

# Auburn News

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Friday, July 10, 2026

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Courtesy  
Bartlett High School track coach Paul Lango participated in the Maine Senior Games in the 75 to 79 age division. Placing first in the long jump and shot put, second in the discus and hammer throw, and third in the 50 and 100 meters. Qualifying him for the 2027 Senior Nationals to be held in Tulsa Oklahoma.

## Dudley officials mull budget challenges following override defeat

DUDLEY — Dudley officials are preparing for difficult financial decisions after voters rejected a Proposition 2½ override in May, leaving the town to address significant budget shortfalls while maintaining essential municipal services.

During the June 29 Board of Selectmen meeting, Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda provided an update on the town's financial outlook as staff work to close out Fiscal Year 2026 and prepare for a supplemental budget expected to be presented at a Special Town Meeting this October.

Town officials anticipate ending FY2026 close to budget, but Mr. Ruda said the town does not expect a significant amount of free cash to be certified that could be used to offset budget challenges later this year.

"The defeat of the override has fundamentally changed our financial outlook," Ruda said. "The town must now focus on balancing essential services with the revenues available, while planning for a supplemental budget later this year."

The Fiscal Year 2027 budget, approved at the May Annual Town Meeting, was balanced without eliminating any full-time public safety positions. Instead, the town relied on reserve funds to achieve a balanced budget.

However, Ruda cautioned that the approved budget includes the elimination of three part-time positions beginning in July, along with significant reductions throughout town services.

Among the reductions are cuts to Fire Department

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## "The Railroad in Song" coming to Oxford Public Library

OXFORD — On Tuesday, July 21 at 6 p.m., Oxford Public Library will present the program "The Railroad in Song" performed by musicians and songwriters Jon and Li Waterman.

The show consists of traditional and original songs, stories and a slide show about trains, workers on the railroad, train wrecks, heroes, hoboes and more. Oxford Public Library is at 339 Main St. in Oxford. "The Railroad in Song" is part of the Live Music Making History Live series designed to encourage the celebration and exploration of history through music. The program is supported in part by a grant from the Oxford Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

## Dudley Community Choice Power Program delivers nearly \$150,000 in first-quarter savings

DUDLEY — Dudley residents and businesses enrolled in the Town's Community Choice Power Supply Program saved nearly \$150,000 on electricity during the first quarter of 2026, according to the latest report from Colonial Power Group.

The quarterly report shows participants saved a combined \$149,101 between January and March compared to National

Grid's Basic Service rates.

- Monthly savings were:
- January: \$63,937
  - February: \$45,934
  - March: \$39,230

The aggregation program currently provides competitive electricity supply to approximately 2,800 consumers throughout the Town of Dudley.

"Nearly \$150,000 in savings in just three months demonstrates the value of our Community Choice

Power Program," Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda said, adding, "By leveraging the Town's collective buying power, we're helping residents and businesses better manage their electricity costs while providing stable, competitive rates."

The Dudley Community Choice Power Supply Program was developed to give residents and businesses an alternative to National

Grid's Basic Service by securing competitive electricity supply rates through a municipal aggregation. The program was established in partnership with Colonial Power Group and the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources.

The current 18-month supply contract with First Point Power, which began in April 2025, offers three electricity supply options

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## Saint Joseph School celebrates the Class of 2026

WEBSTER — On Saturday, June 6, the Saint Joseph School Class of 2026 held their graduation ceremony following a special 1 p.m. Mass in Saint Joseph Basilica. Fourteen 8th Grade students were recognized by their Home Room Teacher, Mary Ann Weaver. Each 8th Grade student received a Saint Joseph School Graduation Certificate as well as recognition for their academic excellence and participation in clubs and organizations.

Mychael Jones: End of Year Honor Roll – Honors, Student Council President, Yearbook Club, AAA Safety Patrol ; Neli Kuznecki: End of Year Honor Roll – High Honors, Altar Server, Yearbook Club; Oluwatosin Akindele: End of Year Honor Roll – Honors, Yearbook Club; Axel Kapitulik: End of Year Honor Roll – High Honors; Alexis Archambault: End of Year Honor Roll – Honors, Choir, Drama Club, AAA Safety Patrol; Jacob Marcuccio: End of Year Honor Roll – Honors, Altar Server Yearbook

Club; Avery Archambault: End of Year Honor Roll – High Honors, Yearbook Club, AAA Safety Patrol; Lukas Barbosa: End of Year Honor Roll – High Honors, Student Council Grade 8 Class Representative, Altar Server, Drama Club, Yearbook Club, AAA Safety Patrol; Hayley Benes: End of Year Honor Roll - Honors, Children of Mary, Yearbook Club; Ivonka Warnajts: End of Year Honor Roll – Honors, Children of Mary, Choir, Yearbook Club; Kalleia Agosto: End of Year Honor Roll – High Honors, Choir, Drama Club, AAA Safety Club, AAA Safety Patrol; Angelo Trayner: In addition, Headmaster, Rev. Ryszard Polek and Principal, Beth Boudreau distributed medals to the top two students who achieved academic excellence in the individual sub-

jects. The student with the highest grade-point average received a gold medal on a red ribbon inscribed with the words, "Outstanding Academic Achievement" and their name. The student with the second highest grade point average received a silver medal on a white ribbon inscribed with the words, "Recognition for Academic Achievement" and their name. English/ Language Arts: Gold – Axel Kapitulik, Silver – Neli Kuznecki; Literature: Gold – Axel Kapitulik, Silver – Neli Kuznecki; Science: Gold – Axel Kapitulik, Silver – Neli Kuznecki; Mathematics: Gold – Axel Kapitulik, Silver – Lukas Barbosa; Social Studies: Gold – Axel Kapitulik, Silver – Lukas Barbosa; Religion: Gold – Lukas Barbosa, Silver – Kalleia Agosto; Spanish: Gold - Kalleia Agosto, Silver – Axel Kapitulik. The student with the highest overall grade-point average received a medal with the words inscribed "First Overall Academic Achievement" and his/her



Courtesy  
The Saint Joseph School Class of 2026 gathers for a commemorative graduation photo alongside Principal Mrs. Beth Boudreau, Headmaster Rev. Richard Polek, Associate Pastor Rev. Anthony Kazarnowicz, and 8th Grade Instructor Mrs. Mary Ann Weaver following the graduation ceremony held on Saturday, June 6th at Saint Joseph Basilica.


name on it. Axel Kapitulik was the recipient of this medal.

Finally, Headmaster, Rev. Richard Polek and Principal, Beth Boudreau distributed the following awards: Bishop Daniel P. Reilly Book Award - presented to the student who best exemplifies the bishop's motto, "In Kindness and in Truth" and who

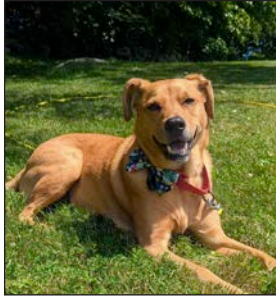
demonstrates qualities of duty, honor, sacrifice, and accomplishment within the school community. The criteria for selection include displaying kindness and truth in everyday life, an enthusiasm for learning, and active involvement in service to the school, community, and church: Tenleigh Dowd; Josephine P. Nalewajk Christian

Witness Award – a distinguished award presented to the student who exemplifies outstanding Christian qualities as well as notable service to the St. Joseph Community. The student's name is also engraved on a plaque displayed in the school: Kalleia Agosto.

Congratulations and Best Wishes, Saint Joseph School Class of 2026!




**PAW of the WEEK**  
**CHESTER**  
5 YR./53 LB./MALE/RETRIEVER/CATTLE DOG MIX



Hi, I'm Chester — I'm the kind of guy who will happily toss a toy around one minute and then roll over for belly rubs the next. I love my people deeply and bond closely with "my" humans. Once you're in my circle, you're in for life. I'm happiest when I'm playing, relaxing near you, or soaking up affection. I have a big heart, a playful streak, and a soft side that just wants to feel safe and loved.

*A Few Honest Notes (Because Communication Matters)*  
I'm not a cat guy — it's just not my vibe.  
I've been around other dogs at the rescue and have done fine, but I didn't have much proper socialization before coming here. When dogs rush up to me, I can feel unsure and a little overwhelmed. Because of that, I'd feel most confident being your one-and-only pup while I continue building skills and confidence at my own pace.

Vet visits used to make me nervous too — especially nail trims and being confined for exams. But guess what? I've made amazing progress. With the help of our awesome trainer, Jackie, I learned to file my own nails (yes, I'm basically a DIY king), and I've been muzzle trained so I can safely and successfully handle checkups and vaccinations! With a little medication beforehand and the right support, I'm doing so much better already. I'm proof that patience and training truly work.



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Courtesy

The Black Tavern Historical Society of Dudley recently awarded its annual scholarship to Samantha Norberg of Charlton. Norberg, pictured in the center of the front row below, plans to attend the University of Vermont, where she will study American History. To recognize her achievement, the Black Tavern Board of Directors invited Norberg to attend the Society's monthly board meeting. During the meeting, she had the opportunity to meet with board members and participate in a commemorative photograph celebrating her scholarship award. The Board congratulated Samantha on her academic accomplishments and extended its best wishes for continued success in her college studies and future endeavors.

## All Saints Academy preschoolers celebrate year of learning and growth

WEBSTER — The preschool students at All Saints Academy proudly celebrated the completion of a successful school year during their Preschool Celebration 2026. Family members and friends gathered to enjoy a heartwarming program that highlighted the many skills and accomplishments the students achieved throughout the year.

The celebration began with a welcome from the narrator, who reflected on the children's growth, learning, and friendships. The students then processed into the ceremony, enthusiastically waving to their families. Faith played a central role in the program as the children began by reciting the Our Father, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Throughout the year, the preschoolers learned the importance of prayer, respect, kindness, and working together as a classroom community.

The students proudly demonstrated many of the skills they practiced throughout the school year while families smiled as the children showcased their growing knowledge and enthusiasm for learning. Musical performances added to the celebration. The students delighted the audience with a lively rendition of "I'm a Little Teapot" and sang a colorful song highlighting the many colors they learned throughout the year.

Before receiving their certificates, the children recited their lunchtime prayer, demonstrating another daily routine that has been an important part of their preschool experience. A special highlight of the event was the presentation of certificates, recognizing each child's hard work, growth, and accomplishments throughout the year. Proud families applauded as each student was recognized.

The celebration concluded with a farewell message reflecting on the friendships, memories, and learning experiences shared throughout the year. While saying goodbye to preschool, the students look forward with excitement to the adventures and opportunities that await them next year. The Preschool Celebration served as a joyful reminder of how much the children have grown academically, socially, and spiritually during their time at All Saints Academy. The school community congratulates its preschool graduates and wishes them continued success as they take their next steps in their educational journey.

## Student records to be destroyed in accordance with state regulations

WEBSTER — In compliance with Massachusetts Student Records Regulation, the Webster Public School District will destroy the Special Education records of any Webster student who transferred, graduated, withdrew or terminated from Special Education programs services prior to June 30, 2019. This is in accordance with the requirement to destroy such records after a period of seven years.

Any parent/guardian or student, ages 14 years or older, can obtain their original record within two weeks of this notice. They may do so by contacting the Student Support Services Office at 508-943-3646 no later than by Monday, July 15.

All unclaimed student records meeting the above criteria will be destroyed after the July 15 deadline.

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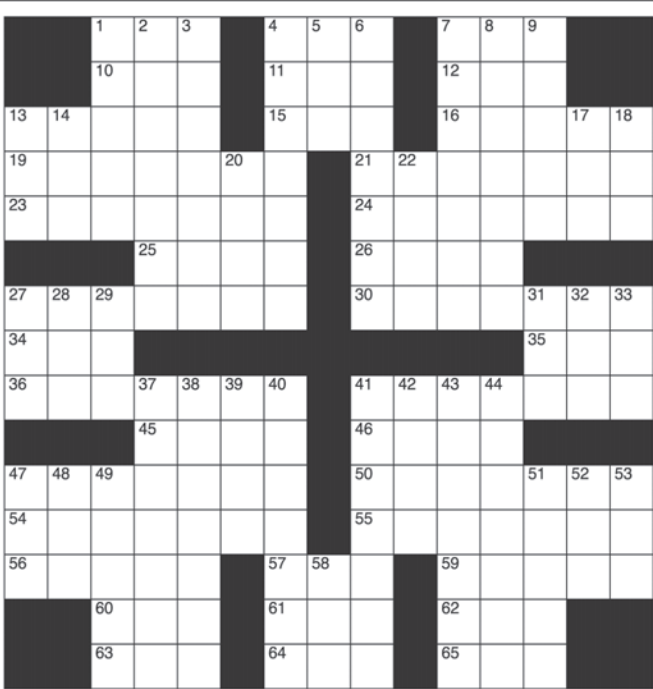
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### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Tire pressure measurement
- 4. Request
- 7. Clairvoyance
- 10. 007's creator
- 11. Adult male
- 12. God of battle (Scandinavian)
- 13. Cloths spread over a coffin
- 15. Breeze through
- 16. Ladyfish genus
- 19. We all take them
- 21. Earl's jurisdiction
- 23. Members of U.S. Navy
- 24. Rummy-like card game
- 25. Affected by injury
- 26. Member of a Semitic people
- 27. Withdrew from a union
- 30. Woman's cloak
- 34. Spanish river
- 35. Prohibit
- 36. Something you can take
- 41. Dish soap brand
- 45. Ottoman military commanders
- 46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
- 47. Makes somber
- 50. Discuss again
- 54. A tool to inject
- 55. Support
- 56. Informal term for money
- 57. Catch doing something wrong
- 59. Prehistoric people
- 60. Large African antelope
- 61. Vehicle
- 62. Georgia rockers
- 63. High resolution microscope
- 64. Pitching statistic
- 65. Attempt

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Indoor plant
- 2. Marketable
- 3. Rather
- 4. Collected
- 5. A bag-like structure in a plant or animal
- 6. Irish hip-hop trio
- 7. Ageless
- 8. Course requirements
- 9. Pokes at
- 13. TV channel
- 14. They \_\_\_
- 17. Cooking material
- 18. Investment account
- 20. Iron-containing compound
- 22. Swiss river
- 27. Small coin (French)
- 28. Electronic countermeasures
- 29. Taxi
- 31. Helps little firms
- 32. Unhappy
- 33. Midway between northeast and east
- 37. Glowing
- 38. Item to be addressed
- 39. An informal body of friends
- 40. Intrinsic nature of something
- 41. Neural structures
- 42. Brews
- 43. A place for ships
- 44. One who sings holiday songs
- 47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 48. Scottish town
- 49. The most worthless parts
- 51. Sticky
- 52. Put to work
- 53. Precursor to the EU
- 58. Retrospective analysis (abbr.)



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## A sizzling Sunday burlesque brunch at the Rose Room

WEBSTER — Brunch plans in Webster just got a lot hotter! Join SweetFire and The Rose Room Café Sunday, July 19 at noon for a combination of delectable eats and dazzling burlesque performances—bringing temptation and tease to your Sunday afternoon.

specialty coffees, and an array of in-house prepared artisanal baked goods.

The July 19 event will be hosted by Aurora Fire and features performances by performers from across new England: Dolores Sweet, Sasha Southend, Bootz, and Jynx Merlot.

et includes access to the show plus one drink ticket (alcoholic or non-alcoholic.) Food is sold separately. Purchase at: [sweetfirepvd.com/events/](http://sweetfirepvd.com/events/).

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The Rose Room Café, located at 4 East Main St., features sustainable, locally sourced breakfast, lunch,

\$35 tick-

## Friends of the Auburn Library announce upcoming events



AUBURN — The Friends of the Auburn Public Library announce their next Book Sale, Saturday, July 18, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library, 369 Southbridge St., Auburn. Choose from hundreds of gently used fiction, non-fiction, how-to, cooking, children's books, DVDs and more. Please stop by and support the Friends of the Auburn Public Library. All proceeds of the book sale will be used to fund and enhance services, expand programs and purchase other extraordinary items not included in the municipal budget.

Summer Reading Kick Off! (all ages!) The Friends would like to

offer our appreciation and thanks for the fabulous donation of \$2,000 from Savers Bank for the Summer Reading program at the Auburn Library. Summer Reading at the Auburn Library officially begins the week of June 21. It is not too late to sign-up at the library to receive your paper reading log. Participants will earn drawing tickets towards 12 prize baskets by reading each week. Participants can also complete reading activities to earn up to four small prizes. Visit <https://auburnlibrary.org/> for additional information.

Volunteer Drive - Do you want to help support the programs at the Auburn Library? Do you have

a friend or neighbor that loves the library? We love to meet new friends and volunteers to support our projects. The Friends will get together on July 27 at 5:30 p.m. at the library to discuss future volunteer fundraising opportunities to support the library. All are welcome.

The Friends of the Auburn Public Library is an independent, non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to raising money through donations, book sales and other activities, and to donate those funds to the library for materials, services and programs not funded through the municipal budget. Questions or to join the contact list, please email [friendsofauburnplibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofauburnplibrary@gmail.com).

## DUDLEY POLICE LOG

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported the following arrests during the month of June.

Brian Daniel Leclerc, age 49, of Chicopee was arrested on June 6 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor)-second offense and a Marked Lanes Violation.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on June 8 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on June 8 for Assault & Battery on a Person Over the age of 60 and/or Disabled resulting in Injury, Assault & Battery resulting in Serious Bodily Injury, and Assault & Battery.

Matthew David Labonte, age 32, of Southbridge was arrested on June 12 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor), a State Highway Traffic Violation, and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on June 14 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on June 14 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Krista O'Driscoll, age 33, of Dudley was arrested on June 16 in connection with an out of agency warrant.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on June 23 for Assault & Battery on a Pregnant Victim and Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Alexander John Toohey, age 26, of Worcester was arrested on June 25 for a Marked Lanes Violation, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Operating Under the Influence (Liquor), and driving at a rate of speed greater than was reasonable and proper.

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EDITOR

## EDITORIAL

# Hard choices require shared purpose

Dudley voters made a difficult decision in May when they rejected the Proposition 2½ override. Whether that vote reflected concerns about taxes, household budgets, or confidence in town spending, it was a clear expression of the community's priorities. Now comes the equally difficult task of living within that decision.

The financial picture presented to the Board of Selectmen on June 29 illustrates just how challenging that task will be.

The town was able to adopt a Fiscal Year 2027 budget without eliminating any full-time public safety positions, an accomplishment that deserves recognition. But it came at a cost. Reserve funds helped bridge the gap, while reductions spread throughout nearly every department. Three part-time positions have been eliminated, overtime budgets have been trimmed, maintenance accounts reduced, and funding for everything from cybersecurity to legal services has been cut.

These aren't abstract numbers on a spreadsheet. They represent services residents rely upon every day.

Police officers have warned that reduced overtime means fewer opportunities for proactive policing. Fire and EMS officials have explained that their staffing already operates at minimum levels, leaving little room for further reductions without affecting service. Other departments face similar realities as they attempt to do more with less.

No one enjoys discussing budget cuts, but Dudley's leadership deserves credit for approaching the issue openly. Rather than pretending the challenges don't exist, officials have begun laying the groundwork for the difficult conversations that will lead to the October Special Town Meeting.

That transparency matters. It is tempting in situations like this to search for villains. Some may blame those who voted against the override. Others may criticize town officials for requesting additional funding in the first place. Neither approach moves the community forward.

The override vote settled one question. It did not eliminate the financial pressures facing the town.

Massachusetts municipalities continue to grapple with rising health insurance costs, inflation, contractual obligations, equipment replacement, regulatory requirements, and aging infrastructure. These costs do not pause because voters reject an override. They simply have to be absorbed elsewhere.

That reality means every resident now has a stake in the discussion that lies ahead.

The October Special Town Meeting should not become a replay of the override campaign. Instead, it should be an opportunity for residents to carefully evaluate priorities. If additional funding is proposed, officials must clearly explain why it is necessary and what the consequences of inaction would be. Likewise, if additional reductions are recommended, residents deserve to understand exactly how those cuts would affect town services.

Good government depends on informed participation, particularly during financially difficult times.

There is also value in recognizing what Dudley has managed to preserve. Despite significant fiscal pressure, town leaders worked to retain full-time police officers and firefighters. That decision reflects an understanding that public safety remains a foundational responsibility of local government.

Still, reserves are not an endless resource. Using one-time funds to balance ongoing operating expenses may buy time, but it cannot become a permanent strategy. Eventually, revenues and expenditures must align.

The months ahead will undoubtedly include disagreements over priorities and spending. Healthy debate is part of local democracy. But those discussions should remain focused on facts, not frustration.

Every budget is ultimately a statement of values. Dudley now faces the difficult responsibility of determining which services can be maintained, which may need to change, and how the community wishes to invest in its future.

Those decisions will not satisfy everyone. They rarely do.

But if residents and town leaders continue to approach the process with honesty, transparency, and a willingness to listen, Dudley can emerge from these financial challenges with something just as valuable as a balanced budget: a stronger understanding of what kind of community it wants to be.

# Viewpoint

THE DEADLINE to submit letters to the editor and commentaries for next week's newspaper is Friday at noon. SEND ALL ITEMS to Editor  
Brendan Berube at THE WEBSTER TIMES — news@stonebridgepress.news

## The bench nobody reserved

Every town seems to have one. It's not famous. It doesn't appear on postcards. There's no plaque explaining its historical significance. It's simply a bench.

Maybe it's outside the library. Maybe it's on the town common, beside the post office, or tucked beneath a maple tree near the bandstand. People walk by it every day without giving it much thought. Yet that bench has probably heard more stories than anyone in town.

I found myself sitting on one recently while I waited for an appointment that was running behind. It wasn't a particularly comfortable bench. One armrest was loose, the paint had faded, and the seat tilted just enough to remind you it had been through a few New England winters. Still, people kept coming and going.

An older gentleman stopped to rest after his morning walk. A mother tied her son's sneaker before they continued toward the playground. Two friends chatted for ten minutes before heading in opposite directions. A teenager sat long enough to finish an ice cream cone before pedaling away. None of them stayed very long.

That's the beauty of a town bench. It's a place where nobody feels obligated to linger, but nobody feels rushed to leave. We don't seem to have many places like that anymore.

Coffee shops often expect you to buy something. Restaurants need your table eventually. Even parks seem busier than they once were, filled with organized games and scheduled events.

A simple bench asks nothing of you. You can sit quietly. You can wave to people you know. You can watch the clouds build over the hills or count how many dogs pass by

LANTERNS  
ALONG  
MAIN  
STREET  
By CHARLES

before lunch. For a few minutes, you become part of the rhythm of the town instead of racing through it. I think that's something we've lost without realizing it.

We're very good at getting somewhere. We're not nearly as good at simply being somewhere.

Years ago, people naturally found themselves lingering in public spaces. They visited on front porches, gathered around the town common, or leaned against pickup trucks outside the feed store. Conversations weren't planned. They simply unfolded because people happened to cross paths.

Today, our schedules are tighter and our attention is divided. Even while sitting on that old bench, I noticed several people scrolling through their phones instead of looking around. I understand the temptation. I do it myself.

But every now and then it's worth putting the phone away and seeing what's happening right in front of you. You might notice the child determined to jump over every sidewalk crack. The couple debating where to have lunch. The robin tugging an earthworm from the grass with surprising determination. Ordinary moments don't make headlines, but they're often the ones we remember.

Eventually, my appointment was ready, and I stood up to leave. As I walked away, someone else took my place without missing a beat. The bench didn't care who sat there. It simply waited for the next conversation, the next quiet moment, the next person who needed a place to rest for a little while.

Every town should have a bench like that. And every now and then, we ought to take the time to sit on it.

## Small habits help shape a stronger financial future



FINANCIAL  
FOCUS  
DENNIS  
ANTONOPOULOS

Financial security doesn't have to come from a big salary, a lucky investment or some dramatic turning point. For most people, wealth is built more simply, through small habits repeated many times over.

If you're like many young people, you may feel you don't have enough money to start investing. The reality is that you're in a great position to build the small habits that will help you create lasting wealth. Here are five tips to help you get started.

Automate savings before you spend. One of the most powerful financial habits you can build is among the easiest. Set up an automatic transfer such as by contributing to an employer retirement plan or exploring if you can direct part of your paycheck to a savings or investment account.

This helps remove the temptation to spend that money instead of saving it. Even setting aside 1 to 5 percent of your income can help build momentum over time.

Watch the small stuff. It's easy to dismiss a \$15-a-month streaming service or a \$6 coffee twice a week. But those small purchases add up. Forgotten subscriptions, food delivery fees and impulse buys can quietly drain your bank account.

"Just \$25 a week, if invested well, can grow into the thousands in a few short years." Scan your recurring charges regularly, cancel what you don't use and put that money to work instead.

Don't let your lifestyle outpace your income. When you get a raise or bonus, it's tempting to upgrade your apartment, car or everyday spending. This "lifestyle creep" can be a significant hindrance to building wealth.

Here's an alternate approach: Every time your income goes up, increase your savings rate before anything else. Even saving half of a raise while spending the rest puts you ahead.

Start now, even imperfectly. Don't wait to start investing. Even if you can only set aside a small amount each month, do it. Starting just five to 10 years earlier can result in significantly more wealth down the line, even if the early contributions are small, thanks to compounding.

Compounding means your contributions earn interest, and even that interest earns interest. Over decades, that snowball effect can make a world of difference.

Stay aware, not obsessed. You don't necessarily need to track every dollar you spend. But you do need to be aware of your money habits. A quick weekly or monthly check-in on your accounts, spending patterns and progress toward savings goals can help you catch problems early.

Financial awareness also means protecting what you build. An emergency fund covering three to six months of total expenses keeps one bad month from becoming a financial crisis. Avoiding high-interest debt does the same. These defensive habits make everything else possible.

Your financial future likely won't be shaped by one big decision. Instead, it will probably be built by small choices you make every day. And the best time to start making good choices is now.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Still seeking classmates for Bartlett Class of 76 reunion

To the Editor:

Families and friends of Bartlett High School, class of 1976:

This is our last ditch effort to try and locate the last 14 of our "lost and missing" classmates.

We have made wonderful strides and have contacted almost all of our graduating classmates, except for these last few names.

We ask if you know where they are, new last names, addresses, phone or cell numbers or e-mails, and can share with us, to please send us an e-mail, text or a message on Facebook, or have our classmates reach out directly to one of us. We want everyone to have the chance to attend their 50th class reunion in September.

Thank you so much for any help you can provide.

Missing classmates:

Linda Barone  
Brett Buksar  
Robert Bennett  
James Pizzetti  
Marilyn Gagnon (Kozielewicz)

Alan Kozlowski  
Cheryl Lowe  
Donna Meagher (Lagano)  
Deborah Moroz (Batterson)  
Timothy Richardson  
Anne Marie Szkutak  
Debra Stefaniak (Leno)  
Patricia Zachara  
Richard Zalewski

Patty (O'Connell) Battista  
pattybattista123@gmail.com  
(508) 965-9265  
Facebook: Patty O'Connell Battista

Donna Shutts  
dshuttsre@gmail.com  
Facebook: Donna Shutts

Kathleen Jewell-Kelleher  
Kkelleher251@gmail.com  
Facebook:  
Kathleen Jewell-Kelleher

BARTLETT HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1976

### Voting is our most important obligation

To the Editor:

Congratulations to all that had the opportunity to truly experience the grace and magic of the 250th birthday of our world changing democracy here in the United States. Despite some challenges, it was a wonderful holiday period. It also acted as a great reflection period on not only our rights as citizens but our responsibilities in supporting and maintaining our unique government "for the people by the people."

We are the people... all of us, created equal, regardless of race, creed or status. We all inherited the promotion of the Patriots in 1776 and beyond from subjects to citizens. As citizens this 250th anniversary was wonderful time to reflect on our rights including the ones we have lost recently, along with the many negative policy impacts currently, and how are forefathers provided great examples of our obligations to preserve the American Experiment of a true democracy. The single most important obligation is voting.

The ballot box is in fact the gateway to preserving democracy and all our rights outlined in the Declaration of Independence and the subsequent Constitution of the United States of America, all of which are under aggressive attack from within. This year, our duty of voting in November is of unmistakable importance.

To offset the active voter suppression by some of our elected leaders choosing power over people's rights, all of us need to take our voting and our collective voice seriously. Our duty as citizens requires some easy work; checking registration status, organizing required back up documentation, getting registered, checking on best voting methods, locations and dates, helping our neighbors with their preparation and necessary logistic support, and the hardest... not succumbing to intimidation by those who wish the demise of true democracy.

Bill May  
Dudley

### Letter submission policy

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

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

# QCC professor gives voice to formerly incarcerated in new documentary



Kristy Glover

WORCESTER — What is it like to get out of prison and start over? QCC Professor of Criminal Justice Kristy Glover spent her sabbatical researching this question and creating “Voices of Justice,” a documentary film that she produced, filmed and edited herself.

“Voice of Justice” features accounts from three men who have firsthand experience with the justice system. The documentary highlights how multiple support systems are critical for re-entry, the period of time when individuals are transitioning out of incarceration. Support from family members, community organizations and probation officers, along with raising awareness to reduce stigma, were all mentioned as ways to reduce recidivism and influence personal and professional growth.

“There are so many things that

we expect of individuals when they’re just getting released. They have to get a job, pay their monthly supervision fees and find a place to live,” Glover said.

Glover witnessed the re-entry process during her time as a parole officer for the state of Georgia, but the connection is also personal. Her grandfather encountered challenges when he was released from prison, which left a lasting impression on the family, including Glover’s mother, who also joined law enforcement, eventually becoming a police captain.

In the documentary, Glover interviews Mario Rivera, who spoke about his own re-entry experience. Rivera praised Worcester-area nonprofits such as Legendary Legacies and Open Sky Community Services for providing services such as counseling and assistance with obtaining a laptop and hygiene products. He also acknowledged his family as a large source of support.

“Without initial help in the first 60 days of me coming home, my progress wouldn’t have taken off the way it did,” Rivera said.

Rivera didn’t wait until he was released to start preparing. He completed QCC’s culinary re-entry program, a partnership with the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction that teaches skills needed to work in food service and includes multiple certifications upon successful completion. In “Voices of Justice,” Rivera shared that during the program, he realized education was a vital

part of his path to a new future. After his release, he enrolled at QCC and in the Liberal Arts for Returning Citizens (LARC) program at Clark University.

“The culinary program has had a significant impact on hundreds of incarcerated individuals,” said Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis. “We are proud to have helped Mario build a successful path forward after incarceration.”

Anthony Bryant, who also appeared in “Voices of Justice,” has seen multiple sides of the criminal justice system. Before he was incarcerated, he held roles as a corrections officer, a deputy sheriff and a highway patrolman.

“Law enforcement is not just a job; it’s your identity. And losing that role can produce deep internal shame,” Bryant shared.

Bryant, however, drew on his law enforcement training to stay calm and focused during his incarceration, using that discipline as a foundation for working to improve his life. As his release date approached, he didn’t receive any re-entry preparation from the prison, so he got ready by reading self-help books and journaling.

After his sentence, Bryant relied on employment assistance programs, but he was often steered into manual labor positions that didn’t reflect his skills, making it difficult to rebuild his professional career.

In addition to family and community programs, both Bryant and Rivera said that a strong

relationship with a probation or parole officer can make a positive difference. They noted that the stigma of having a criminal record can be detrimental to progress, but even one person who sees past their mistakes can be instrumental. They hope others can offer the same grace to those who are going through re-entry.

“People change when their dignity is restored, responsibility is entrusted gradually and their story is allowed to mean something more than their worst decision,” Bryant remarked. “It’s a mindset shift that many people and legislators don’t understand.”

Rivera and Bryant have also taken it upon themselves to help others with similar experiences. Bryant has become an ethics

trainer for law enforcement and other public service organizations. Rivera has stayed connected with Legendary Legacies to educate others and advocate for those in the re-entry process.

“I’m taking accountability in my own life for the things that I’ve done,” Rivera said. “Some people might not be receptive to my situation, but I take it as motivation to do better.”

“Voices of Justice” can be viewed at [youtube.com/watch?v=odTT0Stx3Tg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odTT0Stx3Tg).

www.Stonebridge Press.com

## Local University of Rhode Island students named to Spring President’s List

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that several area students have been named to its Spring 2026 President’s List. Among them are:

- Jasmyn Gates of Auburn
- Nate Jette of Auburn
- Katie Small of Auburn
- Keirsten Doud of Dudley

To be included on the President’s List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.80 through 4.0 grade point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable earning at least a 3.80 through 4.0 grade point average.

Students named to the President’s List represent nearly all of Rhode Island’s cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and countries.

About the University of Rhode Island

The University of Rhode Island is a diverse and dynamic community whose members are connected by a common quest for knowledge. As a global education leader and the state of Rhode Island’s flagship public research institution, URI offers distinctive opportunities designed to meet the global challenges of today’s world and the rapidly evolving needs of tomorrow. Founded in 1892, URI now enrolls more than 18,000 students and offers more than 200 degree programs across nine schools and colleges. As a land- and sea-grant institution, URI is a key driver of economic development in Rhode Island and contributes significantly to the health and vitality of the state, the New England region, and the nation. To learn more, visit: [uri.edu](http://uri.edu).

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Financial Advisor  
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## REAL ESTATE

### AUBURN

\$540,000, 382 N Oxford St, Burroughs, Leon J, and Boss, Patricia M, to Boss, Michael Shawn, and Boss, Amber Alisa.

\$464,000, 15 Grove St, 15 Grove Street Rt, and Sweeney 3rd, Edward C, to Kelly, Megan, and Kelly, Richard.

\$232,750, 181 Boyce St, O Warren Creelman T, and Creelman, Joel W, to H2 Asset Solutions Inc.

### DUDLEY

\$738,500, 7 Nellies Way, David Jeffrey Tonkin Ret, and Tonkin, David Jeffrey, to David A Jefferson Ret, and Jefferson, Wendy V.

\$440,000, 6 Lerner Dr, Quadarella, Darlene A, to Brown, Matthew, and Brown, Ashleigh.

\$434,000, 23 Partridge Hill Rd, Laprise, Stephen W, and Laprise, Ellen T, to Brunelle, Meagan.

### OXFORD

\$625,000, 24 Lind St, Coskun, Ilker, and Coskun, Kimberly, to Zeb, Aslam, and Zeb, Usman.

\$455,000, 13 Stuart St, Burroughs, Michael W, and Burroughs, Kristen, to Ramos, Jacob F, and Ramos, Brianna M.

\$405,000, 5 Maid Marion St, Roseann Ljunggren Irt, and Ljunggren, Paul, to Hall, Alexis J.

\$399,900, 9 Lovett Rd, Johnny East LLC, to Hutchinson, Jason.

\$380,000, 84 Sutton Ave, Flynn, Ellen K, and Flynn, Timothy L, to Macleod, Nichole.

\$350,000, 19 Thayer Pond Dr #3, Nickerson, Eric, and Tomaiolo, Tia, to Kotarski, Mason.

\$250,000, 6 Beech St, Champoux, Michael D, to Gleason, Randy E, and Champoux, Theresa.

### WEBSTER

\$825,000, 334 Killdeer Rd, Fafard, David J, and Fafard, Christina C, to Riley, Alex J, and Riley, Lindsay.

\$420,000, 6 Marilyn Dr, Hughes, Susan C, to Kyle, Randall.

\$293,000, 150-R N Main St, Ekt Investments Inc, to Sayle, Marcus Paul, and Flagg, Rita D.

## Friday's Child



**Angel**  
Age 14  
Registration #8894

Angel is a bright, independent young man with a kind and compassionate heart. He is funny, witty, and enjoys connecting with others through his great sense of humor. An exceptionally talented athlete, Angel loves sports and especially enjoys playing baseball and football. Although he modestly describes his abilities as “just alright,” his confidence and skill are evident every time he steps onto the field. His dedication, teamwork, and natural athleticism make sports an important part of his life. When he’s not playing sports, Angel enjoys spending time playing video games and watching

movies. Looking ahead, he dreams of becoming an athlete, though he remains open-minded and excited to explore other possibilities for his future. Angel is a thoughtful, determined young man with a bright future ahead of him. He is eager to continue pursuing his interests, exploring new opportunities, and building meaningful connections with those around him.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21181421315>

### Can I Adopt?

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

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



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## 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](http://www.crawfordlibrary.org) or call 508-949-8021.

The July featured artist is Lisa Shea. A variety of her pieces will be on display for you to enjoy in the Fels Room whenever the Library is open.

**Mahjong at the Pearle**  
Every Wednesday  
10:00-12:30 Fels Community Room  
The game consists of players competing to form distinct sets or pairs of tiles, similar to gin rummy.

Everyone is welcome; registration is not required.

**Quilting Group**  
Every Wednesday  
1:30- 3:30  
All quilters and would-be quilters are invited to join our new group. Bring your projects!

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

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

**Once Upon A Crime Book Club-The Peepshow** by Kate Summerscale  
Friday, July 10th  
11:00-12:00

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

Gentle Yoga

Every Monday  
10:00-11:00  
Join yoga instructor Patricia for a traditional "on the mat" yoga class with chair yoga modifications. This truly is a one-size-fits-all class. Bring your own mat. Wear layers, do not eat heavily 1.5-2 hours before class. Registration is required.

**Yoga with Buffy**  
Every Friday  
10:00-11:00  
Join Buffy for Friday Yoga! Take time to relax, stretch, and recharge at this weekly Friday session. Registration is required: [widopenyoga@gmail.com](mailto:widopenyoga@gmail.com). A co-payment is required to attend.

**Pearle's Picking Parlor Jam, a "mostly" Bluegrass Focused Jam Session**  
Saturday, July 11th  
10:00-12:00 in the Fels Room  
This is the group that played at our 15 Year Celebration! This is an unplugged acoustic jam. All talent levels welcome... beginners on up! Don't want to play? No problem, listeners are welcome too!

**Pearle's Genealogy Group**  
Monday, July 13th  
4:00-5:30  
Let's regrow our genealogy group! Facilitated by Patricia M. St. Marie, Professional Genealogist

**Learn To Paint Watercolors with Kalia**  
Monday, July 13th  
6:00-7:45

Learn to paint with watercolors with local artist Kalia Pfeiffer. Ages 17+ All materials will be provided. Registration is required.

Canadian Genealogy

Thursday July 16th  
6:00-7:00  
On December 15, 2025, the landscape of Canadian nationality law changed forever. The implementation of Bill C-3 struck down the unconstitutional "first-generation limit," retroactively restoring citizenship rights to subsequent generations born abroad.

For family historians and genealogists, this creates an unprecedented demand for verified, line-of-descent vital statistics.

We invite you to join professional genealogist Patricia St. Marie of Professional Genealogy Research Services of New England for an upcoming 1-hour presentation: From Ancestors to Citizenship: Navigating Canada's New Bill C-3 & Tracing Your Canadian Lineage.

**SARJ-Saturday Acoustic Roots Jam**  
Saturday, July 18th  
10:00-2:00  
An acoustic only music jam. Open to all 18+. From September through May the group meets at Charlton Public Library, and from June through August at the Dudley Library. Email Rich at [Cule5632@gmail.com](mailto:Cule5632@gmail.com) for more information.

**Introduction to Zentangle**  
Monday, July 20th  
6:00-7:30

Zentangle is a simple, relaxing art method that uses easy-to-learn patterns to create beautiful designs. No artistic experience is needed—just one line at a time. The process encourages mindfulness, reduces stress, and allows creativity to flow naturally, with no mistakes and no pressure. Participants will get to take home the materials that you use.

Registration is required. Ages 17+

**Tuesday Crafternoon- Pressed Flower Art Bookmark**  
Thursday, July 21st  
1:00  
Make a fun pressed flower bookmark. Registration is required. Ages 17+ Only

**CrafterNIGHT- Pressed Flower Art Bookmark**  
Thursday, July 23rd  
6:00-7:00  
Pressed flower art with Jubilee. Registration is required. Ages 17+ Only

**Crawford Library Book Group**  
Thursday, July 23rd  
The Briar Club by Kate Quinn  
6:00-7:30  
Books are available at the circulation desk for checkout one month before the discussion. No Registration Required

**"Cook the Book" Book Club-More is More: Get Loose in the Kitchen** by Molly Baz  
Monday, July 27th  
6:00-7:00  
"Cook The Book" Book Club will meet

on the 4th Monday of every month at 6:00  
You will pick one recipe from the book selected for the month-the dishes don't have to be complicated or fancy, any recipe from the book is fair game, except alcoholic beverages-sorry! Prepare the recipe at home and share it at the library. We cannot reheat or keep food warm, so consider this when choosing your recipe.

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

**Children's & Family Programming**  
Once Upon a Storytime with Kelcy  
Every Monday  
10:00-10:45

For ages 3-5 and their caregiver (siblings always welcome!). Join us for stories, songs, fingerplays, scarves, shaker eggs, moving our bodies to music, activities, bubbles, a craft, and free play!

**Peaceful Projects with Raleigh**  
Every Wednesday  
2:00-3:00

Join Raleigh for a drop-in craft. There will be something a little different every week! Painting, slime-making, doodling, watercolor, and more! Best for ages 5-12.

Registration requested! Best for ages 5-12. This is not a drop off event.

**Officer Pacheco & Maverick on "Pawtrol"**

Thursday, July 9th  
4:00-4:45

Join Dudley Officer Luis Pacheco and K-9 Maverick for a fun and interactive kids' event! Meet a real police K-9 team, learn about their important duties, and enjoy the chance to ask questions. A great opportunity for kids to engage, learn, and have fun!

Registration not required.

**Pokemon Trading Card Club**  
Thursday, July 16th  
6:00-6:45

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




**Family Yoga**  
Friday, July 17th  
11:00-11:45

Stretch and grow this summer! Join certified Yoga instructor, Buffy, for a 45-minute yoga class for families! Caregivers and their children between the ages of 3+ are welcome to register. Please bring your own mats. Registration is required as space is limited.

**Interactive Bubble Show**  
Wednesday, July 22nd  
11:00-12:00

Bubbles make everything more fun!! Let's have a popping good time! Bubble show and interactive bubble session too! Bubbles for all ages! Bubbles for everyone! Outside weather permitting.

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# GLADYS E. KELLY PUBLIC LIBRARY

2 Lake St., Webster  
508-949-3880

Library Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Library will be closed on Saturdays from July 4 – Labor Day

## 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@cwmar.org](mailto:jfontaine@cwmar.org)

## Special Events

Family Capoeira Workshop Series – Thursdays, June 25th-August 20th at 3:00pm

Capoeira is an Afro-Brazilian martial art form originally developed in Brazil by enslaved peoples as a form of resistance. It incorporates elements of acrobatics, dance, and music. In this class, parents and kids will learn together — beginning with basic capoeira movements, songs and rhythms.

No experience needed, and all athletic levels are welcome! Come ready to move and wear something comfortable. The class is led by instructors from Mass Capoeira Culture Center, located right here in Webster. See you there!

Abigail Epplert's "Stars, Stripes, and Strings" – Thursday, July 9th at 6:30pm

Celebrate beloved American classics with an engaging sing-along. This one-hour program features patriotic favorites such as "America the Beautiful," "God Bless America," and "Yankee Doodle," with solo violin accompaniment and brief stories about the music's history. This program is ideal for audiences of all ages seeking a lively and interactive musical experience.

The Nest: Building a Brand that Fits Your Life: Leveraging Social Media for Strategic Growth – Monday, July 13th, at 6:00pm

Join Sarah Reed (@sarahreed), founder of the cozy food and lifestyle blog Best Little Moments, for a deep dive into building a strong social media presence that drives real-world opportunities. As a self-taught photographer, Sarah will offer a candid look at how she mastered visual storytelling to grow a viral following. She will share the strategies she used to exit a corporate career and build a brand that honors her lifestyle and family schedule, offering a blueprint for any entrepreneur looking to grow without sacrifice or burnout. Sarah will share the lessons learned through her own pivots; from property management, to children's fashion, to her current high-engagement food and lifestyle brand. This workshop is designed for entrepreneurs who want to learn how to use social media to expand their opportunities and build a brand that grows alongside their changing lives.

The Stacey Peasley Band – Tuesday, July 14th at 10:30am

An award-winning Children's performer known for boundless energy and imagination, Stacey Peasley delivers a live experience that gets kids moving, singing, smiling, and dancing! Audiences are invited to be a part of the fun whether they are stomping like dinosaurs, waddling like penguins, traveling on a rocket ship, or putting some miles on their dancing shoes!! With a dynamic stage presence and a gift for connecting with young audiences, Stacey inspires creativity, encourages self-expression, and turns every performance into an unforgettable celebration of movement and joy. Come explore creative play through song and dance with Stacey Peasley!

The Music of McCartney with Kirouac – Thursday, July 16th at 6:30pm

This program will explore the music of Paul McCartney as he developed his songwriting through the 1960s with the Beatles and beyond. From the influences of his father, a jazz musician in the 1920s/30s, his incorporation of those sounds of ballroom and dance-hall big bands in his music, to his successes as a pop and rock performer in Wings and as a solo musician, the listener will re-visit a wide spectrum of musical styles covered over Sir Paul's 65-year career. Regional musician Dan Kirouac has been performing throughout New England for 40 years, including 20 years combined with the Massachusetts-based Beatles tribute bands Yellow Submarine (2001-2006) and Beatles For Sale (2007-2022). Tonight's show will be delivered on piano and vocals.

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

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

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

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. \*\*Saturday Sessions for July and August will be held offsite at Generations in Webster.\*\*

Yoga – Tuesdays at 6:30pm  
Join Meg at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. A typical class involves centering the mind with the breath, aromatherapy, movement of the body to release energetic blockages, and, finally, rest and relaxation. Classes are free. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

Adult Book Group – Wednesday, July 15th at 6:30pm

Join the adult book group for their monthly book discussion! This group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. July's book is Wild Dark Shore by Charlotte McConaghy. Copies of the book are always available at the circulation desk.

Computer Basics: EBooks and Audiobooks through Libby and Hoopla – Friday, July 17th at 11:00am

Interested in learning how to borrow eBooks and Audiobooks through Libby and Hoopla? Join Assistant Director, Evan Hale, and Adult Services Librarian, Jess Fontaine, to learn how to use the apps with your Gladys E. Kelly Library Card. Bring your phone or tablet!

Programming for All Ages  
Library for All – Mondays and Fridays in June 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.

Children's and Young Adult Programming  
Sensory Bin Explorations – Mondays at

10:30am  
Bring your little ones outside for sensory bin exploration! Each Monday morning will feature a new theme, offering hands-on fun for children ages 2–6.

Creators Club – Mondays at 4:00pm  
Come explore our Creators Club, where each month features a new theme highlighting a different art supply for kids to experiment with and turn into their own masterpieces! July's Theme: Button Art! Kids will have an array of buttons to choose as they make their wildest creations. From button fish to button trees anything the ideas are endless. All creations left behind will be displayed in the Children's program room for the rest of the month.

Tiny Groovers – Tuesdays at 10:30am  
\*No Class on July 14th because of a concert!

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

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

Messy Art Storytime – Thursdays at 10:30am

Join Miss Paige for storytime and messy, hands-on fun! Each week, children ages 2–6 will enjoy a new art project that lets their creativity shine. Dress for a mess

and get ready to create! No registration required.

Apple Country Music Together – Fridays, July 10th-August 14th at 10:30am

A music and movement program available to children from birth to age 6 and their families based upon on-going scientific research, and designed to help nurture children's musical, cognitive, social, emotional, and physical growth. Classes include singing and dancing. The program brings families together by providing a rich musical environment in the classroom and by promoting and facilitating adult participation.

BenAnna Band – Wednesday, July 1st at 10:00am

Come join the BenAnna Band at Gladys E. Kelly Public Library for a family friendly music concert!

Kids will go bananas for this high energy musical duo that will have kids and adults singing, dancing, and playing along on live instruments! Bring your dancing shoes and big smiles to make this musical performance to remember. BenAnna Band is a children's band that focuses on inclusion and music for all ages, abilities and identities. Both members, Ben and Anna, work in the fields of Early Childhood Education and Music Therapy, so their music as the BenAnna Band reflects their experience and passion for learning, fun, and growth, adding a hearty dash of good old-fashioned silliness while being auditory and sensory aware of their audience's needs!

### FREE MEALS FOR KIDS AND TEENS

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ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY  
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508-943-0016 ext 40016

**Gladys E. Kelly Library**  
2 Lake St, Webster MA  
Monday thru Friday  
12 PM to 1 PM  
July 7th through Aug 14th

**Park Ave Elementary (Cafeteria)**  
58 Park Ave, Webster MA  
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## Local students honored at SkillsUSA's National Leadership & Skills Conference

ATLANTA, Ga.— Career and technical education students were recognized with a certificate of accomplishment at the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC) held June 1-5 in Atlanta. An all-time high of 7,000 students competed in the 2026 SkillsUSA Championships at NLSC, which is the largest gathering of the future skilled workforce. As an indicator of proficiency, Skill Point Certificates were awarded to SkillsUSA Championships competitors who met a predetermined threshold score for their respective competition. Students can add this

certificate, an indicator of career readiness, to their employment portfolio.

The following students from your area are Skill Point Certificate recipients:

\* From Massachusetts: Team W (consisting of Brett J Beltzer, Kennadie T Balcunas, Aaron M Lackovic, Sarah H O'Donnell), from Bay Path RVT High School (Charlton), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Entrepreneurship.

\* From Massachusetts: Christopher J Feliciano, from Dudley and a student at Bay Path RVT High School (Charlton), was awarded a Skill Point

Certificate in Computer Programming.

To be invited to the SkillsUSA Championships, students first had to win their state-level competition, demonstrating their technical skills, workplace skills and personal skills. The national competition featured state champions from middle school, high school and college/postsecondary divisions across the country in 115 hands-on career and leadership competitions including robotics, automotive technology, drafting, criminal justice, aviation maintenance, public speaking and more.

"This showcase of

career and technical education demonstrates SkillsUSA at its finest," said SkillsUSA Executive Director Chelle Travis. "Our students, instructors and industry partners work together to ensure that every student excels."

The SkillsUSA Championships is the largest skill competition in the world and covers 1.79 million square feet, equivalent to 31 football fields or 41 acres. It's supported by leaders from 850 businesses, corporations, trade associations and unions who planned and evaluated the competitors against

their industry standards. More than 2,000 industry judges and technical committee members also volunteered their time to ensure a successful event.

The next NLSC will be held June 21-25, 2027, in Atlanta. Learn more about SkillsUSA, the No. 1 workforce development organization for students, at [www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org).

About SkillsUSA SkillsUSA is the #1 workforce development organization for students, empowering them to become skilled professionals,

career-ready leaders and responsible community members. SkillsUSA represents more than 440,000 career and technical education students and teachers in middle schools, high schools and college/postsecondary institutions nationwide. Those members represent 130 in-demand occupational areas, from 3-D animation to welding. A vital solution to the skills gap, SkillsUSA has served over 16 million members since its founding in 1965. Learn more at [skillsusa.org](http://skillsusa.org) and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and LinkedIn.

## LEGALS

### NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jo Ann Ross to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, dated March 18, 2022 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 67310, Page 363, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns to Longbridge Financial, LLC, recorded on February 17, 2026, in Book No. 73204, at Page 49

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 4:00 PM on July 31, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 8 Warren Road, Auburn, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

The land in the westerly part of Auburn, in Worcester County, on the easterly side of Warren Road and southerly side of Greenwood Drive and further bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a concrete bound set at the intersection of the easterly line of Warren Road with the southerly line of Greenwood Drive;

THENCE S. 80° 41' 27" E. one hundred (100) feet by said Greenwood Drive to a stake and nail at a corner of Lot #11 on a plan hereafter described; THENCE S. 9° 18' 33" W. one hundred (100) feet by said Lot #11 to a drill hole in rock at a corner of Lot #7 on said plan;

THENCE N. 80° 41' 27" W. one hundred (100) feet by said Lot #7 to a stake and nail set in said easterly line of Warren Road;

THENCE N. 90° 18' 33" E. 100 feet by said Warren Road to the place of beginning.

CONTAINING 10,000 square feet and being Lot #9 on a plan of Westwood, owned by Arthur W. Warren, dated May 1947, R. B. Cullinan, Registered Land Surveyor. The above described property is conveyed subject to the same restrictions as are set forth in a deed from Arthur W. Warren to Franklin A. Pierce, dated November 8, 1947, recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 3099, Page 135, providing in substance, among other things, for only a detached, single family dwelling not to exceed 2½ stories and private garage for not more than two cars, setback 45 feet from the center of line of Warren Road and 25 feet from the Street line of Sherman Avenue and 10 feet from the side lines, except garage or outbuildings, 50 feet from the street line.

For mortgagor's(s) title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 58766, Page 328.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Ten Thousand

(\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

LONGBRIDGE FINANCIAL LLC

Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,

HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.

150 California St.

Newton, MA 02458

(617)558-0500

29397

July 3, 2026

July 10, 2026

July 17, 2026

### NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 8 Windy Ridge Road, Webster, MA 01570

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Michael A. Medeiros and Jacqueline L. Fraser to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for 1-800-East-West Mortgage Company, and now held by **U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust**, said mortgage dated March 13, 2007 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40837, Page 54, as affected by a Loan Modification dated July 12, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 65949, Page 75; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP fka Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP by assignment dated August 4, 2011 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 47731, Page 309; said mortgage was assigned from Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing LP fka Countrywide Home Loan Servicing LP to The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development by assignment dated February 13, 2014 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 52652, Page 184; said mortgage was assigned from The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC by assignment dated March 25, 2014 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 52655, Page 84; said mortgage was assigned from Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC to Westvue NPL Trust II by assignment dated January 15, 2016 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 57279, Page 213 as affected by a confirmatory assignment from Silver Hill Capital, LLC F/K/A Community Loan Servicing, LLC F/K/A Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as trustee of WestVue NPL Trust II dated May 5, 2026 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 73559, Page 124;; said mortgage was assigned from Westvue NPL Trust II to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as trustee of WestVue NPL Trust II by assignment dated June 6, 2017 and recorded with said

Registry of Deeds in Book 57279, Page

216; said mortgage was assigned from U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as trustee of WestVue NPL Trust II to TXCO Mortgage Holdings, LLC by assignment dated February 14, 2020 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 63293, Page 67; said mortgage was assigned from TXCO Mortgage Holdings, LLC to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, d/b/a Christiana Trust not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee for SC Park Lane II Trust 2019-1 by assignment dated November 2, 2020 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 64147, Page 271; said mortgage was assigned from Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, d/b/a Christiana Trust not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee for SC Park Lane II Trust 2019-1 to Morgan Stanley Mortgage Capital Holdings LLC by assignment dated July 20, 2021 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 65859, Page 71; said mortgage was assigned from Morgan Stanley Mortgage Capital Holdings LLC to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust by assignment dated May 31, 2022 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 67787, Page 85; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on August 6, 2026 at 01:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

*Tract I:*  
A certain parcel of land, together with the buildings thereon, situated in Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts and being shown as Lot 18 on Plan entitled *Brian Acres in Webster, Mass., George Asselin & Sons, Inc., dated March 3, 1973, and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 401, Plan 99. Lot 18 Contains 25,973 square feet according to said plan. Reference is also made to Plan Book 515, Plan 22. There is specifically excluded any fee in the proposed road as shown on said plan.*

*Tract II:*  
A certain parcel of land, together with the buildings thereon, situated in Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts and being shown as Parcel A on Plan entitled *Plan of Land in Webster, Mass., being conveyed by Robert & Barbara Shead, Robert F. Para, Land Surveyor, dated December 31, 1983, and recorded in the Worcester Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 515, Plan 22. Parcel A contains 1,872 square feet according to said plan. Being the same premises conveyed to the mortgagors by deed recorded in Book 28185, Page 031.*

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated November 22, 2002 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 28185, Page 31.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the

date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC  
23 Messenger Street  
2nd Floor  
Plainville, MA 02762

Attorney for U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust Present Holder of the Mortgage

(401) 217-8701

July 3, 2026

July 10, 2026

July 17, 2026

(SEAL)

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT**

Docket Number: 26 SM 002028

**ORDER OF NOTICE**

TO:

**Tanya Gilman aka Tanya L. Gilman** and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (*et seq*)

**Citizens Bank, NA f/k/a RBS Citizens, N.A.**

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in 20 Stefaniak Ave #5, Webster, MA 01570, given by Tanya Gilman aka Tanya L. Gilman to RBS Citizens, N.A., dated November 21, 2013 and recorded in the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 51769, Page 154, 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 **08/10/2026** 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 **6/25/2026**  
Attest: Deborah J. Patterson  
Recorder

July 10, 2026

### SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Under G.L. c.255 Sec.39A Notice is hereby given by School Street Towing, 17-31 School St., Webster, MA 01570

Pursuant to the provisions of G.L.c. 255, Section 39A. that on 11 July 2026 at 9am at 17-31 School St by Private Sale. the following motor vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garagekeeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle:

Vehicle Description: Year 2018

Make:Dodge

Model:Ram1500

Registration#/State: Un Reg

VIN:3C6JR6DG0JG312327

Name and Address of vehicle owner:

KATELYNN MARRIE RICHARD

21 BRANDON RD

DUDLEY, MA 01571-3425

by Frank Czechowski

Dated: 10 June 2026

This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. c. 2S5, Section 39A June 26,2026

July 3, 2026

July 10, 2026

**For Legal Advertising Information, Call 508-909-4127**  
**email: [legals@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:legals@stonebridgepress.news)**

## More than 4,000 University of Rhode Island students named to Dean's List

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that several area students have been named to its Spring 2026 Dean's List. Among them are:

- Alexa Reheuser of Auburn
- Rose Bell of Webster
- Maya Golemo of Dudley
- Tori Masiello of Oxford

To be included on the Dean's List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 through 3.79 grade point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable earning at least a 3.30 through 3.79 grade point average.

Students named to the Dean's List represent nearly all of Rhode Island's cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and countries.

About the University of Rhode Island

The University of Rhode Island is a diverse and dynamic community whose members are connected by a common quest for knowledge. As a global education leader and the state of Rhode Island's flagship public research institution, URI offers distinctive opportunities designed to meet the global challenges of today's world and the rapidly evolving needs of tomorrow. Founded in 1892, URI now enrolls more than 18,000 students and offers more than 200 degree programs across nine schools and colleges. As a land- and sea-grant institution, URI is a key driver of economic development in Rhode Island and contributes significantly to the health and vitality of the state, the New England region, and the nation. To learn more, visit: uri.edu.

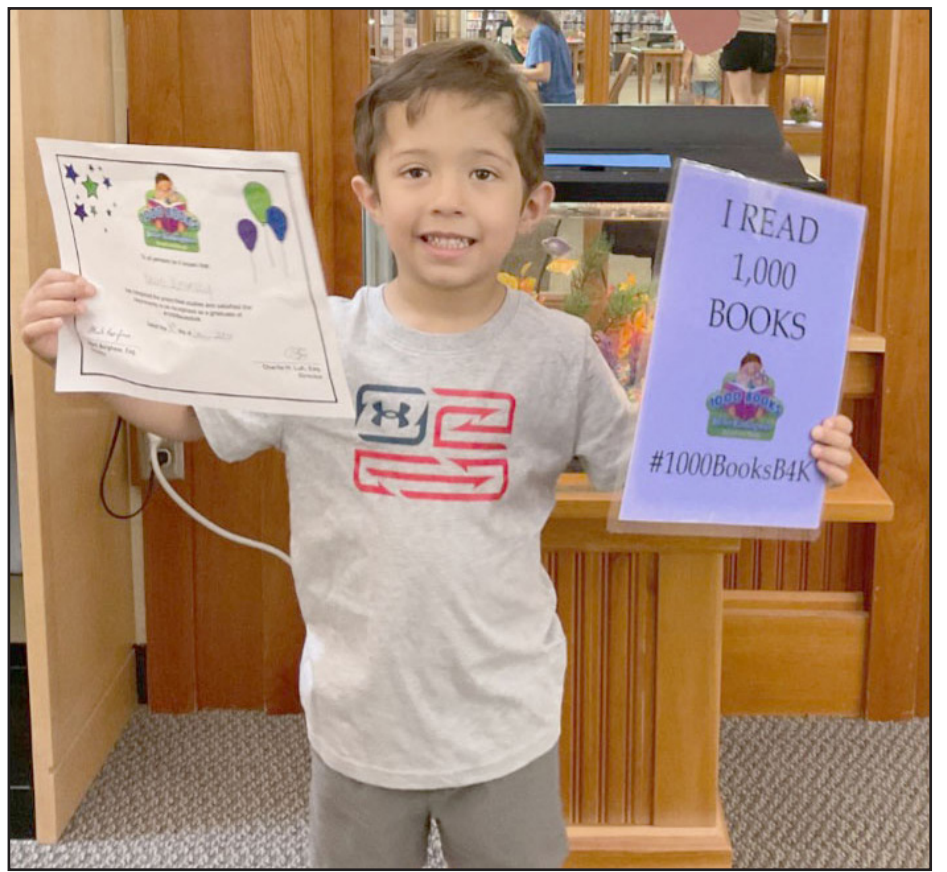
## DUDLEY'S NEVIN UMANSKY COMPLETES 1,000 BBK CHALLENGE

DUDLEY — Nevin Umansky of Dudley has successfully completed the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program at the Pearl L. Crawford Memorial Library. Nevin discovered that reading his favorite books made reaching the 1,000-book milestone a breeze! Among his favorites are "Cars and Trucks and Things That Go" by Richard Scarry and the beloved Llama Llama series.

Congratulations, Nevin, on this wonderful accomplishment! We are incredibly proud of your dedication to reading and learning!

The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program encourages families to read together every day, helping children develop early literacy skills while strengthening the bond between parent and child. The mission of the 1000 Books Foundation is to promote reading to newborns, infants, and toddlers, laying the foundation for a lifetime love of books and learning. The Pearl L. Crawford Memorial Library's 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program is generously funded by the Friends of the Pearl L. Crawford Memorial Library.

Families with children from birth through age five are encouraged to stop by the library to register for this free early literacy program and begin their own reading adventure.



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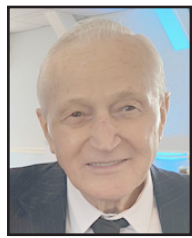
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# OBITUARIES

## Edwin J. Mackowiak 1939 – 2026



Edwin J. Mackowiak, age 86, of Webster, Massachusetts, passed away on Saturday, June 27, 2026, at his home.

Edwin was born on July 5, 1939, in Webster, Massachusetts, a son of the late John and Stasia (Kos) Mackowiak.

Edwin served in the U.S Army National Guard and later worked as an auto mechanic. He later worked at Pratt and Whitney as a Jet Engine mechanic and later at Gould and Eberhardt as a machinist until his retirement.

Edwin was a great husband and father. He enjoyed being surrounded by his children and grandchildren. He mostly enjoyed taking trips on his bicycle all over surrounding towns. He once rode over 60 miles in a single trip. He also enjoyed building things in his basement workshop and doing hobbies. He enjoyed playing

music, mostly on the piano and he dabbled with the guitar, violin, and harmonica.

Edwin is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Erlene M. (Young) Mackowiak; and six children, Edwin Mackowiak Jr. of Virginia Beach, VA, Stephen Mackowiak of Abbeville, LA, Lisa (Mackowiak) Jezerski of Thompson, CT, Derek Mackowiak of Webster, Lauren Mackowiak of Webster, MA (pre-deceased), Kristen Frederick of Webster, MA; 9 grandchildren, Abra, Taylor, Meagan, Jesse, Rodney, Adrianna, Savannah, Summer and Cash; 7 great-grandchildren, Lucas, Dustin, Sophia, Jack, Connor, Aaliyah and Amari.

At the request of Edwin, there are no calling hours or funeral services. Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home & Cremation, 48 School Street, Webster, MA has been entrusted with arrangements. A memorial guest book is available at [www.shaw-majercik.com](http://www.shaw-majercik.com) or on our Facebook page: Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home.

## Thomas E. Kujawski, 84



Whitinsville-Thomas E. Kujawski, 84, of Heritage Dr., passed away peacefully at home on Friday, June 26, 2026, after a period of declining health. His family was by his side.

He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Nancy M. (Roy) Sabatino Kujawski; 3 children, Jason Sabatino and his wife Meagan of Shrewsbury, Christy Pino and her husband Michael of Millville, and Cynthia DiPinto of Shrewsbury; 9 grandchildren, Lucy, Caroline, and Dean Sabatino, Madison, Teddy and Leo Pino, and Anthony, Aubrey, and Dominic DiPinto; in-laws Chuck and Mollie Roy; nephews John and Matt, and several cousins. He also leaves his longtime best friend Bruce Grzelecki and many close friends in Whitinsville/ Uxbridge/ Webster, including his coffee buddies. He was predeceased by his 2 sisters, Helen C. Wasiuk and Patricia Dansereau.

Born in Webster on June 18, 1942, he was the son of Edward F. and Mary B. (Stawicki) Kujawski and spent many years living in Webster. He was educated in Webster at St. Joseph's School and was a graduate of Bartlett High School, Class of

1960. He was employed at National Grid for 40 years, where he worked his way up the ladder and retired in 2004 as a substation maintenance supervisor.

A devoted New England sports fan, he also loved attending and cheering on his grandchildren at their sporting events. Known for his kind heart, quick wit, and playful sense of humor, Tom had a gift for making others smile. Above all, Tom cherished the time he spent with his family.

A man of faith, he is a member of St. Mary's Church, Uxbridge. Growing up he was a member of St. Joseph's Basilica in Webster and of the former Good Shepherd Church in Linwood.

In accordance with Tom's wishes, he will be cremated. A Memorial Funeral Mass was held in St. Mary Parish, 77, Mendon St., Uxbridge on Wednesday, July 8th at 11 AM. Burial followed in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Whitinsville. A calling hour was held prior to Mass from 10-11 AM in the Church. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1942. To leave a condolence message for his family please visit: [www.Jackmanfuneralhomes.com](http://www.Jackmanfuneralhomes.com)

## Kenneth "Skip" Greig Metcalf, 77



OXFORD – Kenneth "Skip" Greig Metcalf, 77, of Carron Lane, died peacefully on Friday, July 3, 2026, at Oakdale Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center in West Boylston, from complications of a spinal cord injury sustained in 2009.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Nancy A. (Delaney) Metcalf of Oxford; two daughters, Nicole B. Green and her husband Geoffrey of Northborough, and Jessica L. Metcalf and her partner Michael Dunn of Oxford; a brother, Donald Metcalf and his wife Diane of Whitinsville; a sister, Kathy Schall and her husband Stephen of Dudley; four grandchildren, Braelyn Dunn, Kellsey Dunn, Stephen Green, and Jackson Green; his mother-in-law, Ethel Theodore of Webster; several nieces, nephews, other family members and friends. He was predeceased by two brothers, Leslie Metcalf and Robert Metcalf.

He was born in Worcester, son of the late Leslie W. and Della M. (Sutherland) Metcalf Sr., and lived most of his life in Oxford. He graduated from Worcester Boys Trade then received his associate's degree from Quinsigamond Community College.

Mr. Metcalf worked for Nissen Bakery for 30 years, retiring in 2000. After retiring, he was a school bus driver for Laidlaw Bus Company for 9 years. Skip loved sports – playing high schools sports in his youth, softball in the Jack Benny League, and golfing. He also coached youth sports for many years, including Babe Ruth Baseball. Most of all, he loved getting together with family and friends, and enjoyed family parties. Skip was also quick with a joke and loved getting others to laugh.

Skip's family is grateful for the care from his PCA's, especially most recently Laura Fasshaeur and Joy Zacek, allowing him to remain at home for so long after his injury. The family is also especially grateful for the excellent care from Oakdale Rehab and the JHC hospice program.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at Paradise-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford. Burial will follow at Worcester County Memorial Park in Paxton. Calling hours are Wednesday, July 8, 2026, from 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to JHC Hospice, 646 Salisbury St. Worcester, Massachusetts 01609, or to Oakdale Rehabilitation, c/o the Activities Dept., 76 North Main St., West Boylston, MA 01583.

## Paula J. Evanski, 67



Paula J. Evanski, age 67, of Webster died Thursday, July 2, 2026 at Central Hospital Of CT after an illness. She was born February 16, 1959 in Webster, MA. She is the daughter of the late Donald George Chauvin and Lynne Marcia (Wilson) White of Webster.

She is survived by one daughter: Darleen Evanski and her significant other Christopher Courtemanche of Dudley, and one son: Andrew Evanski Jr and his Wife Katie. of Dudley, MA; her mother Lynne Marcia (Wilson) White of Webster. Her significant other Michael Jezerski of Webster, Five sisters: Laurie Hutchinson of Moosup, CT, Susan Miller of Webster, Donna Nalewajk of Webster, Pamela Dimaggio of Killingly and Darleen Mayhugh of FLA, and one brother: Ronald Chauvin of Fla. Predeceased by her broth-

er, Robert Chauvin She leaves four grandchildren Granddaughter , Lila Evanski and Grand Son, Logan Evanski; granddaughters, Kaelin Falke; granddaughter, Lily Falke She treasured time spent with them . She also leaves ; step mother, Patricia Chauvin of FLA; Former Husband, Andrew Evanski Sr. and many Aunts, Uncles, Nieces ,Nephews and cousins.

Paula graduated from Bay Path High School and was employed at the former Stevens linen in Dudley for 15 years until the mill closed and then a few years at Ethan Allen

A memorial Calling hours will be Friday, July 17 from 6 to 8 pm at Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, MA. In lieu of flowers and donations can be made to the Hospital of Central Connecticut CCU 100 GrandSt.in New Britain, Ct. 06052 for the exceptional care they provided to our mother. [www.bartel-funeralhome.com](http://www.bartel-funeralhome.com) for her condolence book

### CHALLENGES

continued from page A1

overtime, fill-in and per diem staffing, fuel, ambulance-related expenses, Police Department overtime, fuel, animal control services, training, computer expenses and other operational accounts.

Additional reductions include eliminating some administrative support, removing a vacant truck driver/laborer position, reducing overtime, elim-

inating the IT cybersecurity consultant line item, reducing software maintenance and licensing costs, cutting the legal budget, and reducing funding for compliance and regulatory services, stormwater management, dams and energy programs.

Throughout the discussion, selectmen emphasized that the impacts of the budget reductions are already being felt across multiple departments.

Police Chief Marek Karlowicz outlined how

reductions to overtime, fuel and vacation buy-back funding will limit the department's ability to conduct proactive policing initiatives.

Fire and EMS officials reported that staffing levels are already at minimum operational requirements and that mandatory state training, certification and compliance standards leave little flexibility for additional budget reductions without affecting service.

Ruda recommended that the board begin

developing a strategy now for the October Special Town Meeting, where a supplemental budget is expected to be considered. He encouraged the board to provide direction in the coming weeks so that decisions can be made before the effects of the current budget reductions become more significant.

The Board of Selectmen will continue budget discussions during its July 13 meeting.

### SAVINGS

continued from page A1

with varying levels of renewable energy benefits. The standard program rate remains 12.826 cents per kilowatt-hour through September 2026.

While National Grid's Basic Service rates change periodically, the goal of the municipal aggregation program is to provide competitive pricing and long-term savings over the life of the contract. Although savings cannot be guaranteed every billing period, the program has continued to deliver substantial savings for participating consumers.

Residents may learn more about the Dudley Community Choice Power Supply Program, including enrollment information, at [www.colonialpowergroup.com/dudley](http://www.colonialpowergroup.com/dudley).

For answers to Frequently Asked Questions and more, visit <https://www.dudleyma.gov/town-administrators-office/pages/municipal-energy-aggregate>.

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## New Bocce League open to community

SOUTHBRIDGE — Bay Path Continuing Education & the Southbridge Italian Club have teamed up to launch an exciting new bocce league on Tuesday nights throughout May and June.

Bocce is a game that all can enjoy—no special skills or talents are required! If you can roll a ball, you can play! These two community organizations are thrilled to bring this sport to a wider audience. Both Bay Path Continuing Education and the Southbridge Italian Club are dedicated to offering various events for people to engage, socialize, and have fun. This new league is a perfect fit.

Here are the details:

Tuesdays: May 12 – June 30 (eight weeks)  
Teams of four to eight players  
\$240 per team  
One game per week at either 6 or 7 p.m.  
Maximum of eight teams – don't wait!

Only team captains need to register for their team.  
A brief informational captain meeting will be held before the season starts.

Gather your friends (18 and older), form a team, and come join us for a fantastic time on the court!

Games will be held at:  
Italian American Club  
20 North St., Southbridge

To register your team, call Bay Path Continuing Education at 508-248-5971, ext. 1715. Spots for teams are limited, so don't hesitate—call today!

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For more information and a copy of the Position Description, please contact the Brookfield Water Department at 508-867-2930 X17 or via email: [hchisholm@brookfieldma.us](mailto:hchisholm@brookfieldma.us)

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Dudley - 3 Marshall Terrace



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MLS No. 73544127 \$155,000.

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# Oxford artist's work on display at Booklovers' Gourmet

WEBSTER — Booklovers' Gourmet, located at 72 East Main St. in Webster, is hosting a local art show & sale featuring the paintings of W.J. Yacino of Oxford.

"Through the Eyes of an Artist" will be on view July 1st-31st in the cafe gallery and may be viewed during regular business hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Wednesday 10am-6pm.

The public is invited to a meet and greet with the artist on Saturday, July 25, noon to 2 p.m. For more information, call 508-949-6232 or visit [bookloversgourmet.com/events](http://bookloversgourmet.com/events)

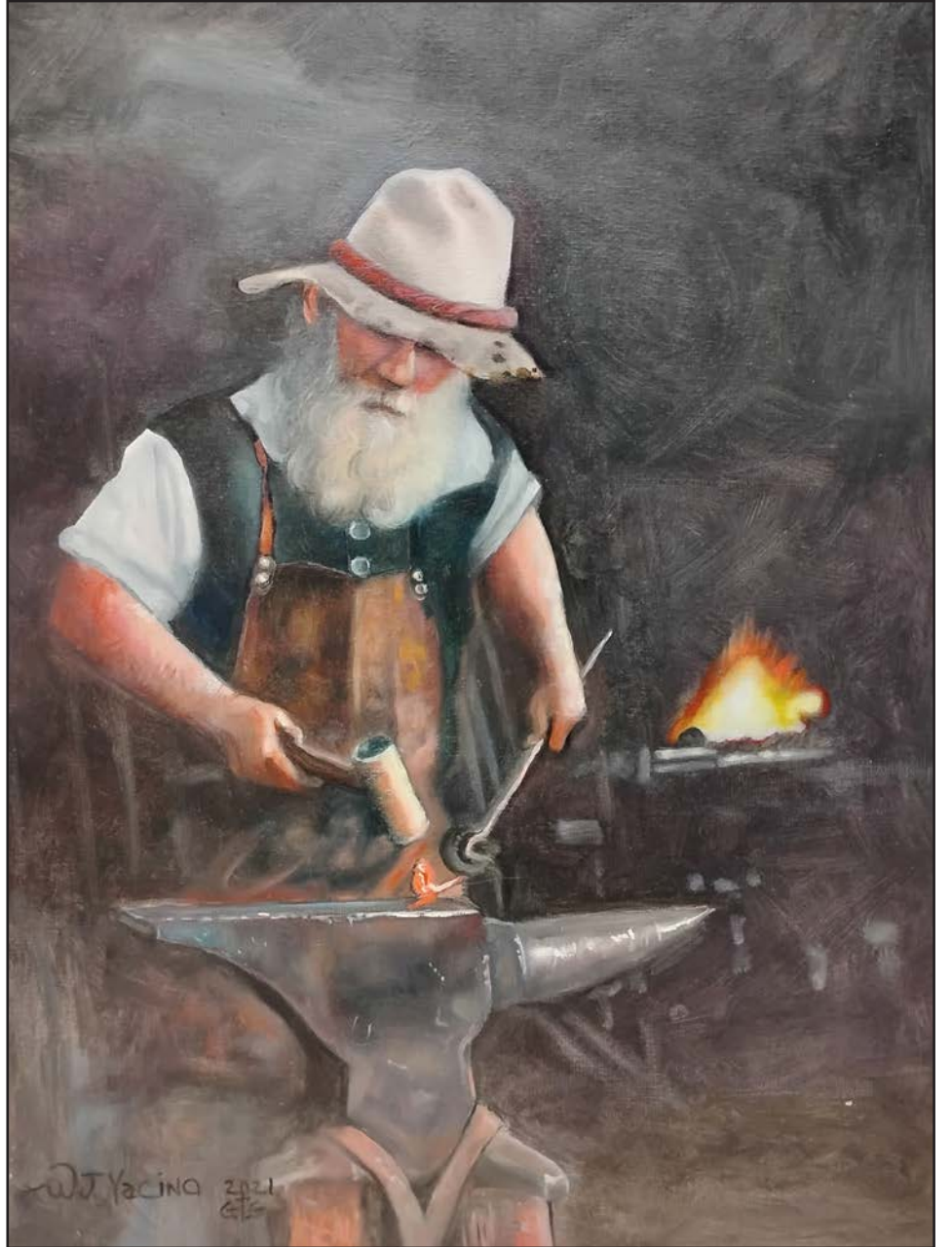
Wayne Joseph Yacino is a native of Oxford who is of Metis (French – Abenaki), Italian and Polish descent. He began painting at the age of five years. As a self-taught artist, and with over 60 years of experience, he has had the opportunity to live in Europe for two years during his military tour with NATO. He has displayed several of his pieces in Vicenza, Italy. He has also displayed his woodwork and paintings throughout the United States.

The artist has done extensive research into Native American imagery and has taught the Ancient American Skills the first weekend in October, at the Annual Water's Farm Days event in Sutton, Massachusetts, from 1996-2022.

The artist's goal is "To share with the viewer my emotions and Spiritual experiences through my art; to rise above the mundane, and to bring honor and Glory to my God."

Whatever his subject, he finds great joy and blessing in the way the eye moves through a painting and follows the interaction of all the colors.

Vision looks to tomorrow and sees the reality that should exist today. Vision is the ability to dream – to dream better things in a better world. Vision brings power to a life that might otherwise be meaningless.



## Raegan Peck named to President's List at Plymouth State University

PLYMOUTH, New Hampshire — Raegan Peck of Dudley has been named to the Plymouth State University President's List for the Spring 2026 semester. To be named to the President's List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.70 or better for the Spring 2026 semester and must have completed at least 12 credit hours during the semester, at least nine of which must confer grade points, at the time the lists are finalized. Peck is majoring in Allied Health Sciences at Plymouth State.

About Plymouth State University

Established in 1871, Plymouth State University serves the state of New Hampshire and the world beyond by transforming our students through advanced practices where engaged learning produces well-educated undergraduates, and by providing graduate education that deepens and advances knowledge and enhances professional development. The Plymouth State Cluster Learning Model emphasizes open, integrative, and project-based experiences. With distinction, we connect with community and business partners for economic development, technological advances, healthier living, and cultural enrichment with a special commitment of service to the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire. To learn more about Plymouth State University, visit [www.plymouth.edu](http://www.plymouth.edu).

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