

# Auburn News

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Friday, January 17, 2025

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Courtesy

Oxford Middle School recognizes students each month who exemplify our Be The 3 goals of Respect, Responsibility, and Safety as well as showing that attendance matters, displaying citizenship, and showing growth in a variety of ways. This month, OMS celebrates Heather Stebbins, Ana Benitez Payano, Tim Hall Cook, Destiny Purcell, Zachary Dubsy, and Sadie Steward as our December Students of the Month.

## Conservation Commission approves junkyard cleanup plan

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — The Conservation Commission put their stamp on an issue the selectmen have had on their plate for a few weeks now – the long-term cleanup of 114 Worcester Rd.

On Jan. 6, the commission approved a six-phase, three-year plan to remove tires, a crane, old truck and car parts and miscellaneous metal items from the unnamed perennial stream on that property. Agent Joey Wigglesworth said there aren't too many actual vehicles, but many "piles of steel," with some oil and other material probably near the building. The ultimate goal, he said, is to remove stuff from the stream and push it all at least 25 feet from the water.

"This situation at 114 Worcester Rd. didn't happen overnight, so it's going to take some time to clean up," Wigglesworth said, adding that he thinks this phasing will enable that to happen "from worse to better."

"This material has been there for decades, and the trees have grown up through it, which makes it very hard to move it," owner's attorney David Dupont said.

He said the plan is to clear the stream and "sell off what we can sell."

Dupont represented Vito Lomuscio of Lomuscio Trucking, which is seeking to obtain the property's junk license from its current holder, LaPlante Brothers. Last month, that license came up for renewal before the selectmen, who put it on hold until March to see what the ConCom decided and to see progress happen. But it will still have to decide which applicant it will give the license to, since both Lomuscio and LaPlante filed applications.

A fair amount of discussion surrounded requiring Lomuscio to install what's called a "filter sock" in the stream at the point it reaches the culvert under Route 12. That's intended to catch any sediment and other material the removal work is likely to dislodge, preventing it from getting to the French River about a half mile away. As one member noted, some of the vehicles there are embedded quite deeply into the stream and nearby soil.

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Turn To **CLEAN UP** page **A10**

## Volunteer opportunities at Samuel Slater Experience

WEBSTER — Samuel Slater Experience guides are volunteer hosts who support and enhance visitors' experiences throughout their tour of the museum. We are currently looking for additional volunteers to assist us during regular open hours on weekends and school field trips in the spring.

Experience guides greet visitors, assist with self-guided tours, supply transitional and anecdotal information for the exhibits, conduct group tours, and answer general questions about the Samuel Slater story.

Our volunteers have diverse backgrounds and skills, but all share an interest and enthusiasm for the history of the American Industrial Revolution and the founding of our local mill towns.

Experience guides receive a family membership for free entry to the museum during their tenure as volunteers. They also receive a 20 percent discount in the gift shop and invitations to special events.

If you'd like to learn more or apply, contact Nicole Gaudette at 508-491-2955 or email [admin@samuelslaterexperience.org](mailto:admin@samuelslaterexperience.org).

About Samuel Slater Experience

The Samuel Slater Experience museum, which opened in March 2022, uses immersive digital technology and interactive exhibits to tell the story of Samuel Slater, the early American Industrial Revolution, and the creation of economically thriving mill towns like Webster, Massachusetts.

The museum is at 31 Ray St., Webster. For open hours and programs, go to [www.samuelslaterexperience.org](http://www.samuelslaterexperience.org).

## Oxford Community Center hosts Fourth Annual Fun, Frost & Family Winter Festival

OXFORD — The Oxford Community Center is hosting Oxford's Fourth Annual Fun, Frost & Family Winter Festival to be held Jan. 25, sponsored by The Mass Cultural Council, Oxford Cultural Council, Janet Malser Humanities Trust, Smolenski Millette Trusts, and McDonalds Sellia Corporation.

The day will begin at 10:30 a.m. with our official Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge into Carbuncle Pond, 12 Carbuncle Dr. Oxford Fire/EMS has been assisting since year one, and this year we welcome the support of our Oxford Police Department. Those entering the water will be raising money for Special Olympics. Oxford's local youth sports leagues – Oxford Youth Soccer, Oxford Webster Youth Football and Cheer, Little League, and Lassie League - have been challenged to compete against one another for the highest number of registered participants and the highest fundraising total! Others are invited to register for the plunge as individuals or groups. Ample parking is available on-site for registrants and spectators. We'd love to have you join us!

You can donate and/or register for the Plunge at

<https://fundraise.specialolympicsma.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=851>.

The First Congregational Church is joining the fun hosting a pancake breakfast at 11 a.m., sponsored in part by Oxford McDonalds. Weather-permitting, free horse drawn carriage rides will pick up at the corner of Church Street between noon and 3 p.m. Activities continue on Oxford Town Common on Main Street, also from noon to 3 p.m., with music and the prize wheel by 104-5 XLO, Minute-to-Win-it games, food trucks, free hot chocolate and smores at our fire pits. Clowning with LeeLee will provide glitter tattoos and magic shows at 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. on the bandstand. Read Wishing Tree wishes from 2023 and 2024 and add your wishes for 2025. Youth athletic leagues will be on hand to share registration information for their 2025 seasons. The Army Corps of Engineers will also be there with displays and information on Hodges Village Dam trails. New to Town, NE Kung Fu will present Kung Fu and Tai Chi demonstrations.

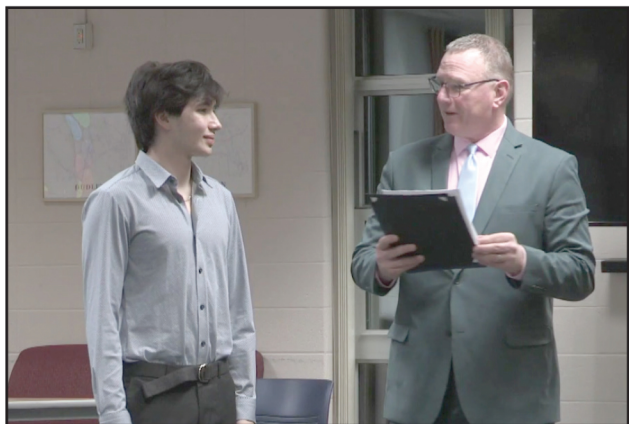
When you need to warm up, visit the Vendor Fair at the Oxford Community Center gymnasium, where you can also listen to live music with Stephen George and Nancy Marshall, and youngsters can get creative with cookie decorating in the OCC lower level. Other warm options include this year's

## DCRSD officials present Superintendent and Principal Awards

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — The Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee celebrated the annual recognition of two outstanding students in the graduating class to kick off the new year. The honorees for the Superintendent's Award and Shepherd Hill Regional High School Principal's Award were presented on Jan. 8 with both students receiving certificates for their educational success and commitment to the school community.

The first honor was the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Certificate of Academic Excellence presented by Superintendent Steven Lamarche to senior Donovan Ennis. Lamarche praised Ennis as a fine example of a student who not only strives



Superintendent Steven Lamarche presents the winner of this year's Superintendent's Award, Donovan Ennis.

to accomplish personal excellence but also fully embraces his responsibility as a student leader.

"Having had the privilege of observing his academic journey and personal growth, I can confidently say that Donovan exemplifies the qualities of outstanding scholarship and demonstrates immense promise for future success," said Lamarche. "Academically,

Donovan stands in a class of his own. Throughout his high school career, he has maintained an unweighted 4.0 GPA while excelling in rigorous coursework such as AP seminar, AP research, and AP Calculus BC. His commitment to academic excellence extends beyond traditional classrooms, as evidenced by his success in dual-enrollment college courses



Jason Bleau

Shepherd Hill Principal Darren Elwell presented the Principal's Award to Mekhi Blanc.

and virtual biotechnology studies, where he also earned top marks. As a Rensselaer Medalist, recognized for his excellence in math and science, Donovan's intellectual capacity and dedication to learning are undeniable. What truly distinguishes Donovan, however, is not just his stellar academic performance, but his remarkable ability to apply knowledge and

lead by example."

Ennis was instrumental in helping revive the Shepherd Hill Regional High School Robotics Club, founded STEMLink which promotes STEM education in his local community, and has been active member of the Dudley-Charlton Leadership Council helping inform Superintendent Lamarche to help pro-

mote district-wide initiatives. He has also worked on the state level with Senator Ryan Fattman to promote STEM initiatives and mental health awareness. In December, he was selected by the Acting Commissioner and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as one of the U.S. Presidential Scholar nominees to represent Massachusetts. He plans to continue his education seeking a career in the biomedical field or chemical engineering.

The second honor, the Principal's Award, was presented by Shepherd Hill Principal Darren Elwell to senior Mekhi Blanc for his contributions and success at the high school. Blanc, who transferred to Shepherd Hill as a sophomore in 2022, was praised for his intellectual curiosity, work ethics, and his

Turn To **AWARDS** page **A11**

# Bay Path Academy Director recognized with two citations

WORCESTER — Massachusetts State Sen. Ryan Fattman and State Rep. John J. Marsi, Jr., through Amanda Galonek Hellyar, MPA, Deputy District Director and Special Projects Coordinator from the Office of Senator Ryan Fattman, Worcester & Hampden presented a citation to Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director, Gretheline Bolandrina DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN of Athol, formerly of Dudley and Douglas. The citations were an acknowledgement for Bolandrina's accomplishments and award as a Champion of Health Care creating partnerships to enhance community health as recognized by the Worcester Business Journal. Citations are awarded to constituents who have reached a significant personal or professional milestone.

Ryan C. Fattman currently serves in the Massachusetts State Senate. Previously, he represented the 18th Worcester district in the Massachusetts House of Representatives as a Republican. John J. Marsi, Jr. is currently serving as a Republican member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives from the 6th Worcester district. Originally from Isabela, Philippines, Bolandrina had an interesting path that eventually led her to Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. She attended high school in Novaliches, Quezon City, and obtained her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at the University of Santo Tomas (UST) College of Nursing, UST, officially the Pontifical and Royal University of

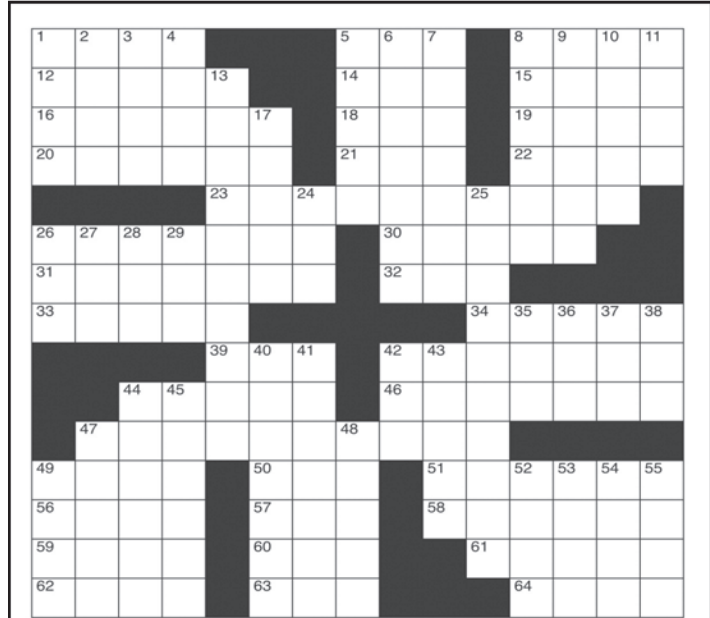
Santo Tomas, is a private, Catholic research university in Manila, Philippines. Founded in 1611, UST has an autonomous status with Centres of Excellence in the fields of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Medical Technology, Biology, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Teacher Education, Philosophy, Psychology, Tourism & Hospitality Management and Music. She worked at the Philippine General Hospital for a year prior to moving to Boston. The move to the US was prompted by Bolandrina's mother and father who knew she needed a safer environment. Bolandrina stated, "My father has been an enormous influence in my life. He would tell me, become a nurse, and go to America. Never forget the Philippines. He always offered great advice, having traveled the world as a journalist." At 22,

Bolandrina was an entry level nurse at St. John of God Hospital in Boston with a specialty in rehabilitation nursing. She became a CRRN (Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurse) in 1994. After moving to Boston, Bolandrina became more focused on her nursing career. That focus led her to nursing education. Bolandrina stated, "I believe in serendipity as well as God's plan to bring me where I am today. As I have worked to care for patients and influence lives, nursing education changed me for the better. I see myself in many of the nursing students. I can share my experience and nursing journey with the students I mentor. I enjoy seeing them succeed." Bolandrina obtained her Master of Science in Nursing education in 2013 at University of Phoenix and her Doctor of Health Administration degree also from University of Phoenix in 2021. She was inducted to the Iota



Amanda Galonek Hellyar and Gretheline Bolandrina. Phi-at-Large Chapter; Chapter of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau (STTT), the Upsilon Phi Delta Society University of Phoenix-Phoenix Chapter Sigma Alpha Pi, and The National Society of Leadership and Success.

**TAX PREPARATION**  
**Michael Jarominski**  
 Certified Public Accountant  
**(508)864-3542**  
 jarominskicpa@spectrum.net



- CLUES ACROSS**
- This regulates cortisol production (abbr.)
  - People of northern Vietnam
  - Employee stock ownership plan
  - Regions
  - The center of a city
  - Hindu serpentine deity
  - Roared
  - Sun up in New York
  - "Sir" in Malaysian
  - Shrimp dish
  - Muckraker Tarbell
  - Apex
  - Harmonic effects
  - One of Babe Ruth's nicknames
  - Groups in organic chemistry
  - More pleasant-tasting
  - Spring forward
  - Noted writer
  - Building occupied by monks
  - "The world's most famous arena"
  - Colorless liquid hydrocarbon
  - Long or fast speech
  - Things you can eat
  - Substance in which magnetic moments are not aligned
  - Actor Idris
  - I (German)
  - Taxes
  - Indonesian island
  - Nuisance (slang)
  - Shawl
  - Digits
  - Moved on foot quickly
  - "For goodness \_\_\_"
  - Facial body part
  - Russian river
  - Urinate

- CLUES DOWN**
- Partner to "oohs"
  - Scaly water dweller
  - Pueblo people of New Mexico
  - Music producer Teo
  - Greek mythological goddess
  - Got together to discuss
  - Acquires
  - Involve
  - Some are tomato-based
  - Old Irish alphabets
  - A sheet of glass in a window or door
  - Blood poisoning
  - A moon of Saturn
  - Neither
  - Sums
  - They follow "A"
  - Satisfaction
  - People of southeastern Burma
  - Small amount
  - Guy (slang)
  - Sound unit
  - Midway between northeast and east
  - Affirmative
  - Almost at the top
  - Extremely slow
  - Pearl Jam's debut album
  - Influential mid-century playwright
  - Martens
  - Approval
  - Dallas-adjacent Texas city
  - African nation
  - Dark brown or black
  - A place to get caught
  - Large-headed, elongated fish
  - Type of sword
  - Scottish tax or levy

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

S	E	E	D		V	T	O		E	S	O	N					
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## Bay Path Nursing student coordinates flower bulb distribution



Loise Ngigi

CHARLTON — Thirty-six members of the Practical Nursing Class of 2025 were recipients of premium flower bulbs from Achilles Agway of Keene, New Hampshire. Hundreds of tulips and daffodil bulbs were donated to Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy and distributed to the Practical Nursing students as part of self-care efforts and in collaboration with the UNICEF Club. Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy was one of many non-profit organi-

zations chosen to receive bags of premium flower bulbs. The same bulbs are sold online and at the Keene, NH location of Achilles Agway. According to Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director, "Going to nursing school is a busy time. Like nursing, flower bulb planting is both an art and a science." Bolandrina stated, "The care one takes in planting is both therapeutic and stress relieving. It is a beautiful form of self-care." Loise Ngigi of South Grafton, a member of the PN Class of 2025 and UNICEF Club officer graciously coordinated the distribution of the flower bulbs. "I like doing it," said Ngigi with a smile. Ngigi is a compassionate Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and certified home health aide (HHA) whose knowledge is based on the accumulation of seven years of direct experience as a certified HHA and CNA. She obtained her nursing assistant certification through the 3 Dimensions College (Worcester) in 2017. She

obtained her high school diploma from Moi Girls Kamangu High School in Kenya (2012). As a practical nursing student at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, she has completed her Dementia Care certification. She is certified in BLS/HCP/CPR (Basic Life Support, Health Care Provider Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation), Medical Administration Program (MAP), and Mental Health First Aid. She was a CNA at River Terrace Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center (Lancaster) and is currently a direct support professional at Venture Community Services (Sturbridge).

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# Saint Joseph School celebrates beginning of the Year of Hope



Courtesy

Saint Joseph School faculty, staff, and students gather in celebration after Mass on Sunday, Jan. 12 to kick off the Jubilee Year of Hope, united in faith and community as they embark on this special year of grace. At the center of the group, students proudly hold the framed decree written by Bishop Robert McManus, officially opening the jubilee year in the Diocese of Worcester.

WEBSTER — On Sunday, Jan. 12, Saint Joseph School students joined parishioners and clergy for a special Mass at Saint Joseph Basilica to mark the beginning of the church's Jubilee Year, The Year of Hope. This momentous occasion united the school community, reinforcing its shared faith, renewal, and Hope.

A Catholic Jubilee Year is a special year of grace and spiritual renewal, observed every 25 years. It is a time for Catholics worldwide to grow closer to God through prayer, reconciliation, and acts of service. The Jubilee Year 2025, centered on the theme of Hope, was inaugurated by Pope Francis in December when he ceremoniously opened the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, symbolizing the passage to salvation and new beginnings.

This year also marks the 75th Jubilee of the Diocese of Worcester, a significant milestone in the history of our local Catholic community. This celebration and the global Jubilee Year make it a considerable time for the school community.

The Mass at Saint Joseph Basilica began with a welcome by Pastor and Headmaster Rev. Grzegorz Chodkowski. Associate Pastor Rev. Anthony Kazarnowicz then read Bishop Robert McManus' decree designating the 10 pilgrimage churches in the Diocese of Worcester. These churches serve as exceptional spiritual destinations for prayer and reflection throughout the Jubilee Year.

In his decree, Bishop Robert McManus emphasized the significance of pilgrimage during the Jubilee Year, stating, "A pilgrimage is a journey to a sacred place undertaken as an act of reli-

gious devotion, symbolizing our life's journey towards God."

He encouraged the faithful to visit the designated pilgrimage churches to seek spiritual renewal and deepen their faith during this special time. More importantly, Bishop McManus' decree opened the jubilee year in the Diocese of Worcester.

A procession followed the reading of the decree and was led by Rev. Chodkowski, who carried a special jubilee crucifix around the basilica. Included in the procession were altar servers, the Children of Mary, Saint Joseph School students, faculty, staff, and members of the Saint Joseph Parish Council. Saint Joseph School eighth-grade student and Student Council President Oluwatobiloba Akindele also played a unique role by having the honor of carrying Bishop Robert McManus' decree.

After the procession, Sr. Jeanne Marie Akalski read Pope Francis' bull of indiction, SPES NON CONFUNDIT "Hope Does Not Disappoint." This document officially declared the Jubilee Year and invited Catholics worldwide to embrace Hope as a guiding principle in their lives.

Special Mass festivities also included inspiring readings from students. Fourth-grader Rylan Shemansky shared a heartfelt poem, "Seeds of Hope," in honor of the Jubilee Year. Julia Biela followed with a moving recitation of "Together in Faith," a tribute to the Diocese of Worcester's rich history and commitment to faith and service. Rev. Chodkowski concluded the rite of introduction with the Jubilee Year Prayer that Saint Joseph School students will recite each morning.

Saint Joseph School students played signifi-

cant and proud roles in the Liturgy of the Word, a testament to their growing faith and understanding of the Catholic tradition. Eighth-grade student Jada Jackson had the privilege of reading the first reading from Isaiah, which speaks of God's everlasting strength and the renewal of our strength. Her classmate and Student Council Vice President Ayla Reed, read the second reading from Acts. Oluwatobiloba Akindele also participated in reading the Prayer of the Faithful, which is a moment for the congregation to voice their prayers and petitions. The Children of Mary members assisted in the offertory, further demonstrating the active involvement of the students in the Mass.

The Jubilee music during the Mass, beautifully led by the Saint Joseph School Children's Choir under the direction of Organist Maria Helena Czarnecka-Cielak, added a joyful and uplifting tone to the celebration, resonating with the spirit of the Jubilee Year and inspiring everyone present.

Following the Mass, the students, faculty, and staff gathered for a large group picture to commemorate the occasion. Students were then treated to donuts and juice in the rectory, hosted by Principal Beth Boudreau, Assistant Principal Mary Ann Weaver, and Rev. Chodkowski.

The day profoundly reminded everyone of the spiritual and communal strength of the Saint Joseph School community. It set a hopeful and joyful tone for the year ahead, inspiring everyone in attendance to embrace the Jubilee message and carry its lessons into their daily lives.

As the Jubilee Year 2025 unfolds, Saint Joseph

School remains committed to fostering Hope, faith, and renewal in its students and the broader community during this extraordinary time of grace.

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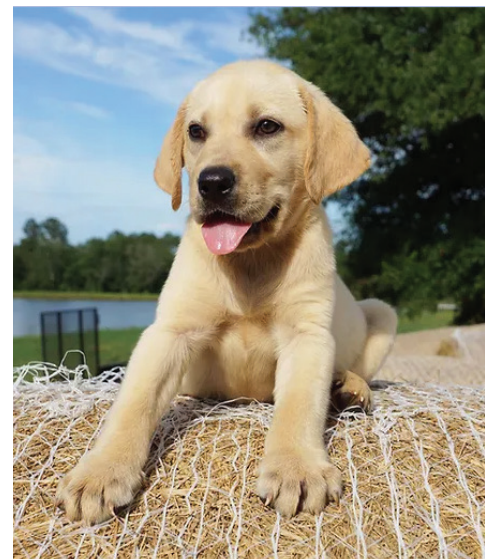
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AKC registered english lab puppies available for their new homes end of January. Male and females. Vet checked, first shots and wormed.

Mom and Dad on site.  
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## Friday's Child



**Bella**  
**Age 9**  
**Registration # 8578**

**Hi! My name is Bella and love dancing and gymnastics!**

Bella is an outgoing, vibrant, young girl. She loves to engage in gymnastics and dance. She takes pride in her dancing and loves to put on shows. Bella likes to engage in social settings such as play dates, gymnastics, and dance classes with her peers that have similar interests. Bella has a great sense of humor and loves to show off her "sassy" side with some hair flips and other age-appropriate actions. Those that know her, say that "she is a joy to be around."

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/8578>

### 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](http://www.mareinc.org). Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster



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Wed: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Fri: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
The Library will be closed on Monday, Jan. 20 in observa-  
tion of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

## JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!

Want to receive updates about our upcoming events?  
Sign up for email alerts by visiting our website or contacting  
our Adult Services Librarian Jessica Fontaine at [jfontaine@cwmar.org](mailto:jfontaine@cwmar.org)

## WINTER READING RAFFLE – All Month Long for all Ages

We're running a Winter Reading Raffle for all of  
January. Sign up at the circulation desk for either our chil-  
dren, teen, or adult, raffle, get your Bingo sheet, and start  
reading!

## Adult Programming

### TAKE AND MAKE CRAFT – All Month Long

Stop by the table by the entrance to the library to  
pick up everything you need to make a wintery tree craft.

### YOGA – Saturdays at 9:30 AM

Join Julie or Lauren at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a  
vinyasa yoga class for all levels. In Sanskrit, Vinyasa yoga  
translates to the “uniting of movement with breath.” 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.

### ADULT PUZZLE NIGHT – January 21st 6:00-7:30PM

Join us for a fun puzzle night as we tackle a 3,000  
piece puzzle together.

### PAINT NIGHT with Jean Walker – January 23rd 6:00

Join Jean Walker as she teaches a paint and decoup-  
age night. Registration required; opens January 9th.

### ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP— January 27th at 6:30 PM

We're reading *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by  
James Ford this month. Stop by the library, or reach out by  
phone at 508-949-3880, or by email to [jfontaine@cwmar.org](mailto:jfontaine@cwmar.org)  
for inquiries.

### COMPUTER BASICS: Unclutter Your Email – January 30th 5:30-6:30PM

Is your inbox full of spam emails? Do you have trou-  
ble finding important emails when you need them? Join  
Assistant Director Evan Hale and Adult Services Librarian  
Jess Fontaine to learn how to make your email inbox more  
manageable.

### THE NEST: Steps to Start Your Small Business – January 30th 6:00-8:00PM

This session is for those starting or planning to  
start a business. You'll get ideas for developing your busi-  
ness vision, consider legal structures, and learn more about  
choosing a name, entity and obtaining necessary EIN, licens-  
es, permits, and insurance. You'll leave with a clear under-  
standing of resources and next steps to kickstart your  
business. Presented by the Center for Women & Enterprise.  
Registration required.

## Children's and Young Adult Programming

### Scavenger Hunt--- All Month Long

What's more exciting than a scavenger hunt? Come  
upstairs to the Children's room to pick up a list of things to  
find all around the library. Once you've completed the scav-  
enger hunt, check in with the Children's Librarian to redeem a  
prize.

### TAKE AND MAKE CRAFT--- All month long

Take and Make craft kits are available for pick up  
upstairs in the Children's Room. Each month will feature a  
different craft to create and instructions will be provided  
with the supplies. New Take and Make kits will be available  
for pick up on the 1st of every month, while supplies last, and  
are limited to one per patron.

### PLAY-DOH PLAYTIME – MONDAYS at 10:00AM

Drop-in to our Children's Program Room every  
Monday morning to play, make, and build with our collection  
of colorful Play-Doh, sculpting tools, and various sets. This  
is a fun, sensory playtime to foster creativity and exploration.  
Perfect for ages 2-6. Siblings are welcome.

### MAKER MONDAYS – MONDAYS from 3:30-4:30 PM

Feeling artistic? We will have a variety of craft materials  
available to put your creativity to the test! In January we're  
using Perler Beads!

### TODDLER PLAYTIME--- TUESDAYS at 10:00 AM

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

### STUFFED ANIMAL STORYTIME – WEDNESDAYS at 10:00AM

Join Youth Services Librarian Andrew for stories, songs,  
and fun with our plush pals! This storytime is geared toward  
ages birth to 3, but siblings are welcome.

### ME AND MY MINI – THURSDAYS at 10:00AM

A creative movement group for ages 0 through 2.5.  
Get groovy to upbeat music with fun props and a story.

### TEEN VIDEO GAME – THURSDAYS at 3:00PM

Teens are invited to play games on our Nintendo  
Switch!

### BEGINNER ORIGAMI – FRIDAYS at 3:45PM

Come explore the art of origami making! A creative  
and meditative craft. Open to kids of all ages.

### SENSORY BIN STORYTIME – FRIDAYS at 10:00AM

Come join us for a fun filled Storytime as we read  
together and then let our imaginations fly through different  
sensory bin activities. Each week will offer a different theme  
exploration related to the books and bins provided. The 17th  
is a Construction Zone storytime, the 24th's theme is Space,  
and the 31st is Ocean-themed. Perfect for ages 2-5. Siblings  
are welcome to join.

### SNOW MUCH FUN – SATURDAYS at 11:30AM

We'll be featuring several fun activities on Saturdays  
in January. Saturday, January 18th is Bluey Storytime.  
Saturday, January 25th is Bigfoot Jr.

### KIM THE LEGO LADY: January 21st at 4:00 PM

Do you love building, creating, and having fun  
with LEGO? Look no further! Our brand-new LEGO Club  
is launching, and we want YOU to be part of the adventure.  
Join us for interactive building challenges, new skills and  
create fabulous imaginative builds. For ages 5 to 11.

# WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

5 Church St.  
(508) 949-3845  
Email: [SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov](mailto:SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov)

Senior Center hours are  
Monday- Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.,  
with every first Thursday 9 a.m.  
- 7 p.m.

Like the Webster Senior  
Center Facebook page to view  
our photographs, news and  
announcements. Please stop by  
to pick up our monthly newslet-  
ter for a complete list of activi-  
ties, upcoming events, and our  
monthly lunch menu. You may  
also join our email list to view  
our newsletter online. You do not  
have to be a resident of Webster  
to participate in our activities  
and programs. ALL Seniors are  
welcome!

Tri-Valley Lunches are  
served Tuesdays, Wednesdays,  
Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30  
am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at  
least forty-eight hours in advance  
to reserve or cancel your meal.  
A \$3.00 donation for 65 and up,  
and \$5 for 55- 64 is appreciated.  
All meals include milk, bread,  
and fruit or dessert. This week's  
menu: Tuesday, 1/28, Bean and  
Cheese Enchilada, Spanish rice,  
chuckwagon corn. Wednesday,  
1/29, Salisbury Steak with  
Gravy, garlic mashed potatoes,  
honey glazed carrots. Thursday,  
1/30, Fish with Crumb Topping,  
lemon seasoned potatoes, roast-  
ed broccoli. Friday, 1/31, Soup  
du Jour, sliced turkey sandwich,  
macaroni salad.

Need Transportation? Contact  
SCM Elderbus at 1-800-321-0243

at least two business days in  
advance to schedule transpor-  
tation. Elderbus is available  
Mondays- Fridays 8:30 am- 3:00  
pm.

FUEL ASSISTANCE is  
returning to the Senior Center.  
WCAC will be here every other  
Thursday from 9:30 am- 2:30 pm.  
Please call WCAC for an appoint-  
ment 508-754-1176.

Come on down to the Bomba  
Beauty Salon at the Webster  
Senior Center! Call 508-341-8724  
for an appointment. Bomba  
Beauty Salon is open for walk  
in appointments on Wednesdays  
from 10:00 am- 1:00 pm, and  
Tuesdays, Thursdays and  
Fridays by appointment only  
from 10:00 am- 3:00 pm. Please  
call (508) 341-8724 to schedule an  
appointment.

We are now offering MOVIE  
MATINEES every Wednesday at  
1:00 pm! Popcorn is provided. No  
registration needed. The movie  
for January 29th is *Rescued by  
Ruby*, February 5th is *The Karate  
Kid*, February 12th is *You've got  
Mail*, February 19th is *Judy*, and  
February 26th is *The Six Triple  
Eight*.

The first Thursday of every  
month we will be open until 7:00  
pm with entertainment starting  
at 5:45 pm. For February we will  
be playing *Pass the Trash*. There  
will be a \$6.00 fee to play.

Chair Dancing Exercise classes  
with Forty Arroyo are the  
perfect workout for any fitness  
ability! The cost is a recom-  
mended \$3.00 donation per class.  
Classes are on Mondays, and

Wednesdays at 9:30 am.

Mondays: Knitting/Crochet  
Social 10:00 am- 12:00 pm.

Bingo is every Tuesday and  
starts promptly at 1:00 pm.  
Please plan to arrive by 12:30 pm  
to allow time to buy your bingo  
sheets. Bingo sheets are not sold  
after 12:45 pm.

Do you like to play Cribbage?  
Our weekly Cribbage group  
meets every Thursday at 1:00  
pm. Feel free to join us!

Calling card players or inter-  
ested persons to the Webster  
Senior Center! Come join us  
for six-card or thirteen-card  
pitch! Six-card pitch meets on  
Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. Thirteen-  
card pitch meets on Thursdays  
at 1:00 pm.

Mahjongg group meets every  
Friday at 1:00 pm. Beginners wel-  
come!

The Worcester County  
Sheriff's Office House  
Numbering Program will create  
a custom wooden sign with your  
house number free of charge.  
One sign per senior household.  
Please contact the Webster  
Senior Center at (508) 949-3845,  
if you are interested in having  
a house number sign made for  
you.

Senior SAFE is a program that  
supports fire and life safety edu-  
cation for seniors. The Webster  
Fire Dept. will do a home visit to  
ensure that you have the correct  
smoke and CO2 alarms, and that  
they are working properly. This  
is at no cost to you! All you have  
to do is give them a call at (508)  
949-3875.

# OXFORD SENIOR CENTER

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

Open Monday – Friday 8:30  
a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Email: [seniorcenter@oxford-ma.us](mailto:seniorcenter@oxford-ma.us)

Website: [www.oxfordma.us](http://www.oxfordma.us)  
Facebook: Oxford, MA Senior  
Center

The Oxford Senior Center will  
be closed on Monday, January  
20th in observance of Martin  
Luther King Day

Lunches are served on  
Tuesdays and Fridays, prepared  
by our own in-house cook! Please  
call at least 48 hours in advance  
to reserve a lunch or come in  
and sign up. We offer DINE IN  
for \$5.00 and TAKEOUT for \$6.00.

## Weekly Activities:

Mondays and Fridays @ 10:00  
am – Cribbage

Tuesdays @ 9:15am – Strength  
& Balance w/ Donna Freeland –  
Cost \$3.00 per class

Wednesdays @ 9:15am – Chair  
Yoga w/ Heidi Gambaccini –  
Cost \$3.00 per class

Tuesdays and Wednesdays  
@ 10:00am - Needleworkers  
(Knitting, Crocheting,  
Needlepoint)

Bring your favorite project  
and come join the group for con-  
versation and laughs.

Wednesdays @ 1:00 pm – Chair  
Volleyball – Lots of laughs and  
only two rules (1) stay seated (2)  
have fun!

Thursdays @ 10:00 am –  
Dominoes

## Monthly Activities:

Let's Talk Oxford History –  
2nd Tuesday of each month @  
1pm - Sponsored by the Oxford  
Historical Commission

Blood Pressure Clinic –  
2nd Tuesday of each month @  
11:00am

Men's Coffee Group –  
2nd Wednesday of each month  
@ 10:30am – coffee and pastry  
are served.

Tri-Valley Inc. Options  
Counseling - 3rd Tuesday of each  
month from 12:30pm – 2:30pm.  
By appointment.

SHINE (Serving the Health  
Insurance Needs of Everyone)  
– 3rd Wednesday of each month.  
By appointment.

Book Club – 1st Friday of each  
month @ 12:45pm – reserve your  
book from the Oxford Public  
Library

Movie Matinee – 2nd Friday of  
each month @ 12:45

BEANO – 4th Friday of each  
month @ 12:45pm – arrive by  
12:30pm to purchase your  
BEANO sheets.

Special Presentations:  
Aging Gracefully ~ A Fall  
Prevention & Wellness Workshop  
~ Presented by UMASS Injury  
Prevention Department.  
Tuesday January 28th @ 12:30PM

Terrarium Gardening ~  
Presented by Therapy Gardens.  
Friday, January 31st @ 1PM.  
Cost is \$3.00 per person. Must  
sign up, space is limited

Need help completing  
paperwork? Fuel Assistance,  
MassHealth applications or  
re-certifications, SNAP etc., we  
can help. Call us @ 508-987-6000  
to make an appointment.

# WPI students complete intensive research projects

WORCESTER — A total of 356 undergraduate  
students at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)  
completed research-driven, professional-level proj-  
ects that apply science and technology to address  
an important societal need or issue.

Known as the Interactive Qualifying  
Project (IQP), this project is a core part of the  
innovative undergraduate experience at WPI.  
Centered around project-based learning, this  
hands-on approach offers students opportunities  
to help develop thoughtful solutions to open-ended  
problems. These real-world problems affect the  
quality of life for people in the communities where  
students work, giving students a chance to make  
a difference in the world before they graduate.  
About two-thirds of WPI students complete their  
IQPs at one of the university's 50+ off-campus  
project centers located in more than 30 countries  
around the world.

“The WPI project-based curriculum's focus on  
global studies brings students out of the class-  
room and their comfort zones and into the glob-  
al community to apply their knowledge and to  
solve problems,” said Professor Kent Rissmiller,  
professor of International & Global Studies and  
associate dean of The Global School. “Students are  
immersed in all aspects of a different culture-from  
the way people live and work to the values they  
hold to the foods they eat, all valuable perspec-  
tives for surviving and thriving in today's global  
marketplace. They also learn the meaning and  
magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful  
difference in their host community; and gain a  
competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or  
professional school application.”

The following students were part of a team that  
completed an intensive project:

Gabriel Colebourn from Webster, class of 2027,  
majoring in Chemical Engineering, completed a  
project titled *Assessing Online Engagement with  
Zoo Praha's Social Media*.

Talia Gardner from Webster, class of 2026, major-  
ing in Biology and Biotechnology, completed a  
project titled *Final IQP Report- Boston-A24*.

Zoe Butzke from Oxford, class of 2027, major-  
ing in Mechanical Engineering, completed a project  
titled *Developing an English Audio Tour for the  
National Technical*.

Benjamin Perry from Dudley, class of 2026,  
majoring in Computer Science and Interactive  
Media and Game Development - Technology, com-  
pleted a project titled *Exploring History Through  
SantaFe.live's Interactive Archive*.

Mina Boktor from Dudley, class of 2027, major-  
ing in Computer Science, completed a project  
titled *ChatVPC: Applying AI to the Venice Project  
Center*.

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
WPI is a top-tier STEM-focused research univer-  
sity and a recognized pioneer and global leader  
in project-based learning. Founded in 1865 on the  
principle that students learn most effectively by  
applying the theory learned in the classroom to the  
practice of solving real-world problems, WPI's con-  
tinued mission is to transform lives, turn knowl-  
edge into action to confront global challenges,  
and revolutionize STEM through distinctive and  
inclusive education, projects, and research. WPI's  
project-based curriculum engages undergradu-  
ates in solving important scientific, technological,  
and societal problems throughout their education  
and at more than 50 project centers around the  
world. Today WPI offers more than 70 bachelor's,  
master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18  
academic departments in science, engineering,  
technology, business, the social sciences, and the  
humanities and arts. To help address ongoing  
challenges, improve lives, and help create a more  
sustainable world, WPI faculty and students pur-  
sue groundbreaking research in such areas as the  
life sciences, smart technologies, materials and  
manufacturing, and global initiatives.

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# Officials offer ice safety tips

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Public safety officials remind outdoor enthusiasts of several tips for staying safe on the ice this winter.

In recent winter seasons, wildly fluctuating temperatures have made it a challenge to know which frozen bodies of water are safe for recreation. Depending on how high temperatures rise during a thaw, ice could thin to dangerous levels in a matter of days.

“New ice is usually stronger than old ice.

Clear ice is also stronger than white, cloudy ice,” said Leicester Fire Chief Michael Dupuis. “Ice that is formed over open water containing a large number of natural springs is even more dangerous and should be avoided.”

If ice thickness is two inches or less, you should stay off the ice, according to officials with the state’s Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Ice must be at least four inches thick to support ice fishing, skating, and other activities on foot.

Six-inch ice is required

to support snowmobiles, while cars and small pickup trucks need over a foot of ice thickness to safely cross, officials said.

“Ice formed over flowing water and currents is often more dangerous. Avoid traveling onto ice-bound rivers and streams, as the currents make ice thickness unpredictable,” read a statement released by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Before stepping onto the ice, be prepared with the following items: a cell phone, rope, ice picks,

warm clothing, and a life jacket. You should also tell someone about your travel plans and when you expect to return, experts recommend.

If you fall through the ice, place your hands and arms on an unbroken surface and kick your legs. Use ice picks to pull yourself up onto the ice while kicking.

“Once your torso is on firm ice, roll toward thicker ice to distribute your weight,” read the statement released by the Division of Fisheries and

Wildlife.

Public safety officials also urge enthusiasts to frequently check ice conditions as they pass into new areas of a water body. Conditions can often vary as you progress from shallow coves or shorelines to ice covering deeper waters.

“You can’t judge ice conditions by appearance or thickness alone. Many other factors like water depth, size of water body, water chemistry, currents, snow cover, age of ice, and local weather conditions impact ice

strength,” read a statement released by Mass Wildlife.

Residents should also be aware of changing conditions throughout the winter. In February and March, higher sun angles can impact ice thickness even on cloudy days. Also, a single day with temperatures surpassing 50 degrees can significantly weaken previously solid ice.

For additional tips to keep your group safe on the ice this winter, visit [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov).

## Country Bank announces promotions in Customer Experience and Marketing

REGION — Mary McGovern, President and CEO of Country Bank, is delighted to announce Melissa Mann’s promotion to Vice President of Customer Experience and Michael Dias to Product Marketing & Business Insights Officer.

Mann offers a unique blend of skills, including completing New England School for Financial Studies through Massachusetts Bankers in 2019. She is currently working on completing her Project Management Certification through the Project Management Institute which shows her ongoing commitment to professional development and has prepared her well for this role. She will continue to lead and manage the Bank’s Sales and Customer Experience programs and strategies,

showcasing her dedication and leadership.

Michael Dias has been promoted to Product Marketing & Business Insights Officer. Michael has been a driving force in integrating data analytics into the Bank’s marketing strategies. With an MBA in Data Analytics from Western New England University and his recent certification as a Certified Financial Marketing Professional (CFMP) from the American Bankers Association, Michael’s strategic mindset and forward-thinking approach have been key in integrating data analytics into the Bank’s marketing strategies.

“We are excited to announce the well-deserved promotions of Melissa and Michael,” said Miriam Siegel, Chief Culture and Development Officer at Country Bank. “Their hard work, dedication, and contributions have been instrumental to the Bank’s success. We take great pride in supporting our team members’ commitment to continuous professional and personal

growth, empowering them to explore the many rewarding career paths in community banking.”

These promotions are a testament to the dedication, innovation, and leadership that drive Country Bank forward. They underscore the significant impact that Melissa and Michael have had on their teams, colleagues, and the Bank, demonstrating their ability to inspire and lead.

## Alexis Turcotte named to Husson University Online’s President’s List

BANGOR, Maine — Alexis Turcotte of Dudley has been named to Husson University Online’s President’s List for Term 2 of the 2024-2025 academic year.

Turcotte is enrolled in Husson’s online BS Animal Care and Behavior with Certificates in Animal Training and Wildlife Care and Rehabilitation program.

Courses for full-time online undergraduate students are offered over the course of seven weeks. This accelerated timeframe provides adult learners with an opportunity to balance existing personal and professional commitments as they complete their studies.

Full-time online students who earn President’s List, Dean’s List and Honors List recognition must be enrolled as an undergraduate, carry a full-time load of 12 credit hours over the course of 21 weeks, complete all attempted courses in the time allotted, and achieve a designated semester grade-point average. Credits from pass/fail classes do not qualify toward meeting the minimum credit hour requirement.

President’s List: 3.80 to 4.0 semester grade-point average  
Dean’s List: 3.60 to 3.79 semester grade-point average  
Honor’s List: 3.40 to 3.59 semester grade-point average  
For more than 125 years, Husson University has prepared future leaders to handle the challenges of tomorrow through innovative undergraduate and graduate degrees. With a commitment to delivering affordable classroom, online and experiential learning opportunities, Husson University has offered quality educational programs in business; health and education; pharmacy studies; science and humanities; and communication. For more information about educational opportunities that can lead to personal and professional success, visit [Husson.edu](http://Husson.edu).

## Jackson Taiste of Dudley named to Lasell University Dean’s List

NEWTON — Jackson Taiste, a Lasell University student from Dudley, was named to the Dean’s List for their academic performance in the Fall 2024 semester.

To be named to the Dean’s List, Lasell students must complete at least 12 credits as a full-time student and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

### REAL ESTATE

#### AUBURN

\$5,653,651, 320 Southbridge St, Auburn Four LLC, to Mister Auburn LLC.

\$1,015,000, 19 Elizabeth Dr, Bello, Christal, to Latour, Ryan C, and Latour, Sarah.

\$474,000, 206 West St, Bombay LLC, to Dumerant, Maxwell.

\$435,000, 22 Westchester Dr, Stockhaus Kathleen A Est, and Bagdis, Katherine A, to Chen, Hong-Wei, and Ding, Ming-Fen.

\$425,000, 30 Hawthorne St, Cipriano, David, to Yeboah, Bernard, and Nickel, Taylor.

\$390,000, 19 Shary Ln, Casasanta, Tracy J, to Rosinsky, Jacob, and Rosinsky, Bryce A.

\$385,000, 9 Victoria Dr #17-2C, Towner, Diana L, to Payson, Stephen L.

#### DUDLEY

\$650,000, 1 Sophies Way, T Reardon Builders Inc, to Majka, Christopher J, and Majka, Lisa.

\$629,900, 90 Ramshorn Rd, 90 Ramshorn Road LLC, to Stawiecki, Nathan J, and Stawiecki, Arelis.

\$480,000, 3 George St, Federal Natl Mtg Assn, to Cruz Jr, Maximo.

\$410,000, 8 Alton Dr, Pollone, Michael, to Shong, Michael, and Shong, Darline.

#### OXFORD

\$800,000, 29 Charlton St, Parmentier, Benjamin J, and Parmentier, Julie M, to Freckle International LLC.

\$750,000, 27 Oxbow Rd, Fox, Brendan G, and Ritsick-Fox, Ann B, to 27 North Oxbow Road LLC.

\$545,000, 22 Whiting Rd, Mll Childs T, and Iq Eq TCo Us LLC Tr, to Bogdanovich, Glen F, and Bogdanovich, Myndi B.

\$330,000, 23 Thayer Pond Dr #6, Fulginiti, Shelia, to Oconnell, Marguerite.

\$214,142, 6 Holly St, Brunelle, Frances M, and Us Bank TNa Tr, to Rcf 2 Acquisition T, and U S Bank TNa Tr.

\$210,000, 14 Nottingham Rd, M & P Rt, and Palermo, Michael T, to Palermo, Joseph M.

\$90,000, 24 Hammond St, Smith Earline M Est, and Smith, Thomas B, to Savory Csg Realty Inc.

#### WEBSTER

\$515,000, 5 Deerfield Dr W, Flat Rock Dev Co Inc, to Stelmach, Jan P, and Stelmach, Kim P.

\$448,754, 66 Old Douglas Rd, Ward, Pamela, and Select Portfolio Servcin, to Federal Hm Loan Mtg Corp.

\$400,000, 11 Maynard Ave, Byrnes Capital LLC, to Zavala, Brayon F, and Escobar, Yanci B.

\$289,900, 18 Highcrest Park #18, Whitman, Judith E, and Ayoub, Christopher M, to Elcocks, Amber.

\$150,000, Lower Gore Rd #3A, Meagher, Charles F, and Meagher, Katherine, to Seraphin, Susan.

\$150,000, Lower Gore Rd #4A, Meagher, Charles F, and Meagher, Katherine, to Seraphin, Susan.

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- Cookware • Knives • Hunting • Fishing • Military • Masonic
- Fire Dept • Musical Instruments & Much More

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### Local Author Talk

The Oxford Masonic Lodge is hosting a talk by Dr. Robert Racicot entitled “Some Legends of Oxford” on January 23rd at 7pm at the Masonic Lodge on 22 Mt. Pleasant St. Oxford. Dr. Racicot is the author of The Legend of Carbuncle Pond and The Haunting of the Oxford Library. Books will be available for sale and be signed by the author.



Author Robert Racicot

**About The Author**  
Robert James Racicot grew up in Oxford, MA where his childhood was full of adventures and legends from the outdoor paradise surrounding his neighborhood. After earning his PhD in Chemistry and a 28-year career in the Air Force, he returned to his hometown to discover his true passion for storytelling through creative writing. In his books, “The Legend of Carbuncle Pond” and “The Haunting of the Oxford Library”, he expands on the history of Oxford, MA and the legends that live on. He is currently working on the Legend of the Oxford Pirate and The Legend of Devil’s Den. He currently lives in Oxford, MA with his wife, Diane, and has 3 children and 1 grandchild!

## DUDLEY POLICE LOG

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

William Gignilliat, age 23, of Worcester was arrested on Dec. 3 in connection with an out of agency warrant.

Ljubisa Kamcev, age 69, of Dudley was arrested on Dec. 9 in connection with an out of agency warrant.

JC Maxwell Dyson, age 49, of Dudley was arrested on Dec. 19 in connection with an out of agency warrant.

Jesse Brendon Dunphy, age 21, of Webster was arrested on Dec. 20 for Resisting Arrest, Disorderly Conduct, Operating Under the Influence (liquor), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, driving at a rate of speed greater than was reasonable and proper, and a Marked Lanes Violation.

Ronald G. James, Jr., age 31, of Southbridge was arrested on Dec. 21 for Operating Under the Influence (liquor), Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

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## PAW of the WEEK CUSTARD

Good with Kids & Dogs! Meet Custard!

9 mo./42lb/Male/Terrier Mix

Meet Custard! He’s a 9 mo old, 42lb, male scruffy terrier mix pup! Custard is a handsome and affectionate boy who is going to make a great companion! He loves kids and dogs and just wants to please you! All that love in a handsome scruffy package, we love him!!

Apply at [PawfectLifeRescue.org](http://PawfectLifeRescue.org)



Milford Federal Bank is proud to sponsor the Pawfect Life Rescue PAW of the WEEK!

Bring your furry friend along on your next trip to MFB for a treat from our drive-up tellers, or stop in any branch and bring home a treat from our complimentary doggy biscuit bar.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

## EDITORIAL

# The ties that really matter

You never really think about how much a good friend means until life throws you a curveball or a moment of joy, and you look around for someone to share it with. A true friend isn't just a person who's around when it's convenient; they're the ones who stick with you through life's messier moments, offering support when you need it and calling you out when you need that too. But as the years pass, it's easy to let these relationships fade into the background, overshadowed by work, family, and the endless demands of daily life.

Friendship isn't just a nice thing to have; it's a cornerstone of what makes life meaningful. Studies show that strong relationships can boost mental health, reduce stress, and even help us live longer. But this isn't about science. It's about the people who make you laugh until your ribs hurt, who know your embarrassing stories and love you anyway. These bonds are rare, and they deserve more care than we often give them.

Think about your own life, your moments of celebration, your hardest days. Who was there with you, either physically or in spirit? A good friend is the one who shows up, even when it's inconvenient, and listens without judgment. They're the person you call when you need advice but also when you just need someone to laugh with. That kind of bond doesn't come along every day, and when it does, it deserves to be nurtured.

But here's the thing: friendships don't maintain themselves. Life's busy pace often makes us assume that the people who matter will always be there, even if we don't put in the effort. Days turn into months, and before we know it, the people who once meant everything become distant memories. It's not intentional, it's just what happens when life gets in the way. Yet the cost of losing those connections can be profound, leaving us feeling isolated or unmoored when we need them most.

The good news? It doesn't take much to rebuild or maintain those bonds. A quick phone call, a handwritten note, or even a spontaneous "How are you?" text can remind someone they matter to you. Showing up doesn't always have to mean grand gestures; often, it's the little acts of consistency that count. It's not about having dozens of close friends; one or two truly meaningful relationships are enough to make a world of difference.

As life keeps moving forward, take a moment to think about the friends who've been there through thick and thin. Reach out to the ones you haven't spoken to in a while, even if it feels awkward at first. Friendship, like anything worth having, takes effort, but the rewards are immeasurable. A good friend isn't just someone who walks into your life, they're someone who stays. Make sure you do your part to keep them there.

In the end, life's most valuable currency isn't money or success; it's the people who stand by us through all of it. Good friends remind us of who we are when we forget, and they make even the hardest days a little easier to bear. Don't let the busyness of life rob you of one of its greatest gifts. Stay in touch. Stay connected. Because the best friendships are worth holding onto, no matter how far life pulls you apart.

# VIEWPOINT

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



Courtesy

Dudley Middle School salutes its Students of The Month: 5th Grade - Maya Caron, Bentley Toto, Luca DiDonato, & Seth Cregg; 6th Grade - Charlotte Langlois, Grayson Belley, & Delaney O'Grady; 7th Grade - Abigail Avakian, Jasmine Hansen, & Anastasia Towadros; 8th Grade - Zachary Kaiser, Aslynn St. Laurent, & Noah Hamelin.

## To put on Christ

I recently baptized the infant Elizabeth "Ella," the daughter of Olivia and Oliver Fahling. As a part of the baptismal service, we walked around the baptismal font singing, "As many as have been baptized in Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia."

Yet every time I do a baptism, it's an opportunity for all those in attendance to reflect on their baptism and ask themselves, "What does it mean? We have been baptized and mystically "put on Christ," and yet, have we practically adorned ourselves with Jesus Christ? What does it mean to "put on Christ?" Have we allowed Jesus to become a part of every aspect of our lives? "To put on Christ" means to adopt His worldview, to accept His way of life, to follow His teachings in every part of our lives, and to embrace the new reality that our life is not our own, but it is His!

The Orthodox Christian faith is all about becoming a new creation. The old passes away and we become new. The old fallen nature into which we were born and its power over our lives has passed away through our baptism. Yes, we will still have the temptations of our fallen nature that lead us toward egocentric desires, anger, greed, hatred, lust and other such vices, yet these vices no longer control us when we put on Christ. When we embrace and live in the light of our baptismal grace, when we allow His grace to flow through our lives, we discover the inspiration and power to live according to God's desires. We truly become Christians, or little Christs, in the world.

Our baptism is more than simply a ritual of membership, or an act of entrance into the Body of the Church. Our baptism is a deep mystery that marks the beginning of our life-long journey of salvation. It is a journey of purification, illumination, and deification.

It's not simply confessing a belief in Jesus but putting on Christ means committing our life to Him as our Lord and Master and striving to imitate His life in ours. Through baptism our sins are forgiven, but more than that, we begin our union with God. Baptism can be seen as a TOMB and a WOMB - death to our fallen nature and New Life, a New Beginning as we put on Christ. Our baptism is our moment of being born again, born anew, born from on high.

In Baptism, we enter spiritual warfare and put on Christ as our armor. Now, some may question why we do infant baptism because infants aren't able to make any decision themselves and they don't even know what they are doing. That's true. Of course, parents make every decision for their infant children at that point of their life. And the mystery of baptism is not simply something parents decide to do for their children; it is a gift that God offers to us. Since baptism is the beginning of a new life in Christ, a life where we will continually grow in His likeness, then age should not be a factor in Baptism. We want our infant children to begin that process from the beginning of their lives. Thus, infant baptism is the natu-

ral consequence of a Christian parents for their children.

Of course, baptism isn't a magical tool with which to enter heaven, but it is a beginning. As the theologian John Romanides explains, "It is clear that after baptism, we are still subject to the possibility of falling into the hands of the devil and being cut off from the body of Christ. Baptism is no magical guarantee against the possibility that we can again become a slave to the devil and be cut off from the body of Christ. Through baptism, however, we declare unconditional war against the devil and his powers of division and corruption. And this war is continued in the corporate life of the Eucharist."

Thus, through our Baptism, we receive the gift of salvation. God offers us new birth and new life. He is faithful in His promise. We ourselves, however, must choose to remain faithful in our baptismal grace throughout our lives.

Here it is relevant to reflect on the words of Saint Paul to his disciple Timothy which he writes at the end of his life: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing."

We also must make it a priority to live out our baptismal grace, to fight the good spiritual fight and to run in a way where we finish the race into the Kingdom of Heaven. Our journey of faith means nothing if we begin a race at our baptism and then give up before the end. It means little if we are fervent for a time and excited about the race in the middle of life and then we drift away. Our journey with Christ is a life-long journey that continues into paradise. We must remain vigilant and attentive to the divine grace within us. We must struggle and fight, at times being injured, at times being exhausted, at times being tempted to give up or unconsciously drift away. We may even actually fall away for a time. But when we become aware of falling away, we then need to repent, confess, and get back up, continuing the journey.

As we struggle to stay rooted in our baptismal grace and putting on Christ, remember to keep His Good News at the center of this walk with Jesus. Good News of Great Joy! Good News of the forgiveness of our sins! Good News of our union with God. Good News of the power, comfort and inspiration that the Holy Spirit gives us. Good News that for "as many of us that are baptized in Christ have put on Christ."

This lifelong journey of faith, from the moment of our baptism to the present moment of life, is our greatest blessing and treasure in life. Value it and thank God daily for "the crown of righteousness which the Lord awards to all who love His appearing."



### BEYOND THE PEWS

BY FR. LUKE A. VERONIS  
SAINTS  
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## Retirees may face HELOC challenges

BY CHRISTOPHER MALLON  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAM MANAGER

LPL REGISTERED PRINCIPAL, THE CAPSTONE  
PLANNING GROUP, LOCATED AT CORNERSTONE BANK

As a financial planning firm that specializes in retirement income planning, we often get questions from retirees about how and when to use a Home Equity Line of Credit (also known as a HELOC). While many retirees may understand how a HELOC functions, some retirees could face unexpected challenges when applying for one.

According to research, among U.S. homeowners overall, home equity accounts for nearly 45% of individual net worth. As a result, it is not surprising that many Americans may need to tap into this source of wealth at some point in their lives.

A HELOC is essentially a line of credit secured by the equity in your home. It allows you to borrow against the difference between your home's market value and the amount owed on your mortgage. Repayment options are often flexible and can be spread out over time. When used prudently, a HELOC can be a powerful financial planning tool to help manage unexpected expenses.

Would it be prudent to use a HELOC to fund a luxury vacation? Not likely. But if you're facing a critical expense (i.e. home repair, medical issue, etc.) HELOCs can be a valuable last line of defense during a liquidity crunch.

At many banks, there is little to no cost to open this line of credit. In general, you will only incur fees and interest if/when you access funds (or close the HELOC). And because home values are still near record highs, your total approved line of credit may also be near record highs.

Perhaps you don't "need" a HELOC right now (and perhaps you never will). But is it not "better to have one and not need it -- than need one and not have it"? You don't want to be left scrambling should the need arise.

Pro tip: If you are looking to establish a HELOC, don't wait until you're retired. Once you no longer have regular earned income, it can be harder for banks to approve your request. Even if you have substantial cash, a large investment portfolio, and zero debt, all banks still have income requirements for HELOCs. We have seen retirees with \$1,000,000 of assets get surprised when their HELOC application was initially denied.

Fortunately, if you are retired and want to establish a HELOC, there are steps you can take to help meet eligibility requirements. For example, if you work with a financial planner, they might structure portfolio withdrawals in a manner that would satisfy the regular income requirements.

Because The Capstone Planning Group is conveniently located at Cornerstone Bank, our planners can work closely with lenders to help address these situations.

Remember, everyone's financial circumstances are different and may change over time. Evaluating strategies such as a HELOC is just one aspect of financial planning. A comprehensive financial plan is not just about investment management -- it evaluates a variety of tools to help mitigate potential risks. As always, we recommend working closely with a qualified Financial Planner, Lender, and Tax Advisor to receive personalized retirement guidance.

About The Capstone Planning Group  
The Capstone Planning Group is an experienced wealth management team conveniently located at Cornerstone Bank. The team offers comprehensive financial planning, asset management, and insurance. To learn more about the team and schedule a courtesy consultation please visit [www.thecapstone.group](http://www.thecapstone.group).

This information is not intended to be a substitute for specific individualized tax, lending, or investment advice.

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# Reader's Share Favorite Tips and Tricks

It's time again to peek in to the email box and snail mail bag for another round of reader tips. From preventing waste to curing a common malady, the following tips and tricks are geared to make everyday life a little easier. Read on for the first Reader Hint column of 2025.

And remember readers, send in your tried and true tips and you too could win a three course Dinner for Two at the Publick House!

**\*\***  
This frugal reader's tip is a twofor: It ensures every last drop of detergent is utilized, while self-cleaning the bottle for the recycling bin!

I would like to share a hint: I do not like to waste anything and try to recycle as much as I can so I find it frustrating at how difficult it is to get the last bit of soap/detergent out of bottles.

To solve this, I save the

almost empty bottles and use the residual soap to clean outdoor items like the furniture, gardening tools, trash bins etc. I just add water to the container, shake it up and use. It uses up the last of the soap and cleans the container for recycling.

Chris Manyak  
Oxford, MA 01540  
**\*\***

Did you know old time legend has it that when you hiccup, it means someone is thinking of you, or missing you? According to the lore, once your mind comes up with that person, the hiccups stop!

While you're mentally going through your list of friends and enemies, you might want to try this reader's roster of hiccup cures:

Here are some helpful hints for getting rid of hiccups.

One effective



TAKE  
THE  
HINT

KAREN  
TRAINOR

remedy for getting rid of hiccups is to swallow a heaping teaspoon of sugar, dry without water.

Many people cure hiccups by drinking 1 teaspoon of apple cider vinegar, stirred into 1 cup of warm water.

For many people, eating one heaping spoonful of peanut butter is a definite cure for hiccups.

A little known cure for the hiccups is to quickly swallow, a jigger of lemon juice. The sour taste of lemon may shock the diaphragm's nerves out of spasm.

Donna Lewandowski  
Charlton, MA  
**\*\***

Cabbage lovers take heed: This reader has discovered a quick and easy way to core even the most stubborn cabbage:

This is my tip: When you have to core a cabbage to make stuffed rolls or whatever, use an apple corer. The kind that is a cylinder with serrated edges on a wooden handle works best.

Jackie Celko  
Webster, MA  
**\*\***

A hubby's out-of-the-box method to prevent stale donuts, puts them back in the box!

This tip was mostly my husband's idea. Donuts are usually sold in a box. Unfortunately when you open the box, the remaining donuts get stale.

My husband's idea is to put each donut into a lunch size zip-lock

bag then back in the box. They will stay fresher way longer this way.

Sharon Conlon  
Whitinsville MA  
**\*\***

Prize Winner

Congratulations to Chris Manyak of Oxford, MA, whose name was drawn for Dinner for Two at the Publick House. Chris shared the tip above to prevent detergent waste.

**\*\***

Win a Three Course Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (or whenever I receive enough tips for a column) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on

Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

**\*\***

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

## Coral Castle

I've always been a person who loves to travel. Over the years, I've taken dozens of road trips, spanning almost every state. My dad used to take us on road trips in the motorhome, and he would stop for every historical marker, every boulder that seemed out of place, and every national park. If we saw a strange-looking animal, we'd stop to stare.

One place I learned about recently that I'd love to visit is the Coral Castle in Florida. The pictures are stunning, but what truly captivates me is the impossibility of how it was built.

Spanning over 1,100 square feet, the Coral Castle is made up of massive coral blocks, some weighing up to 30 tons—equivalent to the weight of six elephants. These stones form walls, furniture, and intricate carvings, all seamlessly aligned.

Altogether, the structure contains over 1,000 tons of coral rock—a feat so astonishing that it defies explanation.

What makes the Coral Castle even more incredible is that it was built entirely by one man, Edward Leedskalnin.

From 1923 to 1951, Edward quarried, transported, and positioned these enormous stones, often working at night to protect his methods from prying eyes. Using only rudimentary tools like pulleys, levers, and wedges, he accomplished what modern engineers with advanced machinery would find daunting.

To this day, experts are baffled by how Edward achieved such precision and scale without heavy equipment.

Perhaps what drove Edward to create the Coral Castle is even more remarkable than the structure itself. As the story goes, Edward was set to marry

POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING

TOBY  
MOORE

the love of his life, Agnes Scuffs, in his native Latvia. He called her his "Sweet Sixteen" because she was just 16 years old. On the eve of their wedding, however, she broke off the engagement, leaving Edward heartbroken.

Consumed by grief, he emigrated to America and began work on what many believe was a monument to his unfulfilled love. Each stone, carved and placed with meticulous care, seemed to carry the weight of his devotion, a tangible expression of the loss he could never overcome.

The Coral Castle isn't just a feat of engineering—it's a mystery. I often write about how anything is possible, but have you ever considered that it might be possible for one man to move and position stones weighing 30 tons—all by himself? And not just move them, but do so in the dead of night, shrouded in secrecy?

Edward's work remains one of the

most astonishing accomplishments in history.

Witnesses tell stories that only deepen the intrigue. Flatbed trucks loaded with enormous coral stones would arrive at Edward's property, yet no one ever saw how he got the stones onto the trucks or offloaded them once they arrived. Drivers would return in the morning to find their cargo unloaded and perfectly positioned, as if by magic.

One neighbor claimed to have seen Edward late one night, standing near an enormous stone that seemed to "float" into place. The neighbor described the block as if it defied gravity, though this account has often been dismissed as the product of awe and exaggeration.

Another story comes from a truck driver who left a delivery of coral stones overnight. By morning, the stones had been removed and arranged within the Coral Castle with no visible equipment or assistance.

Edward himself only added to the mystery with cryptic statements like, "I understand the secrets of weight and leverage," and, "I've discovered the

secrets of the pyramids."

These remarks fueled speculation that Edward had tapped into lost knowledge or harnessed forces beyond modern understanding.

The Coral Castle features towering monoliths, a perfectly balanced gate that pivots with a finger's touch, and spiral staircases carved from single blocks of coral. Each piece showcases a level of craftsmanship and ingenuity that seems impossible for one man to achieve.

Edward's ability to transform raw coral into this intricate masterpiece leaves us marveling at both the structure and the enduring allure of mystery.

Edward Leedskalnin's methods may forever remain a secret, locked away with him, but his creation continues to captivate visitors and defy explanation.

So, the next time you laugh when someone says, "Anything is possible," remember the Coral Castle and the man who made the impossible real.

### 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.

## Marlborough Fly Fishing Show offers \$100,000 in door prizes

MARLBOROUGH — Some \$100,000 in door prizes – a show record – will be up for grabs along with the year's first view of every fly-fishing tool from the newest rods and reels to boots, waders, clothing and accessories at the 2025 Marlborough Fly Fishing Show® this weekend (Jan. 17-19) in the Royal Plaza Trade Center, 181 Boston Post Road West.

Show hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Saturday; and 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$18 for one day, \$28 for two days and \$38 for three days. Children under age five are free as are Boy and Girl Scouts under age 16 in uniform. Children 6-12 are \$5. Active military with an ID is \$10. Parking is free.

Trade Center exhibitor display booths are filled. There will be 26 classes with Experts, nine free seminars daily along with continuous Destination Theater presentations, authors, fly tying and fly casting.

The world premiere of the 2025 International Fly Fishing Film Festival is Fri. (1/17) at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door.

Visit <https://flyfishingshow.com/marlborough-ma/> for a full list of door prizes, demonstrations, seminars, films and classes.

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# State, town officials cut ribbon on family-owned Dudley business

DUDLEY — The family-owned breakfast and brunch restaurant Boston Brunch Bites at 265 West Main St. is operated by proprietors Rakisha and Thomas Rivera with Rakisha's mom, Ana Sanchez.

The Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Jan. 8 was attended by state Rep. John Marsi (R-Dudley,

6th Worcester District) Dudley Board of Selectmen Chairman Steven P. Sullivan, Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda and Assistant Town Administrator Olivia Antonson.

"With the opening of Boston Brunch Bites, we celebrate the success of local business as a cornerstone of our community's growth," TA Ruda said.

"As a small town, we're proud to support entrepreneurs and remain committed to improving and streamlining how we serve the public, ensuring progress for our businesses and residents alike. A special thank you to Representative John Marsi and Select Board Chair Steve Sullivan for joining us in marking this important occasion."



Marsi presented the owners with a State House citation that expressed congratulations and well-wishes for success.

"I'm thrilled that the Boston Brunch Bites

team has chosen to open their restaurant in Dudley," Marsi said, adding, "We needed a breakfast place and now we have it - it's very important that we support our small businesses!"

Boston Brunch Bites is open 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and has many offerings including coffee, omelets, waffles, subs and hot dogs.

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Courtesy

At the January Dudley Woman's Club meeting, Heidi Murray helped our 70 or so members get up and move in the New Year with some country line dancing. To thank Heidi for her time and expertise, the club donated \$200 to a local charity of her choice, which was PinkHippy.org. Also at the meeting, DWC members assembled and donated "birthday boxes" for the Webster-Dudley Food Share in Webster and the CHIP-In Food Pantry in Charlton. The estimated value of these boxes that contain the supplies for a child's birthday celebration is \$646. The DWC membership of more than 70 women of various ages and backgrounds from Dudley, Webster, Southbridge, Charlton, Uxbridge, Millbury and several Northern Connecticut towns work together to uplift and support our communities. For more information, please visit [www.dudleywomensclub.org](http://www.dudleywomensclub.org).

## Bay Path Nursing students train on use of Narcan



Courtesy

Captain Sheehan with Emily Bamberger of Wales and Johanna Marrero of Southbridge.

CHARLTON — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy students through the collaboration of Donna Pope, LPN, executive assistant to the Academy Director and Captain Daniel Sheehan of the Dudley Fire Department offered training to the PN Class of 2025 who may encounter opioids.

"The collaborative partnership offered training in the use of Narcan to the practical nursing students," stated Getheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director.

"Our nursing students are aware of the incidents across the state and around the country of healthcare workers who have come into contact with illicit drugs during the course of their duties," she said.

The Narcan training included information on exposure to opioids, including fentanyl and heroin which usually occurs through ingestion but also can result from absorption through the skin and inhalation. If substance abuse disorder exists, the risk of encountering those substances

will also exist. The purpose of the program is to equip the community with life-saving naloxone, also known as Narcan. Narcan is safe and reverses the effects of opioid overdoses so that having it on scene is important and provides an extra layer of protection. Narcan saves lives but it can also be the bridge to recovery and treatment. Captain Sheehan emphasized how seconds matter in such incidents. The Narcan training is a training that everyone can use. Captain Sheehan allowed for hands-on participation from the class of 2025.

Dr. Bolandrina was attending an advisory meeting for the nursing programs at Anna Maria College when the subject of Narcan training was brought up.

"I immediately recognized the value that it presented for our practical nursing students. It is wonderful that Donna was able to coordinate the training with the Dudley Fire Department. We are grateful to have Captain Sheehan," she said.

Members of the PN Class of 2025 were grateful to have participated in the Narcan training.

# Ready to make your move?

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# OBITUARY

## Charles L Dickson, 85



Charles L. Dickson, age 85, of Dudley died Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at UMASS Memorial Medical Center-University Campus of Worcester, MA with his loved ones at his side.

Charles was born September 7, 1939, in Worcester, MA. He was the son of the late Leander and the late Anna (Rebokis) Dickson. He was raised and lived in Oxford, MA before moving to Dudley in 1981. Mr. Dickson was a 1957 graduate of Oxford High School and attended the Worcester Boys Trade School. He worked at Wright Line and Riley Stoker in Worcester as a draftsman for several years, then for 25 years, at Bancroft Motors as their Body Shop Forman, retiring in 1985.

He was a former member of St. Roch's Church in Oxford. Charles was an accomplished auto body repair man and an ace carpenter. He spent countless hours refurbishing cars in his garage and built several homes in

the area for his family. Charles could fix anything and was always willing to help his family and friends when they were in need. He was a member of the Classic T-Bird Club International and enjoyed attending many classic car meets in the area in his '57 T-Bird that he personally restored to perfection.

Charles is survived by his wife of 64 years Betty (Javery) Dickson, two sons: Michael Dickson of Charlton, MA and Charles Dickson Jr. and his wife Cheryl Dickson of Dudley, MA; three grandsons: Taylor Dickson, Kyle Dickson, and Colin Dickson; and two great grandsons: Myles Dickson and Calvin Dickson.

He is also survived by his sister Carolyn Collins of Perham, ME, predeceased by his brother, Joseph Dickson in 2007.

Services will be private at Bartel Funeral Home & Chapel, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, MA with officiating. Burial will be private at St. Roch's Cemetery at a later date.

Donations can be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. donors@st.jude.org www.bartelfuneralhome.com

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## CLEAN UP

*continued from page A1*

The agent will also inspect to make sure each phase is done well, and look at the situation toward the end of the project to see if it needs remediation work. Wigglesworth suggested using what's called a wetland seed mix, but thought more serious remediation might be counterproductive.

"I think the impact of getting everything out of there, you'd be surprised to see what naturally will come back because things have been laying on seed beds," he said. "I'd just come back 25 feet and let it heal."

At the end of each phase, the commission plans to put up small signs (which they'll provide free) to inform any future users of the 25-foot restriction.

As Chair Richard Parent put it, "It's a good way to continue the education after your ownership in the future, theoretically. ... Who's to say you don't go and sell it two years after pulling this all out, and the new guy comes in and repeats the same thing? That's what we want to avoid."

Education also came up after they approved that plan, as the board's main 2025 goal. There, Wigglesworth laid out three major ways to do that: improving the board's public presence, starting community environmental service awards, and improving the Web site.

For the first, he said he'd like to see members be part of the April 22 Earth

Day cleanup, do something for May's American Wetlands Month, hold "Conservation Coffee" talks at the library, presentations at local groups on wetlands issues, and two presentations at ConCom meetings per year: He suggested having the Community Service Awards presentation be in May, with the community nominating candidates in February and the board choosing one in April. (He said he's designing that now.) Regarding the website, he said he's already working on putting up more forms and documents, more educational materials, and making it more user friendly.

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

Day cleanup, do something for May's American Wetlands Month, hold "Conservation Coffee" talks at the library, presentations at local groups on wetlands issues, and two presentations at ConCom meetings per year: He suggested having the Community Service Awards presentation be in May, with the community nominating candidates in February and the board choosing one in April. (He said he's designing that now.) Regarding the website, he said he's already working on putting up more forms and documents, more educational materials, and making it more user friendly.



Send all obituary notices to Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail to [obits@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:obits@stonebridgepress.news)

# LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508) 831-2200**  
**Docket No. WO25P0012EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
**Estate Of:**  
**Carl P. Sjogren**  
**Date of Death: 11/02/2024**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Wayne Kingston of Peabody 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: **Wayne Kingston of Peabody 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 02/04/2025.** 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: January 07, 2025  
Stephanie K. Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
January 17, 2025

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE**  
Premises: 60 Mason Road, Dudley, MA 01571  
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Shaun Blanchard and Lisa Blanchard to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., and now held by **PennyMac Loan Services, LLC**, said mortgage dated December 21, 2007 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 42299, Page 97, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to Bank of America, N.A. successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP fka Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP by assignment dated October 4, 2011 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 47994, Page 266; said mortgage was assigned from Bank of America, N.A. successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP fka Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP to PennyMac Loan Services, LLC by assignment dated December 11,

2013 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 51885, Page 135; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on February 14, 2025 at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:  
*A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon of every nature and descriptions, and all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated in the said Dudley on the Easterly side of Mason Rd, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a stake in the Easterly line of said Mason Road 300 feet Southerly of the intersection of the Southerly line of Sawmill Rd with the Easterly line of said Mason Rd, and measured along said Easterly line of Mason Rd; Thence Easterly, a distance of 161.15 feet to a stake; Thence Southerly, with an included angle of 82 degrees 27 minutes a distance of 97.75 feet to a stake; Thence Westerly with an included angle of 96 degrees 54 minutes a distance of 180 feet to a stake in the Easterly line of said Mason Road; Thence Northeasterly by a curve bearing to the left and having a radius of 480 feet, more or less, a distance of 100 feet to the point of BEGINNING. Being Lot No. 4 on "Plan of property Konkel Bros., Inc. Mason Rd, Dudley, Mass.," dated September 13, 1960, by A.R. Klebart, Engineer, recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 252, Plan 10. Being the same property conveyed to SHAUN BLANCHARD and LISA BLANCHARD, husband and wife as tenants by the entirety, by deed dated April 11, 2000 of record in Deed Book 22491, Page 17, in the Worcester County Clerk's Office. Commonly known as: 60 Mason Road, Dudley, MA 01571*

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.  
For Mortgagee's Title see deed dated April 11, 2000 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 22491, Page 17.  
**TERMS OF SALE:** Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.  
**FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00)** Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.  
Other terms to be announced at the sale.  
Brock & Scott, PLLC  
23 Messenger Street  
2nd Floor  
Plainville, MA 02762  
Attorney for PennyMac Loan Services, LLC  
Present Holder of the Mortgage  
(401) 217-8701  
January 17, 2025  
January 24, 2025  
January 31, 2025  
**Town of Dudley Conservation Commission**  
Christopher Place has filed a Notice of Intent to Construct a single-family home on lot 29 Charlton Rd. partly within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to a wetland. The Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January

29, 2025, at 6 pm in room 321A at the Town Hall at 71 West Main St.  
January 17, 2025

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Eddie Colon, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Seacoast Mortgage Corporation, dated August 8, 2018, and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59230 at Page 134, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Nominee for Seacoast Mortgage Corporation to Plaza Home Mortgage Inc., dated January 30, 2019, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59994, Page 83; by assignment from Plaza Home Mortgage, Inc. to Ocwen Loan Servicing LLC, dated May 20, 2019, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 60531, Page 249; by assignment from Plaza Home Mortgage Inc. to PHH Mortgage Corporation, dated June 27, 2019, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 60644, Page 343; by corrective assignment from PHH Mortgage Corporation Successor by Merger to Ocwen Loan Servicing, LLC to PHH Mortgage Corporation, dated February 14, 2023, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69519, Page 128; and by an assignment from PHH Mortgage Corporation to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee of the RMTP Trust, Series 2021 BKM-TT-V, dated July 26, 2023, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69519, Page 131, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 A.M. on the 31st day of January 2025, at 76 Myrtle Street, Webster, MA 01570, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,  
To wit:

The land with the buildings thereon located at 76 Myrtle Avenue, Webster, Worcester County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:  
BEGINNING at the southeast corner thereof at Valley Street;  
THENCE extending westerly by said Valley Street, one hundred forty (140) feet to a corner;  
THENCE extending northerly, fourteen (14) feet;  
THENCE extending easterly, one hundred thirty-two (132) feet to said Myrtle Avenue;  
THENCE extending southerly by said Myrtle Avenue, sixty-one (61) feet to the point of beginning.  
Property Address: 76 Myrtle Street, Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts  
For title see Book 59230, Page 131.  
Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.  
Terms of sale: A deposit of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) 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 wire transfer to Demerle & Associates P.C., 10 City Square, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA 02129 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. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.  
Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.  
U.S. Bank National Association not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee for RMTP Trust, Series 2021 BKM-TT-V,  
Present holder of said mortgage,  
By its Attorneys,  
Demerle & Associates P.C.  
10 City Square, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02129  
(617) 337-4444  
January 10, 2025  
January 17, 2025  
January 24, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**Docket No. WO24P2143GD**  
**CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**  
**In the matter of:**  
**Godfred Ameyaw**  
**Of: Webster, MA**  
**RESPONDENT**

Alleged Incapacitated Person  
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Janet Raynold of Webster, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that Godfred Ameyaw is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Janet Raynold of Webster, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian 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 **01/28/25.** 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.  
December 30, 2024  
Stephanie K. Fattman  
January 17, 2025

**AWARDS**

continued from page A1

extracurricular involvement in the district.

“Prior to making my selection for this award, I spoke to several of Mekhi’s teachers, all of whom offered high praise for Mekhi’s character and contributions,” Elwell said, sharing a few excerpts from some of Blanc’s teachers.

Elwell later expanding on Mekhi’s merits for the award including his embrace of Honors, AP courses, and college credit courses, involvement in show choir, dance,

Drama Club, Student Government and Student Council, the Shepherd Hill Cooking Club, and as a Member of the National Honor Society and the Guidance Advisory Council which Elwell said makes Blanc an “important part of the social fabric of the school.”

“Under the best of circumstances this level of student involvement and achievement would be very difficult, and I would be remiss if I didn’t mention that Mekhi has also demonstrated incredible perseverance throughout his education journey. Especially noteworthy is the fact that between sixth and tenth grade, Mekhi attended seven different schools. In light of the understandable academic and social challenges that resulted from attending so many different schools, I have an even greater appreciation for the excellence that Mekhi has achieved since arriving at Shepherd Hill,” Elwell concluded.

Blanc intends to pursue a degree in chemical engineering and possibly genetic engineering as he hopes to be a part of reversing the effects of climate change and its impact on wildlife.

# Carter Coughlin named to President’s List at Western New England University

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University (WNE) is proud to announce that Carter Coughlin of Dudley has been named to the President’s List for the Fall 2024 semester. Coughlin is one of over 640 students to achieve this mark of academic excellence. Students are named to the President’s List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.80 or higher.

Coughlin is working toward a BSE in Electrical Engineering.

A WNE education provides career-span agility through a curriculum grounded in professional/experiential studies, enhanced by the liberal arts, and enriched by mentored research that equips graduates to adapt and succeed in the workplace of the future.

Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield, Massachusetts as a division of Northeastern College, WNE’s 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including over 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its 90+ undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and

Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30 percent remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut. WNE is classified among nation-

ally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

## Western New England University celebrates outstanding academic achievements

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University (WNE) takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of over 750 students who have been named to the Dean’s List for the Fall 2024 semester. The following local students were named to the Dean’s List:

Abigail Alicandro of North Oxford

Kiana Tonkin of Dudley

Students are named to the Dean’s List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.30 or higher.

Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield, Massachusetts as a division of Northeastern College, WNE’s 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including more than 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its more than 90 undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30 percent remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut.

WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

**FESTIVAL**

continued from page A1

Art Exhibit and children’s crafts with Miss Kelcy at the Oxford Free Public Library and bingo at the Senior Center.

Parking is available behind both the Community Center and Town Hall. The Oxford Senior Van will be used to shuttle anyone interested in going from place to place, with shuttle stops marked at each downtown location.

We look forward to seeing you!



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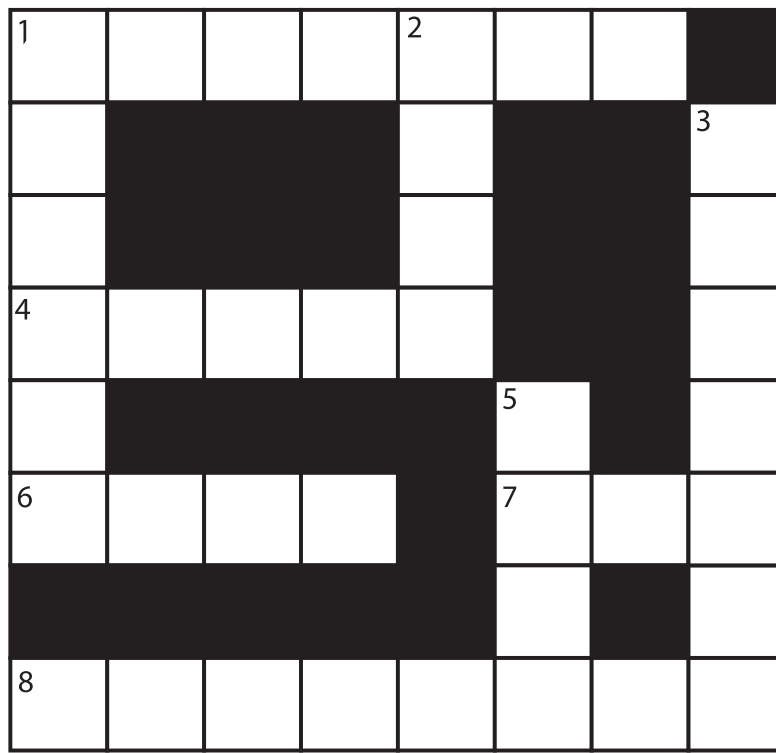
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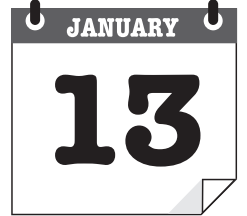
- Spencer New Leader
- Sturbridge Villager
- Charlton Villager
- Southbridge News
- Webster Times
- Auburn News
- Blackstone Valley Tribune



Crossword Puzzle



THIS DAY IN HISTORY



**1822:** The design of the Greek flag is adopted by the First National Assembly at Epidaurus.

**1849:** The Colony of Vancouver Island is established.

**1942:** Henry Ford patents a soybean car that is 30 percent lighter than a regular car.

Food  **FACT:**

This popular breakfast food provides a good deal of fiber, which can help keep a person healthy.

ACROSS

1. Instructions for preparing meals
4. Happy sound
6. Computer info
7. Prefix meaning "having three"
8. Early parts of the day

DOWN

1. Type of oatmeal oats
2. A way or track
3. Breakfast cupcakes
5. Shock or amaze

Answers:  
 ACROSS: 1. Recipes 4. Laugh 6. Data 7. Tri 8. Mornings  
 DOWN: 1. Rolled 2. Path 3. Muffins 5. Stun

Answer: Oatmeal

NEW WORD

ROLLED

hulled oats steamed and then flattened between rollers

How they say that in...

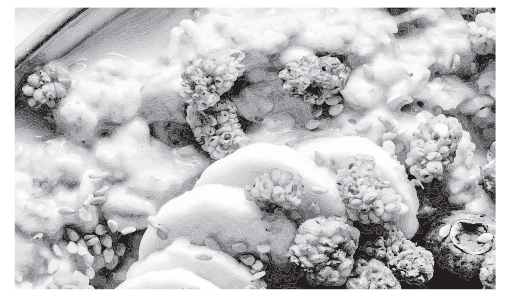
- English:** Oats
- Spanish:** Avena
- Italian:** Avena
- French:** Avoine
- German:** Hafer

Did You KNOW?

Oats are among the healthiest grains on earth. They are a great source of vitamins, minerals, fiber, and antioxidants.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Cooked oatmeal

⊙ \* ♀ ☼ ☽ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓ ♀ ♁ ♂ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

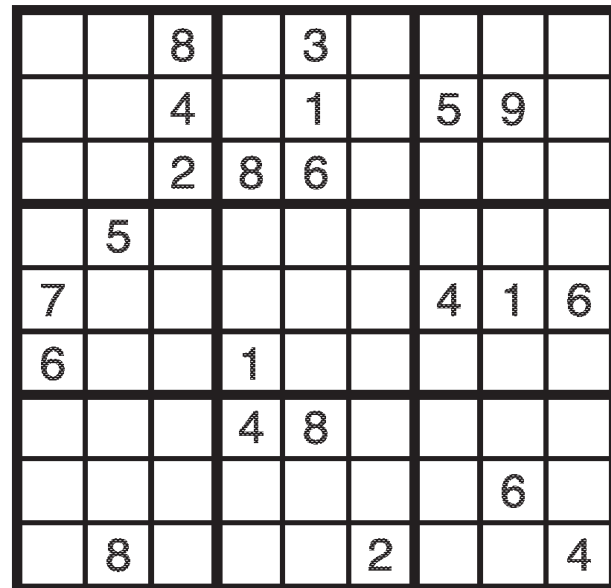
CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to skating.  
 Each number corresponds to cooking.  
 (Hint: 24 = E)

- A. 13 15 18 20 24**  
Clue: Thin metal on skate
- B. 2 9 24 24 15 1**  
Clue: Rolling devices
- C. 15 18 22 24 1**  
Clue: Tie up shoes
- D. 1 25 24 24 20**  
Clue: Fast pace

Answers: A. blade B. wheels C. laces D. speed

SUDOKU

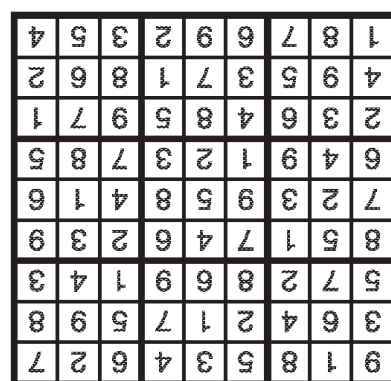


Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

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



ANSWER:

## Cornerstone Bank honored by Newsweek as one of America's best regional banks

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, has been named to Newsweek magazine's annual list of America's Best Regional Banks and Credit Unions 2025.

"We are so proud to be recognized in this way," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "We strive to be more than just a financial institution; we want to be an actively supportive part-

ner, strengthening our community and neighborhoods."

Newsweek and Plant-A Insights Group put out the list every year to recognize banks and credit unions positively impacting their communities, and help people identify the most trusted financial institutions. The methodology is based on the bank's credit quality, as well as profitability, net loans and leases, press coverage and a customer survey of more

than 71,000 U.S. citizens, 1.9 million social media reviews and 129 million app store reviews. The list includes the top 500 regional banks and top 500 credit unions.

Cornerstone Bank is committed to uplifting communities throughout Central Massachusetts, regularly donating to charity organizations, contributing to fundraising events and granting scholarships to local students.

## Local residents named to Dean's List at Saint Michael's College

COLCHESTER, Vt. — The following local students were named to the Dean's List at Saint Michael's College for the Fall 2024 semester. Students who complete at least 12 credits of classes and achieve a grade point average of at least 3.5 in a particular semester are cited on the Dean's List for that semester.

Nicholas D. Lindberg of Dudley

Bernadette E. Lesieur of Oxford Saint Michael's College

Saint Michael's College, founded on principles of social justice and leading lives of purpose and consequence, is a selective, Catholic college just outside Burlington, Vermont, one of the country's best college towns. Located between the Green Mountains

and Lake Champlain, our closely connected community guarantees housing all four years and delivers internationally respected liberal arts together with an innovative Purposeful Learning Program, preparing students for fulfilling careers and meaningful lives. Young adults here grow intellectually, socially, and morally, learning to be responsible for themselves, each other, and their world.

## Ryan Truscott of Webster named Presidential Scholar at Clarkson University

POTSDAM, N.Y. — Ryan James Truscott of Webster, a senior majoring in electrical engineering, was named a Presidential Scholar for the Fall 2024 semester at Clarkson University.

Presidential Scholars must achieve a minimum 3.80 grade-point average and carry at least 14 credit hours.

Clarkson University is a proven leader in

technological education, research, innovation and sustainable economic development. With its main campus in Potsdam, N.Y., and additional graduate program and research facilities in the Capital Region and Hudson Valley, Clarkson faculty have a direct impact on more than 7,800 students annually through nationally recognized undergraduate and

graduate STEM designated degrees in engineering, business, science and health professions; executive education, industry-relevant credentials and K-12 STEM programs. Alumni earn salaries among the top 2 percent in the nation: one in five already leads in the c-suite. To learn more, go to [www.clarkson.edu](http://www.clarkson.edu).

## Brigham Arthur Dubey of Dudley named to Clarkson University Dean's List

POTSDAM, N.Y. — Brigham Arthur Dubey of Dudley, a sophomore majoring in engineering and management, was named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2024 semester at Clarkson University.

Dean's List students must achieve a minimum 3.25 grade-point average and also carry at least 14 credit hours.

Clarkson University is a proven leader in

technological education, research, innovation and sustainable economic development. With its main campus in Potsdam, N.Y., and additional graduate program and research facilities in the Capital Region and Hudson Valley, Clarkson faculty have a direct impact on more than 7,800 students annually through nationally recognized undergraduate and

graduate STEM designated degrees in engineering, business, science and health professions; executive education, industry-relevant credentials and K-12 STEM programs. Alumni earn salaries among the top 2 percent in the nation: one in five already leads in the c-suite. To learn more, go to [www.clarkson.edu](http://www.clarkson.edu).

## Dudley Woman's Club holding Diaper Drive

DUDLEY — The Dudley Woman's Club is conducting a Diaper Drive to benefit the Webster-Dudley Food Share. Any size diapers are welcomed through Feb. 13. Look for the collection bins in the lobby of Dudley Town Hall, 71 West Main St.

The Webster-Dudley Food Share helps to meet the basic needs of more than 100 local families each week.

## Zoe Picard named to Wofford College's Dean's List

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — Zoe Picard of Auburn has been named to Wofford College's fall 2024 Dean's List.

Wofford College, established in 1854, is a four-year, residential liberal arts college located in Spartanburg, South Carolina. It offers 27

major fields of study to a student body of 1,800 undergraduates. Nationally known for the strength of its academic program, outstanding faculty, experiential learning opportunities and successful graduates, Wofford is recognized consistently as a "best

value" and for its commitment to student success and accessibility for low- and middle-income students. The college community has 12 sororities and fraternities as well as 20 NCAA Division I athletics teams.

## Let the holidays continue!

DUDLEY — The First Congregational Church of Dudley (a.k.a. Dudley Hill Church, 135 Center Rd.) will

host a turkey supper on Saturday, Jan. 18. There are two seatings, one at 4:30 p.m. and the other at 6 p.m.

The meal is served family style with a menu which includes tur-

key, stuffing, mashed potato, turnip, squash, gravy, cranberry sauce, bread & butter, and golden gingerbread with homemade whipped cream. The price is \$18 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for children ages six to 13, and free for those ages five and under. Reservations are recommended, as there is lim-

ited seating. make a reservation, please call 508-943-7320 (there will be no callbacks). Leave your name, telephone number, time of seating (4:30 or 6 p.m.), and the number of adults/children you are reserving for.

## Local residents earn Dean's List honors from MassBay Community College

WELLESLEY HILLS — The following local residents have been named to the MassBay Community College Dean's List, achieving this outstanding academic honor for the fall 2024 semester.

Lisa Sage of Auburn, who studies Business Administration

Samantha Keeler of Auburn, who studies Liberal Arts: Political Science

Carlos Ortiz Argueta of Dudley,

who studies General Studies

Carmen Ortiz Argueta of Dudley, who studies Radiologic Technology

Kelly Cournoyer of Dudley, who studies General Studies

Matthew Frappier of Oxford, who studies Computer Information Systems

Alan Caceres of Webster, who studies Cyber Security

Johanna Laguerre of Webster, who studies General Studies

To be eligible for the MassBay Dean's List, students must complete at least six credits of college-level courses, be in good standing with the College, and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

## Local residents named to UConn Dean's List

STORRS, Conn. — The University of Connecticut congratulates the following students who were named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of 2024:

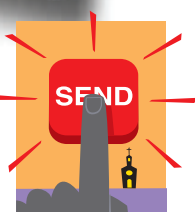
Abigail Lepper of Dudley  
Cheyanne Matthews of Oxford

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### LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

#### BROOKFIELD

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

#### CHARLTON

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

#### LEICESTER

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

#### NORTH BROOKFIELD

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

#### ROCHDALE

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

#### SOUTHBRIDGE

Saint John Paul II Food Pantry  
Saint Vincent de Paul  
279 Hamilton St, Southbridge, MA 01550  
Distribution: Tuesday 3 PM-5 PM,  
Wednesday 9 AM - 11 AM

Southbridge Food Share Pantry 79 Elm St., Southridge, Ma. 01550.  
Distribution:  
MWF from 10:00AM - 11:15AM

#### SPENCER- EAST BROOKFIELD - RESIDENTS ONLY

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

#### STURBRIDGE

Saint Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry  
Located at St. Anne & St. Patrick Church  
16 Church St.  
Fiskdale, MA 01518

# Maximize seed starting success with a seed starting chart

Now is the time when many of us are busy ordering seeds. We often end up with many seeds, some new ones we needed or wanted and perhaps a few duplicates of those we have left from past seasons. It is easy to overlook some of these as the

indoor and outdoor planting season begins. Save money by inventorying your current seed collection, reducing the risk of ordering seeds you don't need. Decide what seeds you want to keep and grow this season and those

you want to pass along to or swap with gardening friends. You may choose to make seed art with older or improperly stored seeds and invest in fresh seeds that are sure to germinate. If in doubt, check the seed

viability of older stored seeds with a simple germination test. Wrap ten seeds in a damp paper towel and place them inside a plastic bag. Check the seeds in a week or so to see how many sprout. If all the seeds sprout, follow the planting guidelines on the seed packets. When only half the seeds sprout, you will need to plant the seeds twice as thick and so on.



GARDEN MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA MYERS

viability and keep them safe from mice. Once your seed starting schedule is created and seeds are organized,

prepare the space for starting seeds indoors if needed. Make sure your grow lights are in working order and you have sufficient containers, flats, and seed starting mix for planting.

Save money by repurposing yogurt, applesauce, and similar food containers into seed starting pots. Just clean and add drainage holes. Look for used cell packs, flats, and small pots that can be used again.

Disinfect these by soaking them in a one-part bleach and nine-part water solution for ten minutes then rinse with clear water. Repurposing saves you money and helps reduce plastic waste and the risk of disease that could kill your seedlings.

Taking time to plan and organize now can save you money while helping you maximize the productivity and beauty of your gardens.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, Revised Edition, and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

You can create your own seed storage organizer or purchase one. Store the seeds in a cool dark location in an airtight container to help maintain their



Melinda Myers

Save money on plants by starting seeds indoors with grow lights, containers, and seed starting mix.

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**Nine Day Novena to the Infant of Prague**  
O Infant Jesus, I run to You, begging You through Your Holy Mother to save me in this need (You may name it here), for I truly and firmly believe that Your Divinity can defend me. Full of trust I hope in You to obtain Your holy grace. I love You with all my heart, I am painfully sorry for my sins and on my knees I beg You, O Little Jesus, to free me from them. My resolution is to improve and never more to offend You. Therefore, I offer myself to You, ready to suffer everything for You and to serve You faithfully. I will love my neighbour as myself from my heart for the love of You. O Little Jesus, I adore You, O Mighty Child, I implore You, save me in this need (You can mention it here), that I may enjoy You eternally, see You with Mary and Joseph and adore You with all the angels.  
Amen. **N.F.L.**

**A Prayer to the Blessed Virgin**  
Oh most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh star of the sea, help me show herein, you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of heaven and earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity and restore my relationship with John to its full and complete love. Lead him away from another woman and me from anger and distrust. There are none that can withstand your power, Oh show me herein that you are my Mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee. Holy Mother, I place this course in your hands. (Say this portion of the prayer three times) Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all the roads so that I can attain my Goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me, in all instances in my life, You are with me. I want, in this short prayer, to thank You for things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy towards me And mine. The person must say this prayer on 3 consecutive days After 3 days the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the prayer if granted. **N.F.L.**

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**THANKSGIVING NOVENA TO ST. JUDE**  
O Holy Saint Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given so great to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition. In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Mary's and Glorias. Publication must be promised. St. Jude pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen. This Novena has never been known to fail. This Novena must be said for nine consecutive days. **N.F.L.**

**PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil (intention), Amen

If you pray three times a day, three consecutive days, you will receive your intention, no matter how impossible it may seem. Praise and Thanksgiving please the Heart of God. **BELIEVER. N.F.L.**



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Location! Location! This Oversized & Well Maintained 2 Family offers 2,472 sf Total! Apt 1 >1st Floor Unit >has 1,052 sf, 3 BRs & 1 Bath! Apt 2 >2nd & 3rd Floor Unit has 2 levels >1,420 sf, 5 BRs, 2 Baths, Corner lot w/.30 acre, 22'x22' Two Car Garage! 12'x16' Concrete Patio. Apartments fully occupied. PLEASE DO NOT TRESPASS onto the Property.  
**\$559,900**

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**WEBSTER - 38 COLONIAL RD.**  
**LAKE RESIDENTIAL**



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Webster Lake Area! Investors take notice! Charming Ranch with possible extra buildable lot! Home has 2 bedrooms, 1 Bath, 1 Car Garage, Recent Furnace and Ductless Mini-Split System. Vinyl Siding, Replacement Windows, 100CB. Interior needs updating\*  
**\$399,900**

**On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg**

**WATERFRONT**  
**Webster Lake - 237 Thompson Rd.**



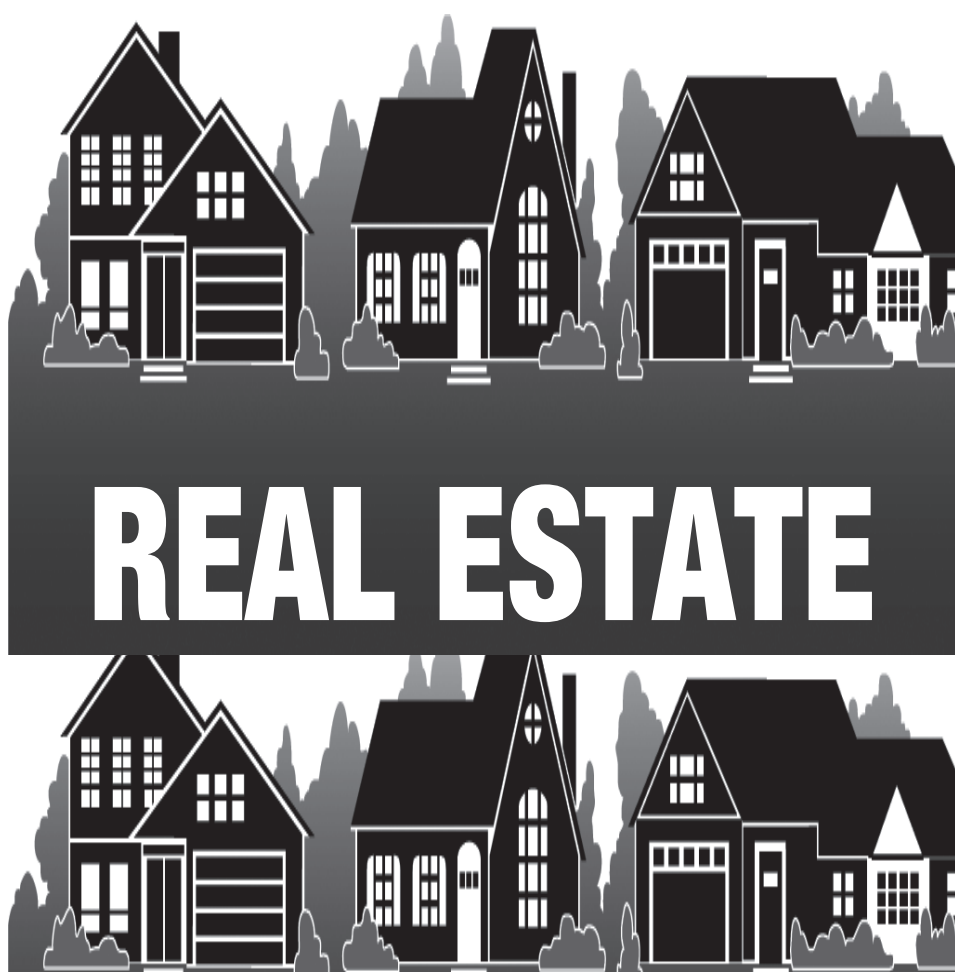
FOR RENT...1st floor 1 Bedroom Apartment! Sliders to large deck with outstanding views! Located in the mid section of the Lake.  
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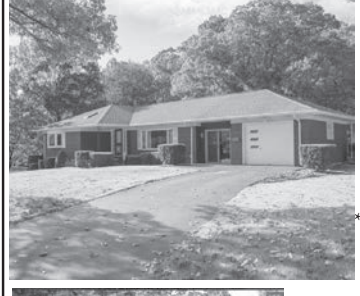
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\*Fireplace  
\*Newly Designed Septic System  
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\*1700 sq. ft.  
\*2 car garage

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\* Financing Program  
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\*Buyer Representation

**Call Jo-Ann 774-230-5044**  
**ReMax Vision**  
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**CALL JO-ANN FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS**

**NAI** Glickman Kovago & Jacobs

## 25 ELM STREET | SOUTHBRIDGE, MA



## 9,536-SF HISTORIC OFFICE BUILDING FOR SALE



- Historical building, also known as Tiffany-Leonard House, built in 1832
- Large Executive Offices with Elegant Finishes and High Ceilings
- Large Open Concept Cubicle Areas

- Listing price: \$550,000
- Building size: 9,536 SF
- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished



MORE INFO:



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