

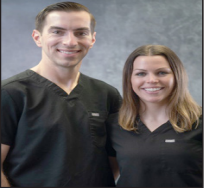


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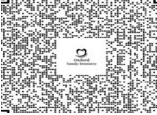
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WMS Wildcats roar to 5–1 finish



2025 Coaches Awards. Left to right: Connor Opatka, Tyler Bernier, Andreas Langlois.



2025 Unsung Hero Award: Joshua Cruz.



2025 Most Valuable Player & Hammer Award, Hunter Claypool.

HONORING A SEASON OF GROWTH, GRIT, AND HISTORIC FIRSTS

WEBSTER — The 2025 Wildcats capped off their historic season by recognizing several standout players for their leadership, effort, and impact both on and off the field during their end of the year banquet. Thank you to the Cruz and Ludwig family for providing the banquet and your generous support.

Our Wildcat awards winners are as follows: Hunter Claypool earned Most Valuable Player honors after a record-breaking year that included 28 total touchdowns. Tyler Bernier, Andreas Langlois, and Connor Opatka each received the Coaches Award for their dedication, consistency, and team-first mindset. Joshua Cruz Jr. was named the Unsung Hero, recognized for his quiet leadership and hard work that often went beyond the stat sheet. The coveted 2025 Wildcat Hammer Award also went to Hunter Claypool, highlighting his toughness, discipline, and relentless drive throughout the season.

The 2025 Webster Middle School Wildcats football team closed out their season with an impressive 5–1 record, marking the most successful campaign in program history. Averaging 34.5 points per game while allowing just 21, the Wildcats proved that academics, attendance, commitment, teamwork, and consistent effort ultimately pay off.

A season defined by growth, the Wildcats came out strong, opening with a pair of dominant wins over Auburn (36–0) and Knox Trail (48–16) “Under The Lights” at the Memorial Athletic Field in Webster. A tough Week 4 loss to Millbury (20–46) served as a mid-season wake-up call—one that ultimately fueled a renewed focus and stronger team identity.

From that point forward, the team caught fire. Over their final three games, the Wildcats averaged 35 points per game, capped by a 49–19 statement

win over Gardner to close the season. The defense ended on a high note, allowing only 65 total points over that same stretch—an average of under 18 per game—against three very good football teams.

Beyond the scoreboard, this season was about building a foundation of discipline, accountability, and unity. The team’s mantra of “student-athlete first, welcome the coaching, compete hard, stay disciplined, and improve together” became more than words; it became the Wildcats’ identity.

Attendance at school, practice, and games went hand in hand with performance. Every week, the Wildcats topped 85 percent attendance, they won. In fact, a 15 percent increase in attendance correlated with nearly 10 more points scored per game, highlighting how consistent presence and effort directly impacted execution and success on the field.

Led by Hunter Claypool, the WMS All-Time Leading

Scorer, who recorded 28 touchdowns (25 rushing, 1 passing, and 2 defensive pick-sixes), the explosive “ground and pound” offense defined the Wildcats’ identity. The team recorded the highest-scoring offense in program history, surpassing 30 points in five of six games.

Defensively, the Wildcats took pride in their resilience returning three interceptions for touchdowns, recovering eight fumbles, delivering a Week 1 shutout, and racking up 22 tackles for loss. They stood tall in clutch moments, including a nail-biting 36–32 win over Leicester and a strip-six touchdown to seal the program’s first ever victory

against a well-coached and respected Uxbridge squad.

The 2025 Wildcats delivered several unforgettable performances throughout their historic season. Their best offensive game came in Week 7, with a commanding 49–19 victory over Gardner, where the team showcased explosive scoring and balance on both sides of the ball.

Defensively, the Wildcats opened the season in dominant fashion with a 36–0 shutout win against Auburn, setting the tone for toughness and discipline. The grittiest win came in Week 5’s 36–32 thriller versus Leicester, a game that tested the team’s resilience and heart. The Wildcats also posted

their highest offensive yardage of the year, an incredible 507 total yards, in the Gardner matchup, powered by a relentless ground attack. To cap off the season’s highlights, AJ Pereira connected on a 65-yard touchdown pass reception, the longest pass play of the year, again against Gardner, sealing the Wildcats’ reputation as one of the most dynamic teams in program history.

The 2025 Wildcats etched their names in Webster Middle School history with a season full of firsts and milestones. This squad became the first winning football program in WMS history, setting a new standard of excellence for Turn To WILDCATS *page A14*

Dudley exploring options for future PFAS mitigation funding

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — While Dudley’s recent special town meeting in October finally saw taxpayers approve borrowing that will allow for a waterline extension in the Eagle Drive neighborhood, the town now needs to once again work around covering the cost of continued mitigation.

The Oct. 20 meeting approved borrowing \$14.2 million to fund a waterline

extension into the Eagle Drive/Fairview Avenue area as the final solution for local PFAS contamination, \$10.25 million of which is eligible for a 0 percent interest State Revolving Fund loan. However, the meeting did not approve borrowing another \$222,615.32 for costs associated with the ongoing mitigation of PFAS in the neighborhood and testing and monitoring the capped landfill. Until the waterline is officially installed, Dudley still has an obligation to fund mitigation

practices for impacted homes. Earlier this year, the town found itself facing potential fines and legal ramifications after struggling to earn support for a similar town meeting article that was eventually approved to fund mitigation through 2025.

Going into 2026, Dudley will now need to explore other ways to meet its obligations. Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda said the vote

Turn To FUNDING *page A14*



WEBSTER — The PLTW Student Work Cup is a trav-

eling trophy awarded to the school or district that leads the community in sharing and celebrating student work—and Webster Public Schools earned it!

Both the middle and high schools participated in all three student events last year—Student Solve, Student Industry Connects, and the Applied Learning Showcase—showing their commitment to hands-on, real-world learning. Student work is proudly displayed throughout the district: in trophy cases, on bulletin boards, and even in windows. A district-wide showcase at the end of the year highlights students from every school.

Educators actively encourage others to join in the fun, spreading excitement for PLTW throughout the community. Congratulations to Webster Public Schools for their dedication to showcasing and celebrating student work!

played throughout the district: in trophy cases, on bulletin boards, and even in windows. A district-wide showcase at the end of the year highlights students from every school.

Educators actively encourage others to join in the fun, spreading excitement for PLTW throughout the community. Congratulations to Webster Public Schools for their dedication to showcasing and celebrating student work!

Troop 163’s Shannon Finan attains Eagle Scout rank



Shannon Finan with two of the beehives installed for her Eagle Scout project.

AUBURN — Shannon Finan of Auburn, a member of Scouting America, Troop 163 of Sturbridge, has earned the rank of Eagle. She passed her Eagle Board of Review on Oct. 30.

For her Eagle project, Finan installed three beehives for the Auburn Community Garden at Pakachoag Church, with the goal of providing a home for bees as well as supplying the garden with pollinators to help increase the growth of fruits and vegetables. She directed the building and painting of the boxes, as well as the clearing of the site at the garden, and helped while the bees were placed by a beekeeper. Members from Troop 163 and her former Troop 753, as well as her brothers from Troop 53, helped with the project.

As a member of Troop 163,

Turn To FINAN *page A14*



Holiday makes for early deadlines

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication in our Nov. 28 will be Thursday, Nov. 20 at 10 a.m. Submissions can be e-mailed to news@stonebridgepress.news.

The staff wishes our readers a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

A family legacy

BAY PATH GRAD JOINS SISTERS AS LPN IN LOCAL HEALTHCARE

CHARLTON — Jason Houatchanthara joined the region’s healthcare workforce on June 2 as a practical nursing student in his last term and continues to do so after reaching an important professional milestone. Jason Houatchanthara, a resident of Fiskdale, has officially earned his LPN license by passing the NCLEX-PN exam on his first attempt. Jason graduated from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton this past June 20. He is currently employed at the Southbridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Southbridge.

Houatchanthara’s path to becoming a nurse was marked by determination, hard work, and a deep commitment to helping others. Balancing rigorous academic requirements with demanding clinical rotations and employment, he exemplified perseverance and dedication throughout his training. Jason is a graduate of Southbridge High School, where he was challenged with honors courses and Advanced Placement (AP) courses in Algebra and Statistics.

“The nursing journey was tough, filled with long nights, hard work, and sacrifice,” Houatchanthara shared. “But through dedication and determination, we finally made it. With the support of our families, classmates, and instructors, every challenge became a stepping stone to success.”

Hands-on training and clinical experience

Houatchanthara’s path was marked by perseverance, balancing academic demands with extensive hands-on training and prior employment. During the program, Jason completed 1,097 hours of didactic and clinical training, gaining hands-on experience across several healthcare settings:

Quaboag Rehab and Skilled Care Center in West Brookfield, where he demonstrated leadership in wound care and medication administration.

Vibra, The Meadows in Rochdale, where he performed advanced procedures such as trach care and G-tube feedings.

Lutheran Rehab and Skilled Care Center in Worcester, where he focused on patient care, charting, and communication with interdisciplinary teams.

His academic excellence earned him induction into the National Technical Honor Society, and he was an active member of the Mock Code Team. He built a strong foundation in pharmacology, Medical-Surgical Nursing, and geriatric care.

Career Transition and Early Nursing Experience

Before entering the nursing field full-time, Houatchanthara worked as the Head Custodian at Brimfield Elementary School until May 30. In that role, he managed staff assignments, ensured safety and maintenance standards, and coordinated supply inventories — experiences that strengthened his leadership, organization, and communication skills, all vital for nursing practice.

Shortly before graduating, as a practical nursing student in his last term, he began his healthcare career as a Graduate Nurse at Southbridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, gaining early professional experience in patient care and clinical teamwork.

Family Legacy in Nursing and A Family Tradition of Compassion

Houatchanthara’s dedication to nursing runs in the family. His successful transition into nursing continues a notable family legacy, joining his two older sisters in the nursing field.

His sister, Kamphan Houatchanthara, LPN, graduated from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in 2021. As a Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy graduate, Kamphan’s accolades include Recipient, Clinical



Excellence Award and Random Act of Kindness Award; Member, Mock Code Team, UNICEF Club, and Admissions Panel Interview; Certifications on Mental Health First Aid, Dementia Care, Infusion Therapy / Central Line Care Program, and attendance at the COVID-19 Contact Tracing Johns Hopkins University. She currently serves in a leadership position at the Lutheran Rehab and Skilled Care Center in Worcester. Khamphan became a nurse following their sister, Maxine. Their other sister, Maxine Khounthy, LPN, also works at Southbridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Center previously as Nursing Supervisor, now as the Assistant Director of Nursing, and shares a long-standing connection with Bay Path faculty.

Maxine recently sent a message to Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy’s former Academy Director, expressing her gratitude: “Thank you so much for all you did for my sister Kamphan, and brother Jason,” Maxine wrote.

Maxine and Dr. Bolandrina first met in 2013, when Dr. Bolandrina served as the Clinical Facilitator at Southbridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, and Maxine was the evening nursing supervisor.

Serving the community

Now a fully credentialed LPN, Jason holds certifications in BLS/CPR for Healthcare Providers, Mental Health First Aid, Dementia Care, and Stop the Bleed.

Equipped with skills in EMR/EHR systems, infection control, and vital signs monitoring, he is eager to contribute to the healthcare community with compassion and professionalism.

“Nursing has taught me that compassion and teamwork can make a lasting difference,” Jason said. “I want to continue to give back to the community that supported me.”

Bartlett High School wins \$75,000 Skills Capital Grant!

WEBSTER — Exciting news! Bartlett High School has been awarded a \$75,000 Skills Capital Grant to support our Innovation Career Pathways (ICP) and Chapter 74 Marketing programs. This grant is part of the \$13.5 million awarded by the Healey-Driscoll Administration to expand hands-on learning and access to cutting-edge technology in schools across Massachusetts. The funding will help Bartlett continue preparing students for success in high-demand industries like advanced manufacturing, health care, and marketing.



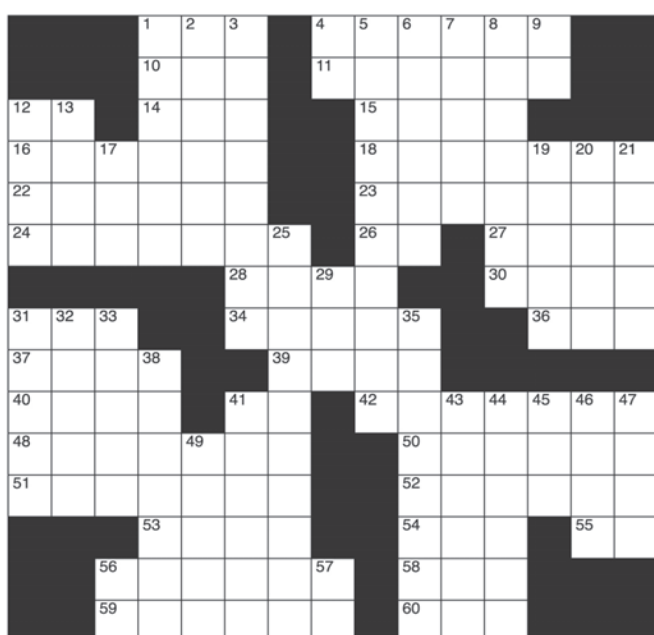
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Popular broadcast network

4. Train line

10. Go quickly

11. Straightforward

12. Canadian province

14. Swiss river

15. It can be straight or curved

16. Edit

18. Utter repeatedly

22. Gotten up

23. Sea vessel

24. Agents of one's demise

26. Not out

27. Something to scratch

28. A round water pot

30. Slang for cylindrical green fruit

31. Promotions

34. Masses of matter

36. Soviet Socialist Republic

37. Nightstand item

39. The content of cognition

40. Arab ruler

41. Northern U.S. state

42. Chewed in small bites

48. Hawaiian island

50. More thin

51. Of one

52. Rigid bracelet or anklet

53. Barbary sheep

54. Not even

55. Atomic #106

56. Haggie

58. Boxing's GOAT

59. Division of a group into opposing factions

60. Vietnamese offensive

CLUES DOWN

1. Horse-drawn carriage

2. Prejudices

3. Peacefully

4. University athletic official

5. Soldiers

6. Large mollusk

7. Take out again

8. Sour or bitter in taste

9. Songwriter Tunstall

12. Husk of wheat

13. Flexible covering in some birds

17. Energy

19. Night monkey genus

20. Small nails

21. Colorless volatile liquid

25. In a way, changes integrity

29. Mark Wahlberg's stuffed animal

31. Remember it

32. "Good Will Hunting" lead man

33. Pleasant facial expression

35. Sea vessel

38. Lacking poetic beauty

41. Tall, swift and slender dog

43. Sports personality Michelle

44. Robber

45. Liquefied natural gas

46. Snake-like fish

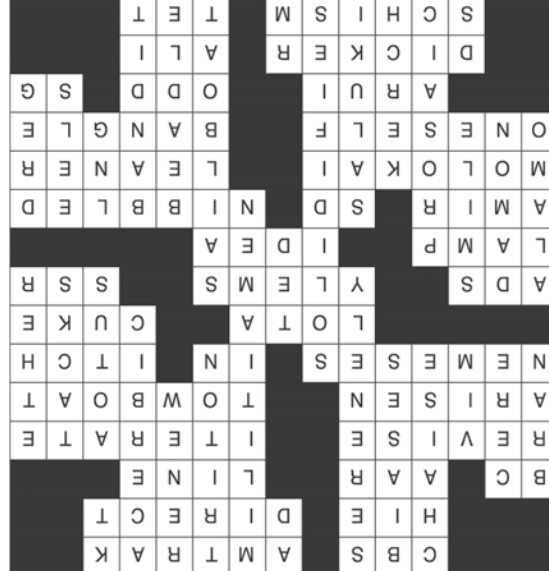
47. Sediment at bottom of a liquid

49. Crimean seaport

56. Bad grades

57. Popular S. Korean rapper

PUZZLE SOLUTION





PAW of the WEEK

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**PUBLISHED BY
STONEBRIDGE PRESS**

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THE AUBURN NEWS (USPS#546-680) IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS, INC., 25 ELM ST., SOUTHBRIDGE, MA 01550. PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT SOUTHBRIDGE, MA AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICE(S). POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO AUBURN NEWS, P.O. BOX 90, SOUTHBRIDGE, MA 01550

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Wednesday9 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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New lodge takes home famous chainmail armor apron



Courtesy
Brother Paul Davidson of MGST Lodge Southbridge, having a tug of war with Brother Richard Heale far right member of the Rose of Sharon Lodge, Charlton, who did not want to let the apron go. Center laughing Brother Gordon Forsberg and Brother Bill Belanger smiling.

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Oct. 23, members of the new Masonic Lodge, the Major General Salem Towne Lodge (MGST) of Southbridge attended the monthly 24th Masonic District Lodge of Instruction (L.O.I.) class at the Webster apartments (the Webster Lodge building). These classes are where new candidates receive information about Freemasonry and a quest speaker who talks about fraternity as well as other topics.

This month's guest speaker was Brother Joshua Kirkwood of Charlton, who is a cybersecurity professional working for MIT. He talked about the history of Artificial Intelligence (A.I.). Brother Kirkwood talked about the history of A.I. going back to Alan Turing during WWII, the man that broke the German Enigma Code. For those of you who do not know what the enigma code was, it's a cipher device used by Nazi Germany military command to encode strategic messages before and during WWII. Alan Turing was an English Mathematician and he developed the concepts of theoretical computing machine and carried out important code breaking work during WWII. He also investigated Artificial Intelligence (A.I.)

The members of the newest lodge,

the Major General Salem Towne Masonic Lodge Brethren, were on a mission. These brethren wanted the Traveling Chainmail Armor Attendance Apron that travels within the 24th District monthly L.O.I. classes. The Traveling Chainmail Armor Attendance Apron is a tradition that began in 2010. The lodge with the most brethren in attendance gets to bring this beautiful Chainmail Armor Attendance Apron back to their lodge home and the bragging rights until the next L.O.I monthly class.

Let me give you a little history about this Traveling Chainmail Armor Apron. This beautiful heavy chain link apron was made by brother Michael Sgariglia of the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge with the permission of Brother Robert Schremser, who was our District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) in 2010. Brother Mike Sgariglia made chainmail armor as a hobby before he became a Master Mason. Because of this he was inspired to make the apron. He got the idea when he was at another Lodge of Instruction class and saw that lodges gave out a prize for the most attended and thought of something personal for the 24th District. Brother Sgariglia made it with a pair of pliers in each hand. It took about 30 hours and 3500 rings to make the Chainmail Armor Apron. It consists of silver and blue stainless-steel rings. The apron weighs approximately five pounds

and can be worn. The brethren from the Major General Salem Towne Lodge (MGST) are proud to exhibit this apron until the next L.O.I. class. This is why the members of the (MGST) Lodge try to attend the L.O.I. classes in large numbers. The highest attendance from each lodge keeps this Chainmail Armor Apron. At this meeting of the L.O.I. the (MGST) Lodge had the most brethren in attendance.

They were able to take this Chainmail Armor Apron home where it was made and originated from until the next L.O.I class. If you would like more information about this great fraternity of freemasonry visit our website www.massfreemasonry.org and read about this great organization and to find a lodge nearest you.

Dudley Town Hall launches Holiday Food Drive for Webster-Dudley Food Share

DUDLEY — 'Tis the season for good will toward all. That rings true this year when offering the joy of a holiday meal, and the security of food on the pantry shelves, seems more meaningful than ever.

Please join the Town of Dudley's effort to help those who receive support from the Dudley-

Webster Food Share by donating nonperishables through Dec. 5.

Collection bins are located at the Pearl L. Crawford Memorial Library, the Dudley Police Department lobby, the Dudley Fire Department lobby and the first and second-floor entrances at Dudley Town Hall.

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PROGRAMS & EVENTS AT THE PEARLE L. CRAWFORD LIBRARY

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508-949-8021
To register for events or sign up for the newsletter go to www.crawfordlibrary.org or call 508-949-8021.
The library will be closed on Thursday, November 27th & Friday November, 28th in observance of Thanksgiving.
Please join us in the month of November to celebrate our artist of the month, Caryn Pierce. Caryn is a self-taught artist. A variety of paintings are on display for your enjoyment in the Fels Room whenever the Library is open.
Gentle Yoga
Mondays in November
10:00-11:00
Join yoga instructor Patricia, for a traditional “on the mat” yoga class with chair yoga modifications. This truly is a one size fits all class.
Bring your own mat. Wear layers, do not eat heavily 1.5-2 hours before class. Registration is Required.

Mahjong at the Pearle
Every Wednesday in November
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 November
1:30- 3:30
All quilters and would-be quilters are invited to join our new group. Bring your projects!

Knit & Crochet Group- NO SESSION Thursday, November 27th or Friday, November 28th
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

Special Guest Readers- Dudley Middle School Students-The DMA Anita
Monday, November 10th 6:00-7:00
Meet the Dudley students and teachers who built and launched a mini boat that they named the DMA Anita! There will be a story and Q & A sessions that will excite residents of all ages!
You can read all about it in our event calendar.
Follow Anita’s progress during its 13-week voyage at <https://educationalpassages.org/boats/dmsanita/>

The 60th Anniversary of The Sound of Music presented by Frank Mandosa
Thursday, November 13th 6:00-7:30
Let’s celebrate “The 60th Anniversary of The Sound of Music” ... Your heart will beat like the wings of the birds that fly from the lake to the trees when you celebrate 60 years with this beloved classic that received the Academy Award for Best Picture of 1965! Entertaining behind-the-scenes fun facts, background on the cast, and information about the real-life Von Trapp family all combine to make this one experience that will have you twirling on the mountaintops!
Frank Mandosa is a Film Lecturer and Podcast Host of “Reels of Cinema” (host) and “Movies Across the Pod” (co-host).
“Cook the Book” Book Club
Monday, November 24th 6:00-7:00
Book: Soup Salad Sandwiches
By Matty Matheson
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, November 20th
Vera Wong’s Unsolicited Advice for Murders
By Jesse Q. Suintanto 6:00-7:30
Books are available at the circulation desk for checkout one month prior to discussion. No Registration Required.

Baby Open Play
Fridays in November. No session November 28th
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 November-NO SESSION November 25th 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 November- NO SESSION November 26th 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.

Pokemon Club
Thursday, November 20th 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, November 21st 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.

Local 4 Life-Farm to Fork Workshop
Saturday, November 22nd 10:30-11:30
“LESSONS AT THE LIBRARY” Learn at 4 different interactive stations how food makes it from the farm, to the grocery store, to our table! Hands-on educational programs for families with children ages 4-11 years old. Registration required.
Dungeons & Dragons Game
Thursdays in November- NO SESSION November 27th 6:00-7:30
Ages 14-19
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Adult Programming
Literacy Volunteers: ESL Classes – Tuesdays at 6:00pm
The Literacy Cafe is a free weekly English conversation class offered by Literacy Volunteers of South Central Massachusetts (LVSCM). This class is free to attend and is open to all adults. No pre-registration is required. For more information, email us at info@lvscm.org.

Library for All – First Two Mondays; Last Two Fridays 10AM (Chair Yoga or Craft)
This program includes one chair yoga class and one craft project that will be held on first two Mondays and the last two Fridays of the month. Either join Jess and Ompractice for a 45 minute relaxing Chair Yoga class or join us for our craft program. Check the online calendar to see which event is scheduled. No experience necessary.

Cozy Wednesdays:

This program is for teens and adults of all abilities and their caregivers. Please call ahead if special accommodations or requirements are needed.

Yoga – Saturdays at 9:30am NO Class on Saturday, November 15th
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.

Armchair Travel for Seniors: Virtual Golden Gate Bridge Walking Tour – Friday, November 14th at 2:00pm
Seniors: Join us for a virtual walking tour of San Francisco! We’re working with a tour guide in San Francisco who will join us via zoom for this interactive program, so you can ask questions and get answers in real-time. This is a VIRTUAL tour via Zoom that will be hosted in the Library Community Room (after hours) and at Christopher Heights in Webster.

Adult Book Group – Monday, November 17th at 6:30pm
Join our Adult Book Group to discuss Tell Me Everything by Elizabeth Strout.

Sticker Scenes – Wednesday, November 19th at 6:00pm
Looking to unwind? Join us in creating your own cozy sticker scenes. We’ll provide everything you need for a peaceful, creative evening. Registration is required.

Book Release Talk Featuring Michael E. Neagle – Thursday, November 20th at 6:30pm
Join us in welcoming Dr. Michael E. Neagle to celebrate the release of his book, Chasing Bandits: America’s Long War on Terror. He will speak about the book and do a Q and A.

Programming for All Ages
Tiny Art Show Canvas Pickup ALL DAY November 3rd-21st
Calling all art lovers! The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library is hosting a Tiny Art Show, showcasing miniature pieces of art from our community. All creators are invited to participate -- no matter their age or skill level! Pick up your 3 in. x 3 in. canvas from the main Circulation Desk or the Children’s Desk. All mediums are strongly encouraged! For example, if you want to submit a 3 in. x 3 in. photograph or a 3 in. sculpture that is welcome. Art Submission Deadline: Monday, November 24th! Please be sure to complete the submission form with your artwork.
Tiny Art Show: Mini Bookcases – Thursday, November 20th (2 sessions) 5pm and 6pm
Join Paige and Jess

in creating a miniature bookshelf. You tell us some of your favorite books in advance, and we’ll have them ready for you to create your own mini library. This project will be small enough to enter into our Tiny Art Show!

Computer Basics: Google Suite – Tuesday, November 25th at 2:00pm
Join Evan and Jess for a one hour class on how to navigate the Google Suite of programs. This won’t be a deep dive into any particular program, but you will leave with an overview of Gmail, Google Drive, Google Docs, and Google Sheets.

Genre Book Group: Thriller – Tuesday, November 25th at 6:00pm
This month we’re reading Blood Sisters by Vanessa Lillie. This book is a powerful mystery about a Native American archaeologist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Extra copies are available at the circulation desk.

Children’s and Young Adult Programming
Get Ready for Kindergarten – Mondays in November, 10:00-10:30am
Through various fun activities, kids ages 4-6 can get a head start on kindergarten skills, becoming familiar with letters, and learning to follow directions.

Creators Club – Mondays from 4:00-5:30 PM
We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test! Come explore our newly rebranded Monday night program: Creators Club! November’s theme is Leaf Rubbing - use the fallen leaves of Autumn for Art! Place a leaf under a piece of paper and rub the paper with a crayon to make the leaf appear on the paper. Artwork left behind will be displayed in the children’s program room for the rest of the month.

Mini Block Party – Tuesdays at 3:30pm
Play with magnets, marble mazes, and LEGO.

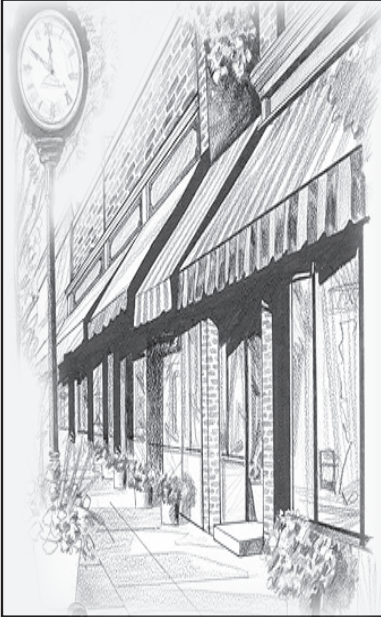
Busy Baby Storytime – Fridays at 10:00am
Join us for Busy Baby Storytime! Babies and caregivers will enjoy songs, movement, and simple stories that build early literacy skills in a fun and playful way.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover – Thursday, November 13th at 6:00pm
It’s that time of year again! Bring your favorite stuffed animal and join us for an craft event in the Children’s Program Room. Enjoy some tasty snacks while decorating your very own 3 in. x 3 in. canvas to be featured in our Tiny Art Show. Then, say goodnight to your stuffed friend as they spend the night at the library! Pick up will be the following morning, and you can see your friends’ adventures on our Facebook page.

The BaNannies – Saturday, November 15th at 10:30am
Join this fun mother-daughter duo as they bring playful, interactive music to the Webster community!

Snack Club: Oreo Taste Test – Tuesday, November 18th at 5:30pm
Welcome to Snack Club! Each month, kids ages 7-12 will get to make their own tasty treats or try out fun new flavors with friends. This month’s snack: Oreos! Due to limited supplies, this program requires registration.
Mini Chefs Club: Baked Potatoes – Wednesday, November 19th at 5:30pm
Welcome to Mini Chefs Club! This new food focused series offers kids 7-12 the opportunity to learn how to create easy, tasty meals right at home using simple ingredients and step-by-step guidance. Each class will require kids to use different kitchen tools. Due to limited supplies, registration is required.
Me and My Mini – Thursday, November 20th at 10:00am
Me and My Mini: A 45 minute creative movement group for ages 0 through 2.5 with a grown-up. Group is focused on adult and baby spending quality time together, fostering attachment, and baby interacting with others their age. Get groovy to upbeat music with fun props, instruments, and a story. Adult participation is required and 1-2 children per adult is recommended.

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Park Avenue Faculty Spotlight



Courtesy
Lisa Cotter (Speech and Language Pathologist), Laura Hackett (Instructional Assistant) and Amy Jordan (Kindergarten teacher) smile in front of the Polar Bear Backdrop at PAE.

WEBSTER — Each year, Park Avenue is filled with remarkable student learning — made possible by the dedication, creativity, support, and most importantly, the hope carried by the extraordinary staff here in our town. This week, we are proud to highlight three more exceptional members of our PAE team: Lisa Cotter (Speech and Language Pathologist), Laura Hackett (3rd Grade Instructional Assistant), and Amy Jordan (Kindergarten Teacher).

Lisa Cotter, our Speech and Language Pathologist, continues to demonstrate remarkable flexibility and dedication in her work with students. Lisa has been diligently developing visual boards for speech, a powerful form of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) that uses pictures, symbols, and words to help students express themselves. She works tirelessly to ensure every student feels supported in their communication journey. Cotter is adored by her students, who trust her, look forward to working with her, and feel confident knowing she is there to help them succeed.

As one student expressed, “I love working with Ms. Cotter! She makes speech fun and always helps me when I get stuck.”

Laura Hackett, Instructional Assistant in Grade 3, is the person students turn to for just about everything. Whether they need academic support, guidance, or a comforting presence, Hackett is always there. Her calm and patient demeanor, combined with her dedication, makes her someone students feel they can rely on no matter what. Her ability to anticipate and respond to students’ needs, while maintaining strong relationships, makes her an indispensable member of the third-grade team and a trusted figure for the children she supports.

One colleague remarked, “Laura is always there when I need her. She steps in without hesitation and supports both students and staff so well.”

Amy Jordan, Kindergarten Teacher, brings joy, creativity, and community into her classroom every day. Her lessons are engaging and hands-on, fostering curiosity and imagination in our youngest learners. Jordan builds a warm and inclusive classroom environment where students feel safe, valued, and excited to learn. She is also known for her humorous personality, which faculty appreciate as it makes for a fun and enjoyable day.

One colleague noted, “Amy’s energy and humor bring so much joy to my day. She makes the classroom a happy place for everyone.” Amy’s passion for teaching and love for her students are evident in everything she does.

DUDLEY POLICE LOG

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

A juvenile, age 17, was arrested on Oct. 2 for Unarmed Robbery and multiple counts of Assault.

Nicole L. Berthiaume, age 40, of Westborough was arrested on Oct. 10 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license, driving at a rate of speed exceeding the posted limit, attempt by an arrestee to furnish law enforcement with a false ID, and in connection with a warrant.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Oct. 19 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member and Strangulation or Suffocation.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Oct. 23 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member (Domestic).

A juvenile, age 17, was arrested on Oct. 24 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member (Domestic).

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Oct. 31 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member (Domestic).



Courtesy
Dudley Middle School congratulates its Students of The Month: 5th Grade - Christopher Mello, Gunnar Anderson, Mason Karle, & Abigail Lamusta; 6th Grade - Colin Barnes, Abigail Craver, & Jak Bousquet; 7th Grade - Layla Perez, Lily Blessington, & Ivy St. Laurent; 8th Grade - Olivia Laskowski, Milani Hammel, & John Doyle.

Quiet Corner Garden Club receives prestigious awards

WOODSTOCK, Conn. — The Quiet Corner Garden Club (QCGC) received 16 awards at the 96th Annual Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut Awards Meeting in Southington on Oct. 22. QCGC’s 122 members live in 26 towns in northeastern Connecticut and south central Massachusetts. The awards are based on garden club activities from June 2024 to May 2025.

The Lucille Schavoir Award is presented annually to a club for outstanding garden club work and is considered the highest award presented to a club. “Each year... [the Federated Garden Clubs of CT] look for a club that is just doing everything, supporting their community, improving their community, volunteering in the community, and making a difference in their community. The Quiet Corner Garden Club was recognized this year for its outstanding work in the community. Its club members are active in every aspect of garden club activities.”

The QCGC received its first ever award from the National Garden Clubs, Inc. A Certificate of Appreciation was awarded for the Club’s monthly newsletter. The Lea Bauerfeld Beautification Award is presented to a club for an outstanding civic project that benefits the community both aesthetically and environmentally. This award was presented for the Club’s work at Quasset Cemetery in Woodstock.

The Pauline B. Tyler Award for excellence in promoting conservation was presented to Noreene Stehlik of Woodstock Valley for her efforts to eradicate and educate about invasive plants.

An Award of Excellence in Healing, Therapy and Senior Gardening was given for the Club’s commitment to expand and share its passion for all things gardening. QCGC members conducted workshops at six local Senior Centers in Connecticut and Dudley, Mass.

QCGC received the Luckner Youth Award for its efforts working with the Putnam Rotary Interact high school students who worked in the TEEG Community Garden. The club also received a Citation for Digital Media and a Certificate of Merit for the monthly newsletter. In addition, The QCGC received a Citation for its Floral Design Course under the leadership of Bonnie Berthiaume of Woodstock and Marcia Kettle of North Grosvenordale, and also a Citation for garden work at Eastford Municipal buildings and grounds.

Individuals also recognized for their work were Linda Kaplan of Woodstock, Kathy Mulford of Brooklyn, Deni Van Der Voort of Woodstock, Marian Hallowell of Woodstock, Laura Salo of Woodstock, Ashley Goyette of Putnam, Mary Ann Johnson of Woodstock, and Ginny Sears of Woodstock.

The Quiet Corner Garden club meets monthly from September to June at the South Woodstock Baptist Church. For more information see our Facebook page or our Web site, www.quietcornergardenclub.com.

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Nov. 2-8.

Nathalie Ann Corchado Rodriguez, age 37, of Webster was arrested on Nov. 2 in connection with a warrant.

Jovannie Reyes, age 36, of Worcester was arrested on Nov. 5 in connection with a warrant.

Jennifer A. Konicki, age 52, of Webster was arrested on Nov. 7 in connection with a warrant. Angel Louis Torres, age 30, of Webster was arrested during the same incident for multiple counts of drug possession and in connection with multiple warrants.

A 47-year-old male from Webster was arrested on Nov. 8 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.



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STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

When town meetings still matter

In towns like ours, democracy doesn't live in marble halls or political soundbites. It lives under the hum of fluorescent lights in the cafeteria of Bartlett High, in the folding chairs of Oxford Middle School, and in the echo of voices that rise and fall in Dudley's Town Hall. It lives wherever neighbors gather, warrant booklets in hand, to decide—sometimes line by line—how their shared community should spend, save, build, and plan.

It's not glamorous. There's no applause, no cameras, no slogans. Sometimes, the coffee is the most exciting part of the evening. But that's precisely the beauty of it. The town meeting, and the citizen boards that spin out of it, represent the oldest and most direct form of self-government in the country. They remind us that a community isn't governed by "them." It's governed by us.

And yet, more and more often, the seats are half-empty. Attendance at public meetings has been shrinking across Central Massachusetts. It's not because people don't care—it's because life is busy. Parents juggle work and after-school schedules. Commuters fight late traffic home from Worcester or Providence. Others feel they don't know enough about local issues, or worry they'll stand out in a crowd of "regulars." Some figure their single vote won't make a difference.

But here's the quiet truth: in small towns, it always does. When only a few dozen residents show up, one voice can change a line item, a bylaw, or a project that shapes the town for decades. A single question can clarify a costly oversight; a single suggestion can improve how public funds are used. No other level of government offers that kind of access, or that kind of power.

Town meeting is where the abstract becomes personal. A number on a spreadsheet becomes the new roof for a senior center. A zoning change becomes a future housing development or a protected field. A vote to fund or delay a road project might decide whether your street stays safe through the winter. And beyond the budgets and bylaws, these gatherings remind us what's best about New England life—the ability to argue passionately with your neighbor one minute and shake their hand the next.

When people stop showing up, the system doesn't collapse. It quietly shifts into the hands of the few who do. That's when government feels distant, when decisions start to surprise us, when cynicism creeps in. But when citizens take the time to show up, ask questions, and listen, local government regains its balance. It becomes what it was meant to be: a partnership between those elected to lead and those who care enough to watch.

So as the leaves give way to the gray weeks before winter, take another look at your town calendar. Read the warrant. Attend a meeting—even if only to listen. You don't need to know the bylaws by heart or the budget codes by number. You only need to bring your curiosity, your common sense, and your willingness to care.

The strength of Webster, Dudley, and Oxford has never come from their size or wealth. It comes from participation—from the idea that the people who live here should shape what "here" means. Town meeting may not trend online or draw a crowd, but it remains one of the last honest places where democracy still fits around a folding table.

The lights are still on at Town Hall. The microphones still work. The seats are waiting. All that's missing, sometimes, are the people they were meant for.

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

First Lieutenant Ragnar Godfrey Lind, a.k.a. Jeffrey Lynn

BY HELEN POIRIER
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

One of Auburn's most famous people was the actor known as Jeffrey Lynn. He was the son of John Algot and Hedvig Cecilia [Persdotter] Edoff and was born Feb. 16, 1909, in Auburn. The family lived at 785 Oxford St. He had four brothers and three sisters. His father worked as a machinist in a tool shop.

Jeffrey attended Bates College in Lewiston Maine and graduated in 1930 with a B.A. In education. After college, he worked as a high school teacher in English and speech & drama. He also worked for the New England Telephone Co. for a while. His first film was in 1938, but when the war started, he enlisted in February 1942, where he trained with B-18, B-23, and PT-17 aircraft. He was part of Company A, Army Air Force B-25 Mitchell Bomb Squadron. This group flew more than 450 combat missions while in the Mediterranean Theater. The unit was cited for outstanding performance of duty in action and was awarded a Presidential citation. His unit was awarded the distinguished-unit badge for the invasion of Italy's mainland. Promoted to Captain in 1945, then he earned the bronze star in Italy and Austria as a combat intelligence officer in the Dept of Air Force overseas. This group was instrumental in cutting communications behind the German lines in Italy. Jeffrey was discharged in 1946 as Special Intelligence Officer.

After he left the military, Jeffery returned to Hollywood to do movies like "A letter to Three Wives," "Home Town Story" with Marilyn

Monroe, "Butterfield 8" with Elizabeth Taylor & Laurence Harvey, and "Tony Rome" with Frank Sinatra. Later in the 1960s, Jeffery did Broadway in plays such as "Any Wednesday" in 1966, and in 1967 "Dinner at Eight," just to name a few. He dabbled in television starring in shows like "Robert Montgomery Presents," "Your Shows of Shows," "My Son Jeep" and "Lux Video Theatre." His last appearance was on "Murder She Wrote."

Jeffery was married to Robin Chandler 1946 – 1958, Patricia Davis Ciarlo in 1965-1973, and at the time of his death was married to Helen Lynn. Jeffery died Nov. 24, 1995, in Burbank California at the age of 89. He is buried in Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Los Angeles.

Join the Auburn Historical Society and Museum on Tuesday, Nov. 11 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and Thursday, Nov. 13 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. for an evening at the Museum as we unveil an exhibit on Auburn's veterans. We have spent a lot of time researching the men and women credited to Auburn who served in the various wars, and we need your help for more information! Stop in with stories, pictures, or just names of the men and women who served and have an Auburn connection. We can scan pictures and return same day. We've also created a worksheet that visitors can fill out so we can add personal information to our lists of names.

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.

Latest auction news

It's been nearly a month and a half since my last auction news update, and there's a lot to report. I'll start by sharing news about a rare piece of Titanic memorabilia being auctioned in the United Kingdom.

Frederick Sutton, a 61-year-old first-class passenger from New Jersey, was lost at sea when the Titanic sank on April 14, 1912. Some of his personal effects were recovered and given to his family. The family held them for over 100 years before deciding to now auction the memorabilia. Mr. Sutton's family received his belongings in a white canvas bag marked "46." It included a first-class passenger list that had been damaged by the cold Atlantic waters after the tragic incident. The collection includes a note from Titanic's White Star Lines. Families of missing passengers were advised that they would have to pay for a first-class ticket to return deceased family members' bodies that were recovered. "This is callous in the extreme but goes to illustrate how different the world was in 1912," the auctioneer said in the BBC article. The passenger list is estimated to bring £100,000 (\$131,350 U.S.).

A massive collection of memorabilia from the estate of colorful and eccentric Indianapolis Colts owner, Jim Irsay, will be sold in several auctions. Irsay had shared some of his collection with the public in 2023 when he offered free concerts to the public with the opportunity to view some historical and pop culture memorabilia. One of the stops on the tour was at Boston's TD Garden, where I was fortunate enough to see some of the rare artifacts. Items being auctioned include "an Apple II manual signed by Steve Jobs, Hunter S. Thompson's Red Shark convertible and Jack Kerouac's origi-



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WAYNE TUISKULA

inal typewritten manuscript of "On the Road,"" according to the Indy Star.

A toilet might make an impact on the art world when it goes on the auction block later this month. Made of gold, the working sculpture was designed by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan and is titled "America." It "was created with 101.2 kilograms (223 pounds) of gold," according to MSN. An identical one was stolen from England's Blenheim Palace in a brazen 2019 heist. Cattelan is the artist who sold "Comedian," a banana duct taped to a wall, for \$6.2 million last year. No estimate for the toilet was provided, but the gold used is worth approximately \$10 million at current rates. The artist is hoping it bowls over bidders and brings much more though.

Our single-collector Civil War auction will be taking place this month. Following that, we'll have a major auction with fine jewelry, sterling silver, art, and other antiques and collectibles. Please visit our website <https://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).

Life balance

We all want to move forward — to reach the goal, finish the book, launch the business, get in shape, fall in love, or become the person we know we could be. We all have dreams, and most of us don't lack the desire. What we lack is the willingness to act when the timing isn't perfect.

I'm all about maintaining a work-life balance, and boundaries are essential, but I sometimes think that it's not the world slowing us down — it's our own rules. The quiet, self-made commandments we invent in the name of balance, boundaries, and self-care. Rules like "I don't check emails after 5," or "I don't work weekends," or "I don't follow up twice with the same client." They sound healthy — responsible even — but sometimes they're invisible fences around our potential.

We build them to stay sane, but if left unchecked, they can also prevent us from going where we truly want to be in life.

A lot of these rules come from a good place. We've been burned before. We've felt the crash after burnout, the sting of rejection, the

exhaustion of trying too hard. So we promise ourselves limits: never again, not after hours, not on Sundays. But what starts as protection can quietly become a kind of confinement. Sometimes growth begins exactly where discomfort starts.

Every ambitious person eventually faces a crossroads between their rules and their results. The people who go far — the ones we admire — aren't necessarily smarter or luckier. They're just the ones who decided certain rules didn't apply to them.

Stephen King ignored the publishing world's "one book a year" rule. He wrote so fast that his publisher couldn't keep up, so he created a pseudonym—Richard Bachman—to release more. When readers discovered the truth, both names became bestsellers, and the rule was never taken seriously again.

Or take Jeff Bezos, who in Amazon's early days answered customer emails and support calls at 2 a.m., believing connection mattered more than sleep. That obsessive rule-breaking focus on

customers became the DNA of one of the world's biggest companies.

Or Ed Sheeran, who played dozens of free or low-pay gigs in a single year, sleeping on couches and basking on street corners. Friends said he was devaluing his art — but those nights built the loyal fan base that later filled stadiums.

Or Elon Musk, who broke Silicon Valley's "focus on one thing" rule. While most founders were told to master one company at a time, he was building rockets, cars, and solar panels all at once.

Each one of them broke a rule that sounded smart but wasn't serving the dream.

I'm not suggesting that people should work 24/7, but I am saying that sometimes you need to work 24/7. Knowing when to be flexible with your work-life balance can change your entire future. It's knowing the difference between a guardrail and a cage.

Discipline isn't always about sticking to the same schedule forever; sometimes the boundaries need to bend. The rules that once protected your peace can, at a different season of life, start protecting your comfort instead. And comfort is a silent thief of

momentum.

Every ambitious person reaches a point where "balance" becomes an excuse. Where the rule that once made sense starts standing in the way, the truth is, you can't build an extraordinary life while staying entirely within ordinary limits.

Your next breakthrough may not require a new plan, a new mentor, or a new skill. It may require pushing past self-imposed boundaries.

Examine the rules you've established for yourself. Keep the ones that keep you healthy — the ones that let you rest, recover, and reconnect with life. But question the ones that keep you safe at the expense of your potential.

We all need balance, and progress isn't found in balance alone. It's found in the moments you lean just a little further than what feels comfortable — when you stay an extra hour, take the extra call, send the extra pitch.

You don't need to give up balance — just bend it in the direction of what matters most.

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

Avoid holiday debt: Spend with intention, not impulse



FINANCIAL FOCUS
DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

Holiday cheer has a way of loosening purse strings — sometimes more than we can afford. In 2024, one-third of Americans ended the year with holiday debt averaging \$1,181. And 60 percent of them were stressed about it, according to a December 2024 Lending Tree survey.

Ironically, when Americans created their 2025 New Year resolutions, they listed saving more money (45 percent) and reducing debt (32 percent) as two of the top three, per a 2024 CFP Board study. Imagine the head start they could have had without that holiday debt.

Here are some practical tips to help you stay mindful of your spending this holiday season:

Build — and follow — a budget. Decide how much you can realistically afford without going into debt or disrupting your regular expenses. Write that number down and refer to it regularly — doing so makes you more accountable and turns your budget into a plan, not just a wish. To help you stay the course and avoid unpleasant surprises later, keep a written or digital log of your purchases and reconcile them with your budget regularly.

Start early. The earlier you begin shopping, the more time you have to compare prices, check out the myriad of sales and make thoughtful decisions. Last-minute purchases, on the other hand, can lead to panic buying, overspending and costly rush shipping fees.

Pay with cash or debit. Credit cards make it easy to overspend, especially if you don't plan to pay the balance in full. Using cash or a debit card and paying for it now rather than deferring payment can help you stick to your budget and avoid buying things you can't afford.

Make a list — and check it twice. Think about each person on your list and what they would value. Then write it down. If it already feels overwhelming, consider trimming your list to only close friends and immediate family. You might also shift your focus from material gifts to experiences — like a shared meal, a hike or a homemade coupon for help with chores. These often cost less and create lasting memories.

Protect your long-term savings. Avoid dipping into retirement accounts or investments to fund holiday purchases. Depending on the account you tap, you could face penalties, fees and taxes — and you'll be sacrificing potential future growth for short-term gratification.

Plan ahead for next year. If overspending is a recurring issue, start preparing now for 2026. Decide how much you want to spend and set up a holiday fund. Contributing monthly to an interest-bearing account can ease the burden next year — and even earn you a little extra.

The holidays should be joyful, not financially stressful. By planning ahead, spending intentionally and keeping your long-term goals in mind, you can enjoy the season without the burden of debt. A little discipline now can lead to a more peaceful start to the new year — and a healthier financial future.

Dress up your holiday gatherings with a few succulents

Add a bit of life to your holiday gatherings with the help of succulents. You and your guests will enjoy the easy-care beauty of succulents. Their subtle colors and dramatic form make them great gifts and decorations now and throughout the year.

Small-scale succulents provide a multitude of opportunities for incorporating them into your holiday celebrations. Just select containers that complement, but don't overpower their charm.

Create a succulent garden to use as a centerpiece for the table. A shallow container filled with a variety of succulents with different shapes and colors is sure to capture everyone's attention. Set the container on a saucer to protect the table and add a complementary table runner for even greater impact.

Consider using succulents as party favors for guests to



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

take home and enjoy for years to come. But first, use them to decorate the table by making them into place cards for your guests. Simply add a name to the decorative pot.

Or display them all together in a tray, terra cotta saucer or other shallow container to use as a centerpiece throughout the evening. When the party is over, each guest can pick their own plant to take home.

Add a unique flair to the table by placing cocktail glasses filled with succulents next to each guest's place setting. This makes a unique table decoration and party favor for guests to take home as a reminder of

your fun gathering. Use a few planted cocktail glasses to decorate the beverage table or bar.

Grow these plants in a cacti and succulent potting mix. These fast-draining mixes help reduce the risk of overwatering. Further reduce this risk by using containers with drainage holes that are only slightly larger than the succulents' root system. Growing them in too large of a container for the plant size will retain moisture longer that can lead to root rot, decline, and even the death of your plants.

After the party continue to provide proper care so your centerpiece will be ready for your next event. Move the succulent planter to a cool, draft-free location near an unobstructed south-, west- or east-facing window. If light is limited, consider adding artificial lights.

Water thoroughly but only when the top few inches of soil

are dry and just often enough to keep the plants from shriveling. These winter-growing conditions often encourage a spring display of colorful and unique flowers.

Share these directions with your guest and if possible, the name of the succulent. This helps your guest keep the plants alive to enjoy for years to come.

With a trip to your favorite garden center and your imagination you can create fun holiday décor and party favors. You and your guests will enjoy their beauty throughout the holidays and beyond.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" streaming courses and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and con-



Melinda Myers

Create a succulent garden centerpiece with different shapes and colors this holiday season.

tributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Webster Five, Project New Hope Inc. launch food drive to support local veterans and military families

AUBURN — With Veterans Day approaching, Webster Five and Project New Hope Inc. are calling on the community to help support local Military and Veteran families in need through a regional food drive running Wednesday, Nov. 5 through Friday, Nov. 21.

All donations will go directly to Project New Hope's Sully's Pantry, which provides food and household essentials to Veterans, Service Members and their families across Central Massachusetts.

"Our partnership with Project New Hope through United Way of Central Massachusetts gives our community a meaningful way to support local Military and Veteran families," said Christopher Watson, Chief Business Lending Officer, Webster Five and Member of the Board of Directors, United Way of Central Massachusetts. "Every donation this holiday season helps provide essentials and reminds these families how much their service is appreciated."

"At Project New Hope Inc., we're honored to partner with Webster Five to help Military and Veteran families put food on the table this holiday season," said Bill Moore, CEO and Founder, Project New Hope Inc. "Every can, box and donation represents hope for those who have served our nation. Together, we're showing our Veterans and their families that



Courtesy

Webster Five partners with Project New Hope Inc. through United Way of Central Massachusetts to launch food drive. From left to right: Christopher Watson, Webster Five; Brian Westerlind, Webster Five; Leah Larson, United Way of Central Massachusetts; Amanda Coccia, Webster Five; Tim Garvin, United Way of Central Massachusetts; Rebecca Jalbert, Webster Five; Bill Moore, Project New Hope Inc.; and Debbie Erickson, Project New Hope Inc.

their community stands with them."

How to Help
Donations can be dropped off at any Webster Five branch location:

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208 West Main St., Dudley
343 Main St., Oxford
2 6 1
Grafton St., Shrewsbury
1 3 6

Thompson Rd., Webster
266 Chandler St., Worcester
100 Front St., Suite 150, Worcester

Requested items include:
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Pop-Tarts
Canned Fruit

Applesauce
Canned Soup/Stew
Snack-Packs Jello & Pudding
Canned Chili
Cranberry Juice
Baked Beans
Raisins
Stuffing
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Alfredo Sauce

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Please donate only unopened items that are within their "best by" date to ensure freshness and quality.

About Webster Five
Established in 1868, Webster Five offers consumers, businesses and nonprofits not only a wide range of products and services but also stability and community support that can't be matched by their larger counterparts. To learn more about Webster Five, visit web5.com.

About Project New Hope Inc.
Project New Hope Inc. has been empowering Veterans, Service Members, and their families for over 14 years through transformative retreats, essential resources, and holistic support services. To learn more about Project New Hope's mission and programs, visit <https://www.projectnewhopema.org/>.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR NOVEMBER 14-21

Friday, Nov. 14
Storytime sparkles, pages turn, At the library kids will learn. Songs and smiles set the tone, A cozy start before you're home.

Saturday, Nov. 15
Vendors and bakers in festive array, Holy Trinity's fair leads the day, 68 Lake Street, Webster, 9 a.m.-3, Shop for gifts, sip cider, leave happy and free.

Sunday, Nov. 16
Neighbors gather, hearts combine, Crafts and good deeds neatly align. Bring a can or two to share, Little acts of local care.

Monday, Nov. 17
Chair Yoga at ten, breathe in light, Gentle stretches set things right. Move with ease, quiet the mind, Leave the Monday rush behind.

Tuesday, Nov. 18
Toddler Playtime makes spirits bright, Blocks and giggles, pure delight. Tiny towers, tiny cheers, Memories made for future years.

Wednesday, Nov. 19
Capoeira's rhythm taps the floor, Songs and steps and so much more. Round we go in friendly ring, Energy shared in a joyful swing.

Thursday, Nov. 20
Evening settles, frost is near, Kindness keeps the pathways clear. Wave to neighbors, lend a hand, That's the rhythm of our land.

Friday, Nov. 21
Week winds down, lights glow warm, Markets hum in gentle swarm. Shop in town, support the crew, Keeping local, strong, and true.

DWC's beloved fundraiser a resounding success thanks to our incredible sponsors and community support!



DUDLEY — The Dudley Woman's Club is thrilled to announce that the much-anticipated Pocketbook Bingo at the PACC on November 2nd was a tremendous success! Attendees enjoyed an exciting afternoon filled with activities, including a thrilling 50/50 raffle, all in support of a great cause.

We are proud to announce that our voluntary giving project generated \$1,015 worth of coffee, teas, and hot drinks that were donated to the Webster Dudley Food Share, helping to support our community's needs.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our amazing bingo callers, Ben Kane and Lester Boggio, for their exceptional dedication and enthusiasm that made our event truly memorable.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous sponsors, whose unwavering support made this event possible:

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- Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home
- Webster Five Cents Savings Bank

We encourage everyone to join us next time for another afternoon of fun, friendship, and fantastic prizes! Mark your calendars for our next Pocketbook Bingo on March 22, 2026, at the same location.

For more information, please visit www.dudleywomasclub.org Thank you for your continued support!



Nichols College hosts renowned author, filmmaker Christy Cashman for inspiring campus discussion

DUDLEY — Nichols College proudly welcomed celebrated author, actress, and filmmaker Christy Cashman to campus on Thursday, Nov. 6, for a public discussion and signing of her award-winning novel “The Truth About Horses.” The free event, held in Fels Lounge, drew students, faculty, and members of the local community for an afternoon of creativity, conversation, and inspiration.

Cashman, whose film credits include American Hustle, Joy, and Ted 2, spoke about her career path, creative process, and the resilience required to succeed in the arts. She shared stories from her experiences in film and publishing, offering attendees practical advice on building confidence as writers and trusting their unique voices.

Throughout the discussion, Cashman emphasized that creativity flourishes through persistence and authenticity. Students had the opportunity to ask questions about her work and to learn firsthand about the balance between imagination, discipline, and self-belief that underpins successful storytelling.

Cashman told attendees, “Write through everything. Keep writing when you don’t feel like it. Keep writing when you’re tired. Keep writing no matter what your circumstances are.”

Earlier in the day, Cashman met privately with members of the Nichols College Equestrian Club and participated in a luncheon with campus leaders. Nichols College President William Pieczynski also attended the event and joined Cashman for photos following the discussion.



“Christy’s story and her commitment to encouraging young creatives resonated deeply with our students,” said President Pieczynski. “Her message about perseverance and confidence aligns perfectly with Nichols’ mission to empower students to pursue their passions with purpose and courage.”

Cashman’s debut novel, “The Truth About Horses,” earned the 2024 IBPA Benjamin Franklin Gold Award for General Fiction, along with Silver Awards for Best New Voice and Teen Fiction. She has also authored two children’s books and founded YouthINK, a non-profit dedicated to mentoring teen creators, and YOUthink Creative Wellness Retreats, which support wellness through art and storytelling.



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Courtesy

The Oxford Woman ‘s Club had a wonderful time at our last meeting, and this is a few of our group showing their fall arrangements. We were excited to have our guest from Herbert Berg Florist who instructed us in creating a beautiful fall arrangement to celebrate the season. This is one of the many programs that we offer our members. We host guest speakers, many with information that serves our community including artists, authors, different organizations both health and government personnel. Our goal is to help our graduating seniors by offering three \$750 scholarships. We also contribute to our library toward free passes supplies for schools, police and fire departments, the Prom Closet, veterans, Senior Center, Clara Barton Camp and many others. We welcome all within our town and surrounding areas to achieve our goals. Come be part of the Club, make new friends and have fun!





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All Saints Day celebration at All Saints Academy

WEBSTER — On Nov. 1, Catholics celebrate All Saints Day, a special feast honoring all the saints who have attained everlasting life in Heaven. This year, All Saints Academy marked the occasion during their weekly Mass on Nov. 4, celebrating the communion of saints in a spirit of faith and gratitude.

As part of the celebration, the fifth-grade students presented their beloved annual project and performance, “Saints Come Alive.” Each student researched a saint of their choice and then brought that saint to life through a creative and heartfelt presentation to the congregation.

The wide variety of saints highlighted during the program showcased virtues of kindness, courage, and devotion. This meaningful tradition at All Saints Academy not only allows students to play an important role in the school’s heritage and charism honoring the saints, but also allows them to share the inspiring stories of their favorite saints with the entire school and parish. As the presentation concluded, Fr. Javier Julio, pastor of St. Louis Church, noted that by living with Jesus in their lives, ordinary people can become extraordinary, just like the saint the students portrayed. These fifth graders have offered a moving reminder that we are called to live our lives just as beautifully as the saints did.



Courtesy

Congratulations are in order for Drew for reaching his goal of completing the “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” program at the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library. Drew worked hard and finished at the end of October – way to go, Drew! The 1,000 Books Foundation’s mission is to promote reading to newborns, infants, and toddlers, and to encourage parent and child bonding through reading. The 1,000 BBK challenge at the Crawford Library is funded by the Friends of the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library.

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Cornerstone Bank donates \$5,000 to support financial literacy in Quaboag Valley

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank has donated \$5,000 to the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation (QV CDC) in support of its Learn and Save Club, a financial fitness program that teaches participants how to develop healthy money habits and save toward the purchase of important assets.

“Financial literacy is the foundation for long-term success,” said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. “We are proud to support the Learn and Save Club again this year, which equips local families and individuals with the tools they need to make confident financial decisions.”

The year-long program combines financial literacy classes with matched savings to empower low-income residents of the Quaboag Valley to achieve greater financial stability. Participants attend monthly meetings, receive hands-on guidance and work toward goals such as home ownership, education or reliable transportation.

This is the second consecutive year Cornerstone Bank has contributed to the Learn and Save Club. In addition to financial support, bank employees have volunteered to help lead financial education sessions, sharing their expertise with program participants.

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

Dudley begins search process for new employee health care plan

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The Dudley Board of Selectmen has charged a new committee with seeking out and recommending new group health insurance plans and benefits for town employees.

The Insurance Advisory Committee includes representation from the different town unions. Selectmen approved the appointments on Nov. 2 and included Paul Konieczny of Worcester County Retirement, Amanda Holmes of USW with Brayden Cutler as alternate, Officer John Glowacki with Sgt. Keith Remillard as an alternate each representing the Dudley Police union, Lt. Kevin Holstrom and Firefighter Todd Betts as alternate for Local 4271 representing town firefighters, and Kyle MacDonald of SEIU 888 with Brian Dorval as alternate.

Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda explained the importance of the IAC’s role.

“The IAC will be brought in and work directly with our independent healthcare consultant to make a recommendation to the board to evaluate

what the best healthcare setup will be from the town. That’s why we have representatives from each union,” said Ruda.

While the IAC members were appointed to terms that expire in 2028, Ruda anticipates the committee moving quickly as deadlines approach going into the new calendar year.

“There are some changes coming down with healthcare the way it is, not just for the town but throughout the country,” said Ruda. “It’s going to be some rapid based decision making and once those decisions are made, because they’re all associated with deadlines coming up over the winter and early spring, things will slow down for the IAC.”

A final report and recommendation deadline will be determined by the different healthcare plans that are being evaluated by the IAC. Any recommendations will need to go before the Board of Selectmen for consideration.

Bids for a consultant were opened on Nov. 3 with five bidders submitting to the town. Ruda’s office had yet to announce a winning bid as of this writing.



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LEGALS

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket Number:25 SM 003318 Date Filed: 10/29/2025 ORDER OF NOTICE TO: Raymond Fortin and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq) U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee for RMTP Trust, Series 2021 Cottage-TT-V claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Auburn, 2 Aleda Drive, given by Raymond Fortin to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Pacific Union Financial, LLC , dated October 25,2018, and recorded or filed in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59596, Page 152 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 12/15/2025 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 10/29/2025. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder. November 14, 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. WO25P3746EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Helen Mary Hejwosz
Date of Death:09/30/2025

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

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/25/2025.**

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: October 29, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 14, 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. WO25P3643EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Janice Marie Duffy
Date of Death:12/11/2024

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed

by **Heather M. Costello of Franklin MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:
Heather M. Costello of Franklin MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/02/2025.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 03, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 14, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO25P3318GD
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
In the matter of:
Janusz A. Melewski
Of: Webster, MA
RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Dr. Violette A Sobiech of Shrewsbury MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Janusz A. Melewski** in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Dr. Violette A Sobiech of Shrewsbury MA** (or some suitable person) be appointed as Gaurdian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that theprotextive 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 **11/25/2025.** 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: October 28, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman
November 14, 2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Stella J. Derderian, David W. Lovitt to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., dated April 28, 2009 and record-

ed in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 44188, Page 154, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. to Specialized Loan Servicing LLC, recorded on August 2, 2022, in Book No. 68010, at Page 250
for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on December 8, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 21 Central Avenue, Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,
TO WIT:
THE LAND IN DUDLEY, SAID WORCESTER COUNTY, WITH THE BUILDINGS THEREON BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO WIT:

A CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND WITH THE BUILDINGS THEREON STANDING SITUATED IN THE EASTERLY PART OF SAID DUDLBY IN THE MERINO VILLAGE, SO-CALLED. AND IS BOUNDED AND DESCRIBBD AS FOLLOWS, TO WIT: BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER THEREOF; THENCE EASTERLY FORTY-TWO (42) FEET BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF JOHN P. DZIURGOT TO A STONE POST; THENCE NORTHERLY FIFTY (50) FEET BY LAND OP SAID DZIURGOTTO A STONE POST; THENCE WESTERLY FIFTY-EIGHT (58) FEET TO A STONE POST BY THE ROAD BY LAND OF SAID DZIURGOT; THENCE ON SAID ROAD FIFTY (50) FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.

A CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN SAID DUDLEY IN THE MERINO VILLAGE, SO-CALLED, AND IS BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO WIT; BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID KEATING PREMISES AND AT LAND OF SAID DZIURGOT; THENCE RUNNING EASTERLY THIRTY-ONE (31) FEET TO A STONE POST AT LAND OF SAID DZIURGOT; THENCE SOUTHERLY BY LAND OP SAID DZIURGOT EIGHTY-ONE (81) FEET TO A STONE POST; THENCE WESTERLY BY LAND OF SAID DZUIRGOT ABOUT SEVENTY-THREE (73) FEET TO THE ROAD; THENCE BY SAID ROAD THIRTY-ONE (31) FEET TO LAND OF SAID KEATING; THENCE BY SAID KEATING LAND EASTERLY ABOUT FORTY-TWO (42) FEET; THENCE BY SAID KEATING LAND ABOUT FIFTY (50) FEET NORTHERLY TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 31910, Page 204.
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:
Adeposit of TenThousand (\$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.

NEWREZ LLC, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO SPECIALIZED LOAN SERVICING LLC, D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
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150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
24557
November 7, 2025
November 14, 2025
November 21, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO25P3484GD
NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor
In the interests of
Ariah Crowley of East Douglas, MA Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed by on 10/07/2025 by Glendaliz Rosario-Gomez of East Douglas, MA

James Gomez of East Douglas, MA will be held 11/12/2025 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing Located **Worcester Probate & Family Court**

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

ORDER TO PETITIONER(S)
IT IS ORDERED THAT copies of this Notice and the Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served in hand on the minor, (if 14 or more years of age and not the petitioner), the guardian, the parents of the minor, and any other person if ordered by the Court, at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the hearing date listed above. **Service must be made by the sheriff, constable, or other person approved by the Court.**

If service in hand cannot be accomplished on any interested party. **IT IS ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and the Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served on the interested party by leaving at and mailing by regular first class mail to last and usual place of residence of the interested party at least **fourteen (14) days** prior to the date of hearing listed above.

If the identity of whereabouts of an interested party is **not known, IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served on all interested persons at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the hearing date by mailing first class mail and by publishing a copy of the Order and Notice once in **Webster Times, Webster** publication to be at least **Seven (7)** days prior to the hearing date.

If required, service on the United States Veteran Administration and the Department of Children and Families may be accomplished by regular first class mail at least **Seven (7)** days prior to the hearing.

THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.
Date: October 8, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
November 14, 2025

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WILDCATS

continued from page A1

future teams to follow. They were also the first team to defeat both Auburn and Uxbridge in the same season, proving their ability to rise

to every challenge. With a remarkable five total victories on the season, the Wildcats not only secured the school's best record but also established the highest-scoring offense ever in program history. To top it off, the team remained undefeated at home (3-0) and

more importantly, they laid the foundation for future Wildcats teams to build on this new standard of success.

The 2025 Wildcats leave behind a footprint of hard work, discipline, and heart. From improving attendance and accountability to setting

new program records, this team showed what's possible when commitment meets culture.

On behalf of the WMS Wildcat football players and coaching staff, we would like to extend our very best to Coach L's Bartlett High

School football team as their players and coaches prepare to take on the defending state champions West Boylston Lions. The Indians will compete for the Massachusetts State Championship on Friday night in West Boylston. We are proud of your hard work and

are cheering you on throughout the way.

Football has found its heartbeat in Webster again. Good Luck Indians.

FUNDING

continued from page A1

in May approved funding for the rest of the 2025 calendar year but going into January they'll have to find a way to continue to fund the mitigation which could involve using stabilization funding which itself requires a two thirds vote at town meeting. Another option could be utilizing Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) grant funds which the town has applied for through the Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Water

Resources Clean Drinking Water Program. While the town has yet to secure the funds, officials are hopeful that the potential grant, which could total as much as a million dollars, can help cover the mitigation costs.

"The Town Administrator's Office has presented the project and is finalizing the application with DEP. We're working with the DEP to determine whether one-time remediation costs are eligible and whether the grant can be split between construction and mitigation," Ruda said. "We are confident that the project meets eligibility criteria for qualifying costs.

If the grant cannot be applied to mitigation, the Town will need to consider alternative options—either a withdrawal from stabilization (requiring a two thirds vote of Town Meeting) or a new borrowing article."

Any town meeting to consider alternative funding methods will depend on when Dudley hears back about the grant. Regardless, Ruda made it clear that due to an agreement with local company Gentex, who is splitting the cost of mitigation with the town, and mandates by the state, Dudley will need to find a way to fund its obligations.

"Both the town and Gentex remain under a DEP order to maintain PFAS mitigation via Point of Entry Treatment (POET) systems until the new waterline is operational. Those compliance requirements remain in place, so risks still exist if mitigation lapses," Ruda said. "The town continues to work closely with DEP and consultant, Weston & Sampson, to ensure uninterrupted compliance and to avoid enforcement issues."

If Dudley receives the EC-SDC Grant, the remainder not utilized for mitigation would go towards a portion of the waterline project deemed

ineligible for the no-interest State Revolving Fund loan and thus subject to a projected 4.5 to 5 percent interest rate in the borrowing.

Speaking of the waterline, Ruda clarified that there has yet to be any confirmed agreement with Gentex on any cost sharing for that project, but the town is making headway now that the borrowing has been approved.

"The DEP has deemed both the town and Gentex Optics Inc. as potential responsible parties for PFAS in private wells and we have worked cooperatively throughout mitigation," Ruda said, adding,

"We anticipate that same spirit of cooperation to continue as we negotiate a cost-sharing agreement to define each party's responsibilities for the waterline installation. Both are expected to contribute 50 percent of the total cost, which is approximately \$8.22 million each."

The timeline for the project should see as much as 90 percent of the design completed by February and the project going to bid in November of 2026. Construction is expected to start in 2027 and complete by summer 2028, with site restoration expected to conclude the following year.

FINAN

continued from page A1

Shannon participated in many camping trips, hikes, trainings, and community service projects. She earned numerous merit badges and awards, including the National Outdoor Award for camping, the World Conservation Award, and the religious knot for earning the Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pious XII emblems. She also

served as a den chief. Outside of scouts, Shannon has participated in the We the People competition and Model UN, been a member of the National Society of High School Scholars, and had her artwork displayed in a teen exhibit at the Worcester Art Museum. She also volunteers at her parish's community breakfast. Finan is currently a student at Assumption University—she is interested in studying criminology and sociology and

hopes to become a lawyer.

Troop 163 is a Scouting America troop for girls ages 11-17. The troop is based in Sturbridge but has members across southern Worcester County. The aims of the troop are character development, citizenship, fitness, and leadership. To learn more about scouting or Troop 163, email troop163sturbridge@gmail.com.

Bartlett High School wins \$75,000 Skills Capital Grant!

WEBSTER — Exciting news! Bartlett High School has been awarded a \$75,000 Skills Capital Grant to support our Innovation Career Pathways (ICP) and Chapter 74 Marketing programs. This

grant is part of the \$13.5 million awarded by the Healey-Driscoll Administration to expand hands-on learning and access to cutting-edge technology in schools across Massachusetts. The funding

will help Bartlett continue preparing students for success in high-demand industries like advanced manufacturing, health care, and marketing.

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Bartlett High School announces honor roll

WEBSTER — Bartlett High School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2024-2025 school year.

Gabriela Ramos Rivera, Tyler Whiting

Grade 12
High Honor: Chloe Drisco, Annalisa Krasnecky, Travis Russell
Honor: Zayah Barjolo, Jayden Blaisdell, Nathan Cole, Marievelise Collazo, Niel Duszlak, Ethan Gomes, Georgia LaPierre, Josephine Medina, Eryk Piwowarczyk, Aubrie Regan Rosado, Lawrence Smith, Luis Villa Jeres, Luigi Villegas, Lilliana Wirf

Grade 11
High Honor: Oluwatose Edebiri, Michael Stawiecki
Honor: Caden Case, Nathan Casper, MaKayla Chauvin, Daysha Collins, Cameren Forsythe, Brayden Greene, Omar Medina Perez, Megan Milligan, Morgan Minor, Teagan Napolitano, Kathryn Nascimento, Dhyye Patel, Irelyn Pottle,

Grade 10
High Honor: Alexander Baker, Natalia Dos Santos, Jordan Miller, Angel Sarfo
Honor: Matthew Czernicki, Allan De Belli, Willow Dennis, Callee Gardner, Gioana Louis Jean, Elijah McKenna, Kaylee Podles, Joey Ramirez, Lindsey Ramsey, Kristie Remillard, Don Ta, Julia Urato

Grade 9
High Honor: Emma Farrar, Yaran Gonon, Mason Grzyb, Jordyn Marin Caceres, Makayla Place, Liana Porto De Luca, Amira Seddiki
Honor: Erica Amakpa, Tyler Brunet, Riley Chambers, Raiza Colon Ramirez, Joshua Drew, Norma Elmaola, Lamar Kaifa, Aydin Lassiter, Mya Leatham, Weston Mulready, Patricia Paglalunan, Jazhel Jaireh Portante, Aoife Pyke, Jordan Reeves, Adreanna Rose, Anthony Thomas, Devontay Vega

Gladys E. Kelly Library launches oral history project

WEBSTER — The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library is spearheading an oral history project this fall. In order to capture stories of Webster as a booming industrial town, the Library is looking for interviewees to share their experiences of working in the mills from the 1950's through the 1970's. Beyond mill experience, they are also looking for children of millworkers or folks that remember Main Street Webster and the night life or social scene. Please help spread the word and reach out to those you know who have memories from this era!

The Library is collaborating with Nichols College, the Webster Senior Center, and Samuel Slater Experience to produce a video compilation of the recorded interviews, to be showcased at several locations in April 2026. Dates of the screenings will be announced at a later date.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Evan Hale at 508-949-3880, ext. 1056, or ehale@cwmares.org.

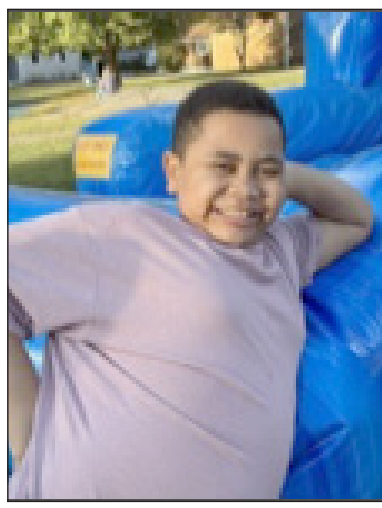
Dudley invites community to annual tree lighting

DUDLEY — Dudley invites the community to its Annual Tree Lighting at 6 p.m. Dec. 4 at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main St.

Holiday music and warm cheer will greet all for the seasonal celebration that will include crafts, pizza, hot cocoa and sweet treats.

A little Christmas magic is expected when Santa arrives atop his big, red firetruck sleigh to visit with the wee ones.

**Friday's Child**



Zyon
Age 11
Registration #7396

Zyon is a sweet, clever, and funny kid who lights up any room they enter. Those who know Zyon describe them as curious, loving, and full of energy, while Zyon describes himself as thoughtful, empathetic, and caring. What makes Zyon truly unique is their deep compassion for others—an extraordinary empathy that shines even in the face of past challenges. They are often described as “wise beyond their years” and have a remarkable ability to support and uplift those around them. Zyon thrives when engaging in creative activities. They love all kinds of arts and crafts, especially projects that involve building, designing, and problem-solving. Whether working with Legos, building blocks, or puzzles, Zyon’s imagination and determination always come through. They also enjoy drawing, painting, writing stories, and expressing their love of superheroes—using art and writing as powerful tools for self-expression and storytelling. Zyon proudly identifies these creative outlets as some of their greatest strengths. Outside of their artistic passions, Zyon enjoys playing Pokémon and Super Smash Brothers, spending time outdoors, and exploring new adventures. Though they haven’t yet chosen a specific dream for the future, Zyon’s big imagination and open-mindedness show that they’re on an exciting path of self-discovery—ready to explore the many possibilities ahead.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22550199734>

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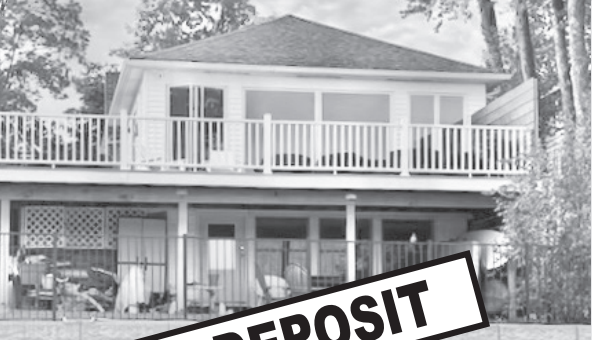
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Webster Lake -
302 Killdeer Island
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Renovated + move-in ready lakefront home w/1,700+/- sq ft. Open kitchen/dining/living w/ cathedral ceilings + wall of windows. Primary suite w/private bath! 2 add'l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

Featured New Listing!!!
WEBSTER - 19 FIRST STREET



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



WEBSTER - 24 COOPER RD
NEW CONSTRUCTION Craftsman Style Home! Tucked away on Cooper Rd, Webster Lake w/Access at Lakeside Beach/Boat Ramp. 3rd of 4 Homes being built at this Site. Offers 2,155 SF+/- of Living Area, 7 Rms, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 9' Ceilings. Wood Flooring Throughout w/Ceramic Tile Floors in the Baths. Spacious Main BR Suite w/ Walk-in Closet & Private Full Bath. Double-Sink Vanity! Lower level walkout w/ Slider. Basement-rough plumbed Central AC! Garage \$649,900.

WATERFORD CT - 20 AVERY LN.



SORRY, SOLD!

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

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT LISTING! KILLDEER RD



ON DEPOSIT

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

Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!



SORRY, SOLD!

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

Webster Lake - 53 Colonial Rd



SORRY, SOLD!

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

Webster Lake Waterfront 8 Long Island



SORRY, SOLD!

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



6 2nd street Brookfield - Nanatomqua \$190,000

Buyer could not fulfill their purchase so we are back on the market - 2 bed/2 bath mobile in highly sought after Nanatomqua Mobile Home Park. Luxury vinyl plank floors, bed and bath at each end. Eat-in kitchen, oversized living room with electronic blinds and built-ins. All new windows throughout. Furnace only 2-3 years old. Park share \$17,250 included in list price. Monthly lot rent \$210 includes water, sewer, taxes, road maintenance and trash removal. Whole house generac generator, shed. Covered deck with handicap ramp. \$250 share transfer fee paid to the park at closing by seller

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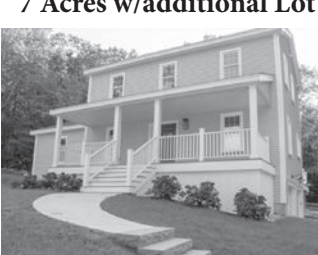
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*Sided
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LEICESTER- \$409,900



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DUDLEY- NEW LISTING
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Finished Lower Level Family Room
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Saint Joseph School celebrates All Saints Day with faith and joy

WEBSTER — On Oct. 31, the Saint Joseph School community gathered at Saint Joseph Basilica to celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints—a holy day dedicated to honoring all who have attained heaven. This cherished tradition invites students to reflect on the lives of the saints and to follow their example of holiness, service, and love for God.

This year’s Mass was organized by the fifth-grade students under the direction of their teacher, Mrs. Susan Gallivan. In preparation for the celebration, the students each researched a saint, learning about their virtues, challenges, and contributions to the Church. They then prepared written reflections and presentations to share with their classmates, deepening their understanding of what it means to live

a life of faith.

When All Saints Day arrived, the fifth-grade students joyfully processed into the Basilica dressed as their chosen saints. They also took on leadership roles during the liturgy — Aaliyah Andersen and Carson Krajcik proclaimed the readings; Charlie Cyr and Cameron Blodgettled the Prayer of the Faithful; and Julian Gibbons, Julie-Ann McCracken, Persefoni Zoi Sgouritsas, Luke Zeglen, and Faye Derrypresented the Offertory Gifts.

Rev. Richard Polek, Pastor and Headmaster of Saint Joseph School, was the celebrant of the Mass. During his memorable homily—which began in complete darkness—he reminded students that Jesus is our light. He explained that just as pumpkins shine



Saint Joseph School fifth-grade students stand proudly on the altar of Saint Joseph Basilica following the school’s All Saints Day Mass and presentations. Dressed as the saints they researched and portrayed, the students hold illustrations representing their chosen holy figures. Joining them is Rev. Richard Polek, Pastor and Headmaster, who celebrated the Mass and delivered a memorable homily reminding students that Jesus is our light and that we are called to be lights for others.

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on doorsteps during Halloween, we, too, are called to shine brightly for others. Fr. Richard encouraged students to consider how they can make their school, families, and the world a better place.

“How can we shine?” he asked. “By telling others about the goodness of God, by smiling, and by saying kind words—small things that bring bright light, too.”

As he spoke, Fr. Richard reached into his cassock and pulled out a small flashlight, shining it toward the students as a symbol of how one light can lead the way. He reminded everyone to be witnesses to Jesus and to live by God’s commands, even when the world seems dark.

“Just like when the power goes out,” he said, “be lights as you go through your neighborhoods tonight while trick-or-treating.”

As he finished, the lights in the Basilica came back on, filling the church with warmth and awe as students and teachers reflected on the message.

Following the Mass, the students brought their saints to life for the entire student body, sharing what they had learned and offering short presentations about the holy men and women they represented. Saints included: Aaliyah Anderson – Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Stella Andreotta – Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Sophia Bengtson – Saint Lydia Purpuraria, Julia Biela – Saint Katharine Drexel, Cameron Blodgett – Saint John Neumann, Christopher Bourgeois – Pope Gregory the Great, Samuel Brunnett – Saint Damien, Cecilia Coan – Saint Cecilia, Ariel Corbin – Saint Brigid, Charlie Cyr – Saint Isaac Jogues, Faye Derry – Saint Catherine of Bologna, Julian Gibbons – Saint Francis de Sales, Michael Kamangu – Venerable Fulton Sheen, Carson Krajcik – Saint John la Lande, Julie-Ann McCracken – Dorothy Day, Mia Reed – Mary, Mother of God, Persefoni Zoi Sgouritsas – Saint Marianne Cope, Rylan Shemansky – Our Lady of Peace, Anna Wozniak – Saint Dorothy, Luke Zeglen – Saint Francis of Assisi.

Through their research and presentations, the students demonstrated not only their growing knowledge but also their faith in action—modeling the virtues of courage, kindness, and devotion. This annual tradition reminds us that the saints are living examples of how we are all called to holiness, and it beautifully reflects Saint Joseph School’s mission of Religion, Respect, and Responsibility.

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