

WEBSTER TIMES

Free by request to residents of Webster, Dudley and the Oxfords

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Friday, October 30, 2026

Powerful drug prevention performance in Oxford Nov. 19

OXFORD — 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.

Turn To **PERFORMANCE** page **A13**

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 friendsofauburnlibrary@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 friendsofauburnlibrary@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 friendsofauburnlibrary@gmail.com.

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



Courtesy

Oxford Middle School recognizes students each month who exemplify our Be The 3 goals of Respect, Responsibility, and Safety as well as showing that attendance matters, displaying citizenship and leadership, and showing growth in a variety of ways. This month, OMS celebrates Zoe Doeg, Aria O’Neil, Tianna Delacruz, Daniel Spaulding, Gavyn Lucier as our September Students of the Month.



Courtesy

The kitchen staff at PAE take a brief minute between preparation to smile for the camera.

Park Ave salutes kitchen staff

WEBSTER — At Park Ave, we are fortunate to have such a dedicated and hardworking team of teachers. Our teachers put countless hours into developing engaging lesson plans, meaningful learning experiences, and classroom routines and procedures that help our school run smoothly. We want to celebrate these curriculum highlights and recognize the incredible work our teachers do every day for our students.

While we often celebrate the amazing work happening in our classrooms, we also want to recognize another incredible group of people who help make Park Ave such a special place: our kitchen staff!

Our kitchen staff are truly unsung heroes. Every day, they work hard behind the scenes to ensure our students

Turn To **STAFF** page **A15**

Dudley Agricultural Advisory Commission celebrates Farm to School Month with local Kindergarten students

DUDLEY — Ninety kindergarten students at Mason Road Elementary School celebrated National Farm to School Month on Friday, Oct. 23, with a special reading of Farm Boots by the Dudley Agricultural Advisory Commission and local officials. Each student received their own copy of the book to take home, helping bring the story of agriculture from the classroom to families across the community.

Commission members Krisanne Koebe and Katie Rozenas-Hanson were joined by Massachusetts State Representative John Marsi and Dudley Selectman Chris Starczewski for the 1 p.m. event. The reading is part of the Commission’s ongoing efforts to promote

Turn To **FARM** page **A10**



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Trunk or Treat returns to Major General Salem Towne Masonic Lodge!



BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE MASONIC LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Major General Salem Towne Masonic Lodge (MGSTL) Community Outreach Program hosts this popular annual event. Children and adults are encouraged to wear Halloween costumes and collect candy and treats from decorated vehicles in the lodge's Southbridge parking lot.

Courtesy
Children and adults in Halloween costumes enjoy last year's Trunk or Treat in the MGST Lodge parking lot. Join the fun this weekend at the MGST Masonic Lodge, 339 Ashland Ave. in Southbridge.

31, from 1 to 4 p.m. at 339 Ashland Ave. in Southbridge. Children can collect treats as they visit each decorated vehicle, while passing drivers honk in support. Lodge members, their families and friends, and Nichols College student volunteers contribute their time and resources to make this spooktacular event possible for children across surrounding communities. Sponsored by the Freemasons of Southbridge, Trunk or Treat is open to everyone and is being held by dispensation of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Boston. To learn more about Freemasonry or find a lodge near you, visit www.mass-freemasonry.org.

Todd A. Ethier

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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 ceremonies in Dudley and Webster as the communities mark Veterans Day together.

Lily Kenney from Dudley makes Spring Dean's List at Adelphi University in New York

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. — Lily Kenney, from Dudley, has been named to Adelphi University's Spring 2026 Semester Dean's List.

Kenney was among a select group of outstanding students recognized by Adelphi's deans of Arts and Sciences, Education and Health Science, Business, Nursing and Public Health, Social Work and Psychology for superior academic performance. The list comprises full-time students-registered for 12 or more credits-who have completed at least nine graded credits who achieved a GPA of 3.5 or above for the semester. This recognition becomes part of the student's academic record and is entered into the individual's transcript.

About Adelphi: A modern metropolitan university with a personalized approach to higher learning

Adelphi University, New York, is a highly awarded, nationally ranked, powerfully connected doctoral research university dedicated to transforming students' lives through small classes with world-class faculty, hands-on learning, and innovative ways to support academic and career success. U.S. News & World Report named Adelphi a 2026 Best National University, Best College for Veterans, and Top Performer in Social Mobility. In addition, Forbes has ranked Adelphi the top private university on Long Island for three past three years.

Adelphi serves more than 7,300 students at its beautiful main campus in Garden City, New York-just 23 miles from New York City's cultural and internship opportunities-and at dynamic learning hubs in Manhattan, the Hudson Valley and Suffolk County, as well as online.

More than 125,000 alumni Adelphi graduates have gained the skills to thrive professionally as active, engaged citizens, making their mark on the University, their communities and the world.

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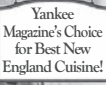
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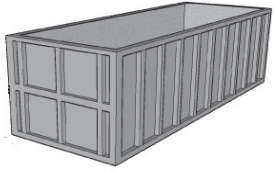
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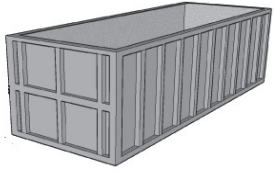


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EDITOR

EDITORIAL

A conversation that could save a life

There are few things more frightening for a parent than the thought of losing a child. Yet for families across Massachusetts, the dangers associated with illicit drugs have made that possibility an unfortunate reality. The presence of fentanyl and other powerful substances in the illegal drug supply means that a single poor decision can carry consequences far beyond anything a young person might anticipate.

That is why an upcoming program at Oxford High School deserves the attention of parents, students and the community at large.

On Thursday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m., the Oxford Police Department, Fire Department, Board of Health and Oxford High School will join forces with Drug Story Theater to present “Back to Life,” a theatrical production exploring the consequences of recreational drug use.

The performance, based on a true story and presented by young people participating in Drug Story Theater’s treatment program, offers something that traditional lectures and warnings sometimes struggle to provide: an opportunity for teenagers to hear directly from people who understand the consequences of substance use through personal experience. There is considerable value in that approach.

Teenagers have always tested boundaries. They are curious, impressionable and eager to establish independence. Those characteristics are part of growing up, and no amount of parental concern will eliminate them entirely.

What has changed, however, is the potential danger associated with experimentation. Today’s illicit drug supply can contain fentanyl, a synthetic opioid powerful enough to cause a fatal overdose in very small quantities. Counterfeit pills may resemble legitimate medications while containing substances the person taking them never intended to consume. The consequences can be immediate and irreversible.

For parents who grew up in a different era, understanding that distinction is essential. The risks confronting today’s teenagers are not necessarily the same ones their parents encountered. But education about those risks should never become an exercise in frightening young people into silence.

Fear alone rarely produces meaningful communication. Young people need accurate information, opportunities to ask difficult questions and the assurance that seeking help will not automatically result in condemnation. That is another reason the Oxford presentation is particularly worthwhile.

Following the performance, audience members will be invited to participate in a discussion with the young performers and Dr. Joseph Shrand, an expert in adolescent addiction. The conversation will address the science of addiction, the dangers of fentanyl and xylazine, and practical ways families can respond.

Equally important will be the evening’s emphasis on Narcan, the medication capable of reversing an opioid overdose.

The Oxford Board of Health plans to provide Narcan free of charge to parents and guardians attending the presentation. That decision deserves recognition.

There should be no shame associated with carrying a medication that can save someone’s life. Having Narcan available does not imply approval of drug use any more than keeping a fire extinguisher in the kitchen suggests approval of careless cooking. It means being prepared for an emergency.

Of course, Narcan is not a substitute for prevention, nor does it reverse the effects of every dangerous substance. But understanding how and when to administer it can provide a critical opportunity for emergency responders to intervene.

Perhaps the most encouraging aspect of this initiative is the cooperation behind it. Police officers, firefighters, public health officials and educators each encounter different aspects of the substance use crisis. By working together, they demonstrate that prevention is a shared community responsibility rather than a problem belonging to any single department or institution.

The use of municipal opioid remediation funds to support this effort also represents a constructive investment in education and prevention. One theatrical performance will not eliminate substance use. One conversation will not guarantee that a teenager makes the right decision when confronted with peer pressure. But meaningful prevention begins somewhere.

Turn To EDITORIAL page A5

Viewpoint

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The only way to make your vote count is to show up and vote!

To the Editor:

As I write this, I will admit in writing that I’m as guilty as anyone else when it comes to not taking part in town meetings, hearings, or other such things. I have recently made the effort to attend more of what I could or should, and am remembering a lot of what takes place from when I did use to attend and trying to learn the things that have changed. Anyone I have asked questions to has given me the best answer they could without passing judgment on me.

I am not writing this to try and persuade anyone into voting a certain way or for a certain thing or person. I am however writing this to remind everyone that out of the approximately 9300 registered voters (give or take) when it comes to town affairs and elections, a very small percentage of that shows up at the ballot box. When it comes to town meetings, the numbers are abysmal. We all pay taxes in one way or another, and as many of these voters are also homeowners there is the additional real estate taxes to pay, water and sewer bills, and other costs associated with other such things.

We all have the right to know how our tax money is spent, how much, on what, and why. We all have the right to ask questions if like myself have forgotten certain things, or learning new ones, and have the right to speak on the topics at hand.

What amazed me then, and continues to amaze me again now, is the fact that there will be the same 100 or so people, give or take, that show up at all of the meetings, and decide how everyone else’s money is spent.

100 out of 9,300. Abysmal! I am able to write an opinion in this paper, but this doesn’t count as a vote. The only way to make your vote count is to show up and do it. See for yourself how your money is being spent, and have a voice in those decisions.

JOHN GIAQUINTO
DUDLEY

A voting booth is no place for hatred

To the Editor:

I am not a spring chicken, rather a young (hopefully) winter rooster watching a democratic republic being torn apart by lies, deceit, and hate.

On June 25, 2021, our border czar, VP Harris, visited El Paso, Texas, with news media trailing behind her. She spoke with some border agents, and her news media showed their viewers exactly what they wanted them to see...nothing!

Further south, however, our ‘lying’ eyes saw thousands of migrants pushing past barricades and border agents breaking every immigration law we have. All the while, Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas and others said day after day, month after month that our southern border was closed and secure. Lies — all lies. Now we have sanctuary cities and states protecting “undocumented immigrants” (unvetted, some not able to read or speak English, not caring at all for our country) where taxpayers money is paying for their shelter, food, medical, everything while elected officials are shortchanging the very citizens that put them into office in the first place. (Gov. Healey used the Massachusetts Emergency assistance program started in 1983 right to shelter law for homeless Massachusetts families for illegal migrant families. This system cost over \$1 billion annually and was considered ‘increasingly unsustainable.’)

While some presidents import cars and avocados, Biden imported terror for many American families. All of the 20 million (the generally agreed upon number that I hear) migrants are not good people. If you haven’t seen or heard about the horrific murders, child abuse cases, rapes and more done by migrants it’s because your news media doesn’t want you to. Some news media will “cut away” from Trump’s speeches telling you that they will get back to him if he says something important. Ever think that they “cut away” because he might say something against the station’s agenda that they don’t want you to hear? Did you know that Obama used I.C.E. to deport over three million migrants during his tenure, and he didn’t have to face what Trump has to deal with after Biden’s border fiasco.

So, why did our southern border collapse? Power and control! Please do not

Webster deserves transparency and accountability

To the Editor:

When our elected officials announce that they have secured state funding for our communities, shouldn’t residents be able to find out how much of that money actually reached their towns?

On Oct. 8, I wrote to State Representative Joseph McKenna requesting an accounting of the state funding he had helped secure for Webster over the past ten years. My request was straightforward: What funding was promised, what was it intended for, and how much was actually delivered?

While I appreciated that Rep. McKenna responded that same day, all he explained however, was that “I have not actively maintained a record of specific budget, bond, or grant awards that have been dispersed to the towns across my district over my time in office.” He went on to say that “it will take some time for me to compile a partial list of the information that you have requested.” He’s had ten years and I’m still waiting.

These comments deserve serious consideration. Accountability matters and his explanation raises a broader question about his representation of our communities. The question is not simply how much funding a representative announces, but how effectively that representative advocates for our communities and accounts for the results.

There should be a way to track whether efforts ultimately resulted in dollars reaching our community and our Representative should care to know and report the details. We deserve to know what was actually delivered, what projects benefited, and what remains outstanding.

Jen Heck has made government transparency, accessibility, and responsiveness central commitments of her campaign. She has pledged regular communication with constituents, public meetings, and greater openness in government. She has also emphasized the importance of securing our district’s fair share of state resources.

After more than a decade of the same representation, residents have an opportunity to consider whether a different approach would better serve Webster and the entire 18th Worcester District.

I am still waiting for a thorough response to my question and when I ultimately receive the information I requested, I intend to make the funding information publicly available so residents can evaluate the results for themselves.

Public service should be measured not just by promises made, but by results delivered. Our communities deserve transparency, accountability, and their fair share of state funding. Jen Heck is committed to doing just that. Vote for Jen Heck.

RAQUEL COLBY
WEBSTER

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

Making the most of Medicare open enrollment



FINANCIAL FOCUS

DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

When you turn 65, Medicare becomes a vital part of your health care coverage. But Medicare isn’t a “set it and forget it” program. In fact, you have the opportunity to review and adjust your coverage every year.

The annual Medicare Open Enrollment period, which runs from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7 each year, is your chance to take a fresh look at your health care needs and ensure your Medicare plan still fits your life. Changes made during this period generally take effect Jan. 1 of the following year.

Just as your health can change from year to year, Medicare plans can change, too. Insurance companies may adjust their coverage and costs or even discontinue certain plans. If you take no action during open enrollment, you’ll generally remain in your current plan if it’s still available. That’s why it’s worth reviewing your options each year. You may find coverage that better meets your needs or lowers your costs.

You have several options when it comes to Medicare coverage:

Original Medicare (Parts A and B) covers hospital stays and medical services such as doctor visits. Part A typically comes with no monthly premium if you’ve worked for at least 10 years. Part B requires a monthly premium, with higher-income beneficiaries paying additional amounts based on income. Part B also includes an annual deductible and cost-sharing requirements, with Medicare typically announcing updated amounts for the coming year in November.

Medicare Advantage (Part C) offers an all-in-one alternative to Original Medicare through private insurance companies. Many plans bundle Part A, Part B, and usually Part D while including additional benefits like vision and dental coverage.

Medicare Part D provides standalone prescription drug coverage for those who stay with Original Medicare. In 2027, Part D plans include a \$2,400 annual cap on out-of-pocket spending for covered prescription medications, although covered drugs vary by plan.

Medicare Supplement (Medigap) policies help cover certain out-of-pocket costs that Original Medicare doesn’t pay.

When evaluating Medicare plans, consider these factors:

Out-of-pocket costs, including premiums, deductibles, copayments and other expenses not covered by Medicare.

Prescription drug coverage. Although Part D plans include a \$2,400 cap on out-of-pocket spending for covered drugs in 2027, the medications covered by each plan can vary. Make sure your prescriptions are included.

Provider access. Make sure your doctors and hospitals are covered by the plan.

Your anticipated health care needs. If you expect ongoing treatment, specialist care or planned procedures, make sure your plan provides appropriate coverage.

Travel considerations. Frequent travelers may want supplemental coverage for emergencies outside the U.S.

Even if you’re satisfied with your current coverage, don’t assume next year’s plan will look exactly the same. Costs, provider networks and the medications covered by a plan can change from year to year, making a quick annual review worthwhile.

Don’t let your Medicare plan run on autopilot. Take advantage of the annual open enrollment period between Oct. 15 and Dec. 7 to help ensure your coverage continues to meet your needs in the year ahead.

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

The trouble with being almost ready

LANTERNS
ALONG
MAIN
STREET
By CHARLES

I’ve come to believe that one of the great mysteries of human existence is the difference between being ready to leave the house and actually leaving it. These are two entirely separate accomplishments.

I can be showered, dressed, wearing my shoes, and standing beside the front door with my keys in hand, fully convinced that departure is imminent. Twenty minutes later, I may still be there.

I don’t know exactly when leaving the house became such an elaborate production. When I was younger, I remember being able to decide to go somewhere and simply go. There was very little ceremony involved.

Nowadays, a trip to the hardware store can require the sort of preparation once reserved for an expedition across the Atlantic.

First, I need to find my glasses. This is complicated by the fact that I may already be wearing them, although that possibility rarely occurs to me until I’ve searched two rooms and accused an innocent family member of moving them.

Then comes the question of my wallet. I have a designated place for my wallet. I know where that place is. Unfortunately, my wallet apparently does not share my commitment to the arrangement.

The keys are another matter entirely. My wife has suggested that I put them in the same place every time I come home. This is excellent advice, and I intend to start following it one of these years.

Once everything has been located, I begin what I call the final inspection. Did I turn off the coffee maker? Is the back door locked? Did I leave a light on upstairs? Where did I put the list of things I was supposed to buy?

That last question is particularly troublesome because I generally remember making the list. I can picture myself writing it. I can even recall being rather pleased with my organizational skills. What I cannot remember is where I put the blasted thing.

My wife, meanwhile, has developed a remarkable ability to recognize the warning signs of a delayed departure.

“Are you actually leaving?” she’ll ask.

“Absolutely.”

“Because you’ve been saying that for 15 minutes.”

“I’m just checking something.”

She doesn’t ask what I’m checking anymore. I think she’s decided it’s better not to know.

And then, of course, comes the weather. Here in New England, the temperature outside can bear little resemblance to what the thermometer suggested when I first looked at it. A pleasant October morning can become a chilly afternoon before a fellow has finished his errands. So I go back for a jacket. Then I decide the jacket is too heavy. Then I wonder whether I ought to bring it anyway. At some point, I find myself standing in the kitchen holding two coats, trying to make a decision that should not require the wisdom of Solomon.

What bothers me most is that none of this seems particularly unreasonable while it’s happening. Every individual step makes sense. Naturally, I should have my wallet. Obviously, I need my keys. There’s nothing foolish about checking that the doors are locked. It’s only when you add everything together that the absurdity becomes apparent. I suspect this is true of a great many things in life.

We complicate perfectly ordinary tasks by adding one more precaution, one more consideration, one more little detail that absolutely must be addressed before we can proceed. We do it with errands, home projects, vacations, and sometimes even conversations.

There’s always one more thing to think about. I’ve noticed that some people seem entirely immune to this condition. They announce they’re leaving, pick up their belongings, and walk out the door.

I regard these individuals with a mixture of admiration and suspicion. Surely, they’ve forgotten something. Yet somehow, they manage to survive. Perhaps there’s a lesson there about accepting that not every detail needs to be settled before we get moving.

Life doesn’t always require perfect preparation. Sometimes you simply have to put on your shoes, grab your keys, and trust that the rest will work itself out. I’ve been trying to adopt that philosophy lately.

The other day, I had a few errands to run. I gathered my things, checked the weather, and headed for the door.

My wife looked up from what she was doing.

“Going somewhere?”

“Yep. I’ll be back in a little while.”

And with that, I walked outside, climbed into the car, and started the engine. It was a beautiful moment of personal triumph. I had finally mastered the art of leaving the house without making a production of it. Then I realized I had forgotten where I was going.

I sat there for a minute, considering my options. Eventually, I went back inside.

My wife didn’t even look surprised.

“Forget something?”

“Not exactly,” I said. “I’m just making sure I leave for the right reason.”

She shook her head and went back to what she was doing.

I suppose there’s still room for improvement. But at least I remembered my keys.

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.

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.

Holy Trinity Church to hold holiday craft fair

WEBSTER — Holy Trinity Church, 68 Lake St., Webster, will hold a holiday craft fair, including a bake sale and raffles, on Saturday, Nov. 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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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.

EDITORIAL continued from page A4

It begins when parents listen without immediately judging. It begins when teenagers feel comfortable asking questions. It begins when communities replace stigma with understanding and provide residents with the tools to recognize and respond to an overdose.

Oxford is creating an opportunity for those conversations to happen. Parents and guardians should consider attending with their children, not simply to hear the presentation, but to continue the discussion afterward. Because the most important conversation of the evening may not take place on the stage at Oxford High School. It may happen during the ride home.

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To register for events or sign up for the newsletter, go to www.crawfordlibrary.org or call 508-949-8021.

It's that time of year! The Giving Tree will begin the first week in November. Share in the holiday spirit by giving to local children in need!

The November featured artists are Jenny DelGizzi & Robin Mitzcavitch from Happy Arts Events. A variety of their pieces will be on display for you to enjoy in the Fels Room whenever the Library is open.

Join The Friends of the Library for their Fall Book Sale November 5th, 6th & 7th. Pre-sale for Friends members only will be Wednesday, November 4th 5:30-6:30.

The Library will be closed Wednesday, November 11th in observance of Veterans Day. We will also be closed Thursday, November 26th & Friday, November 27th for Thanksgiving.

Gentle Yoga
Every Monday
10:00-11:00

Join yoga instructor Patricia for a traditional "on the mat" yoga class with chair yoga modifications. This truly is a one-size-fits-all class. Bring your own mat. Wear layers, do not eat heavily 1.5-2 hours before class. Registration is required.

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

The game consists of players competing to form distinct sets or pairs of tiles, similar to gin rummy. Everyone is welcome; registration is not required.

Quilting Group
Every Wednesday
1:30- 3:30

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

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

All stitchers are welcome to this informal group. Bring your project and enjoy the company!

Yoga with Buffy
Every Friday
10:00-11:00

Join Buffy for Friday Yoga! Take time to relax, stretch, and recharge at this weekly Friday session. Registration is required: wideopenyoga@gmail.com. A co-payment is required to attend.

Friends of the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library
Monday, November 3rd
1:15- 2:15

Once Upon A Crime Book Club-Nobody's Girl by Virginia Roberts Giuffre
Friday, November 6th
11:00-12:00

Do you have a passion for true crime and examining the details of each case? This book club is for you! The "Once Upon A Crime Book Club" meets the first Friday of every month in the adult reading area. All books will be pre-ordered and available for pick up at the circulation desk.

Pearle's Picking Parlor Jam, a "mostly" Bluegrass-focused Jam Session
Saturday, November 7th
10:00-12:00 in the Fels Room

This is the group that played at our 15 Year Celebration! This is an unplugged acoustic jam. All talent levels welcome... beginners and up! Don't want to play? No problem, listeners are welcome too!

Pearle's Genealogy

Group
Monday, November 9th
4:00-5:30

Let's regrow our genealogy group! Facilitated by Patricia M. St. Marie, Professional Genealogist.

The Missing Piece Puzzle Race

Monday, November 9th
6:00-7:30

Teams will compete against each other, with the ultimate goal of completing a puzzle faster than their opponents. Registration is required- only one person from each team should register. Teams can have up to six members, and the first to assemble the puzzle wins!

A Perky Pairing: Tea & Chocolate

Saturday, November 14th
11:00-12:00

A fun, educational talk highlighting the history and many health benefits of tea and dark chocolate (cacao), with insights from a chocolatier. We will discuss how to brew a proper cuppa, how tea varieties differ, and the tenets of the Cha/ Tea Ceremonies. Included are samplings of tea infusions paired with fine chocolates: a trivia quiz, fun poetry, tea-pot display and more.

Kim Larkin is the owner of Klassic Kreations, LLC. She presents fun, educational programming that stimulates the mind, senses and palate throughout New England. She is a licensed commercial Chocolatier, holds certification from the Specialty Coffee Assoc. in Foundations and is a Tea Aficionado. In 2023, she completed her 200 hr. Kripalu School of Ayurveda Health Certification. Kim is a NAHA Certified Aromatherapist, a Usui Reiki Master, and has taught art to all ages for over twenty years. She is the author of It's Easy Being Queen (When you know your worth). Her book highlights the Royal Rules of self-empowerment and delivers the gentle but important reminder of self-worth.

Bedazzled Books with Happy Arts

Monday, November 16th
6:00-7:00

Join us for the latest creative craze—book bedazzling! Happy Arts will be on hand to guide you through the process of transforming an ordinary book into a sparkling, one-of-a-kind creation. We'll provide all the supplies—you just bring a book! Paperback or hardcover, the choice is yours. Come get creative and add a little sparkle to your favorite read! Registration Required.

Threaded Together

Thursday, November 19th
6:00-7:30

Join us at the Pearle Crawford Library for a screening of our original film: Threaded Together: Mill Work and Life in Webster, MA.

An original 40-minute film featuring stories and memories of working in the Webster Mills from 1950-1975. A collaboration between the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, Nichols College, Karen Warinsky, and the Webster Senior Center.

Crawford Library Book Group

Thursday, November 19th

My Friends by Fredrik Backman
6:00-7:30

Books are available at the circulation desk for check-out one month before the discussion.

No Registration Required

"Cook the Book" Book Club-Texture Over Taste by Joshua Weissman

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

"Cook The Book" Book Club will meet on the 4th Monday of every month at 6:00

You will pick one recipe from the book selected for the month-the dishes don't have to be complicated or fancy; any recipe from the book is fair game, except alcoholic beverages-sorry! Prepare the recipe at home and share it at the library. We cannot reheat or keep food warm, so consider this when choosing your recipe.

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

Dudley Board of Selectmen Office Hours

Saturday, November 28th
10:00-12:00

Have a question, concern, or idea to share? Stop by the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library during Board of Selectmen Office Hours. This is an informal opportunity to meet with members of the Board, ask questions, discuss town issues, and learn more about what's happening in the community. No appointment is necessary—residents are welcome to drop in during the scheduled office hours. There might even be refreshments!

Children's & Family Programming

Storytime with Polly

Every Monday at 10:00-10:45

For ages 2.5-5 and their caregiver (but babies and toddlers are welcome to join as well!)

Join us for stories, songs, fingerplays, scarves, shaker eggs, moving our bodies to music, activities, bubbles, a craft, and free play!

Science Heroes-Digging It!

Thursday, November 12th

6:00-7:00

Unearth your curiosity as we dig into the incredible science that's all around us! If you didn't already love science, you'll really 'dig it' after experiencing Science Heroes! Learn about pressure and energy with the Toilet Tornado! Or how about the effects of angles and trajectory with the Hydro-Cannon? Like all Science Heroes programs, "Digging It!" features tons of audience interaction and opportunities for your children to volunteer.

Pokemon Club

Thursday, November 19th

6:00-6:45

Do you love everything Pokemon? Join us for Pokemon Club where you can meet other Pokemon fans and trade cards if you want to! Best for ages 6 and up. No registration required. This is not a drop-off program.

Mindful Movement with Buffy

Friday, November 20th
11:00-11:45

Get moving together with certified health instructor Buffy in this fun, 45-minute family movement class! Through playful movement, stretching, and mindfulness activities, caregivers and children ages 3+ will enjoy time together while building healthy movement habits. Registration is required as space is limited.

Peaceful Projects

Wednesday, November 25th

2:00-3:00

Join Rileigh for a drop-in craft! Painting, slime making, doodling, and more! Every session will be a little different than the last! Best for ages 5-12. Registration requested. This is not a drop-off event.

Teen Programming

Off the Hook Crochet Club

Thursday, October 1st
6:00-7:00

Ages 12-17

Welcome to Off the Hook Crochet Club — where kids

turn yarn into awesome!

From colorful creations to cool new skills, this club is all about learning, laughing, and stitching together.

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.

The Nest: Small 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!

Programming for All Ages

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

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 the one headstone the British used for target practice—and why.

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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!

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!

Puzz Fest: Halloween Edition – Thursday, October 22nd 6:00-8:00PM

Assemble your team (up

No experience needed — just bring your imagination (and your needles)!

to 5 people!) and join us to see which team can complete their puzzle first. We'll have snacks to keep you fueled as you tackle your 500 piece jigsaw. All teams will get to keep their puzzle. Registration is required. Please only register 1 person per team; you cannot complete the registration process online if you say there are more attendees. We do not need to know how many people are on your team, but the maximum is 5.

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.

Annual Pumpkin Glow – October 29th 4PM and 5PM

It's that time of the year again! Join us for our Annual Pumpkin Glow program where kids are invited to carve or paint their very own pumpkin to be put on display for Main Street Trick-or-Treat. In case of rain, this program will be moved indoors.

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.



Courtesy

Congratulations to the following students who were selected as September Students of the Month at Saint. Joseph School! Pre-K 3-year-old: Nelle Santos; Pre-K 4-year-old (A): Caroline Dziedzic; Pre-K 4-year-old (B): Samuel Hannoush; Kindergarten (A): Abigail Prendergast; Kindergarten (B): Aveary Mensah; Grade 1: Wesley Goulet; Grade 2: Kaya Sudol; Grade 3: Liam Buschle; Grade 4: Clara Petrides; Grade 5 (A): Oliver Smith; Grade 5 (B): Keziah Anobah; Grade 6 (A): Mia Reed; Grade 6 (B): Rylan Shemansky; Grade 7: Jewelanna Stepka; Grade 8: Sophia Surowaniec. Students are awarded Student of the Month for their outstanding exemplification of Religion, Respect, and Responsibility. Keep up the great work!

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 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 com-

munity 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 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.
THERE WILL BE NO ACTIVITIES ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3RD!
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: Wednesday, 11/4: Chicken pot pie, mashed potatoes, and mixed vegetables. Thursday, 11/5: Baked potatoes with vegetarian chili, cheese, and steamed broccoli. Friday, 11/6: Soup du jour, NY pastrami sandwiches, and coleslaw.
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 movies will be ‘The Sting’ on 11/4 and ‘Nobody’s Fool’ on 11/18!
Calling card players or interested persons to the Webster Senior Center! Come join us for six-card or thir-

teen-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.

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WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Oct. 18-24.
Raul Olivencia, age 46, of Webster was arrested on Oct. 20 in connection with a warrant.
Adryannia Latuga, age 19, and Jaurel Luis Cotto Rivera, age 20, both of Webster, were arrested on Oct. 20 for Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon and Carrying a Dangerous Weapon. A 20-year-old female, also from Webster, received a summons in lieu of arrest for the same charges.
Janet Maria Lajoie, age 41, of Worcester was arrested on Oct. 21 in connection with a warrant.
Alicia Marie Bissanti, age 41, of Southbridge was arrested on Oct. 22 for operating an Uninsured and Unregistered Motor Vehicle, Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Possession of a Class A Drug, and in connection with a warrant.
Justin Gordan Lesslie, age 27, of Webster was arrested on Oct. 22 for Failure to Stop for Police, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license, Possession of a Class D Drug with Intent to Distribute.
Francisca Rosario, age 55, of Webster was arrested on Oct. 23 for Trespassing and Possession of a Class B Drug.
Nicole Marie Villegas Garcia, age 20, of Webster was arrested on Oct. 23 in connection with a warrant.

REAL ESTATE

AUBURN

\$850,000, 7 Whitetail Run, Haglund, Stephen, and Talbert, Megan, to Thomas, Laudiceia Langame, and Thomas, Silas.
\$565,000, 3 Deerfield Cir, Gosselin, Louis, and Gosselin, Donna, to Gosselin, Kevin M, and Gosselin, Margaret M.
\$470,000, 156 Hamton, 2026 Courchaine Ft, and Courchaine, Roy A, to Guarino, Philip S.
\$373,550, 2701 Forest Park Dr, Vu, Trongkhoi, and Vu, Nancy, to Minior, Alexander.
\$315,275, 334 N Oxford St, Harris, Nancy L, to Bho Realty LLC.

DUDLEY

\$680,000, 368 Dudley Oxford Rd, Carrasquillo, Yoel, and Lopez, Dagrash Castro, to Phan, Baohan K, and Vuong, Khoa.
\$370,000, 72 W Main St, Louellyn Lambros Lt, and Lambros, Louellyn, to Sturniolo 3rd, John Paul, and Vitale, Stephanie Marie.

OXFORD

\$400,000, 64 Larned Rd, Hayden, Kirk N, to Lloyd, Hayden Joseph.
\$220,000, 9 Merriam District, Laro, Kyle, and Laro, Shannon, to Phonix Properties LLC.

WEBSTER

\$4,000,000, Main St, Investment Funnd LLC, to J And R Re Holdings LLC.
\$800,000, 72 Bates Point Rd, Yacino, Frank R, and Carter, Pamela A, to Carter, Matthew A.
\$460,000, 12 Elaine St, Meyer, Stephen, and Meyer, Lauri, to Selser, Mary R, and Selser, Earl J.
\$359,000, 17 Didonato Ave, 17 Didonato Realty LLC, to Francisco, Donna, and Francisco, Domingo.
\$318,000, 30 Thompson Rd, Yellow Lab Rt, and Dalterio, David, to Rognen Levy T, and Levy, Rongen.
\$275,000, 411 High St, Mundell 3rd, Ernest H, to Mateo And Moran Prop LLC.
\$274,576, 6 Carter St, Ma Hsng Fin Agency, to Falcon, Eudurdo, and Miranda, Kiara Ali.
\$249,000, 28 Highcrest Pk #4-6, Charlotte Maisto Ft, and Smith, Keith Paul, to Ferrecchia, Monique A.

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.



Courtesy

OXFORD FOOD SHELF WALKS TO HELP FEED NEIGHBORS IN NEED

More than 30 people participated in the Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf’s annual Crop Hunger Walk on Sunday, Oct. 18. Collecting donations from walk sponsors, they raised more than \$3000 to help provide food for our neighbors here in Oxford and around the world. After the walk, participants were served pizza donated by P&D Oxford House of Pizza, a generous supporter of the Oxford Food Shelf. The Food Shelf is Oxford’s food pantry and has served the community for more than 50 years. Located on the lower level of the Oxford Community Center at 4 Maple Rd. in Oxford, the Food Shelf is open on Thursdays at 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., except holidays. For more information, call 508-987-1062.

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.

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.

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Friday’s Child

Malayaja, who goes by Trinity, is a sweet and funny child with a big personality. She loves to entertain others and make them laugh with her expressive facial expressions. Trinity enjoys singing and dancing, especially to K-pop, Hip Hop, and R&B. She also likes creating her own TikTok videos and learning new dance routines.

Recently, Trinity performed in a chorus concert, where she did very well and loved the experience. She also enjoys traveling and recently took her first flight to California.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21183436551>

Can I Adopt?

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

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

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Atkins breaks rushing record as Bartlett repeats as CMAC champion



Xavier Butler and Alex Kapulka pursue a Worcester Tech ball carrier.

WORCESTER — Two trips to Foley Stadium, two school records for Jaesean Atkins.

The Bartlett running back rushed for 374 yards and five touchdowns Saturday, leading the Indians to a 48-14 victory over Worcester Tech and their second consecutive CMAC championship.

Atkins carried 27 times, averaging 13.9 yards per attempt, and surpassed the previous school rushing record of 372 yards established by Alexander Givins-Perry against Auburn on Nov. 1, 2013.

The performance came two weeks after Atkins scored a school-record six touchdowns in Bartlett's 40-8 victory over Worcester North on the same field.

While Atkins supplied the record-breaking numbers, Bartlett's offensive line and blockers helped power an offense that finished with 500 total yards, including 466 on the ground. The Indians averaged 11.4 yards across 41 rushing attempts.

Hunter Claypool contributed with both his arm and his legs. He rushed for 42 yards and a touchdown on four carries and completed two of three passes for 34 yards and another score. Tyler Whiting caught both completions, finishing with 34 receiving yards and a touchdown. Mason Fallas added 38 yards on four carries.

Worcester Tech's scoring came on two touchdown passes from Ryan Gallagher to Joel Rodriguez, with



Hunter Claypool rolls out looking for Ty Whiting while Jaesean Atkins provides protection.

Josh Dubuque converting both extra points. Bartlett held Tech scoreless after halftime, and neither team scored in the fourth quarter.

The Indians' defense also produced several big plays. Wes Martinez and Cam Forsythe each recorded an interception, while Forsythe and Whiting registered a sack apiece. Butler recovered a fumble and recorded a tackle for loss, and Aaron Cira also added a tackle for loss.

Atkins and Jaid Montesinos each finished with two solo tackles and five assists, contributing on the defensive side of Bartlett's championship-clinching effort.

Atkins' five touchdowns also moved him closer to two more milestones. He now has 21 touchdowns

this season, tying Todd Daskowski for the second-most in program history with his 21 in 1992. Lawrence Smith's 22 touchdowns in 2025 stand as the school's single-season record.

Atkins' career touchdown



Mason Fallas, Alex Kapulka and Ty Whiting celebrate Whiting's second quarter touchdown.

total reached 38, leaving him 10 shy of Daskowski's school record of 48.

Saturday's victory paired another individual achievement with a team accomplishment, as the Indians followed their 2025 CMAC

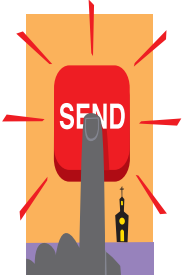
title with another championship season.

Bartlett returns home Friday, Oct. 23, to face Lowell Catholic on Senior Night. Kickoff is scheduled for 6 p.m. at Memorial Field.

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DA hosts discussion on understanding addiction and supporting recovery

WORCESTER — On Oct. 14, Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. hosted the Prevention and Support Network’s annual event, bringing together community partners for a discussion on addiction, recovery, and the importance of coordinated support to help individuals build stable, healthy lives.

The event featured Dr. Stephen Loyd, Chief Medical Officer at Cedar Recovery and the real-life physician portrayed by Michael Keaton in Hulu’s “Dopesick,” and Troy Sandifer, founder and CEO of H.U.S.T.L.E. (How U Survive This Life Everyday) Recovery, a Tennessee-based organization that connects individuals with addiction treatment and recovery support services.

Dr. Loyd shared his personal experience with addiction and recovery, while Sandifer discussed H.U.S.T.L.E. Recovery’s respite housing model and its role in supporting individuals as they work toward long-term stability.

Dr. Loyd discussed the complex factors that can contribute to addiction, including genetics, trauma, and underlying mental health challenges. Drawing on his professional experience and personal journey through recovery, he emphasized the importance of



understanding addiction and addressing the underlying factors that can contribute to substance use. He also spoke about the importance of breaking generational cycles of addiction and creating opportunities for individuals and families to move forward.

Sandifer also shared his personal journey through addiction and the criminal justice system and how those experiences inspired him to dedicate his work to helping others find recovery. Through H.U.S.T.L.E. Recovery, he works to connect individuals with recovery

services and employment opportunities that can help them build stability and independence.

The discussion highlighted the importance of a comprehensive, collaborative approach to addiction that balances accountability with access to treatment and support. Addressing the opioid crisis requires more than a criminal justice

response; it also calls for coordination among law enforcement, treatment providers, community organizations, and other partners to help individuals access the resources and opportunities they need to sustain recovery.

“These leaders came up from Tennessee to offer our community successful programs that

help save lives. Their work interrupts death,” said District Attorney Early. “They shared with us the importance of having people with real-life, lived experience help people overcome this disease and improve public safety.”

The event offered an opportunity for members of the Prevention and Support Network to

learn from the speakers’ experiences and consider how their approaches could inform local efforts in Worcester County. Their work reinforced that lasting recovery requires more than access to treatment alone. It also depends on coordinated support and a commitment to helping individuals build stable lives in recovery.

Sandifer emphasized the critical step of securing stable housing and employment options for individuals in early recovery, “Treatment is not recovery. Treatment is stabilization. Recovery begins after treatment.”

Early has long been committed to addressing substance use, trauma, and mental health in Worcester County. In 2015, he established the Central Massachusetts Opioid Taskforce, which later became the Prevention and Support Network, which continues to foster collaboration among professionals, law enforcement, and community organizations to address substance use and its impact on individuals, families, and communities throughout Worcester County.

Bay Path named 2026 School of Recognition by Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

FARM

continued from page A1

agricultural literacy and strengthen awareness of the important role farming plays in Dudley’s history, rural character, and future.

“Introducing children to agriculture at a young age helps them understand where their food comes from, appreciate the work of local farmers, and recognize the important role farms play in our community,” said Katie Rozenas-Hanson, Secretary of the Dudley Agricultural Advisory Commission. “Agricultural literacy in the classroom is an investment in the next generation of consumers. By helping students build these connections early, we can encourage them to make informed choices and support local agriculture as they grow.”

Commission member and Dudley farmer, Krisanne Koebke added, “I’m always impressed with the questions the kids ask!”

Representative Marsi shared his enthusiasm for the visit, saying, “I had a wonderful time participating at Mason Road school reading Farm Boots to the Kindergarten class! They asked so many great questions. It’s important that they know how important farms are to Dudley!”

Written by Lisl H. Detlefsen, Farm Boots introduces young readers to the rhythms of farm life through joyful rhyming verse. Following farming families through all four seasons, the story explores the many types of boots needed for farm chores and changing weather—from splashing through spring puddles and visiting the summer fair to herding sheep in a snowy winter barn. The book offers an engaging introduction to the people, work, and seasonal activities that make agriculture an essential part of everyday life.

This is the second year the Dudley Agricultural Advisory Commission has organized a Farm to School Month reading and book distribution. By providing every student with a personal copy, the Commission hopes to extend agricultural learning beyond the classroom and into students’ homes, encouraging conversations among children and their families about farming, food, and the value of local agriculture.

The initiative supports the Commission’s broader mission to support local farmers, preserve Dudley’s rural character, and advise town boards on agricultural issues. In addition to promoting agricultural education, the Commission has co-hosted Dudley Agrifest and organized the Dudley Plant Hop, connecting residents with local agriculture and opportunities to engage with the town’s farming community.

Through programs like this annual book distribution, the Dudley Agricultural Advisory Commission continues to invest in agricultural awareness among Dudley’s youngest residents and help cultivate the next generation of informed consumers who understand and value local farms.

About the Dudley Agricultural Advisory Commission

The Dudley Agricultural Advisory Commission supports local farmers, promotes the town’s rural character, and advises town boards on agricultural issues. Through community initiatives and educational programming, the Commission works to increase agricultural awareness and foster connections between Dudley residents and local agriculture.

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is the only regional vocational technical school in Massachusetts named a 2026 School of Recognition by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The annual honor goes to a small group of schools for progress toward state accountability targets, especially improved achievement in English language arts and math. This year, 56 public schools statewide made the list.

Bay Path met 60 percent of its state accountability targets this year, up from 49% in 2025. That moved the school into DESE’s “substantial progress” category and placed it in the 76th percentile of Massachusetts high schools. The gains came

while Bay Path’s roughly 1,200 students also trained across 23 vocational programs. The students come from Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer and Webster. Bay Path is the only school from those ten towns on this year’s list.

“As a school community we are very proud of this accomplishment,” said Kyle Brenner, Superintendent/Director. “Over the past several years, we have been intentional about building strong systems of learning. We’ve raised academic rigor, strengthened curriculum and instruction, and brought our academic and vocational programs into closer alignment. This recognition reflects the work of our entire school community.”

Bay Path students demonstrated measurable academic growth in the following areas:

English Language Arts achievement increased 3.4 points. Mathematics achievement increased 3.8 points. English Language Arts growth exceeded typical growth. Mathematics growth exceeded typical growth. Four-year graduation reached 98.9 percent. The annual dropout rate was 0 percent. Chronic absenteeism decreased from 11.1 to 10.2 percent.

“These numbers represent real progress for our students,” said Dean Packard, Bay Path principal. “This is what happens when educators collaborate around student needs, when students take ownership of

their learning, and when adults across our building refuse to settle for what was good enough yesterday.”

About Bay Path Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School prepares students for both college and careers through a rigorous blend of academic coursework and hands-on technical training. Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Bay Path serves ten Southern Worcester County communities: Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer, and Webster. Opening in 1972 atop Muggett Hill, the school has spent more than five decades offering 23 career areas alongside its academic program.



Courtesy

TRINITY CELEBRATES FATHER PETER!

During this week’s Mass celebrating the Feast Day of St. John Paul II, we also gathered to say farewell to Father Peter Bui, who has been a beautiful light in our school and parish community over the past three years. His deep faith, kindness, and incredible smile have touched so many hearts, and he will be greatly missed. As a special expression of our love and gratitude, students presented Father Peter with a picture featuring his favorite quote, “God is Good, All the Time,” surrounded by the thumbprints of each student and faculty member, a lasting reminder of the many lives he has touched. We are so grateful for the blessing of having shared these years with him!

EcoTarium to the International Space Station — Over!



WORCESTER — “I’ve got you loud and clear up here from the space station, over,” said NASA Astronaut Major Luke Delaney using a HAM radio signal as he addressed local students, ranging from first graders to high school freshmen, at the EcoTarium Museum of Science and Nature on Oct. 15.

Ten students were selected to ask questions during the radio call to an astronaut aboard the International Space Station (ISS) as it traveled across the horizon overhead. The Museum was buzzing with excitement with hundreds of visitors in attendance to witness the earth-to-space contact at the EcoTarium. The live radio contact was coordinated through Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) in collaboration with the Central Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association (CMARA), schools across the region, and the EcoTarium.

“What a thrill to watch the students ask their questions to Astronaut Delaney on the International Space Station using radio technology,” said Noreen Smith, President and CEO of the EcoTarium. “This represents the best of what science museums can offer. We are inspiring future engineers, astronauts and scientists here at the EcoTarium through exhibits and experiences like this contact with outer space.”

The broadcast lasted 10 minutes as the ISS flew over southern New Hampshire, in orbit 260 miles above Earth. Students asked 20 questions to Major Delaney, including:

“How do you make grilled cheeses up there?”

“How does it feel to always be floating and not on a planet?”

“What do you do when you miss home?”

“What is the most surprising thing you have seen from space?”

“What do you hope the ISS will achieve next?”

Healing Heroes Foundation launches equine-assisted recovery program

WHITINSVILLE — Responding to the growing need for mental health resources for first responders across Massachusetts, the Healing Heroes Foundation announced the launch of its Equine-Assisted Recovery Program. The skills-based program utilizes horses as a bridge to mindfulness and grounding to combat high stress and post-traumatic stress disorder that heavily impact firefighters, EMTs, law enforcement officers, military veterans, and other first responders. Healing Heroes Foundation is a Massachusetts-based nonprofit dedicated to fostering community, connection, and camaraderie across first responders, military members, veterans, and their families. “This experiential, relationship-based program provides the space, community, and support for first responders to ground themselves and engage with one of nature’s most empathetic creatures,” says Jaime Nicholas, Co-Director of Healing Heroes Foundation. “First responders across the country are facing significant mental health and wellness challenges, and we felt a responsibility to help address that need here in Massachusetts by introducing a unique program that fosters meaningful connection and mental well-being so first responders don’t have to navigate life’s challenges alone.” Hosted in Whitinsville, the eight-week Equine-Assisted Recovery Program is made possible through partnerships between the Healing Heroes Foundation, Cornerstone Community Care, and Superior Stables. At the end of the program, participants will be connected with financial health resources through a partnership between Healing Heroes Foundation and First Responders Credit Union. The program is led by Christina Cronin, LICSW, President and Clinical Director of Cornerstone Community Care. Participants will engage in structured interactions with the horses through activities such as observing, grooming, leading, and other groundwork designed to support mindfulness, self-regulation, communication, and connection. Among the horses participating in the program is one cared for by a U.S. Army veteran and current psychiatric registered nurse, further reflecting the program’s connection to the communities it serves. The Healing Heroes Foundation has filled two cohorts of participants for its Equine-Assisted Recovery Program, showing a regional demand for this innovative resource. With a focus on solidifying the curriculum and measuring outcomes with its inaugural cohort, the organization’s long-term goal is to grow the program’s impact and geographical reach so this critical resource can be available to first responders across the state. It is currently in talks with additional Massachusetts stables.

Equine-assisted approaches have proven to meaningfully complement clinical therapy, exposing participants to a more active, relationship-based setting. Interactions with horses such as approaching, handling, leading, and caring can make abstract concepts like consent, trust, self-regulation, and communication more tangible.

During the brief program preceding the contact, Brendan Cole, Senior Manager of Education at the EcoTarium, taught the audience about radio waves. Cole shared that radio waves are part of the electromagnetic spectrum and are a form of invisible light. The waves travel through space at the speed of light, carrying information that a receiving antenna picks up and converts into signals that can be interpreted as sound or data. As the clock approached the last 10 seconds before the ISS came into range for the radio contact, children began to excitedly count down, “10...9...8...” The rest of the audience joined in unison before erupting into cheers for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to connect with an astronaut live

Nichols College launches flexible Master’s in mental health counseling to address regional shortages and fast-track careers

DUDLEY — Nichols College has expanded its graduate programs, adding a new Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling (MHC) degree. The program will prepare students for careers as licensed mental health counselors (LMHCs) in a range of settings spanning hospitals, community agencies, school-based counseling offices and private practice. The first cohort of students will begin the program this fall.

The MHC program meets educational requirements for LMHC licensure in Massachusetts. Through a practice-first, experiential learning model, students will learn to address everyday challenges, from stress and anxiety to relationship and workplace issues, while building a strong pathway toward licensure. The program was developed to align with Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) standards, the primary accrediting body for master’s and doctoral counseling degrees in the United States.

“The Nichols program is designed to meet the growing need for compassionate and competent licensed mental health counselors within Massachusetts, throughout New England and beyond,” said Michelle Ledoux, Ed.D., LMHC, the inaugural director of the MHC program. “Our program stands out because we prepare students as generalist counselors—professionals equipped to work across a wide range of client needs and settings. This broad-based foundation reflects both workforce realities and client needs. It also ensures our students are positioned to pursue specialized certifications and advanced training as their careers evolve.”

The 60-credit program can be completed in three years and is delivered in a flexible, hybrid format. This structure includes synchronous online classes in both seven- and 15-week terms, as well as in-person experiential learning, internships and practicums. Courses that emphasize applied counseling skills, such as group counseling and crisis interventions, will be taught in person to support real-time interaction, skill practice and immediate feedback. Other courses, including those focused on foundational knowledge such as assessment and measurement, are well suited to an online environment.

This hybrid approach allows Nichols to maintain a high-touch, practice-oriented learning experience while providing the flexibility students need to balance graduate study with professional and personal commitments.

All MHC students will also complete a required practicum and internship that fulfills Massachusetts

HISTORIC FIRST-EVER CONTACT BETWEEN WORCESTER AND THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION MADE AT THE EcoTarium

on the ISS.

There have been 10 ARISS radio contacts from Massachusetts since the space station went into orbit in 1998. This was the first contact made with the ISS from Worcester, Massachusetts.

This initiative advances the EcoTarium’s mission of igniting curiosity and inspiring a passion for science, technology, engineering, and math. The Museum offers year-round astronomy programming for visitors of all ages, including the new NASA-funded permanent exhibit “Lift Off! Space Explorers,” full-dome shows in the Alden Planetarium, the newly renovated observatory, and a monthly Astrophysics Speaker Series. The EcoTarium will open its newest major traveling exhibition, Journey to Space, in the Stoddard Exhibition Hall on Nov. 14.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, the EcoTarium hosted a public celebration, Communicating Across the Cosmos, that featured special programs about HAM radio and how we use different waves across the electromagnetic spectrum. The EcoTarium showed a full replay of the cosmic conversation with Major Luke Delaney aboard the ISS in the planetarium.

Watch the program and astronaut contact here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nQA-8p1bls&t=1628s>

Learn more about the ARISS contact here: <https://ecotarium.org/iss/>

About The EcoTarium

The EcoTarium is New England’s leading museum of science and nature, an indoor-outdoor experience dedicated to inspiring a passion for science and nature in visitors of all ages.

Founded in 1825 as one of the oldest natural history museums in the country, the EcoTarium has been a leader in informal science and nature education for 201 years. Highlights of the 55-acre Worcester campus include the science center with three floors of interactive exhibits; the Stoddard Exhibition Hall; Alden Planetarium; Science Discovery programs; extensive outdoor nature trails, a native New England wildlife zoo and habitats; a seasonal railroad featuring the Worcester Railers Explorer Express Train; and an extensive outdoor playground and exhibit, Nature Explore®. The EcoTarium is located at 222 Harrington Way, Worcester. Parking is free, and Museum admission tickets may be purchased online. The EcoTarium is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit ecotarium.org.



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

LEGALS

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket No. 26 SM 003329
ORDER OF NOTICE
TO: Angela Perry, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Janet F. Perry; Angela Perry 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 on behalf for Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust 2021-RP4 claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Auburn, numbered 3 Maybelle Avenue, given by Janet F. Perry to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for First Magnus Financial Corporation, its successors and assigns, dated July 21, 2006, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 39539, Page 40, 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 11/30/2026 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 10/15/2026. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder
October 30, 2026

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS CONTRACTOR PREQUALIFICATIONS
The Auburn Water District hereby requests qualifications from prospective General Contractors and Sub-Contractors for the construction of the new 1.3 million gallon per day (mgd) Church Street PFAS Water Treatment Facility in accordance with M.G.L. C. 149, ss 44D¾. The project with an estimated cost of twelve million five hundred thousand dollars (\$12,500,000) includes construction of the new concrete masonry unit (CMU) water treatment facility with GAC filter vessels for PFAS removal, chemical feed systems, backwash residuals holding tank below the first floor within the proposed building footprint, restroom, HVAC, plumbing, fire protection system, and electrical systems. Site work includes all below grade utilities, grading, a new paved driveway and gravel driveway area for vehicular access and chemical delivery, stormwater collection and treatment, and selective demolition of existing chemical feed equipment and replacement of well pumps and motors within the existing well pump buildings. Work shall be completed within 570 consecutive calendar days of the date fixed in the Notice to Proceed. Filed Sub-Bidder Categories for the project include Masonry (\$750,000); Miscellaneous and Ornamental Iron (\$150,000); Waterproofing, Damp proofing and Caulking (\$200,000); Roofing and Flashing (\$250,000); Painting (\$150,000); Fire Protection (\$75,000); Plumbing (\$200,000); HVAC (\$250,000); and Electrical (\$1,200,000). Prequalification is a prerequisite for bidding on the Project, which is anticipated to begin in January 2027. The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) may be obtained on or after October 28, 2026 at 2:00 pm, and downloaded electronically from the Tata & Howard, Inc. website at <https://tataandhoward.com/projects-out-to-bid/>. Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) shall be received by the Auburn Water District at the Auburn Water District Office, 75 Church Street, Auburn, MA 01501, Attn: Gregory Woods, Superintendent, until 3:00 PM E.S.T., on Wednesday, November 18, 2026. Participation in the bidding phase of this Project will be limited to General Contractors and filed Sub-bidders who have submitted a SOQ (and required supporting documentation) in response to the RFQs and that have been deemed prequalified by the Auburn Water District. Any contractor seeking to be prequalified as both a General Contractor and Subcontractor for a particular filed sub-bid trade(s) is required to file separate responses to BOTH the RFQ issued to prospective General Contractors and the RFQ issued to prospective filed Subcontractors for this Project.

Additional required information regarding the Construction of the Church Street PFAS Water Treatment Facility, including the prequalification evaluation criteria and the selection process, is included in the RFQ available to the interested Contractors electronically by using the contact information set forth in this advertisement.
AUBURN WATER DISTRICT
AUBURN, MASSACHUSETTS
October 30, 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
Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Division Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO26P3334EA INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
Estate Of:
Brenda Nichols
Date of Death: 07/30/2026
To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Kimberly A. Nichols of Worcester MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Kimberly A. Nichols of Worcester MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
October 30, 2026
(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 26 SM 003388 ORDER OF NOTICE
TO: Nicole Magnusson and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*): Freedom Mortgage Corporation claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Oxford, numbered 17 Bacon Street, given by Nicole Magnusson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc as mortgagee, as nominee for Homebridge Financial Services, Inc., dated February 23, 2022, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 67170, Page 187, 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 21, 2026.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
October 30, 2026
NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Joshua E. Steeves to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Family Choice Mortgage Corporation, dated August 28, 2007 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 41773, Page 274, as modified by a certain modification agreement recorded on February 12, 2016, and recorded with said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 54939, Page 96, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:
Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Family Choice Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns to Saxon Mortgage Services, Inc., recorded on November 9, 2011, in Book No. 48095, at Page 215
Saxon Mortgage Services, Inc. to Residential Credit Solutions, Inc., recorded on April 3, 2014, in Book No. 52185, at Page 146
Residential Credit Solutions, Inc. to Federal National Mortgage Association, recorded on October 28, 2014, in Book No. 52967, at Page 209
Federal National Mortgage Association to Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper, recorded on January 10, 2020, in Book No. 61727, at Page 110 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on November 6, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 55 Sunny Avenue, Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,
TO WIT:
The land with the buildings thereon, in Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, Shown as Lot 8 on a plan entitled: "Definitive Subdivision sunny Shores Section II Webster, Massachusetts, Lotting Plan Owned by Sunny Shores, Inc., Old Worcester Road, Webster, Massachusetts, Massachusetts Developer: CJP Realty Trust 31 Charlton Road, Dudley, Massachusetts, prepared by Bouley Brothers, Inc., Professional Land Surveyors, 75 Hammond Street, PO Box 2215, Worcester, Massachusetts 01613.", said plan is recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 767, Plan 81, to which plan reference is hereby made for a more particular description.
Lot 8 contains 14,852+/- square feet, according to said plan.
Subject to a Declaration of Restrictive Covenants dated May 22, 2001 as Instrument No. 70475 in Book 24076, Page 46.
Expressly reserving the fee in the streets, but together with benefits of a right of way in common with others thereto over the street and ways on plan recorded in Plan Book 767, Plan 81.
Subject to easements and restrictions as shown on plan recorded in Plan Book 767, Plan 81.
For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 39365, Page 214.
These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.
TERMS OF SALE:
A deposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.
Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC S/B/M NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
29719
October 16, 2026
October 23, 2026
October 30, 2026
NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor Docket No. WO26P3279GD Massachusetts Trial Court Probate and Family Court Probate and Family Court
In the interests of
Leonell Haze Gomez of Douglas, MA Minor
Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 10/05/2026 by Glendaliz Rosario-Gomez of Douglas, MA will be held 11/18/2026 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing Located **Worcester Probate & Family Court**
2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.
3. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.
4. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.
5. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form (MPC 263). Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.
THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.
ORDER TO PETITIONER(S)
IT IS ORDERED THAT copies of this Notice and the Petition for Resignation or Peition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor be served in hand on the minor, (if 14 or more years of age and not the petitioner), the guardian, the parents of the minor, and any other person if ordered by the Court, at least **fourteen (14) days** prior to the hearing date listed above. **Service must be made by the sheriff, constable, or other person approved by the Court.** If service in hand cannot be accomplished on any interested party. **IT IS ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and the Petition for Resignation or Peition for Removal of Guardian be served on the interested party by leaving at and mailing by regular first class mail to last and usual place of residence of the interested party at least **fourteen (14) days** prior to the date of hearing listed above. If the identity of whereabouts of an interested party is **not known, IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and Petition for Resignation or Peition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor be served on all interested persons at least **fourteen (14) days** prior to the hearing date by mailing first class mail and by publishing a copy of the Order and Notice once in **Webster Times, Webster** publication to be at least **Seven (7) days** prior to the hearing date. If required, service on the United States Veteran Administration and the Department of Children and Families may be accomplished by regular first class mail at least **Seven (7) days** prior to the hearing.
Date: October 54, 2026
Stephanie K. Fattman
October 30, 2026

LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P2625EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of: Marleigh Rose Guevara
Date of Death: 04/11/2026
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication
of Intestacy with Appointment of
Personal Representative has been
filed by Heather Pereira of Webster
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:
Heather Pereira of Webster
MA be appointed as Personal
Representative(s) of said estate to
serve Without 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
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.
**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 regard-
ing 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 administra-
tion.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 21, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 30, 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 keep-
er'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 keep-

er'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

**PUBLIC HEARING
TAX CLASSIFICATION**
The Board of Selectmen, with the
Assessor, will hold a Public Hearing
on Monday, November 9, 2026 at 6:00
pm in the Selectmen's Meeting Room,
Town Hall located at 350 Main Street,
Webster, MA 01570.
This is in conformity with the provi-
sions of Massachusetts General Laws
chapter 40 section 56 for the purpose
of holding a Tax Classification Hearing
to establish the relative tax burden to
be borne by each class of properties
for FY2027.
All interested parties are invited to
attend and participate.
October 30, 2026

PERFORMANCE
continued from page A1

An important component
of the evening will be edu-
cation about Narcan, the
brand name for naloxone,
a medication capable of
reversing an opioid over-
dose.
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, nalox-
one 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 associat-
ed with carrying or admin-
istering Narcan, empha-
sizing 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, univer-
sities and conferences
throughout Massachusetts,
reaching thousands of stu-
dents and other audience
members. The performanc-
es have been supported
through earmarked funding
from the Commonwealth of
Massachusetts.
The Oxford presenta-
tion is being made possi-
ble through the coopera-
tion of the Oxford Police

Department, Oxford Fire
Department, Oxford Board
of Health and Oxford High
School, along with munic-
ipal opioid remediation
funds.
By combining live the-
ater, personal experiences
and medical expertise, the
program seeks to give stu-
dents and families informa-
tion they can use to recog-
nize dangerous situations,
make informed decisions
and potentially save lives.
For more information
about Drug Story Theater
and the upcoming presen-
tation, visit www.drugstorytheater.org.

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OBITUARIES

Joann L. Maywalt February 9, 1955 — October 21, 2026



Oxford- Joann (Johns) Maywalt passed away peacefully on October 21, 2026 after an illness with her family by her side. Joann was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on February 9, 1955, daughter of Eleanor (Ciccarelli) Johns, and grew up in Worcester, Massachusetts where she graduated from Central New England College. Joann worked many years as the Culinary Arts Baking Teacher and Chairperson at Bay Path Vocational High School where she shared her extensive knowledge and love of baking with her students and directed her students in numerous musical performances. Joann married the love of her life, Frederick, on February 7, 1987 and her highest priority was providing a loving

life and home for Fred, herself and her cats; Jerry, Jerry #2, Sammy and Ellie; and sharing this life with her extended family. Religious faith, music, baking, gardening, and traveling were Joann’s passions. She shared her faith and musical talent at Trinity Lutheran Church, playing the piano and organ, directing the youth choir, preaching the sermon, and leading the youth group in a musical performance of Godspell. Later, at Calgary Church, she also directed the congregants in Godspell, which they performed in nursing care facilities and prisons throughout Massachusetts. While living in Oxford, Joann was a member of St. Ann’s Church, which later merged with St. Roch’s Church. She was very active in this church community, serving as a Religious Education Teacher, Eucharist Minister and providing numerous meals for churchwide events. Joann spent many hours tending to her flower gardens, which were spectacular to behold! Joann had traveled to Italy, Greece, Switzerland, Germany, France, England, Scotland, Australia, New Zealand, Egypt, Dominican Republic, Cayman Islands, St. Martin, and Hawaii. Joann leaves behind her husband of 39 years, Fred Maywalt of Oxford; a brother and sister-in-law, Alexander & Darlene Johns of Paxton; a sister and brother-in-law, Annette & Robert Markel of Princeton; nieces and nephews, Michael Johns, Nicole, Andrew, Katherine, Emma and Samuel Hayes, all of Worcester; a niece, Lindsay Markel of New Orleans, a nephew and Godson, Benjamin Markel of Princeton, brother-in-law and sister-in-law John and Clare Maywalt of Oxford, and brother-in-law Maurice Poirier of Southbridge. She was predeceased by her mother, Eleanor Johns, mother-in-law Virginia Maywalt, and sister-in-law Ginny Poirier. Memorial calling hours will be held on Monday, November 2, 2026 from 4:00pm to 7:00pm at Mercadante Funeral Home & Chapel, 370 Plantation Street, Worcester. A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026 at 11:00am in the funeral home. Burial will take place at a later date at the discretion of the family. Joann’s family wishes to thank the staff at Rose Monahan Hospice for their exceptional, compassionate care.



WEBSTER - Edward N. “Edziu” Szymczak, 89, died Thursday, October 22, 2026 in UMASS/Memorial Healthcare at Hubbard Regional Hospital in the presence of family. His wife of 63 years, Dorothy V. (Sabaj) Szymczak, predeceased him. He leaves a sister, Constance A. “Connie” Favreau of Dudley; a brother, William J. “Bill” Szymczak and his wife Mary of Grafton, cousin Zofia Walker and her husband, Richard Walker of Webster, plus many nieces and nephews, and grand-nieces and grandnephews. Mr. Szymczak was born on August 26, 1937 in Webster, MA, the eldest son of Edward W. and Elizabeth J. (Spiewak) Szymczak. He was a 1955 graduate of Bartlett High School and attended Maine Maritime Academy. He served four years in the United States Navy (1955-1959). He particularly was proud of his service assignments in the Pacific: a tour of duty in Taiwan and shipboard on the heavy cruiser USS Los Angeles (CA-135). Mr. Szymczak worked many years for the Massachusetts Electric Company, primarily as a records specialist in the New England Electric System (NEES) office complex in Westborough, MA. He retired in 1999.

Mr. Szymczak was a communicant of Saint Joseph Basilica his entire life and was active in many church activities. He was a life member of the Auburn-Webster Lodge of Elks #2118 and was a member of the Webster Council on Aging. Ed enjoyed many activities –ice fishing, polka music and dancing, photography and traveling. Of note were the many trips he and Dorothy took to Poland to visit extended family. For many years, Ed and Dorothy enjoyed wintering in Marco Island, Florida. He was a devoted Red Sox fan. Mr. Szymczak’s funeral will be held from Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster, MA on Thursday, October 29, with a Mass at 10:00 AM in St. Joseph Basilica, 53 Whitcomb Street. Burial with military honors provided by the Webster-Dudley Veterans Funeral Honor Guard will be in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace cemetery. Visitation will be held from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Wednesday, October 28, in the funeral home. Donations in his memory may be made to either Saint Joseph Basilica, 53 Whitcomb Street, or to Saint Joseph School, 47 Whitcomb Street, both in Webster, MA 01570. www.websterfunerals.com



3rd Anniversary Theodore Aubin October 21, 2023 - October 21, 2026



*It's been three years without you,
and not a single day goes by that
we don't think of you.
Your love is forever with us.
Love Betty, Vicki, Jeffrey, and
family*

Roland J. (Gabe) Gaboury, Jr., 79



BROOKLYN CT - Roland J. (Gabe) Gaboury, Jr. passed away peacefully on October 16, 2026 at the age of 79. Gabe was born on January 20, 1947 son of Roland Gaboury, Sr. and his wife Estelle (LaMontagne) Gaboury. Gabe graduated from St. Louis High School in 1965. He served as a private E-1 in the US Army during the Vietnam War. Gabe was a member of Local 170 Worcester Teamsters for over 40 years for Wajer’s Express, AAA Trucking, Rand Whitney, Northeast Foods and Wonder Bread. Gabe enjoyed hunting and fishing with family and friends, particularly fishing with his Grandsons whom he spent many days whether it be fresh water fishing or

ice fishing in Vermont. Gabe enjoyed anytime he spent with his friends and family. Gabe leaves his wife of 34 years, Beatrice (Bea) Gaboury, his daughter Jodi (Gaboury) Berg and husband Thomas, his two grandsons, Ryan and Jared. He also leaves behind two stepsons and one step daughter, as well as several nieces and nephews. He was pre-deceased by his daughter Courtney Gaboury in 1980, his mother Estelle in 1999 and his father Roland in 2003, sister Patricia Raymond in 2023 and sister Leslie Verhagen in 2008. Services will be announced at a later date. The family would like to thank the Veteran’s Association, Colonial Health and Rehab and Backus Hospital for their compassion and care during Gabe’s time of needs. “Keep your sunny side up and your dirty side down, C’Mon”

Section 00 11 13 ADVERTISEMENT TO BID MGL c.149 Over \$150K

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: Replacement of Federal Pacific load centers and panel boards. The work is estimated to cost **\$702,218.00**. All bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by 11/17/2026 at 5:00PM EST for general bids. 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.** The Contractor and all subcontractors (collectively referred to as “the Contractor”) agree to strive to achieve minority and women workforce participation. The Workforce Participation benchmark is set at **6.9% for women and 15.3% for minorities**. The Workforce benchmark percentages are a **statutory** requirement under MGL c. 149 § 44A(2)(G). PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: Scheduled Date and Time: 11/04/2026 at 10:00AM EST Address: 10 Golden Heights, Webster, MA 01570 Instructions: None The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at: Nashoba Blue Inc. 433 Main Street Hudson, MA 01749 978-568-1167

STAFF
continued from page A1

have meals ready to go, helping them start their day and stay fueled for learning. From preparing and serving food to keeping everything clean, organized, and run-

ning smoothly, their work requires teamwork, dedication, and a tremendous amount of effort. Their impact goes beyond the meals they serve. A friendly smile, a warm greeting, and a welcoming cafeteria help create a positive school environment

where students feel cared for and supported. They play an important role in our school community, often working behind the scenes without receiving the recognition they deserve. Our students certainly appreciate all that they do! One student shared, "The

food is really good, and the kitchen staff are always so nice to us!" Another student echoed that sentiment, highlighting how much they appreciate the staff's kindness and how they always make students feel welcome. These small but meaningful inter-

actions remind us that the kitchen staff do more than serve meals—they help make Park Ave a caring and welcoming place for everyone. Thank you to our amazing kitchen staff for all that you do for Park Ave! Your hard work, commitment,

and care for our students make a difference every single day. We are grateful to have you as part of our team!



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

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

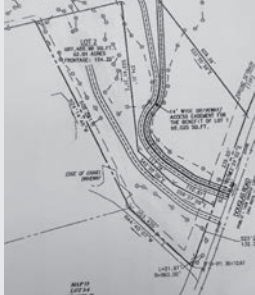
Webster Lake ~ 93 Birch Island Rd

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

*24 Laurelwood Dr
Webster Lake Waterfront*
**SORRY, SOLD!**
On the shores of prestigious Webster Lake! Experience ultra-luxury lakefront living with direct water access. This young modern craftsman lake home is masterfully 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
**ON DEPOSIT**
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

*Featured New Listing!
Webster Lake Waterfront - 86 Bates Point Rd*
**SORRY, SOLD!**
This Beautifully Maintained Two-Level Waterfront Panoramic WATER VIEWS from almost every Single Window!! 50 Ft of Sandy Shoreline!! Front-row Northwest-facing Sunsets !!... Offering a sweeping Wall of Windows to enjoy watching Mother Nature at her Finest!! Wood Flooring!!...This Main Level has an Effortless Layout adding a Roomy Convenient Bedroom & Large Closet, Full bath, 1/2 Bath & Laundry!!... Downstairs, the Walk-out Lower Level Transitions into a phenomenal Guest Retreat with 2 Bedrooms, Living space, and Full Bath!!...2 Car Garage! MLS#7356983 \$1,050,000.

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
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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!
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DUDLEY- 44' RANCH, 1/2 ACRE LOT

*Hardwood Floors *1/2 Acre Lot with Town Services, Fenced Yard *Lower Level Game Room *3 bedrooms *Garage *Sided
69 Airport Road \$525,000


30 Knollwood Drive \$849,900

WEBSTER- 2300 SQ. FT. RANCH PLUS 1 BEDROOM UNIT

*Brick Front Ranch *Updates Include Electric, Oil Tank *2 BR *1st Floor Laundry *3 Room Additional Unit Ideal for Family or Business
92 Worcester Road \$499,000

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- 1.** Are you sick and tired of health insurance companies denying or delaying your treatments and claims ?
- 2.** As prices go higher and higher, should your household income be free of federal income taxes up to \$100,000.00 ?
- 3.** Do we need to get the millions and millions of corporate PAC money out of our political system ?
- 4.** Should we invest our tax dollars here in western Massachusetts and in solving America’s problems, not in endless foreign wars ?
- 5.** Do you believe the pursuit of Life, Liberty and Happiness applies to all of us, not just the rich elite ?
- 6.** Should we cap runaway rent increases, and make housing more affordable by banning corporate land speculators from buying up our neighborhoods ?
- 7.** Do we need more doctors in western Massachusetts so you can get appointments and see specialists when you need them ?
- 8.** Do you support a woman’s right to make her own health care decisions ?
- 9.** Should we make our medicines here in western Massachusetts so we aren’t dependent on foreign drug manufacturers and supply lines, as happened during COVID shortages ?
- 10.** Do you believe there should be term limits in Congress ?
- 11.** Do we need to stop our elected officials and their families from enriching themselves at taxpayer expense while in office ?
- 12.** Has Richard Neal been in Congress too long and is he unresponsive to people in western Massachusetts ?
- 13.** Do you believe both major political parties are broken and that we should elect more Independents who aren’t under their control ?

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