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Friday, August 29, 2025

Park Avenue helps young minds grow by growing plants

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — The school system’s newest students spent the summer doing one of the oldest activities in civilization – growing things.

Kindergarten and grade 1 participants in Park Avenue’s summer enrichment program playing with plants. By coincidence, students more than a century ago did that too, learning many academic skills with plants.

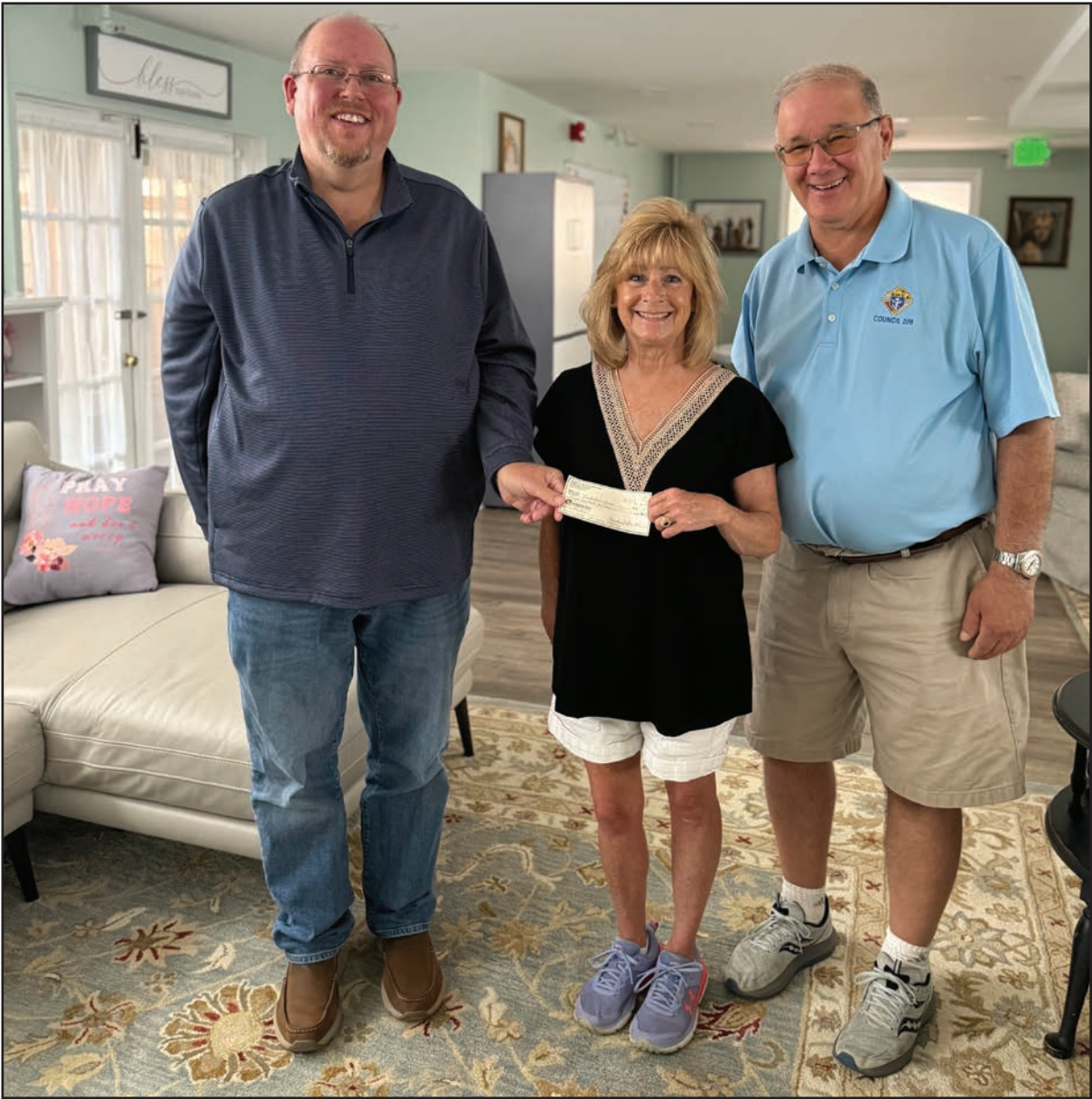
Assistant Superintendent Patty Mackay summarized events at the Aug. 19 School Committee meeting. She said the kindergarteners designed plant packages, learned about pollinators and worms, bird feeders, and wrote a play about those issues. Their elders explored what local markets offer, how to sell produce from the school’s own garden, and how to process crops among other things.

Such sales prompted a positive response from Principal Amy Pulafico, who praised teacher Beth Waye-Betz for running the garden, which started under grow lights in early spring.

“Clearly, the community is enjoying it,” she said. “I went today to look for a snack and couldn’t find any vegetables to eat. So I’m glad the community is coming in and enjoying the things growing in it, because that’s the point.”

Back in the early 1900s, the Worcester Public Schools used a 1902 text as a basis for some of its lesson planning. That book, “Nature Study and Life” by Clifton Hodge, includes a very detailed list of plants and animals for each grade except kindergarten, which didn’t exist then.

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Courtesy

The Knights of Columbus raised \$500 in a breakfast held on June 22 for the Visitation House in Worcester. Please visit <https://visitationhouse.org/> for more information on their mission. Pictured from left to right: Kevin Wheeler, Laurie Cahill, House Manager, and Mike Dostoler.

Dudley considers sharing Town Planner with Blackstone

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The Dudley Board of Selectmen has approved a draft agreement that would see them share a Town Planner with Blackstone in the latest example of community partnerships for mutual benefits.

The Board of Selectmen were presented with a draft Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) on Aug. 11, which they later approved unanimously, which confirmed the town’s interest in sharing the service with Blackstone. Both towns had mulled over the idea of regionalization in recent years with Dudley

beginning serious talks in the fall after the retirement of former Planner Bill Scanlon. Blackstone considered the idea of sharing the service during meetings this past summer.

Dudley Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda told selectmen that the agreement would allow the communities to work together to seek a Planner that meets both their needs and shares their time between the two towns.

“If we find a suitable candidate we can go through the process of bringing them in and hiring that candidate with the approval of the Board of Selectmen. As

we do with our shared Veterans Service Officer or regional dispatch and so-forth, the day-to-day management of the Planner when he or she is here would fall to me with policy making direction from the Planning Board and the same reciprocal setup would happen over in Blackstone,” Ruda explained.

As Ruda indicated, shared services are nothing new for Dudley. The town has several partnerships with neighboring Webster to help control costs without sacrificing service to the communities. However, the distance between Dudley and Blackstone makes

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Tickets available now for Bites, Books and Blooms

WEBSTER — Don’t miss the third annual gala at the Gladys E. Kelly Library in Webster, 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 25! This event is eagerly anticipated by all who have attended in previous years. So, what exactly is it?

The Bites are hot hors-d’oeuvres served by Eighty Ates Bistro as guests mingle in the Community Room and foyer of the library. The Books – well, this is a library event after all. But Blooms? Webster Selectman Elaine Davies had the inspiration, beginning in 2023, to invite professional and aspiring florists to pair

a favorite book or poem with a floral display. Some displays might be quite illustrative – depicting a scene or character - and others more abstract. How would you depict Niall Williams’ “This is Happiness” with flowers? How about “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening?” This poem by Robert Frost was a favorite of Gladys Kelly for whom the library is named, and it will be featured in this year’s show. Guests will be able to view approximately 20 displays along with brief, printed explanations from the creators, all while being serenaded by the easy

sounds of the Carlos Odria Trio.

Come and wander through the shelves and see what surprises await. Tickets are \$45, available by scanning the QR code here. A cash bar will also be available. Ticket and raffle proceeds will go to the Friends of the Library to fund the many free programs provided for children and adults throughout the year. The books in bloom will remain available for public viewing at no charge on Friday, Sept. 26 until 3 p.m., but please support your library if you are able. Buy your tickets for the main event today!

National Grid talks about “smart meter” program

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — The Aug. 19 select board meeting focused largely on an issue people have already started getting notification for – the fact

National Grid is converting all of its meters to “smart meters.” According to Grid spokeswoman Lisa Mongera and Damaris Dominguez, New England is the last region

of the nation to get them as part of a larger project that started in 2024. They aim to finish by the end of 2027 overall, and to finish Oxford’s residential customers by the end of October. Commercial

meters won’t be available until next spring.

Under most circumstances, company representatives won’t have to enter homes, since most meters are outside, although all homes will lose power for about 10 minutes during the replacement. In a few cases, they’ll have to make appointments to enter homes.

Residents can opt out by applying on the company website, by calling their customer service line, or even at the door. But those who do will still have meters changed – not to “smart meters” but back to entirely manually-read 1980s-style meters.

Mongera said they’ll be charged a \$26/month fee for technicians to visit to read them on top of the smart meter conversion fees which are being included in everyone’s bills. The latter fee will eventually disappear as the conversion project’s cost is paid off, and opt-outs can opt in to the pro-

gram later.

Mongera summarized details of the new program. Among them are that the meters use radio to send outage data to specify which homes are out; at present, they get calls, but can only see how big the outage is by visiting it and sometimes miss the “onesies and twosies” that are off the road.

Users “can see what they’re using for electricity every 15 minutes,” and can sign up for a My Account Portal to track overall use, including getting “bill alerts if you’re trending high” for the months. It can also show usage for specific appliances and distinguish those that are “always on.”

The new meters also have “overheat alarms” to avoid fire risk. Mongera cited an incident in New York where someone hooked up two electric vehicles to charge at the same time and it alerted the company, who sent a tech to find “that meter

was cherry red” before it caught fire. The grid can shut meters off if that occurs.

The system uses a low-level radio frequency that’s “lower than many things you have in your home,” including most cell phones, which are “really far more dangerous” to be exposed to, she said. While it uses WiFi, it doesn’t tap your home’s WiFi, and doesn’t need you to have WiFi at home at all. When it sends data, it’s encrypted and only sends the customer number and usage for that month. National Grid can’t shut off devices using it, but customers can; “we will not and cannot override them,” she added.

Mongera added that the state requires Grid to go through many steps before shutting off someone’s service, noting, “We can’t skip any of those steps, nor will we.”

Dominguez also noted smart meters are “not

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Courtesy

A group of students from Saint Louis Church in Webster recently traveled to Stuebenville, Ohio for a summer youth conference seeking to enrich and celebrate their faith. A total of 99 in total from the Worcester Diocese attended the event, with 1,500 total in attendance from all over the United States.

Cornerstone Bank awards \$40,000 in scholarships to 16 local high school graduates

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2025 Scholarship Awards Program. Sixteen outstanding local high school graduates have each been awarded a \$2,500 scholarship to help support their college education, for a combined total of \$40,000.

“At Cornerstone Bank, we believe in the power of education to transform lives,” said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. “These students have demonstrated dedication, leadership and a commitment to their commu-

nities. We’re proud to support them as they take the next step in their academic journey.”

The 2025 Cornerstone Bank scholarship recipients are:

- Jackson Landine, Tantasqua Regional High School, attending University of Rhode Island
- Sydney Scott, Sutton High School, attending University of Connecticut
- Jolie Nguyen, Shrewsbury High School, attending Assumption University
- Alexa Benson, South High Community School, attending University College Dublin
- Jake Melillo, Tantasqua Regional High School, attending Syracuse University

- Haley Case, Wachusett Regional High School, attending UMass Amherst
- Ashley Alvarenga, Worcester Technical High School, attending UMass Dartmouth
- Colin Resener, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, attending UMass Amherst
- Matthew McDonough, Shrewsbury High School, attending St. Anselm College
- Salma Bayi, Wachusett Regional High School, attending Westfield State University
- Shane McGlone, Marianapolis Preparatory School, attending Boston College
- Emily Manfield, Saint Paul Diocesan Jr. Sr. High School, attending Suffolk University
- Jackson Checkosky, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, attending Providence College
- Leandro Jean-Pierre, Gateways Academy, attending Fitchburg State University
- Christian Rutter, Leicester High School, attending Worcester State University
- Ashley Dickhaut, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, attending University of Connecticut

and extracurricular/community involvement

- Submission of an official transcript and GPA
- A personal essay outlining goals and interests

For more information about this year’s scholarship winners, visit: <https://cornerstonebank.com/cornerstone-bank-2025-scholarship-recipients/>

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 an affiliate 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 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.

“Each of these students has shown not only academic promise but also a strong sense of purpose and responsibility,” Tallman added. “We’re honored to invest in their potential and can’t wait to see what they achieve in the years ahead.”

Applicants were evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Graduation from high school in 2025
- Full-time enrollment at an accredited college or university
- Planned study in business or finance
- Academic excellence

Oxford Woman’s Club meets Tuesday

OXFORD — As our busy summer comes to an end, we are gearing up for an exciting year at Oxford Woman’s Club. Our first meeting of the season will take place at the Oxford Senior Center, behind the town hall, on Tuesday, Sept. 2, beginning at 7 p.m. Our program will be a CD entitled Humor Your Stress “Jest For the Fun Of It!” presented by Loretta LaRoche.

Loretta is an international stress management and humor consultant. For more than 30 years, she has been entertaining audiences all over the world with her humor.

Our Club works to help the community with different organizations in town. We make donations to the library, Senior Center, food shelf, Oxford High School and elementary schools, police, Veterans and many others.

We always welcome new members from Oxford and other towns to join us to help our community.

For information about the Woman’s Club, meet new friends, come together for a common cause and help our community, contact Paula at 508-987-2804 or email Phparker1951@gmail.com.

REAL ESTATE

AUBURN

\$907,025, 3 Goddard Dr, Lavallee, Christine, and Lavallee, Paul, to Bacevicius, John, and Bacevicius, Amy.

\$795,000, 92 Wallace Ave, Foster, Kelly, to Anne E Stohler RET, and Stohler, Anne E.

\$626,050, 59 Berlin St, Nikula, Stephen D, and Nikula, Kimberly W, to Khalaf, Nancy, and Khalaf, Yussef.

\$620,000, 421 South St, Carota, Michael A, and Carota, Linda L, to Koci, Eni.

\$540,000, 5 Upland St, Mccarthy, John E, and Mccarthy, Jean, to Peck, Bradley M.

\$467,500, 3 South Ter, Perron 3rd, Robert J, to Johnston, Richard, and Johnston, Valerie.

\$350,000, 76 Boyce St, Gosselin, Nicholas, to Obrien 3rd, David C.

\$290,000, 31 Bylund Ave, Doolin, Robert F, to Rentahome LLC.

DUDLEY

\$675,000, 74 Baker Pond Rd, Nieves, Elvin, and Nieves, Bonnie, to Distefano, Anthony, and Distefano, Lorraine.

\$599,700, 6 Lous Dr, Demerath, Loren, and Demerath, Janine, to Foley, Meghan L, and Reed, Andrew C.

\$399,900, 45 Mill St, Pearson Development Corp, to Troy, David, and Borgomastro, Sara.

\$375,000, 16 Dalessandro Ave, Spiewakowski, Walter F, to Woods, Brynn S, and Woods, Nicholas R.

\$375,000, 77 Mason Rd, Gracyalny Mark J Est, and Matte, Shelly, to Snyder, Sara E.

\$60,000, 22 Intervale Rd, Blackmer, Douglas S, to Constitution Prop LLC.

OXFORD

\$813,000, 1 Brown Rd, Baxter & Rojo Inc, to Odom, Scott, and Odom, Jennifer.

\$515,000, 38 Sunset Ave, Revolution Dev LLC, to Johnson, Dayshawna.

\$335,000, 47 Plantation Rd #47, Rossi, Nina, to Pillsbury, Thomas.

\$312,306, 399 Main St, Taylor, Wayne H, and Navy Federal Credit Union, to Navy Federal Credit Union.

\$300,000, 66 Pleasant St #3, Mccarthy, Conor P, to Gyamera, Priscilla S, and Dei, Samuel.

\$300,000, 66 Pleasant St #4, Leblanc, Betty A, to Kwiecinski, Ania N, and Kwiecinski, Walter S.

WEBSTER

\$515,000, 11 Park Rd, Gordon, Deborah A, to Rivas, Roberto C, and Derivas, Claudia R.

\$485,000, 21 Cutler St, Mcilvaine, Meagan, and Mcilvaine, Keith, to Rheault, Christopher.

\$427,000, 4 Perryville Rd, Kennedy, William J, and Kennedy, Deidre A, to Gosselin, Nicholas.

\$405,000, 159 Gore Rd, Fisher, James H, and Fisher, Darlene, to Yogi Ventures LLC.

\$405,000, 161 Gore Rd, Fisher, James H, and Fisher, Darlene, to Yogi Ventures LLC.

\$365,000, 50-C Lake Pkwy, Megas, Gabriela, to Millay, Elijah D, and Kearns, Gabriella B.

\$290,000, 24 Highcrest Park #24, Perry, Dean, to Levesque, Patrice V.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Taxis

5. Space Systems Command

8. Plant seed by scattering

11. Alliances

13. Fiddler crabs

14. Heroic tale

15. Yemen capital

16. Misleading gesture

17. Cain and ___

18. Simple shoe

20. Hundredweight

21. Children’s toy in the snow

22. Gets rid of

25. Free of deceit

30. Performed a dance

31. Chinese philosophical principle

32. Exaggerated

33. Refrain from inflicting

38. A doctrine

41. Can be subdued

43. A place to bathe

45. Land used for pasture

48. Curved piece of iron

49. Automobile

50. Fencing sword

55. Breezes through

56. Child

57. NBA legend Iverson

59. Horsley and Iacocca are two

60. Midway between northeast and east

61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

62. U.S. leader during much of WW2

63. Lair

64. Fibrous material

CLUES DOWN

1. Home of “60 Minutes”

2. Expression of sorrow or pity

3. ___ fide: legitimate

4. Immune response

5. Assistance and support

6. Glared

7. Spanish saloon

8. Pitch black

9. S-shaped lines

10. Statistical test

12. ___ Paulo, city

14. Graduation garb

19. A way to record

23. Not good

24. Weather events

25. A pituitary hormone

26. Jamie Foxx film

27. Rocker’s accessory

28. One point east (clockwise) of due north

29. One who obtains pleasure from another’s pain

34. Consume

35. Licensed for Wall Street

36. Sick

37. Israeli city ___ Aviv

39. Removed the husk

40. Mass of rocks and sediment

41. Two-year-old sheep

42. Area units

44. Prison overseer

45. Walked

46. Wartime escort aircraft carrier

47. Tax

48. 50 percent

51. Swiss river

52. Tattle

53. Actor Idris

54. Resist authority (slang)

58. Egg of a louse

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Officials warn of elevated West Nile Virus risk

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER**

REGION — With several communities across the state at elevated risk for mosquito-borne diseases, officials are urging residents to take precautions.

Last week, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced that the risk for West Nile virus (WNV) is now high in multiple communities due to evidence of mosquito samples carrying the virus.

The risk level for WNV has been elevated in the following municipalities: Acton, Bedford, Billerica, Boston, Brookline, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Dracut, Lowell, and Newton.

The Massachusetts Public Health Laboratory confirmed the state's first WNV-positive mosquitoes this year on June 17. Since then, there have been 168 WNV-positive mosquito samples collected from several counties across the state, including Worcester County.

Thus far, there has been one animal case of WNV confirmed this year in Lunenburg. No human cases of WNV have been confirmed in Massachusetts in 2025.

Meanwhile, eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) has also been detected in mosquitoes across Massachusetts this year.

The Hampshire County towns of Belchertown, Granby, Pelham, and Ware are currently at moderate risk for EEE.

There have been seven EEE-positive mosquito samples detected this year, with no confirmed human or animal cases.

"Both West Nile virus and EEE pose risk to the people in Massachusetts," said Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein. "The weather remains warm and somewhat humid, which increases mosquito activity. I encourage everyone to take measures to protect themselves."

WNV and EEE are generally transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito.

There were 19 human cases of WNV reported in Massachusetts last year, plus four human cases of EEE, leading to one death.

"WNV findings in mosquitoes have accelerated rapidly over the last several weeks," said State Epidemiologist Catherine Brown. "We are now in the peak time for transmission of mosquito-borne disease to people, and it is important for people to know that so they can take steps to protect themselves."

One of the best ways to protect your family against mosquitoes is to avoid outdoor activities during peak mosquito hours from dusk to dawn. If you must be outside during these hours, be sure to apply insect repellent and maximize clothing coverage of exposed skin.

Residents can also reduce the number of mosquitoes around their homes by draining sources of standing water. Mosquitoes often lay their eggs in small pools, wheelbarrows, rain gutters, and drains. Residents are advised to frequently empty flowerpots and wading pools, in addition to changing the water in birdbaths daily.

It is also important to make sure that window and door screens fit tightly. Screens with holes or openings should be replaced, officials said.

Looking ahead, local leaders will post additional resources and updates on conditions within specific communities throughout the late summer and fall months.

Residents are also urged to take steps to protect their pets from mosquitoes.

"The weather this summer is creating the opportunity for it to be a busy WNV season, and it is important to take steps to prevent mosquito bites," Brown added.

Additional information about EEE and WNV, as well as reports of current and historical virus activity in Massachusetts, can be found by visiting: www.mass.gov.

University of Rhode Island celebrates new graduates during 2025 Commencement

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island celebrated more than 3,500 of its newest alumni during the University's 2025 Commencement. Nearly 3,600 undergraduate degrees and 600 graduate degrees were conveyed to students during the ceremonies which took place May 16-18, 2025.

Among the graduates were:

Brendan Anish of Auburn graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology & Criminal Justice, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Jacques Durocher of Auburn graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology & Criminal Justice and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Rosemary Leger of Auburn graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration

Alison McKiernan of Auburn graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology

Ryan Murphy of Auburn graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Aquaculture and Fisheries Science and a Bachelor of Science in Marine Affairs

Nathaniel Barjolo of Webster graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Danielle Frasco of Oxford graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Communicative Disorders

Aaron Iwanski of Dudley graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical

Engineering

Alexander Jankowski of Webster graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Doctor of Pharmacy

Nicholas Karalus of Dudley graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education

Mikayla Landers of Webster graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Alexandria O'Brien of Dudley graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Doctor of Pharmacy

Students who received the honor summa cum laude graduated with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.7; students who received the honor of magna cum laude graduated with a GPA of at least 3.50; and students who received the honor of cum laude graduated with a GPA of at least 3.3.

To view ceremony highlights, visit: uri.edu/commencement/y2025/.

About the University of Rhode Island

The University of Rhode Island is a diverse and dynamic community whose members are connected by a common quest for knowledge. As a global education leader and the state of Rhode Island's flagship public research institution, URI offers distinctive opportunities designed

to meet the global challenges of today's world and the rapidly evolving needs of tomorrow. Founded in 1892, URI now enrolls more than 18,000 students and offers more than 200 degree programs across nine schools and colleges. As a land- and sea-grant institution, URI is a key driver of economic development in Rhode Island and contributes significantly to the health and vitality of the state, the New England region, and the nation. To learn more, visit: uri.edu.

United Way to host comedy fundraiser at Samuel Slater's Restaurant

WEBSTER — The United Way of South Central Massachusetts (UWSCM), in partnership with Funny 4 Funds, is excited to announce a Comedy Night Fundraiser on Friday, Sept. 19 at Samuel Slater's Restaurant in Webster.

"This year has presented significant challenges," said Kristin McCarthy, Executive Director of UWSCM. "According to philanthropy.org, charitable giving has declined by \$65 billion since 2021 and we are seeing the impact right here at home. Many local workplace giving campaigns have been reduced or eliminated, federal funding has been cut, and demand for services provided by our partner agencies continues to grow. We are hoping to close out the year strong and what better way to do that than with an evening full of laughter and community spirit?"

Doors open at 6 p.m., with the show kicking off at 7 p.m. Guests can enjoy a cash bar and pub menu, exciting raffle prizes, and a 50/50 drawing all while supporting a meaningful cause. Tickets are \$25 and are available at www.uwscm.org/events.

UWSCM extends heartfelt gratitude to our Platinum Level sponsor - Hyde Tools. Thanks also to our Gold Level sponsors - Guild of St. Agnes, Savers Bank, and Starkweather & Shepley, Silver Level sponsors - Rampco Construction, KARL STORZ Endoskope, Webster Five, UMass Memorial Health Harrington, and Open Sky Community Services, and to Bronze Level sponsor - JLA Contracting - for making this event possible.

The United Way of South Central Massachusetts is a nonprofit organization committed to improving lives in Charlton, Dudley, Southbridge, Sturbridge, and Webster by funding local initiatives that help our neighbors strengthen their resilience by advancing health, youth opportunities, and financial security.

To learn more or to donate, visit www.uwscm.org.

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Aug. 17-23.

Salena J. Bensahih, age 31, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 17 in connection with multiple out of agency warrants.

A 37-year-old male from Webster was taken into protective custody on Aug. 19 for Resisting Arrest, Disorderly Conduct, and Vandalization of Property.

A 36-year-old male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Aug. 19 for Assault on a Family or Household Member, Wanton Destruction of Property, and Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

Tyreese J. Loeurm Chet, age 21, of Providence, R.I. was arrested on Aug. 20 in connection with a warrant.

Paul Robert Summa, age 40, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 20 for Resisting Arrest and in connection with a warrant.

Lehi W. Pichardo, age 34, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 22 in connection with a warrant.

Kaylie Rose Mills, age 34, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 22 for Operating Under the Influence (Drugs), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and a Marked Lanes Violation.

Kayla Lynn Wilson, age 27, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 23 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license, driving at a rate of speed exceeding the posted limit, and in connection with a warrant.

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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 opening at 11am on Wednesday, Sept 24.

This September, we invite you to celebrate Library Card Sign-Up Month and discover how a single card can open the door to endless opportunities. With a library card, you can do more than check out books. From free classes to computer help, streaming media, and cultural events, today's libraries connect communities to information, inspiration, and each other.

Please join us in the month of September to celebrate the incredible art by featured local artist Deb Piselli. A variety of paintings are displayed for your enjoyment in the Fels Room whenever the Library is open!

Gentle Yoga
Mondays in September-NO YOGA SEPT 1ST-Library is closed for Labor Day
10:00-11:00 AM
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 September
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 September 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

GED & HiSET Informational
Wednesday, September 3rd
10:00- 12:00
Contact alandry@webster-schools.org to register.

Let's Talk Irish Genealogy
Thursday, September 4th
6:00-7:45
Unlock the secrets of your family history! Join us for five enlightening sessions on exploring your roots. Our expert genealogist will share tips, resources and stories to inspire your research. Patricia M. St. Marie, Professional Genealogist www.progenofne.com. Registration Required.

Once Upon A Crime Book Club
Bone Deep
By Charles Bosworth
Friday, September 5th 11:00-12:00 Adult Reading Area
Do you have a passion for true crime and examining the details of each case? This book club is for you!
The "Once Upon A Crime Book Club" meets the first Friday of every month in the adult reading area.
All books will be pre-ordered and available for pick up at the circulation desk.

Picking Parlor Jam a "mostly" Bluegrass Focused Jam Session
1st Saturday of every month
Saturday, September 6th
10:00-12:00 in the Fels Community Room
This is the group that played at our 15 Year Celebration!
This is an unplugged acoustic jam. All talent levels welcome...beginners on up!
Don't want to play? No problem, listeners are welcome too!

CrafterNIGHT at the Library
Folded Book Vase

Monday, September 8th
6:00-7:00
You'll leave with a one-of-a-kind creation to enjoy! Ages 17+
Registration is Required.

Tuesday Crafternoon
Folded Book Vase
Tuesday, September 9th
1:00-2:00
You'll leave with a one-of-a-kind creation to enjoy! Ages 17+
Registration is Required.

RBG Performed by Sheryl Faye
Saturday, September 13th
11:00-12:30
Sheryl Faye presents Historical Women-Ruth Bader Ginsburg – "I Dissent"
Ruth Bader Ginsburg was an American lawyer and jurist who served as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from 1993 until her death in September 2020. She was the second woman and the first Jewish woman ever appointed to the Court and became the longest serving Jewish Justice.
She championed fairness and equality and objected to different expectations for men and women, prejudice against minority groups in places like hotels and restaurants, and women having fewer job opportunities than men. Ruth served on the national board of the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) and launched The Women's Rights Project, she continued to be a leading voice for gender equality, women's interests, and civil rights and liberties.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg's life continues to be one of achievement: as a lawyer, professor of law, a judge, and then a Supreme Court justice, she stands out because she was not afraid to dissent, disapprove, and disagree with conditions of unfairness and inequality. This show is the inspiring story of how she changed her life—and ours.
Registration is Required.

Golden Girls 40th Anniversary Night
Monday, September 15th
6:00-7:00
"Thank You for Being a Friend" Golden Girls Trivia! It's been 40 years and it's time to celebrate!
Dress as your favorite gal, have some cheesecake & coffee and try your hand at GG trivia. Maybe you will be crowned the GG expert!
Registration is required.

"Cook the Book" Book Club
Monday, September 22nd
6:00-7:00
Book: Cooking In Real Life by Lidey Heuck
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.

Crawford Library Book Group
Thursday, September 25th
6:00-7:30
Book: The Woman Is No Man By Author: Etaf Rum
Books are available at the circulation desk for checkout one month prior to discussion.
No Registration Required.

Deb's Sing & Swing
Friday, September 5th
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! This month's theme is "Back to School! Registration Required.

Baby Open Play
Fridays in September
10:00- 12:00
Open play for babies! Parents and caregivers can let babies play while getting to know others in the community. Come anytime between 10-12 or stay the whole time!
No Registration Required

Pre-K Power
Tuesdays in September
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 September (not meeting on Sept. 24)
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
Thursday, September 11th
6:00- 6:45
Do you love graphic novels? Join us for Graphic Novel Book Club! Each month we will meet to discuss the graphic novel of the month. Copies of the book will be located at the circulation desk in the Children's Room. Best for ages 8 and up. Registration not required. This is not a drop off program.

Wiggles & Giggles for Littles
Thursdays in September
10:00-10:30
YFCP is pleased to offer a FREE 7-week music series for children, ages 6-24 months, with a parent/caregiver. Ms. Laine will introduce music, movement, musical instruments and stories to your little ones. Registration is required. Please note: you are registering for a 7-week series.
Registration Required.

Wiggles & Giggles
Thursdays in September
10:45-11:45
Join YFCP and Ms. Laine for a FREE 7-week music series held here at the Pearle L. Crawford Library. Children (ages 2-5) with a parent/caregiver, will sing, move, play musical instruments, learn rhythm and listen to stories. Siblings are welcome. Registration is required. Please note: you are registering for a 7-week series.
Registration Required.

Pokemon Club
Thursday, September 18
6:00-6:45
Do you love everything Pokemon? Join us for Pokemon club! Each month we will have exciting crafts and activities! Best for ages 6 and up. No Registration Required. This is not a drop off program.

New! Yoga for Children
Friday, September 19
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.

Dungeons & Dragons Game
Thursdays in September
6:00-7:30
Ages 14-19
Are you looking to play a game that contains action, adventure, and drama?
Come play the world's number one role playing game.



Visiting a local apple orchard and picking one's fill of apples is a quintessential fall activity. Apple picking is an ideal way to spend time outdoors when the weather tends to be cool and pleasant. Gathering fresh-from-the-tree fruit to turn into favorite fall desserts like cobblers and pies is irresistible.

According to the Economic Research Service, Washington state is the leading apple producer in the United States. It is followed very distantly by New York and Michigan. Apples were first cultivated in Canada by early French settlers, with the first trees planted in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley around 1633. Today, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia have become strong players in the apple business. While other areas may not be apple meccas, those looking to pick their own have plenty of options across North American to enjoy this pastime.

Prior to an apple picking adventure, people can do a little preparation to ensure the afternoon is fun and fruitful.

- Do some research. Before individuals head out, they should do research into the available orchards and which apple varieties they specialize in. Ripening seasons vary, so certain varieties may not be available at all times. Call ahead to learn which apples are ripe and when.
- Visit early. The best apples are often available early in the season before the trees have been heavily picked over. It's also a good idea to visit the orchard early in the day, which means cooler temperatures and smaller crowds.
- Dress appropriately. Orchards can be dusty, muddy and buggy. The ground also may be uneven. Individuals can wear comfortable clothes and closed-toed shoes that can get dirty. Also, they should dress in layers, as it can be chilly early in the day and then warmer later on.
- Pick correctly. Instead of yanking on the apples, which can damage the tree and apples, people should gently roll or twist the apple upwards from the branch. If the apple is ripe it will detach easily with stem intact.
- Avoid bruising. It's wise to inspect the apples to make sure they are firm and brightly colored. Those with bruising or insect damage should be left behind.
- Don't overload. Only pick what you need. Apples are delicate, and overloading the apples into bags can crush or bruise the ones on the bottom. Plus, over-picking means that the apples may spoil before they can be eaten.

After a day at the orchard, apples can be stored unwashed in a cool, dark place, which will help them stay fresher, longer.

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Saturday - August 30 – 9 am 129 Ramshorn Rd-Dudley, MA

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Saturday, September 20th

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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

Yoga – Tuesdays at 6:00pm

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.

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.

Yoga Nidr – Wednesday Mornings at 8:15am

Join Adult Services Librarian Jess for a relaxing yoga nidr practice to start your day on Wednesdays. 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 nidr). If you have your own yoga mat, please bring it and be sure to dress in comfortable clothing. This program takes place before the library officially opens. Registration is required and Jess will meet you at the program door.

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 for a one-hour 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.

Genre Book Club – Thursday, August 28th at 6:00pm

Join our Genre Book Group! Each month we'll read a different genre. September's genre is historical folklore: Gods of Jade and Shadow by Silvia Moreno-Garcia.

Craig Harris- Bob Dylan and the Band Talk – Thursday, August 28th at 6:30pm

Based on his ninth book, Last Waltz: The Full Story of The Band (Rowman & Littlefield, July 2025), music historian, percussionist, and Washington DC radio host Craig Harris uses rare recordings, a video montage, and intriguing stories to trace this still-influential quintet from their days with Ronnie Hawkins and Dylan through their 1990's resurrection, Helm's three Grammy winners and Robertson's soundtracks for Martin Scorsese films including Killers of the Flower Moon. Join Craig Harris for his talk: Bob Dylan and the Band.

Cookbook Club – Tuesday, September 2nd at 6:00pm

Join us for our cookbook club! We took a hiatus in July and August but we're back and ready to cook with you! This month we're cooking from Smitten Kitchen Keepers : New Classics for Your Forever Files by Deb Perelman. Extra copies are always available at the circulation desk.

Demystifying AI with Carrie Grimshaw of Nichols College – Tuesday, September 2nd at 6:30pm

This AI program will review new AI technologies. AI tools such as ChatGPT, Microsoft Pilot, Grammarly, and Deepseek will be explained and explored. The goal of this presentation is to introduce a variety of AI tools, teach basic skills, and share experiences.

Programming for All Ages

Book-dazzling for Teens and Adults – Thursday, September 4th at 6:00pm

Join Jess and Paige for a book bedazzling program for adults and teens. Bring in your favorite paperback, or choose from our selection, and be prepared to do some tedious (but fun) sparkly work.

Pesto Tasting Class for Families – Friday, September 5th at 3:00pm

Join Jess and Paige as we make Pesto from garlic and basil grown in our library garden! Participants will make their own pesto and enjoy it with bread. This program will contain nuts. Registration is required for this program.

Introduction to Capoeira – Saturday, September 6th at 12pm

Introduction to Capoeira – A brief overview of its history, highlighting its African roots and evolution in Brazil. Musical Engagement – Hands-on experience with traditional capoeira instruments, such as the berimbau and atabaque, and learning and singing traditional songs in Portuguese. Demonstration – A live performance by our instructors, showcasing the fluid and acrobatic movements that define capoeira. Interactive Practice – Participants will practice foundational capoeira movements, emphasizing rhythm, balance, and coordination. Closing Roda – A traditional capoeira circle where participants apply what they've learned to play capoeira together in the workshop finale.

Children's and Young Adult Programming

Maker Mondays – Mondays from 3:30-4:30 PM

Feeling artistic? We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test!

Toddler Playtime--- Tuesdays at 10:00 AM

Kids 0 to 6 are invited to get their wiggles out with weekly obstacle course and fun.

Mini Block Party – Tuesdays from 6:00pm

Play with magnets, wooden blocks, and Legos.

Play-doh Storytime – Fridays at 10AM

Join Youth Services Librarian Andrew for stories, play-doh, and fun! This storytime is geared toward ages 2 to 5, but siblings are welcome.

Beginner Origami-Fridays at 3:45PM

Are you interested in making origami, but you don't know where to start? You can start here. And if you do know how to make some origami, feel free to come make some as well. For kids of all ages.


Kim the LEGO Lady – Tuesday, September 2nd and September 16th

Do you love building, creating, and having fun with LEGO? Look no further! Kim the Lego Lady is here and we want YOU to be part of our LEGO CLUB adventure. Join us for interactive building challenges, new skills and create fabulous imaginative builds. For Ages 5-11.

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Everyone is living a story you don't know

We've all heard the saying, "Everyone is fighting a battle you know nothing about." But how often do we really live by that?

It's easy to nod in agreement when we hear it. Of course, we know people carry invisible pain. Of course we want to be kind. But then we get cut off in traffic, or someone's short with us at the store, or a neighbor doesn't return our wave, and we forget. We assume the worst. We get annoyed. We judge.

The truth is, every day, we pass by people who are grieving. People who just got bad news. People recovering from trauma or showing up to work while caring for a sick parent, or silently holding the pieces of a life that's shifted beneath them.

Not everyone wears their struggle on their sleeve. Some of the strongest people you'll meet are walking around looking perfectly "fine," while their world has been anything but.

This isn't a plea to excuse bad behavior or ignore our own boundaries. It's a reminder to pause before reacting. To lead with compassion. To offer a little grace to the person in line ahead of us, to the driver who seems distracted, even to ourselves.

Kindness doesn't always look like grand gestures. Sometimes it's just not snapping back. Sometimes it's patience. Sometimes it's letting someone go first. Sometimes it's just choosing not to assume.

We say we want a more empathetic world. That begins with practicing empathy when it's inconvenient, not just when it's easy. Every day is an opportunity to remember that we don't know the whole story, but we can still be part of a kinder one.

Letter submission policy

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

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

VIEWPOINT

THE 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

Our need to forgive

"Holding on to bitterness is like drinking poison, and hoping your enemy dies from it."

A missionary shared a story of a former man-eating cannibal, a tribesman from some small South Pacific Island, who encountered the power of Christ's Good News, and converted to Christianity. One subsequent Sunday, the missionary observed how this man began to approach the Holy Altar to receive Holy Communion, only to quickly turn around and rush out of the Church. After a few minutes, the tribesman returned into the Church and received the Holy Sacrament. Following the service, the missionary approached the tribesman and asked for an explanation of his behavior.

The tribesman replied, "As I approached the priest, I noticed in the line in front of me the man who had killed my father, a man whom I swore to kill the first time I should see him. The desire for revenge seized me, and I rushed outside thinking about how I would kill this man once he left the Church. Yet as I contemplated this action, I heard an inner voice say to me, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." I thought also about our Lord on the Cross, and how he was able to say, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do."

With a renewed spirit, and peace in my heart, I returned back into the Church and received Holy Communion.

How many of us hold on to some bitter memory? Some hurt we've experienced long ago, and we simply can't forgive or forget. Our Christian faith is founded in the lesson of forgiving whoever has hurt us, reconciling with our enemy. Yet, how difficult this is! The most frequent sin and struggle I hear in any confession or counseling I offer, is the inability to forgive those who have hurt them. And obviously, the more serious the hurt, the harder one finds it to forgive.

Our Christian faith, however, centers on the spirit of love and forgiveness. I can't exaggerate the variety of ways our Lord Jesus taught the utmost significance of "loving mercy" and "forgiveness" as indispensable characteristics in the lives of His followers. In the Gospels we hear it over and over again: "Turn the other cheek. Love one another as I have loved you. Forgive even up to seven times seventy. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Love your enemy. If you do not forgive others their trespasses, than neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Of course, the epitome of forgiveness and love is our Lord willingly dying on the Cross for the sins of a fallen world, and then as he suffered on the Cross crying out, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do." Precisely this spirit of forgiveness we see again and again in the lives of the saints, as they suffered terribly from injustice, hatred, anger and persecution. Saint Stephen, the first martyr, could look at his murderers with a peaceful countenance and say, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." Saint John the beloved disciple writes while in exile, "If someone says, 'I love God' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?"

No serious Christian can argue with me about the importance of forgiving and loving one another, and how these virtues stand at the center of our faith. The difficulty, of course, lies in each of our own particular cases – when someone has specifically betrayed us, hurt us, maliciously lied to us, or done some evil to us. I'm sure we all can recall when we've been hurt or even traumatized in some way, and the struggle we have to forgive. Many harbor ill feelings towards another, and are not able to forgive and go on. How many people are estranged from a family member, a former friend, a colleague, or some other acquaintance? And how many of us speak civilly to another, yet harbor an inner resentment, hurt, anger, and pain deep within our hearts?

Christ's command to forgive surely is not easy to fulfill! And yet, that is a central part of our spiritual development and maturity. It's OK to admit that we cannot forgive someone right now, but as Christians, it's not OK to accept the status quo of holding on to a grudge. We need to realize how essential it is to forgive for our own sake! It may take time to gain the strength and courage, and we may need to grow spiritually, but we should never lose sight of our



BEYOND THE PEWS
• • • • •
BY FR. LUKE A. VERONIS
SAINTS
CONSTANTINE AND HELEN
GREEK
ORTHODOX
CHURCH,
WEBSTER

ultimate goal – forgiving those who have hurt us and reconciling with our God.

When we are out of communion with another, we have lost our communion with our Creator. Love of the other is intimately connected with our love of God. We are as close to God as we are to our worst enemy. Think about that!

Reflect about the one we have difficulty forgiving, and then place the image of God on that person. As we keep a distance from them, we are distancing ourselves from God!

As followers of Jesus Christ, forgiving one another is a part of our identity, a part of our DNA. We live in Christ, therefore, we forgive! That's who we are.

Yet, for many people, the question still remains - how can we learn to forgive? How can we gain the inner strength needed to forgive? I want to forgive, but what concrete steps should we take to actually forgive? Our Orthodox Church tradition offers several suggestions.

First, we must properly understand God's love for us and constantly remind ourselves of this divine and unconditional love. Begin by remembering that life itself is God's greatest gift to us – a life which includes our health, our family, our friends, and the beauty and love that surround us. A key element of this life is the knowledge and love and experience we have of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the salvation He offers which begins here and now. When we reflect on our blessings, our hearts should overflow with gratitude towards the Giver of our life!

After we properly think about God's love for us, we need to see ourselves as we truly are. Our faith teaches us that all of us have fallen away from God in a variety of ways. To sin does not mean simply to break a commandment, but it means to turn away from our relationship with God. We're called to become saints after the likeness of our Lord. When we fail to live up to this calling, then we have sinned and not fulfilled our potential. By understanding our own sinfulness, we then can better appreciate God's extreme mercy and love towards us. It is when we don't understand God's extreme mercy that we may find no reason to forgive one another.

This is the powerful story in the Gospels about the Forgiving King and Unforgiving Servant. A king forgives a servant an unbelievable debt that would have been impossible to repay, only to watch this same servant show no mercy towards his fellow servant who owed him a small amount. "How can you be so unforgiving and unmerciful," the king said to his servant, "when I have shown you such great mercy!"

These are God's words to us – "How can we be so unforgiving and unmerciful, when God has shown us such great mercy!" These words alone should compel us to forgive those who have hurt us. When we base our forgiving others on the mercy God has shown us, we should realize we do not forgive others because they deserve our mercy. We forgive others because God has first forgiven us!

A third step is to try and understand the other's perspective. Think about what the person has experienced in life and try to understand them before allowing ourselves to condemn them. Anyone who hurts another is wounded in their soul.

A fourth step is trying to put the hurt in our past. As long as we brood upon an injury, there is little hope we can forgive. Don't print the incident permanently in your mind. When the hurt recurs in your mind, try to turn your focus on something else – like on your own shortcomings, on God's mercy towards you, on the countless blessings you have in your own life. Don't dwell on the hurt, but dwell on God's love and mercy!

Finally, learn what true divine love is all about. Dwell on Jesus Christ, Divine Love incarnate. The more you develop an intimate relationship with Christ, the deeper you will enter into His Divine Love, and the greater your ability will be to show that divine love through forgiving one another.

The transfigured Christian life implies becoming new creations in Christ, people who allow Jesus to dwell in us and radiate His spirit of love onto the world! May we all strive to live out such transfigured lives through the forgiveness we show others!

Summer antiquing



We are nearing the end of the summer, but there are still plenty of opportunities to do some antique hunting before the cold weather sets in.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
• • • • •
WAYNE TUISKULA

September is a good time to take in the Brimfield Antique Flea Market. The last of three Brimfield shows takes place Sept. 2 through Sept. 7. The flea market itself is nearing antique status. The first show took place in 1959, over 65 years ago. Here are some insider tips if you plan to attend. Serious bidders get there early. A lot of the best finds

are found when the dealers first start putting out their wares. Be ready for any kind of New England weather. It can be incredibly hot and dry one day. The next day there may be torrential rain, and the fields could be flooded. I've been there overnight in the fall and there was frost on the ground during the night. Be ready for lots of walking and say hydrated. The food court and several other places offer you a nice play for a midday break after all the walking.

Mariers-Palmer Antique Flea Market runs prior to Brimfield during all three sessions. Their last session runs from Aug. 28 to Sept. 1. I've seen Brimfield dealers set up there prior to Brimfield and dealers and buyers hunting for items prior to Brimfield.

The Web site for Elephant's Trunk in New Milford, Conn. says that it's the largest weekly flea market in New England. They are open every Sunday from April to December. The gates open for dealers at 4:15 a.m. Early buyers can enter from 5:30 to 6:45 a.m. for a \$20 entry fee. General admission from 7 a.m. on is \$7. Elephant's Trunk claims to have a different mix of vendors every week.

The Mansfield Flea Market at the Mansfield Drive-Inn in Connecticut is listed as Eastern Connecticut's largest flea market. Their website lists antiques and new and used items among the offerings. Admission is \$3 per car and runs on Sundays from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

The Grafton Flea Market's website says that it's been in business for over 40 years. It's located in Grafton, Mass. and runs from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. It also has a mix of antiques, new, and used items.

The Rietta Flea Market in Hubbardston, Mass. opens for vendors at 5 a.m., and is open to buyers at 6:30 a.m. on Sundays. Their Web site describes it as "one of the largest and most popular outdoor and indoor flea markets in the Northeastern United States."

Todd Farm Flea Market in Rowley, Mass. has an antiques focus. The flea market is open to customers on Sundays from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. from April to November. I have yet to attend but many reviews mention their food offerings of coffee, scones, donuts, and burgers. So, even if you don't find the antiques you wanted, you won't go away hungry.

Our online auction of the Harlansburg Transportation Museum in Pennsylvania is running and ends on Sept. 9. We continue to work on the Laurel and Hardy memorabilia auction and Civil War memorabilia auction. We are accepting quality consignments for other upcoming auctions. 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).

Apple Season is Here!

For over a century New England has been hailed for its exceptional apples, and for generations of families, the local apple harvest has come to represent an abundance of both fruit and fun. As we welcome this year's apple crop, this column features some insight an apples!

Want another reason to visit local apple orchards this season other than the farm experience which often includes “pick your own apples”, tractor rides, fresh pressed cider and baked goods? How about this: Local apples are consistently fresh. Buying apples in season at the grocery store doesn't necessarily mean you're getting that season's crop of apples. In fact if you buy imported apples at the supermarket, chances are they are over a year old!

According to Martin Lindstrom, author of Brainwashed: Tricks Companies Use to Manipulate Our Minds and Persuade Us to Buy, the average imported

supermarket apple is 14 months old.

U.S. farmers produced approximately 260 million bushels of apples last year. Apple Crop Facts for 2024 reveals the annual crop of orchard apples were consumed as such:

Approximately 67% of the U.S. crop is eaten fresh and one-third goes to processed uses (apple juice, applesauce, apple butter, packaged apple slices, etc.)

Apple varieties change over time. Today, Gala claims the title of the most produced apple, knocking Red Delicious of the list a half dozen years ago. (Note: Red Delicious was the top grown apple for 50 years.)

As consumer tastes shift, apple growers adapt their orchards, but trimming the trees down to a main trunk and several large branches, and then grafting growing tips of the new variety into those remaining branches. This allows growers to



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

quickly produce the new variety to meet consumer demand. An example of this is Honeycrisp, which was developed in the 1960s, but not introduced commercially until 1997. It is ranked among the most popular apple today.

Some favorite apple varieties offered at local orchards include: McIntosh; Honeycrisp; Red Delicious; Rome; Gala; Paula Red; Jersey Mac; Ginger Gold; Empire; Northern Spy; Macoun; Cortland; Baldwin; Braeburn; Spencer; Idared; Mutsu.

Did you know? The apple peel contains certain antioxidants that aren't present in the apple's flesh. Multiple studies have shown that

the antioxidant capacity of apple peel is up to four times higher than apple flesh.

Pectin Power: Apples are high in pectin, a soluble fiber found in the tissue of plants. Plentiful in the skin and pulp of fresh apples, the substance is more than a thickener for jellies and jams. Various studies confirm pectin's valuable health benefits that include lowering cholesterol, lowering blood pressure, reducing the risk of heart disease, aiding digestion and promoting weight loss.

So what exactly is pectin's magic bullet? Pectin is a gel like complex carbohydrate that binds substances in the body. Its properties have been shown to reduce LDL (the “bad”) cholesterol. Further, studies reveal pectin has the ability to absorb up to four times its weight in cholesterol.

Research shows as little as two apples a day is enough to aid in cholesterol reduction.

Medical studies also show apples can help manage blood sugar in diabetics by stabilizing insulin levels normal. Pectin does this by slowing the absorption of sugar in the intestines.

In addition pectin has been hailed as an effective remedy for constipation and is being studied for bowel diseases. Further claims report the pectin in apples can accelerate weight loss.

Apples in History: Here in New England, Johnny Appleseed is hailed as a local hero as well as the father of the apple industry. Massachusetts boasts the birth of Johnny Appleseed, who was born in 1774 at Leominster, MA. Legend has it since a young man, Johnny Appleseed a.k.a John Chapman, planted apple seeds all along his walking journeys, eventually establishing orchards from Virginia to Indiana.

Read on for more ways apples have played a role in history:

*Sir Isaac Newton's

formulation of law of gravity is attributed to an apple that fell onto his head.

*When William Tell refused to bow to an Austrian nobleman, he was forced to shoot an apple off his son's head.

*Newton Pippin apples were the first apples exported from America in 1768, some were sent to Benjamin Franklin in London.

* Presidents George Washington and Thomas Jefferson were apple growers. They traded apple wood with another for grafting purposes.

*Records of the Massachusetts Bay Company indicate that apples were grown in New England as early as 1630.

*Gravenstein apples are thought to have come from castle Gravenstein (Denmark) in the 1600's. Today they are grown in the U.S. and Europe.

*In 1737 Robert Prince established the first commercial apple tree nursery in America in Flushing, New York. His nursery was hailed by colonists. During the Revolutionary War the William Prince Nursery was considered so valuable it had armed guards to protect it.

*Many travelers of the Oregon Trail brought apple trees with them as they traveled west in covered wagons. In fact, apple trees were often planted on the new homestead before even shelter.

Easy Homemade Apple Cider

Have extra PIY apples you can't eat fast enough? Use your crockpot to make a warm batch with little effort!

Ingredients Ten apples; four cups water; one cinnamon stick

Directions: Wash, core and slice apples (do not peel). Place apples into slow cooker. Add four cups water. Cook on low for eight hours.

Pour into a sieve and

press. Allow liquids to drain into a clean bowl. Pour liquid back into slow cooker. Press apples to collect more liquid and add to liquid in crock pot. Place a cinnamon stick into the liquid and allow it to cook for at least an hour. Serve warm or refrigerate. Spike with dark rum if desired.

Win a Three Course Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (or whenever I receive enough tips for a column) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or email KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

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History of the Auburn Library, Part 8: The Final Chapter

BY HELEN POIRIER
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

It has been 195 years since the concept of a “lending library” was started in the town of Auburn with the circulation of privately owned books by prominent families. Eventually, the collections were housed in the basement of the Congregational Church, then a room at the town hall before the Merriam Library building was built in 1911 to house the ever-growing community need for knowledge. The present library at Drury Square was built in 1967.

Over the years the mission statement has been somewhat the same but said in different ways. The present statement reads: “The Auburn Public Library is dedicated to the promotion of lifelong learning, personal and professional enrichment, and a love of reading. The Board of Trustees and library staff strive to ensure free, equal, and confidential access to all collections and informational services, to maintain the library building, and to anticipate and prepare for future library service needs in the Auburn Community.”

To do this you need Trustees or Library Committee as it was called in the beginning, to hire staff that are exceptional, generous, creative, diligent, and dedicated. Some of the longest tenured Trustees were John Hicks 1878-1897, Marie Larned 1881-1893, Frank Weatherhead 1894-1905, Ida & Luella Eaton combine for 20 years 1903-1923, Jonah G. Warren 1903-1918, Alice Chapin 1906-1931, Leander Merriam 1913-1924, Rev. Albert Wheelock 1923-1947, Asa Bartlett 1929-1942, Andrew Love 1932-1947, Frances Miller 1937- 1954, Bertha F. Gaskill 1938-1962, A. Royal Booth 1946-1984, Elizabeth H. Newton 1946-1971, Marion F. Farnum 1948-1962, , Ray Twarowski 1969-1980, George F. Walker 1968-1981, Marcia Reich 1975-2011, Anne H. Stead 1976-1994, Judith Bohn 1992-2007, Nan Johnson 1994-2020, Roberta Baker 2000-2014, and Matt H. Toth 2008-2020. Many of these were prominent citizens of the town spanning 146 years.

Through the years there have been three long term directors, Abby Shute who was the director for 20 years, Mona Adshead for 40 years, and Joan Noonan who was the director for 23 years. They also had long-term employees to help keep continuity of programing; Hazel Adams 1962-1975, Virginia Powers 1962-1987, Marie Carbone 1975-2016, Catherine Mongeon 1984-2000, Anne Blanton 1987-2000, Donna Galonek 1987-2014, Marilyn Carlson 1988-2002, Robert Simmons 1988-2013, James Warren 1988-2000. Estelle Civalier 1993-2013, Judith Bohn 1992-2001, Catherine Gamarch 1995-2016, Linda Dupuis 1997-2014, Judith and Nicol Gills 2000-2016, and Carrie Courteau 2001-2018.

The new millennium came in with some old issues for the library. Technology advances came fast but the room to house it all in the library couldn't handle it. Computers were needed with 2000 being the third year the library offered internet access to their patrons. Besides the C/W MARS catalog, online reference databases the library subscribed to are too numerous to list here, and interlibrary loan services. There were also books on CD collections, Young Adult Video Collection, while still maintaining a collection of periodicals in print form and on microfilm and microfiche. The staff worked on weeding out what they could to make room for new books, media, and such.

The new director, Cynthia Marcoux, came on in 2010 when Joan Noonan retired. Websites were developed, more computers were acquired to accommodate the borrowing of Kindles, Nook, e-Readers, Mango language, Wowbarrly online database. The need kept expanding through the years to the present. In 2013 building improvements were made: a leaky roof repaired, oil burner replaced, windows and blinds, carpet and flooring upgraded. A good friend, Norma Edythe Card, bequeathed \$150,000 in trust for library programs. With no new building in sight, improvements and upgrades kept happening. There were additions to the Tech Service Team, the pass program for other museums and such grew from 3 – 40. STEM program was added to assist children registered in Auburn Youth and Family Services, and so much more.


Then, in 2020, COVID hit and things shut down. This didn't stop the library staff who took the time to expand technology, created websites for disseminating information, better programs for virtual platforms, worked on library 5-year strategic plan, had a virtual butterfly program, and offered curb side pickups for library patrons. The library kept the community connected as it did in the past. The Friends of the Auburn Library was formally re-established in 2021 and has been assisting with fundraising for the extras that may be needed. Partnerships had been formed with the Auburn Chamber of Commerce and the Auburn post office, public libraries from other parts of the county, the Auburn Mall and the Hanover Conservatory. The programs that are offered at the library are numerous and the weekly electronic update gives the public an idea of the offerings available at the museum. In 2024, the expansion of the Children's Room was completed and is impressive to see. It accommodates preschool - 12-year-olds, with an interactive board, computers, Legos, train table, which was purchased by the Friends of the Auburn Library as well as public performance movie license for unlimited movie showing, to name a few. With the help of the town DPW, new shelving for magazines and CDs were added. The Library Speakers Consortium gives the library flexibility to offer a wide range of talks through live streaming.

The connection between the library and the community is strong and committed with an offering of 180 programs in 2024, 154 of them being for children. There were 232 children participating in the summer reading program, 250 patrons to the St. Patrick's Day program, and 300 for the Halloween program.

By looking at the past, it might be said that the library and the Auburn community will continue to have a strong and committed relationship to offer the best for the town's people.

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

✿✿✿Friday's Child✿✿✿



Taiwan
Age 14
Registration #6819

Taiwan is a strong and independent young person with a natural athletic ability. He enjoys playing all kinds of sports but especially shines on the basketball court. Taiwan played on the town league team and proved to be an excellent teammate, demonstrating both skill and great sportsmanship. He values teamwork and encourages others around him to do their best. Beyond basketball, he also enjoys swimming and going fishing—activities that help him stay active and connected to nature. While Taiwan may be shy when meeting new people, once he feels comfortable, he is warm, engaging, and fun to be around. He has a playful side and loves spending time indoors playing Pokémon and video games on his Xbox and PlayStation, where he enjoys the challenge and excitement of his favorite games. Taiwan's combination of athleticism, kindness, and quiet confidence make him a well-rounded and inspiring young person.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22541700713>

Can I Adopt?

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

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

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LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

BROOKFIELD

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

CHARLTON

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

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

LEICESTER

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

NORTH BROOKFIELD

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

OXFORD

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

ROCHDALE

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

SOUTHBRIDGE

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

SPENCER- EAST BROOKFIELD - RESIDENTS ONLY

Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry
60 Maple St, Spencer, MA 01562
Distribution: Thursday 10 AM-12 Noon

STURBRIDGE

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

WEBSTER

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

WEST BROOKFIELD

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



Southbridge resident embarks on new nursing career



Ashley Rincon

SOUTHBRIDGE — After years of dedicated service in community support, local resident Ashley Rincon, LPN, is set to begin a new chapter in her professional life. On Sept. 8, she will start her career as a nurse at Fairlawn Rehabilitation Hospital, bringing a wealth of experience and a passion for patient care to her new role.

For Rincon, this transition is the culmination of a journey she describes as one of “growth, resilience, and compassion.” Having recently completed her Practical Nursing certificate from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, she passed the NCLEX-PN on her first

try. “Each step from studying to hands-on patient care has strengthened not only my skills, but also my heart for serving others,” Rincon said. “It hasn’t always been easy, but every challenge has shaped me into the nurse that I will become.”

Rincon is no stranger to the healthcare field. She has been a Direct Support Professional with Venture Community Services (and its predecessor, Life-Skills Inc.) since 2018. In this role, she provided essential daily care to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, assisting with personal care, medication admin-

istration, and medical appointments. Her experience also includes a tenure as a House Manager, where she supervised staff and ensured resident safety, demonstrating strong leadership and organizational skills.

Her new career path is supported by extensive clinical training in patient-centered care, vital sign monitoring, and medication dispensing. She is skilled in specialized procedures such as G-tube feeding, ostomy care, and sterile techniques. Her commitment to professional development is further highlighted by a long list of certifications, including BLS/CPR, Mental Health First Aid, and Dementia Care.

Rincon’s academic and competitive excellence has also been recognized. In 2025, she achieved remarkable success in the SkillsUSA competitions for Medical Terminology, earning a silver medal at the district level, a gold medal at the state level, and placing in the top 10 nationally. Her education was supported by a MassHire Grant, an award recognizing her potential and dedication to her chosen field.

Known for building trust with patients and families through empathy and patience, Rincon looks forward to applying her compassionate approach and extensive skills to her new role at Fairlawn Rehab.

Grow a bee-friendly lawn

Boost the bee and pollinator appeal of your lawn by incorporating microclover, self-heal, creeping thyme, crocus, grape hyacinths and other bee-friendly flowering plants in your lawn. You’ll create and enjoy a carpet of green with splashes of color and one that requires less ongoing maintenance. The pollinators will benefit from the nutritious sources of nectar and pollen your bee lawn provides.



Courtesy — Outsidepride

Flowering bee lawns include traditional lawn grasses combined with other hardy grasses, like fine fescues as well as warm season centipede grass. Kentucky bluegrass and Bermuda grass also combine well with bee-friendly plants but require more ongoing care than fescues and centipede grass. You’ll be creating a more diverse lawn that not only appeals to bees but also is more resilient to pests and environmental stressors than traditional lawn grasses. Consult your local university extension service for help in selecting the best lawn grasses and bee-friendly plants.

Boost the bee and pollinator appeal of your lawn by incorporating a microclover, like this Miniclover, found to attract and support a diverse group of native bees.

your bee lawn.

Sow microclover seed in late winter, early spring, or late summer in the south and early spring or late summer in the north. Outsidepride’s Miniclover® with Nitro-Coat (outsidepride.com) aids in establishment and allows you to use no-till, minimum-till, and broadcast seeding techniques. Even though it is not native, research found clover attracts and supports a diverse group of native bees.

Once your bee lawn is established, mow high, at least three inches, so the flowering plants can bloom and support the bees and other visiting pollinators. Leave the grass clippings on the lawn. This is a good practice for both traditional and bee lawns. Short clippings break down quickly, adding moisture and nutrients back to the soil. Once established, you’ll only need to water during extended dry periods, and seldom if any, fertilization. Skip the pesticides that can harm the pollinators you are trying to attract.

Increase your landscape’s pollinator appeal further by growing more bee- and pollinator-friendly plants in your gardens. Helping these important members of our community is good for the environment and all of us.

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



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

LPN sets her sights on the future



CHARLTON — With a heart full of compassion and a drive fueled by family, Katelyn Smith, LPN, of Charlton is making strides in the nursing field, one patient at a time.

Currently working as a Patient Care Assistant (PCA) on the Medical Surgical Unit at UMass Memorial Medical Center, Katelyn has been providing hands-on care to patients since February 2024. From assisting with vital signs and glucose checks to supporting daily living tasks and emotional needs, her presence brings comfort and calm to the patients she serves.

Now a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN),

Smith is taking the next step in her career. She recently applied for an LPN position and has already been contacted for an interview — a promising step forward in a journey defined by determination and heart.

“I’m passionate about patient care and safety,” said Smith. “This field is where I feel I can make the most difference — helping people feel safe, supported, and seen.”

A graduate of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Class of 2025, with a certificate in Practical Nursing, and Quinsigamond Community College with an Associate’s degree in pre-nursing, she also holds certifications from

the American Heart Association and the Stop the Bleed course, building a solid foundation in emergency response and critical care. She passed the NCLEX-PN on her first try!

Before entering healthcare, Smith spent several years as a hair stylist — a job that, she says, taught her the value of listening, patience, and hospitality.

“It gave me the ability to connect with people on a personal level,” she shared. “That skill has definitely carried over into nursing.”

Smith is an alumna of Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School, Class of 2018, Cosmetology.

Her long-term goal? To begin her RN program in the summer of 2026, she will continue to build her career in a place where she already feels at home.

Throughout her journey, Smith credits her parents as her greatest inspiration.

“They’ve shown me what hard work, kindness, and dedication really look like,” she said. “They’re the reason I pursued nursing in the first place.”

Her commitment hasn’t gone unnoticed — she’s received multiple honors, including the Horatio Alger Association Scholarship, Cynthia and Harrison Taylor Scholarship, and the Random Act of Kindness Award.

Motivated, skilled, and grounded by family values, Katelyn Smith represents the next generation of healthcare professionals — compassionate, competent, and committed to making a difference.

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Michael B. Gagner, 89



DUDLEY – Michael B. “Mike” Gagner, 89, passed away peacefully at home on August 13, 2025 surrounded by his loved ones. He is survived by his devoted wife of 21 years, Betty Reiss-Gagner; his six children, Shari Polletta, Lisa Fuentes and her husband Agustín, Michael A. Gagner and his fiancée Jo LaRoche, Keith Gagner, Monique Pierangeli and her husband Mark, and Tara Miler and her husband Will; 3 step-children, John Cathell and his wife Johanna, Dave Cathell and his wife Jen and Kristin Cathell; he was a proud grandfather to 16 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, and 4 great-great-grandchildren; he leaves his beloved sister, LoraLee Gagner and her wife Helen Sienna. He was born in Webster on December 18, 1935, the son of Emile and Evelyn (Wood) Gagner. Mr. Gagner was the maintenance manager for the Thomas Smith Company in Worcester. He served in the United States Marine Corps.

Mike was blessed to have a large and loving family who brought him immense joy. A lifelong sports enthusiast, he was an avid Boston fan who rarely missed a chance to cheer for the Red Sox or the Patriots. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, golf, and playing pitch with friends and family. In his younger years, Mike played softball, including the Jack Benny League, where his competitive spirit shone through. He will be remembered for his warm smile, quick wit, and the countless memories he created with those he loved. Calling hours will be held from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturday, August 23, with a memorial service at 12:45 PM in Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main Street, Webster. Burial with military honors provided by the Webster-Dudley Veterans Council will be in Waldron Cemetery, Dudley. Donations in his memory may be made to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Leukemia Research, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284-9188. www.websterfunerals.com



Gail Hicks Jackson, 72



Webster, MA - Gail Jackson, a devoted nurse, passionate gardener, and beloved Mother and Grandmother, passed away peacefully at the age of 72. Born and raised in Eastford, Connecticut, on September 16th, 1952, Gail spent most of her adult life in Webster, Massachusetts, where she worked as a nurse and cared deeply for her community. Gail's nurturing spirit extended far beyond her profession. She found joy in gardening and her kitchen was a

place of warmth, filled with the comforting aromas of home-cooked meals and the laughter of family. Gail had so much love for her cats Tovi and Bowie. They brought her endless companionship. She cherished vacations in New Hampshire, where she enjoyed nature and time with loved ones. Gail's presence was gentle and grounding, and her love for her family was unwavering. She is survived by her sons, Matthew Bard and Erik Jackson; her brother, Rodney Hicks; and her grandchildren, Liam, Aidan, and Rory Bard. Gail was predeceased by her husband, Gilbert Jackson, with whom she shared many years of love and partnership and her parents, Priscilla and Raymond Hicks. Gail's legacy is one of kindness, resilience, and devotion. She touched many lives through her work, her passions, and her quiet strength. Her memory will live on in the gardens she tended and the hearts of those who knew her. A private memorial service will be held by the family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a local animal shelter or library in Gail's honor. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.

OBITUARIES

Dorothy V. Szymczak, 98



WEBSTER – Dorothy V. “Dot” (Sabaj) Szymczak, 98, died Saturday, August 16, 2025 in the presence of family after a long illness. She leaves her husband of almost 63 years, Edward N. Szymczak; her cousin whom she thought of as a daughter, Zofia Walker and her husband Richard; she was a beloved nana to Garrett Walker and his wife Johnna of North Grosvenordale, CT, and Bradford Walker and his wife Lauren of Webster; two sisters-in-law, Constance Favreau of Dudley and Shirley Sabaj of Webster; a brother-in-law, William Szymczak and his wife Mary of Grafton; many god-children; numerous nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews; and close family friends. She was preceded in death by four brothers, Charles, Benny, Henry and Frank Sabaj, and by her five sisters, Lena Swierzbinska, Stasia Sabaj, Josephine Tadla, Helen Kralik and Rita Kubik. She was born on January 28, 1927 in Webster, a daughter of Felix and Veronica (Mrzyglod) Sabaj and graduated from Bartlett High School in 1945. Mrs. Szymczak worked for Mass. Electric for many years retiring in 1988

a supervisor in the accounting department. She was a communicant of Saint Joseph Basilica and belonged to its Sacred Heart Society and the former St. Joseph Women's Club. Active in the church all her life, she counted the collection on weekends in the 1950's and 1960's, helped at parish festivals and volunteered at the rectory. Dot and Ed made many trips to Poland including visiting their ancestral villages. They also visited parts of Europe and wintered in Marco Island, Florida. She enjoyed polka dancing, completing crossword puzzles and word games. She excelled at cooking and baking. Above all, she was devoted to her family. Her funeral Mass will be held on Friday, August 22, at 11:00 AM in Saint Joseph Basilica, 53 Whitcomb Street. Burial will be in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace. A calling period will take place in the church on Friday from 9:30 AM until the Mass at 11:00 AM. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street. Donations in her memory may be made to either Saint Joseph Basilica, 53 Whitcomb Street or Saint Joseph Elementary School, 47 Whitcomb Street, both Webster, MA 01570. www.websterfunerals.com

Adelard “DEL” Marier, 93



Adelard “DEL” Marier, age 93, of Webster died peacefully Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at Brookside Nursing and Rehabilitation. Del was born April 27, 1932 in Webster, MA. He is the son of the late Joseph and the late Rose (Lubecki) Marier. He was predeceased by his wife of 61 years, Joan B. (Woznicki) Marier, his Daughter, Janet O Rorke, and Granddaughter Judi Marier. He is survived by three sons: Leon and Carol Marier of Dudley, MA Wayne and Linda Marier of Putnam, CT, and Glen Marier of W Virginia, nine grandchildren; Devin, Kyle, Cory, Craig and Adam Marier, Kimberly Lane, Kaitlin Ditullio, Jamie Wall; and Sean O'Rourke. Several great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins. He proudly served in the Navy during the Korean war. He was employed for many years in the family business the former Bruno's Citgo Station, and then

as Security Guard with G&S Security. Del lived in Webster his entire life, was a member of the Webster American Legion Post 184. Del enjoyed playing cards, golf, shuffleboard and having a cold beer. He had the honor of serving as Grand Marshall in the Webster Memorial Day parade. Calling hours will be Monday, August 25 from 5 to 7 pm at Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, MA. www.bartelfuneralhome.com The funeral service were held 10:00 am on Tuesday, August 26 at Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley. Burial followed in St. Joseph Garden of Peace. The Webster-Dudley Veterans Council Honor Guard will provide prayers and Military Honors for Del. www.bartelfuneralhome.com for his guest book.



In Memoriam

Dominic Peter Perretti
August 28, 2020 - August 28, 2025

In loving memory of our dear brother Peter whose 5th anniversary occurs at this time.

Sadly missed and always remembered by sisters Janet and Linda.
Forever loved unconditionally.

*Send all obituary notices to
Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90,
Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail
to obits@stonebridgepress.news*

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Grace Boro to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mega Capital Funding Inc., dated March 17, 2023 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68940, Page 170, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mega Capital Funding Inc., its successors and assigns to Mega Capital Funding, Inc., recorded on August 26, 2024, in Book No. 70937, at Page 59 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 3:00 PM on September 8, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 15 Glenview Road a/k/a 15 Glen View Road, Auburn, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT: The land in Auburn, County of Worcester, bounded and described as follows: Being all of Lot #14 on a Plan of Highlawn Manor Estates, dated July, 1951, drawn by R.B. Cullinan, Surveyor, recorded in Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 186, Plan 61, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a stone bound on the easterly side of Glenview Road, it being the northerly corner of said Lot # 14 as shown on said plan; THENCE S. 50 degrees 35' 40" E. 142.81 feet by Lot #13 as shown on said plan to a stake; THENCE S. 35 degrees 14' 30" W. by lots 9 & 10 as shown on said plan 100 feet to a stake; THENCE N. 52 degrees 37' W. by lots # 15 as shown on said plan 149.77 feet

to a stake; THENCE by a curve to the right a radius of which is 160 feet, a distance of 40.39 feet to a stone bound; THENCE N. 37 degrees 23' E. 19.07 feet to a stone bound; THENCE by a curve to the right the radius of which is 124.29 feet, a distance of 47.05 feet to the point of beginning. Said last three courses being by Glenview Road. Containing 15,200 square feet of land, more or less. For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68821, Page 330. 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. MEGA CAPITAL FUNDING, INC. Present holder of said mortgage By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 26353 August 15, 2025 August 22, 2025 August 29, 2025 Warrant Article #14 (General) has been partially approved and no action will be taken on Article #15, of the Special Town Meeting held on October 21, 2024, from the Attorney General's Office on April 25, 2025. The entire text of this by-law is posted in the following five places in accordance with G.L.c. 40 § 32: Dudley Municipal Complex, Pearle Crawford Memorial Library, Mason Road School, Dudley District Court House and Shepherd Hill High School. Attest: Lori A. Smith, Dudley Town Clerk September 5, 2025 September 12, 2025 Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO25P2906EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate Of: Peter J Maraglia Also known as: Peter Maraglia Date of Death: 07/27/2024 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by William Maraglia of Londonderry

NH requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: William Maraglia of Londonderry NH be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Personal Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/16/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court. Date: August 21, 2025 Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate August 29, 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 Laura L. Fasshauer to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Radius Financial Group Inc., dated March 20, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 62099, Page 119, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Radius Financial Group Inc., its successors and assigns to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, recorded on April 25, 2024, in Book No. 70432, at Page 61

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association to Selene Finance LP, recorded on June 20, 2024, in Book No. 70652, at Page 245

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 5:00 PM on September 19, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 4 Wysocki Drive, Unit 25, Phase III, Stonegate Condominiums, Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

Condominium Unit #25 in Phase III of the Stonegate Condominiums, Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts, a Condominium created pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 183A by Master Deed dated June 2, 1986 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 9497, Page 150, which unit contains 1,022 square feet and is shown on the floor plans filed with said Master Deed and on a copy of a portion of said plans attached to Unit Deed recorded in Book 10154, Page 182 and made a part thereof, to which it is affixed the verified statement of a registered architect in the form required by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 183A, Section 9.

Said Unit is conveyed together with an undivided 1.78 percent interest in the common areas and facilities described in said Master Deed.

Said Unit is conveyed to and with the benefit of rights and interests recited in the hereinbelow referenced Deed and to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 183A.

Said Unit is to be used solely for residential purposes.

The mailing address of said Unit is 4 Wysocki Drive, Unit 25, Dudley, Massachusetts 01571.

Being the same premises conveyed to the herein named mortgagor by deed recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 34534, Page 306.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 34534, Page 306.

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 Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) 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.

SELENE FINANCE LP

Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
27961
August 29, 2025
September 5, 2025
September 12, 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 Thomas F. McCain to Manufacturers and Traders Trust Company, dated October 17, 2022 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68447, Page 232, of which mortgage the undersigned is the pres-

ent holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 5:00 PM on September 26, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 17 Pinehurst Drive, Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

The land in Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, on the northerly side of Pinehurst Drive, being shown as Lot 31 on "Plan No. 1, Subdivision of Property of Emil DiDonato, Webster, Massachusetts," dated March 2, 1953, recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 225, Plan 114, and bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a stake in the northerly line of said Pinehurst Drive, 75 Feet easterly on the easterly line of Ellen Steel, measured along the northerly line of said Pinehurst Drive:

Thence South 77 degrees 12' east by the northerly line of said Pinehurst Drive, 75 Feet to a stake;

Thence North 12 degrees 48' east by Lot 32 a distance of 142.6 Feet to a stake at land now or formerly of Hector Patenaude;

Thence westerly by land now or formerly of said Patenaude and edward LaPlante 75.29 Feet to a stake;

Thence South 12 Degrees 48' west by Lot 30 a distance of 136 Feet to the point of beginning.

Subject to the following restrictions:

1. No building or part of a building shall be erected nearer than 25 Feet to a street or proposed street line, with the exception of the easterly side of Ellen Street on which the proposed street building line shall not be nearer than 15 Feet.

Subject to a first mortgage dated April 23, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 65032, Page 177 in the original principal amount of \$216,879.00.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 49959, Page 62.

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.

M & T BANK

Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
26850
August 29, 2025
September 5, 2025
September 12, 2025

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket 25 SM 002397
ORDER OF NOTICE
To:

Lisa J. Haynes; Robert L Haynes Jr. and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq): Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Ameriquet Mortgage Securities Inc., Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2004-R5, claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Oxford, numbered 10 Linwood Street, given by Robert L. Haynes, Jr. and Lisa J. Haynes to Ameriquet Mortgage Company, dated April 20, 2004, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 33422, Page 72, and now held by plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you

may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before September 22, 2025, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of this Court on August 11, 2025.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
25-001073
August 29, 2025

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket 25 SM 002402
ORDER OF NOTICE
To:

Jessica L. Graves and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq): Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Dudley, numbered 2 Leonard Avenue, given by Jessica L. Graves and Louis S. Graves to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Prospect Mortgage, LLC, its successors and assigns, dated October 14, 2011, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 47973, Page 333, as affected by a Loan Modification dated June 2, 2016, and recorded in Said Registry of Deeds in Book 55627, Page 228, and now held by plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before September 22, 2025, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of this Court on August 11, 2025.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
24-012887
August 29, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P2797EA
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
Estate Of:
Dolores M Brown
Also Known As:
Dolores Brown
Date of Death: 1/12/2025

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner

Paul A Brown of Charlton MA

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Paul A Brown of Charlton MA

has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve **without** Surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

August 29, 2025

Notice is hereby given by Precision Auto Rebuilders, Inc., 243 West Main St, Dudley MA 01571 pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39A that on 9/5/25 @ 5 PM at Precision Auto Rebuilders, Inc., 243 W Main St, Dudley, MA 01571

The following motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices

and sale of said vehicle:
Description of vehicle: VIN# 4T4BF3EK3BR088557 ; 2011 Toyota Camry Grey, Reg# NONE
August 15, 2025
August 22, 2025
August 29, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)831-2200
Docket No. W025C0411CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

In the matter of:
Jason Stuart Howard
A Petition to Change Name of Adult
has been filed by
Jason Stuart Howard of Oxford MA
requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Jason Christopher Stuart
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10 a.m. on the return day of 08/26/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 29, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
August 29, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO25P2805GD
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
In the matter of:
Margaret Ogren
Of: Worcester, MA
RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by
Lanessa Extended Care of Worcester, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Margaret Ogren** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Someone Suitable of** (or some suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that the protective order or appointment of Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **09/16/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 14, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman
August 29, 2025

Town of Webster
Office of the Town Clerk
The following Articles from the Annual and Special Town Meetings held on May 12, 2025 which received positive votes have been approved by the Attorney General's Office: Special Town Meeting Article 14 -To eliminate the Bylaw Committee, Section 14-1 Annual Town Meeting Article 8 -To amend Section 334-2-Request for Building Numbers Complete copies of the articles are available in the Town Clerk's Office, Webster Town Hall, 350 Main Street, Webster, Massachusetts. August 29, 2025
September 5, 2025
September 12, 2025



Book

FACT:

In English-speaking countries, the works of this playwright are widely studied in school.

Answer: William Shakespeare

What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.

A

B

Answers: Guinea pig on rug 2. Missing shapes on book cover 3. Child standing in background 4. Missing stars on wall

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

AUG

26

1883: The volcano Krakatoa, located on an island near Indonesia, erupts.

1920: The 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution is certified, giving women the right to vote.

1972: The Games of the XX Olympiad open in Munich.

NEW WORD SYLLABUS

an outline of the subjects in a course of study

How they say that in...

English: Locker
Spanish: Taquilla
Italian: Armadietto
French: Casier
German: Schließfach

Did You Know?

Harvard University and the College of William & Mary are the oldest colleges in the United States, opening in 1636 and 1693, respectively.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: School bus

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to the school year.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 6 = s)

A. 26 18 25 21 20 7 26

Clue: Teach

B. 11 26 6 6 14 4 6

Clue: Plans for teaching

C. 21 11 20 6 6 12 14 14 13

Clue: Where students gather

D. 6 16 11 11 20 23 25 6

Clue: Course outline

Answers: A. educate B. lessons C. classroom D. syllabus

SUDOKU

9				2	8	1		
		4			5			
	5	2	9	1				
	4				7			
2				9		7		1
7	6	5	1		2	4		9
						3		
		1		3	6	5	9	2
3		8		7	9			4

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

ANSWER:

4	6	1	9	5	7	8	2	3
2	5	9	6	8	3	1	7	4
8	7	3	2	4	1	9	6	5
9	3	4	2	1	8	5	7	6
1	5	7	4	9	6	3	8	2
6	8	2	7	3	5	4	1	9
7	4	1	3	6	9	2	5	8
3	2	9	6	7	5	4	1	8
5	1	8	4	2	7	9	3	6

PLANTS
continued from page A1

For Grade 1, it included “competitive flower rearing” of nasturtiums and studying wild plants that included goldenrod, violets, dandelion, milkweed, ferns and even poison ivy. It called for gardening onions, radishes and rhubarb, raising a peach tree from seed, and exploring the “myths, legends, stories, poems and pictures” of the various plants and animals of that grade.

“The love of a flower in the heart of a child

is the highest thing that nature study can hope to develop,” Hodge wrote to begin his chapter on lessons with plants, p 91. “... This, with some knowledge of horticulture, acquaintance with poisonous plants, wild flowers, trees, and some of the lower forms, is the botany that should be required below the high school.”

He notes that needs to be done carefully, because such an effort can sometimes “succeed in awakening quite the reverse emotion.” Among other things, he urged having

the kids start by writing about what plants they like, when and why, then distributing seed packages including some of those favorites for them to grow, starting with “some plant of easy culture” that will flower before the semester ends. He noted those are especially important for kids who have never grown something before, and saw the importance of encouraging them to play while learning.

Regarding the nasturtium, he observes, “This has never failed to bloom profusely and greatly

delight the children.” (It’s also edible, according to other sources.)

“Do not attempt too much at first,” Hodge notes, p 479. “To begin with, select such topics under your grade as you are most familiar with, and such as are related to the interests of your pupils, and carry these through to a definite result.”

Back at modern Park Avenue, the other grades went in different directions. Mackay said grade 2’s program was about “bicycles everywhere,” looking at safety, why

people ride them, and Webster’s bike infrastructure. They concluded by creating their own model of a town bike path. Grade 3 looked at sportsmanship and safety, wrote their own rules for games they devised, and organized a family field day. Grade 4 dove into Webster’s textile history and shared their own cultural experiences.

Park Ave’s program got a total of 68 kids.

The higher grades were more academics-specific, with middle schoolers participating because of “referral due to academic

need.” Mackay said they had “some difficulty filling slots” there, getting 40 kids.

At Bartlett, 141 kids attended who needed to complete or redo core classes, a few of them for graduation. Of them, 116 earned credit, and she noted there were “a high number of students in grade 9.” Mackay said she hopes the new grade 9 orientation class being introduced this year will help reduce that.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

PLANNER
continued from page A1

this a unique situation. Ruda ensured selectmen that wouldn’t be a problem.

“It’s not an uncommon thing to see a shared service like that, and that distance is not unusual,” said Ruda. “There’s a lot of remote things that can happen. The big thing is to be here during scheduled office hours and evening meetings.”

Blackstone’s Board of Selectmen also approved the draft IMA a day later, contingent on the clarification of some language within the document. The Town Administrators for both towns will now finalize the document and bring it before their respective Select Boards for signatures and full approval.

SMART METER
continued from page A1

going to be used for collections.”

Some solar metering systems won’t get them now, since solar systems have various kinds of connections.

At some point later, Grid will institute “time of use rates” she described as “based on what the needs are in the home.” The basic concept is that higher-use parts of the day (typically evenings) will be charged higher rates, with lower ones during “off-peak” hours, such

as at night. (Note searching for “time of use rates” finds nothing on National Grid’s website.)

John Eul noted that people have raised concerns about power fluctuations causing some equipment malfunctions and system brownouts. Mongera said the system will be able to detect fluctuations and predict them after they’ve collected data for a while. Regarding brownouts, she said the Grid could do them, but they’d be “under extreme circumstances.” The regional ISO, which runs the whole electric grid, can order voltage decreases of up to 5 percent at the sub-

station level, but not at home meters.

Dominguez added that National Grid is also starting a new program of “tiered discounts” for those receiving LIHEAP and DTA aid. They now get a 32 percent flat rate, but starting later this month or in September, they’ll get discounts of 32-71 percent depending on “where you fall on the federal poverty level.” She said National Grid won’t get actual financial data, just what tier DTS or LIHEAP assigned a resident to.

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You can have the
strongest mindset
in the world, but
hang out with the
wrong people, and
that mindset will
begin to sink like
an anchor.

I remember my
parents drawing strict
lines around who I could
hang with—and it infuri-
ated me. They were my
friends, after all. But as
I've grown, I've realized
my parents understood
something my youthful
optimism didn't: the atti-
tudes, habits, and moods
of others seep into your
life—unnoticed, until
they've stuck.

I was a sneaky teen-
ager, a little rebellious,
always finding ways to
hang out with my friends
despite my parents'
disapproval. Over time,
I started to notice some-
thing strange—my thou-
ghts, my behavior, even
the way I talked started
to sound less like me and
more like them. Deep down,
I knew something was off,
because the way I was
thinking didn't line up with
how my parents raised me—
it was more like I had bor-
rowed my friend's mind
without realizing it.

My dad took me to see
the famous motivational
speaker Jim Rohn one
time, and I heard Mr. Rohn
say, "You are the average
of the five people you
spend the most time with."
At the time, it sounded like
one of those catchy quotes
you jot down and forget. But
as the years have gone on,
I've realized it was more
than a nice line—it was a
scientific truth.

Ever hear of mirror
neurons? These are neu-
rons in your brain that fire
when you see someone
else act or feel something.
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copies them without
asking permission. Studies
show that if your friends
are negative, lazy, or full
of doubt, your brain
begins to mirror that state.
Your focus drops, your
motivation decreases, and
slowly, their reality be-
comes your reality. You
begin to think and act like
them.

And it doesn't stop with
your closest circle. Re-
searchers at MIT ran a
study on the "hidden in-
fluence of social net-
works." They found that
our moods, choices, and
even levels of ambition
ripple out three degrees.
That means your friend's
friend's friend—some-
one you've never even met—
can still be shaping your
outlook.

It's called emotional
contagion. Emotions
spread through groups
like the flu. If your circle
is pessimistic, it spreads.
If they're optimistic, that
spreads too.

There's also some-
thing called the Default
Mode Network, or DMN,
in your brain. Think of it
as your mental auto-
pilot—the backdrop of
your identity, self-image,
and the story you tell
yourself about who you
are. Neuroscience shows
your DMN is highly mal-
leable. Spend too much
time around people who
doubt themselves, and
you'll doubt yourself too.

But here's the flip side.
Mirroring isn't destiny.
Just as negativity rubs
off on you, so does pas-
sion. Hang around people
who are building, creat-
ing, chasing their vision,
and your brain taps into
that energy too. Watch
someone take bold risks,
and your own neural cir-
cuits for courage light up.
Inspiration isn't magic—it's
your brain being

reshaped by the people
around you.

That's why Warren
Buffett once said, "It's
better to hang out with
people better than you.
Pick out associates whose
behavior is better than
yours and you'll drift in
that direction."

And it echoes an even
older truth, passed down
in different forms for cen-
turies: "Show me your
friends, and I'll show you
your future."

Curate your circle like
it's an investment in your
future. Spend time with
people who believe bigger,
live with more discipline,
and push themselves fur-
ther—not because they're
flashy, but because their
habits rub off on you. Their
standards become your
standards. Your brain
literally rewires itself to
match the company you
keep.

So before you beat
yourself up for not living
up to your full potential,
pause and look around.
Who are you spending
most of your time with?
Their doubts—or their
dreams—are setting the
boundaries for what you
believe is possible.

If your people are im-
patient dreamers, ground-
ed believers, creative dis-
ruptors—keep them close.
If they're dragging you
into doubt, laziness, or
"good enough" thinking,
let them go—gently, but
firmly.

Your brain is wiring
itself every single day.
Intentionally choose peo-
ple who light sparks—not
just for your mood, but
for your mind, your vision,
and your future.

Toby Moore is a colum-
nist, the star of Emmy-
Nominated A Separate
Peace, and the CEO of
Cubestream Inc.

bankHometown promotes
Coveny to VP,
commercial lending

Sean Coveny

OXFORD — bankHometown recently promoted Sean Coveny to vice president, commercial lending, based at its 109 Elm St., Millbury, office.

Coveny has nearly 13 years of banking experience and joined bankHometown in 2018 as a commercial credit analyst III. He earned a bachelor's degree in

resource economics from UMass Amherst, as well as an MBA from the Isenberg School of Management at UMass Amherst. Coveny also earned a certification through The New England School for Financial Studies with the Massachusetts Bankers Association.

In his new role, Coveny will develop and manage commercial loan portfolios while building relationships in the business community. He will continue to excel in evaluating credit risk within the commercial lending department.

About bankHometown

Founded in 1889, bankHometown is headquartered in Oxford. We have \$1.6 billion in assets and offer a complete line of consumer and business deposit and lending products and services through 16 branches located throughout Central Massachusetts and northeast Connecticut. We're proud to fulfill our community banking mission—providing individualized financial support, a suite of comprehensive products and services, and smart banking technology—all to ensure our customers can unlock their potential and build a successful future.

Through our sponsorship and charitable giving program, The Giving Tree, bankHometown and the Hometown Bank Community Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties. In 2024 alone, The Giving Tree donated nearly \$325,000 and over the last decade has donated \$3 million. bankHometown is proud to be named a Corporate Citizenship Award winner by Boston Business Journal for the past six years. For more information, visit bankhometown.com.

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