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Friday, October 30, 2026

Students at Whitinsville Christian School nationally recognized by College Board



Pictured left to right: Mya Duffy, Ian Finch, Hannah Park, Enson Enoch, Demetri Boormeester, Ruth Stenbuck, Nathanael Vos, Mollaigh Flannery, Michael Vos, and Christine Lee.

WHITINSVILLE — Whitinsville Christian School is proud to celebrate students who earned academic honors through the College Board National Recognition Program, available on bigfuture.org. This year, ten WCHS students were among the more than 300,000 recipients nationwide — the highest participation in the program’s history. The College Board

National Recognition Program consists of the following official aca-

Turn To **WCS** page **A8**

Turn To **CUTTING** page **A8**

Scarecrows take over Douglas Common

BY LYNN PARESKY
DOUGLAS COMMON
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

DOUGLAS — A favorite free Fall activity for the whole family includes a visit to the Douglas Common to view the 43 fabulous scarecrows on display as part of the Third Annual Scarecrow Contest put on by the Douglas Common Preservation Society, Inc.

Contest participants created a diverse selection of creative and original scarecrows which were put up over Columbus Day Weekend and will remain on display until November 1st for the community to come out to enjoy. Take a walk around the Common and take a close look at all the details involved in making these scarecrows, enjoy a piece of candy offered by Spooky Spaulding who sits on the bench throughout the display period, and pick your favorites. Some scarecrows offer extra lights for evening appeal, so make sure you stop by a second time for viewing the display. We think you will agree that we have a very talented group of people participating in the Contest!

Awards, including ribbons and Amazon Gift Certificates ranging in value from a high of \$250 for first place down to \$100 for third place, will be handed out at an awards ceremony on Saturday,



Oct. 31, at 1 p.m. after a panel of nine reputable and impartial judges make their selection of the Top 3 Favorite Scarecrows. It’s going to be a tough decision for them.

Contest Winners will be announced on our Douglas Common Preservation Society, Inc. Facebook page, along with photos of the winning scarecrows and photos of all the other scarecrows entered in the Contest, so Follow us so you won’t miss anything about this and all our other events and activities.

Our Third Annual Scarecrow Contest was

made possible by the support of our following generous sponsors – Gold: Ben’s Container & Rubbish, FJ Cunningham Plastering & Renovations, GBI, One By One (4 Imprint), and UniBank; Silver: Bob Clark’s Doggie Day Care & Dog Training, East Douglas Insurance and Jared’s Auto, Inc.; Bronze: Graffiti Works, Gregory’s Restaurant & Pizzeria, In-Gear, McGoldrick Property Services, LLC and the Sokol Club.

The Douglas Common Preservation Society, Inc.

Turn To **SCARECROWS** page **A9**



The Douglas Pickleball Club’s Managing Board: Donna Geer, Kathy Landers, Judy Russell, Pam Schwartz, and Jim Ducharme. Missing: Dick Skinner.

Douglas Pickleball Club enjoys newly resurfaced courts

DOUGLAS — The Douglas Pickleball Club is enjoying newly resurfaced outdoor courts at the Town Municipal Center, thanks to the Town of Douglas. The improvements, completed over the summer, provide residents with an upgraded space to enjoy basketball and pickleball.

Established in 2022, the Douglas Pickleball Club has grown to more than 100 members. The Club offers pickleball sessions four days a week, welcoming players of all skill levels, from beginners to experienced competitors. During the winter months and on rainy days, play

moves indoors to the municipal Gym, allowing members to enjoy the sport year-round.

Beyond exercise and friendly competition, the Club offers a great opportunity to meet new people, build friendships, and connect with the local community. Experienced players are happy to help newcomers learn the game, creating a welcoming atmosphere where everyone can feel comfortable participating.

All Douglas residents aged 18 and older are welcome to join at any time! Whether you are new to pickleball or an experienced player, the Club

offers a fun way to stay active, meet neighbors, and enjoy this growing sport.

Morning sessions are held Mondays and Wednesdays from 8–10 a.m. and 10 a.m.–noon. Evening sessions take place Thursdays and Sundays, beginning at 5 p.m. The courts are located at the Town Municipal Center on Depot Street in Douglas. Equipment is available to borrow, so no initial investment is necessary.

For more information about the Douglas Pickleball Club and how to get involved, email douglasmapickleballclub@gmail.com.

PET of the WEEK





BAYPATH

Humane Society of Hopkinton

Meet Asiago!

Asiago is an adorable, sweet girl who is ready to trade shelter life for a cozy New England home of her very own! She's friendly with people, does well with other dogs, and has a really nice energy level—happy to get out and enjoy some sun, but also ready to settle in and enjoy the comforts of home. We can already picture her joining her family for walks on crisp fall days and then curling up somewhere warm and cozy afterward. Asiago can be a little nervous with some handling and appreciates people who will give her a little space until she is comfortable. Because of this, she's looking for a home with adults or teens who can give her the patience she deserves. Sweet, beautiful, and just the right amount of cheesy. Asiago is ready to find her people and settle into her happily ever after. Come meet this special girl—you may just fall in love!

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Santa coming to Holiday lighting celebration at Douglas Common

BY BONNIE LEPAGE

DOUGLAS COMMON PRESERVATION SOCIETY

DOUGLAS — anta Claus is coming to Town and will be at the Douglas Common Preservation Society's Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration held at the Douglas Common on Saturday, Nov. 28, from 4 to 6 p.m. This year's earlier start time for this free annual event is in response to feedback received from the community, making it easier for families with little ones to come and meet, spend time and be photographed with Santa.

Festivities begin at 4 p.m. with the spectacular lighting of the trees at the Common, as well as the beautifully lit tree in the gazebo, followed by Santa's exciting arrival via fire truck — all of which will provide ample photo opportunities with Santa and the reindeer herd. The lights and decorations will be fantastic and sure to put you and your family in the holiday mood. Holiday music will be provided this year by a DJ for the entire event and children's involvement, as well as adults, will be encouraged. During the Celebration hot chocolate and baked goodies will be served in the warmth of the meeting room of the First Congregational Church across the street from the Common.

This free festive Community event is made possible thanks to the generous donations from our major sponsors, UniBank, Bright Factor and Kearns Collision Repair, along with donations from individual and business contributors throughout the year.

There is plenty of parking for this event. For your convenience, a shuttle bus will be available from 3:30-6:30 p.m. from the parking lot at the Highway Department, or parking is available behind the VFW on Route 16 — just a short walk to the Common. Handicapped parking is available in the Church Parking lot for those with handicapped plates or decals or on one side of Church and NW

Main Streets.

The Douglas Common Preservation Society, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed to preserve, maintain, rejuvenate, improve and beautify the Town-owned Douglas Common, and its volunteers work year-round to accomplish its mission. All officers and directors of the Society are volunteers who receive no compensation, so the Society relies on donations from the community, both individuals and businesses, for funding all of its projects. Each year sponsors are recognized by a banner placed at the Common. Memorial Donations will also be recognized on the Recognition Banner with a memorial message.

If you would like to support our organization and help with our activities at the Common, submit your tax-deductible donation to Douglas Common Preservation Society Inc., 76 NW Main Street, Douglas, MA 01516 or via Venmo @Kathleen-Sugrue-Richards. If your donation is received by November 30th as part of our Fall Donation Drive and Thank You Drawings, your name will be entered (15 entries for each \$25 donated) into your choice of drawings for three fantastic prizes, including \$750 of "Scratch Tickets, a one-night stay at the Williams Inn, Williamstown (Berkshires) and a one-night stay at Bayside Resort Hotel, W. Yarmouth (Cape Cod). Donations are tax deductible, and 100% of your donation will be used to benefit the Common.

Please follow the activities and events of the

Douglas Common Preservation Society, Inc. on our Facebook page. Together we can make our Common a source of pride and a location where community can come together to celebrate.



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\$636,368, 89 Elm St, Naf Cash LLC, to Howard, Nicholas, and Murphy, Kelley.

\$225,000, 288 Lincoln St, Jacobs, Michael R, and Jacobs, Catherine L, to Francisco, Patricia S, and Lheureux, Maryanne.

\$210,000, 664 Rathbun St, Phelan, Richard, and Phelan, Elaine, to Berkshire Prop Buyers LLC.

DOUGLAS

None

NORTHBRIDGE

\$11,500,000, 447 Hill St, Blupoint Healthcare Rlty, to 447 Hill Realty LLC.

\$490,000, 1282 Quaker St, Davis, Susan A, and Kuras, Mark F, to Lembo, Robert.

\$420,000, 39 Johnson Ave #1, Greasley, Jacob, and Greasley, Michael, to Massa, Amber L.

\$415,000, 48 Arthur Dr #48, Ducharme, Danielle, to Velez, Katelyn, and Velez, Jovan.

UXBRIDGE

\$2,200,000, 11 S Main St, Bay State Inv Fund LLC, to A And M Re Holding LLC.

\$720,000, 133 West St, Kavanaugh, Donna L, to Colburn, Scott, and Colburn, Karen.

\$701,783, 46 Capron St, Naf Cash LLC, to Ayer, Philip Donald, and Ayer, Geogiana.

\$675,000, 42 Brookfield Rd #A, Stevens, Cindy A, and Stevens, Jessica, to Kral, Derek, and Kral, Ingrid Marins M.

\$653,695, 211-D Crownshield Ave #19-D, Tmd Re Hldg Uxbridge LLC, to Gemmill, Brian, and Gemmill, Melissa.

\$625,000, 42 S Main St, Trpodi, Krista Marie, to Baptista, Deonente.

\$610,000, 3 Pudding St, Mcsweeney, Richard T, and Mcsweeney, Lee Ann, to Gut, Philippe.

\$545,000, 89 Rogerson Xing #17, Arroya, Jose J, to Mcsweeney, Lee Ann, and Mcsweeney, Richard.

\$542,000, 64 Homeward Ave #2, Homes LLC, to Zara Steina Ret, and Piper, Brendon.

\$359,000, 1 Strathmore Shire Dr #A, Kral, Derek, and Marinho, Ingrid, to Baio, Brenda.

\$265,091, 45 Upton Rd, Doherty, Martha E, to Siemaszko, Michael, and Siemaszko, Erica.

\$263,550, 26 Mendon St, Edward Swiderski Dds Pc, to Acampo Clinical Hldg LLC.

\$150,000, 71 Elmwood Ave, Lackey Dam Properties Inc, to Sieber, Margaret S.

\$126,875, 71 Elmwood Ave, Jrhk LLC, to Lackey Dam Properties Inc.

CLUES ACROSS

1. El Dorado High School

5. A sculpture representing a human or animal

11. A type of return

14. Tie the knot again

15. Washington city

18. Hairlike structures

19. Mark used over a vowel

21. Explosive

23. Popular 500 car race

24. Pile up

28. Currency

29. Commercial

30. A minute amount (Scottish)

32. Mass of fish eggs

33. Baseball stat

35. Licensed accountant

36. Japanese classical theater

39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two

41. Blood group

42. Assist in wrongdoing

44. Language of Cameroon

46. Grayish-white

47. A woolen cap of Scottish origin

49. Microorganism

52. Strong social customs

56. Calm and dependable

58. Congressman

60. Force

62. As a result of this document

63. A main branch of Islam

CLUES DOWN

1. Make a mistake

2. American DJ Rick

3. Fictional Asimov planet

4. Coughed out

5. Singing to one's lover

6. Scotland's longest river

7. One of the six noble gases

8. Body art

9. Two-toed sloth

10. Electronic counter-countermeasures

12. A foolish person

13. Of the wind

16. Mansion

17. Sound

20. English river

22. Business symbol

25. Exclamation of surprise

26. Pouch

27. Individually

29. Satisfaction

31. The bill in a restaurant

34. Japanese delicacy

36. Port in southern Japan

37. Double-reed instruments

38. Center

40. "The Mount Rushmore State"

43. Soldier

45. Indicates position

48. Beauty treatment: __-pedi

50. Nonsense (slang)

51. Republic of Ireland

53. Ballplayers' tools

54. American state

55. Clusters of a fern frond

57. Patriotic women's group

58. A person's brother or sister

59. Breed of sheep

61. Of I

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Behind the shelves

How COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS & LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS KEEP BLACKSTONE PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAMMING ALIVE



BLACKSTONE — If you have ever attended a book club discussion, watched your child’s face light up at a summer event, or taken part in a drop-in craft event at the Blackstone Public Library, you have experienced the heart of community support in action.

Our library is fortunate to have a wonderful network of volunteers—from the friendly faces helping at book sales to the fundraising team behind the scenes. (Please note: Friends volunteers do not work at the circulation desk or engage in daily library

operations).

What many residents do not realize is that municipal tax dollars cover only a small percentage of library programming and supplies. Currently, there is only \$0 to \$500 allocated in the library’s operating budget for programming supplies. While operating funds may cover select museum passes and grant funding supports adult, evening, and senior craft classes, the remaining gap is filled through the dedicated fundraising efforts of the Friends of the Blackstone Public Library—a volunteer-run 501(c)

(3) non-profit organization that has been serving the community since 1985.

The organization’s 40-year history is rooted in resilience. Years ago, the group faced a severe volunteer shortage and was nearly forced to close. Following an urgent community call by President Denise Daignault, local residents stepped forward to rebuild the board and save the non-profit.

Since then, the Friends group has continuously adapted—moving book sales online during COVID-19, introducing online

donations, raffle ticket sales, and e-commerce, and hosting booths at local town events. Community fundraising ranges from Goodstuff Smokehouse dinner nights and clothing drives to volunteer-led Krispy Kreme runs.

Local business partnerships have also been vital to the organization’s success. Community groups like Omega Alarm Company and the Blackstone Lions frequently help sponsor museum passes, and last year, local businesses New England Chimney & Roofing, LLC and DDM Cannabis teamed up to contribute the complete materials and labor required to

construct a much-needed storage shed for the Friends.

Share your feedback!

Because every dollar raised comes from community generosity, the Friends are inviting residents to share their thoughts on their favorite programs and passes via a quick one-minute feedback poll. The poll is available online at www.friendsoftheblackstonelibrary.com/impact.

Residents interested in supporting the library, learning more about funding, or attending monthly meetings (held the second Tuesday of every month) can visit www.friendsoftheblackstonelibrary.com or follow them on www.facebook.com/thefotbl.

Todd A. Ethier



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Koopman Lumber urges contractors to “Charge Into Fire Safety” during Fire Prevention Month

WHITINSVILLE — From cordless drills and saws to nail guns, landscaping equipment and other rechargeable tools, lithium-ion batteries have become essential equipment on today’s jobsites. During Fire Prevention Month (October), Koopman Lumber reminds contractors, tradespeople and homeowners that properly charging and maintaining these batteries is an important part of jobsite safety and fire prevention.

This year’s National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) Fire Prevention theme, “Charge into Fire Safety™: Safe Charging Is a Superpower,” focuses on simple precautions people can take when charging devices powered by lithium-ion batteries.

Koopman Lumber encourages contractors to share these reminders with employees and subcontractors and to review manufacturer recommendations for the battery-powered tools and equipment used by their crews.

“Contractors depend on battery-powered tools every day, and as the number of cordless tools on the jobsite has grown, battery and charging safety deserves the same attention we give to other jobsite safety practices,” said Schon Russell, Regional Safety & LP Manager of Koopman Lumber. “Taking a few extra precautions such as using the right charger, inspecting batteries for damage and choosing a safe location for charging can help protect your crew, your equipment and your customer’s property. We encourage all contractors to take a look at these fire prevention tips and make sure you have the products, support, and service to be safe - and successful.”

Lithium-ion batteries store a significant amount of energy in a small space. When batteries are damaged, improperly charged, or exposed to unsafe conditions, they can overheat and potentially cause a fire.

Fire Prevention Month is a good reminder to adhere to these safety practices:

Use the correct charger. Use the cord and charger supplied with the tool, or one specifically approved by the manufacturer. An incompatible charger can damage a battery and increase fire risk. Choose a safe charging location.

Charge tools and batteries on a hard, flat surface where heat can dissipate. Avoid charging on combustible or soft surfaces or in locations where a fire could block an exit. Inspect batteries regularly. Stop using a battery if it becomes unusually hot, begins to swell, produces smoke or develops a strange odor. Damaged batteries should be removed from service. Avoid unnecessary charging. Disconnect batteries and devices when they are fully charged rather than leaving them connected to chargers longer than necessary. Pay particular attention to larger batteries. Larger lithium-ion batteries used in power tools and outdoor power equipment store more energy and can produce rapidly growing fires if they fail. Charge them in an appropriate location away from exits and combustible materials. Protect batteries on the jobsite. Contractors should take care to prevent batteries from being crushed, punctured, dropped or exposed to excessive heat and should follow manufacturer instructions for use, charging and storage.

For additional information about lithium-ion battery safety and this year’s Fire Prevention campaign, visit fpw.org.

Koopman Lumber, a family-owned business founded in 1939 and headquartered in Whitinsville, Mass., is a trusted provider of lumber, hardware, and home improvement products. The company’s mission is “Supplying Excellence for Generations,” a promise it brings to every team member, customer, and community it serves. For more information, visit koopmanlumber.com.

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





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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Academic excellence deserves a community’s applause

There is something particularly encouraging about seeing young people recognized for their hard work, especially at a time when so much of the public conversation about education focuses on what schools are doing wrong rather than what students are doing right.

That makes the recent announcement from Whitinsville Christian School welcome news, not only for the 10 students who earned honors through the College Board National Recognition Program, but for the entire Blackstone Valley community.

These students have distinguished themselves academically, earning recognition through a national program designed to highlight achievement among young people from a variety of educational and personal backgrounds. Their accomplishments deserve more than a passing mention. They deserve genuine appreciation.

Among those recognized is Mya Duffy, a member of the Class of 2027, who received the First-Generation Recognition Award. Her achievement is especially meaningful because it represents the opportunities that education can create for students who may be among the first in their families to pursue a college degree.

Nine other students received the School Recognition Award: Michael Vos, Hannah Parke, Demetri Boormeester, Ruth Stenbuck, Nathanael Vos, Ian Finch, Christine Lee, Enson Enoch and Mollaigh Flannery.

Each name represents an individual accomplishment, but collectively, they tell a larger story about the importance of academic commitment and the educational opportunities available in our communities.

Academic achievement rarely happens by accident. It requires discipline, curiosity, perseverance and a willingness to tackle difficult material. It means completing assignments when other activities might seem more appealing, preparing for examinations, asking questions and occasionally struggling through subjects that do not come easily.

Those efforts do not always receive the same public attention as athletic victories, championship seasons or other highly visible student accomplishments. Yet they are every bit as deserving of recognition.

There is nothing wrong with celebrating a winning touchdown or a championship basketball team. Those achievements bring communities together and teach valuable lessons about teamwork and determination. But the same enthusiasm should extend to students who distinguish themselves in classrooms, laboratories, libraries and academic competitions.

The recognition at Whitinsville Christian School also offers an opportunity to acknowledge the educators and families who help students succeed.

Behind most academic accomplishments are teachers who recognized potential, challenged students to reach higher and provided encouragement when the work became difficult. Parents and guardians also play an important role, often making sacrifices that never appear on a report card or awards certificate.

And while academic recognition is certainly worth celebrating, it is important to remember that achievement takes many forms. Some students excel on standardized examinations. Others demonstrate extraordinary abilities in vocational programs, the arts, community service or leadership. Still others make remarkable progress simply by overcoming obstacles that might otherwise have prevented them from completing their education.

A healthy educational community rec-

Turn To **EDITORIAL** page **A9**

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“I didn’t vote for this!”

To the Editor:

“I didn’t vote for this!” lament farmers – as farm bankruptcies increased 46 percent in 2025 - and disgruntled American citizens faced with the chaos, corruption, cruelty and costs generated by this Republican administration. Oh, but you did, mes amis! After living through the 1st Trump administration, you knew exactly what to expect, only in spades. The GOP went out of their way to inform you! Did you read Project 2025, where they laid out their exact plan? Did you remember that Republican administrations started our last 5 wars? Did you bear in mind that red states continually rank last in terms of health, education, infant mortality, and general quality of life? Did you consider the one million Americans who died because Trump and Fox News lied about COVID? Did you recall that Biden - acknowledging “It’s the economy, stupid!” - spent his 4 years digging us out of Trump’s first economic disaster? No, he didn’t try to fix immigration until his last year in office, but congressional Republicans killed that. Bottom line, did you ‘think’ at all?

Republicans have nothing to run on in the mid-terms. They have put off the worst of the big, beautiful bill until January 1, when millions of American citizens will lose health care and food benefits. Just collateral damage to Republicans in their quest to cut taxes and mint more right-wing billionaires. They are sure that you won’t ‘think’ of that either. They know that thinking isn’t your strong suit.

Massachusetts has high housing costs. It’s because people want to live here. Mike Minogue says he is going to magically reduce the cost of housing, but never mentions ‘how’ he is going to do it. One sure way is for us to become a fascist state, where those in power dictate what you can sell your house for. Is that your plan, Mike? Will you turn Massachusetts into a communist or fascist paradise? Minogue donated a million dollars to help elect Trump. He agrees with the Trump policies that have

made us the laughing stock of the world, and best buddy of every tin-pot dictator. He is just another rich guy who believes that government should be run like a business – for profit, not to support the needs of its citizens. And you know how that turns out. In 2 years, will we be crying “I didn’t vote for this!”

I really enjoyed the autobiographical opinion from Curly – “Fools – the other ‘F’ word”, who obviously was the inspiration for the Beatles tune “The fool on the hill”. In a prodigious effort, he used 300 words to criticize my last submission re the weaponization of fear, without ever explaining to what he specifically objected. I did see a lot of “Biden,” “liberal,” “leftist,” “blue,” “anti-patriotic” right-wing epithets, that only served as further indictment of his ‘fool’-ishness. I guess the only thing he has to ‘fear’ is ‘fear’ itself. Hmmm....where have I heard that before?

Moe outdid herself contorting Trump’s use of the term ‘affordable’ into a Democrat ruse. She proceeded to do her usual – in addition to confirming my allegation of ‘fear’ mongering – by running out the ‘illegal immigrants’, Somali fraudsters (without mentioning Aimee Boch, the white woman who ran the Somali fraud organization), taxes, climate change hoax, and on and on. She never once mentioned the war with Iran, the open corruption, tariffs, cost of gas and diesel, inflation, treason, world disdain...as if they didn’t exist in that void between her ears.

Republicans are doing everything they can to invalidate the upcoming mid-terms. They admit that they can’t win unless they lie, cheat, or steal. There are already reports out of Tennessee, Georgia, Texas and Ohio, of voting machines flipping Democrat votes to Republican candidates. Anybody seen Musk lurking about? Stay alert. Stay peaceful. Vote blue.

RICK BEVILACQUA
WHITINSVILLE

To the Editor:

Have you noticed that Comrade Maura hit the brakes on her climate emergency?

Maura has ordered her ship of climate hysteria to “emergency stop” and reverse course. I believe the correct naval term is “rudder full astern.” Her ship of state is screaming “reverse course 180 degrees! I’m losing votes!”

Is it a Blue MAGA wave? Can Minogue beat her and become Governor?

Maura tried a few publicity stunts. She demanded that the legislature pause the gas tax. They won’t. She demanded that Trump’s Secretary of Energy approve a gas pipeline into our state in a New York minute! Wait a minute!

She blames Trump for everything. When asked during the debate if she has made any mistakes or blunders, she couldn’t think of one thing. Kamala-like.

Wait, what? Didn’t she block two gas pipelines from gas-rich Pennsylvania while she was Attorney General? She said the pipelines were a “bad deal for taxpayers.”

Do you know the cost of one kilowatt hour of electricity in our state? Thirty cents. We are second highest in the nation, behind California at 33 cents. Florida? Fifteen cents. Nebraska, Tennessee and Utah, 13 cents. Somehow, states with the same President have lower costs on energy, gas, electricity, home heating fuels, and groceries.

Career politicians are always wrong. Healey is a career politician.

Under Maura’s Leftist policies, home energy is expensive. Electricity? Our Mass Save charges on our bills are \$1.5 billion more than New York’s and New York has three times the population of our state!

According to The Commonwealth Beacon [TCB], 800,000 residents in our state are in arrears in their home energy bills [electricity and home heating fuel]. TCB quotes the Bipartisan Policy Center which said that Massachusetts is the “fourth worst state for low income consumers in terms of energy burden.” Further, “average household utility bills in the Bay State are up 38 percent since 2020.”

How are all those solar panels, wind turbines, and battery storage facilities working out for You the People? Has your electric bill gone down?

But wait, there’s more. As of Nov. 1, our state regulators have ordered utilities to institute new drastic discount rates for low-income residents, with some receiving a 95 per cent cut on their bills. Ninety-five percent? The steepest in the nation. How is this possible? The burden will be shifted to residents whose income does not qualify them for discounts. You and me.

According to TCB, the utilities warned regulators that this plan “would result in higher bill impacts to non-income eligible customers” and “unfairly increase” those customers’ cost burden. You and me will pay for the 800,000.

I hear the sound of people clicking on “homes for sale” in the Carolinas or Tennessee or Florida or Texas. I hear U-hauls revving their engines.

Realists warned her in 2019 that our state needed gas pipelines from Pennsylvania and new power plants, but Healey listened to the solar panel proponents, the Chinese pushing battery storage while they build more coal-fired electric plants, and the extreme environmentalist fantasy believers who ride bikes to work.

Her Majesty’s new plan is RARE, the “Reliable Affordable Resilient Enhancement” Project. It’s got all the right words, but no action. It may begin in 2028, may finalize contracts by 2029, and may provide gas by 2030.

Don’t hold your breath. If this ever happens, our state residents may save \$400 million, unless she and her Commie friends ban all fossil fuels. Ten towns have already banned oil and gas fuel hook-ups in new construction, pledging to be “fossil fuel free.” They will depend exclusively on electricity for heat. Cambridge, Arlington, Lexington, Aquinnah [once Gay Head], Brookline, Concord, Lincoln.

Healey, afraid of Blue MAGA, finally started meeting with angry residents in central Massachusetts concerning massive solar farms and battery storage facilities swallowing up open land, agricultural land and forests. She has seriously angered the environmentalists, even though she bragged that our state has facilitated 200,000 solar installations, equaling 4,500 megawatts.

One gas fired or nuclear power plant on a few acres produces 1,244 megawatts. Add three more and you have magically 5000 megawatts without destroying open land, agricultural land, and forests.

As Mike Minogue, running for Governor, said: “The question is: what can you do to help, not who to blame.” Maura blames Trump for everything. Minogue said: “I’m a leader. I’m accountable. She’s a politician. She blames others.”

I live in Realville in America, still free to burn oil and gas. If you like your oil or gas heat, you will keep it under Governor Minogue. Under the Comrades, kiss it goodbye because they are going to take it from you.

BEV GUDANOWSKI
UXBRIDGE

Making the most of Medicare open enrollment



FINANCIAL FOCUS

DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

When you turn 65, Medicare becomes a vital part of your health care coverage. But Medicare isn’t a “set it and forget it” program. In fact, you have the opportunity to review and adjust your coverage every year.

The annual Medicare Open Enrollment period, which runs from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7 each year, is your chance to take a fresh look at your health care needs and ensure your Medicare plan still fits your life. Changes made during this period generally take effect Jan. 1 of the following year.

Just as your health can change from year to year, Medicare plans can change, too. Insurance companies may adjust their coverage and costs or even discontinue certain plans. If you take no action during open enrollment, you’ll generally remain in your current plan if it’s still available. That’s why it’s worth reviewing your options each year. You may find coverage that better meets your needs or lowers your costs.

You have several options when it comes to Medicare coverage:

Original Medicare (Parts A and B) covers hospital stays and medical services such as doctor visits. Part A typically comes with no monthly premium if you’ve worked for at least 10 years. Part B requires a monthly premium, with higher-income beneficiaries paying additional amounts based on income. Part B also includes an annual deductible and cost-sharing requirements, with Medicare typically announcing updated amounts for the coming year in November.

Medicare Advantage (Part C) offers an all-in-one alternative to Original Medicare through private insurance companies. Many plans bundle Part A, Part B, and usually Part D while including additional benefits like vision and dental coverage.

Medicare Part D provides stand-alone prescription drug coverage for those who stay with Original Medicare. In 2027, Part D plans include a \$2,400 annual cap on out-of-pocket spending for covered prescription medications, although covered drugs vary by plan.

Medicare Supplement (Medigap) policies help cover certain out-of-pocket costs that Original Medicare doesn’t pay.

When evaluating Medicare plans, consider these factors:

Out-of-pocket costs, including premiums, deductibles, copayments and other expenses not covered by Medicare.

Prescription drug coverage. Although Part D plans include a \$2,400 cap on out-of-pocket spending for covered drugs in 2027, the medications covered by each plan can vary. Make sure your prescriptions are included.

Provider access. Make sure your doctors and hospitals are covered by the plan.

Your anticipated health care needs. If you expect ongoing treatment, specialist care or planned procedures, make sure your plan provides appropriate coverage.

Travel considerations. Frequent travelers may want supplemental coverage for emergencies outside the U.S.

Turn To **FINANCE** page **A9**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why you should not vote for any Democrat

To the Editor:

As of lately, the Democrats have become quite desperate with the upcoming election, and the reason. Our President, Donald J. Trump, is making quite an impact from the craziness that the democrats put America through during Biden’s term.

President Trump cleaned up Washington, D.C., closed our borders and sent criminals back to face a judge in their own country and the democrats don’t like this. The craziness I do blame Joe Biden, but here’s something that a Republican such as myself knows, Joe was the POTUS puppet and the strings were being pulled by that other loser and liar Barack Obama and the radical Democrats in the House and Senate.

When you go to polls now and in the future, keep in mind that when a Democrat is elected, s/he will only be the talking head, and it’s the liberal Democrat, or perhaps Satan himself, that directs America in a downward spiral. Oh...you want proof? The fans rooting for the democrats to take control of the House, Senate, and statewide elections are the following: Iran, China, Cartels, George Soros, Never Trumpers, Socialists, Terrorists, and of course our liberal media. Basically, people who want America to fail. During the writing of this letter France experienced another “peaceful protest” at the hands of socialists and radicals who use the violence as a means of fixing the so-called racism that they say is rampant in the City of Lights. Our media is blaming these fires, riots, and looting on students but guess what is strange about all this carnage? Muslim owned stores did not get burned or looted, and the pork from the supermarkets that were looted was untouched

If you want more proof of the damages created by the democrats just look at Detroit, Michigan which has the appearance of a city at war. Chicago’s murder rate. California’s crime, poverty, and homelessness due to failed leadership at the hands of the governor Gavin Newsome. New York is another failed democrat run state with its crime and no bail laws. New York’s mayor was elected on lie after lie and the people now know that he can’t deliver on his empty promises. The only promises that became reality by the lying mayor of New York: Rent freeze for rent-stabilized apartments. This is the list of via Mayor Mamdani: Free buses, City owned grocery stores, universal free childcare, 2 percent tax increase on millionaires, corporate tax raises, \$30-dollar minimum wage by 2030, and build 200,000 affordable homes. In addition, he promised to tax the rich, which are packing their packs and moving out which only means one thing: raise the taxes on the middle class. Here is yet another example of the desperation in this midterm; the democrats have aligned themselves with characters like Abdul El-Sayed who is trying to steal a seat in the Michigan’s senate race and the democrats have gone all out to get him elected. For those who don’t know, Abdul El-Sayed is a silver-tongue devil, and he is part

of the Muslim Brotherhood, and their plan is to turn America into Post America. The Muslim Brotherhood is an anti-Semantic, anti-Christian, homophobic, and radical Islamic group that wants to bring Sharia Law into this country right after it torches every town in the United States. Muslims, especially those that wish to do us harm, hate Jews, Christians, dogs, pork, Western culture, homosexuals, women who show too much skin or their faces and anyone who isn’t a Muslim and they want the world on their knees. Remember this anytime our radical elected officials try sneaking in someone like Abdul El-Sayed who is being funded by the brotherhood and the Never-Trumpers.

Our governor and mayor in Massachusetts are truly no better. Both Healey and Wu are the monsters this Halloween. Both liberals think illegals are truly entitled to free hotel service, free medical, and our collected tax money to do as they please in the Commonwealth. Healey claims she’s for the people, yet her actions say otherwise. Healey sued Exxon and bragged she stopped two gas pipelines but now begs President Donald Trump’s Energy Secretary to fast-track a natural gas expansion just in time for the election. Can you smell what she’s cooking? Hypocrisy and she burnt it! Oh and don’t forget that Healey is a real hero among the sick and twisted, you can now kill a baby fresh out of the womb and don’t forget to clap over it.

Michelle Wu is another psychopath liberal who acts like Chairman Mao appointed her as Boston’s mayor. Wu doesn’t like white people either, and she made that quite clear about her Chris...Holiday party. Sorry I almost said Christmas Party! Wu cut services to our Veterans to give it away to those who don’t deserve it. Can you guess who? Mayor Wu is paying illegal immigrants \$575 to learn political organizing and if you are a U.S. born citizen, you are excluded. See what happens when you let crazy liberal politicians think they should run our cities?

If you have any doubts about who to vote for this coming election just keep reading the dribble that our own local joke and proud to be a liberal Rick has to say about the current administration and do your homework by fact checking all his garbage. The truth is that democrats had done more harm to this country than good and they would love to continue doing which is why our seniors are still having taxes taken out of their social security checks, democrats voted nay on the issue and why? The democrats hate Trump, and they also hate America.

Do vote if you are a legal citizen of the United States of America and read those referendum questions too, and if it means raising your taxes or that the question takes away your liberties, vote against it. Thanks for reading and let us go root and vote for the team that wants this country great and by that, I mean republicans.

MIKE DOWNING
WHITINSVILLE

An alternative: Common sense vs. crazy

To the Editor:

If a ballot has not already been cast, stop. Think before proceeding. There have been warnings about the dangers of embracing ideas of socialism, communism or the latest euphemism- “Democratic Socialism,” but they have been dismissed by some on these same pages. Elsewhere, there have been cradle-to-grave social and economic programs, etc., bankrupting countries one by one for decades. It is never enough as the populous demands spending increases during so-called “mostly peaceful protests.” Current, over-spreading looting, burning, rioting (a.k.a. “anarchy”) seen across the pond signals further concrete warnings and prove the points expressed previously by others. Behind the smoke screen of ‘student protests’, trans-national groups aim to disrupt and destabilize the core of western civilization, i.e., capitalism. Far left ideologies are gaining traction in America as evidenced by candidates on many ballots. News, if reported factually, show these prescient warnings about the effects of “Democratic Socialism” ring true and are ignored at our collective peril.

Voters casting ballots for candidates who offer solutions to our multiple problems based on ever-increasing government spending are headed for disap-

pointment, including bankruptcy. Name even one country in world history where such freedoms as ours have been enjoyed; such economic and social policies have resulted in better (even similar!) outcomes for their population than what America has offered for over 250 years. I cannot!

The following fable reminds me of this election season: a frog placed in boiling water (sensibly) jumps out; the same frog reacts totally differently in the next scenario. Instead, placed in water gently warmed to that same boiling point, the frog chooses to stay put until it is too late to escape certain death. Sadly, the moral of this fable applies here and now! We only have to acknowledge an increasing volume of social unrest (looting, burning, goods locked up at CVS, etc.) already seen in major cities.

Granted certain policies, being advocated today, have taken decades to evolve here thus far. Although likely to take more time before ‘cooked’ completely, the eventual ‘death’ of America and our way of life is assured... if voters choose to walk down the path with those who espouse “Democratic Socialism”. On Nov. 3rd, be wise and vote for common sense candidates versus the crazy ones before, like a frog steeping in ever hotter water, it is too late.

JANE F. KEEGAN
UXBRIDGE

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.

The trouble with being almost ready

I’ve come to believe that one of the great mysteries of human existence is the difference between being ready to leave the house and actually leaving it. These are two entirely separate accomplishments.

I can be showered, dressed, wearing my shoes, and standing beside the front door with my keys in hand, fully convinced that departure is imminent. Twenty minutes later, I may still be there.

LANTERNS
ALONG
MAIN
STREET
By CHARLES

I don’t know exactly when leaving the house became such an elaborate production. When I was younger, I remember being able to decide to go somewhere and simply go. There was very little ceremony involved.

Nowadays, a trip to the hardware store can require the sort of preparation once reserved for an expedition across the Atlantic.

First, I need to find my glasses. This is complicated by the fact that I may already be wearing them, although that possibility rarely occurs to me until I’ve searched two rooms and accused an innocent family member of moving them.

Then comes the question of my wallet. I have a designated place for my wallet. I know where that place is. Unfortunately, my wallet apparently does not share my commitment to the arrangement.

The keys are another matter entirely. My wife has suggested that I put them in the same place every time I come home. This is excellent advice, and I intend to start following it one of these years.

Once everything has been located, I begin what I call the final inspection. Did I turn off the coffee maker? Is the back door locked? Did I leave a light on upstairs? Where did I put the list of things I was supposed to buy?

That last question is particularly troublesome because I generally remember making the list. I can picture myself writing it. I can even recall being rather pleased with my organizational skills. What I cannot remember is where I put the blasted thing.

My wife, meanwhile, has developed a remarkable ability to recognize the warning signs of a delayed departure.

“Are you actually leaving?” she’ll ask.

“Absolutely.”

“Because you’ve been saying that for 15 minutes.”

“I’m just checking something.”

She doesn’t ask what I’m checking anymore. I think she’s decided it’s better not to know.

And then, of course, comes the weather. Here in New England, the temperature outside can bear little resemblance to what the thermometer suggested when I first looked at it. A pleasant October morning can become a chilly afternoon before a fellow has finished his errands. So I go back for a jacket. Then I decide the jacket is too heavy. Then I wonder whether I ought to bring it anyway. At some point, I find myself standing in the kitchen holding two coats, trying to make a decision that should not require the wisdom of Solomon.

What bothers me most is that none of this seems particularly unreasonable while it’s happening. Every individual step makes sense. Naturally, I should have my wallet. Obviously, I need my keys. There’s nothing foolish about checking that the doors are locked. It’s only when you add everything together that the absurdity becomes apparent. I suspect this is true of a great many things in life.

We complicate perfectly ordinary tasks by adding one more precaution, one more consideration, one more little detail that absolutely must be addressed before we can proceed. We do it with errands, home projects, vacations, and sometimes even conversations.

There’s always one more thing to think about. I’ve noticed that some people seem entirely immune to this condition. They announce they’re leaving, pick up their belongings, and walk out the door.

I regard these individuals with a mixture of admiration and suspicion. Surely, they’ve forgotten something. Yet somehow, they manage to survive. Perhaps there’s a lesson there about accepting that not every detail needs to be settled before we get moving.

Life doesn’t always require perfect preparation. Sometimes you simply have to put on your shoes, grab your keys, and trust that the rest will work itself out. I’ve been trying to adopt that philosophy lately.

The other day, I had a few errands to run. I gathered my things, checked the weather, and headed for the door.

My wife looked up from what she was doing.

“Going somewhere?”

“Yep. I’ll be back in a little while.”

And with that, I walked outside, climbed into the car, and started the engine. It was a beautiful moment of personal triumph. I had finally mastered the art of leaving the house without making a production of it. Then I realized I had forgotten where I was going.

I sat there for a minute, considering my options. Eventually, I went back inside.

My wife didn’t even look surprised.

“Forget something?”

“Not exactly,” I said. “I’m just making sure I leave for the right reason.”

She shook her head and went back to what she was doing.

I suppose there’s still room for improvement. But at least I remembered my keys.

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Timothy Ryan — Courtesy

The Millville Police Department hosted a Trunk or Treat event last weekend that brought the community out for an afternoon of fun.

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H o u r s :
Monday-Thursday: 10 AM-8 PM
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Wednesday November 11 for Veterans Day. Closing early on 11/25 at 2 PM. Closed 11/26 & 11/27 for Thanksgiving break.

There's Gnome place like the Library!
We're celebrating "Gnomevember"

at the library with a month of gnome-themed creativity and fun.

Gnome Ornaments:
Tuesday November 10 at 4PM
Visitors of all ages can decorate a gnome ornament for the library tree. Create your gnome ornament at the library using our craft materials. Ornaments will also be available to take home.

Tiny Art Show:
Artists ages 8 and up can create a miniature canvas for our tiny art

show. Mini canvases will be available after school November 2nd-November 7th. Create in the library, or take one home. Creations are due back in the library by November 14th. The tiny art show will be displayed in the library November 23rd-28th.

Builders & Makers: Gnome Homes Thursday November 12 at 4PM
Builders ages 6 and up can put their imaginations to work to build a better gnome home during Builders & Makers. Drop-In.

Practice reading aloud to our gentle therapy animals in a calm, supportive setting. Ages 6+ Registration required. Reading with Casper the Dog Saturday, November 21 at 11 AM
Reading with Icarus the cat Thursday, November 19 at 4 PM

Weekly Youth Programs:
Library Littles & Playgroup Mondays at 10:30 AM
Stories, songs, and playtime for children 0-2 and their caregivers. A great opportunity to introduce your child

to the library and meet new friends!

Preschool Storytime & Playgroup
Thursdays at 10:30 AM
Join us each week for stories, songs, movement, and fun! Designed just for preschoolers, but open to everyone, our storytime helps build early literacy skills through play, imagination, and social interaction. Drop-in.

Builders & Makers
Thursdays at 4 PM
Build it, create it, and see where your

Turn To LIBRARY page A11



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Timothy Ryan — Courtesy

History and haunting fun came together last Saturday as Uxbridge's 300th Anniversary Committee welcomed the community to Legends & Lanterns, an evening filled with family fun, spooky stories, hands-on Halloween activities, and most importantly, local history.



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OBITUARY

Susan M. Demers, 64

CHARLTON – Susan M. (Nestor) Demers, 64, of Charlton, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, October 22, 2026, at Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge.

She was predeceased by her husband of 42 years, Wayne “Curley” F. Demers, who died in 2025. She is survived by four children, Alison E. O’Neill and her partner Benjamin Cormier of Charlton, Nicholas P. Demers and his partner Miranda Angell of Oxford, Nathan F. Demers and his fiancée Jessica Gilmore of Sturbridge, and Patrick W. Demers of Charlton; two grandchildren, Brady P. O’Neill and Aubrey E. O’Neill, both of Charlton; four brothers, Gary Nestor and his wife Cheryl of Whitinsville, Michael Nestor and his wife Lucille of Virginia Beach, VA, Steven Nestor and his wife Lori of Linwood, and Scott Nestor and his wife Lisa of Uxbridge; her brother-in-law, Kevin Demers and his wife April of Douglas; and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by two brothers, Patrick Nestor who died in 1967, and Timothy Nestor who died in 2016; her son-in-law, Jack O’Neill; and her mother-

in-law and best friend, Joyce Demers.

She was born in Northbridge, daughter of the late Patrick J. and Gloria J. (Cassista) Nestor. She was raised in Whitinsville and lived in Sutton and Oxford before moving to Charlton over 10 years ago. She graduated from Northbridge High School in 1980 and attended Quinsigamond Community College.

Mrs. Demers worked at Janet’s Hilltop Restaurant in Grafton for over 10 years, retiring in 2021. Previously, she worked at Leggett and Platt in Oxford. She enjoyed a quiet night by the fire pit, taking over the local touch tunes, getting the best coupon deals possible, cooking, and gardening. Most important to her were her friends and family, and she left behind a legacy of love to her children and grandchildren.

Memorial calling hours are Sunday, November 8, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford. A prayer service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday at the conclusion of calling hours.

How to Submit an Obituary

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Posting an obituary is a meaningful way to honor the life of someone who has passed, share the loss with the community, and support the grieving process. It celebrates their life, family, memories, and accomplishments while bringing people together in remembrance.

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WCS
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demetic awards recognizing students in all communities: First-Generation Recognition Award, Rural and Small-Town Recognition Award, and School Recognition Award.

“Our students have been recognized for their dedication and excellence, and we’re incredibly proud of them. This honor reinforces their exceptional achievements in high school and will support them as they pursue God’s plans for their futures,” said Tammi Gorman, MS/HS Principal.

To be eligible, 10th and 11th grade students must earn a cumulative GPA of B+ or higher and score 3 or above on two or more AP Exams by the end of 10th

grade. They also qualify if they’re one of the top 10% of test takers in their high school, among first-generation college students in their state, and/or among rural and small-town students in their state.

Mya Duffy, Class of 2027, was recognized as a first-generation college student. Michael Vos and Hannah Parke, both Class of 2028, as well as Demetri Boormeester, Ruth Stenbuck, Nathanael Vos, Ian Finch, Christine Lee, Enson Enoch, and Mollaigh Flannery, all members of the Class of 2027, received the School Recognition Award.

Colleges and universities are eager to recruit National Recognition Program awardees who have demonstrated strong academic success across a

wide range of schools and communities. Thousands of nonprofit colleges and scholarship organizations can connect with awardees who opt in to College Board Student Search Service™ to share more about their institutions and programs.

“For students across the country, the award represents more than an academic honor. It signals their achievement to colleges and scholarship programs that may not actively recruit in their communities,” said Amy Reitz, senior vice president of BigFuture at College Board. “We congratulate all students at Whitinsville Christian School who earned an award by demonstrating exceptional academic achievement.”

CUTTING
continued from page A1

Justine Doyon, FNP-C, shares, “I’ve always believed that if you want something to change, sometimes you have to be willing to create the change yourself. Community Roots was born from a belief, a desire to bring healthcare back to what it should be: personal, relational, and centered around the patient. With personal care driven by patients, for patients, not quotas. I wanted to create a practice where there is time to listen. Community Roots was

established to be the kind of practice I wanted to be part of as a provider and the kind of healthcare experience I would want for my own family. My mission is to restore the foundational patient-provider relationships that have been lost in modern corporate medicine. Personal. Intentional. Collaborative. And rooted in the belief that exceptional medicine starts with truly knowing the person you’re caring for.”

Ribbon cutting ceremonies are free and open to the community, and local business owners, community members, Chamber members, and future mem-

bers are encouraged to attend and help celebrate this exciting new addition to the Blackstone Valley! To learn more, please visit www.blackstonevalley.org/events.

The Mission of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce is to preserve and enhance the economic vitality of the Blackstone Valley by addressing the needs and concerns of businesses and providing leadership, support and resources in connection with issues which impact commerce and the quality of life in the Valley.



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Date of Death: 05/29/2026
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Nadarajan Thiruppovnam of Sacramento CA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: .
Nadarajan Thiruppovnam of Sacramento CA 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 11/17/2026.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written ap-

pearance 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. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 28, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 30, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
Premises: 54 Carney Street, Uxbridge, MA 01569

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Bear Iona McColloch and Courtney R. McColloch to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Cardinal Financial Company,

and now held by **Freedom Mortgage Corporation**, said mortgage dated April 18, 2024 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 70411, Page 210, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (“MERS”) as mortgagee, as nominee for Cardinal Financial Company Limited Partnership to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment dated July 23, 2025 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 72296, Page 247; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on November 9, 2026 at 11:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain lot or parcel of land being shown as Lot No. 1 on a plan entitled “Plan of Land in Uxbridge, Massachusetts, Prepared for Harold F., Jr. and Jeanne M. Francis, Scale 1” = 40’ dated January 16, 1997 by Andrews Survey and Engineering, Inc ., 104 Mendon Street, Uxbridge, Mass. 01569” and being recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 713 as Plan 64. This conveyance is made subject to and with the benefit of restrictions and easements of record so far as now in force and applicable. For title see deed recorded herewith.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control

in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor’s Title see deed dated April 9, 2024 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 70411, Page 207.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
October 16, 2026
October 23, 2026
October 30, 2026

SCARECROWS

continued from page A1

is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed to preserve, maintain, rejuvenate, improve and beautify the Town-owned Douglas Common, and its volunteers work year-round to accomplish its mission. All officers and directors of the Society are volunteers who receive no compensation, so the Society relies on donations from the community, both individuals and businesses, for funding all of its projects. Each year sponsors are recognized by a banner placed at the Common. Memorial Donations will also be recognized on the Recognition Banner with a memorial message.

If you would like to support our organization and help with our activities at the Common, submit your tax-deductible donation to Douglas Common Preservation Society Inc., 76 NW Main St., Douglas, or via Venmo @Kathleen-Sugrue-Richards. If your donation is received by Nov. 30 as part of our Fall Donation Drive and Thank You Drawings, your name will be entered (15 entries for each \$25 donated) into your choice of drawings for three fantastic prizes, including \$750 of “\$2,500 a Week for Life” Scratch Tickets, a one-night stay at the Williams Inn, Williamstown (Berkshires) and a one-night stay at Bayside Resort Hotel, W, Yarmouth (Cape Cod). Donations are tax deductible, and 100 percent of your donation will be used to benefit the Common. See our Facebook page for more information.

Pease follow the activities and events of the Douglas Common Preservation Society, Inc. on our FB page. Together we can make our Common a source of pride and a location where community can come together to celebrate.

EDITORIAL

continued from page A4

ognizes all of these contributions. The College Board program is particularly valuable because it can help connect academically successful students with colleges and scholarship organizations that might otherwise overlook them. For students considering their futures, that visibility can open doors to opportunities they may not

have known existed. In communities such as Northbridge, Uxbridge, Sutton and Douglas, educational success is closely connected to the region’s future. Today’s students will become tomorrow’s teachers, business owners, health care professionals, engineers, public servants and community volunteers. Some will build their lives close to home. Others will pursue opportunities across the country or around the world. Wherever they go, the foun-

dation established during their school years will remain important. The 10 Whitinsville Christian School students who earned national recognition have good reason to be proud. Their teachers, families and school community have reason to celebrate alongside them. But perhaps the most important message is for the younger students watching their exam- ple. Academic achievement matters. Hard work matters.

Curiosity matters. And the effort invested in learning today can create opportunities that extend far beyond graduation. Congratulations to these 10 students. Their accomplishments offer a welcome reminder that there is much to celebrate in local education, and considerable reason to be optimistic about the generation preparing to lead our communities into the future.

FINANCE

continued from page A4

Even if you’re satisfied with your current coverage, don’t assume next year’s plan will look exactly the same. Costs, provider networks and the

medications covered by a plan can change from year to year, making a quick annual review worthwhile. Don’t let your Medicare plan run on autopilot. Take advantage of the annual open enrollment period between

Oct. 15 and Dec. 7 to help ensure your coverage continues to meet your needs in the year ahead. This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Dennis

Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert St., Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Veterans invited to free beef stew dinner in Douglas

DOUGLAS —The Douglas Sunshine Club invites Douglas veterans to a beef stew dinner on Wednesday, Nov. 11 at the Adult Social Center in Douglas. Our dinner will be at 6 p.m., followed by music performed by Phil Stockwell at 7 p.m. Veterans and one guest are invited to this dinner for free, and all other guests are \$7 each. Space is limited, so it is requested that you reserve your seats by calling the center at 508-476-2283 by Friday, Nov. 6. The center is located at 331 Main St., Douglas. Hope to see you there.

TRINITY CELEBRATES FATHER PETER!

During this week’s Mass celebrating the Feast Day of St. John Paul II, we also gathered to say farewell to Father Peter Bui, who has been a beautiful light in our school and parish community over the past three years. His deep faith, kindness, and incredible smile have touched so many hearts, and he will be greatly missed. As a special expression of our love and gratitude, students presented Father Peter with a picture



Courtesy

featuring his favorite quote, “God is Good, All the Time,” surrounded by the thumbprints of each student and faculty member, a lasting reminder of the many lives he has touched. We are so grateful for the blessing of having shared these years with him!



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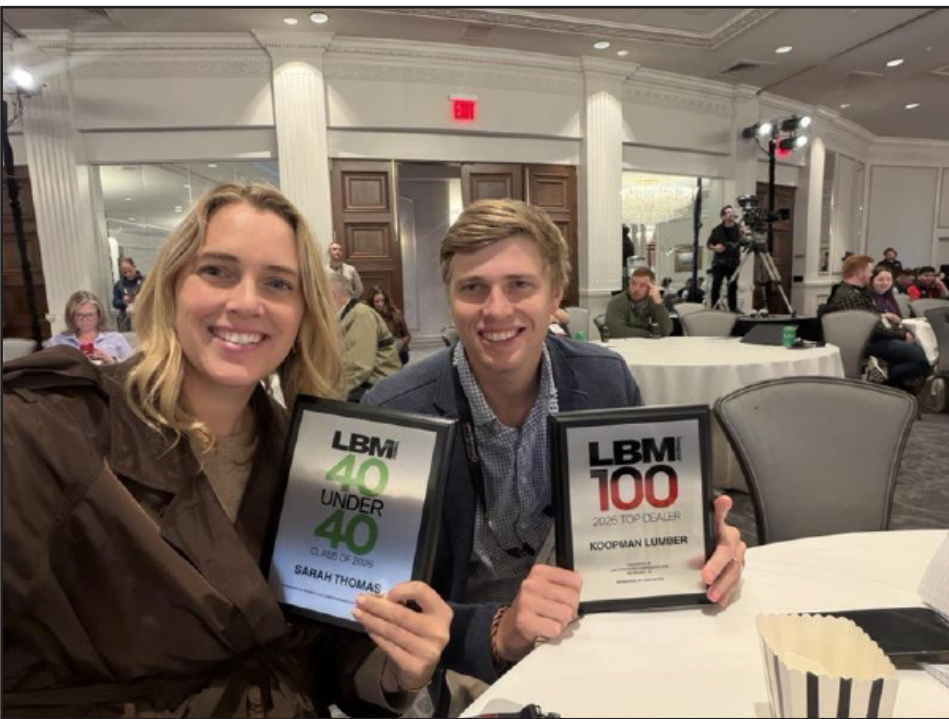
Contact Mikaela Today
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stonebridgepress.news

Koopman Lumber’s Sarah Thomas recognized as LBM Journal 2026 “40 Under 40” Honoree

WHITINSVILLE — Sarah Thomas, Director of Marketing at Koopman Lumber, was recently recognized as a member of LBM Journal’s 2026 “40 Under 40” class and joined fellow honorees and industry leaders at the LBM Strategies Conference in Milwaukee. A fourth-generation member of the Koopman family, Thomas leads marketing strategy and oversees all marketing functions for the company. Thomas was one of 40 professionals selected from nearly 150 nominations from across the country, representing organizations

ranging from large companies to family-owned lumber and building material dealers. “This year was especially difficult to narrow down as we received nearly 150 nominations, each detailing the stories of exceptional young professionals,” said Rick Schumacher, executive editor and publisher of LBM Journal. “We’re proud to feature this year’s class and spotlight the impact they’re having in their communities. We’re so impressed and filled with excitement for the future of the LBM industry as these leaders light the

way for their peers and future generations.” In LBM Journal’s feature on the 2026 class, Thomas shared the following advice: “The lumber and building materials industry offers incredible opportunities for growth if you’re willing to learn and build relationships. My advice is to focus on people first, ask questions, get involved, and invest in networking. This is an industry fueled by great people who build America, value relationships, and are committed to helping the next generation succeed.” The LBM Strategies Conference brings together leaders from across the lumber and building materials industry for education, discussion, networking, and conversations around issues shaping the industry. To learn more about the conference, visit <https://lbmstrategies.com>. To view LBM Journal’s 2026 “40 Under 40” feature, visit <https://www.lbmjournal.com/awards/40-under-40/article/15826171/lbm-journal-lbm-journals-2026-40-under-40>.



About Koopman Lumber, a family-owned business founded in 1939 and headquartered in Whitinsville, is a trusted provider of lumber, building materials, hardware, and home improvement products. The company’s mission is

“Supplying Excellence for Generations,” a promise it brings to every team member, customer, and community it serves. For more information, visit koopmanlumber.com. About LBM Journal LBM Journal is a media company serving lumberyards, building material distributors, wholesalers, manufacturers, and service

providers across the lumber and building materials industry. Founded in 2003, LBM Journal connects the industry through its magazine, e-newsletter, webinars, podcasts, website, annual conference, and other industry resources. For more information, visit lbmjournal.com.

DOUGLAS ADULT SOCIAL CENTER

331 Main St.
(508) 476-2283
Hours of operation: Monday through Thursday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m. to noon

DAILY ACTIVITIES: All our daily activities are free of charge.
Monday: Painting class 9:45am to 11:45am, Balance & Strength Exercise 12pm, Mat yoga 2pm
Tuesday: Walking club 9am, Cribbage 9am, Lunch & Bingo 11:30am, Technology class 1pm (call to make an appt.) Line Dancing 2pm
Wednesday: Balance & strength 10am, Darts 11:30am, Mahjong 12:45pm
Thursday: Walking club 9am, Pitch 9am, Chair Yoga 9:30am, Tai Chi 10:45am, Hand and Foot card game 12:30pm
Friday: Balance & strength 10am, Zumba 11:15am

Friday Shopping Trips: Please call 48 hours in advance to schedule your ride. Grocery shopping pick up starts at 9:30.
Price Chopper: 11/13
Walmart: 11/16 & 11/20
Rider’s choice: 11/27

Tuesday & Thursday lunch club, please call the Friday before to sign up. Lunch is \$4.00 per person. If you would like to attend, we offer free rides to & from the center and are willing to waive the lunch fee is necessary.
November Lunch Menu: Tuesday/Thursday lunch club please call the center the Friday before to sign up!
Tuesday 11/3: Butternut squash soup, ham salad sandwich & cookies
Tuesday 11/10: BBQ chicken, sweet potatoes, green beans & pudding
Thursday 11/12: Taco bar & ice cream sundaes
Tuesday 11/17: Beef stroganoff, egg noodles, corn & ice cream
Tuesday 11/24: Pasta bake, salad, garlic bread & fruit

November Events: The center will be closed on Wednesday November 11th in observance of Veterans Day. Holiday schedule: Wednesday November 25th: Closing @ 12:00. Thursday November 26th: Closed. Friday November 27th: Closed.
FREE Veterans Dinner: Tuesday November 11th. The Sunshine Club invites Veterans & 1 guest for a free beef stew dinner. Family is welcome to join for \$7.00 per person. Doors will open at 5:30, dinner at 6:00. Live entertainment to follow. Please call the center to sign up by 11/6.
Lunch & a movie: Thursday November 12th @11:30: This month’s movie selection is A Dog’s Purpose. Lunch will be taco bar & ice cream sundaes for \$4.00 per person. Sign up by 11/9.
PLEASE CALL (508) 476-2283 TO SIGN UP FOR PROGRAMS & CLASSES
Check our website for events that may not be listed here
<https://www.douglas-ma.gov/202/AdultSocial-Center-Senior-Center>

Home of the Northbridge Senior Center

The following events will take place at Plummer Place, Home of the Northbridge Senior Center. We are located at 20 Highland Street in Whitinsville. Telephone: (508) 234-2002. Northbridge residents have priority for all programming and events. Please call the main office to sign up for special events and programs, so we can plan accordingly.

Medical Drivers
We are in need of medical drivers for out-of-town medical appointments. This is a very important service that we provide for seniors who cannot drive themselves to their medical appointments. If you are interested and can spare any time, it would be most appreciated. Drivers are reimbursed for their mileage. For more information, please call the main office.

Regular Programs:
Book Club:
3rd Wednesday of the month at 10:30am
Please call Kelly for more information.
Brew Crew:
1st Wednesday of the month at 9:30am
Wednesday, November 4th: Robert Fitzgerald, Northbridge Town Assessor
Please call Amy for more information.
Dull Men’s Club:
4th Tuesday of the month at 9:30am

October 27th: David Pickart, Northbridge Conservation Agent
Please call Amy for more information.
MAH Jongg Class — 4 weeks
11/10, 11/17, 12/1, 12/8: 12:30pm-3:00pm
RSVP to main office no later than November 3rd.
Meditation with Kelly: Every Thursday morning at 9:30am
Tech Cafe!
2nd Monday of the month 1:30pm-3:00pm
Bring your tech questions — drop-in appointments — No need to sign up in advance
Women’s Collective:
2nd Thursday of the month at 10:00am
Please call Amy for more information.
Writing Your Way:
2nd and 4th Thursdays at 2:00pm
Please call Lori for more information.

Special Programs and Events
Monday, November 2nd 10am-11am
Medicare Open Enrollment Seminar
Join us for an important meeting sponsored by our SHINE Counselor: Ed Roth, who will discuss updates to MEDICARE and any Health or Drug Plan changes.
Tuesday, November 10th 11am-12:30pm
Red Arrow Diner Author Talk with Mike Morin
Come learn the fasci-

nating stories behind one of New Hampshire’s most beloved landmarks—the Red Arrow Diner! Discover the surprising history of this iconic diner, from its humble beginnings to its famous visitors and its role in the New Hampshire Presidential Primary. Hear entertaining stories about the people who helped make the Red Arrow part of the community, including celebrities, politicians, employees, and longtime customers. Through photos, audio clips, and lively storytelling, Mike Morin brings the diner’s history to life in a fun and engaging presentation.
Thursday, November 12th 1:30pm-3:00pm
Music and Memory: The Accidental Creation of a 92-year-old TikTok Star
Dr. Randi Lebar will present an inspirational talk about the wild ride she took with her mother, pianist Elaine Lebar who went viral on TikTok in 2020 while living in a memory care unit. Although the presentation focuses on the magic and power of music and dementia, the underlying theme is human connection. Randi shares lessons she learned along the way about finding meaning and joy in their relationship, in spite of her mother’s mental decline and includes many entertaining videos.
Monday, November 16th 10:00am-11:00am
Author Russ Swallow

will be here to discuss his book, The Big Spoon Is For The Soup, a collection of entertaining stories inspired by the unexpected “left turns” that shaped his life. From the Marines and Route 66 to Los Angeles, Las Vegas in the 1960s, Chicago, Beverly Hills, business, travel, relationships, and many surprising adventures, Russ shares the experiences that took him places he never expected to go. More than just a collection of stories, the book sparks memories and conversations, inviting us to reflect on the unexpected turns and stories that have shaped our own lives.
Tuesday, November 17th 1:00pm-2:00pm
Protect Your Family — Estate Planning Seminar with Amy Azza
Attorney Amy Azza will be presenting wills, trusts, health care proxies and durable powers of attorney, the differences between wills and trusts, and how the probate process works in Massachusetts. Free and delicious desserts will be provided!

Wednesday, November 18th 10:00am-11:00am
BINGO & Breakfast Bonanza — Free Food, Fun, & Prizes
Join us for a fun and filling morning for our seniors! Enjoy a complimentary Chick-fil-A breakfast sandwich, play a few rounds of bingo, and have a chance to win free Chick-fil-A prizes along the way! Sponsored by State Representative David Muradian, Jr., this is a great opportunity to enjoy good food, friendly competition, and a morning of fun with friends and neighbors. Come hungry, bring your lucky numbers, and get ready to shout BINGO! For Northbridge Residents and space is limited.

Wednesday, November 18th 1:00pm-2:00pm
Plummer Place Pluckers Concert & Sing-Along
Back by popular demand! Please join us for a fun and lively Sing-Along program with Plummer Place’s own ukulele group led by Rianne Richards.

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LIBRARY

continued from page A6

imagination takes you! Kids ages 6+ can drop in for an hour of LEGO, building challenges, and open-ended creative construction. Come with an idea or invent something completely new each week.

Basic Embroidery For Adults Monday 10/26 at 6 PM Join instructor Mandy Roberge to learn basic embroidery stitches. Registration required. For adults.

Friends of the Library Meeting Monday 10/26 & 11/30 at 6:30 PM All are welcome to attend and contribute to all the exciting things the Friends of WSL have planned. The Friends are the library's fundraising and advocacy group and meet on the last Monday of every month.

Silent Book Club: Northbridge Chapter Thursday 10/29 from 6-7:45 PM Come and read what you

want with no pressure to contribute. Refreshments provided. Register.

Fiction Book Club Monday 11/2 at 6 PM Come discuss The Djinn Waits a Hundred Years by Shubnum Khan. Books are available on Libby and at the Library. Refreshments provided. Please register.

Memoir Book Club Wednesday 11/4 at 6 PM Come discuss Family of Spies by Christine Kuehn. Books available on Libby and

at the Library. Refreshments provided. Please register.

Craft Night for Adults Tuesday 11/10 from 6-7 PM Help us decorate the Library's tree for the Festival of Trees and a gnome ornament for you to put on your tree. Drop in while supplies last. For adults.

Adult Writer's Group Tuesday 11/17 from 6 PM Join us for "Writing Alone Together" a writer's group and supportive space for creativity and mutual encouragement. Whether you are

working on creative stories or journal entries, this is your time to write. No prior writing experience required. Just bring your preferred writing materials. This volunteer led group meets monthly on the third Tuesday. For adults. Please register.

Get Help with Jenna Thursday 11/19 10AM-12PM Register to receive help from Jenna Gouin of the Blackstone Valley Partnership for Public Health. She can assist with referrals and resources.

Craft Supply Swap Drop off like new craft supplies at the library from Monday 11/30 through Friday 12/4. Donations can include unused yarn, crafting tools, scrapbook paper, tape, glue, stickers, markers, colored pencils, notepads, paint brushes and more. Browse and bring some of the donated materials home on Saturday 12/5 from 10-2.





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*** June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan* Lori Johnson-Chausse * William Gilmore II * Maureen Cimoch * Bryan Pelletier**

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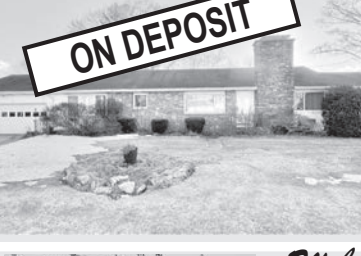
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MLS#73563787 \$1,750,000

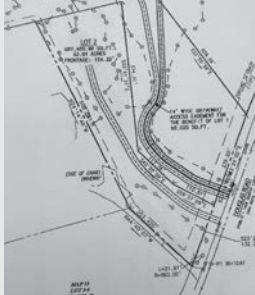
Webster ~ 33 Slater Street



ON DEPOSIT

Sprawling fieldstone faced Ranch! Located on a +/- 0.5-acre, 2 car garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 2 stone fireplaces-FHW BB heat. Open floor plan kitchen, living rm, dining rm, breezeway w/ sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom
MLS # 73500183 \$464,900

Webster - Douglas Rd (Rt 16) ANR Lot # 2



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Webster Lake ~ 0 Wakefield Ave



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Political Advertisement

IF YOUR ANSWER IS YES
TO FOUR OR MORE OF
THESE QUESTIONS, GET OFF
YOUR BUTT AND VOTE
FOR NADIA MILLERON.

1.

Are you sick and tired of health insurance companies denying or delaying your treatments and claims

?
2.

As prices go higher and higher, should your household income be free of federal income taxes up to \$100,000.00

?
3.

Do we need to get the millions and millions of corporate PAC money out of our political system

?
4.

Should we invest our tax dollars here in western Massachusetts and in solving America’s problems, not in endless foreign wars

?
5.

Do you believe the pursuit of Life, Liberty and Happiness applies to all of us, not just the rich elite

?
6.

Should we cap runaway rent increases, and make housing more affordable by banning corporate land speculators from buying up our neighborhoods

?
7.

Do we need more doctors in western Massachusetts so you can get appointments and see specialists when you need them

?
8.

Do you support a woman’s right to make her own health care decisions

?
9.

Should we make our medicines here in western Massachusetts so we aren’t dependent on foreign drug manufacturers and supply lines, as happened during COVID shortages

?
10.

Do you believe there should be term limits in Congress

?
11.

Do we need to stop our elected officials and their families from enriching themselves at taxpayer expense while in office

?
12.

Has Richard Neal been in Congress too long and is he unresponsive to people in western Massachusetts

?
13.

Do you believe both major political parties are broken and that we should elect more Independents who aren’t under their control

?

Congress needs a big shake-up. And it’s not going to happen if we keep re-electing people who’ve been there since the 1980s. There’s no mistaking where Nadia Milleron stands on the issues. And if you stand where she stands, make your voice heard on Tuesday. Get to your polling place and vote to take your government back from the career politicians who have ruined it.

NADIA MILLERON

INDEPENDENT

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