Webster Lake Association at PO Box 156 in Webster, MA 01570. The property is owned by the Webster Lake Association. The project proposes hydro-raking and herbicide treatment of the pond for the purpose of improving water quality and aquatic habitat. There will be no work within the parcel containing the Treasure Island Condominium Association, marina, and associated channel, as amended from a previous 401 WQC application. The hydro-raked material will be stored at 0 Happy Tree Lane in Webster, MA 01570. Additional information may be obtained through the Applicant's representative, Goddard Consulting LLC, at 1442 North Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069. 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. Failure to submit comments before the end of public comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing.
November 6, 2026

OBITUARIES

Charlotte L. Bickford, 85



WEBSTER / CUMBERLAND FORESIDE, ME – Charlotte L. (Lilly) Bickford, 85, of Thompson Road, passed away following a brief illness on Sunday, October 18, 2026, at UMass Memorial Health - Harrington Hospital - Webster Campus. She is survived by her brother, William Lilly of Lorana, Texas, and many beloved nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband of 51 years, William L. Bickford; two brothers, Bruce A. Lilly and Martin Lilly; and two sisters, Myrtle Olson and Virginia Mae Cioppa.

Ms. Bickford was born in Quakertown, Pennsylvania, daughter of the late Elmer and Mae (Martin) Lilly, and graduated from Allentown High School, Muhlenberg College, and Andover College, earning both Associate's and Bachelor's degrees. She lived in Cumberland Foreside, Maine, for most of her life and moved to Webster in 2023.

Charlotte was a lifelong lab technician and previously worked at the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology in Shrewsbury, MA, and Maine Medical Center before retiring. She spent two decades in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, helping her sister to raise her three children. She was a member and flutist in her community choir in Maine. She was an independent woman who enjoyed reading and had an extensive collection of owl-related items, as well as anything to do with lighthouses.

Charlotte's family would like to thank the staff at Christopher Heights for their wonderful care over the past three years, and especially thank her private aides, Margaret Mutahi, Magdalene Mbogori, Emma Maina, Teresa Berry, and Margaret Nganju, for their dedication to Charlotte during the past year.

A burial will be held privately at the family's convenience.

In lieu of flowers, you may make memorial contributions to The National Multiple Sclerosis Society or a nonprofit of your choice.

Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

Maureen Marie Gagnon, 68



WEBSTER – Maureen Marie (Leahey) Gagnon, 68, of Genevieve Lane, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Monday, October 26, 2026, at Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge. She is survived by her husband of 43 years, Richard Gagnon; her son, Alan J. Gagnon of Webster; her daughter, Caitlyn M. Sa and her husband Wladson of Webster; and four grandchildren, Allyson, Chloe, Hailey, and Maddox. She was predeceased by her sister, Mary Leahy-Lasky.

Mrs. Gagnon was born in Worcester, daughter of the late John E. and Josephine (Barry) Leahey and graduated from Marion High School in 1976. She also attended the School of Nursing at Memorial Hospital, where she became a Registered Nurse in 1979. She lived in Webster for over thirty years and worked for Dudley-Charlton Regional School District as a school nurse at Mason Road and Dudley Elementary before her retirement in 2019.

Maureen served as a nurse and was on the Board at ARCHway Inc. in Leicester. She was an avid traveler, who enjoyed trips to London, Paris, Alaska, and most importantly, Magic Kingdon at Disney World. She loved the outdoors and was an avid cold weather hiker and mountain climber. Maureen was a wonderful person, who adored her many cousins. Above all, her four grandchildren meant everything to her, and always had a special place in her heart.

A funeral Mass was held at 10 a.m. on Monday, November 2, 2026, at St. Louis Church, 15 Lake St., Webster. Burial followed at Worcester County Memorial Park in Paxton. Calling hours were held on Sunday, November 1, 2026, from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism, 42 Felton Street 3R, Waltham, MA 02453 or to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 7023, Merrifield, VA 22116-7023.

Constance May Thomas, 85



Quinebaug- It is with heavy hearts and profound sadness, that we announce the unexpected passing of Constance May Thomas, age 85, of Quinebaug, Connecticut, on October 23, 2026, at Umass Memorial Medical Center. Connie was born on September 27, 1941 in Troy, Vermont, to her loving parents Wilfred and Katherine (Breault) Boudreau.

Connie was a loving daughter, wife, a devoted and caring mother, treasured grandmother and great-grandmother. She leaves behind two children, Douglas K. Baird and his wife Amy of Bradenton Florida., Diana J. Fishwick and her husband Thomas of Dudley Massachusetts.

She also leaves behind four cherished grandchildren, Kelsey Ryan and her husband Nick, Jacob Baird and his wife Jennifer of Bradenton Florida, Tommy Fishwick of Auburn, Massachusetts, and Kyle Fishwick and his wife Patricia of Millbury Massachusetts. She was also blessed with eight adored great-grandchildren, Finley, Eden, Monica, Hadley, Colson, Lillian, Lorelei and Lenora. Several loved nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 35 years, Robert Thomas, and her two siblings Richard and Judy Boudreau. Connie grew up in South Portland and Westbrook Maine, where she graduated from High School. Later moving to Webster, Massachusetts where she graduated from Quinsigamond Community College (QCC), and raised her family.

Connie was employed by the Webster School District for 34 years, retiring from the Superintendent's office, as a bookkeeper/secretary in 2002. She was known for her pleasant smile, affable demeanor, and readiness to lend a helping hand to anyone who needed it.

Connie was a truly special woman, whose life was defined by love, kindness, compassion and selflessness. She is our angel. Her greatest joy was her family. She was devoted and supportive, and always put her family and others first. She cared for her family in every way she could. Her heart was always willing to give, and her words offered encouragement when it was needed most. She gave without expecting anything in return and loved unconditionally.

After retiring, Connie enjoyed part-time employment at Park and Shop, where she especially loved seeing and visiting with people from the community. The friendships and connections she made there brought her great joy and gave her another opportunity to share her warm smile and caring nature with others.

Her life was a blessing, her love was a treasure, and her loss is immeasurable. She will be greatly missed! She leaves behind a legacy of love, family and her faith in God. Her love can never be replaced and her memories will be treasured forever. May she rest peacefully reunited in eternity with those she loved so dearly. All are invited to Connie's Mass of Christian Burial Thursday Nov.5th at 11 AM in St. Stephens Church 130 Old Turnpike Rd. Quinebaug, CT .Burial will follow St. Joseph garden of peace in Webster. Bartel Funeral Home 33 Schofield Ave. Dudley is directing arrangements. www.bartelfuneralhome.com

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

Dad, thanks for keeping me safe. Love, LH



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Gladys E. Kelly Public Library

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

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!

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

Special Events

Tiny Art Show – Starting November 2nd

Calling all art lovers! The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library is hosting a Tiny Art Show, showcasing miniature pieces of art from our community. All creators are invited to participate -- no matter their age or skill level! Starting Monday, November 2nd, pick up your 3 in. x 3 in. canvas from the main Circulation Desk or the Children's Desk. All mediums are strongly encouraged! For example, if you want to submit a 3 in. x 3 in. photograph or a 3 in. sculpture that is welcome. Keep an eye on our calendar for some fun drop-in events to complete your submissions with us! Important Dates: Canvas Pick Up: November 2nd-21st Art Submission Deadline: Tuesday, November 24th! Please be sure to complete the submission form with your artwork. Artwork on display: All of December

Adult Programming

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

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

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

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

Yoga – Saturdays at 9:15am

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

Drop-in Mahjong – Mondays 1:00-3:00PM

Stop in for a weekly mahjong game at the Gladys E. Kelly Library. All skill levels welcome! Mahjong is a tile-based game for two to four players.

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

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

Registration through Adult Basic Education is required.

Greetings from Breeds Hill…and Other Stories of Fact & Folklore for the 250th – Thursday, November 5th 6:30-7:30PM

As America commemorates and celebrates its 250th Anniversary, Ted Reinstein looks back. Way back. Even years before independence was actually achieved, events took place that would shape how the new nation would look back at its founding. Paul Revere's ride? One of the most momentous nights in U.S. history. And, like any big night, there was a bill. And America's first expense report. Who knew? (The first bean counters even tried to stiff Revere!) While many New Englanders pride themselves on knowing the difference between Bunker and Breed's Hill, few know that the bad blood over this historical inaccuracy continues—meet Jed Breed, thirteenth-generation direct descendant of the Boston farmer whose name should be in the history books, not an answer in "Trivial Pursuit." Find out why Concord and Lexington are still doing battle—not with the British, but each other. Visit historic Copp's Hill Burying Ground, and find

Business Growth Marketing Program – November 7th, 14th, December 5th, 12th, January 9th and 16th

The Nest Small Business Growth Marketing Program is a three-month practical training program designed to help local small-business owners develop a repeatable system for attracting new customers, converting prospects, increasing repeat business, and generating referrals.

This program consists of six sessions held the first two weeks of November, December, and January.

Registration is for all 6 sessions. Please plan to attend every session if you register!

Urumqi Road Film Screening presented by Amnesty International Local Group 356 – Tuesday, Nov 10th 6-7:45PM

This film covers the 2022 protests in China against zero-Covid lockdowns documented by Chen PinLin, who is currently being detained by the Chinese government. Amnesty International has adopted his case as a human rights defender on the grounds of censorship and freedom of expression. Following the film, there will be time for discussion and Q&A with Suzanne E. Wright, China Coordination Group Chair, as well as other members of the local Amnesty group. AI Group #356 meets monthly at Booklovers' Gourmet in Webster. For more information, call 508-949-6232.

Cat Moon Shadow Concert – Thursday, November 12th 6:30-7:30PM

This is a heartfelt tribute to the iconic singer-songwriter Cat Stevens and is presented in an intimate, acoustic, singer-songwriter style. John expertly connects with his audience, creating a musical journey through the timeless songs of Stevens. His voice is strikingly reminiscent of Cat in his prime and Fuzek pours raw emotion into each performance. The show, which includes a mix of beloved hits and hidden gems, lasts approximately two hours, offering an unforgettable experience of music and stories that pays tribute to the soul-stirring music of this legendary artist. The songs of Cat Stevens are beloved-"Wild World", "Father & Son", "Peace Train", and of course, "Moonshadow". Stevens was a superstar in the heyday of 1970's singer-songwriters and his music was omnipresent. His songs can still be heard on the radio, in films, and occasionally performed by Cat himself at a rare performance. Unfortunately Cat Stevens canceled his October 2025 tour of the United States and there are currently no plans to reschedule. This leaves Cat Stevens fans wanting to hear his music performed, live. Fuzek entertains his audience with an array of music spanning the 1960s through 1970s albums as well as background about the songs and Cat Stevens.

Programming for All Ages

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

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

Children's and Young Adult Programming

NEW Toddler Storytime – Mondays, 10:30am

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

Creators Club – Mondays at 4:00pm

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

Tiny Groovers –Tuesdays at 10:30am

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

Blooming Book Collage for Tweens – Monday, November 2nd 5:30-6:30PM

Create a personalized collage inspired by what grows when you open a book. With colorful patterns, illustrations, die cuts, and stickers, Lián from Craftlab Westboro will share simple collage techniques to create vibrant, layered artwork. No experience needed. All materials included.

All projects made can be entered into our Tiny Art Show.

Tween Game Night – Twice a month starting Tuesday, November 3rd 5:30-6:30PM

Welcome to our brand-new Tween Game Night, happening twice a month for kids 7-12. Each session will offer a different type of game:

Board Game Night: Learn a new board game or bring your friends along to play some games together. Caregivers are encouraged to participate in the fun!

Video Game Night: Challenge your friends to some friendly competition! Every month will feature a different multiplayer game including Mario Kart, Nintendo Sports, Just Dance, Overcooked, Super Smash Bros and more!

Due to limited space, registration is required.

Tween Game Night: Mario Kart – Thursday, November 3rd 5:30-6:30PM

Welcome to our brand-new Tween Game Night, happening twice a month for kids 7-12. Each session will offer a different type of game:

Board Game Night: Learn a new board game or bring your friends along to play some games together. Caregivers are encouraged to participate in the fun!

Video Game Night: Challenge your friends to some friendly competition! Every month will feature a different multiplayer game including Mario Kart, Nintendo Sports, Just Dance, Overcooked, Super Smash Bros and more!

Due to limited space, registration is required.

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(508) 987-6000
Laura Wilson, Director

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Email: seniorcenter@oxfordma.us
Web site: www.oxfordma.us
Facebook: Oxford, MA Senior Center
Monthly CHATTER Newsletter www.oxfordma.us

The senior center will be closed on November 4, 11, 26th & 27th

Weekly Activities:

Mondays and Fridays @ 10:00 am – Cribbage

Tuesdays @ 9:15am – 10:00 am Strength & Balance w/ Donna Freeland – Cost $3.00 per class

Wednesdays @ 9:15am – 10:15 am Chair Yoga w/ Heidi Gambaccini – Cost $3.00 per class

Tuesdays @ 10:15 am - Needleworkers (Knitting, Crocheting, Needlepoint)

Bring your favorite project and come join the group for conversation and laughs.

Wednesdays @ 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm Chair Volleyball – Lots of laughs and only two rules (1) stay seated (2) have fun!

Thursdays @ 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Dominoes

Monthly Activities:

Let's Talk Oxford History – 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 1pm - Sponsored by the Oxford Historical Commission

Men's Coffee Group – 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 10:30am – coffee and pastry are served.

Book Club – 1st Friday of each month @ 12:45pm – reserve your book from the Oxford Public Library

Movie Matinee – 2nd Friday of each month @12:45pm – November movie is "Instant Family"

Senior Safety with Oxford Fire/EMS - 3rd Friday of the month @ 12:30pm

BEANO – 4th Friday of each month @ 12:45pm – arrive by 12:30pm to purchase BEANO Sheets.

NO BEANO in November

FREE Presentations:

Medicare Open Enrollment/Preparing for 2027:

Thursday, November 5th @ 10:00AM ~ Kaye Peltier of North Star Medicare Advisors

Thursday, November 19th @ 1PM ~ Cindy Nagle, certified SHINE counselor

Tuesday, December 1st @ 12:30PM~ Kaye Peltier of North Star Medicare Advisors

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.

THE SENIOR CENTER WILL BE CLOSED ON 11/11 FOR VETERAN'S DAY

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, 11/10: Shepherd's pie, carrots, and green beans. Thursday, 11/12: Meatloaf with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, and chuckwagon corn. Friday, 11/13: Soup du jour, cranberry chicken salad sandwiches, and pasta salad.

Need Transportation? Contact SCM Elderbus at 508-248-4299 at least two business days in advance to schedule transportation. Elderbus is available Mondays- Fridays 8:30 am- 3:00 pm.

Join us for our Friendsgiving celebration on Monday, November 16th! Enjoy live music, your favorite friends, and a Pasta Bar sponsored by Tri-Valley for $3!

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

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

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

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

We offer Movies every Wednesday afternoon at 1:00 pm! November's last movie will 'Nobody's Fool' on 11/18!

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.

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

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

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

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

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

Please inform Auburn Historical Society of any donations

AUBURN — The mission of the Auburn Historical Society is to preserve and share the history of our town and surrounding area. Through the collection, preservation, and exhibition of historical materials, artifacts, and stories, we strive to engage the community and promote a deeper appreciation of our local history for current and future generations.

Recently, the Auburn Historical Society and Museum received an anonymous donation of a large vintage topographical map book which was left at the museum's door in a plastic bag. The museum appreciates any and all donations that help preserve the past, especially Auburns. As the museum is only open on Tuesday and Saturday mornings, this donation may not have been discovered before the predicted rain that came later on in the week. There is a phone number on the door that donors can call and leave a message that a donation has been left at the museum, whether you wish to remain anonymous or not.

www.StonebridgePress.com

Girl Scout troops welcome new members

AUBURN — Girls entering grades K and 1 in the fall are invited to join Troop 65600, which meets in Auburn every other Tuesday 5:30-6:30 p.m., and Troop 655999, which meets every other Thursday in Dudley from 6-7:15 p.m. Girl membership registration fee is $111, and is active until September 30, 2027. Financial Assistance is available.

Girl Scouts is the premier organization for girls to learn about leadership, financial literacy, life skills, the outdoors, community service, science and technology.

Girl Scout programming is customizable for all types of learners!

Previous Girl Scout experience is not necessary.

You can register for a spot in the troop at https://go.gscwm.org/troop65600

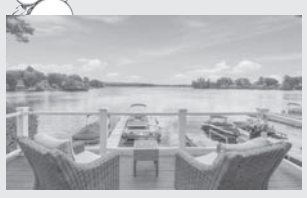
Questions? Email info@gscwm.org or call 508-365-0115.

About Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts serves nearly 6,000 girls in grades K through 12 with the strong support of over 2,500 adult volunteers in 186 towns and cities in central and western Massachusetts. The Girl Scout program allows girls to discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together while building their personal leadership qualities. GSCWM supports girls by giving them extraordinary opportunities to explore, experience, and learn about their world and helps girls recognize that they are vital members of their communities.

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Webster Lake ~ 93 Birch Island Rd

Expansive water views! Beautiful, completely remodeled home on scenic Webster Lake! Combines effortless modern luxury with lakefront living. It boasts a spacious, sunny open-concept layout, designed for both relaxation & entertaining! Swim off your private dock, warm up in your personal sauna, share stories around the firepit on chilly nights ~ everyday feels like a vacation!
MLS# 73589032 $1,199,000

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

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


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

24 Laurelwood Dr Webster Lake Waterfront

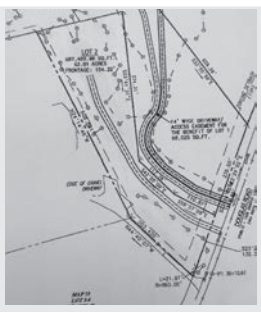

On the shores of prestigious Webster Lake! Experience ultra-luxury lakefront living with direct water access. This young modern craftsman lake home is masterly designed to maximize panoramic Western views through a two-story architectural tower. The home boasts 3,790 +/- square feet of sophisticated, three-story living space, complete with multilevel waterside decks, a radius stone faced patio, and a tiered landscape with its own waterfall. The living room flows seamlessly onto an expansive open deck and into an exquisite sun-drenched sitting room. A magnificent primary bedroom suite offers a private full bath, double sink vanity, walk-in closet and dressing room. The purposely designed lower level delivers effortless, large-volume entertainment, featuring a full second kitchen and a sprawling recreation room that opens to a substantial lakeside patio. With 2 additional bedrooms and bath, this level easily serves as a private guest floor. This Lake property is designed to create long-lasting memories!
MLS#73563787 $1,750,000

Webster ~ 33 Slater Street


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

Thompson CT ~ 303 Riverside Dr


Country Cape Style Home set back about 120' from the road! 4 bedrooms, 1600 sq ft of living area. 2 story barn. 4 Acres surrounded by wide field stone walls.
MLS# 24196428 $415,000.


Webster - Douglas Rd (Rt 16) ANR Lot # 2
Building Lot, 2.01 +/- acres, 154' road frontage, Surveyed and portioned out of a larger tract of land, Zoned ASFR (Agricultural Single Family Residential) Located near State Land
~ A Great Value at $69,900.

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg


Webster Lake Waterfront
22 Union Point
Snug Harbor Villa
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Presenting a distinguished condo residence that will provide an exceptional waterfront lifestyle! Offers an expansive 4600 sf+/ featuring 4BRs, 4-1/2 baths, 3 frplcs & more, all designed for relaxation & convenience! Nothing quite compares! Priced to Sell.
VIEW REALTOR MLS # 73507605 FOR MORE DETAILS $948,000

Webster Lake ~
60 Wakefield Ave ~ Corner Lot!
Rare Lake Residential Building Opportunity! 1 of 2 build-ready level, landscaped lots ~ each with 1/3 ownership of a private, prime waterfront lot, swimmable & boatable, where you will enjoy a sun drenched sandy shoreline & boat dock ~ just baby steps away from your NEW home! You will have direct lake access, low off-Lake taxes, access to municipal water/sewer services and an established neighborhood. Build now or build later BUT enjoy Webster Lake IMMEDIATELY!

Go To MLS # 73582966 $277,500.

Webster Lake ~0 Wakefield Ave

Rare Lake Residential Building Opportunity! 1 of 2 build-ready level, landscaped lots ~ each with 1/3 ownership of a private, prime waterfront lot, swimmable & boatable, where you will enjoy a sun drenched sandy shoreline & boat dock ~ just baby steps away from your NEW HOME! You will have direct lake access, low off-Lake taxes, access to municipal water/sewer services and an established neighborhood. Build now or build later BUT enjoy Webster Lake IMMEDIATELY!
Go To MLS # 73582967 $247,500


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SUTTON- SPACIOUS COLONIAL

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*First Floor Family Room
*Fireplace
9 Colonial Rd $535,000

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*Potential for Business Use
92 Worcester Road $499,000




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First Congregational Church of Oxford to host annual Christmas Tea and Gift Shop Dec. 5

OXFORD — The First Congregational Church of Oxford will welcome the holiday season with its annual Christmas Tea and Gift Shop on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., continuing a cherished tradition that has brought people together for more than 25 years.

The annual event offers visitors an opportunity to enjoy a traditional holiday tea, complete with fine China, a selection of premium loose-leaf teas and an assortment of homemade foods.

Organizers take pride in providing an authentic tea experience, serving selections purchased from Asiago Teas. Unlike traditional tea bags, loose-leaf tea allows guests to experience the flavors and aromas of carefully selected tea leaves.

Each serving is presented in a China teapot and poured into a China teacup, adding an elegant touch to the holiday gathering.

In addition to the tea selections, guests can enjoy a variety of homemade soups, sandwiches and desserts prepared for the occasion.

Several dining options will be available, with prices ranging from $6 for tea and dessert to $18 for a complete meal featuring soup, a sandwich, dessert and tea.

The Christmas Tea has been a longstanding holiday tradition at the church, offering an opportunity for friends, families and neighbors to gather during the busy Christmas season.

The event also includes a gift shop, providing visitors with an opportunity to browse while enjoying the festive occasion.

November 2026 interpretive programs at Blackstone River Greenway Visitor Center at Worcester

WORCESTER — All programs are free and open to the public. Registration is not required. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear. Meet at the Visitor Center unless otherwise stated. Programming is subject to change or cancellation. For the most up to date programming information, call (508) 373-7056. Reasonable accommodations available upon advance notice. To make a request, please contact Moneesha Dasgupta at (617) 645-0358 or moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov. The Blackstone River Greenway Visitor Center at Worcester is located at 3 Paul Clancy Way, Worcester MA 01607.

Visitor Center Exhibit Tour

Saturdays, 11 – 11:30 a.m.

Join us on a tour of the Heritage Center's exhibit hall! Learn how the Blackstone Canal helped transform Worcester from a sleepy county seat to a thriving industrial city and hub for immigration and innovation. Appropriate for ages 6 and up.

Mill to Meadow

Saturdays, Nov. 7 & 21, 2 – 3 p.m.

The land on which the Visitor Center stands was once the largest factory complex in Worcester — and now not a single building remains! In this short walk, find out about "brownfield" reclamation on site and how it fits into the Blackstone Valley's environmental renaissance. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. About ¼ mile over paved surfaces.

Woodlands and Waterways

Saturday, Nov. 14, 2 – 3 p.m.

Walk along the banks of the Blackstone River and learn about the life that it supports. We'll look for signs of wildlife as we discuss the ways we can keep our watershed clean! Appropriate for ages 12 and up. The walk is roughly one mile over a paved surface with slight inclines. Meet 205 North Main Street, Millbury. Bathrooms and water are not available at this site.





QCC receives nearly $2 million to support parenting students and their children

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College was recently awarded a Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program (CCAMPIS) grant of more than $1.9 million. The College will use the grant to fund its Parent Success at QCC (PSQ) program, which will provide access to childcare for eligible students.

"At QCC, over 30 percent of students are parents, many of whom work full-time and part-time jobs," QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja said. "Due to the high cost of living and low availability of childcare, these students are often in the difficult position of missing classes to take care of family responsibilities. The PSQ program will help alleviate this challenge for many parents by providing childcare assistance and support services, enabling them to remain enrolled, complete their studies, and graduate. In turn, they will be better positioned to advance their careers, improve their families' quality of life, and contribute meaningfully to their communities."

PSQ is a collaborative initiative that brings together many areas of QCC such as Parenting Student Support Services, The Children's School: Early Childhood Education Lab School, and various other departments of the college. The program will also work with licensed childcare providers in the community to subsidize care for eligible students.

"Having to be in two places at the same time has been difficult," a recently surveyed QCC student said. "…I have to drop my child off at school and be at clinical during my nursing rotation at nearly the same time."

Associate Director of Parenting Student Support Michelle Brennan has seen studies showing that more than 50 percent of student parents who don't receive proper support end up leaving school without a degree. However, at QCC, 80 percent of students Brennan has supported have continued their education.

"Our goal is to empower these students who are working incredibly hard to improve the lives of their families," Brennan said. "We've seen that quality childcare and education promote upward mobility and increased earnings for parents, and eventually for their children as well. "

The PSQ program will utilize a case management approach to connect students with community resources, build peer support networks, and provide workshops covering topics such as child development and time management.

According to Brennan, services will be integrated to benefit the entire family. She described the "whole-family" model used in education and social services, which offers support to both parents and children to foster educational success and financial security.

"When we run a workshop on a topic such as financial literacy, children will have a parallel activity and then come back together for a family conversation on the topic. We're helping them build the skills to plan for their families together," Brennan said.

Brennan also noted that funding the PSQ program through CCAMPIS will help fill in the gaps that are often present between the K-12 and higher education schedules.

"Finding childcare when QCC is in session and my daughter does not have school is super hard, whether that be school vacations, professional development days, or snow days. I have missed several days of school as a result," said another QCC student.

The four-year CCAMPIS grant is issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (HHS/ACF) on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education (ED).



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