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# BLACKSTONE VALLEY TRIBUNE

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Friday, December 12, 2025

## Leadership transition at Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce’s Women’s Success Network

WHITINSVILLE — The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce (BVCC) today announced a key leadership transition within one of its most robust and influential groups, the Women’s Success Network (WSN).

The BVCC expresses its gratitude for the dedicated service of outgoing Chairwoman, Alise Breton, and welcomes Lynn Whitney Turner as the incoming Chair. Alise Breton, Vice President, Retail Director at Millbury Credit Union, has successfully led the Women’s Success Network as Chairperson for the past three years, overseeing significant growth and impactful programming. While stepping down from the Chair position, Ms. Breton will maintain her commitment to the network by continuing to serve as a valuable member of the WSN Executive Committee.

Jeannie Hebert, President & CEO of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce, shared her appreciation, commenting, “Alise is a leader who dove right in and brought the WSN to new levels of service and created new

Turn To TRANSITION page A9



Courtesy

Northbridge Town Manager Adam Gaudette visited Plummer Place’s Dull Men’s Group this week and gave a comprehensive overview on the happenings in and around town. It was a terrific morning of shared conversations, the history of the town, current projects, and a thorough look into town government. Northbridge’s Dull Men’s Group was formed in 2022 and was the 9th in the state. The Dull Men’s Group is always looking for new members! The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 23 at 9:30 a.m., and their guest speaker will be Vin Femia presenting on the New England Patriots. Pop in and join them!

## Community Breakfast receives Unibank matching grant

WHITINSVILLE — The John 21 Community Breakfast has received a substantial matching grant from Unibank. St. Patrick’s Church, Whitinsville has offered a free hot breakfast on Saturday mornings through the John 21 Community Breakfast Ministry for more than ten years. The program has served over 50,000 meals during that time to any-

one who walks through the doors, including those from neighboring towns. Some patrons take their meals home, some choose to stay and have their meal in the parish hall where they can socialize with others, while others bring meals to the shut-in community. The program has endured through support from fellow Churches, generous contributions from

caring individual supporters/local companies, and product/food donations from local businesses. 100% of the contributions are used for supplies and to sustain this important ministry. Any donations made during December will be matched by UniBank. Contributions can be made by mailing a check payable to John 21 Community Breakfast

to St. Patrick’s Church, 7 East Street, Whitinsville MA 01588 or electronically through <https://mystpatricks.com>

Please consider supporting the John 21 Community Breakfast during this season of giving. Many donations can be used as a tax deduction. If you have any questions, call the rectory at 508-234-5656.

## Re-create an iconic piece of art at Runaway Day

WHITINSVILLE — The Massachusetts State Police Museum & Learning Center invites the community to its annual Runaway Day, a celebration of Norman Rockwell’s famous painting “The Runaway,” depicting a lunch counter scene of a police officer befriendng a young boy intent on running away from home.

This Saturday, Dec. 13, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., come meet Ed Locke, the real “Runaway.” Bring your camera and create a cherished family photo using our life-sized mockup of the famous diner counter. Bring along your own police in uniform, or use ours! Admission is free, and

Turn To ART page A9

## Whitinsville Christian School welcomes the Christmas season

WHITINSVILLE — Christmas is a special time at Whitinsville Christian School. From the concerts to the Christmas card design contest, stu-

dents are using their excitement and talents to welcome the season. On Friday evening, WCS hosted its annual Christmas concert. Middle and high

school bands, choirs, and orchestras played a mix of traditional and contemporary Christmas carols and hymns. Directors Derek Wielsma and Zach

Surapine thanked the families and the school administration for their commitment to the arts at WCS. WCS is also grateful for Valley Chapel’s hosting of

the concert. On Saturday, several orchestra members joined an elementary choir to perform at the Festival of Trees in support of the Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter. “What a great day!” said elementary music teacher, Shannon May. “Our Strings students were sensational under the direction of Zach (Surapine)

and Tammy (Kaye, Strings instructor). I’m thankful to Laurie VanderBaan, our accompanist. Our Christmas Choral students did a terrific job.” This week, the school also hosted a tree lighting event and elementary students performed “Christmas County Spelling Bee.” Special spirit days and chapels will also celebrate the season.





### Holidays make for early deadlines

The submission deadlines for our Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 editions will fall a bit earlier than usual in order to ensure that the paper arrives in subscribers’ mail boxes prior to the Christmas and New Year’s holidays.

Any press releases or letters to the Editor intended for publication the week of Dec. 26 should be submitted no later than 4 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 18.

For the week of Jan. 2, the submission deadline will be Friday, Dec. 26 at 4 p.m.

Submissions can be e-mailed to [news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news).



# Giving thanks, giving back: A Thanksgiving tradition at Saint Joseph School

WEBSTER — As Saint Joseph School students, faculty, and staff began the holiday week, they gathered in prayer for the school’s annual Thanksgiving Prayer Service—an opportunity to thank God for the many blessings of the past year while also remembering neighbors in need. Organized by Religion Instructor, Sr. Mary Ann Papiez and the Grade 6 students, the service reminded everyone that gratitude is more than a feeling; it is an invitation to respond with generosity, compassion, and love.

A cherished part of this tradition is Saint Joseph School’s ongoing support of the Webster-Dudley Food Share. Each year, the school community unites around the belief that no family should face the

holidays without the basic necessities—and that even the smallest contributions, offered with great love, can make a meaningful difference.

In the days leading up to the prayer service, students participated in the Spare Change, Big Hearts! Thanksgiving Coin Drive. Families were invited to send in spare change from home, and students were encouraged to “do good to give good” by completing kind deeds and helpful chores—serving siblings, assisting parents/guardians, and finding simple ways to bring joy to others. Through this effort, students learned that generosity begins in the heart and grows through everyday acts of service.

During the Prayer Service offertory, rep-



Courtesy

Saint Joseph School Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Alicia Maurer assists student Sadie Dejordy as she carries the kindergarten class’s jar of “spare change” to the offertory during the Annual Thanksgiving Prayer Service. The donations were collected during the school’s “Spare Change, Big Hearts!” Thanksgiving Coin Drive supporting the Webster-Dudley Food Share.



## ARTHRITIS?

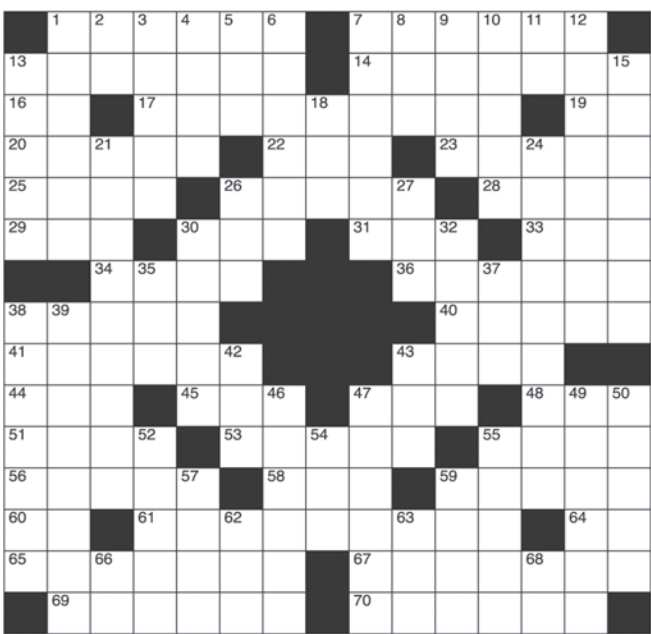
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### CLUES ACROSS

1. Spiritual leaders

7. A type of solution

13. Fortified wine

14. Edible mollusk

16. They precede C

17. A way to compare

19. Government lawyer

20. “Game of Thrones” actor Ciaran

22. The eighth month (abbr.)

23. Very willing

25. \_\_\_ ex Machina

26. Makes happy

28. Type of berry

29. A doctrine

30. Popular Dodge truck model

31. Dekagram

33. Naturally occurring solid

34. Company officer

36. Villains

38. Cricket frogs
40. Influential German psychologist

41. Endured

43. A female domestic

44. You can get stuck in one

45. Cigarette (slang)

47. Fiber optics network

48. Group of blood disorders (abbr.)

51. Employee stock ownership plan

53. Belonging to the bottom layer

55. Sound

56. MLB legend Hank

58. Very attractive person

59. Late beloved sportscaster Craig

60. South Dakota

61. Mocking

64. Symbol for gold

65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio

67. Humor

69. Shawl

70. Preliminary patient assessment

### CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease

2. Commercial

3. Necklace material

4. Containers

5. A way to save for your future

6. Colorado Heisman winner Rashaan

7. Dipped down

8. Head injury (abbr.)

9. Lay about

10. Intestinal

11. Opposite of yes

12. Caused to be loved

13. Spiritual leader of Islam

15. Businesslike

18. Not in

21. Number above the line in a fraction

24. An animal with its own day

26. Pouch

27. Swedish krona

30. Start over

32. Field flowers
35. Fourteen

37. A visual way to interact with a computer

38. Up-to-date

39. Campaigns

42. Touch lightly

43. “Boardwalk Empire” actress Gretchen

46. Violent seizure of property

47. Supporter of the Pope

49. Anxiety

50. Body fluid

52. One who’s faking it

54. Title of respect

55. Chilean city

57. City in central Japan

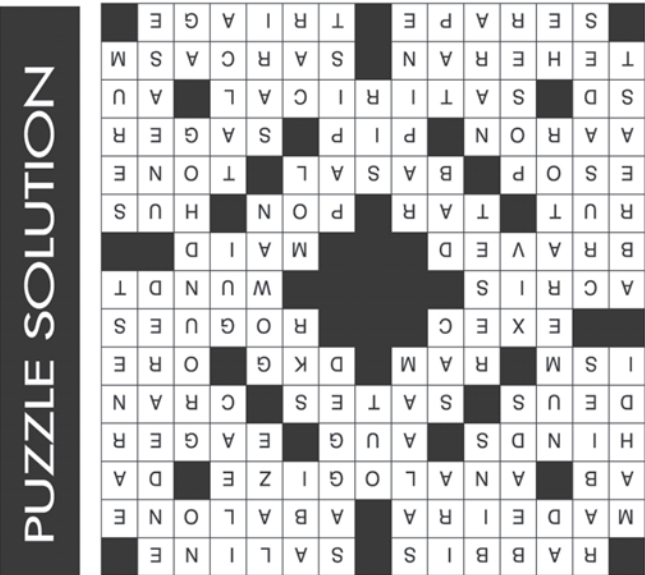
59. Silk garment

62. A form of dance

63. Automobile

66. The man

68. Justice Dept. head honcho



**JACK WALKER REALTOR**

“Twas the night before Christmas  
And all through the house  
Not a prospect was stirring,  
Not even a mouse.

A sign on our home  
We had written with care,  
In hopes that a buyer  
Soon would be there.

The children were nestled  
All snug in their beds,  
The fact we were selling  
Was not in their heads.

Ma in her kerchief  
And I in my cap,  
Decided that buyers  
Were dreams in a nap.

Then there was a knock  
And our hearts took a soar  
JACK WALKER, REALTOR  
Walked in through the door.

HIS talk was assuring,  
He knew what he was about,  
And he listed our home  
Before he went out.

We can happily say  
He brought ‘round a prospect  
The very next day.

He sold them our home,  
To our family’s delight,  
On terms that were fair  
And a price that was right.

Then I heard him exclaim  
As he drove out of sight,  
MERRY CHRISTMAS to all,  
And to all a good night.

**508-234-8029**

representatives from each class—from PreK-3 through Grade 8—processed forward to present containers filled with the spare change they had collected throughout the week. The sight of students of all ages bringing forward their gifts was both moving and joyful, a powerful reminder that everyone has something to give and that they are strongest when they act together as one school family.

Adding to the excitement was the class challenge: the class that collected the most spare change earned a fun celebration of ice cream sundaes and extra recess with Assistant Principal, Mr. Richard Skrocki. Congratulations to the Saint Joseph School Kindergarten class for collecting the most “spare” change – contributing \$399.84 to the overall school total of \$1,937.96. While the students certainly enjoyed the friendly competition, the lasting message was clear—their gifts are most meaningful when they offer to help others.

Saint Joseph School is grateful to every family that supported this initiative and helped make this tradition possible. Through the leadership of Sr. Mary Ann Papiez and the Grade 6 students, this year’s Thanksgiving Prayer Service beautifully reflected the mission of Saint Joseph School, and the Gospel values the students strive to live each day. It is a reminder that as they enter the holiday season and prepare their hearts for Advent, they do so with renewed gratitude for God’s blessings—and a deeper commitment to share His love with others, especially those most in need.

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# Worcester County Sheriff’s Office warms communities with annual winter coat distribution

REGION — Throughout November, Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and staff from the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office visited Webster Dudley Food Share (Webster), Reconciliation House (Webster), Tradewinds Clubhouse (Southbridge), House of Destiny (Southbridge), the Milford Police Department (Milford), and several other local nonprofits to deliver hundreds of brand-new winter coats for community members in need.

These Southern Worcester County visits were part of the Sheriff’s Office Annual Winter Coat Drive, which included more than thirty stops county-wide. The Sheriff’s Office distributed 4,000 winter jackets during November. All jackets were purchased by the Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff’s Association, a nonprofit that raises funds year-round to support the coat drive and other community-focused programs.

“Many of our residents have little social support and are working to regain stability. The Sheriff’s winter coat drive not only meets a practical need for warm coats but also shows them community support they often don’t expect, and it is deeply appreci-



Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and Staff from the WCSO Webster Regional Resource Center pose for a photo with AJ Alkire, Webster Dudley Food Share Director.

ated,” commented Jose Vazquez, House Director at Reconciliation House, Inc.

“We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Sheriff’s Department for their generous donation of winter coats to the Tradewinds Clubhouse,” commented Christine Regan, Clubhouse Director. “This act of kindness made a meaningful impact on our

members, many of whom expressed relief and gratitude knowing they will be warm and prepared for the colder months ahead. Moments like this strengthen the sense of belonging and dignity that is central to the Clubhouse model.”

“Handing out these coats each year is truly a joy,” said Sheriff Evangelidis. “They represent far more than a warm layer for winter. They reflect a com-

munity and law enforcement organization that cares. The individuals who receive these jackets are always grateful, and this drive gives our department a special opportunity to connect with the communities we serve.”

This year’s initiative was made possible thanks to the generosity of many commu-

nity partners, including Saint Francis Community Health Care, The Gun Parlor, Mercadante Funeral Home, Cliff & Susan Rucker Foundation,

The Krock Family & Commerce Associates, CareOne at Millbury, The Overlook, Diamond Auto Group, KAL Construction & Remodeling, Chop Chop Convenience, Falcone Enterprises, NEPBA Local 550 Worcester County Correction Officers, Pat’s Service Center, Quality Companies, Rockland Trust Bank, and Pam Massad in memory of ‘Duddie’ and Bette Massad, along with numerous additional supporters.

“The level of support we receive each year is remarkable,” added Sheriff Evangelidis. “Every contribution directly helps make our communities stronger and safer.”

Beyond their stops in South County, Sheriff Evangelidis and his team delivered coats to nonprofits in the greater Worcester area and Northern Worcester County, ensuring residents across the region have access to warm winter apparel as the cold weather approaches.

Courtesy

## DA urges participation in 24th Annual Worcester County Gun Buyback Program

WORCESTER — Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. is urging participation in the 24th annual Guns to Gardens program, an opportunity for members of the community to turn in unwanted firearms at participating police departments on Saturday, Dec. 13.

Since the program’s start in the City of Worcester in 2002, more than 4,000 guns have been voluntarily turned in across the county. This annual program encourages participants from all of Worcester County to turn in firearms at participating police department headquarters in Charlton, Fitchburg, Northborough, Milford, Worcester, or City Welding & Fabrication, 10 Arant St., Worcester.

Anyone who turns in an operable firearm will receive a gift card in exchange (\$50 for a rifle, \$100 for a pistol, and \$150 for an automatic or semi-automatic weapon). Free gun locks are also available, even if you are not turning in a firearm.

“By getting unwanted and unsecured firearms out of the house and safely disposed of, we can help prevent accidental tragedies, theft or misuse. This not only helps reduce gun-related tragedies and save lives, but also avoid the high costs of medically treating gunshot victims,” said District Attorney Early. “I commend Worcester Division of Public Health Medical Director

Dr. Michael Hirsh, who started this program, and all our local police departments for their continued efforts to advocate for gun safety and protect our communities.”

“Every gun that we can get out of homes that are not safely secured or not in an environment where it is safe to keep them at home is a win for a peaceful holiday season in the Woo,” said Dr. Hirsh.

As in the past, Mr. Early will relax law enforcement of the law prohibiting the carrying

of firearms for those participating in the program. Participants may bring firearms without any registration requirement, and anonymity is guaranteed for everyone. All weapons should be brought unloaded and wrapped up or in a bag. Replica guns and ammunition will also be accepted. Ammunition should be separately bagged. Residents are reminded to treat all firearms as though they are loaded and dangerous.

Participants can watch their weapons be destroyed at the City Welding & Fabrication location. In recent years, these destroyed firearms have been turned into garden tools to be used in the UMass community garden, which is maintained by members of the UMass community and produces fresh produce that is donated to those in need.

Guns to Gardens is sponsored by the Worcester County District Attorney’s Office, UMass Memorial Medical Group, the City of Worcester, the Worcester Police Department, and the Worcester Department of Public Health.

Firearms can be turned in at the following locations during the specific hours:

- Charlton Police Department from 10 a.m. to noon
- Fitchburg Police Department from 10 a.m. to noon
- Milford Police Department from 10 a.m. to noon
- Northborough Police Department from 10 a.m. to noon
- Worcester Police Department from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Worcester City Welding & Fabrication (10 Arant St., Worcester) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Community invited to free Christmas dinner at Blackstone Valley UMC

WHITINSVILLE — Parishioners and volunteers from the Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church would like to cordially invite everyone to our Free Community Christmas Dinner, including the usual holiday meal favorites, roast turkey, potatoes, vegetables, squash, stuffing, cranberry sauce and dessert.

This year’s meal will be served on Thursday, Dec. 25, from noon to 2 p.m. in the Blackstone Valley United Methodist Faith Hall at, 61 Linwood Ave., Whitinsville. Parking is available behind the church accessible from Church Street.

The dinner is open to everyone free of charge. Please come join us for a joyous Christmas celebration that will include holiday fun, food, and fellowship with many from the community.

For more information, call the church office at 508-234-2275.



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## PET of the WEEK



**MEET Chief**

Wooooo Weeeooo Weeeooooooo.

This is the Chief – patching in on the radio with a public service announcement regarding finding my forever home. Spread the word far and wide, because even if you aren't my forever home, you may connect with someone who is.

My biggest fear is not finding people that will accept me for me. Think about how that must feel? Like I'm never enough in some way because I need to be better or I need to change. I'm really a simple guy once you get to know me and let me be myself. I want a simple life, but I need people who want that for me too.

Copy that?

I'm sure the folks here at Yankee will tell you more if you want to talk to them about me. But for now, I'll be signing off.

Chief, over and out.

\*\*This is a courtesy posting for Yankee Golden Retriever Rescue. Please contact them directly! <https://ygrn.org/profile/chief/> \*\*

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EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Winter puts added strain on local emergency services

As December settles into the Blackstone Valley, the familiar rhythm of the season returns: plow trucks warming up before dawn, salt piles shrinking by the week, and residents preparing for the unpredictability of New England winter. For our region’s emergency services—fire, police, and EMS—the cold months represent not only a shift in weather, but a significant rise in workload.

Winter conditions routinely amplify the demands placed on first responders. Slick roads mean more motor vehicle crashes, many occurring in the early morning hours before highways and back roads are fully treated. Even at low speeds, black ice remains one of the most dangerous hazards drivers face, and departments across the Valley consistently urge caution as temperatures drop below freezing.

Winter also brings a notable increase in structure fires. Space heaters, outdated furnaces, fireplaces, and overloaded electrical outlets are all common contributors. The Massachusetts Department of Fire Services reports that heating is one of the leading causes of home fires statewide during the winter months. Local fire departments, most of which rely heavily on call and per-diem firefighters, must respond to these incidents while also managing weather-related medical emergencies, including hypothermia, slips and falls, and carbon monoxide exposures.

Emergency medical crews face their own seasonal challenges. Snowbanks and icy driveways can slow response times, even when personnel move as quickly as conditions allow. Ambulance access becomes a concern in narrow or steep neighborhoods, and the strain of respiratory illness season—flu, RSV, and COVID-19—further increases the volume of calls. For departments already working with limited staffing pools, the winter surge can be felt immediately.

Local police departments experience parallel pressures. Officers respond to weather-related crashes, stranded motorists, and welfare checks for residents who may be at risk during prolonged cold spells. These calls, while routine, require time, coordination, and care. On the busiest storm days, the pace does not let up.

None of these realities are new to any of us, but they serve as an annual reminder: the resilience of our emergency services depends not only on their training and preparedness, but also on cooperation from the public. Clearing walkways, keeping hydrants accessible, ensuring house numbers are visible, using heating equipment safely, and avoiding unnecessary travel during storms all contribute directly to faster and safer emergency responses.

The people who staff our fire stations, police departments, and EMS units are accustomed to performing under pressure. Yet winter tests even the best-prepared teams. When the first significant storms of the season arrive—as they soon will—the readiness of our communities will matter as much as the readiness of those who answer 911 calls.

Supporting our emergency services means more than gratitude. It means taking reasonable precautions, staying informed, and recognizing that winter safety is a shared responsibility. If we do our part, we make it possible for our local responders to do theirs—and to do it safely, efficiently, and with the professionalism this region has always relied on.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Do you pray?

To the Editor:  
Do you pray? Do you pray knowing the answer may not come right away or ever? Do you pray anyway?

During intense tough times, sometimes praying is the only thing you can do. It may be the best time to pray as it brings you close to God.

Why, after a terrible attack by a severely mentally ill person on a Catholic school in Minnesota, did leftists, Communists, and progressives attack prayer? If people engage in prayer after the horrific assassination of Charlie Kirk, why does the Left mock those who pray?

If Christians pray, what business is it of the socialists or Communists? It is none of their business. Yet prayer somehow enrages the Left. Can it be that the Satanic Left is, well, Satanic?

Jesus said “people will hate you because of me.” He said it 2,000 years ago. In John 15:18-25, Jesus said, “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first... If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also... They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me.”

Do you sometimes hear people curse using the name of Jesus Christ? A year ago, in a Vermont bagel shop, while on vacation, I stood waiting to pay. The new cashier grew frustrated with her own slow learning. She repeatedly cursed, exclaiming the name of Jesus Christ. I finally begged, “Please, find a different curse word! Are you calling on Jesus for help? Or are you cursing Him? Maybe you would rather not do that?”

She was very chastened. So was I. Dare I speak the truth like that? Frankly, I am weary of people feeling they can curse using the name of Jesus. Would they do the same with Mohammed? No. Because it has no power.

My very witty friend has a humorous way of dealing with people who curse using the Name of Jesus. She says: “Where?! Where?!” And sends the message home.

Elle Purnell, in The Federalist, described the reaction of so-called Progressives after the shooting at a Catholic school in Minnesota, killing two children. They found the culprit and the culprit was prayer. Here are some comments:

Jen Psaki, Biden’s White House press secretary: “Prayer is not freaking enough!” CNN anchor Dana Bash said: “Forget about thoughts and prayers!”

Purnell said: “Every Christian who has

ever experienced suffering has wrestled with the question of why God does not prevent every tragedy...But it’s quite another thing to mock and belittle the prayers offered by students at the Annunciation Catholic School or the prayers offered by loved ones and strangers mourning the tragedy. Such mockery betrays an arrogant misunderstanding about not just the power but the purpose of prayer.”

She explained: “The primary purpose of prayer is not to have your desires, however good they may be, granted...Rather, prayer exists to sanctify us, to give us opportunities to have our faith strengthened...to remind us of our reliance on Him, and to bring Him glory.”

Ms. Purnell wrote: Those who “mock the earnest prayers of Christians reveal their own ignorance and selfishness...At its most charitable interpretation, their ridicule admits a transactional view of God, one in which they take it upon themselves to decide whether His provisions are sufficient. At worst, it echoes the mockery of crowds who looked upon the crucified Christ:

“...those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads, saying, “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”

Contrast that reaction with that of the Canaanite woman in Matthew 15. Charles Spurgeon used it for an 1861 sermon on prayer. She begged Jesus to heal her daughter, “but He answered her not a word.” Rather than take offense at His silence, she continued to kneel before Him. If you read The Bible, you know the end of the story. Spurgeon used Jesus’s initial non-answer to encourage Christians who feel their prayers have been ignored. He reminded them that Christ has proven His love and compassion. Spurgeon wrote:

“How canst thou think so wickedly of him as to suppose that he, who once died, the Just for the unjust, has an adamantine [hard] heart, and no compassion?”

How do you swear and curse? How canst thou think so wickedly of Him?

BEV GUDANOWSKI  
UXBRIDGE

*P.S.: Thank you kindly to readers of my letters who sent me notes of encouragement and support or who stopped me in the supermarket to chat about the state of politics. You made my day, and I humbly thank you.*

You voted for this?

To the Editor:  
The new Trump Pledge of Allegiance: “... one nation, under fraud, clearly visible, with bribery and corruption for all!”

So, you voted for higher food prices? Higher energy costs? Higher health costs? To cut off millions of hungry children and underprivileged adults from access to food? To throw millions of poor people off health care? Higher unemployment numbers and job layoffs?

So, you voted to blow people up on the high seas for ‘suspected’ drug running, without due process and in violation of international laws? All while Trump pardoned the former president of Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernández, who was convicted of moving 400 tons of cocaine into America.

So, you voted for an aristocracy of billionaires who acquired their positions of power thru graft and flattery and whose only purpose is continued self-enrichment? Somehow, they have convinced you that we can’t afford universal health care, or anything else that improves our lives, yet we can afford to give Argentina \$40 billion, to build a garish ballroom at the White House, and afford \$1 million to refurbish a plane gifted to Trump by Qatar, and to give the rich a tax cut that is the largest transfer of wealth in the American history.

So, you voted for Trump using Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff, two people with no negotiating bona fides, to negotiate ‘peace’ deals in the Middle East and Russia, that turn out to be business deals that enrich the Trump family, and sell Palestine and Ukraine down the river.

So, you voted for a convicted felon, an adjudicated rapist, an accused pedophile, a malignant narcissist, a megalomaniac, a sociopath, and compulsive liar? Because?

So, you voted for, in the words of William Smith, “the festering carcass of American rot shoved into an ill-fitting suit: the sleaze of a conman, the cowardice of a draft dodger, the gluttony of a parasite, the racism of a Klansman, the sexism of a back-alley creep,

the ignorance of a bar-stool drunk, and the greed of a hedge-fund ghoul—all spray-painted orange and paraded like a prize hog at a county fair. Not a president. Not even a man. Just the diseased distillation of everything this country swears it isn’t but has always been—arrogance dressed up as exceptionalism, stupidity passed off as common sense, cruelty sold as toughness, greed exalted as ambition, and corruption worshiped like gospel. It is America’s shadow made flesh, a rotting pumpkin idol proving that when a nation kneels before money, power, and spite, it doesn’t just lose its soul—it vomits out this bloated obscenity and calls it a leader.”

Why am I not surprised? You proudly wear a red hat that symbolizes the pestilential return of fascism. You haughtily fly a flag displaying the name of a malicious dictator who is totally lacking in anything close to empathy, honor, or integrity.

You align with the super wealthy in the belief that merit and ability take a back seat to avarice and inherited riches. Do you even notice the mockery of good governance being rendered by RFK Jr., Kash Patel, Pam Bondi, Tulsi Gabbard, Linda McMahon, Kristi Noem, and 22-year-old Thomas Fugate, who was appointed to lead the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships! The Trump administration has de-prioritized counter-terrorism and domestic extremism prevention efforts, to focus on deporting immigrants. Because in your blood lust, that’s more important than ensuring that you are safe at home.

Can you name one thing, one bill passed, that Republicans have done to improve your life? Why are red/Republican states statistically the worst places to live in America?

You have made the least worthy the new aristocracy. You have elevated the lowest, most vile, life form on the planet to the most powerful force in the known universe.

Yes, you did this.

RICK BEVILACQUA  
WHITTINSVILLE

Lanterns Along Main Street

The first real snow of winter always seems to arrive with a lesson attached. It is rarely the deep, postcard snow that shows up on calendars and greeting cards. More often, it is the practical kind. The kind that needs shoveling. The kind that turns a five-minute errand into a twenty-minute production. The kind that reminds us, gently but firmly,

that winter is no longer theoretical. In small Massachusetts towns, that first snowfall sets off a familiar chain reaction. Plow trucks rumble through neighborhoods long before dawn, their orange lights blinking patiently as they inch along narrow streets. Driveways develop neat piles at the ends just after you finish clearing them. Sidewalks become unofficial obstacle courses, with patches of careful walking between the salt.

It is easy to grumble about all of this. Most of us do, at least once. But alongside the annoyance, there is a quieter awareness that kicks in this time of year. A sense that things are happening as they are supposed to.

Snow brings out the unspoken systems that keep a town functioning. Someone is already awake, clearing roads before most people have hit the snooze button. Someone else is scraping the town hall steps. Somewhere, a contractor is answering a call about a furnace that chose the wrong night to quit. None of these tasks come with applause, but they matter more than most of what we talk about on a regular basis.

I’ve noticed that winter has a way of slowing conversations down, too. People linger a little longer at the post office counter. A neighbor checks in across the driveway, shovel paused mid-task. Even brief exchanges seem more intentional when the cold presses everyone closer to shared routines. We are reminded that help is often nearby, even if we do not always need it.

There is also something clarifying about snow. It erases the clutter temporarily, covering lawns, curbs, and roadside distractions in the same clean layer. Familiar places look different, not because they have changed, but because we are seeing them stripped down. A simple line of houses. A quiet town common. A road leading somewhere familiar, just softened at the edges.

For children, the first snowfall still carries a certain magic. Even now, you can feel it in the air. Will school be canceled? Will there be enough for sledding? Can snowmen be built before the sun dulls the edges? For adults, the magic may be quieter, but it has not disappeared. It shows up in the first footprints across an untouched yard, or in the sound of snow falling late at night when the world feels temporarily hushed.

Winter also sharpens our awareness of the margins. We notice which steps are icy. Which homes have lights on late. Which businesses stay open even when foot traffic slows. The season quietly reminds us that not everyone experiences it the same way. That awareness does not always translate into action, but it should at least translate into attention.

Massachusetts towns have lived with winter for a long time. The older houses were built to face it. Main streets developed ways of adapting to it long before anyone used the phrase “winter preparedness.” There is no drama in how communities respond. Just repetition, experience, and a steady sense of responsibility.

As the season settles in, snow will become less novel. The complaints will get louder. The novelty will wear thin. But beneath all of that is a structure that works because peo-



# Saint Joseph School celebrates annual Thanksgiving feast, honors retired Fire Chief

WEBSTER — On Tuesday, Nov. 25, Saint Joseph School gathered as one faith-filled family for its annual Thanksgiving Feast—one of the most cherished traditions of the school year. For the occasion, the school gymnasium was transformed into a warm and welcoming dining area, complete with two buffet lines to serve more than 300 students, faculty, staff, and guests.

Principal Mrs. Beth Boudreau opened the celebration by welcoming students, guests, and the many parent volunteers whose generosity and teamwork made the day possible. Mrs. Boudreau also offered heartfelt thanks to school chef Mr. Keith Lukasek, who spent hours preparing a delicious turkey dinner for the entire community.

The feast was made even more special by the presence of honored guests, including benefactors John and Jane Gogolinski, Dr. John Kalinowski, and Mrs. Marilyn Fels. Members of the Saint Joseph School Consultative Board were also in attendance, including Chairwoman Mrs.

Catherine Kabala and her husband Stanley, and Vice Chairperson Mr. Donald Cushing. The Parish Council was represented by Mrs. Nancy Dowgiewicz and her husband Mark, and Mrs. Gosia Kicilinski and Robert Wojcik. Co-Chairperson Krystal Kolesnik represented the SJS Home and School Association. Saint Joseph School also welcomed community safety partners from the Webster Fire Department including Chief Brian Hickey, Chief Jeffrey Saad, and several firefighters.

Following introductions, Pastor and Headmaster Fr. Richard Polek led the community in a meaningful Thanksgiving Prayer, encouraging gratitude for God’s gifts and awareness of those in need. Afterward, parent volunteers served a traditional meal of turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, and butternut squash, with 8th graders delivering plates to guests and students, exemplifying leadership and service.

After dinner, the assembly continued with a heart-

felt presentation honoring retired Fire Chief Brian Hickey for his 43 years of dedicated service to the Town of Webster. Student Council President Mychael Jones and Vice President Tenleigh Dowd expressed gratitude on behalf of the entire community, recognizing Chief Hickey’s steadfast commitment to protecting and caring for their school family.

They presented a plaque to Chief Hickey, inscribed with the following: “In grateful recognition of 43 years of dedicated service and steadfast commitment to the safety of the Saint Joseph School community. With heartfelt thanks from the students, faculty, and staff of Saint Joseph School. May God richly bless you in your retirement and always.”

The celebration concluded on a joyful note, as the Saint Joseph School Choir led the community in song with “Trading My Sorrows”—a spirited reminder of faith, gratitude, and the strength found in togetherness.



Courtesy Saint Joseph School Student Council President Mychael Jones and Vice President Tenleigh Dowd present a commemorative plaque to Retired Webster Fire Chief Brian Hickey, honoring his 43 years of dedicated service and steadfast commitment to the safety of the Saint Joseph School community.

## Real estate agents, step into 2026 With S.C.E. Real Estate

DOUGLAS — As the real estate market moves into a new year, many experienced agents find themselves reevaluating where—and how—they want to build their business. The shift is subtle but unmistakable: agents are looking for something more intentional, more personal, and more aligned with the way they want to represent themselves and their clients.

For many, the search leads them away from the noise and scale of big-box brokerages and toward something with more meaning, more connection, and more pride in the day-to-day work.

S.C.E. Real Estate has quietly become one of those places.

At its core, an elevated, independent brokerage offers something agents often don’t realize they’ve been missing: a sense of belonging. It’s the feeling of walking into an office that reflects the same care and professionalism you bring to your clients—warm, calm, refined, and welcoming. A space that supports your work and elevates the experience of everyone who walks through the door.

In an industry that moves quickly, your environment matters. Your surroundings influence the way clients perceive you and even how you perceive yourself. When a space is created with intention—thoughtful design, elevated branding, a peaceful and polished atmosphere—it naturally strengthens your confidence and presence.

That is the experience S.C.E. Real Estate has built.

Beyond the space itself, smaller, more intentional brokerages offer something that can’t be replicated in larger corpo-

rate settings: genuine connection with the brand you represent. Agents aren’t lost in a roster of hundreds. They’re seen. They’re valued. They share in the reputation of a company built on something deeply human—trust, care, and a high-touch approach to real estate.

For seasoned agents who already know how to guide their clients, this kind of environment can be transformative. It allows them to focus on the work they do best: building relationships, advising confidently, and growing a business that reflects who they are. There is less noise. Fewer layers. More room to breathe, think, and thrive.

S.C.E. Real Estate is stepping into 2026 with intentional growth, opening doors to experienced agents who feel ready for a change. The brokerage offers an elevated brand presence, along with a beautifully designed office where you can confidently host client meetings, buyer and seller consultations, or small events. Agents also gain access to refined marketing templates and resources that support their business. It’s a polished, memorable identity in a crowded industry—and the difference between feeling like a number and feeling like you’re part of something meaningful.

For agents considering a move in 2026, this is the moment to reflect on where you want to build the next chapter of your career. The right environment can reignite your motivation, elevate your confidence, and give you a place you’re genuinely proud to call your professional home.

If you’re curious or would like to explore confidentially, S.C.E. Real Estate welcomes the conversation.

Sometimes the right move isn’t about starting over—it’s simply finding the place where you can grow.

### 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.

### LANTERS

continued from page A1

ple make it work, day after cold day. The plow driver. The public works crew. The neighbor with an extra shovel. The shop owner who keeps the lights on even when the street is quiet.

Winter does not ask us to be heroic. It asks us to be steady. To show up. To do what needs doing. Our towns manage that reasonably well most years, not because of grand gestures, but because of ordinary ones repeated often.

When you hear the plow go by tonight, or step carefully across a salted sidewalk tomorrow morning, you are seeing that quiet agreement in action. It is not celebrated, but it is dependable. And in winter, dependability counts for a great deal.



# Community Connection

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# Blackstone Valley Chamber elevates Liz O’Neil to Executive Director Role



Liz O’Neil

WHITINSVILLE — The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce (BVCC) is pleased to announce the title elevation of a valued member of its leadership team, Liz O’Neil, from Director of Programming and Events to Executive Director. This promotion recognizes Liz O’Neil’s six years of dedicated service, leadership, and successful management of the Chamber’s critical operations and events.

As President & CEO of the BVCC, Jeannie Hebert remains firmly in her role, leading the organization’s strategic vision, this title elevation reflects the organization’s deliberate efforts to structure its leadership team to support its expanding mission and services to the business community.

Hebert, President and CEO of the BVCC for the past 17 years, commented on the announcement, “I am pleased to announce Liz’s well-deserved title elevation. Over the past six years at the BVCC, she

has demonstrated her ability to wear many different hats well. We are a small but mighty team here, and Liz has risen to the task, whatever it may be, to ensure that our standards of quality are always carried out. This move strengthens our leadership team and ensures the continued excellence of our programming, with my full focus remaining on the strategic direction and overall growth of the Chamber.”

In her new capacity as Executive Director, Liz O’Neil will continue to oversee programming, events, and day-to-day operations, now with an elevated status that accurately reflects her comprehensive contributions and responsibilities within the organization.

The BVCC continues to be led by President & CEO Jeannie Hebert, with Liz O’Neil serving as the second-in-command, focused on operational and programming excellence.

## Join recreational hike to East Douglas Station

DOUGLAS — Join the Blackstone River Valley Department of Conservation and Recreation for the next in its series of recreational hikes Saturday, Dec. 14 from 1-3 p.m., when we will hike to East Douglas Station in the Douglas State Forest. Meet at the Douglas SNETT lot ([bit.ly/dougsnett](http://bit.ly/dougsnett)).

This hike is roughly four miles over a compacted gravel surface with mild inclines. Please note that bathrooms are not available at this site.

All hikes in this series are free and open to the public. Registration is not required. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Wear sturdy footwear. Dress for the weather. Bringing water is encouraged, as it will not be available on-site. Bathrooms are available unless otherwise stated. Programming is subject to change or cancellation. For the most up to date information, call (508) 278-7604 or visit [bit.ly/blstupdates](http://bit.ly/blstupdates).

For Advertising Information Call 774-200-7308 email: [mikaela@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:mikaela@stonebridgepress.news)



David White — Northbridge Fire Department

Firefighters from several local departments braved frigid temperatures to beat back a fire that tore through an apartment complex in Northbridge last Thursday. Tenants in six of the units were displaced by the blaze, which caused significant damage to the building, but no injuries were reported.

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**December 21st Christmas**  
**Worship Service 10:15 am**  
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**December 24th – 10 pm**  
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# OBITUARY

## Alice F. Conway, 94



Douglas- Alice F. (Manyak) Conway, 94, of North St. passed away peacefully on Saturday December 6, 2025 at home after a brief illness. Her husband of 55 years John J. Conway died June 22, 2005.

She is survived by her son Kevin and his wife Karen Conway of Douglas; two grandchildren, Jennifer and her husband Gerald Duffy of Worcester, and Sean Conway of Boston; two great-grandchildren, Jolene and Keely Duffy, and many nieces and nephews. She was sister of the late Barbara Herbst, Helen Ouillette, Stephen Manyak, John Manyak, Frank Manyak, and Andrew Manyak.

Born in Douglas on June 27, 1931 she was the daughter of John Sr. and Anna (Duda) Manyak and lived in Douglas all her life. She was a graduate of Douglas High School class of 1949. Alice was employed in the payroll department for the former Hayward

Schuster Woolen Co. in Douglas for many years. She then worked for the Visiting Nurse's Association in Mendon in their office. She retired in 1993.

She was a lifelong member of St. Denis Church, where she served faithfully on their Bereavement Ministry and the Catholic Women's Council. She was also a proud member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, and VFW Woman's Auxiliary. She enjoyed spending summer weekends on the Cape with her husband at their favorite place, The Irish Village. Together, they enjoyed many trips over the years with Foxy Travel. A wonderful cook, Alice enjoyed preparing big Sunday Dinners for her family, her specialties being Golumpki's, and pierogi's. She was an amazing grandmother and treasured being close to her grandchildren as they grew up.

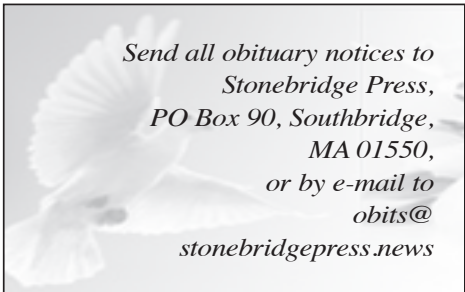
Her Funeral Mass will be held Friday December 12, 2025 at 10:30 am in St. Denis Church, 23 Manchaug St. Burial will follow in St. Denis Cemetery. There are no calling hours. Memorial donations in Alice's memory may be made to the Douglas Adult Social Center, 331 Main St., Douglas, MA 01516



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# LEGALS

**NOTICE OF SALE, NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE,** Premises: 100 Perry Street, Douglas, MA 01516, By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Edward N. Gouin and Melissa J. Gouin to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. , as nominee for Salem Five Mortgage, LLC, dated November 7, 2016, and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 56271 at Page 59, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by assignment, by an assignment of mortgage from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. , as nominee for Salem Five Mortgage Company to ServiceMac, LLC, dated June 23, 2021, and recorded with said Registry in Book 65448 at Page 311, and by an assignment of mortgage from ServiceMac, LLC to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity buy solely as Trustee for RMTP Trust, Series 2021 BKM-TT-V, dated March 15, 2022, and recorded with said Registry in Book 67474 at Page 65, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold by Public Auction at 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the 19th day of December, 2025, at the mortgaged premises located at 100 Perry Street, Douglas, MA 01516, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage; To wit: A certain tract or parcel of land, with the buildings thereon, if any, situated on the easterly side of Perry Street, and on the northerly side of Linden Street, Douglas, Massachusetts and being shown as Lot 5 on a plan of land entitled "Plan Of Land on Perry & Linden Streets Douglas, Massachusetts Prepared for Owner D & F Afonso Builders, Inc. Scale: 1"=60' November 8, 2000", which plan is recorded in Worcester District Registry of Deeds Plan Book 860, Plan 10, and to which plan reference may be had for a more particular description of said Lot 5. Said Lot 5 contains an area of 8.89 acres, more or less, according to said Plan. Said premises are conveyed subject to a Taking by Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company of a 50 foot right of way and easement under Instrument recorded in said Deeds Book 12756, Page 94, as shown on said plan and to the extend the same affects Lot 5. Said premises are conveyed together with and subject to Variance recorded In Book 25393, Page 252 and to Orders of Condition recorded in said Deeds Book 24468, Page 169; Book 28035, Page 293 and in Book 40794, Page 48, as extended of record. Said premises are conveyed together with and subject to a right of way shown as Proposed Shared Driveway & Utility Easement on a plan entitled "Shared Driveway and Utility Easement Plan In Douglas, Mass." Scale: 1"=30' Feet Date: August 17, 2007 by Guerriere & Halnon, Inc. Engineering and Land Surveying 1031 Providence Road, Whitinsville, Mass. 10588, recorded in Worcester Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 860 Plan 78, said shared driveway and utility easement being 50 feet wide running In easterly direction from Perry Street to said Lot 5 and to be used for all purposes for which streets and ways are commonly used In the Town of Douglas, Massachusetts, Including the installation, repair and maintenance of utilities. Said Lot 5 is hereby conveyed subject to the rights

of the Owner(s) of Lot 6 as shown on said plan recorded in Plan Book 860, Plan 10, their heirs, successors and assignees, to enter upon Lot 5 to connect to the utility pole as currently, or as may be hereinafter constructed upon Lot 5, and to reenter for purposes of repair and maintenance at the sole expense of the owner(s) of Lot 6. This right is expressly contingent upon the said owner(s) of Lot 6 restoring the portion of Lot 5 entered upon to the condition that existed prior to the entry upon Lot 5. This instrument does not constitute all or substantially all of the assets of D & F Afonso Builders, Inc. situated, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens 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 Dollars (\$10,000.00) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. High bidder to sign written memorandum of sale upon acceptance of the high bid. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid by certified or bank check at Friedman Vartolo LLP, 1325 Franklin Avenue, Suite 160, Garden City, New York 11530, within thirty (30) days from the date of the sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. U.S. Bank National Association not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee for RMTP Trust, Series 2021 BKM-TT-V, Present holder of said mortgage by its Attorneys, **Friedman Vartolo LLP** 1325 Franklin Avenue, Suite 160, Garden City, New York 11530  
November 21, 2025  
November 28, 2025  
December 5, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate and Family Court  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
Docket No. W025P3621GD  
NOTICE AND ORDER:  
Petition for Appointment  
of Guardian of a Minor**  
In the interests of  
**Maia H Salvucci  
of Uxbridge, MA  
Minor**  
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

**1. Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed by on 10/1 7/2025 by Jason C Salvucci of Falmouth, MA will be held 11/26/2025 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing located **Worcester Probate & Family Court**  
**2. Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to

the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.  
**3. Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.  
**4. Counsel for Parents:** If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.  
**5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.  
ORDER TO PETITIONER(S)  
**IT IS ORDERED THAT** copies of this Notice and the Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served in hand on the minor, (if 14 or more years of age and not the petitioner), the guardian, the parents of the minor, and any other person if ordered by the Court, at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the hearing date listed above. **Service must be made by the sheriff, constable, or other person approved by the Court.**  
If service in hand cannot be accomplished on any interested party. **IT IS ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and the Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served on the interested party by leaving at and mailing by regular first class mail to last and usual place of residence of the interested party at least **fourteen (14) days** prior to the date of hearing listed above.  
If the identity of whereabouts of an interested party is **not known, IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served on all interested persons at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the hearing date by mailing first class mail and by publishing a copy of the Order and Notice once in **Webster Times, Webster** publication to be at least **Seven (7)** days prior to the hearing date.  
If required, service on the United States Veteran Administration and the Department of Children and Families may be accomplished by regular first class mail at least **Seven (7)** days prior to the hearing.  
**THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE:** An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.  
Date: October 17, 2025  
Stephanie K. Fattman  
Register of Probate  
December 12, 2025

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE**  
Premises: 75 Chapin Street, Uxbridge, MA 01569  
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Priscilla Thiebault and Bruce Thiebault to

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for CitiMortgage, Inc. its successors and assigns, and now held by **Nationstar Mortgage LLC**, said mortgage dated December 29, 2005 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38162, Page 303, as affected by a Loan Modification dated April 1, 2008 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 45619, Page 205; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for CitiMortgage, Inc. its successors and assigns to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by assignment dated August 17, 2011 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 47858, Page 303; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on** January 6, 2026 at 09:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: *The land with the buildings thereon situated in Uxbridge, Worcester County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts known and being numbered 75 Chapin Street Being Lot #1 on a Plan of Land entitled, "Powers Acers A Definitive Subdivision Plan located in Uxbridge, MA, Prepared for Edward H. Powers" dated July 23, 2003, recorded in Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 811, as Plan 97, containing 398,599 square feet, 9.15 acres. The premises are conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, easements, appurtenances, reservations, restrictions, and layouts and takings of record, insofar as they are in force and applicable. For title see Deed recorded on October 26, 2004 at Book 34910, Page 274 with the Worcester County Registry of Deeds. Upon information, the deed noted above was affected by a confirmatory Deed recorded 11/23/2009 in said Registry in Book 45133, Page 332.*  
The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.  
For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated October 19, 2004 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 34910, Page 274.  
TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.  
**FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00)** Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.  
Other terms to be announced at the sale.  
Brock & Scott, PLLC  
23 Messenger Street  
2nd Floor  
Plainville, MA 02762  
Attorney for Nationstar Mortgage LLC Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701  
**December 5, 2025  
December 12, 2025  
December 19, 2025**



TRANSITION

continued from page A1

opportunities to the women who live, work and play in the Blackstone Valley area. We are so happy that she will still serve in the WSN Executive Committee and also that our good friend and colleague, Lynn Whitney Turner will be taking the reins. We look forward to the growing future of the WSN.”

Taking the reins as the new Chairwoman is Lynn Whitney Turner of CORE XP Business Solutions. Ms. Turner brings a wealth of expertise and strategic vision that promises to drive the WSN to new heights.

Turner offered this statement regarding her new role: “I’m grateful for Alise’s leadership and everything she has done to nurture this network. As we step into WSN’s next chapter, our goal is to be intentional, focusing on a smaller number of signature events that truly resonate with women who are juggling work, family, and



Lynn Whitney Turner

community commitments. I’m excited to listen, learn, and co-create a WSN experience that brings value, connection, and support to women across the Valley.”

About Lynn Whitney Turner

Lynn Whitney Turner is formally trained in executive and business coaching and the administration and analysis of a variety of people analytic assessments, including DISC, Driving Forces, EQ, Target Selling Insights, and the Workplace Stress Quotient, to name a few. She is also an AgileBrain Master Practitioner, focused on getting to the core of organizational culture through an assessment based in neuroscience that taps into emotions and sentiment.

Her specialties include: Change Leadership, Innovation Strategy Management, Strategic Planning and Implementation, Collaboration, High Performing Teams, Board Facilitations, Workforce Development, Leadership and Employee Development, and eXperience Management (around Employees, Brand, and Customers).

The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Women’s Success Network Executive Committee look forward to a seamless transition and a future defined by continued success under Ms. Turner’s leadership.

The Mission of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce is to preserve and enhance the economic vitality of the Blackstone Valley by addressing the needs and concerns of businesses and providing leadership, support and resources in connection with issues which impact commerce and the quality of life in the Valley.

ART

continued from page A1

there will be gifts available

for the kids.

The Museum & Learning Center is located at 1 Memorial Sq. in Whitinsville.

For more information, call (508) 839-0001 or visit [www.MSPMLC.org](http://www.MSPMLC.org).

PLUMMER PLACE

Home of the Northbridge Senior Center we are currently reading.

WHITINSVILLE — The following events will take place at Plummer Place, Home of the Northbridge Senior Center. We are located at 20 Highland St. in Whitinsville. Telephone: (508) 234-2002. Northbridge residents have priority for all programming and events.

Regular Programs:

- Mindful Meditation with Kelly Every Thursday at 9:30 a.m.
- Scrabble Mondays, Dec. 15 and 29 9:30 a.m.
- Book Club Wednesday, Dec. 17 10:30-11:30 a.m. Please call Kelly to find out what book

Dull Men’s Club Tuesday, Dec. 23 9:30-10:30 a.m. Guest Speaker: Vin Femia: All About the New England Patriots

Discover the Secrets of the Blue Zones Are you interested in beginning a journey to better health, happiness, and a longer life? Learn where and how centenarians are living across the world in this exciting three-week program exploring the Blue Zones with Amy Cowen, our program and volunteer coordinator. This program will include a book, a guest speaker, light refreshments, some healthy challenges, and more fun surprises! Sign up in the main office. \$20 per person payable in cash the day of the first class (dates and times to be determined, but will be held in early 2026).

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# Reliant Foundation awards more than \$1 million in community grants to area nonprofits

WORCESTER — Reliant Foundation has announced that it is awarding \$1,065,000 in Community Grants to 59 nonprofits across Central and Metro West Massachusetts. This brings the Foundation’s 2025 grant total to \$1,125,000, marking the second consecutive year the

Foundation has awarded more than \$1 million in Community Grants.

Reliant Foundation’s mission-driven grants program is focused on strengthening mental health and behavioral health resources for children and youth; helping individuals of all ages reach recovery from substance use; building the pipeline of professionals to provide mental health, behavioral health, and recovery services; and supporting initiatives to reduce stigma around mental health and substance use. Over the past eight years, the Foundation has provided nearly \$6.6 million in funding to area nonprofits.

“Last year marked the first time in our history that we granted more than \$1 million; to be able to do it for a second consecutive year gives us an immense sense of pride and impact,” said Reliant Foundation president Kelsa Zereski. “As nonprofits everywhere are having to make difficult programming decisions, driven largely by funding constraints, we feel an even greater obligation to support their missions. Fortunately, our donors and volunteers continue to step up year-after-year to help us fundraise so we can provide this level of funding, and our Board of Trustees has remained steadfast in their commitment to expanding our impact.”

“Our grantees are doing extraordinary work under increasingly precarious circumstances - facing rising community needs with fewer resources than ever before. Their resilience inspires us, but it also underscores just how essential sustained donor support is to the health of our nonprofit ecosystem,” said Kristine Bostek, Reliant Foundation Board Chair. “Every contribution—large or small—helps ensure that vital services remain available to those who rely on them. On behalf of our entire board, I want to express our deepest gratitude to all who stand with us. Your generosity enables our mission, strengthens our partners, and brings hope to the communities we collectively serve.”

The following nonprofits, located throughout Central, North Central, South Central and MetroWest Massachusetts, are receiving grants from the Foundation this fall:

- 508 Cheers – Teen Trauma Tuesdays programming
- Abby’s House – Evidence-Based Support: Women’s Services Program
- African Community Education – Think/Give learning activities at Saturday Program
- Addiction Referral Center - Project B.R.A.V.E. (Building Recovery Accessibility through Validation)
- Adolescent Consultation Services - Youth Mental Health Services at Framingham Juvenile Court
- Advocates – Clinical mental and behavioral health care to uninsured and underinsured youth
- Anna Maria College – JOBS Initiative (pathway for training and student support)
- Bancroft School Worcester Partnership – Worcester Partnership Program with Elm Park School
- Behavioral Health Partners of MetroWest - MetroWest Care Connection Program
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Central MA and Metro West – Rise Together Mentoring Program at Girls Inc.
- Boston Bulldogs Running Club – Weekly Run program in Worcester to help individuals reach recovery
- Boys & Girls Club of Framingham Clubhouse
- Boys & Girls Club of Webster-Dudley - Mental health and behavioral health programs
- Boys & Girls Club of Worcester – Mental health and behavioral health programs
- CASA Project Worcester - Shine the Light Initiative
- Center for Health Impact – Multilingual Recovery Coach training
- Community Harvest Project – Nutritious foods for Worcester’s residential recovery programs
- Community Healthlink – Programming at residential recovery homes, substance use disorder programs
- Dismas House - Substance use prevention Initiative
- Doc Wayne-Community Clinic for youth and families in the Metrowest region
- Edward Street – Master Teacher Coaching Program
- GAAMHA, Inc. – R.O.O.T.S. Therapeutic Farm Program at Evergreen Grove
- Genesis Club - Zero Stigma Project
- Girls Inc. of Worcester – Wellness Institute Program for Teen Girls
- Girls on the Run Worcester County - Mind & Motion: Building Resilience in Girls across Central MA
- Jeff’s Place – Children’s Bereavement Center
- Jeremiah’s Inn – Renovations for the new Edward Street Residential Recovery Program
- Latin American Health Alliance - Bilingual Recovery Coach Training
- Legendary Legacies – Legacy transport program
- MA Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children – Survivor services program for children and youth
- MARE (MA Adoption Resource Exchange) - Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) Caregiver Training
- Series and a TBRI Family Support Group
- Open Sky Community Services - Inner Voice
- Outer Change self-empowerment model at THE PLACE for Empowerment
- Our Bright Future - Our Bright Future SEL Coordinator
- Pernet Family Health Services - Pernet Youth Program
- Rainbow Child Development Center - Mental Health Program for Underserved Children
- Regional Environmental Council - YouthGROW Program
- Recovery Collaboration Project - Program support services including sober housing scholarships and outreach supplies
- Revive of the USA - Sustaining programs and services at Recovery homes in Leominster and Worcester
- for women and men
- RFK Community Alliance - Behavioral health services for children
- Ready Inspire Act – Sisters Leading Sisters Peer Support
- RISE Above - Pro-social opportunities that improve

mental and physical health and build resiliency for children in foster care

Riverside Community Care - Pediatric Behavioral Health Urgent Care (PBHUC) Program

Safe Exit Initiative – Harbor Drop-in Center support

Senior Connection Inc. - Carelink: Mobile Mental Health for Grandfamilies

Seven Hills - Expansion and full implementation of a Social Disconnection Specialty Practice within the

Seven Hills Behavioral Health system of care

Spark Kindness - Addressing the Emotional Health and Resilience of Children, Youth and Families Project

Spoonfuls - Food recovery and hunger relief work in MetroWest to Recovery homes

Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services - Reducing barriers to clinical help for vulnerable populations

Spoonfuls - MetroWest food rescue and distribution to recovery homes

The Club: Lunenburg Teen Center - GROW SMART Initiative-gaining resilience and overall wellness

through skills mastery and resilience training

Veterans Inc. – Recovery Coach and Mobile Case Management Position

Westborough Connects - Together We Thrive: connecting community to strengthen mental and behavioral health

Whitin Community Center - WCC Youth Outreach and Social Skills Program

Worcester Addresses Childhood Trauma - Trauma Training Tuesday Series

Worcester RISE for Health - Ubuntu: RISE’s behavioral health program

Worcester State University - Peer to Peer Healthy Minds Initiative for WSU Students

YMCA of Central MA – Behavioral Health Clinician at the Montachusett YMCA

Youth Villages Massachusetts - LifeSet program for young people aging out of foster care

YWCA of Worcester - Social emotional health support in the early education and care center

For more information about Reliant Foundation, or about how you can make a difference in the lives and health of our community, visit [reliantfoundation.org](http://reliantfoundation.org).

About Reliant Foundation

Established in 1988, Reliant Foundation is an independent public charity whose mission is to advance community health priorities through strategic philanthropy and collaboration. As a 501(c)3 charity, the Foundation offers grants to non-profit organizations within its service area for the purpose of supporting programs that battle critical community health issues like children’s and adolescent mental health, behavioral health, and substance use disorder. Our charity partners work with thousands of individuals in our community to provide life-saving mental health and behavioral health services, recovery coaching, and impactful education and initiatives to reduce the stigma around these issues. For more information, please visit [www.reliantfoundation.org](http://www.reliantfoundation.org).

Shay is a sweet, polite, and lovable young girl with a warm, engaging personality. Her social worker describes her as imaginative, funny, and incredibly kind. Shay has an empathetic nature that draws people to her, and she’s well-liked by all the adults in her life. She has a creative spark and loves music, singing, and making fun videos. Shay also enjoys playing volleyball, experimenting with makeup, and getting her hair done. Active and confident, she even played on her middle school basketball team—showing both her team spirit and determination.

Shakespeare  
Age 15  
Registration #7384

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22536707877>

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

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

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(Reference Job Code: TC1024).

The Spencer Housing Authority has an opening for a Full-Time Maintenance Laborer

The Spencer Housing Authority is seeking a qualified full-time Maintenance Laborer. The individual hired for this position must have general knowledge of property maintenance, carpentry, floor repairs, minor plumbing, and electrical repairs. Applicant should also have experience with painting, cleaning, plowing, shoveling, and snow removal. Individuals must be available for rotating on-call shifts as well as being available for any weather-related emergencies. Must be able to lift 50 pounds or more. General knowledge of maintenance systems, building equipment and small tools a plus. This is a full time (40 hours) benefited position. Retirement is through the Worcester County Retirement Office. Must possess a valid driver’s license and be insurable under Housing Authority insurance. The selected applicant must be able to pass a criminal background check (CORI), and pre-employment physical. Base wage rate is determined by the current Department of Labor (DOL) wage rates in effect at the time of hire. Additional compensation is paid for on-call and after-hours’ service. Incumbents will be required to obtain a valid Pesticide Certification/License within one year of hire. The Spencer Housing Authority offers a generous benefits package including health, dental and vision insurance.

Applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to: Spencer Housing Authority 13 McDonald Street Spencer, MA 01562 Attn: Kimberly Hurlbrink You may also email cover letter and resumes to Kimberly Hurlbrink: [kim.hurlbrink@spencerhousing.org](mailto:kim.hurlbrink@spencerhousing.org) Resumes will be accepted until 2:00PM on December 19, 2025. Spencer Housing Authority is an equal Opportunity Employer

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Friday’s Child



Shakespeare Age 15 Registration #7384

Shay is a sweet, polite, and lovable young girl with a warm, engaging personality. Her social worker describes her as imaginative, funny, and incredibly kind. Shay has an empathetic nature that draws people to her, and she’s well-liked by all the adults in her life. She has a creative spark and loves music, singing, and making fun videos. Shay also enjoys playing volleyball, experimenting with makeup, and getting her hair done. Active and confident, she even played on her middle school basketball team—showing both her team spirit and determination.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22536707877>

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

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



# WHITIN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

UXBRIDGE — Whitin Intermediate School has released its honor roll for the first term of the 2025-2026 school year.

**High Honors**  
Grade 6: Lukas Ambrosino, Rain Anwer, Zachary Bromberg, Teagan Caffrey, Zander Castonguay, James Charron, Aria Clement, Alexis Coger, Gabrielle Connors, Makenna Creighton, Kailey Czubyk, Leighton D'Alessandro, Brayden Daley, Shae Desmeule, Connor Dion, Gabriella Ellis, Austin Escalera, Theodore Foley, Benjamin Ford, Eloise Gauthier, Dharahas Gurram, Isabel Heldenbergh, Connor Hendricks, Hadley Ivanoski, Quinn Kaferlein, Jack Lavallee, Ivy Leaming, Grace Leone, Timothy Longenbaker, Henry Lucius, Madelyn Manzov, Daniel Mastroianni, Grayson Matthews, Sadie Matulewicz, Molly Mitchell, Samira Mohamed, Sophia Morreale, Emmett Norman, Scarlett O'Toole, Ahmad Pagganwala, Cholbe Rosborough, Jack Ryan, Gabriella Sawash, Jackson Searle, Savannah Sokol, Jacob Soucy,

Lillian Spratt, Liliana Weir, Emma Whitten, Hunter Wilson  
Grade 7: Brayden Affonce, Riley Barnicle, Zachary Black, Mia Blanchard, Benjamin Brauning, Jackson Buckley, Tatum Burke, Cameron Cote, Oliver Coutu, Annalee DeBalsi, Angelina Ekladios, Nathalie Gomes, Lauren Gover, Sri Gurram, Jason Hutchinson-McLellan, Mya Jackman, Amyra Jalotra, Madeline Jansen, Kaitlyn Johnson, Tuiafetoa Kruse, Miller Neshe, Vidhya Patel, Olivia Racki, Drew Rollins, Robert Turcotte, Ella Twomey, Charlotte Vanderzicht  
**Honors**  
Grade 6: Gracie Almquist, Bentley Belanger, Drew Benson, Brody Boucher, Ryder Boucher, Lily Bristowe, Molly Cann, Cooper Charron, Gabriella Collazo, Dean Cuniff, Arianna Demery, Jacob DeToma, Breklynn Deveau, Robert Do Rosario, Jacob Dubovsky, Patrick Freiwald, Shawn Garcia, Aiden Hatch, Aubrey Huth, Kaïden Kelly, Dayton Lopez, Natalie Lynch, Harrison

Martin, Hadley Morrisette, Landon Mushel, Liam Narbeth, Jaden Ouwinga, Kaydence Pasacane, Rylin Pellegrino, Olivia Reneau, Sophia Rivera, Juliana Sobrinho, Cody Timmerman, Georgia Vanderzicht, Arianna Vickers, Isshaan Vishnu Kumar, Waverly Wood, Frank Zaik  
Grade 7: Jaxton Bates, Willow Brayman, Liam Brodeur, Ike Burns, Sadie Cahill, Carsyn Cammuso, Jordan Charron, Virginia Clinton, Ariella Correia, Anna Desouza, Mya Fano, Nathan Fark, Madelynn Fitzgerald, Aiden Forss, Dylan Fortier, Logan Kustan, George Lalakidis, Matthew LaPorta, Samuel Lavergne, Benjamin Lynch, Brayden Lynch, Brayden McGrath, Owen McSweeney, Nathan Moore, Bayla Morris, Mila Pachomski, Jordan Poirier, Saket Rathod, Parker Rollins, Riley Studley, Shivaan Trivedy, Brianna Troland, Peyton Whitlock, Rowan Woodall



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**Featured Listing**  
**DUDLEY - 13 OXFORD AVE**  
2 -FAMILY offers 2,354 SF of living area! 2 Large Apartments, 5 Spacious Rms, 2 BRs, 1 Bath each. Beautiful grand front entry foyer with the charm of yesteryear! double French doors & other unique features. Plenty of Natural light that flows into these apartments! 2nd flr apt has a private enclosed rear entry with it's own outside covered porch. Updates were done to electric & roof to accommodate Solar Panels. Property was family occupied \$379,900.

**Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island PANORAMIC VIEWS!**



**SORRY, SOLD!**

Renovated + move-in ready lakefront home w/1,700+/- sq ft. Open kitchen/dining/living w/ cathedral ceilings + wall of windows. Primary suite w/private bath! 2 add'l bedrooms, 2nd Full bath. Lower level family room w/walkout to water. Wraparound deck, new vinyl railings, terraced yard, sandy beach, professional landscaping. Many updates. \$775,000

**WEBSTER - 19 FIRST STREET**



**ON DEPOSIT**

Bring an open mind to this unique property & let your creative design ideas flow! This one level 1,040 sf. 3 BR home is reminiscent of an English Country Cottage! It evokes a cozy, rustic, lived-in vibe. The overall aesthetic is one of practical comfort, collected charm and a relaxed, slightly whimsical atmosphere. Key characteristics include spacious rooms, hardwood floors, a primary BR with sliders to a very private deck, retractable awnings, replacement windows, etc. Move right in! \$304,900

**WEBSTER - 24 COOPER RD**



**NEW CONSTRUCTION Craftsman Style Home!** Tucked away on Cooper Rd, Webster Lake w/Access at Lakeside Beach/ Boat Ramp. 3rd of 4 Homes being built at this Site. Offers 2,155 SF +/- of Living Area, 7 Rms, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 9' Ceilings. Wood Flooring Throughout w/Ceramic Tile Floors in the Baths. Spacious Main BR Suite w/Walk-in Closet & Private Full Bath, Double-Sink Vanity! Finished Lower level walkout w/Slider. Basement-rough plumbed Central AC! Garage \$649,900.

**WATERFORD CT - 20 AVERY LN.**



**SORRY, SOLD!**

Beautifully updated farmhouse - 5 min. to the ocean. Nothing to do just to move in!! 2 bed, 2 bath New Heating System, Central Air! Huge shed & deck! Oversized garage. 3/4+ acre. assisted sale **\$365,000**

**On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagamaugg**

**WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT LISTING! KILLDEER RD**



**SORRY, SOLD!**

Ready for your year round enjoyment. 4 bedroom, 2 bath home. Open floor plan. Garage w/ enclosed entry to mudroom. Open living room with spectacular views! 2 bedrooms - 3/4 bath, on main level. Central air. Lower level, additional 2 bedrooms, bath, bonus family room, summer kitchen! Beachhouse! 51' of sandy beachfront! \$799,000.

**Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!**



**SORRY, SOLD!**

Panoramic View, from this absolutely lovely home. 2600 +/- SF, 3+ Beds, 2 full baths, 2 car detached garage! 63' +/- waterfront. .37 Acres! Sandy Waterfront! \$1,100,000

**Webster Lake - 53 Colonial Rd**



**SORRY, SOLD!**


**WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT! JUST SIMPLY AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY! OVER 31,000 SQ FT OF LAND! Summer Cottage on 9482 SF of land.. assisted sale \$1,199,900**

**Webster Lake Waterfront 8 Long Island**




**SORRY, SOLD!**

Beautifully Updated Circa 1890s Classic Antique Island Cottage, with Rare Boat House Included! Extremely Unique, Clean & Well Maintained, Modern Conveniences w/the Charm of Yesteryear! 1,240 SF, 6 Rms, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, Hardwood Floors! Fireplace w/Wood Pellet Stove, Wrap-Around Screened Porch, Lg Outbuilding w/Full Bath/Shower/Laundry & Workshop, Paved Town Vtr/Svr + Private Well for Outdoor &/or Off-Season Water Use! 14,300 SF +/- Level Lot w/105+ of Shoreline. \$595,000



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# Koopman Lumber announces transition in leadership

WHITINSVILLE — Koopman Lumber today announced a planned CEO transition to reflect the company’s three generations of commitment to stability, family leadership, and long-term growth.

Effective Jan. 1, 2026, Denise Brookhouse will assume the role of Chief Executive Officer, succeeding Dirk Koopman, who has served as CEO since 2010. Dirk will transition into the president’s role, a new strategic position within the company, and Tony Brookhouse will remain in his role as Chief Operating Officer.

Since 1939, the Koopman family has grown from a solo retail store in the Central Massachusetts community to 17 locations across Massachusetts and Connecticut with the recent acquisition of Lyon & Billard.

This exciting leadership transition signifies a new chapter for the multi-generation, family-owned business and reinforces Koopman’s focus on institutional trust, legacy, and the strength of its values-driven leadership team.

According to Dirk Koopman, “It has been an honor to serve as CEO and soon-to-be President, and I’m proud of what we’ve built together. Moving forward, Denise brings a fresh perspective and strong financial management experience, and she keeps our values and culture at the forefront. I couldn’t be more confident in her ability to lead Koopman into its next chapter and do right by our employees, customers, and partners.”

Dirk Koopman will assume the role of President. In this new capacity, he will leverage his experience and deep lumber industry knowledge to support the company’s strategic direction, ensuring that the core values that define Koopman Lumber remain at the center of its growth.

Denise Brookhouse, incoming Koopman Lumber CEO, said, “I’m honored to step into the role of CEO, positioning us for continued growth and new opportunities. I’m excited to work alongside our talented leadership team to grow thoughtfully and keep our values at the heart of everything we do.”

“We believe the strength of Koopman comes from the collective expertise of

our entire team,” said Dirk Koopman. “Every person here plays a part in shaping the future of our company. We are grateful for our incredible team and what we have accomplished together.”

About Koopman Lumber Koopman Lumber is a family-owned and operated business committed to serving homeowners, builders, and communities across Massachusetts. With a focus on quality, service, and long-term relationships, Koopman provides a wide range of building materials, hardware, and home improvement solutions backed by a dedicated and growing leadership team.

Koopman Lumber, founded in 1939 and headquartered in Whitinsville, Mass., operates 17 locations across Massachusetts and Connecticut. The company’s mission is “Supplying Excellence for Generations,” a promise it brings to every team member, customer, and community it serves. For more information, visit [koopmanlumber.com](http://koopmanlumber.com).



Courtesy



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AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



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## DOUGLAS ADULT SOCIAL CENTER

331 Main St.  
(508) 476-2283  
Hours of operation: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-noon

We will accept non-perishable items during our regular business hours. Monday- Thursday 9-3 & Fridays 9-12. Please DO NOT leave anything on our ramp after hours.

**DAILY ACTIVITIES:** All our daily activities are free of charge.

Monday: Painting class 9:45 to 11:45, Balance & Strength Exercise 12pm, Mat Yoga 2pm

Tuesday: Walking club 9 am, Cribbage 9:00 am, Zumba 9:30 am, Lunch & Bingo 11:30am, Technology Class 1pm (call to make an appt.), Line dancing 2 pm

Wednesday: Balance & Strength 10am, Darts 11:30 am, MahJong 12:45pm, Dominoes 1 to 2:30pm

Thursday: Walking club 9am, Chair Yoga 9:30am, Pitch 9:00am, Hand and Foot card game 12:30pm

Friday: Balance & Strength 10am

The Adult Social Center Food Pantry is open to any resident/ family in town. We have a large variety of food, personal care items, household cleaners, and fresh bread from Panera. We are open Monday – Thursday from 9 to 3, and Friday from 9 to 11:30. This is a confidential pantry, come in and take what you need no questions asked. We are located below the post office.

Tuesday & Thursday lunch club, please call the Friday before to sign up. Lunch is \$4.00 per person. If you would like to attend we offer free rides to and from the center and are willing to waive the lunch fee is necessary.

**December Lunch Menu:**

Tuesday 12/9: Stuffed peppers, carrots, & Jell-O

Thursday 12/11: Soup & salad bar, fruit

Tuesday 12/16: Baked chicken, rice pilaf, cauliflower casserole, & cupcakes

Thursday 12/18: Baked ham, potatoes, green beans, & pie (this is the holiday party luncheon and is \$6.00 per person)

Tuesday 12/23: Baked potato soup, chicken salad sandwich, & cookies

Tuesday 12/30: Pasta with meat sauce, salad, garlic bread, & ice cream

**Friday Shopping Schedule:** Please call 48 hours in advance to schedule your ride. Grocery shopping pick up starts at 9:30.

Friday 12/5, 12/19: Walmart

Friday 12/12: Big Y

Friday 12/26: Riders choice

**DECEMBER EVENTS:**

Wellness Clinic

Dates: Monday December 8th & Tuesday December 23rd from 10 am to 12 pm. The nurse is happy to check your blood pressure, can do a finger stick blood sugar. You can read the nurse’s page in our bi-monthly newsletter. If you have any questions or concerns, please stop in and see the nurse.

**Annual Holiday Party:** Thursday December 18th @ 12:00. We will have our annual ham dinner, for \$6.00 per person. Musical entertainment provided by The Brian Bender Duo. Please sign up by 12/5.

**PLEASE CALL (508) 476-2283 TO SIGN UP FOR PROGRAMS & CLASSES**

Check our website for events that may not be listed here

<https://www.douglas-ma.gov/202/AdultSocialCenter-Senior-Center>



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