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Friday, August 14, 2026

Historic infant formula donation distributed to local nonprofits

WHITIN COMMUNITY CENTER AMONG RECIPIENTS

REGION — In July, Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis, the Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff's Association (WCRDSA), the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, and Ocean State Job Lot (OSJL) distributed a historic \$250,000 worth of infant formula to food pantries, women's shelters, and nonprofit organizations serving families throughout Worcester County, including the Whiting Community Center in Northbridge.

The donation was made possible through the Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation's "Buy, Give, Get" Baby Formula Program, launched in June 2026. Through the initiative, customers made a \$20 donation at checkout, Ocean State Job Lot provided premium Kabrita goat milk formula to its charitable partners, and participating customers received a \$20 Crazy Deal® Gift Card for a future purchase. Ocean State Job Lot then worked with regional partners, including the WCRDSA, to distribute the formula to local organizations serving



Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis, Uxbridge Police Chief Marc Montminy, State Representatives Michael Soter and Joe McKenna, and volunteers from the Whiting Community Center gather around a donated pallet of infant formula that will be distributed to families and organizations served by the Blackstone Valley Essential Needs Network.

families in need.

The WCRDSA and Sheriff's Office received nearly 10,000 cans, or the equivalent of 440,000 bottles, of infant formula through the initiative, marking the largest in-kind donation ever received by the Association.

A large-scale distribution was held on Tuesday, July 28, at the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction. Participating

organizations included Worcester Housing Authority, Catholic Charities Worcester, Yes We Care, El Buen Samaritano, Friendly House, Everyday Miracles Peer Recovery Center, Pernet Family Health Service, Project New Hope, and Safe Exit Initiative.

Addressing representatives from the participating nonprofit organizations, El Buen Samaritano (EBS)

Director Mari Gonzalez emphasized the importance of a community working together, "Partnerships with the Sheriff, Ocean State Job Lot, all of us here, this is what it takes. It takes all of us coming together to make our community better. We are here for our community members, and mothers in need, and that is what it is all about."

"We've got partners who are coming togeth-

er to do something at the behest of this organization (WCRDSA)," said David Sarlitto, Vice President of Corporate Giving at OSJL & Executive Director of the OSJL Charitable Foundation. "These organizations are enabling us to do something, as a company and as our customers wanted to do. We need community partners to get these into the hands of those who need the for-

mula, and the WCRDSA brought us that."

Additional donations were distributed directly to smaller nonprofit organizations and community refrigerators throughout Worcester County, including Blackstone Valley Essential Needs Network, Blackstone's Divine Mercy Food Pantry, Fitchburg Community Justice Support Center, Superior Waste's Community Fridge, Webster Regional Reentry Center, Gardner CAC, Rutland's Saint Patrick's Parish, Clinton's WHEAT Community Cupboard, Southbridge's Bridge of Faith Youth Center, and many others.

"We've built a tremendous partnership with Ocean State Job Lot over the years," said Sheriff Evangelidis. "It started with our annual winter coat drive and evolved to include a food drive, toy drive, back-to-school supply drive, and now this. Ocean State's support enables organizations like the WCRDSA to deliver critical resources to local nonprofits that work directly with families that are most in need."

Cornhole tournament fundraiser to be held in Whitinsville

WHITINSVILLE — Grab a teammate and join Open Sky Community Services for an afternoon of friendly competition, live music, great food, and community spirit at the 12th Annual Valley Bag Toss Saturday, Sept. 19 at the historic Alternatives' Whiting Mill in Whitinsville.

This inclusive cornhole tournament welcomes players of all abilities, ages 14 and older, and has become a favorite annual tradition in the Blackstone Valley. Whether you're competing for the championship or cheering from

the sidelines, the Valley Bag Toss offers a fun way to connect with friends, family, and neighbors while supporting a meaningful cause.

Proceeds from the event benefit Open Sky Community Services' health and wellness programs, helping nearly 8,000 individuals and families throughout Central Massachusetts build meaningful lives and pursue their goals.

The tournament will take place from noon to 5 p.m. at 50 Douglas Rd., Whitinsville. Team registration is limited, and

advance registration is required.

Throughout the afternoon, guests can enjoy live music from Smooth & Company, delicious food available for purchase from Kith 'n Kin, a cash bar, and a raffle featuring a variety of exciting prizes.

The tournament also features custom handcrafted cornhole boards created by local artist, designer, and woodworker Nick Hollibaugh. The winning team will take home a one-of-a-kind set of boards, with additional prizes awarded to the first and second runners-up, as well

as for Best Team Name, Best Team Spirit, and Best Team Costume.

Founded by long-time volunteer and supporter Molly Hollibaugh, the Valley Bag Toss was created to bring people of all abilities together for a day of fun, connection, and inclusion. Now in its twelfth year, the event continues to grow, welcoming returning teams and first-time participants alike.

Community members are encouraged to attend even if they aren't playing. Spectators are welcome to enjoy the music, food,

Shawna Foundation's Shivering Mouse Poetry Salon begins!

UXBRIDGE — The Shawna Foundation's poetry program returns with a new look, the Shivering Mouse Poetry Salon which will take place on the second Tuesday of the Month at the home of our new host, Art Dubois.

Salons began in the Middle East in the 7th Century with a rich history, that became immortalized by Gertrude Stein hosting salons in her Paris apartment in the 1900s where she gathered modernist poets and painters to reinvent avant-garde writing.

No matter when or where, these gatherings often consciously followed Horace's definition of the aims of poetry, "either to please or to educate" and we are no different.

Host Art Dubois has been writing poetry for most of his life and recently recommitted himself to the art form with his first publication, "Desperate Souls, Hopeful Hearts," a



Sweet treats, fresh finds, and great company make for a perfect summer outing

NORTHBRIDGE — The Northbridge Senior Center recently enjoyed a delightful summer outing to West End Creamery and Foppema's Farm Stand, where participants spent the afternoon soaking up the sunshine, enjoying local flavors, and making wonderful memories together.

The trip began with a visit to West End Creamery, where everyone cooled off with delicious ice cream and took time to relax, chat, and enjoy the beautiful summer scenery. The group then stopped at Foppema's

Farm Stand to browse a colorful selection of fresh fruits, vegetables, baked goods, and other local favorites.

The outing was filled with laughter, friendly conversation, and plenty of smiles as participants enjoyed spending time together while supporting local businesses. These trips provided more than just a change of scenery—they offer opportunities to socialize, stay active, and experience the many attractions our community has to offer.

The Northbridge Senior

Center extends its thanks to everyone who joined the outing and helped make the afternoon such a success. Special appreciation goes to West End Creamery and Foppema's Farm Stand for their warm hospitality. Stay tuned for more upcoming adventures!

For more information about the Northbridge Senior Center or its special programs, events and activities, please call Amy Cowen, program and volunteer coordinator, at (508) 234-2002.

Uxbridge Elderly Connection plans 20th annual golf outing

UXBRIDGE — A good idea became a great idea when, 20 years ago, the Uxbridge Elderly Connection planned its First Annual Golf Outing in 2006. This year they will be celebrating with a 20th Anniversary event on Monday, Sept. 21, at the Whitinsville Golf Club in Whitinsville, Mass. The very special golf outing fundraiser, which benefits the Uxbridge Senior Center, will begin at Noon with a shotgun start for golfers at one of the top-ranked, nine-hole golf courses in the world.

Teams of four may sign up to play for \$125 per golfer for nine holes including golf cart and buffet supper. Only eighteen teams may play so early registration is essential. Special events will include two closest to the pin prizes, longest drive, team prizes and more. The team of Mark Wickstrom, Mary Pat Wickstrom, Dan Moors and Michael Horan, last year's first place winners, are the team to beat in 2026.

Sponsorships offer a way to show support for our senior communi-



ty. A Platinum Sponsor of \$2500 includes a tee sign, sponsorship display board, four golfers with golf cart and dinner with highest recognition on all materials, website and social media. The Gold Tee-Shirt Sponsor of \$2,000 will provide your company name on all golf shirts, the sponsorship display board, and recognition on the website and social media. The Silver Golf Ball Sponsor for \$1,500 provides your company name

on tournament golf balls distributed to every player, recognition on sponsorship display board, website and social media. A mainstay of the Uxbridge Elderly Connection Golf Outing has always been the community business support in the form of tee signs. The Bronze Tee Sign Sponsor for \$150 provides a tee sign prominently displayed at the practice green at the start of the golf outing. To respond to any of these offers, email uxbridgeel-

derlyconnection@gmail.com, or call the Uxbridge Senior Center at 508-278-8622 for more information. Golfers and sponsors may locate a registration form on the Uxbridge Senior Center Facebook Page or at the senior center and pay online with QR code provided or make a check payable to the Uxbridge Elderly Connection, P.O. Box 215, Uxbridge, MA 01569.

Local businesses and community members have been consistently supportive over the twenty years of the golf outing by purchasing tee signs, making donations or providing gift baskets. Silent and live auction items donated have

proved a fun and profitable addition. Make your contribution by contacting the Uxbridge Elderly Connection, P.O. Box 215, Uxbridge, MA 01569 or call 508 278-8622.

The Uxbridge Elderly Connection, Inc., is a non-profit organization and donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law. The Board of Directors includes Russ Rosborough, President; Phyllis Dunn, Vice President; Marianne Shanley, Treasurer; Cathy Thornton, Secretary; Donna Oncay, Karen Sherlock, Sharon Emerick, Karen Beane and Harriet Platt. Its mission is to support the Uxbridge Senior Center and to help fulfill some of its needs, and the needs of seniors, such as facility improvement, education, nutrition, medical transportation, and socialization not provided by its municipal budget.

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

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

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

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

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

We are also calling on community members to join us as volunteers for this summer event. Volunteers will not only enjoy complimentary refreshments and a free t-shirt, but also the satisfaction of contributing to their community. Opportunities include coordina-

Silver Club announces trip to Virginia Beach

UXBRIDGE — The Silver Club of the Uxbridge Senior Center will be taking a trip to Virginia Beach from Sept. 28 to Oct. 3.

For \$819, it includes the bus, the hotel, 5 breakfasts, 3 dinners, a guided tour of Williamsburg, a narrated Norfolk Naval Base Harbor Cruise, admission to the Nauticus and Battleship Wisconsin, the boardwalk, Virginia Beach Aquarium, and the Mariner's Museum and Park.

Everyone is invited to join the group on this tour. Please call Sue at 508-341-0797 for more information.

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Janelis
Age 16
Registration #9463

Janelis is a gregarious, independent, and outgoing young woman who brings a lot of energy and enthusiasm wherever she goes. She enjoys expressing herself through singing and loves spending time outside exploring and enjoying new experiences. Janelis has a strong love for reading, especially comic books, with Smile being one of her favorites. She enjoys getting lost in a good story and discovering new characters and adventures. Janelis is also a big fan of trying new foods and exploring different cuisines. Some of her favorite meals include Spanish foods and Chick-fil-A. She enjoys discovering new flavors and appreciates the experience of sharing meals with others. Janelis is excited about the future and looks forward to gaining more independence. She hopes to get her first job and earn her driver's permit soon, taking important steps toward reaching her personal goals. With her curiosity, confidence, and positive spirit, Janelis continues to embrace new opportunities and experiences.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/54477717817>

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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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EDITORIAL

Meeting a basic need through community partnerships

There are some charitable efforts whose importance can be understood without much explanation. Getting infant formula to a family that needs it is one of them.

That is what makes the recent distribution of \$250,000 worth of infant formula across Worcester County particularly noteworthy. The effort brought together the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office, Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff’s Association and Ocean State Job Lot, with the formula ultimately reaching organizations that work directly with families, including the Whittin Community Center in Northbridge.

Nearly 10,000 cans of formula, equivalent to an estimated 440,000 bottles, were provided through the initiative. It was the largest in-kind donation ever received by the Reserve Deputy Sheriff’s Association. Those are impressive numbers, but the value of this effort is better understood on a much smaller scale.

Think about the parent standing in a pantry or community center who needs formula for a baby and discovers that someone has made sure it is there. Think about the relief that can provide to a household already balancing groceries, rent, utilities, transportation and all of the other expenses that accompany raising a family.

Infant formula is not something a family can easily decide to go without. When a child depends on formula, it is a necessity, and an expensive one. That is why the distribution network behind this donation matters as much as the donation itself.

Large charitable initiatives sometimes encounter a deceptively difficult problem. Having thousands of cans of formula in one place does little good unless there is a reliable way to get them into communities and ultimately into the hands of families who need them.

In this case, that meant working with food pantries, shelters, community organizations and other nonprofits throughout Worcester County. Locally, the inclusion of the Whittin Community Center demonstrates why neighborhood institutions remain so important. They are close enough to the people they serve to understand where needs exist and how resources can best be distributed.

Mari Gonzalez, director of El Buen Samaritano, captured that point well when she told organizations participating in the distribution that improving a community requires everyone to work together. That principle extends well beyond this particular donation.

Government agencies have resources and logistical capabilities. Businesses can contribute products and financial support. Nonprofits have direct relationships with people in need. Individual customers can contribute relatively small amounts that, when combined with thousands of other donations, become something substantial.

None of those pieces necessarily accomplishes enough alone. Put them together, however, and nearly 10,000 cans of infant formula can move from a charitable program into communities across an entire county.

There is another encouraging element to this story. The relationship between Ocean State Job Lot and the Sheriff’s Office did not begin with this formula distribution. According to Sheriff Lew Evangelidis, previous collaborations have included winter coats, food, toys and back-to-school supplies. That kind of continuity matters.

Community assistance is most effective when it is not treated as a single event or publicity opportunity, but as an ongoing relationship in which organizations learn how to work together and build the networks necessary to respond when another need arises.

The formula distribution also offers a reminder that hardship is not confined to distant places or large cities. Families facing difficult choices live in every part of Worcester County, including the Blackstone Valley. Organizations such as the Whittin Community Center and the region’s food pantries see that reality firsthand.

A quarter-million-dollar donation is certainly worth celebrating. But perhaps the more important accomplishment is the network that carried it from donors to families. That network is what turns generosity into something useful. And for a parent trying to provide something as basic as the next bottle for a child, useful is what matters most.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Is our corrupt state government working for you?

To the Editor:

In this, our Semiquincentennial, the 250th anniversary of our Declaration, it is time to lavishly express our patriotic enthusiasm for our nation!

The best nation on earth. The best U.S. Constitution. The most excellent state Constitution, crafted by John Adams. But alarm bells are going off in our state.

According to the U.S. Attorney, who has brought multiple welfare benefit fraud cases in Massachusetts, our state Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell has not brought one criminal fraud case. Not one. What are we paying her for?

Alarm bells! The politicians are voting to cancel the “tax rebate” law. Our tax rebate law requires the state to pay us back when they collect too much in taxes. Now, the Commissars in Boston will vote into law the cancellation of this legal requirement, even though We the People voted for it in 1986.

“Delay. Dilute. Deny,” said the Pioneer Institute. The tax rebate was passed overwhelmingly by the voters. But our one party state doesn’t like the will of the people. We voted in 2024 to audit the Legislature. The Attorney General refuses to enforce the law. Refuses. To enforce. The law. It would hurt politicians.”

Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance said: “When the state collects too much tax payer money, taxpayers should decide how to spend their own money, not politicians.”

Small towns across our state have been struggling financially and many have voted to pass Proposition 2 ½ over-rides, meaning they raise your local taxes. But we wouldn’t need to do that if Healey had not spent nearly \$5 billion on illegals.

If she had not funded “them” instead of us, each town would have received \$15 million in local aid. Enough for schools, roads, and new senior centers. We pay and pay so Comrade Healey can give it to “them”.

Healey gave \$100 million to teachers across the state. Many have been laid off due to falling enrollment. We have lost as much as 50,000 students over recent years. Schools have closed. Mayor Wu laid off 500 teachers and staff in Boston. Now, all the teachers can be re-hired. The teacher-student ratio in Boston schools? Ten to one. Their SAT scores must be soaring. Nope.

Beacon Hill ended local zoning because “they” know better. Little homes allowed on any piece of property despite local zoning. Battery storage on any piece of property, over-riding any

local zoning. No audit of the legislature, though 72 per cent of all counties in 2024 voted for it. When the Millionaire’s tax passed by referendum vote also in 2024, our Attorney General enforced it immediately.

How did U.S. Rep. Ayanna Pressley become wealthy so fast? Ed Markey [50 years in office] is only worth \$2.4 million, unlike Nancy Pelosi, worth \$278 million on insider trading. Ayanna? A mere U.S. Rep from Boston is now worth \$8 million in a single leap: running for office. She owns property on Martha’s Vineyard, in Florida, and in Boston. Wow, it’s a miracle.

Her felon-husband, Conan the Developer, convicted of drug trafficking, got out of prison in 2014. He has been awarded a \$600 million state contract to build a new courthouse in Springfield with his partner, John Barros. The deal includes a \$2 billion dollar 40 year lease to Liberty Junction, a “development partnership” that includes “COJO Partners,” owned by Pressley’s husband Conan and John Barros, interim Executive Director of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority.

A sweet deal for the Democrat Commissars. Conflict of interest? Barros has bowed out. Looks bad. The Capital Asset Management board awards grants for big construction projects like courthouses and also sits on the board of the Convention Center. Does this sound “above board” to you? Losing bidders sued.

Calling Attorney General Campbell! Oh, wait. She’s working from home near the beach in Dartmouth. Does her legal staff even know where she is? At yoga class. Not doing law right now. Wait, there’s more. Ms. Joy just came out and said, this conflict of interest is entirely legal! “The plaintiffs’ lawsuit is a fever dream of imagined malfeasance...to elevate their own private interest.” Who wrote that little piece of fevered prose for our AG? Did you know that Miss Joy and Ayanna Pressley were best-buds on the Boston City Council?

What do you think? A 40-year lease means lots of dough for a long time. Why won’t we own the courthouse? For example, the Uxbridge District Court is owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and not leased from private parties.

Some of our Taxachusetts politicians are evil. Some are lunatics. Some are evil lunatics. Oh, and Communist. Is this working for you, the average person?

BEV GUDANOWSKI
UXBRIDGE

Building your child’s education fund, one brick at a time



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Every solid house starts with a good blueprint and a strong foundation. Saving for a child’s education is very similar.

College costs can seem daunting. In addition to tuition, you’ll need to account for housing and food, books and supplies, transportation and other expenses. The average annual budget at an in-state public university runs around \$30,990 today, and a private school is \$65,470 according to the College Board. While most families won’t pay a college’s list price, you’ll still want to start saving as early as possible to be ready when your child is.

Lay the foundation early. You don’t have to wait until you have the perfect set of plans to start building. There are specific accounts designed to save for education and some do not require a minimum opening deposit. Setting up automatic recurring contributions, even modest ones, lets you build steadily over time without requiring constant attention.

As your child ages, look for ways to redirect expenses you no longer have towards the build. For example, daycare costs, which can exceed \$1,000 a month, can be shifted into a college savings account once your child enters school. Tax refunds and annual bonuses make excellent additional contributions. And others can pitch in – instead of birthday or holiday toys, ask grandparents or relatives to contribute directly to a college savings account.

Know the size of the house you’re building. Families saving for community college followed by two years at a public university might target around \$65,000. Those aiming for four years at a public school are looking at roughly \$100,000. Whatever the goal, plan for education inflation of about 4% annually, which can roughly double costs over 18 years.

You don’t have to source all the building materials yourself. Scholarships, grants, student loans and income from part-time work are all legitimate ways to help finish the structure.

Don’t let one project consume the whole budget. One risk for parents is pouring so much into the college fund that the retirement fund goes neglected. Remember, loans and grants exist for college, but not for retirement. Striking the right balance may mean targeting a more affordable school, planning to cover only a portion of costs or adjusting retirement timelines slightly.

Choose the right building materials. For many families, a 529 plan is the right foundation. Earnings grow tax-free, distributions are federally tax-free when used for qualified education expenses, and many states offer additional income tax deductions for contributions. Even better, anyone – such as grandparents or friends – can contribute.

Additionally, qualified expenses for a 529 plan go beyond tuition and cover books, computers, internet access, room and board, and more. Vocational and trade schools often qualify, too, opening the door to careers in skilled trades, healthcare and technology.

No contractor builds alone. A knowledgeable financial advisor can help you draw up a realistic blueprint and make sure the college project doesn’t crowd out the rest of your financial future. The earlier you break ground on that conversation, the stronger the structure will be.

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

Piece of cake!

To the Editor:

It’s so simple that it’s quite brilliant. It’s actually genius – evil genius - though I’m loathe to admit it. Right-wing conservatives – a.k.a. American fascists – know that when things get really ugly for them – Epstein files/Iran war/mid-term elections – all they have to do is chum the water – throw in a little bigoted social or cultural issue, or already debunked conspiracy theory – and like a school of besotted herring, the great unwashed MAGA base will turn on a dime, ignore their lives disintegrating around them, and chase after the newest red meat. Works every time.

The latest example is the out-of-nowhere re-interrogation of Dr. Fauci, a person so respected in his field that, as director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for 38 years, he served 7 different presidents. President George W. Bush awarded Fauci the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his work in creating the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which has saved an estimated 26 million lives. Trump named Fauci to the President’s Coronavirus Task Force in January 2020, and then awarded a presidential commendation to Fauci “in recognition of [his] exceptional effort on Operation Warp Speed.”

Trump turned on Fauci as he cautioned against Trump’s confident predictions that the disease would disappear quickly. By Feb. 28, Trump insisted that Democrats were “politicizing” COVID, and by April 26, news broke that Trump wanted to sideline Fauci. By the sum-

mer, as Trump’s panic over how the economic crisis caused by the pandemic might hurt his reelection prospects, he turned on Fauci, who continued to support measures to stop the spread of the disease. Trump worked to undermine Fauci’s warnings, saying that the doctors and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention were “lying” about COVID. This was while Trump was admitting to journalist Bob Woodward– on tape – that the coronavirus was airborne (“you just breathe the air and that’s how it’s passed”) and noted that it was “more deadly than even your strenuous flus,” calling it “deadly stuff.” Trump explicitly admitted on tape that he intentionally minimized the severity of the virus in public, stating, “I wanted to always play it down. I still like playing it down, because I don’t want to create a panic”. Instead, he recommended drinking bleach, or shining a light beam where the sun don’t shine. And he, and Fox, and red states were all against wearing a mask and social distancing, even after acknowledging that COVID was an airborne virus! Isn’t that ‘depraved indifference’? By July, he mused about why Fauci had a high approval rating and he didn’t. When Fauci testified to Congress that U.S. cases were spiking while European countries were seeing sharp drops in COVID cases because European countries had shut down 95 percent of their economies while the U.S. had shut down only 50 percent, Trump posted: “Wrong! We have more cases because we have tested far more than any other country...If we tested

LETTER
continued from page A4

less, there would be less cases.” Brilliant. Just brilliant. Trump, by his lying, is responsible for more than 200,000 deaths, yet Rand Paul and Republicans are trying to prosecute an 85 year old hero.

This is where our local heroes, Moe, Larry and Curly, jumped in. Well, Moe and Larry anyways, because I’ll need an English translation of the Scrabble dump by my neighbor Curly. He seems to believe that by throwing a profusion of unrelated words on a page somehow compensates for having a tiny.....intellect. But I’ll reserve further judgement until the Cliff Notes version is published. Bottom line - it was Fauci, in the kitchen, with the knife!

Amazing how quickly Moe and Larry did an about face and jumped on Fauci! Moe even suspended her relentless, mindless crusade against global warming. Larry is insisting that he knows the origin of the coronavirus, which no expert has been able to pinpoint conclusively. But Larry knows that Fauci did something untoward! Dunning Kruger anyone?

Have you noticed that these three MAGA stalwarts never have anything to say about the critical and relevant issues facing Americans - the illegal war with Iran, surging costs, gas prices, corruption in government – funny how DOGE looked everywhere but in the White House - the Epstein blight on America’s soul, the wasteful use of our tax money and a dozen more?

So I don’t overburden the mental capacity of the jubilant Uxbridge ‘see-no-evil’ patriot, I’ll limit the list to just three:

- through four months, the US has spent more than \$103 billion on the Iran War. The figure refers only to direct war costs — the immediate budgetary costs directly tied to the war, including operations, personnel, and matériel. Fourteen Americans have died so far. We have used our missile stockpile to the point where we are weaker and more vulnerable than we have ever been. It will take us four years to replenish our weapons supply to pre-war levels. Before Trump, we had a fully functioning Iranian nuclear treaty. Iran is now attacking our domestic water supply, and will end up with full control of the Strait of Hormuz. Great use of your tax dollars. Winning!
- On May 7, President Donald Trump’s

motorcade drove directly through the drained and newly painted Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool during a site visit to inspect the fresh “American flag blue” coating before refilling the basin with water. Then when the lining came loose, he blamed everyone but himself for ‘vandalism.’ After Jeanine Pirro was forced to admit that the cause was negligence on the part of the installer, Trump still insisted it had to be vandalism, and not his fault for issuing a no-bid contract to a big donor friend.

- in March 2021, Capital One de-banked Trump and his family – they closed 385 Trump family accounts for money-laundering. 385 accounts? Money laundering...you mean all that cash they received to buy Scottish golf courses without any indication where the money came from? And the millions from Russians who bought Trump condos but never lived in them? We elected a money-laundering sexual predator?
- Trump reported 3,600 stock trades in the 1st quarter of 2026. All in companies whose businesses are affected by policy decisions he is making – it’s called insider trading. He allowed Nvidia to sell advanced chips to China after loading up on Nvidia stock. Same with Boeing. Is Trump doing what’s best for America, or for his own financial gain? Then there’s the stock market gyrations when he announces publicly, and to his friends and allies privately, that Iran negotiations are on again, off again. Then off again and on again. He’s made over \$2 billion in just the past year!
- The number of reported U.S. measles cases this year has already surpassed last year’s final total, (from the latest Johns Hopkins University data): 2,295 cases have been reported so far in 2026, a 35-year record. Measles is rebounding in areas with low vaccine coverage, threatening the country’s elimination status. 95% of reported cases are among people who are unvaccinated, or whose vaccination status is unknown. Thank you RFK Jr., and the guy who put you in charge.

Voting rights are being eroded, free speech is under attack, corruption is rampant, Americans are dying, but the local geniuses are attacking an 85-year-old scientist who saved the lives of hundreds of thousands. Only in AmeriKa.

RICK BEVILACQUA
WHITINSVILLE

Local nonprofit leader publishes children’s book to help families discuss homelessness with compassion

WHITINSVILLE — After nearly a decade of helping individuals and families experiencing homelessness throughout the Blackstone Valley, Leslie Reichert, Founder and CEO of the Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter (BVES), has transformed those experiences into a children’s picture book designed to teach empathy, kindness, and hope.

“Hope the Bear Finds Kindness” tells the story of Hope, a gentle bear whose life unexpectedly changes when she loses her home. Through simple acts of kindness from strangers, Hope discovers that even during life’s most difficult moments, compassion can restore dignity, friendship, and hope.

The book was inspired by the countless stories Reichert has witnessed since founding BVES in 2017. During that time, the organization has grown into a regional leader in addressing homelessness through emergency shelter, homelessness navigation, police partnerships, volunteer engagement, and innovative housing initiatives serving communities across the Blackstone Valley.

“Many children notice people experiencing homelessness but don’t understand what they’re seeing,” said Reichert. “I wanted to create a story that helps parents and teachers answer those difficult questions with honesty, while reminding children that every person deserves kindness and compassion.”

Unlike many books that focus primarily on homelessness, “Hope the Bear Finds Kindness” centers on the power of ordinary people to make a difference. The story encourages children to look beyond circumstances and recognize the humanity in every person they meet.

The book is intended for children ages four to eight, and is an ideal resource for families, elementary schools, libraries, churches, and community organizations seeking to foster conversations about empathy, inclusion, and caring for neighbors in need.

Reichert believes children’s literature has a unique ability to shape how future generations see the world.

“When we teach children kindness at an early age, we help build communities where people look out for one another. If this book inspires even one child to treat someone with greater compassion, then it has accomplished exactly what I hoped.”

Proceeds from “Hope the Bear Finds Kindness” support the mission of Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter, helping provide emergency shelter, crisis intervention, homelessness navigation, and housing stabilization services to individuals and families throughout the region.

Since opening its doors, BVES has mobilized hundreds of volunteers and built partnerships with local police departments, faith communities, healthcare providers, businesses, and civic organizations to ensure that no one faces homelessness alone.

Reichert is available for interviews and is also scheduling author visits, school readings, library story hours, church presentations, and community events throughout Massachusetts. The book is a five-star bestseller on Amazon: <https://a.co/d/01UyVDuD>

About Leslie Reichert

Leslie Reichert is the Founder and CEO of Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter, a Massachusetts nonprofit dedicated to helping individuals and families experiencing homelessness move from crisis to hope. Through innovative community partnerships and volunteer engagement, BVES has become a regional model for compassionate, collaborative homelessness response. “Hope the Bear Finds Kindness” is her first children’s book.

About Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter

Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter mobilizes the community to ensure no one faces homelessness alone. Through emergency shelter, the Police Partnership Program, homelessness navigation, volunteer engagement, and Hope Housing, BVES helps individuals and families transition from crisis to stability while restoring dignity, hope, and opportunity.

www.StonebridgePress.com

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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Emily Renee Martinez of Whitinsville earns degree from University of Maryland Global Campus

ADELPHI, Md. — Emily Renee Martinez of Whitinsville earned a Bachelor of Science Cum Laude in Cybersecurity Technology from University of Maryland Global Campus in spring 2026.

Martinez was one of more than 7,300 students worldwide who earned degrees from UMGC in the spring 2026 term.

University of Maryland Global Campus was founded more than 75 years ago specifically to serve the higher education needs of working adults and military servicemembers. Today, UMGC is the largest provider of postsecondary education in Maryland and continues its global tradition with online and hybrid, courses, more than 175 classroom and service locations worldwide, and more than 100 degrees and certificates backed by the reputation of a state university and the University System of Maryland. For more information, visit umgc.edu.

Santa’s Coming to WCC for free holiday event Dec. 12

WHITINSVILLE — The Whitin Community Center (WCC) is excited to welcome families to one of the most heartwarming events of the season, Santa’s Coming to WCC, happening on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the WCC’s Gymnasium, 60 Main St., Whitinsville.

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

Each child will receive a surprise gift from Santa, and parents are encouraged to bring their

cameras to capture these joyful moments.

“This event brings our community together in such a warm and joyful way,” says Ginny Alicea, WCC’s Blackstone Valley Children’s Place Director. “It’s a chance for families to slow down, make memories, and truly enjoy the spirit of the season. We love seeing the smiles on the twinkle in the children’s faces when they meet Santa. This event is a gift to the community, and truly magical, and we’re proud to offer it at no cost to families.”

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

The Whitin Community Center

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

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BVT announces School Lunch Breakfast Programs policy

FAMILIES ENCOURAGED TO CHECK ELIGIBILITY CHART & SUBMIT APPLICATION

UPTON — The Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District (BVT) is pleased to continue offering students one free breakfast and one free lunch each school day, thanks to permanent funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. While meals are provided at no cost, families are still encouraged to complete the Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application on the school website. Doing so helps expand other educational and nutrition initiatives across the district and supports funding for these programs in future years.

You do not need to complete an application to receive free meal benefits if you receive a letter stating that your child is eligible through the direct certification process. Families who qualify

for free or reduced-price meals may also become eligible for SUN Bucks, a program that provides grocery assistance during the summer months when school is not in session. Eligible families may also qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which provides monthly financial assistance for groceries. If you are not currently receiving SNAP benefits but think you may be eligible, contact Project Bread’s FoodSource Hotline at 1-800-645-8333 or apply online through DTA Connect.

To determine whether your household qualifies for free or reduced-price meal benefits, visit the school Web site to view the current federal income eligibility chart, find answers to frequently asked questions, and complete an online application at [\[tech.k12.ma.us/freereducedmeals-faq\]\(http://tech.k12.ma.us/freereducedmeals-faq\).

About Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School \(BVT\)

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the heart of the Blackstone Valley, Blackstone Valley Tech creates a positive learning community that prepares students for personal and professional success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of rigorous vocational, technical, and academic skills.](http://www.valley-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

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Spooktacular family fun returns to WCC with Halloween Roller Skating Costume Party & Haunted Swim!

WHITINSVILLE — The Whitin Community Center (WCC) invites families to join in the Halloween fun on Friday, Oct. 16 for a frightfully festive double-feature of spooky activities, on wheels and in the water!

Now in its 13th year, the Halloween Roller Skating Costume Party rolls into the WCC’s Gymnasium with three skating sessions: 5:30-6:30 p.m., 6:45-7:45 p.m., and 8-9 p.m. Children ages 12 and under are invited to skate with their Halloween Costumes, to some spooky Halloween tunes in our Gymnasium, and each child will receive a goodie bag! This event is always well attended and space is

limited. Concessions will be sold in the Lobby.

At the same time, our Annual Halloween Haunted Swim Party makes waves in the WCC’s Competition Pool with fun inflatables, spooky music, and a hauntingly good time for young swimmers and their families. All ages are invited. Sessions mirror the skating times as: 5:30-6:30 p.m., 6:45-7:45 p.m., and 8-9 p.m. Space is limited.

The cost for all events is \$5 per child, per session. Parents are free. Proceeds benefit the WCC’s Youth Outreach Program & Blackstone Valley Children’s Place Playground Fund.

“These events bring so much joy to our community,” says Jenn Castro, Director of Outreach. “It’s about more than just costumes and candy, it’s about creating lasting memories for families and supporting programs that truly make a difference.”

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

The Whitin Community Center is committed to enhancing the health and well-being of individuals and families and building a strong community in the Blackstone Valley. We offer social, recreational, educational, and out-

reach programs that bring community members of all ages and backgrounds together. The Whitin Community Center is the Blackstone Valley’s most

complete family and recreation center with two swimming pools, a gym, fitness center, early learning programs, summer camps and a seven and a

half acre park. For more information call 508-234-8184 or visit www.WhitinCommunityCenter.com.

For Advertising Information Call 774-200-7308 email: mikaela@stonebridgepress.news



Date set for Fall Vendor Fair

UXBRIDGE — We are very excited to announce the Fall Vendor Fair which is being held on Sept. 26 in the Community House, 8 Court St., Uxbridge.

The fair, sponsored by the Prayer Shawl Group of the Uxbridge Congregational Church, which will be held indoors and will open at 10 a.m., There will be a wide variety of vendors, including home décor, gifts, jewelry, wood crafts, water colors, pottery, knit goods, painting on Canvas and many other special items.

A Coffee Café will be available as well as a Food truck.

Plan to add our event to your calendar for a fun day of shopping and browsing. For more information, contact the church at 508-244-7849.

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

DIRECTOR NEWS
The Annual Summer Lobsterfest with State Rep. Mike Soter will be held on Thursday, September 10th at 12 noon at the VFW located at 13 Cross Road in Uxbridge. Please call the senior center to sign up early! The menu will consist of a lobster roll, or chicken sandwich, clam chowder, and all the fixings. Thank you in advance to Rep. Mike Soter for putting on this spectacular event! Must RSVP By September 1, 2026.

Welcome to our new COA Members:
Welcome to Arlene Liscinsky and Art Dubois for joining our COA team! We look forward to working with you to enhance the quality of life of our seniors and help us promote the Uxbridge Senior Center programs and services.
Walking Club Program New Time
Our Walk & Talk exercise program will begin again on September 14th and will meet every Monday at 8:30am (weather permitting). Join Doreen Cedrone, our Fitness Coordinator, at McCloskey School parking lot. The group walks the Town loop together to get some exercise and socialize with friends. If you are new to the program and haven't signed up, please call the senior center for your enrollment & waiver forms.

We are proud to announce a new round of 8-week exercise classes starting on September 28th:

Chair Yoga with Sue Gustafson, this class is a safe, gentle form of exercise that builds strength, improves balance, and enhances flexibility using a stable chair for support. This class is scheduled from 10:30-11:30am.

Low Impact, Strength & Balance with Pam Landi, this class is a fitness program that utilizes light weights, and some Tai Chi moves to help with balance. The benefits of this program include improved balance, range of motion and coordination. This class is scheduled from 11:45am-12:45pm.

Each class will run for one hour, on Mondays for an 8-week period. The classes are free for Uxbridge residents, compliments of the State Formula Grant and will be held at the Senior Center's Satellite Site which is the McCloskey School Gym located at 62 Capron Street in Uxbridge. Interested individuals should call or stop by the Uxbridge Senior Center at 508-278-8622 for more information and receive their application and waiver forms prior to the start of the program. Please note class dates are not consecutive Mondays due to scheduling conflicts with gym.

It's September, Happy Senior Center Month Everyone!
"Happier Birthdays Happen Here" is the National Institute for Senior Centers 2026 theme for National Senior Center Month
This year's theme—Happier Birthdays

Happen Here—celebrates the moments, connections, and opportunities that help people not just live longer—but live well. Happier birthdays don't start with candles or cake. They start with connection, purpose, support, and community.
Every day, people walk through our doors and find exactly that—friendships that matter, programs that energize, and resources that make each year stronger than the last.
From our grassroots beginnings to today, senior centers have grown into dynamic community hubs—connecting older adults to wellness, creativity, and essential services. They reflect the diversity, strength, and resilience of today's aging population—and prove what's possible when communities invest in people.

Sincerely,
Lisa

Tuesdays, September 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th –1:30 pm - Mah Jongg is now scheduled a scheduled event here at the Uxbridge Senior Center. Thanks to Gail Epstein for teaching us!

Thursday, September 3rd - 10:30 am – Veterans' Services with Carl Bradshaw by appointment only. Call 508-278-8622 to sign up.

Friday, September 4th – 12:00 pm – Lunch & Learn with Chief Montminy with guest Deb Blackburn from Peoples First Food Pantry talking about their services. There is typically a wait list for these events. Be sure to RSVP.

Monday, September 7th – The Senior Center will be closed in observance of Labor Day. We will re-open on Tuesday, September 8th at 8:00 am.

Tuesday, September 8th – 1:00 pm – Uxbridge Library Book Club. They will be discussing "Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk" by Kathleen Rooney. You are welcome to join us for lunch on this day, just be sure to call ahead to "book" yours! Next book club meeting is on Tuesday, October 13th.

Tuesday, September 8th - 1:00 pm – Benefit Enrollment Specialist – Tri-Valley, Inc. Call the senior center to book an appointment. Next date will be Tuesday, October 13th.

Thursday, September 10th – 12:00 pm - State Rep. Mike Soter's Annual End of Summer Luncheon! You will have your choice of lobster roll or chicken sandwich & clam chowder. This will be held at the Uxbridge VFW. Thank you to Mike for hosting this event for us again! Transportation is available and you are more than welcome to meet us at the VFW. You must RSVP by September 1st and give your choice of meal.

Monday, September 14th – 1:30 pm – Owl Craft with Sally! Cost is \$7.00 per person. You must pay when you sign up and class size is limited.

Monday, September 14th – 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm - Computer Tutoring with students from Blackstone Valley Tech. Please call ahead to book an appointment. This will be held on the first Monday of each

month.

Tuesday, September 15th – 9 am – SHINE Appointments. Pat Nectow will be available for your health insurance questions. Call to book an appointment.

Thursday, September 17th – 1:30 pm – Free Afternoon movie watching "South Pacific". Refreshments to be served and transportation is available.

Friday, September 18th - 12 noon – September Birthday Cake Celebration. We will celebrate all the September birthdays!

Monday, September 21st – 12:00 pm Shotgun Start – The Uxbridge Elderly Connection's 20th Anniversary Golf Outing held at the Whitinsville Golf Course, 179 Fletcher Stret, Whitinsville. This is a fundraising event to support the Uxbridge Senior Center.

Wednesday, September 23rd - 11:30 am - 12:30 pm – "PopUp Library". Books will be on display to check out, library card sign-ups, book hold pick-ups, etc. This program is being offered by the Uxbridge Free Public Library.

Thursday, September 24th – 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm – Big BINGO at the Uxbridge Senior Center. Join us for a fun afternoon of BINGO & cash prizes! Packets of 10 games for \$10. Transportation will be provided. Let us know if you'd like to join us for lunch on this date by calling or stopping by to RSVP. You must sign up by 12 noon the day before game day.

Friday, September 25th – 12:00 pm – End of Summer Celebration! We will have Pure Fun here with their Cruise Ship Show! This is sponsored by the Uxbridge Elderly Connection Inc. – Thank you! Space is limited and you must RSVP.

Monday, September 28th – 1:30 pm – "Ask the Attorney" with Attorney Ralph Tepper by appointment only. Please call 508-278-8622 to schedule your appointment.

Monday, September 28th – 1:30 pm – Pitch Starting at the Uxbridge Senior Center – Come on in for an afternoon of pitch! This will take place every Monday. Sign up by September 21st.

Tuesday, September 29th - 11:00 am – 12:00 pm – Ask the Nurse Free Blood Pressure Clinic with the Salmon Health VNA. RSVP if you'd like to join us for lunch.

Card Game played during lunch on Mondays. No game September 7th & 21st.

Every Monday Play Pitch (Starting September 28th) – 1:30 pm Sign up by September 21st.

Walk & Talk Every Monday (Starting on September 14th) @ *8:30 am. Join Doreen Cedrone, our wellness coordinator, to walk the Town Loop every Monday morning. Weather permitting. Pre-registration required! Get enrollment forms at the center. Meet at the McCloskey School Will not meet on September 7th.

NOTE NEW START TIME

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

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

Mah Jongg every Tuesday @ 1:30 pm – Come join in, walk In's welcome!

Every Wednesday – 9 am – 3 pm – The Uxbridge Senior Center Transportation Program Community Shuttle. This shuttle is for seniors and individuals with disabilities to destinations such as post office, pet care appointments, hair salon or barber, bank, pharmacy & shopping anywhere in the Uxbridge/Northbridge area. Call 508-278-8622 for more information and to book your FREE ride. Requests require a 48-hour notice.
Every Wednesday– BINGO is played during lunch!

Wednesdays - "Canasta" Hand, Knee & Foot Card Game @ 1:15 PM. Let us know if you'd like to join us for lunch!

Wednesdays – Play Scrabble! – 1:15 PM – Come by for an afternoon playing Scrabble. Boards are supplied by the senior center. Let us know if you'd like to join us for lunch!

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

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

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https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNh_Rlq99rucmFH-UO7VFBw
<https://www.uxbridgetv.org/schedule/192>

IF YOU HAVE ROOM:

Falls Prevention Awareness week is:
September 21, 2026 – September 25, 2026

The Care Continuum Team at the Executive Office of Aging & Independence invites you to raise awareness on falls prevention.

Join us in their 8th annual Step Challenge! This year, they are stepping up our statewide goal to collectively achieve 100 Million Steps!

Here's how it works – throughout the month of September simply take a walk (or a run) in the name of falls prevention. Use your own step counter or count each mile as 2,500 steps.

Log your steps here: <https://app.keysurvey.com/f/41847677/2f84/>

You can log your steps each time you walk/run or submit the grand total at the end of September. Family, friends, and pets are welcome to join. Remember to wear yellow in the name of falls prevention!

All steps should be submitted by Friday, October 9, 2026.

For questions please contact: Melissa.A.Enos@mass.gov



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LEGALS

The Town of Douglas Water & Sewer Commissioners will hold a public hearing on **August 25th at 7:00PM**. The meeting will be held at the **Water & Sewer Department, 29 Charles St, Douglas, MA** for the proposed changes to the Water & Sewer rates. These rates will go in to effect Aug. 26th 2026. These rate increases are necessary to fund the essential maintenance and needed improvements to the Town's Water and Sewer Systems. Those in attendance and wishing to speak on this matter will be given the opportunity to do so at the public hearing.
August 7, 2026
August 14, 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.
WO26P2509EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
**Mary Anne Mackusick
Date of Death: 02/01/2026**
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Timothy J Corcoran, Sr. of Milford MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: .
Timothy J Corcoran, Sr. of Milford

MAbe appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/01/2026**.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 05, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
August 14, 2026

PLUMMER PLACE

Home of the Northbridge Senior Center

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

Medical Drivers

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

Regular Programs:

Meditation with Kelly: Every Thursday morning at 9:30am

Book Club: Third Wednesday at 10:30am

Please call Kelly for more information

Brew Crew: No Meetings in August

Dull Men's Club: No Meetings in August

Scrabble: August 24th at 9:30am

Women's Collective: No meeting in August

Writing Your Way: 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 2:00pm

Special Programs and Events:

Petting Zoo for Seniors Tuesday, August 18th 1:00pm-2:00pm

Come enjoy a fun and interactive petting zoo experience featuring 20+ animals. Space is limited, and Northbridge seniors have priority. Please call the main office to sign up. \$5 cash admission fee payable at the door on the day of the event. Any questions, please call Amy at (508) 234-2002.

Aging Gracefully: A Fall Prevention Workshop Thursday, August 20th 1:00pm-2:00pm

Please join UMASS Prevention Specialist Dominick Dunbar to learn how to prevent and recover from fall injuries, as well as the importance of diet and exercise as preventive measures. Light refreshments will be served. Sign up in the main office.

Local Authors Fair Wednesday, August 26th 10:00am-12:00pm

Calling all bookworms! Don't miss this chance to meet talented local writers, explore their books and enjoy a morning celebrating storytelling and community connection. FREE admission. Complimentary coffee and tea will be provided, as well as free door prizes. Books will be available from all authors for purchase that day. Please call the main office to sign up so we can plan accordingly (508) 234-2002. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Coffee Break Bible Study to explore Micah this fall

WHITINSVILLE — Women from throughout the Blackstone Valley are invited to take part in a new fall season of Coffee Break, a free, non-denominational community Bible study held at Fairlawn Church in Whitinsville.

The fall program will begin Thursday, Sept. 3, with a study titled “Discover Micah: God of Justice and Mercy.” The group will meet each Thursday from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the church, located at 305 Goldthwaite Rd., off Hill Street.

The study focuses on the Old Testament Book of Micah and its themes of justice, mercy and faith during uncertain times. The study guide describes Micah’s world as one marked by international threats, cities falling to enemies and injustice and greed among his own people.

“Micah invites us to learn how to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God,” the study description states.

Organizers said the program will encourage participants to examine the biblical text together, with questions intended to prompt discussion and personal application.

Coffee Break is designed for women regardless of their previous experience studying the Bible. No previous Bible knowledge is necessary, and there is no homework requirement. Each lesson is independent, allowing participants to attend when their schedules permit without falling behind.

Participants will meet in small groups, providing opportunities to read and discuss the Bible, ask questions and develop friendships with other women from the area. Study guides and Bibles are provided free of charge.

Refreshments will also be provided each week, and child care is available for infants through preschool-age children.

Coffee Break is free and open to anyone in the community.

Fairlawn Church is located at 305 Goldthwaite Rd. in Whitinsville. For directions, questions or additional information, contact Ginette at 508-234-4806 or visit the Fairlawn Church Web site.

Women’s Bible Study to explore Book of Genesis this fall

WHITINSVILLE — Women throughout the Blackstone Valley are invited to take part in a new season of Coffee Break, a community Bible study that begins Tuesday, Sept. 15, at Pleasant St. Church in Whitinsville.

The fall study, “Genesis: The Beginning of the Story,” will focus on the opening book of the Bible and explore themes of God’s character, faithfulness and His plans for humanity.

Organizers say the study is designed for women of all backgrounds and experience levels, emphasizing that no previous Bible knowledge is required.

“God loves us and has wonderful plans for our lives, no matter what the current events look like,” organizers said in announcing the upcoming program. “Come join with others in a study of ‘Genesis: The Beginning of the Story’ as we look at who God is and the power and glory He is about to display in the earth.”

Coffee Break meets every Tuesday from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and provides participants with an opportunity to read and discuss Scripture, share questions and concerns, and build friendships with other women in the community.

The program is intentionally welcoming to newcomers. As organizers like to say, “You’re only allowed to be a newcomer the first week. After that, we’re all friends.”

There is no homework, and free study guides and Bibles are provided to all participants.

Complimentary refreshments will be available each week, and free childcare is offered for infants, toddlers and children through age 5, allowing mothers to participate while their children are cared for in a nurturing environment.

The study will be held at Pleasant St. Church, 25 Cross St., Whitinsville.

For more information, directions or questions, contact Anna at 774-287-9449, email churchoffice@psrc.org, or visit https://www.psrc.org/adults.

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Webster First Federal Credit Union promotes Colleen Carney to Chief Risk Officer



Colleen Carney

WORCESTER — Webster First Federal Credit Union has announced the promotion of Colleen Carney to Chief Risk Officer. The appointment reflects the

growing importance of risk management within the credit union and recognizes Carney’s leadership in supporting Webster First’s continued success.

“Colleen brings a strong and well-rounded background in banking, operations, finance, revenue management, and risk management,” said President and CEO John Thomasian, “As Webster First continues to demonstrate strong performance and sustained growth, the importance of a comprehensive and proactive risk management function has never been greater. I am confident that Colleen will excel in this important leadership role.”

Before joining Webster First, she spent 10 years at Flagship Bank in Worcester. She earned a B.S. in Business Administration, magna cum laude, from Worcester State University.

Carney joined Webster First in October

2007 as Spencer Branch Manager. During her tenure, she earned an M.S. in Management from Worcester State University and later transitioned to the Accounting Department as Assistant Vice President of Risk Management in July 2018. She was promoted to Vice President of Revenue in October 2020, and in January 2024 assumed responsibility for risk management as Vice President of Risk and Revenue. In this role, she expanded and strengthened the credit union’s risk management function, enhanced the work of the Risk Committee, and helped ensure that risks across the organization are appropriately assessed, evaluated, mitigated, and managed. She is currently pursuing an M.S. in Enterprise Risk Management at Boston University.

Carney said “I am honored to step into the newly created role of Chief Risk

Officer and grateful for the opportunity to help shape this important function for the credit union. Establishing this position reflects our continued commitment to strong governance, thoughtful risk management, and long-term organizational strength. I look forward to working collaboratively across the organization to protect and support our members, employees, and community while helping guide sound decision-making and responsible growth.”

About Webster First Federal Credit Union Webster First Federal Credit Union ranks among the largest credit unions operating in Massachusetts. Since its founding in 1928, Webster First has grown its operations, services, and membership to serve four counties across the state, Worcester, Essex, Middlesex, and Suffolk with branches throughout. For more information, visit websterfirst.com.

Bay Path celebrates 59 CTI graduates, expands workforce training programs

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School proudly celebrated the graduation of 59 students from its Career Technical Initiative (CTI) program last evening, marking a significant milestone in the program’s continued growth and impact.

The CTI program, launched in 2024, provides adult learners with access to high-quality, hands-on technical training designed to meet regional workforce demands. Last night’s graduates represent a diverse group of individuals who demonstrated dedication, perseverance, and a strong commitment to building new

career pathways. Many balanced work, family, and personal responsibilities while completing rigorous 200-hour training programs that prepare them for immediate employment in high-demand industries.

“This graduating class represents the heart of what the CTI program is all about—opportunity, access, and workforce readiness,” said Marci Komssi, Program Coordinator. “We are incredibly proud of these 59 graduates and the determination they demonstrated throughout the program.”

The success of the CTI program is made possible through continued state invest-

ment and workforce development partnerships. As part of the Commonwealth’s commitment to economic recovery and growth, \$24.2 million was awarded to 23 organizations throughout Massachusetts to train 2,490 individuals. These strategic investments, led by the Massachusetts Workforce Skills Cabinet, are designed to expand access to career pathway programs and better position residents to fill critical workforce needs across the state.

Building on this momentum, Bay Path is expanding its program offerings to reach even more adult learners. For the first time, the school will offer a 200-hour Building Maintenance program in a five-week hybrid summer format, running from June 29 through July 31. This program is offered in partnership with MassHire, with applications opening this week.

Looking ahead to Fall 2026, Bay Path will offer nine CTI programs, further increasing access to career training opportunities. These programs include:

- Building Maintenance
- HVAC
- Culinary
- Manufacturing
- Auto Collision
- Auto Technology
- Diesel Mechanic
- Welding
- Electrical

Since its inception, the CTI program has continued to expand in both enrollment and program diversity, attracting students from local communities as well as across the region. The program remains a critical component of Bay Path’s efforts to support workforce development and provide meaningful career pathways for adult learners.

For more information about the CTI program or to apply for upcoming opportunities, please contact Marci Komssi at mkomssi@baypath.net.

Friends of the Poor Walk set for Sept. 26

UXBRIDGE — The annual Uxbridge St. Vincent de Paul Society Friends of the Poor® Walk will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26. Registration begins at 9 a.m. We will meet at St. Mary’s Church, 77 Mendon St., Uxbridge, near the OLV Grace Center gym.

The walk is rain or shine. Everyone is invited to join us, including friendly pets. We walk the town loop to bring awareness for all those who are struggling to make ends meet. We also offer a short walk for those who wish. This is our main fundraiser

that helps us continue to provide financial support to those in need. Please call and leave SVDP a message at 508-278-2226 or sign up by using the QR code below. Our email is Uxbridge.svdp@gmail.com, or you can check us out on our Web page, www.UxbridgeSVdP.org.

We welcome our past walkers and look forward to meeting new ones. Any donation is appreciated even if you aren’t able to join us.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank last year’s 2025 Sponsors: Bert’s Breakfast

& Lunch, Bob’s Auto Service, J.F. Cove Insurance Agency, Inc., Craftech Restoration, T.F. Figuerido Custom Masonry, Harry’s Famous Pizza (Uxbridge), Institute for Education and Professional Development, Martino Stained Glass Studio, Mullaly Material & Firewood, Nolin’s Asphalt & Sealcoat, Nydam Oil Company, Inc, Savers Bank, Southwick’s Zoo, Unibank for Savings and Uxbridge Lions Club.

POETRY continued from page A1

heartfelt collection of poems that gently explores life’s struggles, losses, and pains with raw honesty and a voice uniquely Art’s. He has also been published in the Shawns Foundation’s publication, the Shivering Mouse Art & Poetry Review: Volume One.

He is a fixture at poetry readings throughout Central Massachusetts and his poem “Senses,” took 3rd Prize at the Worcester County Poetry Association’s Frank O’Hara Poetry Contest in 2024.

It is only fitting that he is our first feature as we introduce the Salon.

The reading format will consist of a feature and open mic segments.

Shivering Mouse Poetry Salon will take place on September 8th, with the reading starting at 6:30PM,

446 East St., Uxbridge.

For more information, contact Art Dubois at dubois2257@aol.com or Skip Shea at shawnafoundation@gmail.com.

About the Shawna E. Shea Memorial Foundation (Shawna Foundation)

The Shawna E. Shea Memorial Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 arts nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and promoting independent filmmaking, youth empowerment, and the arts. Established in memory of Shawna E. Shea, the foundation provides scholarships, grants, and mentorship programs to encourage creativity, resilience, and artistic expression. Through film festivals, community events, art exhibits, poetry performances, and educational initiatives, the Foundation fosters a vibrant artistic community while honoring Shawna’s legacy. Learn more at www.shawnafoundation.org.

FUNDRAISER continued from page A1

raffle, and festive atmosphere while supporting Open Sky’s mission.

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About Open Sky Community Services

Open Sky Community Services, Inc. offers a wide range of services for adults, adolescents, and children experiencing mental health challenges, developmental and intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, brain injury, homelessness and other complex challenges. Open Sky has 1,300 employees, an annual budget of over \$130 million and more than 140 programs throughout the region serving more than 8,000 individuals. We support those we serve to achieve their definition of wellness and pursue the opportunities and relationships that are meaningful to them. We help them see beyond what they thought was possible, to find their open sky. For more information, please visit www.openskycs.org.

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