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HALLOWEEN



WEBSTER TIMES

Free by request to residents of Webster, Dudley and the Oxfords



WEBSTER — The Bartlett High School Indians capped a dominant performance Friday night at Memorial Athletic Field, defeating Worcester Tech 34-14 to capture the 2025 CMAC Championship. Behind a balanced offensive attack and a stingy defense, the Indians controlled the game from start to finish.

Bartlett wasted little time setting the tone. Quarterback Lawrence Smith broke loose

for an 81-yard touchdown run, giving the Indians an early 8-0 lead after Jaesean Atkins added the two point conversion. The defense, led by Dominik Partridge and Cameren Forsythe, who had an interception, held Worcester Tech scoreless in the opening frame.

Smith struck again midway through the second, finishing a red-zone drive with a short touchdown run to make it

14-0. Worcester Tech responded with a scoring drive of their own, but Bartlett answered immediately with Atkins returning the ensuing kickoff 86 yards for a TD with 5 seconds remaining in the half to extend the lead to 20-7.

Bartlett came out strong after the break as Atkins added his second touchdown of the evening, this time a 36 yard run, giving the Indians a commanding 26-7 advantage. The

defense closed out the game strong, highlighted by an interception from Mason Fallas to shut down any comeback hopes.

Bartlett's offense responded with a clock killing drive after Worcester Tech cut the lead to 12. Smith connected with Kenny Arpin on a 16-yard touchdown pass, capping a balanced drive that showcased Aiden Turner and Xavier Butler in the ground game. The

Indians' defense continued to swarm, forcing multiple punts and recording five total sacks on the night.

Game leaders
Lawrence Smith — 16 carries, 119 yards, 2 rushing TDs; 2-for-4 passing, 33 yards, 1 passing TD
Jaesean Atkins — 7 carries, 61 yards, 1 rushing TD; 1 reception for 17 yards; 3.5 tackles
Kenny Arpin — 1 reception, 16 yards, 1 TD; 6.5 tackles
Aiden Turner — 6 carries, 63 yards; 4.5 tackles
Xavier Butler — 8 carries, 48 yards; 5 tackles, 2 sacks
Dominik Partridge — 8 tackles (team-high)

Cameren Forsythe & Mason Fallas — 1 interception each

Coach Dane Laboissonniere praised his team's poise and physicality: "Our players earned this one. They've been locked in all season, and winning the CMAC Championship at home means a lot to our program and our community."

With the victory, Bartlett improves its record to 4-2 and claims the CMAC title outright. The Indians will now set their sights on postseason play, needing two victories in the two remaining regular season games to clinch a playoff berth.

Dudley Town Meeting approves borrowing for waterline

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Dudley's fall town meeting on Oct. 20 was a big one, tackling a variety of issues including PFAS remediation, funding of a new waterline extension, and the future name of the Board of Selectmen with mixed results.

The big items of the night concerned PFAS, which continues to be one of the major talking points of the town due to its prevalence in the Eagle

Drive and Fairview Avenue neighborhood. For years, Dudley has worked to mitigate the issue and over the past two years especially the contamination has taken center stage as Dudley officials sought to approve and fund a water line extension that would give residents the option to hook into town water rather than utilize their contaminated private wells. While the project itself was approved at a town meeting, the town has struggled to secure a funding mechanism.

Borrowing for the project was voted down by only a few votes short of its required voting margin at the Annual Town Meeting in May. Town leaders embarked on an aggressive public information campaign, including an informational meeting only weeks before the fall town meeting, to earn support for the funding and this time they were successful.

After a lengthy public discussion, the borrowing of \$14.2 million to fund the waterline was finally approved

by the required majority paving the way for a waterline extension into the neighborhood. While the town was required to approve the full borrowing, \$10.25 million of the cost qualifies for a State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan at zero percent interest and an anticipated minimum principal forgiveness of 9.9 percent, or a little more than a million dollars. Additionally, because the town and local company Gentex have agreed to share

Turn To DUDLEY page A15

Oxford Women's Club meets Nov. 4

OXFORD — The Oxford Women's Club is very happy to announce our next guest at the is from Herbert Berg Florist. We will be making a Fall arrangement to enjoy for the season. If you're thinking this will be a fun evening you are invited to sign up and prepay or sign up and pay that evening. The event will be held Nov. 4 at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact Paula at 508-987-2804 or email Phparker1951@gmail.com.

Looking forward for an enjoyable evening together.

Our meetings are held in the Oxford Senior Center behind the Town Hall starting at 6:30p.m.

Dudley Agricultural Commission celebrates National Farm to School Month with ag literacy reading event at Mason Road Elementary

DUDLEY — In celebration of National Farm to School Month, the Dudley Agricultural Commission hosted a special Agricultural Literacy Reading Event at Mason Road Elementary School, bringing the joy of reading and the importance of agriculture directly into kindergarten classrooms.

Thanks to a generous grant by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, secured by the Commission, 100 agricultural-themed books, Right This Very Minute, were purchased and gifted to every kindergartner at the school. The event aimed to cultivate an early understanding of agriculture's role in daily life and to emphasize the importance of supporting local farmers across Massachusetts.

Members of the Dudley Agricultural Commission read aloud to students, sparking discussions about where food comes from and how farms operate. The interactive event encouraged students to think about food systems and inspired curiosity about the world around them.

"We're thrilled to be able to share these books and engage students in conversations about agriculture," said Katie Rozenas-Hanson, Secretary of the Dudley Agricultural Commission. "It's never too early to help children understand the importance of farms, farmers, and sustainable food systems — especially here in Massachusetts, where local agriculture plays such a vital role in our communities."

National Farm to School



Month, celebrated every October, highlights efforts across the country to connect schools with local food producers and promote food education. The Dudley Agricultural

Commission's literacy initiative aligns with these goals by planting seeds of agricultural awareness at an early age.

The donated books will remain with the students to

enjoy at home, continuing the message of agricultural literacy beyond the classroom. Books were also donated to the classroom libraries.

For more information

about the Dudley Agricultural Commission and its programs, please visit our Web site, dudleyfarmers.com.



Rocky Knight

COMMUNITY

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 31 TO

NOVEMBER 7

Friday, Oct. 31 – A Howl and a Hooray!
Ghosts on the sidewalks, the pumpkins aglow,
Little feet racing through autumn’s cold flow.
Trick-or-treat safely from six until nine,
Light up your porches—it’s candy time!
Police will patrol while goblins abound,
Keeping the laughter the loudest sound.

Saturday, Nov. 1 – Tales and Tea at the Library Tree
At Gladys E. Kelly Library, ten on the dot,
“Spooky Storytime” hits the sweet spot.
Hot cocoa and crafts for kids who stay near,
Costumes encouraged—no monsters to fear!
Then at Pearle Crawford Library in Dudley at two,
Pumpkin art fun for the whole family crew.

Sunday, Nov. 2 – Candles and Thanks at the Common
At Oxford’s Town Common, from three until five,
The “Harvest of Hearts” keeps gratitude alive.
Bring canned goods or sweaters, or mittens to share,
Neighbors together show holiday care.

Monday, Nov. 3 – Paws and Applause
At Auburn’s Pakachoag Park, at four-twenty-two,
The shelter hosts “Wags-Giving”—bring dog treats too!
Meet furry friends who’d love a new home,
They’ll wag you a thank-you wherever you roam.

Tuesday, Nov. 4 – Stitch and Sip Soiree
At Dudley’s Black Tavern, at six-thirty sharp,
Crafters convene with yarn and some harp.
Bring your new project and join in the cheer,
The cider is warm and the company dear.

Wednesday, Nov. 5 – Turkey Time Tune-Up
The Auburn Senior Center, one p.m. call,
Hosts a “Turkey Talk” luncheon for one and for all.
Chef Reardon will demo with stuffing and sage,
Thanksgiving practice for every age!

Thursday, Nov. 6 – Notes in November
The Bartlett High Chorus takes Webster’s main stage,
At seven p.m.—music to calm and engage.
Admission’s by donation, so hum along too,
A night full of harmony—made just for you.

Friday, Nov. 7 – Stars Above the Steeples
At Oxford High fields, from seven till late,
Astronomy Night—bring blankets, don’t be late!
Local stargazers will lend you their scopes,
For a tour of the heavens and celestial hopes.

So ends our week of cheer and rhyme,
A blend of fall and festive time.
From candy to kindness, crafts to the skies—
Our little towns sparkle before winter arrives.

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QCC hires director for new

Auxilium Center for

Entrepreneurship

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College has hired Rocky Knight as the director of its newly launched Auxilium Center for Entrepreneurship, a resource hub created to support and inspire students, staff and alumni in launching and scaling their entrepreneurial ventures.

Funded by the Cliff & Susan Rucker Foundation and supported through a strategic partnership with Auxilium Worcester, the center will offer one-on-one consulting, mentorship, workshops and training to help aspiring entrepreneurs navigate the complexities of starting and growing a business.

“By the time students graduate, they’ll not only have a degree, they’ll be ready to launch a business,” said Knight, who emphasized the importance of connecting the QCC community to Worcester’s thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Knight brings a wealth of experience to the role. She holds an MBA from Johnson & Wales University and a BA in global citizenship with a specialization in management from Becker College. Her leadership background includes serving as Director of the CWE-Central MA Women’s Business Center and Founder/CEO of Own Your Legacy Ventures LLC, an organization that helps entrepreneurs reach the critical two-year milestone through branding, consulting and strategic planning.

“Rocky brings robust experience as an entrepreneur and an educator, and she is well-connected within the regional entrepreneurial ecosystem. We are thrilled she’ll be working with QCC students and alumni to bring their ideas forward,” said Vice President of Academic Affairs Kathy Rentsch.

Knight also founded the For One Child Foundation, a nonprofit that has impacted over 1,500 students across Massachusetts and rural Jamaica through educational resources, digital access, and infrastructure development. Her commitment to community empowerment has earned her numerous accolades, including the Worcester Business Journal’s 40 Under 40 Award (2024), Worcester Magazine’s Woman to Watch (2025) and recognition as a

Massachusetts Commonwealth Heroine (2025).

“Entrepreneurship is a new type of job security,” said Knight. “I’m happy to be in a space where we can help people move forward and ensure entrepreneurs have access to the right resources.”

For more information on the Auxilium Center for Entrepreneurship at QCC, visit [QCC.edu/auxilium](https://qcc.edu/auxilium).

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9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.-
2 p.m.

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@cwmars.org

Goose Visits the Library!
Please note that registration for our programs with Goose on November 1st are full, but we will be live-streaming this exciting event. Visit our Gladys E. Kelly Public Library YouTube page to join us virtually!

Adult Programming
Literacy Volunteers: ESL
Classes – Tuesdays at 6:00pm
The Literacy Cafe is a free weekly English conversation class offered by Literacy Volunteers of South Central Massachusetts (LVSCM). This class is free to attend and is open to all adults. No pre-registration is required. For more information, email us at info@lvscm.org.

Yoga Nidra – Wednesday
Mornings in October at 8:15am
Join Adult Services Librarian Jess for a relaxing yoga nidra practice to start your day on Wednesdays. Jess will guide participants through a few simple yoga asanas to release physical tension. Participants will then settle into a reclined position for a guided relaxation (yoga nidra). If you have your own yoga mat, please bring it and be sure to dress in comfortable clothing. This program takes place before the library officially opens. Registration is required and Jess will meet you at the program door.

Library for All – First Two

Mondays; Last Two Fridays
10AM (Chair Yoga or Craft)
This program includes one chair yoga class and one craft project that will be held on first two Mondays and the last two Fridays of the month. Either join Jess for a 45 minute relaxing Chair Yoga class or join us for our craft program. Check the online calendar to see which event is scheduled. No experience necessary. This program is for teens and adults of all abilities and their caregivers. Please call ahead if special accommodations or requirements are needed.

Yoga – Saturdays at 9:30am
Join Julie or Lauren at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. A typical class involves centering the mind with the breath, aromatherapy, movement of the body to release energetic blockages, and, finally, rest and relaxation. Classes are free. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

Jeff Belanger: Ghosts and
Legends – Monday, October
27th at 6:30pm
This ghostly multi-media program will take you on a journey through the haunts in your backyard, and around the world. Pulling from Jeff's 25 years of research for his books, podcasts, adventures, and the various television shows he's worked on, join one of the nation's premiere storytellers for a trip through the unusual and the unexplained. This program changes every time it's given.

Woodland Whispers Acrylic
and Decoupage Art Class
with Jean Walker – Tuesday,
November 4th, 6:00-8:00pm
Step into a tranquil forest scene in this creative mixed-media painting class for adults taught by artist Jean Walker. Using acrylic paints and decoupage techniques, participants will paint soft woodland tones featuring leafy trees, textured greenery, and a

time-worn fence that evokes quiet beauty.
You'll add whimsical details using decoupage elements — including mushrooms nestled in the grass and a shimmering dragonfly gliding between the trees. A variety of decoupage images will be available so you can personalize your artwork and make it truly your own. Jean will guide you step-by-step through brushwork, layering, and texturing methods that blend paint and paper to create a serene, nature-inspired composition. All supplies are provided.
Cozy Wednesdays: Silent Book Club – Wednesday, November 5th at 6:00pm
Looking for a quiet escape? Join us for the first meeting of our Silent Book Club. The community room will be as cozy as it gets. Bring a book or borrow one from the library and enjoy an hour or two of silent reading. Quiet discussion is permitted. We'll provide the tea and atmosphere, you choose your book!

Programming for All Ages
Puzzle Fest: Spooky Town – Thursday, October 30th at 6:00pm
Assemble your team (up to 5 people!) and join us to see which team can complete their puzzle first. We'll have snacks to keep you fueled as you tackle your 500 piece jigsaw. All teams will get to keep their puzzle. Registration is required.

Taylor Swift by the Book:
The Literature Behind the Lyrics – Thursday, October 30th at 7:00pm
PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A VIRTUAL PROGRAM THAT WILL TAKE PLACE VIA ZOOM. Registrants will receive a link to access the Zoom Webinar via email. Authors Rachel Feder and Tiffany Tatreau will deliver a fascinating presentation based on their recent book, Taylor Swift by the Book: The Literature Behind the Lyrics, from Fairy Tales to Tortured Poets. Taylor Swift's

lyrics are filled with literary connections. Learn about the novels, poems, and plays that influence her songwriting. Let a literature professor and a musical theater artist guide you through the Taylor Swift canon—from Shakespeare to the Brontë sisters to Daphne du Maurier!
Tiny Art Show: Clay on Canvas – Monday, November 3rd at 6:00pm
Drop in anytime between 6:00-7:00pm to make clay masterpiece on a 3in x 3in canvas and submit it to be featured in our Tiny Art Show. Snacks will be provided to fuel your creativity. Registration is required to ensure we have enough supplies.

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

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

Mini Block Party –
Tuesdays at 3:30pm
Play with magnets, marble

mazes, and LEGO.
Tiny Groovers - Wednesdays
at 10:30 AM
Join Miss Paige for a new storytime! Toddlers ages 2-5 and their caregivers will dance to popular kids' tunes using instruments and playful props, and enjoy an interactive story each week.
Busy Baby Storytime –
Fridays at 10:00am
Join us for Busy Baby Storytime! Babies and caregivers will enjoy songs, movement, and simple stories that build early literacy skills in a fun and playful way.
STEM Beginnings: Young Scientists at 10:00am
Children, ages 3-6, with a parent/caregiver will learn STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) concepts through hands-on activities, story time, challenges and simple experiments in this weekly STEM series. Caregivers please register as a registrant only and not as attendees. Please add as attendees only children between ages 3 and 6. Please answer all questions to receive approval.

"Young Scientists" is sponsored by the YMCA Family & Community Partnership (YFCP), a Massachusetts Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) Grant program funded by the Department of Early Education & Care and awarded to the YMCA of Central Massachusetts.
Haunted Library – Thursday, October 30th at 4:00pm
Step into our Haunted Library! Kids of all ages can explore the spooky Children's Room, enjoy gentle frights, and make a craft. Costumes encouraged! The Children's Room will be closed 2:00-4:00 PM in order to set up for this event. Thank you for your understanding.

Halloween Storytime and Costume Parade – Friday, October 31st at 10:00am
Join us for a special Halloween Storytime! We'll read some not-so-spooky books, then kids can show off their costumes in a parade around the library, collecting hauntingly delicious treats along the way.

TOWN OF AUBURN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS SNOW REMOVAL APPLICATIONS

The Town of Auburn Department of Public Works is accepting applications for snow plowing for the 2025 - 2026 winter season. Applications may be obtained at the Department of Public Works – Highway Division, 5 Millbury Street, Auburn, MA 01501, Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.. Applications are also available on the Town of Auburn website www.auburnguide.com. Applications must be returned to the Department of Public Works.
The Town of Auburn reserves the right to waive any informalities and accept or reject any or all applications, or portions of such, if thought to be in the best interest of the Town.
Kenneth Fairbanks
Highway Superintendent



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Planet Fitness to open new location in Auburn

AUBURN — Planet Fitness, one of the largest and fastest-growing franchisors and operators of fitness centers with more members than any other fitness brand, recently announced it will open its newest club in Auburn in November 2025. It is located at 366 Southbridge St., and will be Planet Fitness's first Auburn location.

Starting now, new members can join for \$15 a month with no commitment until Oct. 31. Planet Fitness invites new members to sign up at <https://www.planetfitness.com/gyms/auburn-ma/>. The Auburn club will be staffed and open Monday through Friday from 4 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The new Planet Fitness in Auburn is 18,000 square feet and is located in the former Bed Bath & Beyond space. The location will offer the following features and amenities:

Best-in-class strength equipment including free weights, expansive strength machines and plate-loaded bench presses, hack squats, and a seated calf machine
51 pieces of state-of-the-art cardio equipment
56 pieces of state-of-the-art strength equipment
Free fitness training included in all memberships
Black Card Spa® for PF Black Card® members featuring:
Two Elite Massage Chairs
Two Cryo Units
HydroMassage® Lounge and Bed
And more
"We're thrilled to bring our Judgment Free Zone® to Auburn, a community that deserves easy access to top-notch, affordable fitness options," said Bruce Edwards, CEO of Core Development and Management, a local Planet Fitness franchise group. "Our mission is to provide a welcoming space where everyone feels valued and com-

fortable, with brand-new, state-of-the-art, and exceptionally maintained fitness centers. We can't wait to become a part of the Auburn community and support their health and wellness goals."

The PF Black Card® is the most popular membership, now available for \$19.99 a month through Oct. 31, cancel anytime. It provides a vast array of additional benefits to members such as the ability to bring a guest every day to the club at no additional charge, access to all of the more than 2,700 Planet Fitness locations, as well as access to the Black Card Spa®, a member favorite after a workout.

Planet Fitness offers extremely low prices and a variety of benefits, including a hassle-free environment, brand name cardio and strength equipment, flat screen televisions and much more. The free Planet Fitness App, available to members and non-members alike, puts hundreds of on-demand digital exercises in your pocket.

For more information or to join online, please visit www.PlanetFitness.com or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/PlanetFitness) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/PlanetFitness).

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

A night for neighbors and nostalgia

Halloween arrives this week, that odd and wonderful evening when the streets of Webster and Dudley transform into a moving parade of pirates, witches, superheroes, and the occasional confused parent in pajama pants holding a travel mug. For a few crisp hours, the world feels smaller, friendlier, and lit by the soft orange glow of jack-o'-lanterns instead of phone screens.

It's easy to dismiss Halloween as candy chaos or a minor civic inconvenience—an excuse for sugar highs and lawn decorations. But in truth, it's one of the last great neighborhood rituals. In a time when most of us wave from car windows rather than front porches, Halloween insists that we step outside, turn on the lights, and meet the people who share our street. The simple act of handing a candy bar to a child you don't know is, in its own way, a reminder that community still matters.

In Webster, Dudley, and Oxford, that spirit shows itself in school parties, trunk-or-treats at fire stations, and the glow of the family programs at our local libraries. These moments knit the towns together—teachers, police officers, librarians, and parents all joining forces to keep the fun safe. Every costumed kid walking from door to door carries a tiny piece of that shared effort.

So, before you curse the early dark or the ringing doorbell, remember what the night gives us. It asks us to smile at strangers, to laugh at ourselves, and to make room for a little wonder in the ordinary. A lit porch, a bowl of candy, and a few kind words are small things, but they are what turn a collection of houses into a community.

When the masks come off and the candy buckets empty, the best treat we can keep is that sense of belonging—the knowledge that, even in an uncertain world, the lights are still on and the neighbors are still close by.

Letter submission policy

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

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

VIEWPOINT

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

Jesus Christ's power over demons and darkness

What do you think about when you think of Halloween? Haunted houses. Skeletons. Ghosts. Gravestones. The dead. And of course—demons.

Every day I take my dog for a walk around my neighborhood, and like in many of our neighborhoods in October, we see dark images decorating homes — 15-foot skeletons, ghosts hanging from trees, gravestones in front yards, dark and scary figures on porches. Our society loves to play with darkness this time of year. Yet, while much of this is make-believe, there is one truth that the Church never ignores: Evil is real. Demons do exist. The devil is not some make-believe image but a dark, fallen angel that corrupts and deceive the world with his lies.

The key message for today, however, is that we are children of God and carriers of light. Evil has no power over goodness. Darkness has no sway over us. And the devil has no power over Jesus Christ!

When someone is baptized into the Orthodox Church, what's the very first thing we do? We offer prayers of exorcism against Satan. We turn away from the icon screen in the Church and publicly renounce Satan and all his works, all his worship, all his angels, and all his pride. Then we spit on him, literally and spiritually. We declare war on darkness and evil!

Then, we quickly turn toward the east—toward the light of Christ—and publicly declare unity with God. We are His followers, His heirs, His children.

At our baptism we proclaim that Christ has conquered the devil. Yes, evil is real but Jesus is greater than any evil and He has defeated all darkness. The devil whispers to us his lies, planting fear, division, anger, hatred, and despair and yet, he has no authority over the anyone who belongs to Jesus Christ.

Do you remember the story of Jesus and the Gerasene demoniac. A man possessed with a legion of demons, living away from all humanity in the graveyard. He would be an image that our Halloween season would glorify! Yet, this man was pathetic and lost. He wore no clothes. He was so violent and while that he couldn't live around society. So He lived among the tombs, all alone. People were so afraid of him that no one passed by. They had tried to chain him up, and yet he broke all the chains. He had lost his identity, his humanity, and didn't even remember his own name. "Legion, I am called" because so many demons tormented him.

This man lived surrounded by death, darkness, and isolation, cut off from family and community—completely enslaved by the powers of darkness.

But then, Jesus steps onto the shore. Immediately, the demons cry out, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?" It's interesting how even the demons recognize Jesus. And they tremble before Him because they know they have no power over Him.

With one word, Jesus drives out the demons



BEYOND THE PEWS

BY FR. LUKE A. VERONIS
SAINTS
CONSTANTINE
AND HELEN
GREEK
ORTHODOX
CHURCH,
WEBSTER

and sets the man free. When the townspeople later find him sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, calm, and in his right mind, they are afraid. They don't understand and are scared of the power and authority that Jesus holds.

Jesus comes to free the imprisoned, to restore the broken, to bring peace where there was torment, to bring life where there was death.

This story isn't just something that happened long ago. It's a picture of the world we live in. There are so many dark forces that try to enslave people — through addiction, hatred, anger, pride, fear. Sometimes these forces feel overwhelming, like that legion of demons. Yet, we always must remember — Jesus Christ is the Light of the World that has come into its darkness to give light. On the Cross, He destroyed the power of sin and death. In His Resurrection, He triumphed over the devil once and for all. And in the Church, through the Holy Sacraments, through prayer, through fasting, through the sign of the Cross, through our acts of divine love, that victory becomes ours personally.

So, how do we respond when we see the darkness of this world? We don't play with it. We don't glorify it. We don't fill our homes or minds with images of evil and darkness and horror, even in jest.

Instead, we fill our homes and lives with all that is good, pure, holy, true, and praiseworthy. We fill our hearts with the Spirit of Jesus Christ and teach our children not to be fascinated by darkness, but to be inspired by the light of the saints.

No demon, no evil, no darkness can possess a person who is walking with Jesus, with one who prays daily, who confesses regularly, who forgives one another, who opens their heart to the Holy Spirit by partaking of the Holy Eucharist, and who keeps Jesus Christ at the center of their lives.

As St. John Chrysostom once said, "The devil fears and trembles not at fasting or at poverty, but at the presence of Christ." When Christ lives in us, the devil and all darkness flees.

So, this Halloween season, when we see all the skeletons and demons and ghosts on display, let's remember the truth: We never fear the darkness because the Light of Christ has overcome it. We embrace the virtues of God, celebrating faith in the power of God and courage in the face of all darkness.

Like the man who was freed from the legion of demons, let us fall at the feet of Jesus each day and say, "Lord, You are my strength, my protection, and my peace." And let us live as witnesses to the world so that no evil will stand against the love of Jesus Christ, the One who trampled down death by death and gave light to those in the tombs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Oxford Lions grateful for support of food drive

To the Editor:

The Oxford Lions Club recently held a food drive at a local grocery store. We would like to acknowledge and thank the many generous people who donated bags of food to our neighbors in need. Eight shopping cards were filled with food.

We were fortunate to have two students from

the Bay Path Leo Club giving up their day to help.

If you are interested in becoming an Oxford Lion, please contact

Laura Hoey at Oxfordmalionsclub@gmail.com.

MARK MARZEOTTI
OXFORD LIONS CLUB

Friends of the Oxford Free Public Library appreciate support of book sale

To the Editor:

A huge thank you to everyone who helped or attended the Friends of the Oxford Free Public Library October Fall Book/Bake Sale. It was a wonderful success!

Thanks to the hardworking setup crew, including members of the Oxford DPW, Oxford High School JrROTC, Boys Scouts, parents, and teens who lugged tables, bookcases, and hauled out the many boxes of books. It is because of the tireless efforts of the volunteers who unpack and organize the books, help during the sale, and come after the sale to sort and pack up boxes that the book sale is able to continue. We especially want to acknowledge the few but mighty crew of Oxford High School JrROTC who showed up to dismantle and move the tables and store the

boxes after the sale— we just could not have done it without you. Thank you!

The popular bake sale portion of the event was again a hit so thanks to the wonderful bakers who contributed their time and talent.

We are grateful to everyone who came to the sale to shop and support the Friends in their mission to help fund library programs. The book sales could not succeed without the many hands that make it happen and the support of the community. Thank you all!

Sincerely,

LEANNE JEZERSKI
SECRETARY
FRIENDS OF THE OXFORD FREE PUBLIC
LIBRARY

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The woman who was behind the man who was behind the exhibit: The Auburn Cyclone Football Team, Part 3

BY HELEN POIRIER
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In a previous article, the history of the Auburn Cyclone Semi-pro football team was highlighted, then part 2 was on Billy E. May, the coach/player/manager of the team. Now this article will focus on Mary Ellen White May, the woman behind the man.

Mary Ellen [White] May was married to Billy May, who was credited with forming in the Cyclones Semipro football team in Auburn in the 1930s, and youth hockey teams in Auburn later. Mary was born in Kentville, Nova Scotia Canada in 1904. Her parents were Charles D. and Ethel White. She had three sisters (Francis, Cornelia, and Emily) and five brothers (Charlie, Nathaniel, Harold, Mark, and Thomas), according to the 1921 census of Canada. Mary and her family emigrated from St. John, N.S. Canada on the ship C.P. RR. to the United States April 22, 1930, to Vanceboro, Maine. Her uncle, Dr. W.H. Rogers, sponsored the family. On Sept. 26, 1931, Mary petition for citizenship to the United States May 3, 1935, and the petition was witnessed by her sisters, Emily F. Rogers and Frances W. MacPherson. In August of that year, Mary was married to William [Billy] May whom she met at a football game. They were married for 62 years until Billy's death in 1997. They had three children together, William A. May, Jr., Susan I., and Charles D.

Before she was married, Mary graduated from the New England Baptist Hospital School of Nursing in Boston in 1926. After graduation she was a registered nurse in Boston area hospitals. She was part of the Auburn School system as a school nurse from 1931 – 1934. Her yearly reports to the town included updates for the dental clinic, ear clinic, administering the Schick test, developed in 1913, which is a skin test used to determine whether or not a person is susceptible to diphtheria, and summer round-up to examine incoming pre-school kids. In 1933 she reported on dental clinic, Philips Foundation & Red Cross donation for glasses, hot drinks at noontime in most elementary schools in the winter and hot lunches in the high school all year. There were eye and ear clinics, weight & measuring and a Chadwick Clinic for TB testing. In 1934, donations from the Fireman's organization and Auburn Teachers' Club aided in more eyeglasses for the children. The Christmas Seals sale helped with removals of tonsils and adenoids and sent 3 children to the Sterling Camp for a month. Lip-reading class for hard of hearing children was started and Chadwick clinic to re-examine & X-ray follow up. She was also credited as a pioneer in shaping the public-school nursing program in Auburn, Sutton, and Millbury. After her marriage she was a private duty nurse in the Worcester area.

Outside of nursing, Mary was active at the First Congregational Church for many years. She was also involved in civic activities in Auburn. When Mary and Billy eventually moved to California, Mary got interested in gardening, especially roses and vegetables. Mary is buried in Hillside Cemetery along with her husband, in-laws Oliver and Isabel and brother-in-law Samuel. As of Mary's death, she had sons Charles and William and daughter, Susan, who survived her as well as one grandson and two great-grandsons.

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

A financial roadmap for veterans entering civilian life

The transition from military to civilian life brings countless adjustments. It also marks a good time to review how you're taking charge of your financial future. Veteran Saves Week is Nov. 4-7 and an opportunity to focus on building financial confidence and creating a solid foundation for your new chapter.

Now in its second year, Veteran Saves Week centers around one core message: No matter where you are on your financial journey, small steps can lead to lasting change. Here are a few tips to help:

Understand the financial shift. If you've recently



FINANCIAL FOCUS
DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

re-entered civilian life, it's important to identify any gaps between your income and expenses. A key part of this gap often comes from the loss of military allowances, such as the Basic Allowance for Housing and Basic Allowance for Subsistence. You may also lose commissary and exchange privileges where groceries and goods were purchased tax-free.

Health benefits represent another shift. While you received health care through TRICARE on active duty, you might be eligible for TRICARE for Life and Veterans Administration benefits, but you may still need to supplement this coverage with a group health care plan from your employer or purchase it independently.

Build a budget. Getting a clear picture of your finances helps you make informed decisions. Look at your monthly income, expenses and savings to understand your starting point.

One strategy you may find useful is the 50/30/20 rule.

With this, you divide your monthly take-home pay into three parts: 50 percent for needs like housing, utilities, food and insurance, 30 percent for wants and 20 percent for savings and debt repayment.

Take essential financial steps. Your monthly budget should include building an emergency fund, paying down high-rate debt and saving for retirement. It may help to use budgeting apps that categorize expenses and identify areas where you can cut back when necessary.

Building an emergency fund becomes even more critical during transition. Aim for three to six months of cash savings to provide a safety net

for living expenses while you establish your civilian career.

Don't overlook the available retirement planning tools. Even if you will have a pension, you might consider putting money into an IRA, or a 401k if one is available to you through a new employer, or into stocks and bonds to keep building toward your long-term goals. It's also important to obtain a current Social Security statement since active-duty military pay FICA taxes.

Leverage available resources. There are transition support programs through the military and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, which also offer debt relief programs and financial counseling services.

Consider connecting with a financial advisor who understands the unique challenges veterans face during and after transition. They can help you create a strategy that maximizes your benefits and helps position you for long-term success.

Move forward with confidence. As Veteran Saves Week reminds us, small steps lead to lasting change. Your service has prepared you to overcome challenges – financial planning is just another mission you're equipped to complete successfully.

Should you sell or auction gold or silver?

At the time of writing today's column, silver is selling for over \$50 an ounce, while gold has sailed past the \$4,000 per ounce mark. You've probably seen television and newspaper ads telling you to trade your gold for cash. You may be asking yourself if you are better off selling your gold so it can be scrapped or if you should consign it with an auction house. The answer is: it depends.

If you have broken gold bracelets or damaged sterling silver serving pieces, it may be fine to sell them to a dealer who will scrap them. Whether you sell or auction the damaged and broken pieces, you will receive less than the scrap value. Pieces may need to be melted, and the buyer needs



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

to make a profit. Some choose to auction broken pieces as well.

There are many silver pieces that should not be scrapped. Having a complete set of sterling silver flatware or hollowware serving pieces will appeal to collectors or buyers who plan to use them, and these sets should be sold at auction. Some sterling items are

considered pieces of art and could command a premium. Georg Jensen, Tiffany, and patterns by famous makers like Gorham and Towle typically sell well above scrap prices. Antique pieces of sterling and coin silver by well-known silversmiths can also bring high prices. Coin silver is 90% sil-



ver (the same percentage as a U.S. silver coin) while sterling is 92.5% silver.

Many of the reasons silver should head to auction also apply to gold. Tiffany & Co., Harry Winston, Cartier, and Van Cleef & Arpels are some of the makers that command a premium. Scrap dealers may not factor in the value of gemstones when buying jewelry. The gemstones and design of

a piece can greatly increase its value. Gold comes in different purities with 10 karat being 42 percent pure, 14 karat 58.5 percent, and 18 karat being 75 percent pure. The purity will of course impact the value. Auctioning your gold will ensure it reaches a wide audience. Instead of selling to one person, people from across the country or even across the world can compete to buy your

items. Another plus is that the process is transparent. You can see exactly what your pieces sold for and won't be left wondering whether or not you were paid a fair amount for your valuables.

U.S. coins cannot legally be scrapped and melted. Some gold and silver coins may be worth just their value for the precious metals. Dimes, quarters, half dollars, and dollar coins from 1964 are made with 90 percent silver. However, there are many factors that can make a coin more valuable. The condition, the date, the mintmark (the letter that indicates the city where it was made), and different variations can turn a \$10 coin into a \$1,000 coin. I'd recommend having your coins checked before you accept their gold or silver value.

Knowing when to sell gold and silver can be a difficult decision, especially with fluctuating

uations in value. Given the current prices, many people are finding there's a silver lining when they go for the gold and auction their pieces.

We are always accepting gold and silver for our auctions. Our single-collector Civil War memorabilia auction will be online next month. We are still accepting consignments of paintings, statues, vintage comic books, baseball cards, and other valuable antiques and collectibles. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services info@centralmassauctions.com or 508-612-6111.

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Section 00 11 13 ADVERTISEMENT TO BID MGL c.149 Over \$150K

The **WEBSTER HOUSING AUTHORITY**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Masonry and Window Replacement - Phase 1 at State Aided Development: Golden Heights (689-1) in Webster, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **NAULT ARCHITECTS INC.**

The Project consists of but not limited to:
Replacement of the existing exterior brick veneer with a new cladding system and replacement of windows within the brick portions of the walls.

The work is estimated to cost **\$364,000.00.**

All bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by 10/31/2025 at 12:00PM EDT for filed sub-bids and by 11/05/2025 at 5:00PM EST for general bids.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at biddocs.com and received no later than the date and time specified.

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work, **General Building Construction**, and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime/General Contractor Update Statement.

General Bids will be received until **12 November 2025 at 2:00PM EST** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

Filed Sub-bids for the trades listed below will be received until **05 November 2025 at 2:00PM EST** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

Filed sub-bidders must be DCAMM certified for the trades listed below and bidders must include a current DCAMM Sub-

Bidder Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAMM Sub-Bidder's Update Statement.

TRADES

Masonry

General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates) and made payable to the **WEBSTER HOUSING AUTHORITY**. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under \$50,000.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at biddocs.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).

General bidders must agree to contract with minority and women business enterprises as certified by the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO). The combined participation benchmark reserved for such enterprises shall not be less than 13% of the final contract price including accepted alternates. **Request for waivers must be sent to EOHL (Chad.Howard@mass.gov) 5 calendar days prior to the General Bid date. NO WAIVERS WILL BE GRANTED AFTER THE GENERAL BIDS ARE OPENED.**

The Contractor and all subcontractors (collectively referred to as "the Contractor") agree to strive to achieve minority and women workforce participation. The Workforce Participation benchmark is set at 6.9% for women and 15.3% for minorities. The Workforce benchmark percentages are a **statutory** requirement under MGL c. 149 § 44A(2)(G).

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: Scheduled Date and Time: 10/30/2025 at 2:00PM EDT Address: 10 Golden Heights, Webster, MA 01570 Instructions: Meeting will start at the Community Building, and proceed to Building #3.

The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:

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Dudley rings in Halloween season with annual Spooktacular

DUDLEY — The Town of Dudley hosted its annual Spooktacular event on Oct. 23 helping get everyone into the holiday spirit as Halloween approached. Many guests took part in the annual parade from the Pearl L. Crawford Memorial Library which brought them to the Dudley Municipal Complex where games, activities, food, and music awaited. The evening was a delightful, family friendly affair that allowed everyone young and old to show off their costumes and prepare for Halloween.



A volunteer passes out bags of treats including hotdogs to waiting guests.



The Courtemanche family of Dudley brought a special animal friend with them to march in the Spooktacular parade.



A balloon artist begins a new creation for a waiting customer.



The Dudley Police Department passed out goodies during Spooktacular, including DARE program bags and candy.



Jason Bleau

Costumed guests young and old march to Dudley's municipal complex in the town's annual Spooktacular parade.



A young guest to Spooktacular shows off their adorable clown outfit.



Volunteers prep the snack of the day, smores, for guests as they arrive at Spooktacular.



Kids could grab a craft kit to decorate pumpkins or their treat buckets for Halloween.



Staff of the Pearl L. Crawford Memorial Library passed out books as treats hoping to encourage young guests to embrace the fun of reading.

Little Missionaries of Pope Francis commissioned at Saint Joseph Basilica

WEBSTER — On Monday, Oct. 6, Saint Joseph Basilica was filled with faith and joy as students at Saint Joseph School were formally commissioned as Little Missionaries of Pope Francis. The special prayer service marked a milestone in the life of the parish and school community, celebrating the continuation of Sister Jeanne Marie Akalski's Little Missionaries — Letters to Heaven Program.

In her welcoming remarks, Principal Beth Boudreau expressed heartfelt gratitude and joy at the opportunity to gather for such a meaningful occasion. She extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests in attendance: Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester; Most Reverend Franz-Peter Tebartz-van Elst, Delegate of the Dicastery for Evangelization and Catechesis, Vatican; Rev. Richard Polek, Pastor and Headmaster; Rev. Anthony Kazarnowicz; Rev. Janusz Stepniak; Dr. David Perda, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Worcester; and Mr. David Dziena, Publisher at Bayard Publishing and Adjunct Professor at Assumption University. Mrs. Boudreau reflected that what began as a simple classroom idea—a collection of heartfelt letters written by students—had blossomed into something extraordinary, uniting children, parishioners, and the broader Church in a mission of prayer and hope.

The service opened with the hymn “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love,” setting the tone for a celebration rooted in service and unity. Scripture readings and the Prayer of the Faithful – were delivered by fifth-grade students Julia Biela, Sophia Bengtson, and Cameron Blodgett, with the Gospel proclaimed by Rev. Richard Polek. Following the readings, Bishop McManus offered a moving reflection on the power of faith in action and the call for young people to bring the light of Christ into the world.

During the Commissioning Ceremony, Bishop McManus asked the students to promise to live with joy, kindness, and courage, carrying the love of Christ to all they meet. The children responded with conviction: “We will, with God’s help.”

Bishop Franz-Peter Tebartz-van Elst then offered a blessing over the Pope Francis Medals—symbols of missionary love and service—and presented the students with special medallions he had brought from Rome, blessed by Pope Leo, as a tangible reminder of their missionary calling. Together with Bishop McManus and Rev. Polek, he presented these sacred tokens to each of the newly commissioned Little Missionaries.

A special blessing followed for the newly appointed student officers:



Newly appointed fifth-grade student officers of Saint Joseph School's Little Missionaries Program stand proudly on the altar following their commissioning ceremony at Saint Joseph Basilica. (From left to right) Sophia Bengtson, Julian Gibbons, Persefoni Sgouritsas, Cecilia Coan, Ariel Corbin, Rylan Shemansky, Luke Zeglen, Julia Biela, and Mia Reed were recognized for their special leadership roles within the program as Most Reverend Franz-Peter Tebartz-van Elst, Delegate of the Dicastery for Evangelization and Catechesis (Vatican), Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester, and Rev. Richard Polek, Pastor and Headmaster of Saint Joseph School, look on with applause and blessing.

Guardian of the Mailbox: Sophia Bengtson
Readers of Intentions: Julian Gibbons & Persefoni Sgouritsas
Messenger of Hope: Cecilia Coan
Giver of Gratitude: Ariel Corbin
Keepers of the Flame: Rylan Shemansky, Luke Zeglen, Julia Biela, and Mia Reed
Coordinator of Compassion: Sr. Jeanne Marie Akalski, CSSF

In his prayer over the officers, Bishop McManus asked God to guide them in their roles of care, reverence, and unity. The celebration concluded with Presentation of Gifts of Gratitude to the special guests by fifth-grade student Julian Gibbons and the joyful hymn “Go Make a Difference,” reminding all present that the mission of faith begins with small acts of love.

The Little Missionaries of Pope Francis program began when Dr. David Perda, Superintendent of Diocesan Schools, invited Sr. Jeanne’s fourth-grade class to write letters to Pope Francis. Their heartfelt messages were hand-delivered to the Holy Father by Mr. David Dziena, Vice President of Bayard Publishing, who later visited Saint Joseph School to share photos of the experience and to

present the students with rosaries blessed by Pope Francis himself.

Since that time, the students have continued their prayerful outreach—sending get-well wishes, anniversary greetings, and prayers to the Holy Father, and now continuing their mission through their Letters to Heaven. A life-sized image of Pope Francis stands in their classrooms beside two boxes: one for parishioners’ prayer petitions and one for the students’ letters to Pope Francis in Heaven. Each week, these intentions are prayed over by the Little Missionaries as they live out the Pope’s call to be joyful witnesses of faith.

Parishioners and friends are warmly invited to join this ongoing mission by submitting their prayer petitions and letters to:

Little Missionaries with Big Hearts: Continuing Pope Francis’s Legacy
c/o Sr. Jeanne Marie Akalski
Saint Joseph School
47 Whitcomb St.
Webster, MA 01570

Your intentions will be lovingly prayed for by the students as they continue to share the love, joy, and compassion of Pope Francis in our community and beyond.

As the bishops, priests, and special guests departed the Basilica, they were greeted with radiant smiles and a joy-

ful “high five” line formed by the youngest members of Saint Joseph School—their PreK 3-year-old, PreK 4-year-old, and Kindergarten students—a perfect reminder that even the smallest hands can extend the greatest love.



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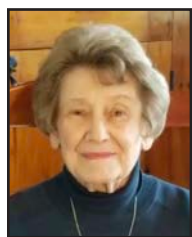
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OBITUARIES

Stephanie Lapierre, 85



Southbridge: Stephanie (Domijan) Lapierre, 85, of Southbridge, Massachusetts, passed away on Saturday, Oct. 11th, in the Rose Monahan Hospice Home in Worcester after a long illness.

Her husband of 59 years, Roger H. Lapierre, passed away in 2017. Her son, Michael A. Lapierre, passed away in 2015. She leaves her son, Kenneth J. Lapierre and his wife, Deborah, of Phoenix, AZ; her brother, Richard Domijan of Mechanicsburg, PA; her four grandchildren, Robert Lapierre and Nicholas Lapierre, both of Bowling Green, KY, Cheryl Lapierre and her longtime companion, Brock Lowery, of Paducah, KY, and Lindsay Breckenridge of Stoughton, MA; and her six great grandchildren, Cole Kubilis, Blake Breckenridge, Delylah Breckenridge, Jayla Lowery, Jaylee Lapierre and Leslie Lapierre. Stephanie was born and raised in Southbridge, the daughter of the late Stephen S. and Catherine M. (Liro) Domijan.

She was a proud graduate of Mary E. Wells High School where she excelled academically as a member of the National Honor Society, was active in various clubs, as well as having had a talent for playing tennis and musically as a pianist and organist.

Stephanie was the office manager of Yankee

Spirits in Sturbridge, MA for over 20 years, retiring many years ago. She previously worked as a bookkeeper for her uncle, Stephen Liro's, accounting office, as well as having worked at the American Optical in Southbridge.

Stephanie was very fond of animals of all kinds and had a special love for her cats. She was an avid golfer and enjoyed spending time at the Jacob Edward's Library in Southbridge. She enjoyed playing Cribbage and a good competitive game of Scrabble. She also enjoyed quilting and was a great cook. Stephanie also loved floral and vegetable gardening. She enjoyed many years with her family at their summer camp on Stiles Reservoir in Leicester.

Stephanie was a fiercely independent and strong woman whose family was of most importance. She loved her family reunions and had a deep connection and appreciation for her Polish heritage. She was loved by many and will be missed dearly.

Her funeral will be held on Saturday, Nov. 15th, from the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a Mass at 11:00am in St. Mary's Church of the St. John Paul II Parish, 263 Hamilton St., Southbridge. Burial will follow in St. Hedwig's Cemetery, Southbridge. A calling hour in the funeral home will be held on Saturday, Nov. 15th, from 9:30 to 10:30am, prior to the Mass.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Ralph S. Petersons, Jr.



NOKOMIS, FL—Ralph S. "Gumby" Peterson, Jr., 73, died Thursday, October 16, 2025 in Hartford Hospital with family at his side.

He leaves his companion of 28 years, Maureen E. (Smith) Forand; a daughter, Misty M. Peterson and her significant other Aaron Hall of North Grosvenordale, CT; a son, Zachary S. Peterson and his wife Judina of Henderson, NV; 2 brothers, Michael Peterson and his wife Maureen of Webster, MA and Morris Peterson and his significant other Tammy Tetreault of Venice, FL; a sister, Cathy Pepin and her significant other David Farrar of Oxford, MA; his former wife, Nancy (Labarge) Harris of Putnam, CT; a stepson, Glen D. Potter

of Las Vegas, NV; nephews and nieces.

He was born on June 1, 1952 in Lawrence, MA, the first of the four children of Ralph S. "Pete" Peterson, Sr. and Shirley A. (Sicard) Peterson and lived in Oxford, MA most of his life. He graduated from Oxford High School in 1970. He took up residence in Florida in 2017.

Mr. Peterson worked as a cement bagger at Sakrete Company in Oxford, MA for many years before retiring in 2012.

He enjoyed riding his motorcycle, playing horseshoes and pool, and snow skiing. He belonged to a bowling league at the Mohegan Bowl-A-Drome in Webster, MA and also played in a pitch league. He loved rock and blues music.

No services are planned. Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster, MA in directing the arrangements. www.websterfunerals.com

James E. Avery, Jr., 89



WEBSTER — James E. "Jim" Avery, Jr., 89, died Saturday, October 18, 2025 in Webster after a period of declining health.

He leaves his beloved wife of 65 years, Barbara M. (Niedzwiecki) Avery; a son, Steven J. Avery and his wife Doreen of Webster; 2 daughters, Susan E. Avery of Dudley and Janet L. Campbell of Southbridge; 4 grandchildren, Laura Hadley and her husband Christopher, Zachary Campbell and his wife Brittany, and Devon and Derek Avery; a brother, John Avery and his wife Angela of Ormond Beach, FL; a sister, Nancy Biernacki and her husband Raymond of Wells, ME; several nephews and nieces. His infant sister Joyce Avery died in 1944.

He was born on May 3, 1936 in Webster, a son of James E. Avery, Sr. and Stasia (Pekala) Avery and was a lifelong resident. He graduated from Saint Anne's Elementary School and studied at Worcester Vocational School to obtain his electrician's license.

He served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict and was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and of the Webster-Dudley American Legion Post #184.

Mr. Avery owned and operated James Electric for 40 years before retiring as president in 2007. He was the electrical inspector for the Town of Webster for 40 years.

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church where he was a collector. He was a life member of the Webster/Auburn Lodge of Elks #2118. He was the oldest living member of the TSKK.

For 31 years, Jim was a member and past chairman of the Bay Path Vocational School Committee. He recently served on the Housing Authority and also on the Webster Board of Health for many years. He was a past president of the former Exchange Club and belonged to the Chamber of Commerce.

His funeral will be held on Monday, November 3, from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, with a Mass at 11:00 in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 16 East Main Street. Burial, with military honors provided by the Webster-Dudley Veterans Council, will be held in Sacred Heart Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Sunday, November 2, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM in the funeral home. Donations in his name may be made to Sacred Heart of Jesus church, 18 East Main Street, Webster, MA 01570. www.websterfunerals.com

NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS AT THE DUDLEY SENIOR CENTER

November 6: the Dudley Senior Center will be celebrating November birthdays with cake and ice cream following the Tri Valley lunch.

November 12: Brown Bag Lunch at noon with a choice of turkey breast or chicken salad with cranberries. The cost is \$4 per person. Please RSVP with the sandwich selection and condiments by calling 508-949-8015 or sign up in the Dudley Senior Center.

November 13: Blood Pressure Clinic starting at 11 a.m. Please stop by and have

your blood pressure checked.

November 20: Memory Café from noon – 2 p.m. Fan favorite Franny Mik will provide entertainment.

Assorted sandwiches will be served with homemade chicken tortellini soup and brownie sundae. The

cost for this event is \$5 per person. Please RSVP by calling 508-949-8015 or sign up in the Dudley Senior Center.

November 26: Potluck Lunch at noon serving meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, peas, carrots and dessert. The cost for this

event is \$5 per person. Please RSVP by calling 508-949-8015 or sign up in the

Dudley Senior Center. Monthly Activities at Dudley Senior Center:

Tuesdays at 1 p.m. – Pitch League

Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. – The Dudley Senior Center Knitters

Monday and Thursday - Tri Valley lunches served

The Senior Center will be closed Tuesday, November 11 Veterans Day and Thursday, November 27

Thanksgiving Day.

OXFORD SENIOR CENTER

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

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

Email: seniorcenter@oxfordma.us

Web site: www.oxfordma.us
Facebook: Oxford, MA Senior Center

The Senior Center will be CLOSED on November 5th, 11th, 27th & 28th

Lunches are served on Tuesdays and Fridays @ 11:45 am. Meals are prepared by our in-house cook. Please call at least 48 hours in advance to reserve a lunch or come in and sign up. DINE IN for \$5.00 and TAKE OUT for \$6.00. (suggested donation)

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 Wednesday @ 10:15 am - Needleworkers (Knitting, Crocheting, Needlepoint)

Bring your favorite project and come join the group for conversation 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 – 12:00 pm Dominoes

Monthly Activities:

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

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 – 2:00pm. 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 @12:45pm– November movie "love the Connors"

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

Information Presentation:

Medicare Open Enrollment Presentation with Kaye of North Star Medicare Advisors on Thursday, November 6th @ 10:00AM

WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

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

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

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

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 a.m. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least three business days in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3 donation for 65 and up, and \$5 for 55- 64 is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, Nov. 4: Buttermilk

chicken, cranberry stuffing, roasted California vegetables, Lorna Doone cookies. Wednesday, Nov. 5: Bakes potatoes with chili, roasted broccoli, chocolate mousse. Thursday, Nov. 6: Breaded mac & cheese, stewed tomatoes, mixed vegetables, fresh fruit. Friday, Nov. 7: Soup du Jour and sandwiches with salads and desserts.

Need Transportation? Contact SCM Elderbus at 1-800-321-0243 at least two business days in advance to schedule transportation. Elderbus is available Mondays-Fridays 8:30 a.m.- 3 p.m.

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

Ready to enjoy some live music? Steve Lyon will be visiting the Senior Center on Thursday, November 6th at 5:45 PM!

We are now offering MOVIE MATINEES every Wednesday at 1:00 pm! Popcorn is provided, no registration is needed. November's movie lineup includes- "Purple heart" on 11/5, "1917" on 11/12, and "Suite Franchise" on 11/19.

The Friends of the Webster Senior Center want to invite you to come and celebrate our Veteran's with their Veteran's Day Celebration on Monday, November 10th from 1 pm to 2:30 pm! Our monthly Soup Social will be at 11:30 on this day, so make sure to come in and sign up for that as well!

Let's come together and celebrate Thanksgiving! The friends of the Webster Senior Center are hosting their Friendsgiving party on Friday, November 21st from 1 pm to 2:30 pm!

Chair Dancing Exercise classes with Forty Arroyo are the perfect workout for any fitness ability! The cost is a recommended \$3.00 donation per class. A new video class will be offered Thursday and Friday mornings, free of charge.

Knitting/Crochet group meets on Mondays from 10:00 am- 12:00 pm.

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

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

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

Mahjongg group meets every Friday at 1:00 pm. Beginners welcome!

We now have an official Bridge group! We will be meeting every Friday from 10 am to 12 pm in the upstairs activity room. All that are interested are welcome to join!

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

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



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Worcester County Juvenile Court to host National Adoption Day celebration

WORCESTER —The Worcester County Juvenile Court will host its annual National Adoption Day celebration on

Friday, Nov. 21 from 8:30-10:30 a.m., finalizing adoptions for 26 children joining 20 families from across Worcester County.

Five judges will preside over adoptions in separate courtrooms throughout the morning. The event is supported by community partners and friends of the court who will provide food, activities, gifts, professional photos, and more to help families mark this milestone occasion.

Festivities will include breakfast, arts and crafts, visits from local sports mascots, princess and superhero characters, and service and comfort dogs, creating a joyful and memorable experience for participants.

National Adoption Day is observed nationwide each November on the Friday before Thanksgiving to raise awareness of the thousands of children in foster care who are waiting for permanent, loving

families. In Worcester County alone, approximately 2,000 children are currently in child protective custody awaiting permanency — and more than 9,000 statewide. Since its inception in 2000, National Adoption Day has celebrated the adoptions of more than 85,000 children across the United States.

Please use the main/front entrance and be prepared to go through security screening. Media must check in at the CASA

Project Worcester County table, which will be prominently marked with signage and media badges.

The Worcester County Juvenile Court, under the direction of First Justice Mary Beth Keating, currently holds sessions in four locations: Worcester, Fitchburg, Milford, and Dudley. It is the mission of the Massachusetts Juvenile Court to protect children from abuse and neglect and promote opportunities for children to reside in safe, stable, permanent family environments whenever possible, to strengthen families when their children are in need of services, to

rehabilitate juveniles, to protect the public from delinquent and criminal activity while holding offenders accountable and addressing the harm suffered by the community and the victim, and to decide all cases fairly and impartially with dedication, integrity, and professionalism.

CASA Project Worcester County, a partner in National Adoption Day efforts, is a nonprofit organization appointed by

Juvenile Court judges to the most complex cases. CASA's mission is to advocate for the best interests of abused,

neglected, and vulnerable children, amplify their voices in court, and support them on their paths toward a permanent home. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) are carefully screened and trained community volunteers. CASA

Project Worcester County is a member of the National CASA Association and the oldest and largest of six programs of its kind in the state.

Fight the winter blues with double amaryllis



Courtesy — Longfield-Gardens.com

The artistic blooms of Double Aphrodite amaryllis have ruffled white petals with a narrow red edge and lime green center.

Add unique flare to this winter’s indoor garden and décor with double amaryllis. The several layers of colorful petals are sure to make a statement wherever they are displayed.

Start the amaryllis season with early blooming varieties grown in the southern hemisphere. Double Alaska features frilly, fully double white flowers with a lime green center. Order bulbs early, store them in a cool, dry, dark location and plant these early blooming bulbs by Nov. 1 if you want flowers for the holiday.

Keep the color coming throughout the winter by growing a variety of other double amaryllis grown in the Northern hemisphere that begin blooming in January. Plant a few bulbs every three weeks to extend your enjoyment for several months.

Watch the colors change on Double Giant Amadeus amaryllis. The petals start as mostly

white with a fine red outline. As the flowers mature, the color intensifies to a blushing pink, coral and salmon.

Grow Double Sweet Nymph (longfield-gardens.com) for a bit of a romantic charm. The layers of creamy white petals are covered with coral pink stripes.

If you like the traditional red amaryllis, you will enjoy the giant red flowers of Double King. Each bulb produces three stems with four or more blooms that open at different times to extend your enjoyment.

The candy cane striped narrow petals of Double Doublet are sure to catch your attention. Each flower is a bit different, adding to its uniqueness. Watch as the three stems grow, producing as many as a dozen flowers from each bulb.

Enjoy weeks of artistic blooms when you grow Double Aphrodite amaryllis. The ruffled white petals have a narrow red edge and lime green center. The fine red brushstrokes that extend from the petal tips add to this amaryllis’s charm.

Plant your amaryllis bulbs in a quality potting mix with the

GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

Now relax and wait a month or more for your amaryllis bulb to wake up and start growing. Water more often once sprouts appear. Enjoy the transformation as the bulb turns into a flowering plant over the next few weeks.

Growing amaryllis indoors will keep you gardening all year long, providing mood-boosting benefits and stress relief. Plus, the colorful blossoms are sure to brighten your winter days.

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

top half above the soil surface. Grow a single bulb in a pot that is seven to eight inches deep and five to six inches across with drainage holes. Or group several bulbs together in a larger container. Water the potting mix thoroughly and place the container in a cool sunny location. Continue to water thoroughly but only often enough to keep the soil barely moist.

Add a bit of elegance and ease of care by going soilless. Place several inches of pebbles in the bottom of a glass vase or watertight container. Cover the pebbles with water. Set the bulb on top of the pebbles, adding more stones around the bulb to hold it in place. Leave the top one third of the bulb exposed. Add water as needed to maintain the water level just below the bulb.

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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.WO25P2305EACITATION
ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Zachary G Gianaris
Also known as: Zachary Gianarise
Date of Death: 04/06/2025

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Zachary J Gianaris of Webster MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Zachary J Gianaris of Webster MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/04/2025.**

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: October 07, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 31, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester. MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WQ18P0615EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
Estate of:
Robert George Edwards
Also known as: Bob Edwards
Date of Death: 07/10/2017

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by **Sandra J. Edwards** of requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order that: **Sandra J. Edwards** of be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

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 11/18/2025.**

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.

The estate is being adminstered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration

from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 17, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 31, 2025

TOWN OF DUDLEY
PUBLIC HEARING
The Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, November 17, 2025 at 6:35pm at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA in Room 321A. The Purpose of this Hearing: To Act on the Application for a Transfer of On Premise All Alcohol License and Change of Manager from HW Restaurant, Inc. d/b/a Yummys Chinese Restaurant to JXLW Associates, Inc. d/b/a Yummys Chinese Restaurant located at 398 West Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571
New Manager: Jason Wu.
Anyone wishing to be heard on this matter should appear at the date and time specified or submit their concerns in writing.
Jana Deschenes, Chair
October 31, 2025

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket No.25 SM 003178
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
Alan Abbott
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):
Pingora Loan Servicing, LLC
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Oxford, numbered 7 Tower Hill Road, given by Alan Abbott to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for E Mortgage Management, LLC D/B/A EMM Financial, its successors and assigns, dated May 1, 2019, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 60353, Page 227, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 12/8//2025 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 10/23/2025.
Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
October 31, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No.WO25P3645EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Paul A. Temple
Date of Death: 09/09/2025

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative**has been filed by **Wendi R. Bernal of Oxford 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: **Wendi R. Bernal of Oxford 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 appear-

ance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/25/2025.**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 20, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 314, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P3616EA
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
Estate Of: **CAROLYN ANN SMITH**
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner
CHRISTINE MARRIER of DUDLEY MA
CHRISTINE MARRIER of DUDLEY MA has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
October 31, 2025

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket 25 SM 003154
ORDER OF NOTICE
To:
Daniel Mitchell AKA Daniel S. Mitchell
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):
M&T Bank,
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Dudley, numbered 69 West Main Street, given by DANIEL MITCHELL to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS NOMINEE FOR ENVOY MORTGAGE, LTD, dated May 17, 2017, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 57130, Page 85, and now held by plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.
If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before December 1, 2025, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-

compliance with the Act.
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of this Court on October 16, 2025.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
25-000447
October 31, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. W025P3412GD
NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor
In the interests of
Kobe Omari Titus of Websterr, MA Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed by on 10/01/2025 by Melinda A Titus of Webster, MA will be held **11/04/2025 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located **Worcester Probate & Family Court**
2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.
3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.
4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.
5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

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

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

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

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

THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.
Date: October 1, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
October 31, 2025

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From setback to strength: A Bay Path LPN's journey of resilience and redemption



CHARLTON — For Jamal Kimani, nursing isn't just a career—it's a calling built on perseverance, purpose, and personal transformation.

Today, Kimani is a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) with hands-on experience in complex clinical care and a future that points toward advanced practice nursing. But his journey to this point was anything but easy.

“Failing nursing school the first time was one of the most humbling and defining moments of my life,” Kimani reflected. “It tested not only my academic ability but also my resilience and sense of purpose.”

Instead of allowing that setback to define him, Jamal chose to rise. He returned to nursing school with renewed focus and determination, ultimately earning his Certificate in Practical Nursing from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy (Class of 2024) and passing the NCLEX-PN on his first attempt—an achievement he proudly calls his redemption.

While at Bay Path, Jamal

deepened his professional development by earning certifications in Mental Health First Aid, Stop the Bleed, and Dementia Care, demonstrating his commitment to providing holistic, compassionate care.

Professional growth and
compassionate care

Since becoming licensed, Kimani has gained invaluable experience working at both Lutheran Rehabilitation and Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, where he honed his expertise in Wound VAC therapy, G-tube management, tracheostomy care, and ostomy support.

He continues to strengthen his clinical foundation through ongoing education, maintaining his HCP/BLS provider CPR certification and completing IV Therapy training. These achievements reflect his dedication to lifelong learning and to providing safe, skilled, and empathetic patient care.

A legacy of inspiration and mentorship

Behind Kimani's journey stands a profound source of inspiration—his mother, Dr. Jacque Kimani, DNP, MSN.

APRN, PMHNP-BC, a
Psychiatric Doctor of Nursing
Practice.

“As a psychiatric DNP and as Jamal’s mother, watching his growth has been one of the greatest joys of my life,” Dr. Kimani shared. “He fell, got back up, and transformed that setback into strength. He’s becoming not just a skilled nurse, but a compassionate leader whose purpose is rooted in empathy and perseverance.”

Remarkably, the professional journeys of mother and son share a meaningful connection through one mentor—Dr. Gethelaine Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed., RN, CRRN. Dr. Bolandrina taught Dr. Jacque Kimani during her practical nursing studies at Massachusetts Bay Community College, and years later, served as Academy Director at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, guiding Jamal through his own nursing education.

Reflecting on this rare generational link, Dr. Kimani expressed her gratitude: "You've done an amazing job! I am so glad my son was

able to learn nursing from you. You've made a great impact in the nursing field as your former students have relocated all around the country. Please let Jamal and I know when your retirement party is—we would love to come and honor you, Professor."

Looking ahead

Now, Jamal is preparing to take the next step in his academic and professional journey—enrolling in the RN program at Quinsigamond Community College this spring, with his long-term goal of earning his own Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree.

"I've learned that nursing isn't just about medical skill—it's about empathy, consistency, and the drive to keep improving no matter how far you've come," Jamal said.

From personal adversity to professional achievement, Jamal Kimani's story serves as a powerful reminder that failure is not the end—it's often the beginning of something greater.

Sheriff's Organic Farm continues long legacy of feeding Worcester County

WEST BOYLSTON — More than a decade ago, a newly elected Sheriff in Worcester County aimed to revive a program at the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction. That program not only honored the rich farming history of Massachusetts but also focused on modern methods of rehabilitating inmate populations.

Today, Sheriff Lew Evangelidis is proud of the program his staff has diligently worked to revive. The Worcester County Sheriff's Office Inmate Run Organic Farm program is thriving, and those in need throughout Worcester County have benefited from the program for years.

As part of the House of Corrections' Work Release Program, qualified inmates are permitted to tend to the grounds of the facility, including the various farming fields. The produce harvested by inmate work crews benefits

numerous organizations, such as local food banks, senior centers, soup kitchens, veteran groups, and other charitable organizations in Worcester County.

In addition to their contribution to the community, inmates benefit by gaining valuable work experience, learning agricultural skills, and having the opportunity to participate in meaningful daily activities that promote responsibility and discipline. Additionally, the harvested food is also provided to the inmate population within the facility.

"We are fortunate to have the land and the resources to support the Organic Farm program," said Evangelidis. "We have put in a lot of effort to develop this program to its current state. While we are always subject to the challenges posed by Mother Nature, we have addressed the obstacles to optimize the work of the farm team and the inmates in the Work Release program. Through this

work, inmates gain job skills, confidence, and the dignity that comes from engaging in a full day's work for the benefit of others."

Inmates eligible to join the work-release program are classified as low-risk and non-violent. Those who qualify and opt to participate earn "good time" credits each month for their positive behavior and active involvement in programming. The time commitment varies depending on the workload and time of year, but typically, inmates work between 10 to 25 hours a week.

On the 18 acres of actively farmed land, zucchini, summer squash, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, tomatoes, cabbage, corn, watermelon, and pumpkins were bountiful through the first frost in October. It was estimated that approximately 35,000 pounds of fresh organic produce were harvested and distributed to community partners this year.

Since taking office in 2011,

Evangelidis has remained committed to developing the Organic Farm and being dedicated to the communi-

ties he represents. After multiple expansions of the farm under Evangelidis' leadership, the Worcester County

Jail boasts the largest organic farm on a correctional facility in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



Sheriff Evangelidis and WCSO Lt. Travaglio pose with a mid-summer harvest of fresh organic produce.

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Friday's Child





Kamren
Age 8
Registration #9052

Kamren is a resilient and fun-loving boy with a bright, inquisitive nature. He has a wonderful ability to advocate for himself and share his needs, which speaks to his strength and self-awareness. Affectionate and engaging, Kamren's genuine happiness and warmth make him a joy to be around. He might even describe himself as "super fun and always ready to play!"

Kamren loves spending time outside, especially swinging and playing active games with others. He also enjoys building with Legos and exploring activities that engage his senses, such as sand, water, and playdough. These experiences allow him to be creative and adventurous in his own way.

When it comes to food, Kamren's favorites include waffles, pasta, and ice cream—and he'll never turn down a Sprite!

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22660622673>

Can I Adopt?

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

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



DUDLEY
continued from page A1

the blame for the contamination, the two entities have agreed to split the remaining cost evenly with each party paying an estimated \$8.22 million towards the project.

While that was surely good news for the town, the final article of the night, which also involved PFAS funding, was less successful. That article sought to borrow \$222,615 for the ongoing mitigation of PFAS in the Eagle Drive/Fairview Avenue neighborhood. While the waterline extension may be the final solution, the town must continue its mandated obligation to maintain remediation efforts, including testing of the town's landfill, upkeep, and inspections related to the Point of Entry Treatment

(POET) systems installed in impacted houses. This is not the first time Dudley has struggled to earn voter support for this funding as they needed several meetings dating back to last October's fall town meeting to fund mitigation and remediation for 2025 and risked legal ramifications and fines as a result. This latest vote puts the town in another bind as to how to proceed with the continued mitigation costs and meet their obligations.

Two other articles failed over the course of the night, one that would have changed the name of the town's executive board. Voters were asked whether they would like to see the Board of Selectmen changed to a Select Board. The shift to more gender-neutral monikers for town boards has gained support nationwide

with several local communities making the change in recent years. However, when Dudley voters had their say they decided to keep the "Board of Selectmen" name for the foreseeable future.

Another article that failed was to support the payment of unpaid bills, all of which would have been funded through water and sewer retained earnings and from free cash.

The rest of the warrant earned enough support to pass including funding cyclical inspections and revaluation services, deposits to the stabilization fund, authorizing the Board of Selectmen as the authority regarding converting wine and malt beverage licenses to include on-site consumption, and a bylaw change preventing discharge onto town highways.



Courtesy

Religious Education kids had fun playing games, making crafts, and eating snacks on Oct. 24 at the "All Treats and no Tricks" gathering at Saint Louis Church.

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Featured Listing
DUDLEY - 13 OXFORD AVE

2 -FAMILY offers 2,354 SF of living area! 2 Large Apartments, 5 Spacious Rms, 2 BRs, 1 Bath each. Beautiful grand front entry foyer with the charm of yesteryear double French doors & other unique features. Plenty of Natural light that flows into these apartments! 2nd flr apt has a private enclosed rear entry with it's own outside covered porch. Updates were done to electric & roof to accommodate Solar Panels. Property was family occupied \$399,900.

Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island PANORAMIC VIEWS!

ON DEPOSIT

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

Snug Harbor Villa! WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT

WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT LIVING AT IT'S FINEST!
THE VILLA'S at SNUG HARBOR! ** END UNIT** IS TRULY A RARE FIND! ONE of ONLY 6 UNITS > Custom Built THIS 4000+/- SF w/Special Features & Upgrades. Offers 4 BRs - 3 are Primary BR Suites w/private baths, 4-1/2 Baths Total!! The Outstanding direct lakefront location provides exceptional Southern panoramic views across Middle Pond, a boat dock, & full recreation activities - whatever Floats Your Boat :-)! Perfect setup for entertaining family, friends & guests! It's more than a home - it's a Life Style! NEW PRICE \$1,050,000

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

WATERFORD CT - 20 AVERY LN.

Sorry, Sold!

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

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT LISTING! KILLDEER RD

ON DEPOSIT

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

Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!

ON DEPOSIT

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

Webster Lake - 53 Colonial Rd

Sorry, Sold!

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

Webster Lake Waterfront 8 Long Island

Sorry, Sold!

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



BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Major General Salem Towne Lodge in Southbridge is kicking off its Annual Community Outreach Service Projects.

This year's projects so far are a food drive to help support the Southbridge Food Share and the annual community Trunk or Treat for the children in the community. The Southbridge Food Share is located at 446 Hamilton St. in Southbridge, and has been around for many years. It serves Southbridge, Sturbridge, Holland, Wales, Brimfield, and Charlton. Times have been very hard for many people in this community and keeping children and families fed has been the top priority for this local food share.

Major General Salem Towne Masonic Lodge will be holding a food drive at BIG BUNNY MARKET, located at 942 Main St., Southbridge, on Saturday, Nov. 1 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. In addition to food donations, they accept personal items such as toothpaste, deodorant, etc. Last year we were able to collect two pickup trucks full of food thanks to the generosity of the community. The Master Masons challenge the community to surpass last year's generosity and would like to donate 3 pickup trucks full of food if possible. A famous known Master Mason, Benjamin Franklin, once asked "Is There Greatness in You" if so please come out and support this food drive to support the community.

Also, we will be having our annual Trunk or Treat at the Major General Salem Towne Masonic Lodge parking lot this same day located at 339 Ashland Ave. in Southbridge from 2-4 p.m. Children and adults alike dress up in their costumes to retrieve candy and treats from rows of cars all decorated for Halloween in the parking lot of the Major General Salem Towne Lodge in Southbridge. Come experience the excitement of the kids running to each vehicle and the passing cars beeping their horns as they drive by. Many lodge members and volunteers offer their time and resources to put on this event for the kids in the surrounding communities. So come one comes all to this event sponsored by the Freemasons of Southbridge. If you would like additional information about Freemasonry, go to www.massfreemasonry.org and read about this great fraternity and find a lodge nearest you.

Courtesy

Last year's food donation from the community, left to right Bro. Eric Willard, Bro. Clay Tull, center with arms spread Bro. Larry Burbridge, Bro. Will Proper and Kodie Tull, who is a volunteer and member of the Worcester Chapter of DeMolay. We Master Masons hope to fill three pickup trucks this year for the food drive.



Children walking from car to car to collect the candy and see all the cars decorated and adults handing out candy in their Halloween costumes.

Webster Middle School football notches win over Gardner



WEBSTER — Last Thursday, the Webster Middle School football team had a dominating 49-26 win over Gardner middle school. Webster started off strong, scoring two rushing touchdowns in the first few minutes of the game and continuously marching the ball down the field. Defense held their ground and kept Gardner to minimal points as both teams continued fighting hard for the advantage. Webster scored a couple more touchdowns before the half, creating a comfortable lead as Gardner trailed. In the second half, success continued for the wildcats as they scored

2 more touchdowns. Gardner fought back, scoring two more touchdowns to finish out the game and make a final score of 49-26, Webster over Gardner. Webster has now advanced to 5-1 on the season with one more game next Thursday the 30th.

The Webster Middle School football team would like to recognize all of our players, supporting families, and school staff that made this winning season possible below, as they wouldn't have had such success this year without them. All contributions, communications, and support from the community and school systems allowed for us to be successful both in the classroom and on the field and for that we are truly grateful.

Our players include Chase Adams, Joshua Akil, Tyler

Bernier, Jack Buksar, Jaden Carlino, Ryder Chevalier, Hunter Claypool, Joshua Cruz Jr., Raphael Dasilva, Joshua Davis, Steven Doucette, Zander Doucette, Andrew Farr, Nicholas Gransitis, Abel Hedge, Andreas Langlois, Kyle Ludwig, Brock Mellen, Josiah Montanez, Levi Note, Connor Opotka, AJ Pereira, Jamaine Rodriguez, Bryson Sutton, Wesley Vega, Colton Walker, Deven Worth, and Joao Ferreira.

A big thank you to everyone who made this season a success:

WMS and BHS staff and administration, WMS and BHS custodial staff, WMS front office staff, WMS nurses, AA transportation bus services, Parents/guardians/caretakers, BJS athletic director, BHS football staff and gridiron club, and the Ludwig family, Coach Nasis, Coach Stawiecki, and Coach Bsoumai.

Thank you all for all of your care and support this season. We couldn't have done it without you!"

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