

Auburn News

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Friday, March 27, 2026

©2026, Issue #12

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Saint Joseph School's Migration Mass celebrates faith and culture



Students of Saint Joseph School stand with Bishop Robert J. McManus on the altar of Saint Joseph Basilica during the Annual Migration Mass, representing 26 nations through flags and traditional cultural dress in a celebration of faith, culture, and unity.

WEBSTER — On Sunday, March 15, the Saint Joseph School community gathered at Saint Joseph Basilica to celebrate its beloved Annual Migration Mass, a cherished tradition that had originally been scheduled during Catholic Schools Week in January but was postponed due to winter weather. The celebration brought together students, families, and parishioners in a vibrant expression of

faith, culture, and unity. The Migration Mass is one of the most meaningful traditions at Saint Joseph School. It celebrates the rich cultural diversity of the school community while highlighting the unity that flourishes through a shared Catholic faith. The day began with a solemn yet joyful Mass, featuring an entrance procession of more than one hundred students proudly carrying flags representing their

families' heritage. Twenty-six countries—the largest procession to date—were represented through flags and traditional attire, showcasing the cultural richness of the Saint Joseph School community. Flags from nations including the United

States, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Egypt, England, France, Ghana, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Puerto Rico, Portugal, Scotland, Sweden, Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, and

Venezuela filled the basilica with vibrant color, symbolizing the beauty of unity in diversity. Many students proudly wore traditional attire from their heritage, embracing the opportunity to share and celebrate their cultural roots.

The Most Rev. Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester, served as the main celebrant and homilist.

Fourth grade students Olivia Guinto and

Turn To MASS page A5

Dudley "Fun Zone" to be in full swing this summer

DCLT initiates business fundraising campaign for conservation land purchase

DUDLEY — The Dudley Conservation Land Trust (DCLT) is initiating a fundraising campaign with local businesses to support conservation land purchase. DCLT is very close to securing the funds to purchase the 21.3-acre Tierney land, which spans Dudley, Charlton, and Oxford. Originally part of a larger parcel owned by DCLT founder, Chet Kulisa, much of this scenic land has already been conserved forever. DCLT expects to finalize the purchase by June 2026, receiving reimbursement from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for half of the costs through the Conservation Partnership Grant program. Other contributors to-date include the Cecelia J. Smolenski-Millette Charitable Trust, Fields Pond Foundation, Bafflin Foundation, Lithia4Kids, and personal donations.

In order to meet this goal, DCLT needs the help of the local business community!

We aim to engage local businesses in our land conservation efforts through financial sponsorship and volunteer experiences for employees. Green spaces make our community a more desirable place to live and work. Plus, partnering with a nonprofit enhances business reputation and demonstrates social responsibility. In addition to land acquisition—our main objective this year—businesses can fund building improvements for Perron House (future DCLT headquarters), land stewardship projects, or event sponsorship.

Local business sponsors will be highlighted on our new website, showcasing their generosity and contributions to our community. As our sanctuaries are primarily in Dudley and Oxford, with the potential for expansion into Charlton, our focus will be on businesses in those towns. Various sponsorship levels are available to suit different interests and resources.

Look for a member of our Board (past or present) to visit your business, or send us a note at

DudleyConservationLandTrust@gmail.com.

Our new Web site is set to launch later this spring, enabling us to prominently feature our local business partners and advocates. Funded by a 2025 grant from the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, this refresh addresses features lacking in our previous site, aligning with our strategic plan (2025-2030) to enhance community connection. Habby Design Co. is creating the new website. Look for announcements later this spring when we're set to launch.

WEBSTER — Kids of all sizes and ages will be swinging, climbing and splashing from morning to evening when the "Fun Zone" at the Dudley Municipal Center is completed and in full operation by summertime. The ribbon-cutting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 17, from 5 to 7 p.m., with a rain date of

July 8 or 9.

The Webster-Dudley-Oxford Chamber of Commerce is pleased to support this one-of-a-kind community playground and recreation area, which will be open to the general public.

The new Richard Camignani Sr. Park, or Fun Zone, will replace an old

playground that had to be closed several years ago due to its deterioration, damaged equipment, and safety issues.

The playground designers met with kids of all ages before finalizing a plan that incorporates the latest engineering for playground technology, accessibility and adaptability, with

equipment that meets the kids' definition of fun.

Bringing the idea for a new, modern playground to reality was not a solitary effort, nor was it inexpensive. In 2022, the Dudley Woman's Club began a year-long outreach to local businesses and residents to

Turn To FUN ZONE page A5

Oxford Middle School students inspired by BMX stunt rider's message of perseverance

OXFORD — Students at Oxford Middle School were treated to a high-energy and meaningful assembly on Friday, March 13, when youth motivational speaker and professional BMX stunt rider Chris Poulos visited the school to deliver a powerful presentation on character, resilience, and kindness.

Combining gravity-defying tricks with personal storytelling, Poulos captivated the audience as he performed a series of impressive BMX stunts inside the school. Between demonstrations, he spoke candidly with students about important life skills, including goal setting, preparation, perseverance, respect, and anti-bullying.

Drawing from his own journey, Poulos encouraged students to reflect on the goals they hope to achieve and the mindset required to reach them.

He emphasized that success is built through consistent effort, reminding students, "You don't have to be good at something to start—you just need to

practice."

Poulos also underscored the importance of surrounding oneself with supportive peers and building positive relationships. Referencing

the Golden Rule, he challenged students to go even further by striving to "treat people better than you expect them to treat you," a message that resonated

strongly with the audience.

School leaders expressed appreciation for the visit, noting that the presentation reinforced core values embraced by the OMS community, including perseverance, kindness, and mutual respect.

The event included a memorable and lighthearted moment when two staff members, Ms. Mooney and Ms. Berube, volunteered to participate in the show. Poulos successfully performed a daring jump over the teachers on his bike, drawing cheers and applause from students and staff alike.

Administrators extended special thanks to the teachers for their willingness to participate and to Poulos for delivering an engaging program that blended entertainment with meaningful life lessons.

The assembly left students energized and inspired, carrying with them a clear message: with dedication, positive support, and kindness toward others, every goal is within reach.



Friends of the Oxford Library Spring Book Sale set for April 16-18

OXFORD — The Friends of the Oxford Free Public Library Spring Book/Bake Sale is scheduled for April 16-18. The sale will be held on Thursday, April 16 from noon to 7 p.m.; Friday, April 17 from noon to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, April 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Oxford Free Public Library, 339 Main St., Oxford, in the downstairs meeting room. We accept cash or check only. Great books at bargain prices. Thousands to choose from and all are in good to excellent condition.

Hardcover and trade size paperbacks are \$1, regular size paperbacks are 50¢ and children's books range from 25 cents to \$1. There is also a selection of "Special books at special prices." We offer a great "half price" deal on classroom books for teachers on Thursday and Friday. The last hour of the book sale on Saturday, from 1 to 2 p.m., you have the option of buying a provided bag and filling it for only \$10. Dealers are welcome on Saturday only. The Friends of the Oxford Free Public Library was

formed and incorporated in 1992. As a non-profit, our purpose is to maintain a membership of people who are supportive of the library and its ongoing programs. All money donated through dues or fund-raisers goes directly back to the library to support children's programs, reading programs, museum passes, and other services. We are always looking for new members, supporters, and volunteers. Membership dues for the current year can be paid at any time. The membership year runs from Jan. 1

– Dec. 31. If you have already renewed your membership or are a new member, thank you. Membership forms are available at the library adult circulation desk and also at the book sale. Please include your email address. This is a wonderful opportunity to stock up on books for your Summer reading. Hope to see you there!

ESTATE
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Annual JAK-L 5K returns to Oxford to support youth mental health



Event Committee members, in alphabetical order: Christine Afful, Kerry, Boucher, David Bielicki, Laurie Boucher, Ruth Cahill, Joy Kochinskis, Steve Kochinskis, Kathy Konkol-Saad, Devon Renfro, Shirley Shepardson, Karen Sisko, and Kim Sterczala.

OXFORD — The pavement of Maple Road will soon be filled with the sound of rhythmic footsteps and the spirit of community remembrance. On Saturday, June 13, the annual JAK-L Strides 5K Run/Walk will return to the Oxford Community Center, aiming to turn miles into momentum for local mental health awareness and suicide prevention. The event, which officially kicks off at 9 a.m., is more than just a race; it is a dedicated effort to fund vital mental health programs within local school systems. In a time when student well-being is a top priority for educators and parents alike, the proceeds from this year's 5K will go directly toward providing resources for suicide prevention and emotional support for the community's youth. A fast course for a great cause For the competitive runners, the

JAK-L Strides course offers a "flat and fast" profile, boasting a minimal elevation gain of only 108 feet. The race features electronic timing for precision, and the top three finishers will receive special prizes. Organizers have ensured that participants stay supported throughout the 3.1-mile trek, with a water station positioned at the halfway mark. To celebrate the achievement of those taking part, the first 150 participants to cross the finish line will be awarded finisher medals. Registration details Community members are encouraged to sign up early to take advantage of tiered pricing: Early Bird: \$30 (Before April 1) Standard: \$35 (After April 1) Race Day: \$40 (June 13) The first 150 people to register will also receive an official race

T-shirt. On the day of the event, check-in and bib pickup will begin at 8 a.m. Planning Your Visit Event Director Devon Renfro notes that while the race begins and ends at 4 Maple Rd., onsite parking is limited. Participants are highly encouraged to carpool and arrive early to secure a spot, though additional street parking will be available in the surrounding neighborhood. "Join us as we run, walk, and honor those we carry with us," the organizers shared in a statement. "Every step helps support mental health programs in our local schools. Come make a difference with us." For those interested in registering or learning more about the event, please visit the official event website or contact Devon Renfro at 774-253-3581.

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests from March 1-21. A 44-year-old male from Dudley whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on March 1 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member and multiple counts of Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon. Jeremy Mathew Ouellette, age 44, of Webster was arrested on March 1 for Possession of a Firearm Without FID Card, Defacing a Firearm Serial Number, Improper Storage of a Firearm, and Possession of a Firearm with Three Prior Violent/Drug Crime convictions. Antoinette M. Carreau, age 40, of Webster was arrested on March 2 in connection with a warrant. Ryan J. Hassett, age 34, of Webster was arrested on March 4 in connection with a warrant. Joseph Lovely, age 52, of Webster was arrested on March 4 in connection with multiple warrants. Matthew Justin Fortin, age 39, of Worcester was arrested on March 5 in connection with a warrant. Nathaniel David Dumas, age 37, of Webster was arrested on March 6 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor) and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle. A 22-year-old male from Dudley received a summons in lieu of arrest on March 3 for operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of registration, and a Motor Vehicle Lights Violation. Devin James Salvucci, age 29, of Webster was arrested on March 14 in connection with a warrant. Barry F. Morace, age 55, of Webster was arrested on March 16 in connection with a warrant. Erin Cushing, age 35, of Dudley was arrested on March 16 for Shoplifting By Asportation and Shoplifting By Concealing Merchandise. A 45-year-old male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on March 17 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Protecting the land that protects us

There is something quietly reassuring about knowing that certain places will stay the way they are.

In Dudley and surrounding towns, residents are fortunate to live among fields, woods, wetlands, and trails that still feel connected to the region’s past. These landscapes do more than provide scenery. They shape daily life, support wildlife, protect water resources, and give families room to breathe. That is why the Dudley Conservation Land Trust’s effort to secure the 21.3-acre Tierney parcel deserves strong community attention and support.

The land in question is not an isolated patch on a map. It is part of a larger conservation vision that stretches back to the work of DCLT founder Chet Kulisa and others who believed that preserving open space was essential to maintaining the character of these towns. Each protected parcel strengthens the next. Over time, those pieces form a network of green spaces that benefit everyone, whether they hike the trails regularly or simply appreciate knowing they are there.

What makes this moment especially encouraging is how close the project already is to completion. Support from charitable foundations, personal donors, and the Commonwealth’s Conservation Partnership Grant program has brought the effort within reach. That kind of progress does not happen by accident. It reflects years of planning, relationships, and persistence by volunteers who care deeply about the region’s future.

Now, the invitation to local businesses adds an important new chapter.

When businesses invest in conservation, they are not only supporting a nonprofit mission. They are strengthening the communities where their employees live and their customers spend their time. Accessible green space improves quality of life, supports outdoor recreation, and helps towns remain attractive places to settle and grow. These benefits may be hard to measure on a balance sheet, but they are easy to recognize in everyday life.

The proposed improvements to Perron House as a future headquarters, along with stewardship projects and sponsorship opportunities, show that this effort extends beyond a single land purchase. It represents a long-term commitment to maintaining the resources that define the area’s identity. Conservation is not a one-time event. It is ongoing work that depends on steady local participation.

There is also something meaningful about the way this campaign connects neighbors. A conservation trust is not a distant organization. It is made up of residents who care enough to protect what they have inherited and pass it forward. When businesses join that effort, they help reinforce the idea that stewardship belongs to everyone.

The Tierney parcel is not the largest conservation project in the region’s history. It does not need to be. Its importance lies in what it represents: another step toward ensuring that future generations will still recognize the landscape they call home.

Opportunities like this do not come along every day. When they do, they remind us that preserving open space is not only about land. It is about continuity, responsibility, and pride in the places we share.

Letter submission policy

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

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

Viewpoint

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Democracy is worth fighting for

To the Editor:

Our founding fathers believed that America should have a strong central government with three separate branches serving as a checks and balances system.

Donald Trump seems intent on destroying that system, which has served us so well over the last 250 years.

Donald Trump wants absolute power.

Because we believe, as did our founding fathers, that America shouldn’t declare their Independence from one king to someday be ruled by a different king, we will be gathering in front of the Oxford Town

Hall on Saturday, March 28 between 10 a.m. and noon for a “No Kings” protest.

If you believe, as we do, that democracy is worth fighting for, please join us. More information can be found at www.NoKings.org.

If you disagree, please respect the Constitution and support our rights and patriotic duty to peacefully protest.

MARY WELLS
CHAIR
OXFORD DEMOCRATIC TOWN
COMMITTEE

A smelly problem for Auburn

BY HELEN POIRIER
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

When the United States joined the Allied Forces in World War I, men between the ages of 18 to 45 were required to fill out Registration Cards. For the town of Auburn, there were over 700 registration cards found. These cards held a wealth of information on them, especially who was working where. There were still many who listed farming as their employment either for themselves or working on another farm in town like F. P. Knowles, John Tuck, and Herbert A. Ward. Another of the big employers within the town was Worcester Rendering Company on Southbridge St. This was a business that took cattle, sheep and other animals through a process that slaughtered, melted, rendered fats, bones and such to make butter oil, neatsfoot oil and fertilizer. The company was a branch of the Consolidated Rendering Company [Conrenco] which had about 40 plants in New England in 1903.

According to a newspaper article, the land which the Worcester Rendering Company was located on was “in the low land near A.S. Wolfe’s market garden greenhouses and was sold to them by Mr. Wolfe.” It was a contentious beginning for the company. Neighbors as far away as Pakachoag Hill complained about the smell that the “west winds” would bring their way on a daily basis. In August of 1903 at the selectmen’s meeting, accounts of the odors emanating from the company were given by leading citizens of the town, John MacInnes, Asa W. Ward, J.P. Eaton and Mr. Knowles, all of whom live on Pakachoag Hill.

Eugene Carter, the rendering company expert, explained the improvements that were being made to help get rid of the odor issues. There were two water tower devices that would take away the odor. One was working presently and the other was in construction. A system of catch basins stops the grease and meat from getting into the nearby pond. The railroad was asked to use carefully constructed containers that would contain the odors when the rendering plant products were shipped. The meeting ended with Chairman Eugene Newton saying that some barns in the area were more offensive than any part of the rendering smells and that the company trying to comply with requests for improvements. The selectmen did not revoke the license for the rendering company.

There was an underlining current that Abel S. Wolfe was leading the opposition to the rendering company because the rendering company refused to buy the rest of his land, about 13 acres, that was in proximity to the plant. Wolfe wanted \$300 an acre for the land that he had bought the year before for \$125 an acre. The Worcester Rendering Company felt that it was a bit too much. It was also said that Wolfe put the land up for auction trying to lure the rendering company into thinking it could be bought at a lower price, but there were by-buyers in the audience who would bid the price up higher than what the land was worth. The rendering company didn’t purchase the land.

An article in 1906 chronicles the history of the dispute between Wolfe and Whitter against the Worcester Rendering Company, it was listed as an advertisement. The hullabaloo quieted down, and by 1918, there were article advertisements that mentioned the health benefits that soap and soap powders had in safeguarding from diseases. The soap being made by the Worcester Rendering Co. was just the product to clean and disinfect exposed surfaces. Their soap line included laundry, toilet, mill and textile

soaps. Other products mentioned included Mill tallowing, stearine, which helps to separate solid fats from liquid fats and contributes to the texture and stability of the final fat product, case hardening bone, poultry foods, and fertilizer. In 1924, there was an article for increasing output of eggs. It stated, “a large number of experienced poultry raisers were increasing their output by adding two pounds of Royal Worcester Meat Scraps with 10 pounds of good quality dry mash.” Of course, the article ended with a plug for Worcester Rendering Company of Auburn. In the late 1930’s the company promoted its own dog food brand, Dow’s Dog Food and Puppy Biscuits and Dow’s Crunchy and Crumpled Dog Food.

“These foods contain every element for keeping a dog in good condition and have long been favorites with dogs and their owners all over the country,” so the article states.

Their fertilizer line included Prosperity Brand Animal Fertilizers especially adapted to the requirements of Worcester County soil. The poultry feed was the same name. This same article stated that “the company was among the largest New England distributors of Ajax denatured alcohol, suppling formula 5, the most commonly used anti-freeze for radiators to garages and filling stations as well as to paint and hardware stores.... The trucking and storage facilities of the Worcester Rendering Co. makes it possible for prompt delivery at all time.

The company seemed ready to help with community service as stated in a 1930 article about a children’s pageant that was to be presented by the 8th grads from Mary D. Stone school, Julia Bancroft school, and Pakachoag school entitled “Our Schools at Work and at Play” which was done at Town Hall. The last sentence of the article states, “If the pageant is postponed, the regular no-school signal, 3-3-3, will be given on the whistle of the Worcester Rendering Company at 3:30 p.m.”

In 1937, another a little-known fact was brought to the public’s attention that the Worcester Rendering Company of Auburn, “had buyers traveling throughout the county collecting skunk, red fox, gray fox, silver and black fox, mink muskrat, weasel and otter furs. The qualities of which are ranked among the best in the world and bring premium prices.” These furs were from fur-ranching and not wild animals.

The Worcester Rendering Company had its name changed to Corenco Corporation in 1967 then eventually closed in 1969. It had sold ownership of Leesville Pond to J and P Realty Co. who sold it to the town in 1982. Some of the land was sold for Interstate 290 and the Swedish Cemetery. Nothing really remains of the company in town, not even the smell.

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

The bulletin board by the door

Just inside the entrance of our town library, there’s a bulletin board that most people walk past without really noticing. I try not to be one of them.

It’s not much to look at. A sheet of cork. A scattering of pushpins. A collection of flyers printed on everything from bright neon paper to the back side of what used to be someone’s grocery list. But if you stand there long enough and read what’s posted, you begin to understand something about the place you live that you might otherwise miss.

I stopped in last week to return a book and found myself lingering there longer than expected.

There was a notice for a spaghetti supper. A handwritten card offering piano lessons. A flyer for a church rummage sale with the date circled three different times in blue marker, as if to make sure nobody overlooked it. Someone had pinned up a careful request for help finding a lost cat. Another note announced a fundraiser for a neighbor going through a difficult stretch.

None of these things would make big headlines. But together they told a story.

It struck me that the bulletin board might be the most honest page in town.

Nobody is trying to impress anyone there. The paper curls at the corners. The tape never sticks quite right. Some notices are printed neatly at home, others written in block letters with a felt-tip marker. Every one of them represents somebody who decided to reach out instead of keeping quiet.

That still means something.

Years ago, before everything moved onto screens, those bulletin boards were how people found out what was happening. If you wanted to know when the pancake breakfast was scheduled, or who was collecting coats for winter, or whether someone was offering snow shoveling for a few dollars after school, that’s where you looked.

I suppose today most of that information can be found online. But I’ve noticed that the bulletin board still fills up anyway.

I don’t think that’s an accident.

There’s something reassuring about seeing those little pieces of paper pinned up in a real place where real people walk past them. It reminds you that the town is still paying attention to itself. It reminds you that neighbors are still asking for help and still offering it.

One flyer announced a community clean-up day along a stretch of roadside I drive past all the time. I had no idea it was happening. Another advertised a local concert I might otherwise have missed entirely. A third simply said “Volunteers Needed,” followed by a phone number and a hopeful-looking smiley face drawn in pen.

Someone clearly believed someone else would call.

What I admire most about that board is how ordinary it is. Nobody gets paid to maintain it. Nobody organizes the colors or straightens the corners. It grows and changes week by week, quietly reflecting whatever the town happens to need at the moment.

In a way, it feels like a conversation that never quite ends.

Sometimes I think those boards are small acts of trust. A person puts something up there believing that someone else will read it and care. That’s not a grand gesture. It’s not dramatic. But it says a lot about the kind of place we live.

We still expect each other to notice.

On my way out of the library, I stepped back and looked at the board again before heading through the door. I didn’t take down any phone numbers. I didn’t sign up for anything that day. But I left with the quiet feeling that the town was doing what it has always done best, which is keeping track of its people in simple, steady ways that don’t require much explanation.

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

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least three business days in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation for 65 and up, and \$5 for 55- 64 is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, 3/31: Ziti with meat sauce, mozzarella cheese, broccoli and red peppers. Wednesday, 4/1: Garlic brown sugar chicken, lemon seasoned potatoes, roasted California veggies. Thursday, 4/2: Baked ham with maple glaze, mashed potatoes, carrots. CLOSED ON FRIDAY 4/3

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

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

Are you ready for spring? Come celebrate with us at our Spring Fling Party on Monday, April 6th at 1:00 pm, featuring a live performance from Kalifornia Karl to wash away your winter blues.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MASS continued from page A1

Nella Copeland participated in the Liturgy of the Word. Following the readings, Grade 8 students Ivonka Warnajtys and Tenleigh Dowd led the congregation in the Responsorial Psalm, guiding the assembly in prayerful response to the Word of God.

The Prayer of the Faithful reflected the global spirit of the celebration. Prayers were offered in multiple languages, including Swahili by Michael Kamangu (Grade 5), Polish by Amadeusz Gacek (Grade 6), Gaelige by Mia Reed (Grade 5), Arabic by Ariel Corbin (Grade 5), Spanish by Hayley Benes (Grade 8), Greek by Giorgios Sgouritsas (Grade 6), and English by Cecilia Coan (Grade 5). These multilingual prayers beautifully illustrated the interconnectedness of the school's culturally diverse community and the universality of the Catholic faith.

In his homily, Bishop McManus reflected on the meaning of the Fourth Sunday of Lent and reminded the congregation that the Catholic Church is truly universal—bringing together people of every nation, language, and culture as one family of faith. He noted that the beautiful procession of flags and cultural attire was a powerful sign of the Church's unity in diversity. The bishop encouraged

everyone to recognize Christ in one another and to welcome people of all backgrounds with compassion, reminding those present that our differences are gifts that strengthen the Church.

The Saint Joseph School Children's Choir, directed by Fine Arts Director Brighid Campbell and organist Maria Helena Czarnicka-Cieslak, elevated the celebration with inspiring Lenten selections. Hymns including "Save Your People, O Lord," "Your Only Son," "One Bread, One Body," "Bread for the World," and "From a King to a King" resonated throughout the basilica and added to the reverent and joyful atmosphere.

The Mass concluded with a special presentation to Bishop McManus by Student Council President Mychael Jones and Vice President Tenleigh Dowd, a heartfelt moment that reflected the gratitude and leadership of the students.

Following the Mass, students gathered with the bishop for a commemorative photo, capturing the joy and spirit of this meaningful occasion.

The Annual Migration Mass stands as a powerful testament to the Saint Joseph School community's commitment to embracing cultural diversity, fostering unity, and celebrating faith—values that lie at the very heart of the school's mission.

FUN ZONE continued from page A1

raise the money to get the project off the ground. The final price tag for the playground came in at \$704,410.

Dudley town officials worked with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to submit a PARC grant application. The state's PARC program assists municipalities in acquiring and developing land for outdoor recreation. A grant for \$496,650, representing a 70 percent reimbursement, was awarded to the Town in September 2024. The local contribution would be \$207,760.

Dudley voters then had to affirm the total project cost at Town Meeting, which they did the following month.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the Fun Zone was

held last August, and construction is well underway.

We expect families from the surrounding communities will be taking their kids to the new playground, along with Dudley families. This unique project is a community asset that will benefit us all.

We are asking the local businesses to support the Fun Zone with a monetary contribution to help Dudley taxpayers defray some of the cost burden they have agreed to undertake. Equipment Naming Rights are available from \$1,000 to \$50,000, along with Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze Sponsorships.

If you can help, please send a check to WDO Playground Fund, 505 Main St., Webster MA 01570 or call John Milas at 508-943-9700 or email director@wdochamberma.com for more information.

Dudley sets Earth Day cleanup for April 18

DUDLEY — The Dudley Board of Health calls residents to an Earth Day cleanup from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 18, with a rain date of April 25.

This annual event sponsored by the Board of Health and the Last Green Valley celebrates the arrival of Spring by removing trash from our roadways and waterways.

Starting at 8 a.m. volunteers may pick up trash bags, gloves, sanitizers, reflective vests, snacks and water from the Dudley Highway Garage at 7 Indian Road. Trash is to be returned to the Highway Garage when finished.

Teams are encouraged!

For more information, please contact the Board of Health at 508-949-8012 or email

building1@dudleyma.gov.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



news@stonebridgepress.news

LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

BROOKFIELD
Brookfield Ecumenical Food Pantry
St. Mary's Church
4 Howard Street, Brookfield, MA 01506
Distribution: Wednesday 9:30 AM-11 AM:
Saturday 9:30 AM-11AM

CHARLTON
Chip - In Food Pantry
McKinstry Building
37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507
Distribution: 3rd Saturday 9 AM-12 Noon

St. Joseph's Church, Charlton
Tuesday 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Wednesday 9-11 a.m.
Everyone is welcome.

LEICESTER
Leicester Food Pantry
St. Joseph-St. Pius X Parish
759 Main Street, Leicester, MA 01524
Distribution: Tuesday 5 PM-7 PM

NORTH BROOKFIELD
St. Joseph's Food Pantry
Located in the church hall at 296 North Main St. North Brookfield
Distribution is the 1st Thursday of the month from 5:00-6:30PM
the 3rd Thursday of the month from 12 Noon-1:15PM
Any questions should be directed to the Rectory office 508 867-6469.
St. Joseph's Food Pantry is a community partner affiliated with the Worcester County Food Bank.

OXFORD
Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf
Oxford Community Center
4 Maple Road
Oxford, MA 01540
Distribution: Thursday 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

ROCHDALE
The Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry
Greenville Baptist Church
674 Pleasant St.
Rochdale, MA
Distribution: Every Monday from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Open to everyone.

SOUTHBRIDGE
St. John Paul II Parish Food Pantry
279 Hamilton St., Southbridge
Tuesday 3-5 p.m., Wednesday 9-11 a.m.
(508) 765-0245

Southbridge Food Share
Located at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, lower level
446 Hamilton St.
Southbridge, MA 01550
Email:
Southbridgefoodshare.org@gmail.com
Phone: 508-764-6583
Open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 10:00 am to 11:15 am.

SPENCER - EAST BROOKFIELD - RESIDENTS ONLY
Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry
60 Maple St. Spencer, MA 01562
Distribution: Thursday 10 AM-12 Noon

STURBRIDGE
Saint Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry.
Located in the St. Anne Church basement, 16 Church Street, Fiskdale, MA 01518
Stocked by donations
Contact: 508-347-6398

UXBRIDGE
Fellowship Church in Uxbridge.
All are Welcome!
Manna Food Pantry
Open on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.
6 to 8 pm (Doors open at 5:45)
Located on the lower level, right-hand side of the building.
647 Douglas St., Uxbridge, MA

WEBSTER
Webster-Dudley Food Share
4 Church St #2
Webster, MA 0570
Distribution: Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 - 11:00 am. Open to Webster and Dudley residents.
Please call ahead: 508-943-9171

WEST BROOKFIELD
Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry
First Congregational Church
36 North Main Street,
W.Brookfield, MA 01585
Distribution: Wednesday 10 AM-11:30 AM
Thursday 7 PM- 8 PM



Community Connection

PLUMBING

JOHN DALY PLUMBING
The Homeowners Plumber, SINCE 1988
Faucets, Toilets, Pipe Repair, Garbage Disposals, Sinks, Vanities, Shower Valves, Outside Hose Connections, New Kitchen Sink Strainers and Undersink Re-Pipes, Sump Pumps, Sink Drain Cleaning,
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PEARLE L. CRAWFORD LIBRARY

40 Schofield Ave.,
Dudley,
508-949-8021

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

The Library will open at
11:00 on Friday, April 10th
due to a scheduled school
visit.

The Library will be closed
on Monday, April 20th in
observance of Patriots’ Day.

Please join us in April
to celebrate local artist
Tim Oliver. A variety of
his work will be on dis-
play for you to enjoy in the
Fels Room whenever the
Library is open.

Gentle Yoga
Every Monday-NO
SESSION April 20th
10:00-11:00

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

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

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

Everyone is welcome,
registration is not required.

Quilting Group
Every Wednesday
1:30- 3:30

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

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

All stitchers are welcome
for this informal group.
Bring your project, enjoy
the company

Bay Path RTVHS Career
Technical Initiative (CTI)
Program
Thursday, April 2nd
6:00-7:00

This presentation is
designed to give commu-
nity members a clear and
comprehensive overview of
the CTI program and the
opportunities it offers.

Once Upon A Crime
Book Club-The Devil at His
Elbow by Valerie Bauerlein
Friday, April 3rd
11:00-12:00

Do you have a passion
for true crime and examin-
ing 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

1st Saturday of every
month

Saturday, April 4th
10:00-12:00 in the Local
History Room

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

Sheryl Faye presents
Historical Women. Sally
Ride – America’s First
Woman Astronaut

Saturday, April 4th
11:00-12:30

A live educational per-
formance program. Sheryl
Faye performs as Sally Ride,
telling the story of Ride’s
life and achievements as
the first American woman
in space. Registration is
Required.

American Revolution



Courtesy

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FEDERATED ANNOUNCES
FREE BUNNY BRUNCH

The United Church of Christ Federated invites the community to a Bunny Brunch on Saturday, March 28 from noon to 2 p.m. Activities will include an egg hunt, Easter cookie decorating, crafts, a prize wheel with prizes for all participating, and a “bunny-licious” brunch. The Easter Bunny will be around for pictures and all children will receive a treat bag! Entrance is free. The United Church of Christ Federated is located at 4 Church St. in Webster and can be reached at 508-943-0061 or uccfedwebster.org, facebook.com/websterfederated.

Ancestors Lecture
Monday, April 6th
6:00-7:00
Patriots in Your Past:
Tracing Revolutionary War
Ancestors. Step back into
1776 and uncover your
Revolutionary roots! In this
engaging 1-hour genealogy
course, you’ll learn how to
trace ancestors who fought
in the American War of
Independence—using mil-
itary records, pension files,
and proven research strat-
egies. Perfect for family
historians eager to discover
patriotic stories hidden in
their family tree.

The Dangerous Art Of
Chainsaw Sculpture
Thursday, April 9th
6:00-7:00

A fun, interesting, inter-
active and engaging jour-
ney through the amazing
career of world famous
Master Chainsaw Sculptor,
Dr. “The Machine” Jesse
Green (AMERICAN
CHAINSAW on National
Geographic Channel,
ESPN/ Disney and more.)
Through an incredible
series of photos, the pro-
cess of creating gigantic,
death-defying works of art
from trees is brought to life
in a BIG way! Attendees
will be able to ask questions
throughout and fully par-
ticipate in the discussion.
You’ve never seen anything
like it!

Friends of the Library
Annual Meeting
Monday, April 13th
1:15-2:15

The annual meeting of
the Friends of the Pearle
L. Crawford Memorial
Library.Voting on changes
to bylaws. All are invited
to attend!

Pearle’s Genealogy
Group
Monday, April 13th
4:00-5:30

The genealogy group
is growing! Join us in the
Local History Room on the
second Monday of every
month. Facilitated by
professional genealogist

Patricia St. Marie.
Gel Printing with Happy
Arts
Monday, April 13th
5:30-7:30

Let’s experience art-
ist creativity using a gel
plate. You can make beau-
tiful prints and use them
for cards, wall art, jour-
nal-making, and so much
more.

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

Corbin Cemetery
Restoration Project
Thursday, April 16th
6:00-7:00

Join us to learn about
the restoration project at
the Corbin Cemetery in
Dudley. Presentation by
Betty and Carlo Mencucci
of Burrillville, R.I. will
tell the story of conserving
gravestones in the Corbin
Cemetery over the course of
4 summers. This cemetery
has a very old section with
graves of Revolutionary
War soldiers. Many of these
old slate stones were lean-
ing, fallen or broken. The
slideshow will show the
labor involved to properly
repair and reset these old,
fragile gravestones to bring
back the dignity and respect
that they deserve.

Crawford Library Book
Group
Thursday, April 23rd
Looking for Alaska by
John Green & The Art Spy
by Michelle Young
6:00-7:30

Books are available at the
circulation desk for check-
out one month prior to dis-
cussion.

No Registration Required

“Cook the Book” Book
Club- Dinner: Changing the
Game by Melissa Clark
Monday, April 27th

6:00-7:00
Any family recipe is fair
game, except alcoholic bev-
erages-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 eat-
ing.

There will be a place to
include your recipe selec-
tion in the reservation form.
Registration is required.

Tuesday Crafternoon-
Diamond Painting
Tuesday, April 28th
1:00- 2:00

Try your hand at diamond
painting. Four designs to
choose from. Don’t panic,
the designs are small and
easy to complete.

Ages 17+ Registration is
required

National Grid Advocates
Wednesday, April 29th
10:00- 2:00

National Grid has a
team of Community
Advocates dedicated to
assisting low-to moder-
ate-income customers
in navigating their utility
needs. Our Advocates pro-
vide personalized support
and can help residents with
a variety of services. Drop
in for one-on-one help.

Meet the Artist-Tim
Oliver
Thursday, April 30th
5:30-7:00

Let’s celebrate our Artist
of the Month, Tim Oliver,
who continually pushes
beyond the boundaries of
traditional drawing, paint-
ing, and sketching, explor-
ing bold and intriguing new
directions. Cookies will be
served.

Children’s & Family
Programming

Local 4 Life-Junior

Meteorologists: Tracking
our Local Weather
Saturday, April 11th
10:00-11:00

Session 1: What Is
Weather? Ever wonder how
we measure the weather?
Kids will explore what
makes up our daily weather
and build simple tools like a
wind vane and anemometer
using everyday materials.
We’ll start weather journals
and learn how to observe
the sky like a scientist! This
program is supported in
part by a grant from the
Dudley Cultural Council, a
local agency which is sup-
ported by the Mass Cultural
Council, a state agency.
Registration is required.

Yoga for Children
Friday, April 17th
10:00-10:45

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

Wicked Good Henna
Tuesday, April 21st
12:00-2:00

Mandy from Wicked
Good Henna will be offer-
ing henna designs!

For all ages! Please note:
because this is a drop-in
program, there may be a
wait time.

Comic Mime Show with
Robert Rivest: Spring Has
Sprung

Tuesday, April 21st
1:00-2:00

Join Comic Mime,
Robert Rivest, as he shares
Mime classics with humor-
ous springtime stories and
joyful audience participa-
tion activities. You won’t
want to miss this fun, inter-
active show! Best for chil-
dren ages 6-12 and their

families.

Petting Zoo
Wednesday, April 22nd
1:00-3:00

Bring the family to the
library for the Records and
Burpee petting zoo! Funded
by the Friends of the Pearle
L. Crawford Library.
Registration not required.

Deb’s Sing & Swing-
Nursery Rhyme Time
Thursday, April 23rd
10:30-11:15

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

Teen Programming

Dungeons & Dragons
Game
Every Thursday
6:00-7:30
Ages 14-19

Are you looking to play
a game that contains action,
adventure, and drama?

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

Off the Hook Crochet
Club

Thursday, April 2nd
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, laugh-
ing, and stitching together.
No experience needed —
just bring your imagination
(and your needles)!

This is not a drop-off
event, parents must stay in
the building.



Courtesy

ZION LUTHERAN AND CHURCH OF THE RECONCILIATION TEAM UP TO TACKLE HUNGER

Zion Lutheran Church, Oxford, and Church of the Reconciliation, Webster, scored big for the 2026 Souper Bowl of Caring. Six hundred and forty-seven cans of soup were donated to be distributed to hungry neighbors through the Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf and the Webster Food Pantry. The national food drive, now in its 36th year, uses the energy of the Super Bowl to encourage support for local hunger relief. The families of Central Mass Music Academy kicked off our game at their Christmas concert, paying for admission with cans of soup. The Sunday School children of Zion learned about the challenges of hunger in their schools. They led the congregation in tackling hunger by creating skits while wearing Souper Bowl capes they designed. They encouraged the congregation to be generous with loud cheers of “Jesus said, ‘Feed my people!’” Thank you to all who contributed so willingly.

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.; Saturday 9 a.m.-2 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 Adult Services Librarian Jessica Fontaine at jfontaine@cwmars.org

Adult Programming
One Book One Community: R. F. Kuang – April 29th at 6:30pm
Join us in welcoming award-winning author, R. F. Kuang, this spring as part of our One Book One Community series. Kuang will speaking about her writing process, and discussing some of her work, including Yellowface. Rebecca F. Kuang is the award-winning, #1 New York Times and #1 Sunday Times best-selling author of the Poppy War trilogy, Babel: An Arcane History, Yellowface, and Katabasis. She has an MPhil in Chinese Studies from Cambridge and an MSc in Contemporary Chinese Studies from Oxford; she is now pursuing a PhD in East Asian Languages and Literatures at Yale. This event will take place at the newly renovated Bartlett High School auditorium. The event begins at 6:30 and the doors open at 5:45pm.

Literacy Volunteers:
ESL Classes – Tuesdays at 6:00pm
The Literacy Cafe is a free weekly English conversation class offered by Literacy Volunteers of South Central

Massachusetts (LVSCM). This class is free to attend and is open to all adults. No pre-registration is required. For more information, email us at info@lvscm.org.

Grief Support Group – 2nd Tuesday and 4th Saturday of the Month (6:30pm on Tuesdays; 10:00am on Saturdays) in the Local History Room
Losing a loved one is never easy. Please know that you are not alone. If you need support in trying to navigate the changes in your life, join us in a place of safety and comfort with others who have also experienced loss. This grief support group is a place to find understanding as we explore our grief, share coping strategies, and begin to heal.

Yoga – Saturdays at 9:30am
Join Julie or Lauren at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. A typical class involves centering the mind with the breath, aromatherapy, movement of the body to release energetic blockages, and, finally, rest and relaxation. Classes are free. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

Yoga Nidra with Jess – Fridays at 8:15am
Join Adult Services Librarian Jess for a relaxing yoga nidra practice to start your day. Jess will guide participants through a few simple yoga asanas to release physical tension. Participants will then settle into a reclined position for a guided relaxation (yoga nidra). This program takes place before the library officially opens. Registration is required and Jess will meet

you at the program door. If you have your own yoga mat, please bring it and be sure to dress in comfortable clothing.

The Chatty Chapter:
A Genre Book Group – Thursday, March 26th at 6pm
Join The Chatty Chapter, our genre book group! Each month we read a different genre. March’s genre is romance: Never Been Shipped by Alicia Thompson. Extra copies are available at the circulation desk. To be added to the group list, please email Jess at jfontaine@cwmars.org

Winter Armchair Travel Series for Seniors:
Vienna – Friday, March 27th at 10:00am
In this Vienna city tour, we will visit its remarkable historical center with an expert in local history. We’ll explore its spectacular monuments, quiet streets and unique elegance, gaining a broader view of the city and the many forces that have shaped this remarkable area.

Midnight Society Horror Book Group – Wednesday, April 1st at 6:30pm
Love to read spooky books all year round? Join us for a horror book club where we will meet and discuss a book every month! In April we’ll be reading The Hunger by Alma Katsu. Prepare to have fun being scared! Copies of this month’s book are available at the circulation desk. To be added to the group, email Janessa at jbarrette@cwmars.org

Computer Basics:
Organizing Your Inbox – Thursday, April 2nd at 2:30pm
Join Evan and Jess

to learn about how to organize your email account. Come to class prepared to sign in to your email address-you’ll need to know your full email address and your password. Some email accounts require 2-step verification, so you may also need to have your smart phone.

The Final Frontier Sci-Fi Book Group – Thursday, April 2nd at 6:00pm
Want to explore outer-space from the comfort of your own home? Want to discuss speculative futures? Join Assistant Director Evan Hale for a Sci-Fi Book group where we will look at classic and modern sci-fi titles. This month we’re reading Red Rising by Pierce Brown.

Ayurveda 101: Spring Session – Thursday, April 2nd at 6:30pm
As spring invites renewal and fresh energy, Ayurveda offers simple, time-tested practices to help us feel lighter, clearer, and more aligned with the season. This introductory session explores how daily rhythms—what we eat, when we eat, how we move, and how we care for our bodies—can support balance during this time of transition. Designed for those new to Ayurveda, this one-hour program focuses on practical, accessible guidance around spring-friendly food choices, digestive support, energizing daily routines, and gentle practices to reduce sluggishness and mental fog. Participants will also experience a few short practices to help cultivate clarity, steadiness, and renewed vitality.

No prior experience is needed. Attendees are encouraged to come as they are and leave with simple,

supportive practices they can easily incorporate into daily life throughout the spring season.

Programming for All Ages
Library for All – Mondays and Fridays at 10am
Library for All is an inclusive program for teens and adults of all abilities and their caregivers. Please let us know if you need any special accommodations! Join us every Monday and Friday! The 1st week of the month is coloring, the 2nd week is LEGO, the 3rd week is chair yoga, and the 4th week of the month is painting.

March Miniatures – Thursdays in March at 5:00 and 6:00pm (only 5pm on 3/19)
We’re embracing March Miniatures this month! Each Thursday we’ll be making miniature-sized crafts for you to take home. March 26th – Painted Pots. Registration is required.

Children’s and Young Adult Programming
Play-Doh Storytime – Mondays at 10:30am
Join us for an engaging storytime filled with interactive stories and Play-Doh fun! Kids are invited to explore, squish and make new creations each week. This sensory-friendly program is perfect for young learners and their grown-ups.

Creators Club – Mondays from 4:00-5:30 PM
We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test! Come explore our newly rebranded Monday night program: Creators Club! March’s theme is: Pet

Rocks!
Kids will decorate their own pet rock to take home.

Tiny Groovers – Tuesdays at 10:30am
Join Miss Paige for a new storytime! Toddlers ages 2-5 and their caregivers will dance to popular kids’ tunes using while instruments and playful props, and enjoy an interactive story each week.

Mighty Builders – Tuesdays at 4:00pm
Unleash creativity in our free-build program featuring LEGOs, magnet tiles, wooden blocks, marble runs, and more!

Rockabye Beats – Saturday, March 28th at 10:30am
Join us for Rockabye Beats – an interactive music and movement program full of singing, dancing, instruments, a sprinkle of Spanish, and lots of silly fun! Perfect for young children and their grown-ups. This program is generously funded by a grant from United Way of South Central MA.

Spring Egg Hunt for Littles – Saturday, April 4th at 9:30am
Join us for an egg-citing egg hunt egg-stravaganza! This is perfect for young walkers up to age 6. This program requires registration.

Spring Egg Hunt (7-13) – Saturday, April 4th at 10:45am
Join us for an egg-citing egg hunt egg-stravaganza! This is perfect for kids 7-13. This program requires registration.

LEGALS

Docket No. WO25E0010PP
Petition to Partition Citation
(A.C.92A)
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Worcester Probate & Family Court
To Tiffany M. Charlestown and to all other persons interested.

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

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

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

Witness, Kathryn M. Bailey, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this twenty-first day of April 26.
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
March 13, 2026
March 20, 2026
March 27, 2026

Docket No. WO26E0011PP
Petition to Partition Citation
(A.C.92A)
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Worcester Probate & Family Court
To Susan L. Grzyb and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Robert Grzyb, Bruce Grzyb, Sharon A. Basso of Webster, Dudley, New Smyrna, FL in the County of Worcester and Volusia representing that he hold as tenant in common undivided part or share of certain land lying in Dudley in said County Worcester and described as follows:

EXHIBIT A DESCRIPTION
The land in Dudley, County of Worcester, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, more fully bounded and described as follows:
BEGINNING at the southwesterly corner of the tract to be conveyed at an iron pipe driven in the ground on the easterly line of Mason Road, and also being the northwesterly corner of land now or formerly of Jenny T. Pulaski;
THENCE by land of said Jenny T. Pulaski, now or formerly, N. 86° 56' E., 154.80 feet to an iron pipe driven in the ground at other land now or formerly of Antone Krupinski, et ux;
THENCE S. 03° E., 20 feet to an iron pipe driven in the ground at land now or formerly of Aldemore Bibeault et ux;
THENCE by land of said Bibeault now or formerly, N. 79° 48' E., 36.70 feet to an iron pipe driven in the ground at land now or formerly of Antone Krupinski et ux;
THENCE by said land of Antone Krupinski et ux, now or formerly, N 10° 12' W., 150 feet to an iron pipe driven in the ground on the southerly line of Fairfield Drive, so-called;
THENCE by the southerly line of Fairfield Drive, S. 72° 32' W., 187.55 feet, more or less to an iron pipe driven into the ground on the easterly line of Mason Road;
THENCE by the easterly line of Mason Road, S. 15° 31' E., 85 feet to the place of beginning.

BEING the same premises conveyed to Susan L. Grzyb, Sharon Basso, Robert Grzyb and Bruce Grzyb by deed of Stanley M. Grzyb and Hazel M. Grzyb, Co-Trustees of the Grzyb Family Trust by deed dated May 17, 2018 and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 58967, Page 237 setting forth that he/she desire that all the aforesaid described part of said land may be sold at private sale for not less than three hundred eighty thousand (\$380,000) dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the twenty-eighth day of April 2026 the return day of this citation.
Witness, Kathryn M. Bailey, Esq., First Judge of said Court, this thirteenth day

of March 2026.
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
March 27, 2026
April 3, 2026
April 19, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P0818EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Deborah Eleanor Titus
Date of Death: 01/28/2026

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Melinda A. Titus 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: .
Melinda A. Titus of Webster MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the estate 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 04/07/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 13, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
March 27, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P0685EA
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
Estate of:
Roberta Mary Connors
Date of Death: 01/01/2026

To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of **Robert J Connors of Uxbridge MA** **Robert J Connors of Uxbridge MA** has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
March 27, 2026

Public Announcement:
The Webster School Committee has proposed an operating budget for FY2027. A Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Michael Makara Conference Room, 77 Poland Street, Webster, MA 01570
Copies of the budget and supporting documentation can be found immediately on the Webster Public Schools website at www.webster-schools.org on the Office of Business and

Finance page. Hard copies may also be obtained from the Webster Public School Administration Offices, 77 Poland Street, Webster, MA 01570.
March 27, 2026
April 3, 2026
April 10, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF DUDLEY WATER SEWER COMMISSIONERS
The Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners will be holding a **Public Hearing on Wednesday April 8, 2025, at 6:30pm** in Room 315 at Dudley Town Hall, 71 West Main Street, Dudley MA 01571 to discuss the following:
No proposed increase on Water rates.
Proposed Tier rates on Sewer and an increase on Sewer rates a 2% increase on the base rate and usage and Tier II will be for 7100+ cubic feet at a rate of \$14.79 per 100 cubic feet. The Flat Rate will increase from \$650 to \$1300, which is a 100% increase. (The flat rate is for people who have Sewer only and do not have a meter) Create a fee for Hydrant Flow Tests – the proposed fee is \$300 per test.
Scott Zajkowski, Chairman
March 20, 2026
March 27, 2026

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket 26 SM 000812
ORDER OF NOTICE
To:
Dianne M. Guntharp AKA Dianne M. Granfors; Nicholas Morana as Conservator for Dianne M. Guntharp, a/k/a Dianne M. Granfors and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):
Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc., claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Webster, numbered 204 Treasure Island Road, Building 2, Unit #204, TREASURE ISLAND CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, given by Dianne M. Guntharp, AKA Dianne M. Granfors, and Geoffrey D. Guntharp to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., dated February 5, 2016, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 54938, Page 221, and now held by plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.
If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before April 27, 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 March 10, 2026.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
25-015492
March 27, 2026

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
WATERWAYS REGULATION PROGRAM
Notice of License Application pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 91
Application Number 25-WW01-0167-APP
Applicant: Three Eleven, Inc., Susan E. Duquette, President
Project Location: 311 Thompson Road, Webster, Worcester County
Notification Date: March 27, 2026
Public Comment Deadline: April 20, 2026

Public notice is hereby given of the Chapter 91 License application by Three Eleven, Inc. to maintain an existing marina at 311 Thompson Road within waters of Webster Lake in the Town of Webster, Worcester County. The proposed project has preliminarily been determined to be a Water-Dependent Use.
The Department will consider all written comments on this application received by April 20, 2026 (public comment deadline). Failure of any aggrieved person or group of ten (10) citizens or more to submit written comments to the Waterways Regulation Program by the public comment deadline will result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with 310 CMR 9.13(4)(c). The group of citizens must include at least five (5) citizens who are residents of the municipality in which

the proposed project is located. A public hearing may be held at the request of the Municipal Official.
Project plans and documents for the application are on file for public viewing electronically at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/EEA/PublicApp/> (enter 25-WW01-0167-APP in the Search Page in the field for Record ID). If you need assistance, please contact donald.e.giard@mass.gov or if you do not have access to email, please leave a voicemail at (617) 292-5929 and you will be contacted with information on alternative options.
It is recommended that documents and correspondence be filed electronically with the email address specified above when possible. Alternatively, comments may be mailed to MassDEP Waterways Regulation Program c/o Don Giard, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114.
The Department provides language access interpreter/translation services to limited English proficient individuals free of charge. If you need an interpreter for any documents and/or to participate in the public hearing, translation services can be found at the following link: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massdep-language-translation-assistance>.
March 27, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage dated November 10, 2022 given by Daniel Yarnie to Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Three Trust u/d/t dated October 25, 2022 (recorded in Book 68416, Page 212), said mortgage recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68476, Page 194, and which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at **10:00 a.m. on the 8th day of April, 2026** on the premises at 64 Leicester Street, Oxford, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.
To wit:

Property Address: **64 Leicester Street, Oxford, Massachusetts 01537**
The following parcels of land in Oxford, Worcester County, Massachusetts:
Lots 26A and 26B as shown on that certain plan recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 407, Plan 119.
Lots 27 and 28 as shown on that certain plan recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 78, Plan 1.
Lot 2 as shown on that certain plan recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 817, Plan 116.
For title see deed recorded herewith [Book 68476, Page 190].

Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens and rights of any tenants and parties in possession, if there be any, or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. The successful bidder will pay all costs of recording the foreclosure deed and any other foreclosure documents including, without limitation, all state and county excise stamp fees, and shall also be responsible for any Title V inspection and repair requirements.
Terms of sale: A deposit of Fifty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$50,000.00) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check to Mirrione, Shaughnessy & Uitti, LLC, 2 Batterymarch Park, Suite 202, Quincy, MA 02169 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.
Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Three Trust u/d/t dated October 25, 2022
Present holder of said mortgage
By his Attorneys,
Mirrione, Shaughnessy & Uitti, LLC
2 Batterymarch park, Suite 202
Quincy, MA 02169

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



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LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P0301EA
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR ORDER OF
COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

Estate of:
David J Partington
Date of Death: 12/20/2024
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by
Charles F Proctor of Oxford MA
requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, the allowance of a proposed distribution, 1st and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/14/2026.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 16, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
March 27, 2026

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

26 SM 000902
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:

Ronald J Quadarella Jr; Darlene A Quadarella
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*): Kinecta Federal Credit Union s/b/m Xceed Financial Federal Credit Union claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Dudley, numbered 6 Lerner Drive, given by Ronald J. Quadarella, Jr. and Darlene A. Quadarella to Xceed Financial Federal Credit Union, dated August 19, 2015, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 54200, Page 212, 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 May 4, 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 March 18, 2026.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
March 27, 2026

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

26 SM 000865
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:

Michael S. Conley, Trustee of the Richard P. Conley Irrevocable Trust ; Kevin R. Conley, Trustee of the Richard P. Conley Irrevocable Trust and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*): Santander Bank, N.A. f/k/a Sovereign Bank, N.A. f/k/a Sovereign Bank claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Dudley, numbered 320 Mason Road Extension, given by Richard P. Conley and Joyce J. Conley to Sovereign Bank, dated March 6, 2003, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 29649, Page 374, 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 April 27, 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 March 13, 2026.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
March 27, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P0848EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:
Victor Louis Machunski, Jr.
Date of Death: 07/31/2025

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Lugene L. Machunski 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: .
Lugene L. Machunski of Webster MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the estate 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 04/14/2026.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 19, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
March 27, 2026

OBITUARIES

Barbara A. Podedworny, 86



WEBSTER – Barbara A. (Pellegrino) Podedworny, 86, died peacefully in the presence of her family on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 in the Life Care Center of Auburn.

She leaves her husband of almost 65 years, Francis “Frank” Podedworny; 3 children, Gary Podedworny and his wife April of Webster, Brenda Olson and her husband Ron of Thompson, CT, and Lynn Rodriguez and her husband Pedro of Natick; 9 grandchildren, Tara Lee, Jenna Cregg, Nicholas Olson, Alexis Podedworny, Zachary Podedworny, Madison Podedworny, Julia Podedworny, Peter Rodriguez and Maya Rodriguez; 5 great-grandchildren, Connor and Grayson Lee, Keagan and Ryan Sullivan, and Olivia Olson; a brother, Robert Pellegrino and his wife Carol of Uxbridge; a brother-in-law, Paul Gosselin of Uxbridge and her late sister-in-law, Mary, and several nieces and nephews.

She was born on February 11, 1940 in Milford the daughter of Daniel and Leona (Murray) Pellegrino and was a graduate of Saint Mary’s High School in Milford.

Barbara worked as a bank teller for Commerce Bank for 21 years, retiring in 1999.

She was a member of Saint Joseph Basilica. She enjoyed reading, spending time with her grandchildren, and attending antique car shows with her husband and their tight knit cruising friends, where they were members of the Tri-State Cruisers Car Club.

The family would like to thank the wonderful people from the Life Care Center of Auburn for treating Barbara as a member of their family and involving her with various activities like Bingo and live entertainment, specifically Elvis performances.

Her funeral service were held on Tuesday, March 24 at 11:00 AM at Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster. Burial followed at Saint Joseph Garden of Peace. A visitation was held from 9:00 to 11:00 in the funeral home before services. Donations in her memory may be made to either New England Hospice, 190 Old Derby Street, Suite 304, Hingham, MA 02043 or to Life Care Center of Auburn Patient Activities Fund, 14 Masonic Circle, Auburn, MA 01501. www.websterfunerals.com

Charlotte J. Carpick, 98



DUDLEY – Charlotte J. (Kondek) Carpick, 98, died peacefully Thursday, March 12, 2026, after a period of declining health. Her beloved husband of 69 years, Louis J. Carpick, died in 2020.

She leaves a sister, Genevieve K. Pioppi and her husband N. William Pioppi of Sturbridge, several nieces, nephews, grandnephews, great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews. She was preceded in death by 5 brothers, Charles, Louis, Walter, John and Henry Kondek and by 3 sisters, Stasia Balkurna, Josephine Grzych and Joan Lesniewski.

She was born at home on August 18, 1927, the daughter of Stanislaw and Franciszka (Nycek) Kondek and lived in

Dudley most of her life.

Mrs. Carpick was a lens inspector for 39 years at the former American Optical Company in Southbridge, retiring in 1985. She was a member of its Quarter Century Club.

She was a communicant of Saint Andrew Bobola Church and belonged to the former Holy Rosary Sodality for many years.

Her funeral will be held on Saturday, March 21, at 11:00 AM in Saint Andrew Bobola Church, 54 West Main Street (please meet at the church). Burial will be in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace, Webster. Donations in her name may be made to Saint Joseph Elementary School, 47 Whitcomb Street, Webster, MA 01570. Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster. www.websterfunerals.com

Susan Wheaton, 80



Susan (Bohenko) Wheaton, 80, of Webster, passed away on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at UMass Hospital in Worcester. She was predeceased by her spouse, Vicky Laney.

Susan is survived by her children, Thomas Wheaton and his wife Daranee, Chad Wheaton and his wife Yuri, and Heather Wheaton; five grandchildren, Ian, Sam, Minato, Sareya, and Chotana; six siblings, Patrick, Peggy, Joanne, Richard, Mary, and Luanne; and many nieces and nephews. Susan was born in Ayer, Massachusetts in 1945, daughter

of the late, Anthony R. and Rita (Gevry) Bohenko. She grew up in Webster and graduated from Bartlett High School and served in the United States Navy.

Besides her family and Church, Susan had an obsessive love of the Red Sox and was always optimistic about the season. She would sometimes get “the itch” to travel down to Foxwoods to try her luck at her favorite slot machines, but she was just as happy recalling stories of her travels to Disney and Vegas. She was a member of Saint Louis Church in Webster, where she felt a closeness to her faith.

Funeral Services are being held privately.

Her family has entrusted Mercadante Funeral Home & Chapel in Worcester.

Joan M. Benvenuti, 89



DUDLEY – Joan M. (Anderson) Benvenuti, 89, died peacefully at home on March 16, 2026 with her daughters by her side after an illness. Her husband of 52 years, Carl G. Benvenuti died in 2011.

She leaves 2 daughters and caregivers, Carlene A. Benvenuti and Lisa J. Benvenuti both of Dudley; a son, David C. Benvenuti and his wife Caryn of Riverside, CA; a brother, Albert Anderson of California; a sister, Vivian Grey of Arizona; her brother-in-law, Philip Benvenuti and his wife Christine of Auburn, and cousin John Preissler and his wife Cathy of Dudley, all of whom were dear and close friends; many nieces and nephews. She was born July 15, 1936 in Southbridge and was raised there, a daughter of Alex and Marie V. (Duhamel) Anderson. She was a graduate of Mary E. Wells High School where she was a drum majorette. Mrs. Benvenuti was a secretary for many at Dudley Junior High School and later at

Dudley Intermediate School, retiring in 1995. She was a member of Saint Louis Church in Webster and was a member of the Saint Louis League of Catholic Women. She also volunteered at the Webster-Dudley Food Share and was a part of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Joan was famous for knitting shawls and baby sweaters. She enjoyed road trips to California with her husband, working in her yard and gardening, shopping and eating out, and occasional trips to the casino. The family would like to thank the caring caregivers Micheline and Krystyna and the wonderful staff from the Notre Dame Hospice. A funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, April 11 at 10:00 AM in Saint Louis Church, 14 Lake Street, Webster (please meet at church). Burial will follow in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Southbridge. The family requests that flowers be omitted and instead donations in her memory be made to Notre Dame Hospice, 555 Plantation Street, Worcester, MA 01605. www.websterfunerals.com



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Layla
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Layla is a resilient, energetic, and curious young girl who brings enthusiasm and joy into the spaces she enters. She loves expressing herself through colorful, hands-on arts and crafts, using creativity as a way to explore and share her ideas. Layla is very active and especially enjoys games that involve movement, where she can stay engaged and have fun at the same time. Layla attends elementary school and has built wonderful, positive connections with her teachers. She is an extroverted and outgoing child who truly enjoys being around others. Spending time with her friends at school and participating in activities within her community are among her favorite things to do.

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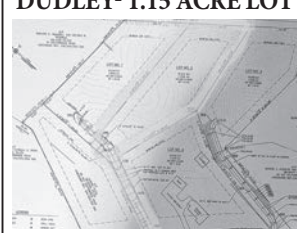
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Park Avenue Faculty Spotlight



feel supported, challenged, and motivated to do their very best. She is a highly sought-after teacher in second grade, and her students absolutely adore her. Pam's love for her students is evident in everything she does, and she works tirelessly to ensure each child feels valued and successful. She pours her time, energy, and heart into Park Avenue, always going above and beyond for both her students and colleagues. She is also a wonderful colleague—always willing to lend a hand, share ideas, and support those around her.

As one colleague shared, "Pam is someone everyone turns to—both students and staff. She is deeply loved by her class, and her willingness to always help others makes her a true go-to person in our school."

Thank you, Pam Minarik, for your dedication.

Sue Micciche, 4th Grade Special Education Teacher, is a truly remarkable educator who has made a lasting impact on so many students. Micciche is a go-to person for countless children, serving as a trusted and preferred adult who students rely on for support, guidance, and encouragement. She has helped change the lives of many of her students through her dedication, compassion, and unwavering belief in their potential. Sue holds high expectations while also creating a safe and supportive environment where students feel understood and valued. Her students absolutely love her, and

her influence extends far beyond the classroom.

As one colleague noted, "Sue is someone so many students and staff depend

on—she is truly loved and trusted by all. She has a special way of being the person kids seek out when they need support, and she

always shows up for them."

Thank you, Sue Micciche, for your dedication.

Sue Micciche (Special Education teacher) and Pam Minarik (Classroom Teacher), colleagues and neighborhood friends, pausing for a brief picture.

WEBSTER — Each year, Park Avenue is filled with remarkable student learning—made possible by the dedication, creativity, support, and, most importantly, the hope carried by the extraordinary staff in our school community. This week, we are proud to highlight two more exceptional members of our PAE team: Pam Minarik, 2nd Grade Teacher, and Sue Micciche, 4th Grade

Special Education Teacher. This is a truly remarkable highlight, as these two educators were once neighbors growing up as children in Grafton, Massachusetts—making this recognition even more special.

Pam Minarik, 2nd Grade Teacher, is an outstanding educator who consistently holds high expectations for all of her students. Pam creates a classroom environment where students

Master Mason presents his artwork



Courtesy

Brother Clay Tull stands behind his artwork, smiling as he explains his creative process and painting style.

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On March 12, Brother Clay Tull from Major General Salem Towne Lodge in Southbridge was the guest featured artist hosted by the 321 Club located on the second floor in the Washburn Hall located at the Mechanic Hall building in Worcester. This club features local talent. The evening's musical performer was Grace Givertz, a nominee for the Boston Music Awards and recipient of the City of Boston Extraordinary Women Award. She blends folk, Americana, and indie rock

into a distinctive musical style. What an honor for Brother Tull to be the featured artist to this great event to showcase his artwork.

Bro. Tull has been painting this style of art painting for about two years now. He calls his style Abstract Surreal Expressionism and paints without brushes, using only his storytelling blade which looks like a Masonic Trowel with a longer handle. His artwork combines abstraction, surrealism, and emotional expressionism.

Bro. Tull was excited to discuss and describe his paintings. The attendees were actively engaged, showing interest in his art-

work by connecting with it, responding thoughtfully, and asking a variety of questions. The background music created a warm, emotional mood that complemented the paintings well. Bro. Clay Tull credits Freemasonry principles for inspiring his art. His time with peers at Major General Salem Towne Lodge in Southbridge convinced him that determination can achieve anything. If you would like to see more artwork by Brother Clay Tull go to pages.@Tullsdancingcolors. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, go to massfreemasonry.org to read to and to find a lodge nearest you.

Slurp, savor, and vote at Zion Luterhan soup showdown



Courtesy

Paula Clark and Christine Costello, 2025 SToup home chef champions.

OXFORD — Soup lovers, this is your chance! Zion Lutheran Church's second annual SToup contest is coming to 70 Main St., Oxford on March 28. From 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m., you're invited to taste

it all...soup, stew, chowder, chili and vote for your favorite.

Sample hearty classics from beef and barley to New England favorites like Rocky Point clam chowder as our talented home cooks go ladle-to-ladle for the title of Best Stoup Champion. Each bowl will be brimming with flavor, creativity, and a dash of friendly rivalry. Guests can enjoy the wide variety of entries for an admission of just \$7 and children 5 and under eat free. Beverages and breads will be available too. Whether you're a foodie, a comfort food fanatic, or simply looking for a fun Saturday outing, this competition promises something for every palate.

Come hungry. Bring your family and friends. Leave happy.

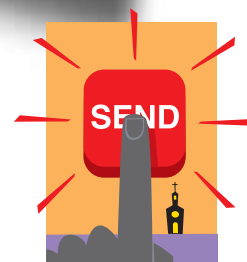
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