

WEBSTER TIMES

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Friday, December 5, 2025

Marianapolis’ Sienna Stawiecki signs letter of intent with Pace University

THOMPSON, Conn. — Sienna Stawiecki, a senior from Dudley, signed her National Letter of Intent to play softball for Pace University on Monday, Nov. 17.

Stawiecki, a standout pitcher and leader within the Marianapolis softball program, has been involved in the sport since the age of five, beginning with T-ball, town teams, and later launching a successful travel ball career at the age of 12. Throughout her time at Marianapolis, she has made lasting friendships and found a community that feels like home. Stawiecki’s love for the game is powered by energy and unity.

“The energy brought into the sport is something truly

admirable,” she says. “Energy is what makes this game so special. Hying up your teammates for a big win is what I look forward to when I step on the field, and I love to lead with my actions and words.”

Throughout her Marianapolis softball career, Stawiecki has delivered unforgettable moments on the field. Three moments in particular stand out to her the most.

“The first is throwing a no-hitter as a freshman, which hasn’t been done in over 10 years,” she shares. “The second is hitting a home run in a playoff game that lifted my team to a 2-0 lead, and we ended up winning 6-4. Lastly, all the bus rides with my best friends are something I will never forget.”

Signing with a nationally ranked program like Pace University, currently 4th in Division II softball, is a milestone that holds deep meaning.

“This Division II commitment means more to me than I can express,” says Stawiecki, “as only a certain percent of high school athletes are able to play at the next level. Being able to add my talents to an already talented roster is something I look forward to in my future.”

As Stawiecki looks ahead to her final season at Marianapolis, she is excited for one last run with her teammates.

“I’m looking forward to a good season with a great group of girls,” she says. “Having new and returning talent is truly exciting, and we’re hoping to bring home a championship this season!”

Stawiecki’s coaches at Marianapolis and beyond have contributed to her development over the years. She would like to personally

thank Coach Jim, Coach Kelly, Coach Nate, Coach Dave, Coach Tyler, Coach Cady, and everyone at Planet Fastpitch for their mentorship and support.

Marianapolis Varsity Softball Coach Jim Baca, commends Stawiecki’s leadership and drive: “Sienna Stawiecki is a player who leads by example. She is a true team leader, whether by being a captain on the field or exemplifying the dedication and hard work it takes to achieve your goals off the field. Pace University is lucky to have her joining their roster, and I can’t wait to see her do great things. Congratulations, Sienna.”

Looking ahead to her softball career at Pace University, Stawiecki is eager to embrace new experiences and challenges. “I’m looking forward to all the collegiate games I have the privilege to take part in, as well as all the friendships I will make along the way,” she says. “Being part of an amazing program is something I’m really looking forward to.”



Pace University, with two main campuses located in New York City and Pleasantville, N.Y., is a Division II school playing in the Northeast-10 Conference.

Very Merry Dickens Carolers perform at Samuel Slater Experience Dec. 14

WEBSTER — The Very Merry Dickens Carolers will bring the music of the holiday season to the Samuel Slater Experience museum on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 5 p.m.

A professional group of a cappella singers, the Very Merry Dickens Carolers look the part in period costumes. Their repertoire of 4-part harmony features a variety of styles, including traditional, swing, and jazz.

Holiday refreshments are included in the price of admission.

Tickets can be purchased online at <https://samuelslaterexperience.org>, by phone at 508-461-2955, or at the box office during regular open hours. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.

Come spend a little time indulging in the holiday spirit on Webster’s recreated “Main Street” at the Samuel Slater Experience museum, 31 Ray St., Webster.

About Samuel Slater Experience

Samuel Slater Experience opened in 2022 to tell the story of Samuel Slater, the beginnings of the American Industrial Revolution, and Slater’s impact on mill towns such as Webster, Massachusetts. The museum uses advanced digital technology with immersive video and interactive exhibits to recreate two time periods: the early 1800s and the early 1900s. For more information and tickets, visit www.samuelslaterexperience.org.

Booklovers’ Gourmet opens new exhibit

WEBSTER — Booklovers’ Gourmet, located at 72 East Main St. in Webster, is hosting “The Wonders of Nature,” artwork by Deb Lifer-Piselli in the cafe gallery. The show will be on view Dec. 1-31 during normal business hours. The shop will be open daily through Dec. 24. Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday noon to 4 p.m.

A meet the artist reception will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2-4 p.m. with light refreshments. Free and open to the public. For more information call 508-949-6232.

“Art, photography and writing are my passions,” Lifer-Piselli writes. “Many of my paintings are inspired by my photography. I am drawn to the quiet beauty and wonders of nature. Detail oriented, I gravitate towards painting animals,

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Learning at sea

SAINT JOSEPH STUDENTS TAKE FIELD TRIP TO BATTLESHIP COVE



Courtesy

Saint Joseph School seventh grade students stand on the deck of the USS Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. at Battleship Cove during a recent field trip. Behind them is the mighty battleship USS Massachusetts, a powerful reminder of the courage and sacrifice of the sailors who served on these historic ships.

FALL RIVER — Students in Grades 5-8 from Saint Joseph School recently traveled to Battleship Cove in Fall River for a memorable field trip on the eve of Veterans Day.

At Saint Joseph School, field trips are carefully chosen to correlate with teaching units and serve as extensions of the curriculum. This year’s visit to Battleship Cove was planned to honor the service and sacrifice of our nation’s veterans, deepen students’ understanding of U.S. military history, and

connect classroom learning in social studies, science, and STEM with real-world experiences aboard historic naval vessels.

Battleship Cove is a nonprofit maritime museum and war memorial that houses the world’s largest collection of World War II-era naval vessels. Located along the waterfront in Fall River, the museum is home to several National Historic Landmarks, including the battleship USS Massachusetts, the destroyer USS Joseph P. Kennedy

Jr., and the World War II submarine USS Lionfish, as well as historic patrol torpedo boats and other craft. Together, these ships preserve the stories of American sailors and commemorate the sacrifices of veterans from World War II through the Vietnam era.

For many Saint Joseph School students, the highlight of the trip was stepping aboard the USS Lionfish, a World War II submarine preserved much as it appeared during its service in the Pacific. Students were

struck by the submarine’s cramped quarters, narrow passageways, and stacked bunks, all of which offered a powerful visual of what daily life was like for submariners at sea. They were especially fascinated by the size of the torpedoes and the complexity of the equipment needed to operate the vessel beneath the ocean’s surface. The experience brought to life the courage, precision, and teamwork required of the sailors who served on

Turn To FIELD TRIP page A10

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QCC’s food pantry supporting students through record demand

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College’s HomePlate Food Pantry & Resource Center is experiencing unprecedented demand, serving more students and families than ever before as economic pressures and food and housing insecurity impact the local community. The college is focusing its Giving Tuesday campaign on raising funds for the food pantry to meet this demand. Since the beginning of July,

the pantry has registered more than 750 students, supporting close to 1,700 household members. This marks a significant increase from the same period last year, when close to 450 students and 890 household members were served. “We have adjusted our system so that we don’t have to turn anyone away, but the need goes up every week,” said Manager of the Home Plate Food Pantry and Resource Center Charlotte Operach.

On the busiest days, HomePlate serves up to 100 students. The pantry provides food items as well as personal hygiene items such as toothpaste and diapers. Additionally, students experiencing housing issues are connected to resources. “If I think about my kids going hungry, I would rather miss a day at school, just to go to work to save my kids,” said a nursing student using the food pantry. “As a mother, it’s

worrying. You cannot concentrate in school.” About 75 percent of the pantry’s food supply comes from the Worcester County Food Bank, with the remainder purchased through donations and grants. Popular items include fresh fruits and vegetables, frozen meats, oatmeal, pasta and diapers. Operach noted that commu-

nity support is critical, especially as the demand continues to increase. The pantry accepts product donations at the main campus as well as monetary donations through the QCC Foundation. Grocery store gift cards, now accepted up to \$50, are also highly valued, allowing students to meet specific dietary needs. “With everything going on

with SNAP benefits and the cost of living so high, there’s a lot of anxiety,” Operach said. “But our students are so resilient.” For more information or to donate, visit QCC.edu/foodpantry and QCC.edu/giving-tuesday.

Celebrate the spirit of the season at Oxford’s Holiday Lights Parade and Tree Lighting

OXFORD — Join us to witness Oxford come alive with holiday spirit! The Oxford Fire Department and Community Center are excited to announce the 2025 Holiday Lights Parade and Bandstand Tree Lighting will be held Saturday, Dec. 6. The Parade kicks off at 5 p.m. from Oxford’s North Fire Station, 656 Main St., North Oxford, and travels to the Town Common Bandstand at Joslin Park, 352 Main St. If you’d like to watch the parade along

the route, parking will be available at Oxford Middle School, R&M leasing, and DPW offices at 450 Main St. If you’d like the opportunity to take a picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus join us on the Common and enjoy music, Jess’ Sweets & Treats cookies, hot chocolate (with the Oxford Police Assn) and N&J Donut holes while you await their arrival upon the OFD tower truck. Downtown parking is available in St. Roch’s lot, Town Hall, and there will be limited parking

available in the Community Center lot. Handicapped parking only will be available in the ParadisGivner lot. The Fire Department is still accepting parade float entries – forms are available at the Community Center and Town Hall, and on the Oxford website, oxfordma.us. All entries must be received by Dec. 4. After festivities on the Common are completed, all are invited to walk over to 4 Sigourney St. to enjoy Mr. Biando’s holiday display.

Dudley church offers guided tours of Tiffany windows during Christmas Fair

DUDLEY — Step into history and beauty at the First Congregational Church - United Church of Christ (135 Center Rd.) during the Annual Christmas Craft Fair (Dec. 6)! Join us for exclusive guided tours of the stunning Tiffany windows. The tours will be led by educator and church member Tom Boyd, Church Historian, and his team of specially trained docents, these 20-minute tours will reveal the fascinating story behind the windows’ creation — and the remarkable connection between famed inventor Hezekiah Conant and the legendary Louis Comfort Tiffany himself.

Come celebrate the rich history of Dudley, be inspired by the breathtaking stained-glass windows, and join a meaningful effort to preserve these irreplaceable treasures as we look ahead to the Church’s 300th anniversary in 2032! During the Christmas Fair (10 a.m.–2 p.m.), enjoy delicious food such as clam chowder, chili, pulled chicken sandwiches, and hot dogs. Take in the festive entertainment, visit the famous Cookie Corner, try your luck at the basket and quilt raffles, and browse the work of talented local crafters. Be sure to stop by the Tiffany 300 Gift Table, where Scott Donovan’s stunning handcrafted jewelry captures

the beauty of the windows — offering a one-of-a-kind holiday gift that lets you take a piece of this cherished heritage home (see photos below). The day concludes with a live auction at 1:30 p.m.—a fun and exciting way to wrap up the celebration! Tours begin at 10 a.m., and depart every half hour until noon. No reservations needed — just bring your curiosity and sense of wonder! Don’t miss this rare opportunity to see, learn, and fall in love with a piece of living history! And don’t forget to stop at the gift shop.

OXFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

OXFORD — Oxford Middle School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

High Honors
Grade 8: Sadie Crouch, Zachary Dubsky, Shea Dunlavey, Ella Gasasira, Liam Harrity, Sophia Meneguzzo, Maxwell Palaia, Henrique Paniagua, Mateo Quintero, Megan Riley, Rachael Rodriguez-Pacheco
Grade 7: Saige Angell, Diego Aponte, Narta Berisha, Tyle Bouley, Hazel Burlingame, Sadie Coghlan, Amber Conway, Hadley Coraccio, Brynn Czernicki-Nasis, Olivia Daoust, Cora Descheneau, Joshua George, Margaret Griffin, Ethan Gustafson, Kellen Harrison, Jackson Harvey, Isabella LaMountain, Ava Montalvo, Caroline Montalvo, Sofia Moura, Stella Pantano, Tessa Peloso, Jenna Shenette, Eric Sloan, Sarah Stebbins, Sadie Stewart, Raeann Teal, Briley Todd, Liam Valipour, Aislyn White, Marissa Worden, Makenzie Zwang
Grade 6: Audrey Almstrom, Bridget Bejune, Katrina Chuong, Jaxon Cortis, Tianna Delacruz, Eli Dexter, Jaelyn Halley, Bennett Harding, Liam Huambachano, Savannah Langlois, Mia Mazzella, Jack Richard, Bradley Seeley, Harper Skowron, Kylie Stidsen,

Honors
Grade 8: Bethany Abrahamson, Gemma Balboni, Dylan Barberio, Marina Biancaniello, Olivia Boulette, Abigail Burque, Isaac

Deechaleune, Lily Dolbec, Joseph Esposito, Brielle Fournier, Mya Gelinas, Jillian Gustafson, Willow Keller, Alana LaFrance, Lucas Laurie, Brookelynn Mangano, Savanna O’Hearn, Ashton O’Malley, Dylan Powers, Jr., Hunter Rodriguez, Heather Stebbins, Lilliana Tervo, Jordyn Torteson, Parker Tyrell, Anabelle Watters
Grade 7: Clayton Almstrom, Kaylee Augustynski, Hayden Bates, Emile Bourbeau IV, Gavin Brown, Bradley Bush, Lucas Bush, Riley Capistran, Briella Caracciolo, Kyle Case, Makayla Cooper, Grant Corriveau, Kendall Donnelly, Caleb Dubsky, Grady Eason, Jazziebel Gonzalez, Trevor Gould, Isabelle Gurney, Vanessa Johnson, Vanessa Judge, Castiel Kaiser, Travis Kogbe, Baileigh Mazerolle, Avery McEvoy, Joseph Menke, Zoe Morello, Aria O’Neil, Jack Pearson, Victoria Rivera, Mya Skeates, Chad Sliwoski, Mia St. Peter, Brooklyn Stukowski, Bradley Toedt
Grade 6: Tyleeah Adorno, Ayla Ansah, Leeann Carlson, Ava Churchill, Rylee Cordova, Ella Davis, Evelyn Decoster, Delaney Duval, Mckenna Evans, Natalia Ferrante, Nahashon Gachuna, Lukas Kasprzycki, Zaidyn Kublis, Kaylee Lucien, Elia MacDonald, Seth Maki, Gregory Meneguzzo, Tai Nguyen-Le, Annelise Palaia, Colby Palin, Fernando Paniagua, James Paul, Everly Powers, Emilia Raimondi, Lorenzo Riccardi, Hannah Riley, Avery Robillard, Slate Skowron, Aiden Socia, Thomas Stone, Seamus Sweeney, Mackenzie Watkins

Community Calendar Dec. 5–12

Friday, Dec. 5
Cold winds swirl ’round houses bright,
The Gladys E. Kelly Library starts the night—
At 5 p.m. young hands take flight,
Crafting ornaments trimmed just right.

Saturday, Dec. 6
Cookies, cocoa, carols cheer—
The Oxford Community Center draws folks near.
At 10 a.m., vendors fill the hall,
Perfect gifts both big and small.

Sunday, Dec. 7
A season stroll with lantern light,
Dudley’s Healy Road Trail shines bright.
Meet at 3:30, dress warmly, please—
A gentle walk among the trees.


Monday, Dec. 8
Books and blocks and winter play,
At 10 a.m. on a Monday day.
The Webster Library’s Toddler Time Welcomes wiggles, jumps, and rhyme.

Tuesday, Dec. 9
Warm soup simmers—don’t be late—
The Dudley Senior Center Lunch begins at 11:30 straight.
A gathering spot for friends and cheer,
A cozy pause this time of year.

Wednesday, Dec. 10
Need a stretch before the snow?
Try Chair Yoga at 10—give it a go.
The Oxford Library hosts the class,
A calming midweek hour to pass.

Thursday, Dec. 11
Puzzle fans, assemble tight—
6 p.m. Puzzlers’ Night delights.
At the Kelly Library, teams compete—
A jigsaw challenge none can beat.

Friday, Dec. 12
Holiday humming fills the air,
A 6 p.m. Concert at Webster Town Hall—be there.
Local voices, bright and clear,
Lift songs of warmth as winter nears.



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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Saving the stories we still haven’t written down

Every town has its own unwritten history—the kind that doesn’t appear in archives, doesn’t rest in museum cases, and won’t show up in a search engine. It lives instead in the memories of longtime residents, in family photo albums, in the quiet recollections shared at kitchen tables or after meetings at the senior center. These are the stories that shape Webster, Dudley, and Oxford just as much as the official dates and records do. And they are the stories we risk losing if we do not take the time to preserve them.

We are fortunate to live in towns where many families can trace their roots back generations. Mills, lake cottages, church picnics, snowstorms that changed whole streets, factories that closed and opened again—every resident who lived through those moments carries something that won’t be captured in a census or a deed book. These are the firsthand accounts that turn dates into meaning.

But small-town history is fragile. The people who remember the old storefronts on Main Street, the days when Dudley’s mills ran three shifts, or the long afternoons spent skating on the ponds in Oxford are growing older. Too often, we only realize how much knowledge they held after it’s already gone.

This is the moment to act.

Every resident can play a part in preserving local memory. A recorded conversation with a grandparent, the labeling of an old shoebox of photographs, or the donation of documents to a historical society—each one adds a piece to the larger picture of who we’ve been and how we got here. Even sharing a recollection at a local history night, library event, or veterans gathering helps ensure our collective past does not fade.

Local institutions stand ready to help. The historical societies, libraries, veterans’ groups, and cultural organizations in our communities rely on contributions from residents who understand that history is a living thing. Their collections grow only when someone decides that a story, a map, or an old program book is too important to keep tucked away in a drawer.

Documenting these pieces of memory strengthens more than our knowledge of the past. It deepens community identity. It ensures that future residents—whether they grew up here or arrived last year—can understand the traditions, struggles, and triumphs that shaped their new home.

This winter, when time indoors increases and families gather more often, consider asking the questions that rarely get asked. What used to stand at that corner? Who ran the old shop everyone remembers? What traditions vanished that once united the neighborhood? And perhaps most importantly: What would you want future generations here to know?

We cannot preserve everything. But we can ensure we do not lose the stories still within reach.

Letter submission policy

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

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

VIEWPOINT

The family behind the street name

BY HELEN POIRIER
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Running between Southbridge and Hampton Streets there is Eaton Ave., which isn’t as wide as one may think an avenue should be. Long after the formation of the South Parish of Worcester and the taking part of the land known as Pakachoag to a portion part of the Parish, the name Eaton appears in the town records. The Eaton family was a well-respected and prominent family in town. They were originally from Reading Massachusetts with Thomas Eaton Sr. being born in 1696 and married to Mary Gowing. They had a son, Thomas, who was in the Revolutionary War. Thomas was a captain of a company in Colonel David Green’s 2nd Middlesex Company Regiment which marched on the alarm of April 19, 1775. Captain Thomas marched along with his son, Jonas.

Jonas married Lydia Nichols in 1788 and about 1790 they moved to Auburn and started their family on land which is now part of the North American Martyrs Church. Jonas and Lydia had seven children, but the first three died in 1796. Then they had Elizabeth in 1797, William in 1799, Thomas in 1800, and Sarah in 1802.

One of the people of interest in this article is Thomas who married Hannah Pierce of Millbury. They had four children, Daniel T., Lydia, Joseph P. and Thomas. The brothers Daniel Temple Eaton and Joseph Pierce Eaton enlisted Jan. 18, 1861, in Company A of the 25th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry to fight in the Civil War.

Daniel re-enlisted Jan. 18, 1864, transferring to Co. C, when the regiment was reduced to Battalion size on Oct. 5, 1864. He was discharged July 13, 1865. He was involved in the Battle of Roanoke Island, N.C. Which, according to Web site This Day in History, "Union General Ambrose Burnside scores a major victory when his troops capture Roanoke Island in North Carolina. It was one of the first major Union victories of the Civil War and gave the Yankees control of the mouth of Albemarle Sound, allowing them to threaten the Rebel capital of Richmond, Virginia, from the south."

After the war, Daniel married widow Sara Field Stone from Cambridge in 1866. They had a daughter, Hannah Adelia, in 1870. Daniel worked on the family farm until 1870 when the census showed him on his own farm not far from his father’s farm. He served the town in 1860 on the School Committee, a constable in 1871 and a selectman in 1894. He was a member of the George Ward Post #10 G.A.R. Worcester. He died in Auburn on August 29, 1914, and is interred in Hillside Cemetery with most of the Eaton family.

Joseph Pierce Eaton enlisted on the same day as Daniel for three years. According to a family story that was uncovered by John Hartwell, a past town historian, as the two brothers were going to the barracks at Camp Lincoln, to put on their new uniforms, they encounter a team of mules misbehaving. The team master was unable to control them. Legend has it that 21-year-old Joseph gave his folded uniform to his brother and walked over to the mules. He spoke a few words to that mule, then put his hand on the

animal’s shoulder and the critter quieted down. This incident was witnessed by the Company A’s commander, Capt. Josiah Pickett. It was decided that Joseph would be the company’s wagoner. He received \$14 and the clothes and ration of a soldier. His job was to transport the supplies needed by the army, with that was the responsibility to care for and maintain the mules and wagons under him. That also meant that the wagoner had to be ready to take up a gun to defend his wagon, mule and supplies that were being transported. In the 1862 campaign in North Carolina, Joseph was promoted to wagon master of the entire regiment. By the fall he was promoted again to sergeant and wagon master of the 1st brigade, Second Division, of the XVIII Corps, which was 120 wagons and 140 soldiers. As the Division was moving toward Cold Harbor VA in late May of 1864, Joseph slipped in knee-deep mud and the wagon rolled over his right leg. He had to be hospitalized for 3 months and nearly lost his leg. When his term of enlistment was up in October and Sgt. Eaton was mustered out. He went back to the Eaton homestead to help work the family farm. He married Ella Hoare in September 1866, daughter of Sawyer & Mary of Littleton. Unfortunately, she died a year later in September 1867. Joseph then married Charolette E. Boyden in 1869. They had two sons, George Bancroft Eaton June 1873, but died Sept 7, 1874, and Harry Putnam in 1877. Unfortunately, Harry died in 1888 of “bilious Fever.” Charlotte died in 1915. Joseph married Addie Hewitt in the 1920s. Joseph did his share of town offices in his lifetime. He started as an Assessor 1872-1884, Selectman 1892-1900, Overseer for the Poor 1894-1895, Trustee for the Free Public Library 1901-1903, and was on the Cemetary Commission 1908-1914, then 1921-23. His wife, Charlotte, was on the School Committee 1891-1894.

The last son of Thomas Eaton and Hannah Pierce was Thomas Stowe Eaton who was born July 2, 1832, in Auburn. He married Martha Marie Blood who was from Charlestown, Massachusetts. Their children were Herbert William 1863-1877, Alice Maria 1864-1882, Arthur Adelbert 1866-1951, Luella Adeila 1869-1958, Ida Louise Lavinia [Vaughan] 1872-1927, and Charlotta P. 1875-1909. Thomas stayed on the original family farm working it until he died in 1920. It seems he also had working boarders as well as a domestic servant through the years.

Thomas S. as well as some of his children were involved with the workings of the town. Thomas was a selectman from 1871-1877, then again 1883-1886, School Committee member 1872-1873 and 1883-1884. He also served as an auditor 1893-1895. Ida Louise was an Assessor from 1892 to 1894, Charlotte was a Trustee of the library 1902-1912, and Luella was a Library Trustee 1911 to 1924.

With all the service to the town that the Eaton family did, it is fitting that there is Eaton Square Memorial, which is located at the intersection of Elmwood Street and Pakachoag Street, along with Eaton Avenue.

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

Lanterns Along Main Street

LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET

By CHIPPY

There’s a small ritual I’ve noticed in a lot of Massachusetts towns—something so ordinary you could miss it unless you’re paying attention. It happens in the morning, long before the school buses growl to life or the commuter rush begins. Shopkeepers unlock their doors, sweep a few stray leaves from their thresholds, and prop the door open for a minute to “let the day in,” as one fellow once told me.

I’ve always liked that expression. You don’t open the door; you let the day in. As if the day were something polite, waiting on the step with its hat in hand.

That morning moment reveals something about these towns. You learn who gets up early, who doesn’t mind the cold bite of a December morning, who chats across the street as naturally as breathing. You learn that the fellow who runs the hardware store has the same whistle every day, and that the woman who works the bakery counter taps her knuckles on the window before she flips the sign to Open, like a quiet promise that she means it.

What strikes me isn’t the routine itself, but the way people seem to take comfort in it. In a world with so many moving parts—so much technology, so many shortcuts, so many alerts and reminders buzzing for our attention—there’s something steadying about a place where the first order of business is sweeping off the stoop. You don’t need an app for it, and nobody’s angling for recognition. They just do it

because it makes the day feel like it’s beginning on the right foot.

I drove through a handful of towns in the area last week and found myself stopping for coffee in one of those little places where the tables wobble and the mugs are mismatched. The man behind the counter asked if I wanted a refill before I had even taken my first sip. It wasn’t pushy—just habit, the way some people press a hand against your shoulder before they walk by. A courtesy without any expectation attached.

At the table next to mine, two men were talking about the high school basketball team. One of them still called the gym the new gym, even though it was built sometime in the mid-1990s. You hear that kind of thing a lot around here. Old labels have a long half-life. A building can be new for decades if the one before it was older still.

That’s the quiet charm of these towns: time doesn’t hurry. Not in a stubborn way, but in a comfortable one. Something might change—a new family moves in, a business closes, a bridge gets repaired—but life doesn’t shove ahead. It ambles. And in that ambling, people notice things that would go unremarked elsewhere.

They notice if the library lights are on a little later than usual. They notice when a regular stops showing up for morning coffee and someone goes to check in. They notice when the town hall flag flaps oddly because the rope has caught, and someone climbs up to fix it without

A rich fool or rich toward God?



BEYOND THE PEWS

BY FR. LUKE A. VERONIS
SAINTS
CONSTANTINE
AND HELEN
GREEK
ORTHODOX
CHURCH,
WEBSTER

Thanksgiving! A special day to say “thank you” to God for all the good things He gives us - from our families and loved ones, to our homes and possessions, to our church and faith, and for the love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Countless blessings!

There is an interesting story from the Gospels that reflects the antithesis to Thanksgiving. Jesus tells a story about a rich man, a man so rich that he didn’t know what to do with all his wealth. Can you image having such wealth? Do you envy such people?

Well, this man did what many of us would do. He built a bigger house. He got more things. He thought of whatever he dreamed of and fulfilled his own dreams. He simply wanted to eat, drink and be merry! Live in the moment

and enjoy the day. Does that sound great? Well, many in our society would envy this lifestyle and say this man was a resounding success!

Yet, Jesus called the man a fool! Our Lord criticizes the rich man as foolish precisely because he only thought of himself. Instead of thanking God for his blessings and thinking about how he could share his blessings with others, the man only says, “I will build bigger and better. I will get more for myself. I’ll sit back, relax, and say, ‘I have everything I need. I don’t need to worry about anything.’”

Does that sound like a man who is grateful? He never said, “Thank you Lord for all my blessings.” And true gratitude, of course, is not reflected in words alone but can be seen in actions. True gratitude implies saying to ourselves, “How can I share from the blessings I have received? How can I help those less fortunate from my abundance? How can I act like a good and faithful steward, living out the words of Jesus Christ that it is more blessed to give than to receive?”

True gratitude leads to generosity. The foolishness of the rich man, however, led him to think only about himself. And this is why Jesus called him a fool! Not because he had lots of riches but because he wasn’t rich toward God. He forgot the most fundamental perspective in life – that all our blessings come from God, that a healthy spirit reflects an attitude of gratitude, and that we express authentic thanksgiving by sharing our blessings with others!

Can we reflect on this during this Thanksgiving weekend? Can we strive to do the opposite of the Rich Fool and truly act rich toward God? Instead of saying, “All of this is mine,” let us say “Thank You Lord for all You have given me and show me, Lord, how I can generously share with others.”

When we’re thankful, our hearts grow bigger - not our houses and possessions! Being rich toward God never means amassing more and more for ourselves but it implies giving back to God through our generosity and love toward others.

As Saint John Chrysostom once said, “The rich man is not the one who has much but the one who gives much. For whatever he gives away remains his forever.”

May we live with this spirit of thanksgiving not once a year but every day of our lives!

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Latest auction news

I hope that you had a Happy Thanksgiving! While most of us were out grocery shopping and cleaning up after the big meal, some major auctions were in the headlines.

Famous puppets made news when Jim Henson’s puppets and memorabilia auction took place late last month. Henson was the beloved creator of the “Muppets.” Henson’s “Crystal of Truth” from “The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance” sold for \$89,600, according to the UPI, while Miss Piggy’s high heels went for \$22,400. The auction brought in \$2.6 million total, which will be used to preserve Henson’s archives.

A major piece of art that saved a woman during the Holocaust broke a modern art record last month. Gustav Klimt’s “Portrait of Elisabeth Lederer” was painted over three years from 1916 to 1918. It depicts the daughter of one

of Vienna’s wealthiest families wearing an Asian Emperor’s cloak. When Nazi Germany annexed Austria in 1938, they raided the Lederer’s art collection. “Elisabeth Lederer made up a story that Klimt, who was not Jewish and died in 1918, was her father,” according to AP News. She convinced the Nazis to give her a document stating that she was Klimt’s daughter, which spared her life. Some of Klimt’s works burned in a fire in an Austrian castle, making the existing works more valuable. The painting is one of two full length portraits in private hands. The sale surpassed the previous record for 20th century art held by an Andy Warhol portrait of Marilyn Monroe, which brought \$195 million in 2022. “Portrait of Elisabeth

Lederer» sold for a record \$236.4 million.

A different type of art also made news recently, with a rare Fabergé egg coming to auction. “Peter Carl Fabergé and his company created more than 50 of the eggs for Russia’s imperial family between 1885 and 1917, each elaborately unique and containing a hidden surprise,” according to CBS News. Czar Alexander III gifted an egg to his wife every Easter. Nicholas II continued the tradition by presenting eggs to his wife and mother. A four-inch-tall “Winter egg” was carved from carved rock crystal, featuring platinum snowflake decorations and 4,500 rose-cut diamonds. When open, it reveals bejeweled quartz flowers

symbolizing spring. There are currently 43 known Fabergé eggs, and most are in museums. The “Winter egg” was originally sold when Russia was struggling in the 1920s and selling off artifacts. A London antique dealer purchased the egg for £400, which is a little under \$700 at current exchange rates. It exchanged hands several times and was once thought to be lost for decades until being sold in 1994 for 7 million Swiss francs (\$5.6 million at exchange rates then). It was resold for \$9.6 million in 2002. The current auction record for a Fabergé egg is \$18.5 million from a 2007 sale. This egg is expected to crack that record with a \$26 million estimate.

Our single-collector Civil War auction will be taking place this month. Following that, we’ll have a major auction with fine jewelry, sterling silver, art, and other antiques and collectibles. Please visit



our website <https://central-massauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula

Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services info@centralmassauctions.com or (508-612-6111).

Christmas tree alternatives that provide year-round beauty



Melinda Myers

Lemon cypress trees surrounded by poinsettias create a festive holiday display.

When looking for a unique holiday tree this season consider adding a plant you can enjoy now and throughout the year. Select a larger specimen to use as a floor plant, adding dramatic scale to your indoor décor. Smaller plants can be placed on tabletops throughout the house to add a bit of extra cheer in any room.

Transform a weeping fig, rubber tree or fiddleleaf fig into a holiday tree with a few lights, garland and ornaments. All three of these make great additions to an indoor garden and their tree-like appearance makes them a perfect substitute for more traditional Christmas trees.

Grow them in bright, indirect

light with evenly moist but not soggy wet soil. Water thoroughly and pour off any excess water that collects in the saucer. Or place pebbles in the saucer to elevate the pot above the water, creating a gravel tray. The excess water will evaporate, increasing humidity around the plant. Avoid drafts of hot and cold air and be prepared for some leaf drop

on the weeping fig with a change in the seasons or growing conditions. It will survive and eventually send out new leaves.



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

Consider a Norfolk Island pine when looking for something that looks more like a pine tree. You will often find them decorated and sold for the holidays in garden centers and floral shops. Or add your own decorations for the festive look you prefer.

Grow Norfolk Island pine in a cool, well-lit location that’s free of drafts of hot and cold air. Regularly turn the plant to encourage even growth. Avoid dry air and keep the soil evenly moist to retain green, flexible and healthy needles and branches. Boost the humidity around this and other plants while reducing maintenance by using a gravel tray.

Purchase Rosemary wreaths and tree topiaries for a festive as well as fragrant and edible addition to the holidays. Just give the leaves a pet to enjoy the fragrance as it boosts your spirits. Pluck a sprig

or two to add flavor to your winter meals and beverages.

Growing Rosemary indoors can be challenging so don’t let past failures stop you from trying. Experiment until you find the location and maintenance routine that keeps your plant thriving. Grow it in a sunny window or under artificial lights and water thoroughly as the soil begins to dry. If the plant turns brown, move it out of sight to the back of your indoor garden. It still smells good when you give it a pet and only you will know.

Lemon Cypress makes a great miniature holiday tree, centerpiece or gift for a friend. The fragrant chartreuse foliage of this dwarf evergreen continues to brighten your

winter décor long after the holidays are over. Grow it in a sunny window and turn it occasionally to encourage even growth. You’ll have the best results if you keep it in a cool location free from cold and hot air drafts.

Investing in one of these plants is sure to brighten your spirits and holiday décor. With proper care you can continue to enjoy them year-round and for next year’s holiday celebrations.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener’s Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” streaming courses and the nationally syndicated Melinda’s Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

TRINITY CATHOLIC ACADEMY ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

SOUTHBRIDGE — Trinity Catholic Academy has released its honor roll for the first trimester of the 2025-2026 school year.

Grade 4
Honors: Emelia Franco, John Nadeua, Elizabeth Nellenback, Owen Quigley, Vincent VLK
High Honors: Lucius Batih, Victoria LaBonte, Joseph Nellenback

Grade 5
Honors: Vera Abud Fuentes, Jaime Cruz, Mason Gonzalez, Connor Kreidemaker, Matthew Olson, Jeziah Suarez
High Honors: Charlotte Heckendorf, Jameson Howard-Donlin, Emma LaBarge, Elinor Matzelle

Grade 6
Honors: Emiliana Boswell, Tesslynn Cahill, Cameron Clifford, Karieliz Colon-Martinez, Juliana Dintino, Theodore Frazier, Elizabeth Gordon, Carson Lazo, Sachi Swadia, Jaydin Wales, Benjamin Zuziak
High Honors: Alerix Gonzalez, Kaleigh Haglund, Jake Simanski

Grade 7
High Honors: Aurora Brother, Evelyn Howard-Donlin, Olivia Latour, Michael Poulin, Mia Yanez Velasquez
High Honors: Angel Delgado, Ainsley Heckendorf, Jayden Zarzycki-Kotarba

Grade 8
Honors: Nicolas Gauvin, Carilynn Norris, Caius Ovalles, Zyon Stockley, Alexio Yacavace
High Honors: Abigail Frazier, Celia Ladd, Heer Swadia



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JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!
Want to receive updates about our upcoming events? Sign up for email alerts by visiting our website or contacting our Adult Services Librarian Jessica Fontaine at jfontaine@cwmars.org

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

The Literacy Cafe is a free weekly English conversation class offered by Literacy Volunteers of South Central Massachusetts (LVSCM). This class is free to attend and is open to all adults. No pre-registration is required. For more information, email us at info@lvscm.org.

Library for All – First Two Mondays; Last Two Fridays 10AM (Chair Yoga or Craft)

This program includes one chair yoga class and one craft project that will be held on first two Mondays and the last two Fridays of the month. Either join Jess and Ompractice for a 45 minute relaxing Chair Yoga class or join us for our craft program. Check the online calendar to see which event is scheduled. No experience necessary. This program is for teens and adults of all abilities and their caregivers. Please call ahead if special accommodations or requirements are needed.

Yoga – Saturdays at 9:30am (no class on 12/13)

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

Computer Basics: EBooks and Audiobooks through Libby – Thursday, December 4th at 3:00pm

Interested in learning how to borrow eBooks and Audiobooks through Libby? 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!

Yoga Nidra with Jess – Fridays, December 5th, 12th and 19th at 8:15am

Join Adult Services Librarian Jess for a relaxing yoga nidra practice to start your day. Jess will guide participants through a few simple yoga asanas to release physical tension. Participants will then settle into a reclined position for a guided relaxation (yoga nidra). This program takes place before the library officially opens. Registration is required and Jess will meet you at the program door. If you have your own yoga mat, please bring it and be sure to dress in comfortable clothing.

Cookbook Club – Wednesday, December 10th at 6:00pm

Join our cookbook club this month as we cook recipes from Baking for the Holidays : 50+ Treats for a Festive Season by Sarah Kieffer. We always have a great time eating and discussing our experiences with the book. Extra copies are available at the circulation desk. To be added to the list, please email jfontaine@cwmars.org

Adult Book Group – Monday, December 15th at 6:30pm

An adult book discussion group. Each month there will be a new book to read and discuss! Meetings are held every 3rd Monday unless specified. The book for November is Behind the Beautiful Forevers by Katherine Boo.

Programming for All Ages
A Gathering of Celtic and Christmas Concert – Thursday, December 4th at 6:30pm

A Gathering of Celtic and Christmas is a combination of Celtic Songs and Stories combined with some familiar, and perhaps not so familiar, Christmas songs and tunes. You have heard Celtic Music on the Autoharp, the music of Christmas on the ‘harp is somewhat magical.

Friends Concert Series: Rock Voices – Thursday, December 11th at 6:30pm

Auburn Rock Voices is one of 33 Rock Voices chapters located throughout the Northeast and in Portland, Oregon. With a mission of “healing ourselves and others through song,” Rock Voices prepares and presents three concerts each year. This non-auditioned choir performs ONLY rock music and is open to anyone who likes to sing. The Auburn chapter was formed in 2017

and currently includes 90 singers under the direction of Connie Galli. For more information, go to www.rockvoices.com.

Puzz Fest: Cozy Edition – Thursday, December 11th at 6:00pm

Assemble your team (up to 5 people!) and join us to see which team can complete their puzzle first. We’ll have snacks to keep you fueled as you tackle your 500 piece jigsaw. All teams will get to keep their puzzle. Registration is required.

Little Songbook Opera Winter Solstice – Saturday, December 13th at 11:30am

Let’s celebrate the winter season together! Little Songbook Opera is coming to Gladys E. Kelly Public Library with a heartwarming event that brings together music, creativity and community support. We will share winter-themed songs from a wide variety of genres that all ages can enjoy while participating in one of our winter craft stations! We hope to see you there! Little Songbook Opera is a Boston-based organization dedicated to making music fun, accessible, and meaningful. Founded by musicians, we specialize in bringing small-scale musical productions to communities like yours! Visit https://www.littlesongbookopera.com/ to learn more about the organization and our founders.

Children’s and Young Adult Programming
Play-Doh Storytime – Mondays at 10:30am

Join us for an engaging storytime filled with interactive stories and Play-Doh fun! Kids are invited to explore, squish and make new creations each week. This sensory-friendly program is perfect for young learners and their grown-ups.

Creators Club – Mondays from 4:00-5:30 PM

We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test! Come explore our newly rebranded Monday night program: Creators Club! December’s theme is Popsicle Sticks! Kids will use popsicles sticks to create fun and imaginative artwork. 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

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

Toddler Playtime – Thursdays at 10:00am
Young kids are invited to get their wiggles out with various toys and new friends!

Craft Adventures: Cookie Decorating Party – Tuesday, December 2nd at 4pm and 5pm

Who doesn’t love cookies and hot chocolate on a cold winter day? Join us for a cozy session of cookie decorating and hot cocoa sipping! Space is limited and will be held in two sessions. Please register your child for only one session. PJs are encouraged!

Stuffed Animal Creations: Groundhog – Saturday, December 6th at 12:00pm AND Spotted Piglet at 1:00pm

Come enjoy a story and make your very own stuffed animal to take home! This program is for children under 12. Please register for only one session.

Winter Craft Series: Snowflake Slime – Tuesday, December 9th at 4:00pm

Create your own sparkly snowflake slime to take home! This fun, hands-on winter activity is perfect for kids who love to mix, stretch, and get a little messy.

Mini Chefs Club – Wednesday, 10th and 17th at 5:30pm

Welcome to Mini Chefs Club! This new food focused series offers kids 7-12 the opportunity to learn how to create easy, tasty meals right at home using simple ingredients and step-by-step guidance. Each class will require kids to use different kitchen tools. Due to limited supplies, registration is required. We’ll be making Mug Cakes, and Pancakes in December!

Sweets Meet and Greet with Miss Paige – Thursday, December 4th at 4:00pm

Join Miss Paige, our new Youth Services Librarian, for a Sweets Meet and Greet. We’ll provide the coffee and treats, but we’d love for you to come in with ideas! Miss Paige wants to hear from you. What would make our Children’s and Teen Rooms even better for your family? What programs or activities would you love to see in the future? Come share your thoughts, connect with other families, and enjoy a fun community craft available for all ages. We can’t wait to see you there!

PEARLE L. CRAWFORD LIBRARY

40 Schofield Ave., Dudley
508-949-8021

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

The library will be closed at noon on December 24th and all day on December 25th. The Library will be open 10-5 on December 26th.

Please join us in the month of December to celebrate local artist, Marilyn West. A variety of paintings are on display for your enjoyment in the Fels Room whenever the Library is open.

Gentle Yoga
Mondays in December
10:00-11:00

Join yoga instructor Patricia, for a traditional “on the mat” yoga class with chair yoga modifications. This truly is a one size fits all class.

Bring your own mat. Wear layers, do not eat heavily 1.5-2 hours before class.
Registration is Required.

Mahjong at the Pearle
Every Wednesday in December-NO SESSION

Wednesday, December 24th
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 welcome, registration not required.

Quilting Group
Every Wednesday in December. NO SESSION

Wednesday, December 24th
1:30- 3:30
All quilters and would-be quilters are invited to join our new group. Bring your projects!

Knit & Crochet Group-NO SESSION
Thursday, December 25th

Every Thursday 5:30-7:45 and Friday 10:00-12:00

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

Once Upon A Crime Book Club
The Idaho Four: An American Tragedy

By James Patterson
Friday, December 5th 11:00-12:00 Adult Reading Area

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.

Picking Parlor Jam a “mostly” Bluegrass Focused Jam Session

1st Saturday of every month
Saturday, December 6th
10:00-12:00 in the Fels Community 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!

NEW to the Library-Pearle’s Genealogy Group
Monday, December 8th

4:00-5:30
Let’s regrow our genealogy group! Join us in the Local History Room on the second Monday of every month. Facilitated by professional genealogist Patricia St. Marie

Crawford Library Book Group
Thursday, December 18th

Burn by Peter Heller
6:00-7:30

Books are available at the circulation desk for checkout one month prior to discussion.
No Registration Required.

“Cook the Book” Book Club
Monday, December 22nd

6:00-7:00
Book: The Pioneer Woman Cooks-A Year of Holidays by Ree Drummond

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.

There will be a place to include your recipe selection in the reservation form. Registration Required.

CrafterNIGHT-Wooden Slice Ornament
Monday, December 1st

6:00- 7:00

Join us and make this one-of-a-kind creation! Make one for yourself and one to donate. All materials are provided.

Registration is required.
Ages 17+

Crafternoon-Wooden Slice Ornament
Tuesday, December 2nd

1:00-2:00

Join us and make this one-of-a-kind creation! Make one for yourself and one to donate. All materials are provided.

Registration is required.
Ages 17+

Wingmasters-Birds of Prey
Saturday, December 6th

11:00-12:00

Birds of prey are also known as raptors, and they are hunting birds characterized by hooked beaks and powerful grabbing feet armed with sharp talons (the word raptor comes from a Latin word that means “to seize”). Raptors can also boast the best eyesight and the sharpest hearing in the animal kingdom. Raptors include hawks, falcons and owls, and this presentation, which incorporates 6 LIVE birds of prey, all native to New England, gives an overview of these different categories. The program is designed to explain predation, the birds’ place at the top of the food web, their different hunting adaptations and their status in a rapidly changing world. Because many birds of prey are declining in number, this presentation also features one or more of the endangered raptors that WINGMASTERS cares for, and explains why these species face an uncertain future.
Ages 6+ only

For the birds’ well-being and for the safety of the audience, the raptors are handled only by Julie and Jim, and are under their control at all times. They are never flown for demonstration.

Registration not required but space is limited. First come, first served basis.

Celebrate the Season with the Magical Sound of the Harp with Solo Harpist Shelley Otis

Monday, December 8th
6:00-7:00

Celebrate the season with the magical sound of the harp. From elegant Christmas classics to upbeat contemporary covers and smooth holiday jazz, Shelley’s performances blend tradition and style. With a repertoire of over 500 songs — and a passion for creating custom arrangements — she brings festive spirit and artistry to every performance.

Rope Flow with Kate
Thursday, December 11th

6:00- 7:00

Rope flow is a low-impact movement practice where you spin a weighted rope in fluid, continuous patterns to improve mobility, coordination, and athletic timing, rather than jumping with it like a traditional jump rope. The practice involves using your whole body, particularly the spine and hips, to control the rope’s movement through a series of underhand and overhand figure-eights and other patterns, fostering a sense of play, rhythm, and a “flow state”. It serves as a form of full-body exercise and moving meditation, enhancing rotational strength and reducing stress. All equipment is supplied. Space limited to 10 people. Registration is required.

Ginger & Spice
Saturday, December 13th

10:00-12:00

When it comes to herbal kitchen medicine, ginger has a versatility that runs a close second to garlic. Come explore this powerful root (or rhizome), see why it helps issues from arthritis, nausea, helps fight colds and flu, and so much more! Taste some warm ginger-aide, help prepare a group batch of ginger-syrup, and even try your hand at making a simple ginger poultice that eases cramps or stomach tension! This program is sponsored by the Dudley Agricultural Commission & the Town of Dudley.

Presented by Christine Leo, M. Ed. Certified Traditional Herbalist and Dudley resident.
Registration is required.

Elf Trivia
Monday, December 15th

6:00-7:00

The best way to spread Christmas cheer is by playing trivia loud for all to hear!

Wear your best holiday outfit and join us for Elf trivia. Ages 17+
Space is limited. Registration is required.

COA Book Group
The President’s Daughter

By James Patterson & Bill Clinton
Wednesday, December 17th 1:00-2:30

Snowman Craft at Town’s Tree Lighting Celebration

Thursday, December 4

6:00—7:30 PM
Dudley Municipal Complex 71 West Main St, Dudley

Build a fun and cute snowman craft at the annual Town Tree Lighting festivities. Registration not required.

Baby Open Play
Fridays in December

10:00- 12:00

Open play for babies! Parents and caregivers can let babies play while getting to know others in the community. Come anytime between 10-12 or stay the whole time! No Registration Required

Pre-K Power
Tuesdays in December-NO SESSION

December 23rd & December 30th
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! No Registration needed.

Toddler Storytime
Wednesdays in December-NO SESSION

December 24th & December 31st
10:00-10:45

Best for children 6 months - 36 months and their caregiver (siblings always welcome!). We’ll have fun with songs, fingerplays, a story, moving our bodies to music, shaker eggs, scarves, and bubbles! There will be time for free play and socialization, too.

No Registration needed.

Graphic Novel Book Club-8 Tiny Reindeer
Thursday, December 11th

6:00- 6:45

Do you love graphic novels? Join us for Graphic Novel Book Club! Each month we will meet to discuss the graphic novel of the month. Copies of the book will be located at the circulation desk in the Children’s Room. Best for ages 8 and up. Registration not required. This is not a drop off program.

Pokemon Club
Thursday, December 18th

6:00-6:45

Do you love everything Pokemon? Join us for Pokemon club! Each month we will have exciting crafts and activities! Best for ages 6 and up. No Registration Required. This is not a drop off program.

New! Yoga for Children
Friday, December 19th

10:00-10:45

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

Stuffie Sleepover Drop-off!
Saturday, December 13th

10:00-1:30

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The Morse Family Christmas Tree Farm has been a local tradition bringing happiness and joy to families for over 60 years!



Park Avenue Faculty Spotlight

WEBSTER — Each year, Park Avenue is filled with remarkable student learning — made possible by the dedication, creativity, support, and most importantly, the hope carried by the extraordinary staff here in our town. This week, we are proud to highlight three more exceptional members of our PAE team: Sue Ricard (Academic Interventionist and Kindergarten Teacher), Gina Kajano (3rd Grade Teacher), and Lois Taylor (After School Coordinator).

Sue Ricard, Academic Interventionist and Kindergarten Teacher, is known for her incredible flexibility, leadership, and genuine warmth. Ricard is the kind of person who makes everyone around her feel supported — a true friend to every member of the PAE staff. She consistently goes above and beyond to meet the needs of students and colleagues, adapting seamlessly to any situation. Her positive energy and steady presence make her a shining star in our building. Her students love every minute they spend with her and thrive in the supportive, encouraging environment she creates.

As one colleague shared, “Sue is a bright light in our school. She lifts others up with her kindness and is always willing to help, no matter what.” Ricard’s commitment, com-

passion, and unwavering dedication make her an invaluable part of our school family.

Gina Kajano, 3rd Grade Teacher, brings expertise, creativity, and a wealth of instructional tools to her classroom each day. Her students absolutely adore her — they feel safe, supported, and excited to learn under her guidance. Kajano’s colleagues appreciate her just as deeply, knowing she is always willing to lend a hand, share ideas, or step in when someone needs help. Her ability to connect with students and staff makes her a treasured member of the third-grade team.

One colleague remarked, “Gina is always there when you need her. She’s the calm in the storm — supportive, reliable, and incredibly kind.”

Kajano’s dedication and nurturing spirit shine through in all she does.

Lois Taylor, After School Coordinator, brings joy, energy, and compassion to students across every grade level. Taylor creates a fun and welcoming environment in the after-school program, where students feel safe, engaged, and eager to participate. Her flexibility and playful nature help her build strong, meaningful relationships with both children and families. Parents appreciate her communication and warmth, and students are drawn to her upbeat, supportive personality.

As one colleague noted, “Lois has a special way of making every child feel included and excited to be here.”

Taylor’s commitment to fostering a positive after-school experience makes her an essential part of our PAE community.

Courtesy

Lois Taylor (After School Coordinator), Sue Ricard (Academic Interventionist and Kindergarten Teacher) and Gina Kajano (3rd Grade Teacher) take a moment to smile at PAE.

SENIORS NAMED TO BAY PATH HONOR ROLL

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School congratulates the following students in Grade 12 on being named to the honor roll for the first quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

- High Honors**
- Helena Rowan Adkins, Addison Emily Aho, Adriana Nataly Alicea, Jacob John Archambault, Alexander Tyr Audunsson, Vincent Paul Bedard, Isabella Aria Bitar, Edward Stephen Blash, Dominic Dewayne Boyd, Aleah Claire Brink, Brianna Livia Brink, Samuel Elia Ceppetelli, Frederick James Cierpich, Emily Ann Corey, Jacob William Creeron, Valentina Ashley Culberson, Brody Lawrence Cunningham, Myiah Kiara DeLaRosa, Basil Doud, Jocelyn Elizabeth Evans, Yandel Feliciano, Jordan Mariah Ferreira, Jayla Marie Fowler, Luke Robert Heller, Liam Wayne Hesselton, Nicholas Edward Jalbert, Tabian Marshall Keegan, Zackery Collin Kelleher, Phoebe Alyson Lawendowski, Nicholas Sebastian Londono, Cullen Gregory MacLeod, Ava Rose Mastrotoaro, Alexis McGee Messina, Liam Macrae Nicoll, Sebastian Alexander Nieuwenhoff, Benjamin Francis Nocchi, Mariah Lynn Pereira, Jacob Paul Pratt, Kayleigh Jean Ramm, Nathan Alexander Rouille Montoya, Luke William Smolski, Ashley Mikayla Tingle, Anne Louise Turcotte, Esmerelda Velez, Ava Quiyn Wall, Hunter Earl White
- Honors**
- Bayleigh Alexis Abdella, Sarah Rebecca Appiah Kubi, Violet Renee Aucella, Victoria Rose Bachand, Rhianna Anne Balliet, Arianna Rose Belanger, Nathan Paul Bernard, David Betancur, Roger Joseph Bishop, Dominic Raymond Brodeur, Lucien Stephen Brodeur, Alissa Lynn Burlingame, Dimitri Anthony Burr, Liam Michael Carlson, Lily Sabina Chartier, Charles Michael Congdon, Lorelie May Curboy, Connor Anthony Czechowski, Joseph Michael Daige, Smauel Richard Davis, Treyton Joseph Dery, Cody Daniel Dombroski, Christopher Michael Dufresne, Zenovi Irene Dupont, Heidi Lynne Ebbeling, Matthew Aaron Falcigno, Leia Marie Foster, Rylee Rose Fulmine, Bridgette Anne Gaudreau, Aiden Mark Giroux-Provencher, Aliyah Marie Gonyea, Jocelynn Rose Gordon, Molly Elizabeth Grant, Anna Rosa Guay, Isiah Terrence Harris-Harrington, Sadie Lynn Hawley, Kolton Trevor Hemenway, Lillian Elaine Horner, Hannah Jean Ingalls, Natalie Rose Ingles, Joshua William Irons, Amara Kimberly Johnson, Christian Michael Johnson, Ayden Matthew Kennedy, Samuel Arjun Kittredge, Allison Hemenway Klar, Cassie Lee Kotomski, Kirstine Marie Laflash, Marshall Thomas Lafond, Nia Mya Laforest, Callie Mae Lambert, Joel Carlos Landor, Jomar De Jesus Landor, Zachary Raymond Landry, Gabrielle Ruth LaPan, Michael Wayne Lapointe, Nathan Ryan Legendre, Miranda Kate Linde, Matthew James Lopez, Julianna Rose Lovejoy, Michael Anthony Lulu, Philipos Anastasio Makrodimtras, Mystic Leigh Marion, Bradley Anthony McCarthy, Emily Jean McDonald, Madeline Beverly McDonald-Trimby, Avery Lynn McLaughlin, Felix Casey Menard, Sebastian Luke Moniz, Angelo Michael Montiverdi, Alexis Paige Moody, Jackson Ryan Mullins, Chaser Patrick Newman, Connor James O’Brien, Matthew Thomas Obrycki, Kelsey Lynn Olson, Cole Henry Paradis, Adam Jason Phaneuf, Samuel Joseph Prefontaine, Jae Mia Prochnow, Samantha Jeanne Reseigh, Grace Elizabeth Retallic, Taylor Lynn Richard, Vincent Timothy Rose, Jordan Joyce Russell, Brianne Marie Sentence, Jaxon Russell Sitko, Alexis Lynne Spenard, Keagan Robert Standing, Nathan Adam Steen, Gaige Charles Thompson, Josiah Felix Torres, Yandel Omar Torres, Ezekiel Velazquez, Harley Ann Wilson Wadden, Londyn Nancy Walker, Marcanthony Justin Weld, Katherine Marie Widebeck, Trey Stephen Wilkin, Noah Williamson, Harrison Riley Wilson, Adrianna Marie Young, Haylee Marie Zurowski
- Principal’s List**
- Gianna Marie Albano, Emma Theresa Baldyga, Logan Amanda Barriere, Megan Lucy Bell, William Stephen Blash, Mecheanise Monic Calo Resto, Emily Rose Casault, Hunter Matthew Coombs, Abigail Taylor DeJong, Savannah Jane Dubois, Caden Joseph Edwards, Mya Reese Federico, Ethan Alexander Ford, Tristan Alexander Garcia-Cruz, Anthony Mark Gonya, Kylie Dorothy Greska, Isaias D’Jesus Henriquez Baez, Elyse Louise Laramie, Alyssa Ivellisse Lopez, Lucas Scott Lyons, Emmanuel McDaddie, Iziah Timothy Monette, Gianna Marie Morelli, Tyson Joseph Moriarty, Jeremiah Betsaleel Noel, Kamryn Leigh Nourse, Niti Nilesh Patel, Amari Audrey Pereira, Aiden Charles Perzanoski, Angelina Marie Petro, Marcus Joseph Rodriguez, Sawyer Luke Schultz, Jared Robert Senosk, Alexander Chares Skladzien, Damion Robert Taylor, Thadaeus Boadi Tweneboa, Sebastian Paul Vargas, Aynara Shirel Vazquez, Kyle Evan Velez, Natalie Helen Vigeant, Zaylie Elaine Whiteman, Brook Michelle Worthington

CRAWFORD

continued from page A6

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| <p>It’s time for a Stuffed Sleepover! Drop off your stuffie (only 1, please!) on Saturday, December 13th, anytime between 10:00 am and 1:30 pm. in the Storytime Room. (Please be sure you bring a stuffie that you can be without until Monday!)</p> <p>While you’re here, you can make a special blanket for your stuffie and let us know everything they’ll need before bed. We’ll see what kind of mischief the stuffies get into after we check our security cameras! What do you think your stuffie will do?</p> <p>You can pick up your stuffie on Monday, December 15th, between 10:00 am and 8:00 pm, or Tuesday, December 16th, between 11:00 am and 5:00 pm. Please don’t keep them waiting - they’ll miss you!</p> | <p>Family Christmas</p> <p>Tuesday, December 23rd</p> <p>1:30-3:30</p> <p>Join us for a family movie to kick off your Christmas vacation! We’ll have Christmas cookies to munch on while we watch. **Please bring your own drink.**</p> <p>No registration needed. This is not a drop-off event.</p> <p>Learn to Play: Pokemon Trading Card Game with One Up Games</p> <p>Tuesday, December 30th</p> <p>1:00-4:00</p> <p>One Up Games will be here to give registrants hands on instructions on how to play the Pokemon Trading Card Game, with a free Structure Deck for each player!</p> <p>This program is for children ages 8 and up, and registration is required, as space is limited.</p> <p>This is not a drop-off program.</p> | <p>Movie-Arthur</p> <p>Tuesday, December 23rd</p> <p>1:30-3:30</p> <p>Join us for a family movie to kick off your Christmas vacation! We’ll have Christmas cookies to munch on while we watch. **Please bring your own drink.**</p> <p>No registration needed. This is not a drop-off event.</p> <p>Learn to Play: Pokemon Trading Card Game with One Up Games</p> <p>Tuesday, December 30th</p> <p>1:00-4:00</p> <p>One Up Games will be here to give registrants hands on instructions on how to play the Pokemon Trading Card Game, with a free Structure Deck for each player!</p> <p>This program is for children ages 8 and up, and registration is required, as space is limited.</p> <p>This is not a drop-off program.</p> | <p>Dungeons & Dragons Game</p> <p>Thursdays in December-NO SESSION December 25th</p> <p>6:00-7:30</p> <p>Ages 14-19</p> <p>Are you looking to play a game that contains action, adventure, and drama?</p> <p>Come play the world’s number one role playing game.</p> <p>Snow House Luminaria for Teens</p> <p>Thursday, December 18th</p> <p>4:00-5:30</p> <p>Join us as Pop Up Art teaches you to create a cozy winter scene that glows with warmth and creativity! Using mixed-media, you’ll create a charming snowy landscape with a glowing paper house and needle-felted woolen trees.</p> <p>This program is for teens ages 12-17 ONLY, and registration is required as space is limited.</p> |
|--|--|--|---|



Courtesy

100 THANKSGIVING BASKETS DELIVERED



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church gave away 100 thanksgiving baskets with turkeys and gift cards to help families celebrate a wonderful Thanksgiving. They delivered these baskets to three local schools – Park Ave Elementary School, Webster Middle School, and Eastford Road Elementary School in Southbridge – while also offering them to families that requested help directly from the church. “We love when our church is able to get involved with the local community and share the blessings we receive with others. That’s what our faith is all about,” stated Fr. Luke Veronis. “One of our parishioners, Tina Colello, is a teacher at Barlett High School and she got students from the National Honor Society involved by getting them to put together 50 of the bags.”

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OBITUARIES

Lauren Elizabeth “Laurie” McGarry, 54



SOUTHBRIDGE – Lauren Elizabeth “Laurie” (Gatzke) McGarry, 54, died Sunday morning, November 23, 2025 in UMass/Memorial Hospital University Campus, in the arms of her family. She leaves her beloved husband of 27 years, Matte G. McGarry, daughter Abigale E. McGarry, son Gus A. McGarry, and her dog Harper, who comforted her throughout the past 5 years (all of Southbridge). Lauren also leaves her father, Robert F. Gatzke, brothers Bobby and Timmy Gatzke, sisters Jenny and Julie Gatzke, and Julie’s partner Chris Filippone (all of Webster). Cousins, nephews, a niece, and countless friends were blindsided by this catastrophic loss of our gentle, vivacious soul. Lauren was born on May 12, 1971 in Webster, one of three daughters of the late Kathleen R. (Dugan) Gatzke, and her father Bob. She was raised in Saint Louis Church, attending St. Louis School through junior high,

where she was a cheerleader. As a child, she played Lassie League softball, and volunteered during American Red Cross Blood Drives. She brought endless joy as the family comedian, and fierce devotion as a sister. She could convince her sisters to do almost anything by framing it as a “Big Fun Sister Thing”. Sassy and sarcastic, Laurie was the spark who lit our lives. During her teenage years, Laurie continued to develop as the highly creative person she was, excelling at art and photography. Her first job was at Thompson Speedway and Golf Course, manning the hotdog stand and contributing as a banquet server. She blossomed from a shy child to a social butterfly in high school. As mischievous as she was enchanting, Laurie endeared herself with students and teachers alike, graduating Bartlett High School in 1989 with scores of friends. She pursued her love of art by studying graphic arts and photography, earning an associate’s degree from Becker Junior College. Always a caregiver, Laurie returned to school in order to pursue a career in Physical Therapy. She earned an associate’s degree with a 4.0 GPA from Lasell University in Newton. Her char-

acteristic bohemian eclectic style and vibrant personality earned her friends through every phase of her life, as she was a loyal companion. Lauren and her husband built their dream home on 51 acres of woods in Southbridge, where they were married then raised their 2 children, Abi and Gus. They created an imaginative woodland oasis for the children, encouraging exploration and a world of pretend. Family ‘Funcations’ were cherished. She was a wonderful host to friends and family, and her annual Pumpkin Party became a way for so many to celebrate the fall season. She excelled at embroidery, cake decorating, drawing, and sculpture. Even during her lengthy illness, Lauren supported the children’s activities, volunteering to support Abi’s Shepherd Hill Show Choir and voice lessons. Laurie introduced Gus to horse riding as a child and he continues to this day. She was always trying to create a childhood equal to her own, and often believed she’d failed. She did not. Everything Lauren did was for her children, creating memories despite her personal discomfort. Lauren worked as a physical therapy assistant at multiple regional agencies, including

Sundance, and most recently the Kennedy-Donovan Center in Southbridge. She loved working with patients of all ages, going out of her way to enhance the lives of those confined to care, and bringing peace to those with brain injuries. Laurie loved working with children, healing their tiny bodies with her magical hands. She reluctantly retired due to chronic disability in 2020. She exhibited unwavering, awe-inspiring courage, and endurance throughout her battle with cancer. During her last days, her choices were to suffer any interventions that might keep her with her children. Lauren’s life was dedicated to her family. Visitation with Lauren and family will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 PM Tuesday, December 9, in the funeral home. Her funeral will be held on Wednesday, December 10, from Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main Street, Webster, with a Mass at 10:00 AM in Saint Louis Church, 14 Lake Street, Webster. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Dudley. Donations in her memory may be made to UMass Chan Medical School Foundation. www.websterfuneral.com

LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P3921EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
**Jean Marie Mackowiak
Date of Death:10/17/2025**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Judy A Daigle of Dudley MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:
Judy A Daigle of Dudley MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/16/2025.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 14, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
December 5, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P4087EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
**Robert E. Cloman Jr.
Date of Death:10/17/2025**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Judy M. Cloman of Webster MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

Judy M. Cloman of Webster MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/23/2025.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 24, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
December 5, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P4080EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
**Cheryl Anne Trudeau
Date of Death:10/21/2020**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Nicholas B. Trudeau of Webster MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:
Nicholas B. Trudeau of Webster MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/23/2025.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 25, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
December 5, 2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jeffrey A. Patterson, Melissa A. Patterson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for First Horizon Home Loans, a division of First Tennessee Bank, N.A., dated November 12, 2007 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 42107, Page 356, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for First Horizon Home Loans, a division of First Tennessee Bank N.A., its successors and assigns to Nationstar Mortgage LLC, recorded on February 24, 2023, in Book No. 68857, at Page 395
Nationstar Mortgage LLC to US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST, recorded on December 18, 2024, in Book No. 71432, at Page 39
for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 3:00 PM on December 26, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 8 1/2 Sutton Avenue a/k/a 8.5 Sutton Avenue, Oxford, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:
JEFFREY A. PATTERSON AND MELISSA A. PATTERSON, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS TENANTS BY THE ENTIRETY
A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND WITH THE BUILDINGS SITUATED THEREON OFF THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SUTTON AVE., OXFORD, WORCESTER COUNTY, BEING SHOWN ON PLAT OF LAND OXFORD PREPARED FOR STANFORD SEED COMPANY, DATED JANUARY 30, 1991 AND RECORDED N PLAN BOOK 647, PLAN 121 BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A POINT ALONG THE DIRT DRIVE AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAN, WHICH POINT IS THE NORTHEASTERLY CORNER OF THE 15,183 SQUARE FOOT PARCEL OF LAND SHOWN ON SAID PLAN; THENCE N. 83 DEGREES 27 MINUTES 41 SECONDS W. 71.35 FEET BY SAID PARCEL OF LAND IDENTIFIED ON SAID PLAN CONTAINING 15,183 SQUARE FEET; THENCE N. 6 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 05 SECONDS E. 62.30 FEET BY

LAND OF PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD TO THE MOST NORTHWESTERLY CORNER; THENCE S. 82 DEGREES 59 MINUTES 56 SECONDS E. 131.34 FEET BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OWNED BY BARRE; THENCE S. 8 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 00 SECONDS W. 139.26 FEET BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OWNED BY MILLER; THENCE N. 82 DEGREES 59 MINUTES 56 SECONDS W. 57.75 FEET BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OWNED BY C. PARISEAU AND SAID DIRT DRIVE; THENCE N. 8 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 00 SECONDS E. 77.52 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SAID PARCEL CONTAINING 12,533 SQUARE FEET, MORE OR LESS. BEING THE SAME PREMISES CONVEYED TO THE GRANTORS BY DEED OF HERITAGE EQUITY RESOURCES, INC. DATED APRIL 7, 1993 AND RECORDED WITH THE WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS BOOK 15077, PAGE 389. SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS, RESERVATIONS, EASEMENTS, COVENANTS, OIL, GAS OR MINERAL RIGHTS OF RECORD, IF ANY. MAP: 34C; LOT: E28

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 19484, Page 253.
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.
US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
23228
November 28, 2025
December 5, 2025
December 12, 2025

**For Legal Advertising Information, Call 508-909-4127
email: legals@stonebridgepress.news**

Mary Ann Lacki, 66

OXFORD - Mary Ann Lacki, 66, of Main Street, died unexpectedly on Monday, November 24, 2025, at Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge.

She was predeceased by her parents, William and Anna (Sluckis) Lacki. She is survived by a cousin, Paul Sluckis, of Worcester; and a small group of close friends.

Mary Ann was a lifelong resident of Oxford. Mary Ann was a Spanish teacher at Oxford

High School for many years before retiring in 2020, but her family farm was her life, she was a farmer first and foremost. Mary Ann loved going to yard sales, crafting, making jewelry, and taking trips to York Beach, Maine in her free time.

A private graveside service will be held at St. Roch's Cemetery in Oxford.

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

Anthony "Tony" Naines, 81



Anthony "Tony" Naines 81, of both Hayesville, North Carolina and Naples, Florida passed away Sunday, November 2, 2025 at his residence. He was a native of Woodstock, Connecticut and served in the United States Army for six years.

In 1980, he moved to Naples, Florida where he was president of Loos and Company, where they manufactured commercial airline components. He served as President throughout his career until retiring in 2018. Tony loved the outdoors and was an avid fisherman who traveled the world chasing elusive and exotic fish. His love of fly fishing brought him to the mountains of Western North Carolina. He was a true patriot and loved his country. Tony was a kind and caring man and always willing to help others. His sense of humor was one of his greatest attributes.

He was the son of the late Joseph and Lucille

Lavigne Naines. He was also preceded in death by his first wife, Donna Naines.

Surviving are his loving and devoted wife, Peggy Naines; one son, Brian Naines; one granddaughter, Kaia Williams and husband, Chris; one great-grandson, C.J. Williams; and one sister, Lucille Rucki and husband, Walter; one niece, Cheryl Lemieux and husband, Philip; one nephew, Robert Blackmer and wife, Karen; great niece, Katherine "Kat" Blackmer Fetzter; and great nephew, Michael Blackmer.

The family will gather privately to honor Tony's life.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials be made in memory of Anthony "Tony" Naines to Valley River Humane Society, P.O. Box 658, Murphy, North Carolina, 28906.

Ivie Funeral Home, Hayesville in charge of all arrangements.



OBITUARIES

Robert "Bob" Metcalf



OXFORD - Robert "Bob" Metcalf died on November 26, 2025, in his house in Oxford after complications from a lengthy illness. He was the first-born son of the late Leslie William Metcalf Sr. and Della Mae (Sutherland) Metcalf.

Bob spent the first 13 years of his life living on Tower Street in Worcester. Then in 1954, Les and Della decided to move the family to a house on Carron Lane in Oxford. Bob graduated from Worcester Boys Trade School in 1960, and was a skilled welder. He landed a position with Massachusetts Electric Company, where he spent his entire career until his retirement in 1998.

He has 3 living siblings; Kenneth Metcalf, Donald Metcalf, and Kathy (Metcalf) Schall. He was pre-deceased by another brother, Leslie "Billy" Metcalf Jr.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Helen (Strack) Metcalf, whom he married in 1962.

At that time, they purchased their life-long house at 52 Walnut Street in Oxford. He leaves a daughter Ann (Metcalf) Girard, son Paul Metcalf and his wife Robin, two grandchildren, Benjamin and Theodore Girard, and great-granddaughter Hannah.

Bob and Patricia would enjoy summer trips with Ben and Ted, bringing them to Ocean City, Maryland. During his later years he enjoyed spending warm seasons at his vacation house on Sabattus Pond in Maine. Time was spent caring for his precious dogs, Bear and Angel, carefully manicuring his lawn and gardens or enjoying local seafood. He also enjoyed the Red Sox and the Patriots and spent many afternoons trying to coach the teams through the TV from his couch.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, December 5, 2025, at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford. Burial will follow at St. Roch's Cemetery in Oxford. A calling hour will be held on Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home prior to the service.

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FIELD TRIP

continued from page A1

submarines like the Lionfish. Adding a very special dimension to the day was the students’ tour guide, Chloe Johnson, daughter of Saint Joseph School’s middle school math instructor, David Johnson. Chloe is a senior at Massachusetts Maritime Academy, where she is majoring in Marine Engineering. Earlier this year, she completed an immersive internship with the Military Sealift Command,

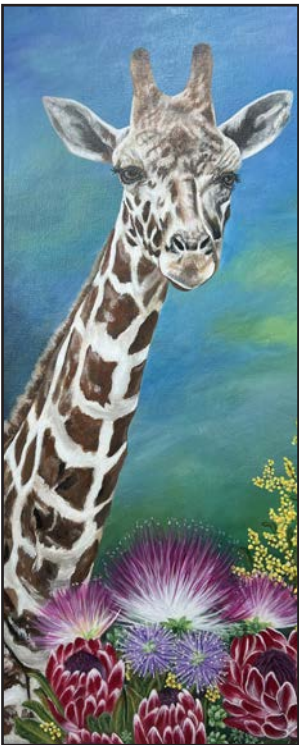
sailing on the USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20) in Gaeta, Italy. During her internship, Chloe gained hands-on experience in the world of marine engineering by performing daily maintenance, troubleshooting mechanical systems, and contributing to the overall operation of the ship. Johnson shared stories from her time aboard the Mount Whitney and explained how systems like those the students were seeing on the historic vessels continue to function—albeit in more modern forms—on today’s ships. Her

firsthand perspective helped students connect what they were observing at Battleship Cove with real career paths in engineering, maritime service, and the military. Hearing from a young adult who is now working toward a future at sea made the experience especially inspiring. Throughout the visit, students were encouraged to reflect on the bravery and dedication of the men and women who served aboard these ships, as well as the responsibilities we share as citizens to remember their sacrifices. By walking the decks, climbing the ladders, and peering into the living and working spaces of sailors from another era, students gained a deeper appreciation for the history they study in class and the freedoms they enjoy today. The Grade 5–8 field trip to Battleship Cove exemplified Saint Joseph School’s commitment to meaningful, experience-based learning. It blended history, STEM, and career exploration while fostering respect for veterans and gratitude for those who serve. As students returned to Webster, they carried with them not only facts and photographs, but also a renewed sense of appreciation for our nation’s military history and the people whose stories are preserved within the steel hulls at Battleship Cove.

EXHIBIT

continued from page A1

while my photography focuses mainly on flowers and nature. My paintings blend realism with emotion, often incorporating natural elements. “I work primarily in acrylics, with occasional pieces in oil or pastels, approaching each project with patients in precision, building many careful layers of detail, every subject slowly comes to life until its unique personality shines through.” Commissions are available, including pet portraits or a favorite animal and flower combined to make a beautiful piece of art.



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WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

5 Church St.
(508) 949-3845
Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov
Senior Center hours are Monday- Friday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., with one Thursday a month 9 a.m.- 7 p.m.
Like the Webster Senior Center Facebook page to view our photographs, news and announcements. Please stop by to pick up our monthly newsletter for a complete list of activities, upcoming events, and our monthly lunch menu. You may also join our email list to view our newsletter online. You do not have to be a resident of Webster to participate in our activities and programs. ALL Seniors are welcome!
Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least three business days in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation for 65 and up, and \$5 for 55- 64 is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and dessert. This week’s menu: Tuesday, 12/9: Turkey Supreme, herbed stuffing, mixed vegetables. Wednesday, 12/10: Hot dogs, baked beans, coleslaw. Thursday, 12/11: Baked potatoes with chili and cheese, roasted broccoli. Friday, 12/13: Soup du jour, turkey salad sandwiches, bean salad.
Need Transportation? Contact SCM Elderbus at 1-800-321-0243 at least two business days in advance to schedule transportation. Elderbus is available Mondays- Fridays 8:30 am- 3:00 pm.
Movie matinees are every Wednesday at 1:00 pm. December’s movie lineup includes ‘Red One’ on 12/10, and ‘A Christmas Carol’ on 12/17.
Come down to the Bomba Beauty Salon at the Webster Senior Center! Call 508-341-8724 for an appointment. Bomba Beauty Salon is open for walk in appointments on Wednesdays from 10:00 am- 1:00 pm, and Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays by appointment only from 10:00

am- 3:00 pm. Please call (508) 341-8724 to schedule an appointment.
Chair Dancing Exercise classes with Forty Arroyo are the perfect workout for any fitness ability! The cost is a recommended \$3.00 donation per class. A new video class will be offered Thursday and Friday mornings, free of charge.
Knitting/Crochet group meets on Mondays from 10:00 am- 12:00 pm.
Bingo is every Tuesday and starts promptly at 1:00 pm. Please plan to arrive by 12:30 pm to allow time to buy your bingo sheets. Bingo sheets are not sold after 12:45 pm.
Do you like to play Cribbage? Our weekly Cribbage group meets every Thursday at 1:00 pm. Feel free to join us!
Calling card players or interested persons to the Webster Senior Center! Come join us for six-card or thirteen-card pitch! Six-card pitch meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. Thirteen-card pitch meets on Thursdays at 1:00 pm.
Mahjongg group meets every Friday at 1:00 pm. Beginners welcome!
We now have an official Bridge group! We will be meeting every Friday from 10 am to 12 pm in the upstairs activity room. All that are interested are welcome to join!
The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office House Numbering Program will create a custom wooden sign with your house number free of charge. One sign per senior household. Please contact the Webster Senior Center at (508) 949-3845. if you are interested in having a house number sign made for you.
Senior SAFE is a program that supports fire and life safety education for seniors. The Webster Fire Dept. will do a home visit to ensure that you have the correct smoke and CO2 alarms, and that they are working properly. This is at no cost to you! All you have to do is give them a call at (508) 949-3875.

OXFORD SENIOR CENTER

323 Main St.
(508)987-6000
Laura Wilson, Director

Open Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Email: seniorcenter@oxfordma.us
Website: www.oxfordma.us
Facebook: Oxford, MA Senior Center

Needlepoint)
Bring your favorite project and come join the group for conversation and laughs.
Wednesdays @ 1:00 pm – Chair Volleyball – Lots of laughs and only two rules (1) stay seated (2) have fun!
Thursdays @ 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Dominoes

The Oxford Senior Center will be closing at 12:00pm on December 24th & will be closed on December 25th

Lunches are served on Tuesdays and Fridays @ 11:45 am. Meals are prepared by our in-house cook. Please call at least 48 hours in advance to reserve a lunch or come in and sign up. DINE IN for \$5.00 and TAKE OUT for \$6.00. (suggested donation)

Weekly Activities:
Mondays and Fridays @ 10:00 am – Cribbage
Tuesdays @ 9:15am – Strength & Balance w/ Donna Freeland – Cost \$3.00 per class
Wednesdays @ 9:15am – Chair Yoga w/ Heidi Gambaccini – Cost \$3.00 per class
Tuesdays and Wednesday @ 10:15 am - Needleworkers (Knitting, Crocheting,

Monthly Activities:
Let’s Talk Oxford History – 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 1pm - Sponsored by the Oxford Historical Commission
Men’s Coffee Group – 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 10:30am – coffee and pastry are served.
Tri-Valley Inc. Options Counseling - 3rd Tuesday of each month from 12:30pm – 2:00pm. By appointment.
Book Club – 1st Friday of each month @ 12:45pm – reserve your book from the Oxford Public Library
Movie Matinee – 2nd Friday of each month @12:45pm– December movie- “The Family Man”
BEANO – 4th Friday of each month @ 12:45pm – arrive by 12:30pm to purchase your BEANO sheets.

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS AT THE DUDLEY SENIOR CENTER

Dec. 4: the Dudley Senior Center will be celebrating December birthdays with cake and ice cream after the Tri Valley lunch.
Dec. 10: Brown Bag Lunch at noon with your choice of ham or turkey breast. The cost is \$4 per person. Please RSVP and tell us your food selection by calling 508-949-8015 or sign up in the Dudley Senior Center.
Dec. 11: Blood Pressure Clinic starting at 11 a.m. Please stop by and have Cheryl check your blood pressure.
Dec. 18: Potluck lunch combined with Memory Café from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come and enjoy all your favorite Holiday Songs with Christmas Karaoke. We will be serving roast pork, mashed potatoes, carrots, peas and dessert. The cost is \$5 per person. Please RSVP for this

event by calling 508-949-8015 or sign up in the Dudley Senior Center.

Monthly activities at Dudley Senior Center:
Tuesdays at 1 p.m. – Pitch League

Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. – The Dudley Senior Center Knitters

Tri Valley lunches served Monday and Thursday

Ask about our Book Club!

The Senior Center will be closed Dec. 24 and 25.

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

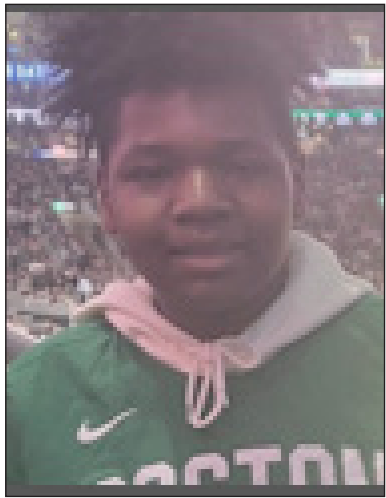
WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests from Nov. 9-22.
Albert Manuel Burgo, Jr., age 39, of Putnam, Conn. was arrested on Nov. 9 for Possession of a Class B Drug (subsequent offense) and in connection with a warrant.
Julie Ann Karłowicz, age 31, of Dudley was arrested on Nov. 9 in connection with a warrant.
A 49-year-old male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Nov. 12 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member, Resisting Arrest, and Strangulation or Suffocation.
Xian Bruno, age 32, of Dudley was arrested on Nov. 15 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and a Marked Lanes Violation.
Ronald Paul Tourville, age 59, of Keene was arrested on Nov. 15 for being a Fugitive From Justice on a Court Warrant.
Two juveniles, both aged 16, was arrested on Nov. 15 for Disturbing the Peace, Vandalization of Property, Disorderly Conduct, and Conspiracy. A third juvenile, age 17, was arrested during the same incident for Disturbing the Peace, Disorderly Conduct, Vandalization of Property, Resisting Arrest, Affray, Assault & Battery on a Police Officer, Assault & Battery on a Police Officer resulting in Serious Bodily Injury, Assault & Battery, Conspiracy, and Assault & Battery while Attempting to Disarm a Police Officer.
Christopher M. Orszulak, age 41, of Danielson, Conn. was arrested on Nov. 17 in connection with a warrant.

FCC Oxford hosting Christmas Tea Dec. 6

OXFORD — The First Congregational Church of Oxford invites the community to its annual Christmas Tea Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
The luncheon begins at 10:30 a.m., featuring a menu that includes cream of broccoli soup, Autumn bisque, baked apple French salad with syrup (lactose free), French meat pie with gravy, chicken salad sandwiches with chips and pickles, and roasted vegetable Quinoa with feta cheese (gluten free), along with assorted teas and desserts served all day.
The church is located at 355 Main St., Oxford.

www.Stonebridge Press.com

Friday’s Child



Christopher
Age 16
Registration #8213

Christopher (“Chris”) is an energetic, sweet, and lovable young person with a big personality and a heart to match. He’s known for his quick wit, sense of humor, and perfectly timed one-liners that always make the people around him laugh. Chris has a playful, sassy side and brings lighthearted energy wherever he goes. Chris loves being active and outdoors—whether it’s swimming, shooting hoops, or tossing a football, he’s always ready for a game. He enjoys trying new activities and thrives when he’s part of a team. When it’s time to relax, Chris can often be found playing video games or diving into a good book. He especially enjoys sports-themed stories and graphic novels, which combine his love for adventure and creativity. Those who know Chris describe him as kind, thoughtful, and full of life. He’s a caring friend who enjoys connecting with others, sharing laughs, and showing his genuine personality. With his curiosity, humor, and warm spirit, Chris brightens any room he walks into and brings a smile to everyone he meets
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The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with. To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org . Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.



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Webster Lake - 53 Colonial Rd



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Girls on the Run Worcester County celebrates coach for 10 seasons of impactful service



Jennifer Bolt

WORCESTER — Girls on the Run Worcester County, a nonprofit that empowers young girls, is proud to recognize volunteer coach Jennifer Bolt for achieving the incredible milestone of 10 seasons of service with the organization. Jennifer Bolt has made a long-term impact on the lives of more than 232 girls through her consistent dedication, compassion, and belief in the power of positive mentorship.

Girls on the Run inspires girls in grades 3 to 8 to be joyful, healthy, and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum that creatively integrates running. In addition to preparing participants for a celebratory 5K at the end of each season, the program equips them with life skills that last. Local volunteer coaches, like Jennifer, are at the heart of this work, leading teams through lessons that combine fun physical activity with vital

social-emotional development. Bolt first became involved with Girls on the Run in 2018.

In her words, “I love GOTR so much, and I’m so happy to be part of such an important program that helps girls shine!”

She is consistently bringing energy, compassion, and a commitment to every participant’s growth. Combined with the organization’s evidence-based curriculum, Girls on the Run coaches help meet today’s girls’ mental and physical needs. With an increase in girls reporting greater levels of sadness and depression, encouraging role models who consistently show up like Jennifer are critical in preparing girls for adolescence and beyond.

Program Director Katie Esposito praised Bolt for her enduring contributions, saying, “Her dedication has become a shining example of what it looks like to live out the GOTR mission every single day. Jen embodies the heart of this program. Through her dedication, she has created a space where girls feel supported, empowered, and inspired to reach their full potential. She is an Adjustment Counselor who understands the importance of girl only programming. By showing up consistently, Jen not only encourages girls to believe in themselves, but also helps shape a culture of empowerment and commu-

nity at the school. Leaders like her embody the very essence of programs that aim to inspire and support young women.”

As the organization expands, remarkable role models like Jennifer are essential to ensuring the program reaches girls when they need it most. Girls on the Run Worcester County is always looking for caring and enthusiastic individuals to join its roster of coaches and help the next generation pursue their dreams. In a recent post-season experience survey of coaches, 97 percent felt Girls on the Run had been a valuable experience for them, 98 percent formed positive relationships with the participants on their team, and 95 percent felt that they were making a difference in participants’ lives. In a separate research study, coaches reported that coaching a Girls on the Run team helped them build community connections, enhance their own social-emotional skills, strengthen their professional skills, and gain more confidence.

Visit www.gotr-worc.org for more information about Girls on the Run Worcester County and how to get involved.

About Girls on the Run Worcester County

Girls on the Run (GOTR) Worcester County offers after-school empowerment programs designed for girls in grades 3 through 8. The nonprofit helps girls in Worcester County build confidence,

increase their level of physical activity, and learn essential life skills. Facilitated by trained volunteer coaches, the research-based curriculum explores core topics relevant to 8- to 13-year-olds, including managing emotions,

expressing empathy, and standing up for ourselves and others. The program includes a Community Impact Project and culminates with a 5K Celebration. GOTR Worcester County is one of more than 160 councils a part of Girls on the

Run International (GOTRI). Since GOTR was founded in 1996, this national movement has served more than 2.5 million girls in all 50 states and Canada. Visit www.gotr-worc.org to learn more.

All Saints students join in World Diabetes Day



WEBSTER — In honor of All Saints Academy students living with Type 1 diabetes, the entire school community joined together on World Diabetes Day to learn more about the condition and show their support. Through engaging videos, food comparisons, and hands-on lessons, students explored how the body uses energy from food to play, learn, and grow.

During the lessons, students discovered that people with Type 1 diabetes are unable to fuel their bodies properly because their pancreas does

not produce insulin. Insulin acts like a key, unlocking the door that allows energy from food to enter the body’s cells. Without it, sugar remains in the bloodstream instead of reaching the places where it is needed, which can make a person with diabetes very sick. These activities gave students a clearer understanding of why individuals with diabetes check their blood sugar, take insulin, and use medical devices. Most importantly, they learned that kids with diabetes can do everything their peers can do. To cap off the day, students

created blue backpack rings to hang on their backpacks as a symbol of solidarity with everyone living with diabetes—especially their fellow ASA classmates. The circular shape represents life, health, and unity, while the blue mirrors both the sky that connects all people and the color of the United Nations flag.

The event aimed to raise awareness and foster a supportive, informed, and inclusive school environment—one where every student feels understood and empowered.

Master Masons do it again!



Courtesy

Major General Salem Towne Lodge booth with members working hard to accommodate these tasty treats to people waiting in line, who attended the busy event on the Southbridge town common.

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SOUTHBRIDGE — Saturday night, Nov. 29 was a beautiful, cold, clear night for the Christmas Tree lighting festivities on the Southbridge Town Common. The Major General Salem Towne Lodge (MGST) Community Outreach Program has taken part in this annual event for approximately five years.

The smell in the air of kettle corn cooking stopped people in their tracks and kept them waiting in line. To see the smiles on the children’s faces as they tell their parents what they wanted, hot dogs, fried dough, deep fried Oreos, or kettle corn. There were all kinds of vendors selling Christmas items, like ornaments that light up that they could wear around their necks or heads. Christmas music played from the Gazebo in the town common. Vendors sell hot chocolate and cookies. Even had two white Lamas on display from the Orchid Patch/Andes Alive organization. Santa and Mrs. Claus were seated taking pictures in the Gazebo on the common. When the parade started, and Santa came by, the line to purchase these tasty treats that MGST Lodge was selling was still long while many adults and children watched the parade go by. The common was lit up with Christmas lights and decorations of all kinds. Many commented on the cold and were grateful to the Master Masons for returning to offer delicious treats.

The Master Masons will continue to carry out this tradition with the community at the Christmas Tree lighting event. For further information regarding Freemasonry or to locate a lodge in your area, please visit our Web site at www.massfreemasonry.org.