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©2026, Issue #1

Friday, January 2, 2026

Holiday magic at Park Avenue Elementary



The Webster Middle School Select Chorus smiles after the show: Bottom row (left to right) - Alexis Young, Autumn Wilson, Brianna Bohenko, Lex’Cylia Ortiz, Carlee Roselund. Middle row (left to right) - Julianna MacKenzie, Aliana Blackwood, Lena Obeng, Sophia Lamont, Annika Asamoah, Grace Koleros. Top row (left to right) - Aria Caruso, Jinialys Beltran, Daniela Alvarez, Leila Erraihani, Efaa Ayete, Tia Botchway, Cece White, Cadence Menard.



The Bartlett Select Choir Performing in the Lobby at Park Avenue Elementary.



Mr. Aronian - Dean of Students at Park Avenue Elementary — sings Jingle Bells into the mic with some enthusiasm as the students sing along.

WEBSTER — The week of Dec. 15 brought a holiday cheer to Park Ave as Webster Middle School, Bartlett High School and Park Ave’s own Polar Plunge Band visited Park Avenue Elementary.

The Middle Schools Select Chorus, composed of sixth and seventh graders, sang beautiful renditions of several holiday classics like Holly Jolly Christmas and Frosty the Snowman; the students joined in with “glee.”

“It was amazing,” said Mr. Aronian (The Dean of Students). “The students did a wonderful job. It was like being at the Hanover Theatre.”

The Choral Group is headed by Emma Pacheco, the Band and Chorus Director at Webster Middle School.

Next, the Polar Plunge Band—led by Matthew Aronian (Dean of Students, vocals/guitar) and Keith Goodier (Assistant Principal, guitar)—played rock versions of classic holiday songs.

“It’s the holiday favorites with a little bit of rock mixed in!” exclaimed a third-grade student as she danced along.

The band was the brainchild of the Park Avenue

Turn To MAGIC page A10

R.J. Skaza named next Superintendent of Auburn Public Schools

AUBURN — The Auburn School Committee voted to select Dr. R.J. Skaza as the next Superintendent of the Auburn Public Schools, effective July 1, pending contract negotiations.

Dr. Skaza was selected following a rigorous screening which included significant input from educators, students, parents, Auburn residents and school committee members. Throughout the process, Dr. Skaza consistently received high praise from students, staff and community members alike.

Dr. Skaza comes to Auburn from the Marlborough Public Schools where he has served as the Assistant Superintendent since July of 2021. Prior to this post, he held several positions within Marlborough Public Schools, including Principal and Assistant Principal at Richer Elementary School, K-7 Title I Program Administrator, High School English Teacher and Special Education Teacher. Skaza holds a Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Special Education from Framingham State University, a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study (CAGS) and a Doctor of Education (EdD) in Educational Leadership and Supervision from American International College.

The School Committee would like to express appreciation to the members of the Superintendent Search Committee: Trevor Brooks, Amy Castellano, Matt Carlson, Dan Delongchamp, Jessie Harrington, Alan Keller, Susan Lopez, Meghan McCrillis, Mandy Rocco, Ali Shankle, Jenn Stanick, and Eileen Tarini as well as all the many individuals who participated throughout the process. The input, feedback, and dedication to finding the best candidate for our district were invaluable.

Dudley police announce winner of annual Holiday Card Contest



DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department recently held its 15th Annual Holiday Card Contest with fourth-grade students from Dudley Elementary School, and this year’s winner is Ryan Toto. Under the guidance of art teacher Dawn Gravel, students were invited to submit original artwork for consideration as the cover design of the Dudley Police Department’s 2025 holiday card.

The contest received more than 150 entries, with the winning artwork created by Rylan Toto. Chief Marek Karlowicz, Lt. James Annese, Sgt. Dean Poplawski, Officer Arthur Ferreira, and Officer John Glowacki presented Rylan with a poster-sized copy of her artwork, a box of holiday cards to share with family and friends, and a gift card in recognition of her outstanding effort.

For more than a decade, the Dudley Police Department has proudly featured student artwork on its annual holiday card. The card is distributed to local businesses and residents, other law enforcement agencies, local professional sports teams, Gov. Maura Healey, and President Donald Trump.

The Dudley Police Department extends its sincere appreciation to Dudley Elementary School Principal Chris Audette and Art Teacher Dawn Gravel for coordinating this program. We also thank all participating teachers and students for their creativity and contributions, which continue to make this program a success.

Oxford High School presents “The Addams Family”

OXFORD — On the weekend of Dec. 12, the Oxford High Drama Club put on a production of “The Addams Family,” a musical written by Marshall Brickman, Rick Elice, and Andrew Lippa in 2010. The cast—picked in the early summer of 2025—rehearsed for four months to put on this two-and-a-half-hour show.

The cast and crew consisted of six students from Oxford Middle School and 20 high school students. Directors Colleen Nasis and Bradley Sampson made efforts to give more students leadership positions in the show. While still being main cast members, seniors Andrew Neiber and Maddy Wilson were selected to serve as student directors.

When asked about her time directing, Wilson responded, “It taught me how to deal with seeing other people’s point



Freshman Kaylin Cabana as Pugsly and Freshman Brooke O’Connor as Wednesday.

of view,” noting that she enjoyed getting to help the show come together.

The production featured not only songs but also numerous dance numbers, choreographed by Miriam Sas and student choreographer Sophia Kinhan. Kinhan—like student directors Wilson and Nieber—both choreographed and performed in the show.

“I enjoyed having total

complete freedom,” stated Kinhan. “Watching all my dances on stage and seeing how far they came made me so happy.”

Besides acting, singing, and dancing, much more goes into a musical—the stage crew, light directors, and sound directors were all detrimental to helping the show run smoothly. Junior, Raixa Perez, was one of the few students who stepped up to work with the techni-

cal equipment for the musical. Not only did she assist the directors as they created the light design, but she also manned the light board during all three shows.

High School Chorus and Theater teacher Bradley Sampson took advantage of his Intro to Theater class as a way to teach students the many complicated factors of a musical. His students were given hands-on experience in set building, program designing, and constructing lighting cues.

“I wanted to give performance opportunities,” Sampson said, “but I also really wanted to dive into tech opportunities.”

Though this was Sampson’s first year teaching in class, he created a course that gave students of all talents room to express themselves.

Turn To ADAMS page A10

FRESHMEN NAMED TO BAY PATH HONOR ROLL

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School congratulates the following students in grade 9 on being named to the honor roll for the first quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

High Honors
Jureyn Axel Ambayec, Makenna Rose Anderson, Tyler Michael Beaty, Hope Alexandra Ceppetelli, Chloe Elizabeth Clifford, Nikolas Stephen Coraccio, Nicholas Anthony Cryan, Ashlynn Rose Cunniff, Hunter David Robert Cusson, Arthur Ribas Da Silva, Elyse Kimberly DaSilva, Helen Sofia Defranc, Kelsey Ann Dunn, Camila Isabelle Garcia Montoya, Tucker Hoopes Harrity, Virginia Heybeck, Iyla Lillian Huckins, Brady Larned Jackson, Elise Georgiana Kokoszka, Sophia Rose Lambert, Lev Francis Clemansky, Carrigan Frances Linde, Giavanna Louisa Lussier, Charles James Maglich, Reyo Xavier Matthews, Abbigail Quinn McClendon, Matthew Joseph Monticelli, Camden John Morgan, Ron Wallace Mosong, Alexys Grace Nault, Finley Ann O’Shea, Irelyn Mackenzie Padden, Elianna Rose Payson, Zachary Ernest Edward Penney, Luke Gibb Pettes, Selina Yvette Piehl, Anthony

Raymond Postale, Savannah Rose Pratt, Destiny Rose Purcell, Ayla Grace Reed, Camden Francis Riley, Lilyana Paulina Rivas, Alexandria Anne Romero, Ella Minerva Ruiz-Acosta, Chloe John Skarzinski, Margaret Anne Straw, Nicholas Edward Tod, Juliana Velez, Jayden Francis Warren, Camryn Grace Weagle, Abigail Mae White, Kaiya Faith Zaczek

Honors
Cole Patrick Adams, Caleb Jeffrey Andersen, Jack Robert Angiolillo, Emersyn Sue Bacon, Zachery Michael Barberio, Mia Gracelyn Benoit, Ava Elyse Bernard, Camryn Sophia Jean Boyd, Collin Jacob Brink, Hunter Richard Brodeur, Kaedynce Paige Brown, Brendon Bui, Brady Alexander Camdzic, Alexander Stephen Campbell, Zachary Thomas Carlsen, Mason Robert Case, William Alexander Cheney, Lilly Sky Connor, Josiah Rafael Grimaldi Corpuz, Vincent Joseph Corriere, Kaylynn Elizabeth Costa, Ethan Denis Crosby, Logan Thomas Curtis, Kendra Lynne Cutroni, Connor William Dalrymple, Chance James Daniels, Dante James Dawkins, Tucker Anthony Dean, Aayla Rose Dennison, Yasmin Jakowatz Dos Santos, Lucas James Dowd, Owen Caine Eckert, Luciana Amelia Edwards, Nathan Charles Ferguson, Gavin Kennedy Fitzgerald, Aiden James Foley, Madilynn Priscilla Forestreire, Olivia Rose Forrester, Caleb Joshua Fowler, Connor Keith Gasco-Albro, Matthew Edward Gaudreau, Ryan Steven Gaylord, Kacey Jean Gemboski, David Anthony Gil, Laycie Adrienne Gordon, Lena Jean Goyette, Joseph Anthony Greska, Emmary Dawn Gustafson, Isaiah Kojo Owuna Hagan, Corinne Allie Harrington, Gabriel Alexander Jebidiah Hayes, Drew Edward Jarvi, Brianna Michelle Judge, Zachary Stephen Kaiser, Eva Isabel Kaminski, Lindsey Elizabeth Karlgren, Brody Neal Kenney, Jacey Lynn Kigar, Victoria Rose LaMountain, Maura Grace Lapriore, Jason Roberto Lareau, Joseph Nils Larson, Anthony Aaron Latour, Leandie Fariella Leandre, Alan August Levkovski, Valerie Abigail Lopez, Stella Grace Lovely, Matthew James Lynch, Brianna Macario, Cailyn Elizabeth Mackenzie, Rebecca Marie Malvey, Jathrian Angel Martinez, Nikolas Wayne Mason, Avery Mathieu, Oliver Patrick Mayotte, Keigan Adori McIlvaine, Vincent Andrew Menzone, Xavier Nikolai Metcalf, Alexander Wane

Mikel, Athena Matilda Molnar, Mikayla Rae Moorcroft, Marlo Ann Nashold, Kenzie Macrae Nicoll, Oliver Parker Okolita, McKinnon Michael Pacheco, Matthew Dylan Paquette, Addison Lynne Paradis, Aden Mark Patterson, Max William Patterson, Wyatt Matthew Pelletier, Joseph James Peters, Logan William Pettinelli, Colton Joseph Porter, Kandace Rose Quattrucci, Miguel Lopes Ramos, Callen Michael Reardon, Trey Leonard Reichardt, Layla Sophia Reid, Ryan Paul Reno, Isabelle Louise Richmond, Jadaly Audrey Rivera Rodriguez, Alysmaire Robles Aviles, Gabriela Araceli Rodas, Jherian Emmanuel Rodriguez, Sophia Lynn Rogers, Jayden Manuel Rosado, Michael Clement Salvatore, Sophia Alexis Santa, Alexis Rita Savary, William Frederick Schroeder, Daniel Ray Shirley, Grace Ann Shivick, Nico Adrian Smolynsky, Lilah Ann Soule, Laiza-Michelle Monice Spruill, Carlie Rose St. Cyr, Aslynn Jade St. Laurent, Ethan Daniel Starkus, Michael William Steuer, Brandon Scott Stone, Daniel Edward Sullivan, Brenna Louise Tebo, Brandon Michael Terry, Elin Margaret Thorsen, Noah Eladio Torres, Payton Rose Tremblay, Kourtney Lucy-Lynne Tucker, Peyton Michael Ward, Jacy Olivia Whalen, Landon Ryan Whatsitt, Jude Allen Worden

Principal’s List
Leanna Kate Alvarez, Kaydence Harmony Aubin-Corriveau, Grace Pearl Aucoin, Andrea Vioet Barnett, Meredith Alyse Bohenko, Vincent Anthony Bongovio, Mya Ashley Borelli, Arianna Elaine Breault, Carson Alexander Brunnett, Colton Riley Butterfield, Joshua Robert Cardenas, Domic Mickle Choiniere, Kayden Thi Chuong, Ian Michael Conley, Bianca Alexis Crespo, Kenai Alberto Cruz Mateo, Edwin Rojeliomar Cruz, Devlin Walker Davis, Michael John Devine, Cristian Benjamin Diaz, Reagan Josephine Eddy, William Francis Fram, Christopher Daniel Gauvin, Logan Joseph Horner, Joseph Earl Jaillet, Sean Michael Labbe, Asher Cooper Landrum, Kelsey Lynn Larson, Yamidiel Sadiel Lopez, Camden Jeffrey Lucier, Hunter William Luukko, Braylyn Ellen McCarthy, Mason James Monahan, David Ruhama Mweze, Kohl Evan Neeser, Andrew Cunningham Nieves, Patrick Logan O’Donnell, Max Rheault Peterson, Asael Bernard Ravanelle, Savannah Valerie Richardson, Zachary Richard Rucho, Khloe Angelise Sanchez, Joao Eduardo Silva Gardino, Lily Jane Sperry, Ava Jade St. Peter, Parker Riley Verham, Mason Joel Waters

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Paddles

5. Sunscreen rating

8. Very fast airplane

11. Immune responses

13. "Partner" to feather

14. New England river

15. Longest river in New Guinea

16. Midway between east and southeast

17. Israeli politician

18. Back bones

20. Consumed

21. One you can rely on

22. Dressed up gaudily

25. Representatives

30. Dog breed

31. Pitching statistic

32. Manpower

33. S. Korean entertainer

38. Outsourcing firm

41. Viceroy of Egypt under Turkish rule

43. One who removes antlers from a flower

45. Potluck dish

48. Discount

49. Airborne (abbr.)

50. Cavalry sword

55. Basics

56. Hollywood director Howard

57. Afflicted in mind or body

59. Horsley and Majors are two

60. Midway between northeast and east

61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

62. Malaysian isthmus

63. Fall back

64. Cheek

CLUES DOWN

1. Former CIA

2. Baseball's best pitchers

3. ___ Nui, Easter Island

4. Invests in little enterprises

5. Constant

6. Hobby

7. A place to store food

8. Short-tail marten

9. Burn with a hot liquid

10. Left his heart in San Francisco

12. Swedish krona

14. Legendary actor Connery

19. French cleric

23. Former measure of length for textiles

24. Opaque glassy substance

25. Residue of burned item

26. A place to unwind

27. Japanese honorific

28. Terminus

29. Fails to make a shot

34. Journalist Tarbell

35. College hoops tournament

36. Monetary unit of Macao

37. Of she

39. Spoke ill of

40. Elements

41. Kilocalorie (abbr.)

42. Shades

44. Poem of fourteen lines

45. Pole used in Scottish sport

46. Hollyhocks genus

47. Street name for marijuana

48. Polio vaccine developer

51. Swiss river

52. Prejudice

53. Actor Idris

54. Confederate soldiers

58. Criticize

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Dudley Woman’s Club meets Jan. 8

DUDLEY — Please join us for the Dudley Woman’s Club Jan. 8 meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the Dudley Town Hall, 71 West Main St. Our January meeting is all about health and wellness in the new year. Please join us in welcoming authors Brad & Pamela Thompson as we explore their book: Stress Less, Thrive More: Discover the Secrets to Physical, Emotional, and Mental Wellness. Our January voluntary Giving Project is new socks for the Webster-Dudley Food Share.

Don’t let our name dissuade you - the club and all our meetings are open to gals from all towns. Our more than 70 members hail from Webster, Dudley, Southbridge, Charlton, Uxbridge and several Northern Connecticut communities. We are just a group of volunteers who do what we can, where and when we can, to support and uplift our communities.

Our club year runs from September to May, and as you’ll see in our Charitable Giving report: www.dudleywomansclub.org, we accomplish a lot in those months. All this, and we have fun along the way! Bring a friend or five and join us on January 8 at the Dudley Municipal Complex. Nothing for you to do, just walk in the door and be welcomed. We hope to see your smiling faces there!



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Dudley Library offers program to improve communication with loved ones

DUDLEY — Would you like to improve the communication you have with those in your life? The Dudley Library is offering a program on effective and thoughtful communication with family, friends, and colleagues.

At a time when listening across differences may feel harder than ever, learn how to listen, share, and find understanding – even when you don’t agree.

Initial sessions will be held at the Dudley Library on Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 10:30 a.m. and Thursday, Jan. 29 at 6 p.m. No registration required.

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Music, drama, and faith highlight Saint Joseph School Christmas Pageant



Courtesy

WEBSTER — Saint Joseph School celebrated its annual Christmas Pageant on Sunday, Dec. 14, with more than 550 parents, grandparents, and guests filling the Daniel & Catherine Ivascyn Performing Arts Center. The program opened with a Tree Lighting Ceremony featuring Student Council President Mychael Jones, who recited Sue Pagnanella’s poem “Christmas,” followed by the Blessing of the Trees by Rev. Richard Polek, Pastor and Headmaster. This reflective opening set the tone for an afternoon filled with music, drama, and community spirit.

The school’s Drama Club brought the stage to life with a vibrant production of “In A Galilee Far, Far Away,” directed by Brighid Campbell with assistance from Susan Gallivan. This interstellar Christmas musical from Little Big Stuff Music took the audience on an imaginative journey across the universe to witness the glory of God, ultimately guiding them back to Bethlehem and the Savior’s birth. Leading the cast were Kalleia Agosto as Captain Magellan, Amadeusz Gacek as Polo, Alexis Archambault as Otto, Amelia Potem as the Robot, Evelyn Macko as Info, Mia Reed as Sparky, and Bella Kicilinski as Zip. They were joined by Samuel Brunnett as Kenny, Sophia Bengtson as Betty, Julia Biela as Sandy, and Mathieu Prunier, who portrayed Abraham Lincoln. The roles of Shepherds were performed by Johnny Marcuccio, Stella Andreotta, and James Miranda, while Michael Kamangu handled

the character of Damage Control. The production was further elevated by an ensemble featuring all students in Grades 5 through 8, whose participation added vocal strength and dynamic stage presence to several musical numbers. Their work, combined with energetic choreography and memorable songs—including “Away We Go,” “Home for Christmas,” “In a Galilee Far, Far Away,” “All in The Book,” “Our Savior Is Born Tonight,” “The Star Will Shine,” and “Seek Him”—brought the story’s cosmic theme to life. The visual impact of the musical was made possible thanks to parent volunteer Antonio Marcuccio and a dedicated team of student set and prop designers.

Following intermission, the pageant transitioned into a showcase of musical performances by students in Pre-K through Grade 8. The second act opened with the middle school’s “A Merry Christmas Dribble – 2025,” a basketball skills exhibition uniquely choreographed to selections from “The Nutcracker Suite.” This creative fusion of athletics and classical music delighted the audience and demonstrated exceptional coordination and teamwork.

A series of musical selections followed, with each grade presenting a traditional or contemporary Christmas piece. Grade 8 performed “The Christmas Song,” followed by: Grade 7’s rendition of “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear,” Grade 6’s “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” and Grade 5’s “It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas.” These selections were followed by: Grade 4

singing “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas,” Grade 3 performing “Jingle Bells” on recorders, Grade 2’s joyful “Children Run Joyfully,” Grade 1’s lively “I’m the Happiest Christmas Tree,” Kindergarten’s spirited “Santa Claus Is Coming to Town,” Pre-K 4’s “Oh, What a Wonderful Day,” and Pre-K 3’s sweet performance of “Baby Jesus (Are You Sleeping, Brother John).” Students in Grades 5 through 8 also added a multicultural element through their performance of “Campana Sobre Campana” as part of the school’s Spanish program.

A particularly notable moment of the afternoon was the debut of the new Saint Joseph School Show Choir under the direction of Ms. Connie Galli. She was joined by Shepherd Hill Regional High School students Tommy Dolan and Zoraiya Burgos, whose mentorship and musical support helped guide the ensemble in a stunning first performance of “O Come All Ye Faithful.” Following this debut, the Saint Joseph Church Choir delivered powerful, profoundly moving performances of “What Child Is This” and “Child of the Poor,” harmonizing the refrains and bringing the audience into a reverent, reflective close to the pageant.

Behind the scenes, the production was supported by the musical direction of Mrs. Brenda Lau Anderson and accompaniment by Maria Helena Czarnecka-Cieslak. Physical Education instructor Ms. Lisa Szpila coordinated the basketball exhibition, while Mr. Joey Boudreau and Mr. Mariusz Macko expertly managed sound and lighting.

The annual Christmas Pageant remains one of Saint Joseph School’s most cherished traditions, uniting families, students, and parishioners in a joyful celebration of faith and community. Through drama, music, and prayer, the event reflected the school’s mission of “Religion, Respect, and Responsibility” and invited all present to share in the joyful anticipation of Christmas.

The nativity comes to life as Saint Joseph School eighth graders Lukas Barbosa and Tenleigh Dowd portray Joseph and Mary in one of the closing scenes of the Christmas Pageant.

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Oxford Elementary Schools spread holiday cheer with winter concerts



OXFORD — The halls of OHS and Chaffee Elementary were filled with music and holiday cheer during their Winter Concerts the week of Dec. 15.

Barton Elementary hosted its evening concert on Tuesday, Dec. 16, at the OHS auditorium featuring students in grades 3 through 5. Families and community members gathered to enjoy a mix of classic holiday songs and new favorites performed by the young singers. Kindergarten through second-grade students brought their own energy to the Chaffee stage on Friday, Dec. 19, delighting the audience with their excitement and festive spirit.

Both concerts featured student speakers who introduced each song, sharing fun facts and interesting details about the music. Students dressed in colorful, festive attire, adding to the joyful atmosphere of the performances.

A special thank-you goes to Chaffee and Barton’s music teacher, Emily Stark, for organizing the concerts. In her first year leading the events, Stark gave personal shout-outs to her team and to the principals of both schools for their support in making the concerts a success.

Every performance drew a full house, and the audience left with smiles, tapping their feet, and humming along. It was a memorable way for students, families, and staff to celebrate the season together.

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PET of the WEEK

MEET Tommy & Zoey

Meet Tommy & Zoey — the sweetest pair looking for a home together! Tommy is a friendly, well-mannered gentleman who listens beautifully, loves affection, and enjoys relaxing on his bed after a nice walk. Zoey is his equally loving sidekick — playful, people-oriented, and happiest hanging out with her humans or exploring the yard with her best buddy by her side.

Together, they make the perfect team: Tommy brings a calm, steady vibe, while Zoey sprinkles in fun and silliness. They're house trained, good with visitors, and have lived with children in the past — but given how overwhelmed they've been settling into the shelter, a quieter home with teens or older kids would help them feel safe and succeed. Tommy leans into every pet, and Zoey lights up when someone offers gentle attention — they truly thrive on companionship.

Both dogs walk nicely on leash, enjoy chew toys, and settle well when left alone. Both are talkative in the cutest way and are described as “really good dogs” who listen wonderfully. If you're looking for a loving duo who are already familiar with home life — ready to snuggle, stroll, and grow more confident with their forever family — Tommy & Zoey are waiting to start their next chapter with you! ☐

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STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

New Year’s resolutions that actually last

Every January brings a familiar ritual. Calendars turn, conversations reset, and resolutions are declared with enthusiasm and good intentions. The appeal is understandable. A new year suggests a clean slate, a chance to improve habits, attitudes, or routines. Yet experience has shown that many resolutions fade quickly, not because people lack commitment, but because the goals themselves are often unrealistic.

That does not mean resolutions are a lost cause. It may mean they need to be rethought.

The most common promises tend to be ambitious and sweeping. Exercise every day. Be more productive. Change everything at once. These goals can feel motivating in theory, but they often collide with the realities of daily life. Work schedules, family responsibilities, and unexpected demands rarely leave room for perfection. When resolutions require constant willpower, they are unlikely to survive past the first few weeks of winter.

More durable resolutions usually share one trait. They are practical.

Instead of aiming for dramatic personal transformation, the new year can be an opportunity to make smaller, steadier adjustments. Paying more attention to what is happening locally, for example, is a resolution that does not require extra hours in the day. Staying informed, reading past headlines, and learning how decisions are made builds understanding and reduces frustration. Communities function better when people feel informed rather than disconnected.

Another resolution that tends to last is supporting what already exists. Local businesses, schools, libraries, and civic organizations rely on consistent participation, not occasional bursts of attention. Choosing to attend an event, shop locally when possible, or volunteer a few hours a month may not feel like a grand gesture, but these choices add up. They strengthen the systems people rely on every day.

The new year also offers a chance to reflect on how people interact with one another. Public conversations, especially online, often move quickly toward assumptions and sharp conclusions. A resolution to slow down, listen more carefully, and respond thoughtfully can change the tone of those exchanges. Disagreement does not have to disappear for conversations to be productive. Respect and patience can exist even when opinions differ.

Personal resolutions benefit from the same approach. Spending more time with family, creating space for regular routines, or reducing unnecessary distractions often proves more effective than highly structured plans that demand constant motivation. These quieter commitments tend to integrate more naturally into daily life, making them easier to sustain.

There is also value in recognizing that progress is not always linear. Missed goals and imperfect follow-through are not signs of failure. They are part of the process. Resolutions that allow room for adjustment are more forgiving and more realistic. The goal is not perfection, but consistency.

The appeal of a new year lies less in its symbolism and more in its timing. It provides a natural pause, a moment to reflect on what is working and what is not. That pause does not require sweeping change. It invites recalibration.

If the year ahead includes fewer dramatic declarations and more thoughtful commitments, that may be a sign of success. Resolutions do not need to transform everything at once to be meaningful. They only need to move daily habits, conversations, and priorities gradually in a better direction. Over time, those modest shifts are often the ones that truly last.

Viewpoint

Auburn’s Civil War Navy men

BY HELEN POIRIER
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Auburn Historical Society and Museum started a program to document the military men and women who served through the years for the town of Auburn. While entering data from the museum archives for the Civil War, six men stood out as enlisting in the Navy. People don’t usually picture the naval aspect of the Civil War. When the Civil War started the U.S. Navy had about 90 ships, less than half have were combat ready, with only 26 of them steam powered. Commercial vessels of the time had been steam-powered for more than 40 years. There were about 7,600 men of all ranks of the navy at this time. Most were pro-Union, but about 259 naval officers, 43%, resigned or were dismissed for Confederate beliefs.

The six naval men that were credited to Auburn were Benjamin Thomas Chapin, James S. Southgate, John Tucker, John Tye, Charles Usher, and George White. These men all have one thing in common; they started out on the USS Ohio which was a receiving ship in Boston. The definition of a receiving ship is a vessel that serves as a point of induction into the service for new recruits. They remained on this ship long enough to get the paperwork done and to draw initial issues of clothing. Receiving ships were also used by sailors whose enlistments were ending and were being processed out of the Navy.

Benjamin Thomas Chapin was born in 1835 in New York. According to his obituary, he was member of one of Worcester’s most prominent and influential families. His grandfather, Dr. Benjamin Chapin, owned the greater part of the Front St. business district. Ben’s father was Benjamin T. Chapin Sr. Worcester, and mother was Alice Knowles of Auburn. Benjamin married Silence Eleanor Thayer and had three children, Alice, Everette T. and Martha A. All are buried at Hillside Cemetery.

Benjamin enlisted at the age of 29 in 1864 with his occupation being a mechanic. Besides being received on the USS Ohio, he served on the USS Connecticut and USS Stars and Stripes. The USS Connecticut was carrying men to the fleet between July 30 and Oct. 30, 1864. It was placed out of commission at Boston from October to February 1865 in Boston. Her last cruise from February 21 to August 1865 was to the West Indies and east coast looking for Confederate privateers.

The USS Stars and Stripes was built at Mystic Connecticut and bought by the Navy in 1861. In September, it was assigned to the East Gulf Blocking Squadron where it operated off the coast of Florida for the remainder of the war. In October, she destroyed a Confederate fishery at Marsh Island and captured the troops stationed there. In December Benjamin was part of the landing party that destroyed the Salt Works at Rocky Point in Tampa Bay.

Benjamin was discharged June 2, 1865, with the rank of Fireman 1st Class. According to Benjamin’s obituary, after the war he was a locomotive engineer for the Norwich & Worcester Railroad. Later he was a member of the Worcester engineering department. He was a member of the George Ward Post #10 G.A.R., Worcester. He remained in Auburn the rest of his life. According to John Hartwell’s notes, Benjamin lived on Leicester St. at the intersection of [old] Rochdale St. where he operated a saw grist mill. He died January 5, 1927.

James S. Southgate was born on Oct. 8, 1842, in Worcester. He was the son of John Parker and Sarah L. “Sally” (Swan) Southgate. He married Emma Swan in 1875. They had three children, Freddie S., [Dr.] Alfred W., and Edna. The family lived near the intersection of Central and Water Streets operating a small mill across Water Street. He died of heart disease on Nov. 22, 1899, at the age of 57. He was buried in Hope Cemetery in Worcester.

When James enlisted on July 15, 1863, he was a resident of Worcester but was credited to Auburn. He was assigned to the following ships: USS Ohio in Boston July 15-25, 1863, USS Wabash to August 10, USS Canandaigua to Aug. 21. He served in the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron which was cruising off Charleston S.C. The Canandaigua cooperated with the Union Army taking part in a series of attacks on positions in Charleston Harbor. He was then hospitalized for rheumatism August 13 to October 3. He was released for duty and stationed on the USS Princeton, which was a receiving ship in Philadelphia on August 28, 1864, when he was discharged from the Navy.

John Tucker was born Jan. 11, 1822, in South Charlton [Charlton City]. He was the son of Manasseh and Mary “Polly” (Sabin) Tucker. He married Lucy M. Davidson on April 3, 1844, in Oxford. They had two children: Ella Augusta and Henry Charles. Lucy’s parents were Simeon and Dorothea “Dolly” (Cudworth) Tucker. Dorothea’s parents were the subject of the Clark/Cudworth Burial Ground article, “The Forgotten Burial Ground.”

John was a 45-year-old engineer when he

enlisted Feb. 19, 1862, in Boston and was assigned to the USS Ohio. He served on the USS Penobscot and USS Sonoma. He was appointed Acting 3rd Assistant Engineer on the Daffodil on Aug. 6, 1864, and was part of the South Atlantic Squadron.

The USS Penobscot was built in Belfast Maine and was launched in November 1861. The Penobscot destroyed the Confederate schooner, Sereta, in June 1862. Other conquests included the sloop Lizzie, British brig Robert Burns off Cape Fear, as well forcing the Kate ashore at Smith’s Island in July.

The USS Daffodil started out as the side-wheel steamer, Jonas Smith built in Keyport Kentucky in 1862. It was then purchased by the Navy and renamed the Daffodil being fitted out at the New York Navy Yard. It sailed on Nov. 24, to join the South Atlantic Blocking Squadron. She arrived at Port Ryal SC in December 1862 and served as tug until the end of the war along the coasts of South Carolina and Georgia. Daffodil’s history includes towing 25 boats in the assault on Fort Sumter, taking part in the successful Army-Navy expedition up the Broad River to destroy the Charleston & Savannah Railroad Bridge near Pocotaligo, S.C. The ship did a reconnaissance mission up the Ashepoo River and Feb. 9, joined the batteries in the Tugaloo River, S.C. John Tucker was aboard during these engagements. After the war John lived in West Auburn on Southbridge Street. He died June 21, 1869, at the age of 47, and is buried in the West Auburn Burial Ground.

John Tye was born in New York about 1815. He was credited to Auburn, but no evidence has been found that he ever lived in town. In the 1860 census he was living in Greenfield, Saratoga County, New York. He was living with a Michael Tye, age 26, and a Margaret Tye, age 23. There was no listing of age for John.

He enlisted February 17, 1862, at the age of 44, for three years as a seaman. He served on the USS Ohio, USS Wachusett, and USS Currituck. He was wounded on the Currituck and died Sept. 15, 1863, as a Boatswain’s Mate.

The USS Wachusett was an Iroquois class screw sloop of war built at the Boston Navy Yard and commissioned March 1862. She was part of the attack on the Drewry’s Bluff fortifications in Virginia, was a flagship of a special “Flying Squadron” searching for Confederate Navy raiders in the Caribbean and captured the Southern cruiser, Florida, in Bahia, Brazil.

The USS Currituck was a wooden-hulled screw-propelled steamer and was used as a gunboat doing river patrols and guard duty. It was assigned to the Potomac Flotilla in the Chesapeake Bay and tributary waters working with the Army on shore as well as conveying transports and hospital boats.

Charles Usher was born about 1820. He enlisted for three years on May 22, 1862, at the age of 42. He served on the USS Ohio, USS Rhode Island, and USS Harriet Lane before being discharged on May 29, 1863, in North Carolina as a Seaman. He was admitted to the US Naval Hospital in Chelsea MA in 1863 being listed as a Gunner’s Mate. He was suffering from a fractured leg. He then enlisted and was credited to Wilmington on June 6, 1863, for one year serving again on the USS Ohio and the USS Ethan Allen. The Ethan Allen was a “bark” which is a type of sailing vessel with 3 or more masts of which the fore mast is rigged for a fore-and-aft rather than square sail. From June 22 to Oct. 28, 1863, she patrolled the Grand Banks, protecting NE fisheries from Confederate raiders. Early in November, she joined the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, patrolling the coast off Port Royal S.C. Charles’s discharge was June 8, 1864, as a Seaman.

George White was 21 when he enlisted Jan. 21, 1863, as an ordinary Seaman. He served on the USS Ohio and USS Restless. The Restless was a bark vessel. The first Restless was purchased from Everett and Hawley at New York on Aug. 26, 1861, and commissioned the following December, Acting Volunteer Lt. Edward Conroy in command.

The Restless sailed to Norfolk, took on supplies for the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, and toward the end of January 1862 arrived at Port Royal, S.C. and assigned to the blockade force off Charleston. She took up station off Bull’s Bay on Feb. 4.

George was credited to Auburn, but no documentation shows a George White living in town at the time.

The Veteran Project to document and honor the military of Auburn is an ongoing project of the Auburn Historical Society & Museum. If you would like to contribute to the Military Data Base please contact the museum or go to the website and download the Veterans Project information sheet and return it to the Auburn Historical Society and Museum.

This article is made possible by the Auburn Historical Society & Museum, 41 South Street. 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.

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

Lanterns Along Main Street

There was a time when winter felt like something to be endured.

You shoveled, you complained, you waited for it to be over. Spring was the reward, and winter was simply the price you paid to get there.

Somewhere along the way, that changed for me.

I do not know exactly when it happened, but at some point, I stopped wishing the season away.

Maybe it came with age, or maybe it came from realizing how many winters I had already watched pass by. Either way, I have learned that winter is not an obstacle. It is a pause.

And pauses, I have found, are underrated.

This part of the year does not demand much from us beyond patience. It asks us to move a little slower, to plan a little better, to pay attention to the small discomforts so they do not become big problems. Put the boots by the door. Keep the flashlight handy. Leave early.

Those habits spill over into other parts of life.

Winter teaches you to prepare quietly instead of reacting loudly. You learn to anticipate rather than rush. You notice things you might otherwise miss because you are not charging ahead at full speed.

I see it in how people interact, too.

Conversations tend to be shorter, but often more sincere. There is less time for small talk and more appreciation for getting straight to the point. You ask how someone is doing and actually wait for the answer. You hold the door because you know what cold feels like. You nod to a stranger because it feels wrong not to.

These are not dramatic shifts, just subtle ones. But subtle changes shape the tone of a community more than any big announcement ever could.

I have also noticed that winter has a way of leveling things out. It does not care who you are or what you do. Everyone slips a little. Everyone misjudges the ice at least once. Everyone learns humility the hard way, usually in their own driveway.

There is something oddly comforting about that shared experience.

We talk a lot about resilience these days, usually as something to aspire to. Winter reminds us that resilience is mostly practical. It is checking the weather. It is calling to make sure someone got home safely. It is accepting help without making a production out of it.

It is knowing when to stay put.

I think that is why small towns handle winter as well as they do. Not perfectly, but together. Plows run. Neighbors check in. Life continues, just at a slightly quieter volume.

And when the snow finally melts, we will pretend we did not appreciate any of it. We will complain about the mud and the potholes and the long wait. But deep down, we will know that winter gave us something we did not realize we needed.

A pause. A reset. A reminder that slowing down is not the same as falling behind.

Sometimes, it is exactly how you keep your footing.

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.

Closing out 2025

As we enter the new year, let’s close out the latest 2025 auction news, beginning with a rare baseball card heading to auction.

T206 cards were produced by tobacco companies from 1909 to 1911 and given away as premiums. Honus Wagner played during that time and was a first ballot Hall of Famer who “hit .300-or-better for 15 straight seasons from 1899-1913,” according to the Hall of Fame. In that span, Wagner won eight National League batting titles, led the NL in doubles seven times, stolen bases five times and RBI four times,” according to the Hall of Fame’s website. His baseball card is the rarest in the set and PSA (a card grading com-



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Dudley Conservation Land Trust ushers in new year with special gift

DUDLEY — The Dudley Conservation Land Trust (DCLT) is excited to announce a generous donation from the Perron family, which includes land, a small barn, and an 1830s historic post and beam Cape Cod style home located in Dudley. According to the Dudley Historical Commission, “... this house is now a relatively rare example of a once ubiquitous element of the historic landscape.” The barn is a more recent addition to the property.

“DCLT has been looking for a permanent home for some time—somewhere to store our collection of documents, to hold board meetings, and to maybe even host events—and the Perron family has been gracious enough to gift us such a space in a perfect location,” said DCLT president Liza Moran.

Along with this potential future home for DCLT, the donor has offered three extra acres—previously used for agricultural purposes—at a reasonable price, and DCLT will be conserving the entire property. This property was previously owned by the parents of Louis and Julie Perron and Susan Lyman. After their parents’ passing, the siblings discussed how best to honor their parents’ legacy.

“Our parents loved this property and our family is delighted that the DCLT will preserve the land and make use of the historic house,” said donor Lou Perron.

This parcel, situated at 277 Dudley Oxford Road, adjoins Mass Audubon’s Pierpont Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary and lies extremely close to DCLT’s Slater Woods sanctuary. DCLT intends to restore the historic residence—likely starting with stabilizing the structure by replacing the sills. The entire home restoration process is expected to take a considerable amount of time and money. In contrast, the barn may be utilized sooner since its renovation requirements are less extensive. This could allow for the storage of equipment needed to maintain DCLT’s sanctuaries, aligning with one of our five-year strategic objectives for stewardship. If you would like to contribute your skills, labor, or funds to aid in the restoration and upkeep of the historic Perron property, please contact DCLT at DudleyConservationLandTrust@gmail.com.

In other news, DCLT is actively raising funds to purchase the Tierney land on Marsh Road/Whiting Road along with other parcels that may be of interest with our new GoFundMe page (<https://gofund.me/1fc034289>). We remain committed to preserving and enhancing this vital wildlife corridor which connects Oxford, Dudley and Charlton. A draft conservation restriction has been submitted to the state for review as a requirement for receiving funding under the state’s Conservation Partnership Program.

It has been a busy and productive year for the Dudley Conservation Land Trust. We remain committed to our mission and look forward to what’s to come in the year ahead. Stay connected for more updates on what’s happening with DCLT! This will be even easier when our updated website launches in 2026 with new ways to join, donate, and enjoy this place we call home.

pany) has graded only 36 Wagner cards, according to Sports Collectors Daily. Some have speculated that Wagner didn’t want his likeness associated with tobacco products and that he wanted production of his card halted. However, Hall of Fame research showed that Wagner actively promoted other tobacco products. The card that was recently found came from a collection that had been handed down through a family after a collector passed away in 1974. The collector would have been 11 around the time when the cards were being placed in cigarette packages. Even though the card graded at only a 1 out of 10, it has a \$1,000,000 starting bid. The last PSA Honus Wagner graded 1 card sold for \$3.1 million in 2022 and this most recent card is expected to bring more.

In the rock and roll world, a rare photo went on the auction block recently. David Bowie’s “Aladdin Sane” album cover is “one of pop music’s most iconic images,” according to an Antique Trader article. The photo depicts Bowie with the lightning bolt design on his face that appeared on the album cover. Brian Duffy took the photo. His archive website says his “cutting-edge photography documents the vibrancy of ‘the Swinging ‘60’s’ London scene when the city was at the height of cool.” The photo sold for £381,400 (about \$515,481 USD).

As you are probably aware, the government stopped minting pennies in November. The U.S. Mint partnered with the government to auction some of the last pennies minted. The pennies had an “Ω” (Omega) mark designating them as being some of the last that were made. Benjamin Franklin is credited with designing our country’s first penny, the Fugio Cent. Fugio means “I flee” in Latin. The reverse had a 13-link chain that symbolized the 13 original colonies. The front had the words “Mind your business” below a sundial. They were struck in different locations in New Haven, Conn. The U.S. Mint produced its first penny in 1793. The coin is called the “Flowing Hair Cent” because of the image of the woman on the front. The reverse has a wreath design with the words “One Cent.” The most expensive set in the auction contained the last 3 pennies that were struck. Two pennies were made with the typical zinc and copper composition from the Philadelphia and Denver Mints along with a .9999 fine 24-karat gold penny. It brought \$800,000. Along with the other Omega pennies in the auction, the sale brought in \$16.76 million. Meanwhile, a local grocery store recently offered two cents for every penny with pennies getting harder to find. Hopefully no one turned in an Omega penny.

Our single-collector Civil War auction



will be starting soon. Our following sale will include fine jewelry, sterling silver, art, and other antiques and collectibles. We’ll be running a major sale with sports cards and memorabilia in the summer. We are accepting consignments for our two next sales. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.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).

Oxford Community Center hosting Fun, Frost & Family Festival Jan. 31

OXFORD — The Oxford Community Center will be having its Fifth Annual Fun, Frost & Family Festival on Saturday, Jan. 31.

The event will kick-off with the Polar Plunge at 10:30 a.m. at Carbuncle Pond. This will be followed by a Pancake Breakfast at the First Congregational Church, 355 Main St., from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The main events will be held on the Oxford Common from noon to 3 p.m., and will feature something for everyone including food trucks, fire pits, s’mores, music, games and more! Also starting at noon, the Oxford Library will be hosting Kids’ Crafts and Storytime.

Finally, the Oxford Community Center will be having a Vendor Fair, Cookie Decorating, Magic Shows, Face Painting and a Photo Booth. Come out to this year’s Winter Festival and join in the fun!

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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 on January 1st in observance of New Years Day. We will also be closed on January 19th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The Children’s Room will be opening at 11:00 on Friday, January 30th. The 2nd graders from Dudley Elementary will be taking a tour that day.

Please join us in the month of January to celebrate local artist, Jim Wilton. A variety of paintings & photography are on display for you to enjoy in the Fels Room whenever the Library is open.

ADULT EVENTS

Gentle Yoga
Mondays in January-NO SESSION Monday January 19th 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 January 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 January. 1:30- 3:30
All quilters and would-be quilters are invited to join our new group. Bring your projects!

Knit & Crochet Group
Every Thursday 5:30-7:45 and Friday 10:00-12:00
All stitchers are welcome for this informal group.

Bring your project, enjoy the company

Once Upon A Crime Book Club- Columbine by Dave Cullen
Friday, January 2nd 11:00-12:00
Do you have a passion for true crime and examining the details of each case? This book club is for you! The “Once Upon A Crime Book Club” meets the first Friday of every month in the adult reading area. All books will be pre-ordered and available for pick up at the circulation desk.

Picking Parlor Jam, a “mostly” Bluegrass Focused Jam Session
1st Saturday of every month
Saturday, January 3rd 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!

Communication Exchange Series with Jessica
Tuesday, January 6th 10:30-11:30
Thursday, January 29th 6:00-7:00
Wish you could be a better communicator or listener? Are you struggling with conversation in the face of disagreement? Join us for a casual conversation on how to have a conversation! Real life happens; let’s be ready.

Reverse Painting with Pop Up Art School
Thursday, January 8th 6:00-7:30
Learn about the centuries-old art of reverse glass painting and create your own reverse painting! Choose from three images, and paint it using acrylic paint on clear acetate.

Reverse painting techniques have been used since the 16th century. In reverse painting, the details are painted first and then the larger shapes. It’s the reverse order of how one usually paints on paper or canvas where we start with the background, add medium to large shapes and then details. Once the image has been painted, it is viewed from the opposite side through the clear acetate. Ages 17+ only. Registration is required.

The Friends of the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library
Monday, January 12th 1:15-2:15
Join us for the monthly meeting!

NEW! Pearle’s Genealogy Group
Monday, January, 12th 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

The Missing Piece Puzzle Race
Monday, January 12th 6:00-7:30
Teams of four will compete against each other with the ultimate goal of completing a puzzle faster than the other teams. The first team to assemble the puzzle wins!

Don’t have enough for a team? Don’t worry, we will match you up! Registration is required

Rope Flow with Kate
Thursday, January 15th 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.

Create A Treasure Journal
Thursday, January 22nd 5:30-7:30
Happy Arts Events will be onsite to teach you various art journal making techniques to create your own unique and beautifully inspired keepsake or gift. Registration is required.

Crawford Library Book Group
Thursday, January 22nd 6:00-7:30
Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger
Books are available at the circulation desk for checkout one month prior to discussion.

No Registration Required.

“Cook the Book” Book Club
January 26th 6:00-7:00
Book: Every Day with Babs: 101 Family Friendly Dinners for Every Day of the Week by Barbara Costello
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.

Ginger & Spice
Saturday, January 31st 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!

Presented by Christine Leo, M. Ed.

This program is sponsored by the Dudley Agricultural

Commission & the Town of Dudley. Registration required.

KIDS EVENTS

Baby Open Play
Fridays in January-NO SESSION Friday, January 30th 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

Guest Reader-Dudley Elementary Special Ed. Teacher-Mrs.Sgariglia
Monday, January 5th 6:00-7:00
Join us for a story and a craft!

Pre-K Power
Tuesdays in January-NO SESSION January 20th 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 January-NO SESSION January 21st 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-New Kid
Thursday, January 8th 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.

Gene the Amazing! Magic Show & Balloon Animals
Saturday, January 10th 11:00-12:00
Come and enjoy the magic of Gene the Amazing! Gene has been entertaining people of all ages for 45 years. After his entertaining magic show, he’ll make balloon animals for the children!

This program is best for children ages 4-12 and their families. Registration not required. Space is limited, first come first served.

Pokemon Club
Thursday, January 15th 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.

Yoga for Children
Friday, January 16th 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.

Deb’s Sing & Swing-Winter Wonderland
Thursday, January 22nd 10:30-11:15
Pre-K Music & Movement offers a 45 minute interactive program featuring singing, guitar music, dancing, rhythm instruments, stories and variety of fun props, including a parachute, beanbags, scarves, and pom poms. These programs are theme-based, and cover everything from holidays and seasons to dinosaurs and bugs!

Local 4 Life-Beneficial Bugs
Saturday, January 24th 10:30-11:30
“LESSONS AT THE LIBRARY” with Local 4 Life
Check out live earthworms, dress up like a ladybug, dance like a bee, and build a spider web with yarn, all while learning why these bugs are so helpful to us!

Hands-on educational programs for families with children ages 4-11 years old. Registration Required.

How to Draw Cute Animals for Tweens
Thursday, January 29th 6:00-6:45
Learn to draw animals using easy to follow, step-by-step instructions - then use your creativity to give them unique and funny personalities! We’ll be using Heegyum Kim’s book “Draw 62 Animals and Make Them Cute” so you’ll have lots of choices! Then take what you’ve learned to take your doodling to a whole new level!

This program is for children ages 6-12 only - no registration needed. This is not a drop-off program.

TEEN EVENTS

Dungeons & Dragons Game
Thursdays in January-NO SESSION Thursday, January 1st 6:00-7:30
Ages 14-19 only
Are you looking to play a game that contains action, adventure, and drama?

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508-949-3880
Library Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Library will be closing at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31 and closed on Thursday, Jan. 1

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

Yoga Nidra with Jess – Fridays in January, 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.

Midnight Society Book Club – Wednesday, January 7th at 6:30pm
Join Janessa for our horror book club where we will meet and discuss a book every month! We will try out classic horror as well as newer releases, and scary horror as well as cozy. Prepare to have fun being scared! Copies of this month’s book are available at the circulation desk.

Ayurveda 101: Building a Nourishing Daily Rhythm (Winter Edition) – Thursday, January 8th at 6:30pm
As winter invites us to slow down

and turn inward, Ayurveda offers simple, time-tested practices to help us feel grounded, nourished, and resilient. This introductory session explores how daily rhythms—what we eat, when we eat, how we care for our bodies, and how we manage stress—can support well-being during the colder months. Designed for those new to Ayurveda, this one-hour program focuses on practical, accessible guidance around winter-friendly food choices, meal timing and spacing, and gentle daily self-care practices. Participants will also experience a few short practices to help support calm, warmth, and balance. No prior experience is needed. Attendees are encouraged to come as they are and leave with a few simple, supportive practices they can easily incorporate into daily life throughout the winter season.

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! January’s theme is Clay Art.

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.

Busy Baby Storytime – Fridays at 10:30am
Join Miss Paige for Busy Baby Storytime! Babies and caregivers will enjoy rhymes, movement, and simple stories that build early literacy skills in a fun and playful way.

1000 Books before Kindergarten Kick-Off Week!! Monday, January 5th-Saturday, January 10th
Kick off Your 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Adventure! 1000 Books Before Kindergarten is a fun and impactful program that encourages children to read, builds early literacy skills, fosters a love of reading, and strengthens the bond between children and their caregivers. During the first week of our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program, every child who signs up will receive a free book and a small gift to start their reading journey.

The Library Boogie: A Musical Puppet Show with Tom Knight, Saturday, January 10th at 11:15am
The Library Boogie is a lively musical puppet show by Tom Knight that celebrates books, stories, and the joy of reading. With catchy songs, colorful puppets, and plenty of audience participation, this family-friendly program brings the magic of the library to life for children and adults alike.



Courtesy

Oh, what fun we had laughing all the way! Well, that’s the Dudley Woman’s Club’s version of the classic after our club meeting in December. Fun and productive! Our generous membership donated toiletries valued at \$768 to fill holiday “stockings” that we decorated for residents of Christopher Heights. And we voted to donate \$3,000 to HANDS (Helping Address the Needs of Dudley Seniors) to aid in their mission to warm seniors in need this winter. The choir from St. Anthony of Padua entertained with seasonal songs and then joined us for refreshments and holiday cheer. Loved all the pajama spirit and as you will see in the photos, everyone was a winner in our “Make Me a Wreath” contest. Our thanks to the Mill@French River folks who always make us feel welcomed.



Clara Barton fifth grade Student Council spreads holiday cheer at Oxford Senior Center



OXFORD — The Clara Barton Fifth Grade Student Council brought joy and holiday spirit to the Oxford Senior Center on Friday, Dec. 19, creating a heartwarming experience for both students and seniors alike. For weeks, the student council had been preparing handmade crafts and holiday cards, which they proudly handed out during their visit. The seniors’ reactions were priceless, with one exclaiming, “Wow! I have never gotten a gift!”

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, 12/30: Meatballs with onion gravy, bowtie pasta, peas. Wednesday, 12/31: Marinated pork loin, herbed potatoes, glazed carrots. NO LUNCH SERVED ON NEW YEAR’S DAY! Friday, 1/2: Soup du jour, turkey salad sandwiches, pasta 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.
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.
Want to test your musical knowledge? The senior center will be having a musical bingo night on Thursday, January 8th from 5:45 to 7 pm! Bingo packets will be \$3 each.
Come celebrate the winter season with the Friends of the Webster Senior Center! Our winter party will be on Friday, January 16th from 1:00 to 2:30 pm!
Chair Dancing Exercise classes with Forty Arroyo are the perfect workout for any fitness ability! The cost is a recommended \$3.00 donation per class. A new video class will be offered Thursday and Friday mornings, free of charge.
Now introducing Line Dancing with Forty Arroyo! Classes will start on January 26th, and will be held from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm on every 4th Monday of the month.
Knitting/Crochet group meets on Mondays from 10:00 am- 12:00 pm.
Bingo is every Tuesday and starts promptly at 1:00 pm. Please plan to arrive by 12:30 pm to allow time to buy your bingo sheets. Bingo sheets are not sold after 12:45 pm.
Do you like to play Cribbage? Our weekly Cribbage group meets every Thursday at 1:00 pm. Feel free to join us!
Calling card players or interested persons to the Webster Senior Center! Come join us for six-card or thirteen-card pitch! Six-card pitch meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. Thirteen-card pitch meets on Thursdays at 1:00 pm.
Mahjongg group meets every Friday at 1:00 pm. Beginners welcome!
We now have an official Bridge group! We will be meeting every Friday from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in the upstairs activity room. All that are interested are welcome to join!
The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office House Numbering Program will create a custom wooden sign with your house number free of charge. One sign per senior household. Please contact the Webster Senior Center at (508) 949-3845. if you are interested in having a house number sign made for you.
Senior SAFE is a program that supports fire and life safety education for seniors. The Webster Fire Dept. will do a home visit to ensure that you have the correct smoke and CO2 alarms, and that they are working properly. This is at no cost to you! All you have to do is give them a call at (508) 949-3875.

The students also treated everyone to a selection of Christmas carols, filling the room with festive cheer. Beyond performances, the students engaged warmly with the seniors, creating meaningful connections that left a lasting impression. The afternoon ended on a fun and unexpected note when the seniors challenged the students to a spirited game of chair volleyball, promising a future return visit.
A special thank you goes to Robin Hornbaker, fifth grade teacher, for organizing and bringing the students for this memorable outing. The visit was a shining example of intergenerational connection, community spirit, and the joy of giving during the holiday season.

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests from Dec. 14-27.
Edgar M. Torres, Jr., age 37, of Webster was arrested on Dec. 15 for driving at a rate of speed exceeding the posted limit, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and in connection with a warrant.
Cheri Kim Lumbra, age 51, of Webster was arrested on Dec. 15 in connection with a warrant of apprehension.
Richard Roy Briggs, age 44, of Webster was arrested on Dec. 16 in connection with multiple warrants.
Sonya Renee Mitchell, age 46, of Webster was arrested on Dec. 17 in connection with a warrant.
Jeffrey J. Marrier, age 53, of Webster was arrested on Dec. 18 in connection with a warrant.
Louis E. Rock III, age 52, of Webster was arrested on Dec. 18 in connection with multiple warrants.
Anna Szwarc, age 41, of Webster was arrested on Dec. 18 in connection with multiple warrants.
Terence Michael Graves, age 34, of Webster was arrested on Dec. 18 in connection with a warrant.
Jerome J. Clark, age 45, of Webster was arrested on Dec. 18 in connection with a warrant.
A 63-year-old male whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Dec. 27 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.
A 35-year-old male whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Dec. 27 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member, Vandalization of Property, and Disorderly Conduct.



Cornerstone Bank’s annual Toy Drive spreads holiday cheer across community

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank is proud to announce the success of its annual holiday toy drive, which collected new, unwrapped toys for local children and families this season. Thanks to the generosity of customers, employees and community members, the effort once again brought joy to those who need it most.

Since its founding in 2017, Cornerstone has proudly partnered with local charities to brighten the holidays for families throughout its community. This year, all branches except the Southbridge location donated collected toys to the Planting the Seed Foundation, a Worcester-based nonprofit that supports underprivileged children and families. The Southbridge Branch continued its long-standing tradition of supporting the Cops ‘N’ Kids Toy Drive, a local program that has received donations from Cornerstone Bank for more than five years.

“This year’s toy drive truly shows the power of community,” said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. “Seeing so many people come together to support children and families in need is inspiring, and it reminds us why giving back is such an important part of what we do.”

Cornerstone Bank extends its sincere gratitude to everyone who participated and helped make this year’s toy drive a success.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank’s local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone, which is a subsidiary of PeoplesBankCorp, MHC, operating independently under its own name and brand, provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities through a broad range of deposit and loan products and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.

Park Ave 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: Cassandra Wall (Cafe/Recess Monitor) and Janet Labonte (EL Teacher).

Cassandra Wall, Recess and Cafeteria Monitor, is known for her unwavering reliability, determination, and flexibility. She is here every day, providing a consistent and steady presence that helps our school run smoothly. She approaches her role with dedication and care, always ready to adapt to the needs of students and staff alike. Wall has a natural ability to connect with children, and the students truly adore her. She creates a safe, welcoming environment during recess and lunch, where students feel supported, respected, and cared for. Her calm demeanor and positive interactions make a meaningful difference in students’ daily school experience.

As one colleague shared, “Cassandra is someone you can always count on. She is flexible, dependable, and the kids absolutely love her.” Her commitment, hard work, and genuine care for our students make her an invaluable part of our school family.

Janet Labonte, EL Teacher, is known for her warmth, compassion, and unwavering dedication. She has been a beloved presence in our school, providing a consistent and steady support that helps our students and staff thrive. She approaches her role with care and devotion, always ready to meet the unique needs of her students and colleagues alike. Labonte has a natural ability to connect with children, and the students truly adore her. She creates a welcoming and supportive environment

in her classroom, where students feel encouraged, respected, and valued. Her calm demeanor and positive interactions make a meaningful difference in students’ daily school experience.

As one colleague shared, “Janet’s compassion and dedication touch everyone around her. She truly makes our school a better place.”

After many years of inspiring students and supporting staff, Labonte will be retiring this year. Her commitment, hard work, and genuine care for our students make her an invaluable part of our school family, and she will be deeply missed.



Courtesy
Cassandra Wall (Cafe/Recess Monitor) and Janet Labonte (EL Teacher) pose for a quick picture.

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All Saints Academy’s Living Nativity concert brings the Christmas story to life

WEBSTER — Students, staff, and families gathered for the annual Christmas concert. The concert retold the Christmas story through music, drama and narration.

The eighth grade class brought the Nativity to life. The performance followed the story of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem, the birth of Jesus, the visit of the shepherds, all presented in a way that was engaging for the audience.

Songs formed the heart of the concert, with students in Preschool through Grade 7 and the ASA choir performing a mix of Christmas music. The songs allowed the students of all ages to take part and showcase their talents and class teamwork. Eighth grade narrators

helped guide the audience through the story, clearly explaining each scene and its meaning.

Mrs. Shanna Keegan, ASA music teacher, worked closely with students in the weeks leading up to the performance, rehearsing songs, preparing costumes, and encouraging pupils to understand the message behind the Nativity. For many students, it was an opportunity to develop public speaking skills, musical ability, and self-confidence, while also learning about an important part of Catholic tradition.

Mrs. Matys, ASA Head of School, praised the effort of everyone involved, saying the concert reflected the school’s strong sense of community and that watch-



ing the students work so hard and support one another to share the Nativity story of kindness, hope and togetherness was a wonderful thing to see.

Families filled the gym, applauding enthusiastically after each performance. Many commented on the warm and joyful atmosphere, noting how the concert marked the start of the Christmas season. The Nativity Concert proved to be a highlight bringing the ASA community together and reminding everyone of the values at the heart of Christmas.

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Courtesy
Kindergarten students and families and staff at Bryn Mawr School in Auburn constructed and designed some gingerbread houses. Our K classes read lots of gingerbread themed stories last week too! Photo courtesy of the Auburn Public Schools Facebook page.

REAL ESTATE

AUBURN
\$567,500, 7 Sara Dr, McMahon, Christine A, and McMahon, Francis J, to Chabeda, Eva A, and Farrell, Andrew J.
\$502,000, 88 Vine St, Richert, Christopher B, to Lam, Minh Q, and Lam, Annie.
\$12,000, 30 Wellman St, Hines, Julia T, and Hines Jr, James T, to Hines, Julia T.

DUDLEY
\$525,000, 2 W Dudley Rd, Fortes, Alexis G, to Gardecki, Bryan, and Peters, Jacinda.
\$370,000, 2 Lakeside Dr, Gabis Jr, Thomas, and Gabis, Kathleen A, to Bassett Jr, Kenneth C, and Bassett, Doreen S.
\$325,000, 3 Delaney Ave, Peters, Jacinda M, to Vanwagoner, David, and Lorrain, Kristin.

OXFORD
\$750,000, 4 Pine Hill Rd, Lgd Construction Inc, to Tayyeh, Dave.
\$409,000, 37 Old Worcester Rd, Schaper-Boyer, Rhaira C, to Maselek, Nicholas.
\$400,000, 66 Pleasant St #16, Magaw, Sandra A, to Voloka, Veronica.
\$353,000, 18 Thayer Pond Dr #3, Bouchard, Robert C, and Bouchard, Josephine H, to Sposato, Matthew, and Sposato, Penny J.
\$235,080, 11 Depot Rd, Gurney, Nancy J, and Bk Of Ny Mellon T Co Na T, to Cascade Funding Mtg T Hb1, and Wilmington Svgs Fund Soc.

WEBSTER
\$3360,000, 133 Thompson Rd, Haig Barara Frances Est, and Tibbetts, Alan M, to Greene, Frances A, and Greene, Nathanael B.
\$310,000, 15 Brook St, Polena Ft, and Dowley Law Pc Tr, to Tweedie, Jack S.
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OBITUARIES

James Adamuska 05/24/1961 12/18/2025



James “Jimmy” Adamuska, 64, of Southbridge died Thursday, December 18, 2025 at Umass Hospital in Worcester. Mr. Adamuska was born May 24, 1961, in Southbridge, MA. He is the son of the late William and the late Mary (Christoff) Adamuska. He is survived by three brothers and their spouses: Stacy Adamuska and his wife Leah of Dudley, Kenneth Adamuska and his wife Kathleen of Dudley, William P. Adamuska Jr. of South Carolina. Four sisters: Sandra Adamuska of Webster, Sally and her husband James Belsito of FL, Ruth Lavoie of

Worcester, and Carol and her husband Don Piehl of FL. He also has many nieces and nephews. Jimmy graduated from Shepard Hill Regional High School in 1979. He was a machinist for many years at Cranston Print Works in Webster until it closed in 2009. He loved 80’s music. You most often would see him wearing a Lynyrd Skynyrd tee- shirt that smelled of freshly sprayed cologne. He loved to go fishing and trying his luck with Keno. We will miss Jimmy’s goofy sense of humor and great smile! We would like to honor and celebrate Jimmy starting with a casual committal service at the Sacred Heart Cemetery and a luncheon with family and close friends to be announced at a later date.

Francis Edward Kujawski, 92



Francis Edward Kujawski, age 92, of Thompson, CT passed peacefully on Monday evening December 22, 2025 surrounded by the love of his family at UMass Memorial Hospital in Worcester. Frank was loved by and joined in marriage to Betty (Marshall-Milliard) Kujawski celebrating 45 years together. He leaves behind two sons Michael Kujawski and wife Melanie and Francis Kujawski and wife Jennifer. Stepson, Gary Milliard and wife Deborah. Daughters, Crystal Cepetelli and husband Mark and daughter Cheryl Kujawski and Fiancé John Taylor. And, Stepdaughter Patricia (Milliard) Veber and husband Gary; and stepdaughter, Bonnie Milliard. Frank was the son of the late Francis and Stacia (Stelmach) Kujawski of Webster MA, and a late sister Dolores David and her late husband Albert David and their children Kevin, James, and Patrice. Frank leaves behind his Grandchildren Jonathan Milliard, Benjamin Milliard, Keith Remillard, Amanda Bottone, Jennifer Gibeault, Devyn Fitch, Lynsey Poirier, Brook Kujawski, Julie Kujawski, Danielle Elliott, Savanna Kujawski, Troy Kujawski, Jason Baldwin, and Melissa Wilson. Blessed with the love of seventeen Great Grandchildren Frank is now joined in heaven holding hands with Julian Alabene. After graduating from Bartlett High School Frank attended the University

of Massachusetts at Amherst where he earned a Bachelor’s degree in Linguistics and Language Studies. Frank served in the US Air Force during the Korean war from 1952-1956. Earning the National Defense Medal, United Nations Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Good Conduct Ribbon, and the Ambassador for Peace Medal and Guardian of Freedom Medal. A proud member of the North Grosvenordale VFW and American Legion, the Thompson Rod and Gun Club, and the TSKK. Frank retired from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1990. His joys were spending time bird watching with his dogs, the Florida home, golfing, gardening, playing cards, hunting, and cooking amazing holiday feasts for his family. A warm and soft soul, always calm, always loved go now with God. The funeral will be held 11:00 am on Monday, December 29 at Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, MA. Calling hours will be Sunday, December 28 from 4 to 6 PM at Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, MA. Military burial in the Spring at St. Joseph Garden of Peace. In lieu of flowers donations to Webster/ Dudley Veteran Council C/o Veterans Home 4 Veterans Way Webster ,Ma. 01570 www.bartelfuneralhome.com

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Dudley Jane M. Tittle, 72, passed away unexpectedly Saturday, December 20, 2025 at her home in Dudley. Jane was born on March 13, 1953 in Worcester, MA. She is the daughter of the late William and Mary A. (Doherty) Meehan. She was predeceased by her husband, William Tittle on August 30, 2017 as well as her brother, Thomas Meehan in 2022. Jane is survived by her three sons: Christopher Tittle and his wife Carolyn of Charlton, Jonathan Tittle and his wife Tammy of Brimfield and Matthew Tittle and his wife Amanda of South New Berlin, NY; her three brothers: Paul Meehan and his wife Felicia of Webster, John Meehan and his wife Dawn of Dudley and David Meehan and his wife Keena of Webster; her beloved grandchildren Colton, Chloe, Hunter, Charlee, Adeline, William, Killian and Everett as well as her many nieces and nephews. Jane lived most of her life in Dudley, graduating from St. Vincent’s School of Nursing in Worcester in 1974 before dedicating 35 years to caring for patients at Harrington Hospital in Southbridge. It was through nursing that Jane met many of her nearest and dearest friends. Jane loved getting together with “the girls” as often as possible. Supporting each other through life’s ups and downs and sharing endless laughs over a good meal always brought her so much joy. Most recently, Jane reconnected with the Class of ‘74 when she helped organize a fun-filled reunion. Making memories with her family and friends was always a top priority for Jane. From travelling to Aruba for her honey-

moon, Ireland with Bill and her parents, and going on cruises-she loved to travel. One of Jane’s favorite places on Earth was Mayflower Beach on Cape Cod. She was always up for taking long walks down the beach with Bill by her side and never missed a single sunset with the family. Over the years, Jane spent countless hours cheering on her sons at their many sporting events. From dance recitals to hockey games, she continued on with this tradition, always supporting her grandkids in everything they did. Nothing made “Mimi” light up more than her grandkids. She was always excited to get a new photo of one of them, strategically adding frame after frame to her ever-growing “Family Wall of Fame”. Jane’s house was the place to be for friends and family gatherings. She especially looked forward to hosting Christmas Eve for the whole family, complete with a visit from Santa for all the kids. Jane cherished summer days by the pool-grandkids splashing and neighborhood friends (affectionately dubbed “The Sawmill Gang”) sharing a few good laughs. Especially Jay and Katy Kalwarczyk, who in her later years kept an eye out and checked on her regularly. Thank you both from the entire Tittle Family, we will be forever grateful for your kindness. Jane Tittle may have been small in stature but had an amazingly big heart. She will be greatly missed by the many who loved her. Calling hours were held Friday, December 26 from 6 to 8 PM at Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, MA. A Mass of Christian burial was held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, December 27, at St. Anthony Of Padua Church, 24 Dudley Hill Rd., Dudley, MA.

Keegan Age 10 Registration # 7501

Keegan has a wide variety of hobbies that highlight both his curiosity and his active nature. He loves exploring new places virtually through Google Maps and has a growing passion for automobiles—he enjoys learning about different car makes and models and watching YouTube videos about them. Keegan is also drawn to numbers and enjoys solving math problems for fun. In social settings, he’s playful and enjoys spending time with his peers. Physically active and full of energy, Keegan especially looks forward to gym class, where he can run, walk, and participate in a range of physical activities. <https://www.mareinc.org/child/22533765945> If you’re at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ+ singles and couples. As an adoptive parent, you won’t have to pay any fees, adoption from foster care is completely free in Massachusetts. The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with. To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org . Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.

MAGIC continued from page A1

ADAMS continued from page A1

What began a few years ago has now become a beloved tradition at Park Avenue Elementary. The Select Choir is led by Peter Careny, Band and Chorus Director at Bartlett High School, and judging by the smiling faces at Park Avenue Elementary hallways each year, he does a fantastic job.

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

Saint Joseph School announces honor roll

WEBSTER — Saint Joseph School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

Grade 4
High Honors: Patryk Deptula, Kenneth Maruer, Keziah Anobah, Callum Bergman, Maria Berry, Maksymilian Bujala, Logan Derry, Olivia Guinto, Maya Jackson, Nella Copeland, Oliver Delgaudio, Addison Goulet, Olivia Perry, Oliver Smith, Joanna Thrun, Reese Shepard, Kelsey Cormier, Paulina Piascik, Jackson Lovett, Tamara Giteru, Avery Benson, Jamarion Pierre
Honors: Amalina Khozami, Quincy Middleton

Grade 5
High Honors: Stella Andreotta, Julian Gibbons, Rylan Shemansky, Ariel Corbin, Mia Reed, Carson Krajcik, Julia Biela, Cecilia Coan, Christopher Bourgeois, Anna Wozniak, Aaliyah Andersen, Samuel Brunnett, Persefoni Sgouritsas, Michael Kamangu, Sophia Bengston, Charlie Cyr, Cameron Blodgett, Julie-Ann McCracken, Faye Derry, Luke Zegle

Grade 6
High Honors: Giorgios Sgouritsas, Johnny Marcuccio, Allen Oliver Jean-Paul, Charles Smith, Amadeusz Gacek, Charlotte Dollar, Kirolos Ibrahim, Marina Szydluk, Severyn Kuznecki
Honors: Sylvia Cyr, Cameron Tremblay, Jon Belanger, Mathiew Prunier, Armani Cedeno, Claudia Vezeau, Charlotte Rumsay, Maddox Clair
Credit: Andrew Hachigian, Liam Dvoryaninov, Connor Kippax

Grade 7
High Honors: Bella Kicilinski, Abigail Rubin, Sophia Surowanic, Lily Martin, Amelia Potem, Lukas Stock, Quinn Meehan, Sydney Caissie-Desautels, Ariana Benson, Evelyn Macko, Jacob Manzi
Honors: Grayson Dollar
Credit: Nico Meijas, Gabriel Ketnouvong-Ung, James Miranda

Grade 8
High Honors: Axel Kapitulik, Lukas Barbosa, Kalleia Agosto, Neli Kuznecki, Tosin Akindele, Tenleigh Dowd, Mychael Jones, Ivonka Waranajitys, Jacob Marcuccio, Hayley Benes
Honors: Avery Archambault, Alexis Archambault, Jacob Lopez

Webster Five Foundation sets new annual giving record with \$286,000 in grants to community nonprofits

AUBURN — Capping off a year of meaningful community support, the Webster Five Foundation is proud to announce it has broken its annual record for charitable giving. In 2025, the Foundation awarded a total of \$286,334 through 82 grants to support nonprofit organizations and community-based initiatives throughout the Central Massachusetts region, surpassing last year's total by more than \$21,000.

The Foundation awards grants on a quarterly basis to nonprofit organizations and programs that expand or improve access to education, culture and the arts, social services, charitable activities and community development.

In the fourth and final grant cycle of 2025, the Webster Five Foundation awarded \$50,500 to the following 17 nonprofit organizations:

Abby Kelley Foster House, Inc. – \$2,500 for the Shelter Services Program.
Ascentria Care Alliance – \$2,000 to support its Lighthouse Capital Campaign.
Auburn Youth and Family Services – \$10,000 for operational support.
Care Central VNA & Hospice, Inc. – \$5,000 to purchase a communication platform called Storiicare.
Edward Street – \$10,000 over 4 years to support the Master Teacher Coaching Program.
Entrepreneurship for All (EforAll) – \$1,500 to support EforAll EparaTodos in Greater Worcester.
Fresh Start Furniture Bank – \$1,000 and a match of up to \$1,000 toward its Sweet Dreams Mattress Program.
Horizons for Homeless Children – \$1,000 and a match of up to \$1,000 for

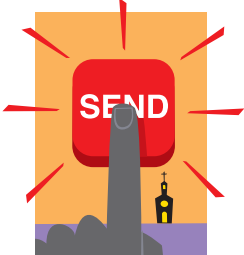
the Central Massachusetts Playspace Program.
NEADS, Inc. – \$1,500 toward its Breeding, Raising, Training, Placing and Supporting Service Dogs with Children with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities programming.
New England Botanic Garden (Worcester County Horticultural Society) – \$2,500 for Project Bloom.
Open Door Arts – \$1,000 to support the Open Door Gallery at the Worcester Art Museum.
Rachel's Table – \$5,000 for its Children's Milk Fund.
VNA Care Network – \$1,000 toward its Community Liaison Nurses - Supporting Patients with Accessing Home-based Health Care programming.
WCDSA Charitable Foundation – \$1,000 toward WCDSA's Annual Winter

Coat Drive.
Worcester Community Housing Resources (WCHR) – \$8,000 for the organization's Resident Services and Support programming.
Worcester Historical Museum dba Museum of Worcester – \$1,500 to support the organization's 2025 Harvey Ball.
YOU, Inc. – \$10,000 to support the Dynamy John S. Laws Youth Academy.

“Central Massachusetts is home to extraordinary nonprofits doing transformative work every day,” said Brian Westerlind, President/CEO, Webster Five. “The Webster Five Foundation's record giving in 2025 reflects our ongoing commitment to supporting programs that strengthen our communities and improve quality of life across the region.”

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NOTICE OF ADJUDICATION
AND PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING



Central-Western
MA
Energy Project I
Mass.gov

EFSB 25-01/D.P.U. 25-16 – New England Power Company
d/b/a National Grid (Central to Western Massachusetts
Energy Replacement Project)

Project Summary and Public Comment Hearing Overview

New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid (“National Grid” or the “Company”) has asked the Energy Facilities Siting Board (“Siting Board”) to approve its proposal to replace two existing overhead 69 kilovolt (“kV”) transmission lines, three associated tap lines, and their supporting structures (“Existing Lines”) with new overhead 115 kV transmission lines, tap lines, and structures (“Rebuilt Lines”) in an existing transmission corridor through Millbury, Auburn, Leicester, Spencer, East Brookfield, North Brookfield, West Brookfield, Ware, Belchertown, Pelham, Shutesbury, Leverett, Sunderland, Deerfield, Conway, Shelburne, and Buckland, Massachusetts (the “Project”). The Project would be capable of operating at 115 kV, although it would initially operate at 69 kV, as does the existing line.

The Siting Board will conduct three hybrid public comment hearings with both in-person and remote participation options, as follows:
Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Leicester Town Hall Gym
3 Washburn Square
Leicester, MA 01524
Deerfield Town Hall Main
Meeting Room
8 Conway St

Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.

South Deerfield, MA 01373
Belchertown Town Hall
Auditorium
2 Jabish St
Belchertown, MA 01007

Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Remote attendees: join by using this link – <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87391827695> from a computer, tablet, or smart device. For audio-only participation attendees can dial in at (646) 558-8656 (not a toll-free number) and then enter the Webinar ID: 873-9182-7695.

See additional comment instructions and Severe Weather Notification below.

To provide oral comments at a public comment hearing (in person, on Zoom, or by telephone), notify Yonathan Mengesha at Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov or (617) 305-3544. Provide your name, email address, mailing address, and docket number (“EFSB 25-01”) by 5:00 p.m. the **day before the meeting**. You can also sign up in person the day of the hearing beginning an hour before the hearing. Pre-registered commenters will speak first, and others will speak next.

The Siting Board also invites written comments on the Project. Written comments will be most useful to the Siting Board if submitted by **January 28, 2026**. Persons or groups who wish to be involved in the Siting Board proceeding (beyond providing comments at the public comment hearing or in writing) may seek to intervene as a party or to participate as a limited participant. Any petition to intervene or participate must likewise be filed no later than **January 28, 2026**, and must follow the instructions below.

Severe Weather Notification and Alternative Dates

In the event of severe weather, the Siting Board may postpone the public comment hearing(s). Any postponement will be announced on the Siting Board’s Project website (accessible via the URL link or QR code at the top of this notice’s first page) and the Zoom link for the public comment hearing. If any of the hearings is postponed, it will be rescheduled at the location and on the planned alternate date indicated below, and the deadlines for submitting public comments and filing for intervention or limited participant status will be extended as indicated below.

Important Dates:

Leicester Public Comment Hearing: Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
Alternate: January 28, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. (Belchertown)
Deerfield Public Comment Hearing
Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.
Alternate: January 28, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. (in Belchertown)
Belchertown Public Comment Hearing
Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
Alternate: January 28, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. (in Belchertown)
Written Public Comment Deadline
Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. (Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. if any of the public comment hearings is postponed)
Deadline to file for intervention or limited participant status
Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. (Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. if any of the public comment hearings is postponed)

Public Review of the Company’s Petitions

A description of the Project, links to the Company’s petitions, attachments and analysis, and periodic updates are electronically available on the Siting Board’s webpage for the Project at Central-Western MA Energy Project I Mass.gov. The Company also maintains a webpage for the Project at <https://www.cmatow-maenergy.com/>. Hard copies of the Company’s petitions and attachments are available for public inspection at the following locations:

Millbury
• Town Clerk’s Office, 127 Elm St., Millbury, MA 01527
• Millbury Public Library, 128 Elm St., Millbury, MA 01527
Auburn
• Town Clerk’s Office, 104 Central St., Auburn, MA 01501
• Auburn Public Library, 369 Southbridge St., Auburn, MA 01501
Leicester
• Town Clerk’s Office, 3 Washburn Sq., Leicester, MA 01524
• Leicester Public Library, 1136 Main St., Leicester, MA 01524
Spencer
• Town Clerk’s Office, 157 Main St., Spencer, MA 01562
• Richard Sugden Library, 8 Pleasant St., Spencer, MA 01562
East Brookfield
• Town Clerk, Memorial Town Complex, 122 Connie Mack Dr., East Brookfield, MA 01515
• East Brookfield Public Library, 122 Connie Mack Dr., East Brookfield, MA 01515
North Brookfield
• Town Clerk’s Office, 215 N Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535
• Haston Free Public Library, 161 N Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535
West Brookfield
• Town Clerk’s Office, 2 E Main St., West Brookfield, MA 01585
• Merriam-Gilbert Public Library, 3 W Main St., West Brookfield, MA 01585
Ware
• Town Clerk’s Office, 126 Main Street, Suite F, Ware, MA 01082
• Ware Library, 37 Main St., Ware, MA 01082
Belchertown
• Town Clerk’s Office, 2 Jabish St., Belchertown, MA 01007
• Clapp Memorial Library, 19 S Main St., Belchertown, MA 01007
Pelham
• Pelham Town Office Building, 351 Amherst Rd., Pelham, MA 01002
• Pelham Public Library, 2 S Valley Rd., Pelham, MA 01002
Shutesbury
• Town Clerk’s Office, 1 Cooleyville Rd., Shutesbury, MA 01072
• M.N. Spear Memorial Library, 10 Cooleyville Rd., Shutesbury, MA 01072
Leverett
• Leverett Town Hall, 9 Montague Rd., Leverett, MA 01054
• Leverett Public Library, 75 Montague Rd., Leverett, MA 01054
Sunderland

• Town Clerk’s Office, 12 School St., Sunderland, MA 01375
• Sunderland Public Library, 20 School St., Sunderland, MA 01375
Deerfield
• Deerfield Town Hall, 8 Conway St., South Deerfield, MA 01373
• Tilton Public Library, 71 N Main St., South Deerfield, MA 01373
Conway
• Conway Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Rd., Conway, MA 01341
• Field Memorial Library, 1 Elm St., Conway, MA 01341
Shelburne
• Town Clerk’s Office, 51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
• Shelburne Free Public Library, 233 Shelburne Center Rd., Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
Buckland
• Buckland Town Hall, 17 State St., Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
• Buckland Public Library, 30 Upper St., Buckland, MA 01338

Public Comment Hearings

At each public comment hearing, National Grid will present an overview of the Project. Public officials and members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and comment on the Project. The public comment hearings will be transcribed by a court reporter. A recording of each public comment hearing will be posted to the Siting Board’s YouTube channel after that hearing, at https://www.youtube.com/@MaDPU_hearing.

The public comment hearings mark the beginning of a formal, state-level decision-making process in which the Siting Board will; (1) review National Grid’s proposed Project to ensure that it will provide a reliable energy supply with a minimum impact on the environment at the lowest possible cost, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 69J; and (2) determine whether the proposed Project is necessary, serves the public convenience, and is consistent with the public interest, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 72.

Intervention and Participation

Persons or groups who wish to participate in the Siting Board proceeding beyond providing comments at the public comment hearings or submitting written comments, may seek to intervene as a party or to participate as a limited participant. **“Intervenor” or “Party” Status:** An **intervenor** can participate fully in the evidentiary phase of the proceeding, including participating in discovery (information gathering), participating in the evidentiary hearing, filing a brief, presenting comments to the Siting Board on the Tentative Decision, and appealing the Final Decision.

“Limited Participant” Status: A **limited participant** receives documents during the proceeding and may file a brief and present comments regarding the Tentative Decision to the Siting Board.

Instructions for Filing Written Comments and Requesting to Participate in the Proceeding

Any written comments on the Project and any petition to intervene or to participate as a limited participant in this proceeding must be sent to the following four email addresses: dpufiling@mass.gov; Daniel.W.Keleher@mass.gov; ckeuthen@keeganwerlin.com; and cblaine@keeganwerlin.com. The filing deadline is **January 28, 2026** (unless one of the public comment hearings is postponed, in which case the filing deadline will be February 11, 2026).

The e-mail accompanying the written comment or petition must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (EFSB 25-01/D.P.U. 25-16); (2) the name of the person or entity submitting the request; (3) a brief description of the document; and (4) the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact with questions about the filing. Any petition for intervention must state and explain the way or ways in which the requester may be specifically and substantially affected by the Project. Any petition for limited participation must describe the manner in which the petitioner is interested and the purpose for which participation is requested.

For more information on the Siting Board’s procedural rules, please see the following link:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/980-cmr-105/download>.

Accommodation Requests and Language Services Requests

Reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities (e.g., Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format) is available upon request. To request an accommodation, please contact:

Melixza Esenyie - Non-Discrimination Coordinator and Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion,
Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Human Resources, 9th Floor
100 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114,
eadiversity@mass.gov, 617-626-1282.

In your communication, state the accommodation you need and why you need it. Provide contact information in case the Coordinator needs more information. Provide one week’s advance notice. The Coordinator will consider but may not be able to fulfill late requests.

Language interpretation services are available upon request to Yonathan Mengesha at (617) 305-3544 or Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov. Include in your request the language required and your contact information. To assist us in accommodating your request, please submit it as soon as possible and at least one week before the date of the public comment hearing.

Non-discrimination Notice

The Siting Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, income, ethnicity, class, disability, religious creed or belief, gender identity, sexual orientation, genetic information, English language proficiency, or ancestry in administration of its programs or activities. See the Siting Board’s Non-Discrimination Notice at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/efsb-non-discrimination-notice-and-grievance-procedure>.

If you have any questions about this notice or any of the Siting Board’s non-discrimination programs, policies, or procedures or believe the Siting Board has discriminated against you, you may contact Melixza Esenyie (see above for contact information) for more information.

Contact

For further information about the proceeding, please contact the Presiding Officer at the address or telephone number below:

Daniel Keleher, Co-Presiding Officer Energy Facilities Siting Board
One South Station Boston, MA 02110
Daniel.W.Keleher@mass.gov (617) 305-3623

For periodic updates, please visit the Siting Board’s webpage for this proceeding (accessible via the URL link or QR code at the top of this notice’s first page).

Project Description

National Grid asserts that the Project, with projected costs of \$896.9 million, is needed to ensure reliable electric service to approximately 24,000 customers across twelve municipalities in Massachusetts. National Grid states that the Existing Lines were constructed in 1900, reconductored in 2001, and reinsulated in 2020 and that they are among the oldest transmission lines in New England. National Grid contends that the Existing Lines are also among the Company’s worst performing transmission lines, due in large part to the lattice design of the transmission line supporting structures. The Existing Lines, each approximately 67 miles long, pass through the towns of Millbury, Auburn, Leicester, Spencer, East Brookfield, North Brookfield, West Brookfield, Ware, Belchertown, Pelham, Shutesbury, Leverett, Sunderland, Deerfield, Conway, Shelburne, and Buckland. The Company expects to start constructing the Project in April of 2029 and conclude in April of 2035.

The Project consists of: (1) removing existing 69 kV transmission lines and rebuilding them to a 115 kV design within the existing electric transmission right-of-way between the Millbury

#305 Substation and the Deerfield #4 Substation; (2) reconstructing the Quabbin Switch Tap Line, the Shutesbury Tap Line, and the Deerfield #3 Tap Lines; and (3) improving, establishing, and constructing access roads. Future operation of the Rebuilt Lines at 115 kV would require substation upgrades that are not part of the Project. An interactive map of the Project is available at the following link: New England Power Company - National Grid Central to Western Mass.

Route Descriptions

Millbury: The Rebuilt Lines would begin near Branch River at the Millbury Station in Millbury, run along Providence Street, cross the Blackstone River Bikeway intersecting the Providence and Worcester Railroad, and continue along South Main Street (intersecting Woodland Street, Sycamore Street, and Singletary Brook). The Rebuilt Lines would continue north through Elm Street, where



Food

FACT:

This sweetened beverage was once a bitter drink made from roasted cocoa beans.

Answer: Hot chocolate

Maze Craze

Can you find your way through the maze?

START

FINISH

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

DEC

29

1607: Pocahontas pleads for John Smith's life when tribal leaders attempt to execute him.

1845: The United States annexes the Republic of Texas.

1913: Cecil B. DeMille begins filming Hollywood's first feature film.

How they say that in...

English: Mug

Spanish: Taza

Italian: Tazza

French: Mug

German: Tasse

Did You Know?

A mug of hot cocoa can be made more delicious with the addition of whipped cream and miniature marshmallows.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Hot chocolate

LEGALS

they would intersect Worcester-Providence Turnpike (State Route 146) before passing through Elmwood Street, Shaw Schools Recreational Fields, and Witter Lane. From there, the Rebuilt Lines would pass Greenwood Street and intersect Dwinell Road before entering Auburn.

Auburn: The Rebuilt Lines would enter Auburn and cross Washington Street to connect with the Pondville Substation before proceeding west, where they would intersect Ramshorn Brook, the Penn Central Railroad/Norwich, and Worcester Railroad. The Rebuilt Lines would continue west, passing through Hillside Cemetery and intersecting Central Street and Saratoga Road before crossing Interstate 90. The Rebuilt Lines would then cross Interstate 290 and pass through Auburn Recreation Complex (also known as Oxford Street Recreation Area), which is adjacent to Bayman Street. From there, the Rebuilt Lines would intersect Oxford Street, continue past Bryn Mawr Avenue, cross Dark Brook and run west, intersecting Leicester Street, Chapin Brook, Rochdale Street, Penn Central Railroad, and Drake Court. The Rebuilt Lines would cross Chapin Brook and Leicester Street before entering Leicester.

Leicester: The Rebuilt Lines would enter Leicester, transect Stafford Street and Henshaw Street, cross Grindstone Brook and Bunker Hill Road, and continue to Peter Salem Road, connecting with the Leicester Substation. The Rebuilt Lines would continue west and then transect Peter Salem Road, Pleasant Street and Memorial Drive. The Rebuilt Lines would continue southwest and cross Town Meadow Brook and Burncoat Brook, continue west, and then cross Pine Street and Charles Street before continuing northwest to pass through Burncoat Brook again as they enter Spencer.

Spencer: The Rebuilt Lines would enter Spencer and continue northwest, crossing Greenville Street, R Jones Road, Spencer State Forest and Midstate Trail (an unpaved road). The Rebuilt Lines would continue northwest and intersect Ash Street, continue to Ashview Drive connecting to Maple Street, cross Charlton Road and continue past Pleasant View Road and Bixby Road Circle and continue northwest towards the intersection of West Main Street and Bixby Road. The Rebuilt Lines would cross the intersection of Olde Main Street and Meadow Road before connecting to the Meadow Street Substation. From there, they would continue west over

the Seven Mile River, crossing Smithville Road before they enter East Brookfield.

East Brookfield: The Rebuilt Lines would enter East Brookfield, continue northwest to connect to the Harrington Switchyard, and then cross over Lake Lashway before entering North Brookfield.

North Brookfield: Crossing over Lake Lashway, the Rebuilt Lines would enter North Brookfield, cross Shore Road and the Five Mile River. From there, they would transect Old East Brookfield Road, continue through a wooded area and cross over the Penn Central Railroad before crossing Dunn Brook. The Rebuilt Lines would pass through the intersection of East Brookfield Road and Donovan Road, then over the Forget-Me-Not-Brook before connecting with the Lashaway Substation. From the substation, the Rebuilt Lines would continue northwest through the Donovan Road Conservation Area where they transect Fullman Road near Fullam Hill Road Conservation Area, Brookfield Road, and West Brookfield Road. The Rebuilt Lines would enter the North Brookfield Town Forest, intersecting McCarthy Road before crossing Coys Brook and continue northwest, crossing Old West Brookfield Road, Coys Brook, and Tucker Cross Road. The Rebuilt Lines then would cross Smith and Hanson Road before entering West Brookfield.

West Brookfield: The Rebuilt Lines would enter West Brookfield, cross Wigwam Road, New Braintree Road, and Birch Hill Road, enter the West Brookfield State Forest, cross Sucker Brook and Shea Road. The Rebuilt Lines would continue west and cross Madden Road, Mill Brook, Wickaboag Valley Road, Ragged Hill Road, John Gilbert Road, Lamberton Brook, Cedar Drive, and Peirce Road before passing through Rock House Reservation and Corydon W Kibbe Agricultural Preservation Restriction Area as they enter Ware.

Ware: The Rebuilt Lines would enter Ware and cross Gilbertville Road (Route 32) before connecting to the Ware Substation. From there, they would continue past the CSX Transportation Railroad, cross the Ware River, Church Street, Old Gilbertville Road, Sheehy Road, the Muddy Brook, Greenwich Road, Sorel Road, Osborne Road, and finally the Flat Brook. The Rebuilt Lines then would cross Old Poor Farm Road, King George Drive, Greenwich Plains Road, and Fisherduck Road, the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed, Beaver Brook, Peppers

Mill Pond, Old-Ware Enfield Road, Belchertown Road, Webster Road, and Belchertown Road again. The Rebuilt Lines would continue through the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed and cross the Swift River into Belchertown.

Belchertown: The Rebuilt Lines would enter Belchertown and continue through the Quabbin Watershed Reservoir, cross Winsor Dam Road, and then run between Blue Meadow Road and the Quabbin Reservoir, where they would connect to the Quabbin Switch Substation. The Rebuilt Lines would continue northwest, transect Cold Spring Road, then continue through the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed, crossing Warner Street, Earley Street, and Old Enfield Road before continuing north along the Quabbin Reservoir to enter Pelham.

Pelham: The Rebuilt Lines would enter Pelham and continue northwest into the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed to cross Packardville Road, Cadwell Creek, and the Daniel Shays Highway. The Rebuilt Lines would continue into the Cadwell Memorial Forest and cross Dunlop Brook and Amherst Road. They would continue northwest and cross over the Amethyst Brook and North Valley Road before continuing through the Buffam Brook Road Conservation Area and then crossing Buffam Road to enter Shutesbury.

Shutesbury: The Rebuilt Lines would enter Shutesbury, pass through the Amherst Watershed, and then cross Dean Brook, Sand Hill Road, Nurse Brook, and Pratt Corner Road before connecting to the Shutesbury Substation. The Rebuilt Lines are then proposed to cross over Nurse Brook again before entering Leverett.

Leverett: The Rebuilt Lines would enter Leverett and continue northwest, crossing Roaring Brook and Cushman Road. They would then cross Doolittle Brook in the Beaver Pond Conservation Area, Depot Road, Amherst Road, Long Plain Road, and the New England Central Railroad before entering Sunderland.

Sunderland: The Rebuilt Lines would enter Sunderland through the Mount Toby State Forest and Mount Toby Wildlife Management Area before crossing Montague Road, Chard Pond, and Falls Road. The Rebuilt Lines would then run along Gunn Brook and cross over the Connecticut River into Deerfield.

Deerfield: The Rebuilt Lines would enter Deerfield, cross River Road, and then continue to the west, crossing Clapp Brook, Steam Mill Road, the Boston and Maine Railroad, and Mas-

sachusetts Route 10. The Rebuilt Lines would then cross the Fuller Swamp Brook and Mill Village Road adjacent to farmland to continue through woods and farmland and ultimately cross Interstate 91. The Rebuilt Lines would then run parallel to Sand Gully Road, cross Stillwater Road, Hoosac Road, and the Deerfield River to enter Conway.

Conway: The Rebuilt Lines would enter Conway adjacent to the Deerfield River and Mohawk Trail, cross over the South River, Bardwells Ferry Road, and the Boston and Maine Railroad before entering Shelburne.

Shelburne: The Rebuilt Lines would enter Shelburne and cross the Deerfield River near Dragon Brook and Orchard Road. They would continue northwest before crossing Barnard Road. The Rebuilt Lines would then run parallel to the Deerfield River before connecting to the Deerfield #2 Substation. They would then run parallel to the Boston and Maine Railroad, cross over the Deerfield River again and then the Mohawk Trail. From there, the Rebuilt Lines would proceed north where a tap line connects to the Deerfield #3 Substation across the Deerfield River. The remainder of the Rebuilt Lines would continue northwest before terminating at Deerfield #4 Station near Main Street.

Descriptions of Tap Line Replacements

Quabbin Switching Tap: The Project includes replacing the two tap lines in Belchertown that would connect with the Rebuilt Lines at the Quabbin Switching Tap and Tower near Blue Meadow Road. Quabbin Switching Tap extends approximately 0.1 miles to Quabbin Switching Tower in Belchertown.

Deerfield #3 Taps: The Company also proposes replacing the two tap lines that would connect to the Rebuilt Lines at the Deerfield Generating Station north of the Deerfield River in Shelburne. The Deerfield #3 Taps extend approximately 0.5 miles to the Deerfield #3 Generating Station in Buckland.

Shutesbury #704 Tap: The Company proposes replacing the two tap lines that would connect to the Rebuilt Lines at the Shutesbury #704 Substation near the Pratt Corner Road. The Shutesbury #704 Taps extend approximately 0.02 miles to the Shutesbury #704 Substation in Shutesbury.

January 2, 2026
January 9, 2026

LEGALS

LEGALS continued from page A13

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING
Oxford – Roadway Rehabilitation on Route 12 (Main Street) Project File No. 611988

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed project in **Oxford, MA.**
WHEN: **6:30PM, Tuesday, January 13, 2026**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of improvements to Main Street (Route 12) between Fairlawn Avenue and Front Street. The project will reconstruct the roadway with new pavement and implement Complete Streets features to improve safety and accessibility for all users. Improvements include new ADA/AAB-compliant sidewalks, separated 6-foot bicycle lanes in accordance with applicable design guides, upgraded street lighting, and new bus stops. The project will also improve safety and traffic flow at the intersection of Main Street, Charlton Street, and Sutton Avenue with traffic signals updates and geometric improvements.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The town is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Project Management, Project File No. 611988.** Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This hearing will be hosted, or a cancellation announcement posted, on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.
JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR
CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER
December 26, 2025
January 2, 2025

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
25 SM 003978
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: Robert M. Krawetz; Sarah E. Krawetz and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*): Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Oxford, numbered 10 French River Circle, given by Robert M Krawetz and Sarah E Krawetz to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Evolve Bank & Trust, dated February 8, 2016, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 54921, Page 251, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before February 2, 2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on December 22, 2025.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
January 2, 2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jeffrey R. Burley, Lisa C. Burley to Ameriquest Mortgage Company, dated March 16, 2005 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 35946, Page 133, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Citi Residential Lending, Inc., as attorney-in-fact for Ameriquest Mortgage Company to Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Ameriquest Mortgage Securities Inc., Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-R4, Under the Pooling and Servicing Agreement dated May 1, 2005, recorded on February 17, 2009, in Book No. 43804, at Page 215

Affected by a judgment dated July 20, 2016 and recorded with said Registry on August 19, 2016, in Book No. 55829, at Page 213

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 4:00 PM on January 16, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 71 Charlton Street, Oxford, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:
The land in Oxford, Worcester County, Massachusetts bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at the northeasterly corner of the tract to be conveyed at a stake on the southerly line of the County highway from Oxford to Charlton known as Charlton Street, also being the northwesterly corner of other land now owned by the grantors and said stake is located thirty (30) feet westerly, measured along the southerly line of said street from the northwesterly corner of land of Victor J. and Frances Page, now or formerly from said; thence by the southerly line of said street, south 81 degrees 51' West fifty (50) feet to a drill-hole in a concrete Worcester County highway boundary post set in the ground and also being at other land of the grantors; thence by said land of the grantors, South 8 degrees 45' East, one hundred twenty-five (125) feet to a stake; thence by land of said grantors, North 81 degrees 15' East, fifty (50) feet to an iron pipe driven in the ground; thence by land of the grantors, North 8 degrees 45' West, one hundred twenty-five (125) feet to the place of beginning.

Containing 6,250 square feet. For mortgagors' title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 12736, Page 195.

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.

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR AMERIQUEST MORTGAGE SECURITIES INC., ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-R4

Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.

150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
28372

December 19, 2025

December 26, 2025

January 2, 2026

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Robert L. Haynes, Jr. and Lisa J. Haynes to Ameriquest Mortgage Company, dated April 20, 2004 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 33422, Page 72, subsequently assigned to DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE, IN TRUST FOR THE REGISTERED HOLDERS OF AMERIQUEST MORTGAGE SECURITIES INC., ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-R5 by AMERIQUEST MORTGAGE COMPANY, CITI RESIDENTIAL LENDING, INC., AS ATTORNEY-IN-FACT by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 43226, Page 147, subsequently assigned to DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE IN TRUST FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS FOR AMERIQUEST MORTGAGE SECURITIES TRUST 2004-R5, ASSETBACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-R5 by AMERICAN HOME MORTGAGE SERVICING, INC., AS SERVICER FOR DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE, IN TRUST FOR THE REGISTERED HOLDERS OF AMERIQUEST MORTGAGE SECURITIES INC., ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-R5 by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 44834, Page 332 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM on January 9, 2026 at 10 Linwood Street, Oxford, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit: The land with the buildings thereon situated in Oxford, Worcester County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin tied in as follows: North 38° 45' East (6.03) feet of a M.H.B. located on the westerly line of Old Worcester Road;

Thence North 63° 47' West (117.00) feet;

Thence South 40° 10' West (90.00) feet to an iron pin at the northwest corner of the following described parcel; Beginning at an iron pin in the northwest corner of Lot #5;

Thence S. 40° 10' West by Lot No. 7 and Lot No. 6 (141.31) feet to an iron pin;

Thence South 88° 05' East (43.29) feet to an iron pin;

Thence South 75° 40' East 120 feet more or less to the westerly line of Old Worcester Road;

Thence by a curve with a radius of 478.81 feet northerly by the westerly line of Old Worcester Road 90 feet more or less to the point of beginning. Being shown as Lot 5 on a plan recorded in Plan Book 215, Plan 77.

Subject to an easement to the owners of Lot #7 for future expansion of septic system over the area described below: Beginning at a point at the northwesterly corner of Lot 5 as shown on said plan;

Thence S. 40° 10' W. 42.50' more or less; Thence S. 49° S0'E., 19.00' more or less;

Thence N. 40° 10' E. 47.22' more or less; Thence N. 63° 47' W., 19.58 more or less to the point of beginning.

To have and to hold the above-described property, together with all the improvements thereon and the rights, privileges, and appurtenances thereunto belonging, unto said Grantees and to the heirs or successors and assigns of said Grantees, forever.

Grantor and his successors in such office, as such, shall warrant and defend all said property unto said Grantees and the heirs or successors and assigns of said Grantees, against every person claiming or to claim the same or any part thereof, by, through, or under Grantor.

For title reference see deed recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 18739, Page 242.

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$10,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

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

Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Ameriquest Mortgage Securities Inc., Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2004-R5

Present Holder of said Mortgage,

By Its Attorneys,

ORLANDS LAW GROUP PLLC

PO Box 540540

Waltham, MA 02454

Phone: (781) 790-7800

25-001073

December 19, 2025

December 26, 2025

January 2, 2026

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Happy New Year!!

Cheers to 2026!
Wishing all Joy, Good Health and Great Success!



God Bless Our United States of America!



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Courtesy

Continuing an annual tradition, Dudley Woman’s Club members donated more than 650 food items valued at \$2,314 to assemble 20 Holiday Gift Baskets for local veterans in need of some help stocking the pantry and putting a holiday meal on the table. Club members delivered the 20 baskets to Webster-Dudley Veterans Agent Stephen P. Rogerson, who placed them in the hands of those most in need. Each veteran also received a \$20 gift card to the Dudley Park & Shop. The DWC membership of more than 70 women of various ages and backgrounds from Dudley, Webster, Southbridge, Charlton, Uxbridge and several Northern Connecticut towns work together to uplift and support our communities. For more information, please visit dudleywomansclub.org.



Courtesy

On Dec. 19, a Parish Appreciation Dinner was held at Saint Louis Church in order to thank parish groups and ministries for their faithful service that helps make our church a vibrant, spiritual community.

Bella

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Tax and gratuity are not included. Excluding Holidays.

Courtesy

Winter concert singalongs were held last week at Bryn Mawr School in Auburn to practice and prepare. It was PJ day, we enjoyed singing and rocking out to our concert songs as grade levels, and we had some fun with designing snow globes. Looking forward to sharing our concerts with families on Jan. 22 (snow date Jan. 23). Kindergarten is at 9:30 a.m., second grade is at 10:30 a.m., and first grade is at 1:30 p.m. Photo courtesy of the Auburn Public Schools Facebook page.