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©2025, Issue #51 Friday, December 19, 2025

# Dudley Middle School, community add a little merry to Christmas for more than 600 children



DUDLEY — More than two decades ago, a Community Service Learning project at Dudley Middle School added a little merry to Christmas for seven struggling children by filling their Santa wish lists. Each subsequent year teacher Lesa A. Patrock and her students have teamed with Youth Opportunities Upheld Inc. (YOU Inc.) to provide Christmas gifts for children in its “Adopt-a-Child for Christmas” pro-

gram. This year, Ms. Patrock, her team of helpers and the community at large adopted 412 children. In the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District, Community Service Learning is a practice that melds curriculum with charitable outreach activities. “The Adopt-A-Child for Christmas community service project brings local families, organizations,

and volunteers together to ensure every child experiences the joy of the holiday season. Participants ‘adopt’ a child by providing gifts, clothing, and essentials based on the child’s wish list,” Ms. Patrock said, adding, “The program supports families facing financial hardship and helps spread kindness, compassion, and holiday spirit throughout the community.” This year the school Turn To MERRY page A14

# Bartlett dominates Southbridge in 105th Thanksgiving Day matchup



WEBSTER — Bartlett High School delivered a decisive performance in the 105th Thanksgiving Day football game, defeating Southbridge 50-6 at Memorial Field. The Indians controlled the contest from start to finish, piling up 338 rushing yards and forcing multiple turnovers to improve to 7-4 on the season while winning their third consecutive Thanksgiving Day matchup, while the visiting Pioneers dropped to 2-9. Senior Lawrence Smith led the way for Bartlett, rushing 15 times for 214 yards and four touchdowns. Smith was named the recipient of the Vincent Sabatinelli Trophy as the game’s Most Valuable Player for the second consecutive year. He also contributed through the air, completing two two-point conversions to Kenny Arpin.

Bartlett opened the scoring in the first quarter on a nine-yard touchdown run by Smith, followed by a two-point conversion. The Indians extended their lead in the second quarter with three additional touchdowns, including a 44-yard run by Jaesean Atkins and another long scoring run by Smith. Southbridge answered with a 70-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by Alex Bermudez Miranda, however, Bartlett took an imposing 30-6 lead into halftime. The ground game remained dominant in the second half. Arpin had an 8 yard touchdown run in the third quarter while Smith added a 24-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter. Arpin capped the scoring with a 57-yard interception return on the final play of the game. Arpin also rushed for 29 yards and a touch-

down, while Atkins finished with 55 yards and a score on three carries. Defensively, Bartlett limited Southbridge to 90 yards of total yards, forced 5 turnovers and consistently won the battle at the line of scrimmage. Aiden Turner led the Indians with 5.5 total tackles, while Xavier Butler recorded five tackles, a sack, a tackle for loss, and two forced fumbles. Kenny Arpin added two interceptions, including the game-ending pick-six. Bartlett’s balanced attack and disciplined defensive effort allowed the Indians to pull away early and maintain control throughout the rivalry matchup. The victory closed the regular season on a high note for Bartlett in one of central Massachusetts’ longest-running Thanksgiving football traditions.

# Oxford Middle School celebrates “67th Day” in style

OXFORD — Oxford Middle School was buzzing with excitement on Monday, Dec. 8, as students and staff came together to celebrate the 67th day of school in a fun and creative way that truly met students where they are. Walking into the building, students were greeted by a festive lobby filled

with balloons shaped like the numbers 6 and 7, along with colorful streamers lining doorways. The decorations set the tone for a day that didn’t take itself too seriously—and that was exactly the point. The real surprise, however, came from the staff. Teachers and support staff proudly wore matching

“6-7” T-shirts, a secret they had been planning together for weeks. The coordinated reveal brought laughter, smiles, and plenty of excitement from students who immediately recognized the reference. The “6-7” expression is part of a popular social Turn To OXFORD page A14

# Eversource employee leads Auburn winter coat drive to support local families



Sheriff Lew Evangelidis celebrates a successful drive with Mike St. Pierre, an Eversource employee who was responsible for organizing the coat drive.

AUBURN — Families in need across Worcester County are warmer this holiday season thanks to a successful winter coat and clothing drive organized by Eversource Gas Operations Field Supervisor Michael St. Pierre at the Auburn

work center on Westec Drive. On his own accord, St. Pierre launched the coat drive among employees at the Auburn center as a way to give back to the communities that Eversource serves.

“Growing up as one of six children, my parents faced difficult decisions regarding essential needs like utilities, groceries, or clothing,” commented Michael St. Pierre. “These personal experiences drive my com-

Turn To COATS page A16



# Cornerstone Bank honors employees for milestone years of service



WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, recently honored 25 employees who reached milestone anniversaries in their tenure in 2025. The Years of Service Awards were presented on Thursday, Dec. 4, at the Barn at Wight Farm in Sturbridge. Cornerstone employees are recognized for every five years of service.

1234567891011121314151617181920212223242526272829303132333435363738394041424344454647484950515253545556575859606162636465

CLUES ACROSS

1. American automotive titan

4. Tire term

7. Two-year-old sheep

10. Indigenous people of Thailand

11. Anti-Soviet Cold War group

12. Actress de Armas

13. Not moving

15. Cool!

16. Plants of the arum family

19. Connected with touch

21. Pen stain

23. Monetary units

24. School kids' art project

25. Early Bell Canada executive

26. Sword

27. Hates

30. Fixed in one place

34. Pie \_\_ mode

35. Moved swiftly on foot

36. Carrier on vehicle

41. A path to get through

45. "Rule, Britannia" composer

46. Spiritual leader

47. Flowing

50. Respectful compliments

54. Cure

55. Soft, lightweight fabric

56. Building material

57. Japanese delicacy

59. A way to cause to be swollen

60. One and only

61. You might get one in summer

62. Wreath

63. Thus far

64. They \_\_

65. Employee reference number

CLUES DOWN

1. Policemen (French)

2. Toy dog

3. Intestinal condition

4. Muscular weaknesses

5. Helps little firms

6. Alphabetical lists

7. Takes down

8. Facilitates

9. Ethnic people of Ethiopia

13. Engine additive

14. Explorers group

17. Written account

18. Consumed

20. Opposite of first

22. No (slang)

27. Government lawyers

28. NY Giants great

29. Small amount

31. A way to save for your future

32. Fall behind

33. Midway between northeast and east

37. Head pain

38. Wildly popular sport

39. "Princess Diaries" actress Hathaway

40. Boat race

41. About fish

42. Nursemaid

43. Able to be marketed

44. Not as large

47. Parts per billion (abbr.)

48. Paddle

49. Oneness

51. Bitter chemical

52. Not around

53. Very fast airplane

58. Main tributary of the Rhine

"The longevity of our employees is very important to us," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "We're proud to have such a dedicated and passionate team whose commitment to our customers and communities defines who we are as an organization."

- 40 Years
- Karen Largesse

- 25 Years
- Jason Main
  - Colleen Lord

- 20 Years
- John Jawor
  - Jamey Mekal
- 15 Years
- Michael Pacheco
  - Kyle Bourque
  - Sara Seaver
  - Susan Wilcox
- 10 Years
- Heather Dumais
  - Thomas Moschos
  - Rebecca Field
  - Johanne Mahon
  - Lisa Tucker
  - Laura Pimental

- 5 Years
- Denise Steeves
  - Erin McGinnis
  - Sophie Descoteau
  - Alycia Rozzen
  - Makenna Obuchowski
  - Caralyn Stevens
  - David Harmon
  - Alan Whitney
  - Bonnie Kinsman
  - Nicole Gaylord

"Congratulations to this year's honorees," Tallman added. "We're grateful for your dedication, enthusiasm and outstanding service. You make Cornerstone stronger every day, and we look forward to celebrating many more milestones together."

About Cornerstone Bank

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

about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit [cornerstonebank.com](http://cornerstonebank.com) or call 800-939-9103.

## REAL ESTATE

### AUBURN

\$385,000, 7 Manor Rd, Hanks, Nicholas T, to Sheehan, William, and Passanisi, Elizabeth.

\$525,000, 14 Chestnut Ave, Nuamah, Susan, to Mensah, Benjamin.

\$525,000, 39 Pakachoag St, Thomas J Burns Jr Irt, and Burns, Kevin, to Colton Street Realty LLC.

\$300,000, 285 Pakachoag St, Marilyn E Wilder Irt, and Wilder, Marilyn E, to Mrzglod, Tomasz.

### DUDLEY

\$315,000, 4 Laprise Ct, Kwiecinski Jr, John B, to Liriano, Joel.

### OXFORD

\$550,000, 237 Main St, Lewis Lt, and Lewis, Pamela L, to Flynn, Thomas, and Doherty, Hannah.

### WEBSTER

\$490,000, 9 Pearl St, Dash Pearl LLC, to Franco, Juan P.

\$353,500, 121 Lakeside Ave, Benoit, Gregory, and Benoit, Jennifer, to Lugo, Carmelo R, and Taft, Caitlyn.

\$1,050,000, 63 Wawela Rd, 63 Wawela Park LLC, to Demon Deacon Realty LLC.

\$638,000, 791 School St, Calderia LLC, and Qs Lending Two T, to 791 School Rt, and Ngila, Michelle.

\$570,000, 1001 Treasure Island Rd #1001, 1001 Treasure Is 10 Rt, and Bowman, Elizabeth B, to Irving, Michelle.

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Wednesday .....9 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Friday .....9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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OXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT (987-6012)

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#### WEBSTER

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Tuesday-Thursday .....8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Friday .....8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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### PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS

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



# Friends of Charlton Library team up with Sturbridge Coffee Roasters

CHARLTON — The Friends of Charlton Public Library, a 501(c)3 organization, has partnered with Sturbridge Coffee Roasters for a special holiday offer. While Christmas shopping is currently underway, the Friends are looking ahead to Valentine’s Day!

Place your order throughout the month of December and your coffee will be available in time for Valentine’s Day gift-giving.

The coffee sale features seven different blends from Sturbridge Coffee Roasters. Flavors include a special Library Friends Blend, Black Gold Blend, Mexican Organic Swiss Water Process Decaf, Colombian Supremo Medium, Sumatra Mandheling Organic Dark, Winter Wonderland, and Chocolate Raspberry; all flavors are available in ground and whole bean form. The cost is \$17 per 12-ounce bag. Proceeds

from the sale allow the Friends to support the mission of the Charlton Public Library.

Order forms are available at the circulation desk at the Charlton Public Library, 40 Main St., Charlton, and also on the Friends’ Facebook page (facebook.com/charltonlibraryfriends).

Completed forms and payment must be returned to the Library’s Circulation

Desk by Jan. 2, 2026. Cash, check, and payment through Venmo (@FriendsOfCharltonLib) or Zeffy accepted. Coffee orders will be available the week of Feb. 9 for pick-up at the library.

For every bag of coffee purchased, you’ll receive an entry to win a basket filled with a variety of Valentine-related goodies. Stock up and increase your

chances to win!

For questions or more information, please email charltonfriends@gmail.com or call 774-230-1410.

Proceeds from fundraisers enable the non-profit Friends to further the mission of the Library by

sponsoring a variety of programs, projects, and events, including discounted museum passes, the summer reading program, author talks, music concerts and performances, and other cultural and educational experiences. The Friends of Charlton Public Library appreciate your continued support.



Courtesy Each year, Lions Clubs International sponsors the Peace Poster Contest, inviting young artists from around the world to express their vision of peace through creativity. The 2025-2026 theme, ‘Together as One,’ encourages students to imagine the extraordinary things that can happen when people of diverse backgrounds unite around a common cause or shared goal. Inspired by this message, students created original artwork to submit to the local competition. Congratulations to All Saints Academy student, Laila Regis, for winning the local Lions Club Peace Poster Contest! Her beautifully crafted poster has advanced to the state level for judging. We are proud of her accomplishment!

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Courtesy Ted Avlas, Chairman of the Webster Historical Commission, presents the first Webster Historical Marker to the Board of Selectmen on Dec. 8. The marker which commemorates the building of the Webster Municipal Building in 1928 is part of the new Webster Historical Marker Program which recognizes buildings of historical significance in Webster. Information on the program can be found on the Webster Historical Commission page on the town Web site, webster-ma.gov.

## Local nursing student presents PICOT research project

BOSTON — Anna Czechowski, of Webster showcased research skills and nursing knowledge through a PICOT presentation in December.

PICOT is short for: Population, Intervention, Comparison, Outcome, Time; It’s a research framework used in nursing to structure clinical questions for evidence-based practice.

All told, 44 students in the Nursing Research course at Emmanuel’s Maureen Murphy Wilkens School of Nursing & Clinical Sciences developed PICOT presentations over the course of the semester.

In addition to practicing their presentation skills, researching the PICOT questions helps students practice defining research questions, conducting lit reviews, using best practices, and more.

With more than 80 majors and areas of study, Emmanuel College combines outstanding classroom instruction and real-world experience to prepare students for lives of professional achievement, lifelong learning, and purpose. Voted the #1 college location in America in 2025 by Niche.com, Emmanuel offers ready access to world class medical, cultural, and business organizations, all with a tight-knit 17-acre campus and 13:1 student-to-faculty ratio. Learn more at Emmanuel.edu.

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The Library will be closing at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24 and closed on Thursday, Dec. 25

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](mailto:jfontaine@cwmars.org)

Friends of the Library Winter Book Sale: December 8th-20th  
Fill a bag of books for \$5 and then go wrap your books at our gift wrap station!

Gift Wrapping Pop-up: Monday-Thursday  
Check the hours each day and come in to wrap your gifts away from prying eyes! We'll provide the paper, tape, tags, and ribbons.

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](mailto:info@lvscm.org).

Library for All – First Two Mondays; Last Two Fridays 10AM (Chair Yoga or Craft)

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

Yoga Nidra with Jess – Friday, December 19th at 8:15am  
Join Adult Services Librarian Jess for a relaxing yoga nidra practice to start your day. 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). This program takes place before the library officially opens. Registration is required and Jess will meet you at the program door. If you have your own yoga mat, please bring it and be sure to dress in comfortable clothing.

The Chatty Chapter: A Genre Book Group – Tuesday, December 23rd at 6:00pm  
December's genre is graphic novel: Check Please! by Ngozi Ukazu. Join Jess for a cup of tea and snacks while we discuss this YA sports book.

Children's and Young Adult Programming  
Play-Doh Storytime – Mondays at 10:30am  
Join us for an engaging storytime filled with interactive stories and Play-Doh fun! Kids are invited to explore, squish and make new creations each week. This sensory-friendly program is perfect for young learners and their grown-ups.

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! December's theme is Popsicle Sticks! Kids will use popsicles sticks to create fun and imaginative artwork. All creations left behind will be displayed in the Children's program room for the rest of the month.

Tiny Groovers – Tuesdays at 10:30am  
Join Miss Paige for a new storytime! Toddlers ages 2-5 and their caregivers will dance to popular kids' tunes using while instruments and playful props, and enjoy an interactive story each week.

Toddler Playtime – Thursdays at 10:00am  
Young kids are invited to get their wiggles out with various toys and new friends!

Busy Baby Storytime – Fridays at 10:30am  
Join Miss Paige for Busy Baby Storytime! Babies and caregivers will enjoy rhymes, movement, and simple stories that build early literacy skills in a fun and playful way.

Storytime with Santa and Mrs. Claus – Saturday, December 20th at 11:30am  
Join us for a festive storytime with Santa and Mrs. Claus! We'll enjoy a holiday story, sing some songs, take photos with the Clauses, and every child will receive a free book to take home. This program is designed for ages 3-7, but siblings are welcome. This program requires registration.

Winter Craft Series: Homemade Snow – Tuesday, December 23rd at 4:00pm  
Visit the library to make your very own homemade snow! After you're done creating it, stick around to play with your snow using a variety of fun toys.

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.

Now introducing Line Dancing with Forty Arroyo! Classes will start on January 26th, and will be held from 11 am to 12:30 pm on every 4th Monday of the month.

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.

## T.L.C. Home Services honors cancer patients at annual Festival of Giving Trees



Courtesy

T.L.C. Home Services owner Tammie Chenevert inspects her tree while setting up for the Festival of Giving Trees.

SOUTHBRIDGE — T.L.C. Home Services, LLC proudly participated in the annual Festival of Giving Trees, held Dec. 4-7 at the LaSalle Reception Center. This cherished community event showcases beautifully decorated Christmas trees donated by local businesses and organizations, with proceeds supporting cancer research and local cancer-related programs through the Silent Spring Institute and other charitable initiatives.

This year marks T.L.C. Home Services' second tree donation on behalf of Cleaning for a Reason, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing free home cleanings to cancer patients across the United States and Canada. Every ornament, ribbon, and gift was carefully selected to honor the impact of the mission on patients and families.

"Participating in the Festival is a deeply valued tradition for our company," said owner Tammie Chenevert. "We are honored to stand alongside Cleaning for a Reason, supporting a mission that brings hope, comfort, and care to families facing cancer. This event beautifully reflects how our community comes together to make a meaningful difference."

Community members attending the Festival enjoyed festive displays, purchased raffle tickets, and helped raise funds for cancer research and local support programs. T.L.C. Home Services' second decorated tree on behalf of Cleaning for a Reason added a special, heartfelt touch to the event, highlighting the company's ongoing dedication to supporting families facing cancer.

Since joining Cleaning for a Reason in 2022, T.L.C. Home Services has provided free cleanings to 40 local cancer patients, totaling \$15,926 in donated services. The company was recognized as one of the Top 100 Partners in the program for 2023 and 2024, serving among the highest number of patients nationwide.



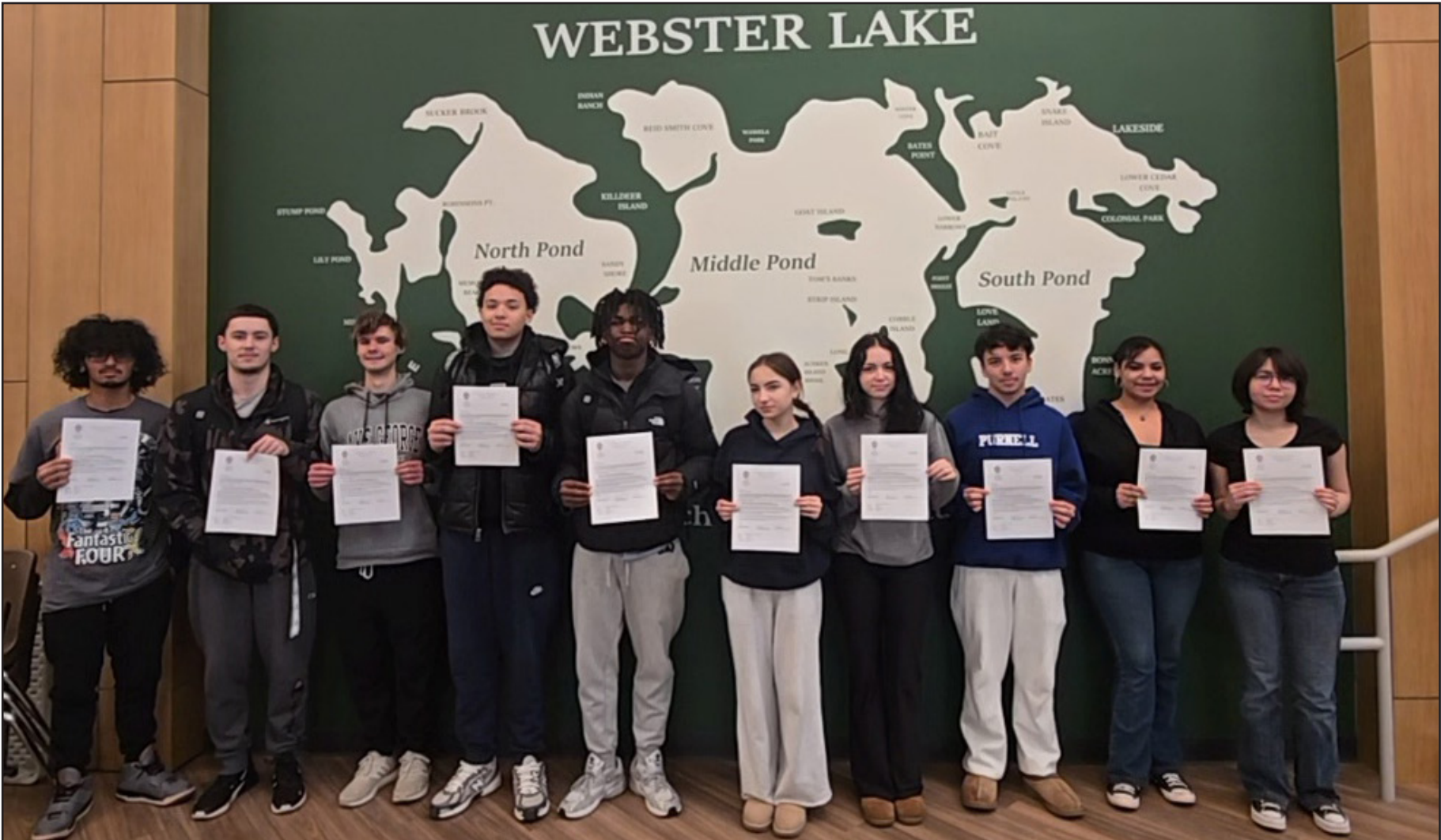
## Winter Coat Closet offers free coats

SOUTHBRIDGE — Free winter coats will be available every Saturday until Christmas (the 13th and 20th) through the Winter Coat Closet, an ecumenical mission of local churches located at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 446 Hamilton St., Southbridge.

We received so many beautiful donations over the past few weeks. No one in our community should go without a coat! We have men's women's and children's winter coats, gloves and other winter items available. One coat per person, please.

For more information, call (508) 765-9559 or e-mail [holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com).





Courtesy

Bartlett High School is proud to announce its recipients of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship. This award is based upon their high achievement on the MCAS exams, which qualifies them to receive a four-year scholarship upon their acceptance to a participating Massachusetts public institution of higher education, including the undergraduate campuses of the University of Massachusetts, all nine state universities, and all fifteen community colleges. This is a great recognition of achievement and Bartlett High School is proud of their hard work! The Class of 2026 John and Abigail Scholars (pictured) are Kiaralix Colon, Chloe drisco,Niel Duszlak,Georgia Lapierre, Josephine Medina, Eryk Piwowarczyk, Johensy Rodriguez, Travis Russell,Elijah Sanchez, Lawrence Smith. Absent from picture: Nathan Cole, Naomie Orelieen, Michael Pagan, TaisTapia Martinez, Luigi Villegas.

## Webster Five collects more than 600 items during food drive supporting local veterans and military families



Courtesy

The holiday food drive organized by Webster Five and Project New Hope collected more than 600 food and household items. From left to right: Jefferson Auger, Webster Five; Rebecca Jalbert, Webster Five; Bill Moore, President, Project New Hope Inc.; and Raymond Robidoux, Volunteer, Project New Hope Inc.

AUBURN — The Central Massachusetts community recently came together to support local Veterans and Military families, donating more than 600 food and household items during a holiday food drive hosted by Webster Five in partnership with Project New Hope Inc.

Donation bins at Webster Five branches across the region quickly filled with nonperishable items and essentials, all of which were delivered to Sully’s Pantry, Project New Hope’s program providing year-round food assistance to Veterans, Service Members and their families.

The drive is part of Webster Five’s ongoing partnership with Project New Hope, supported through its relationship with United Way of Central Massachusetts, which fosters year-round engagement and support for local Military and Veteran families.

About Webster Five

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

About Project New Hope Inc.

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



# Community Connection

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EDITOR

EDITORIAL

A quieter week, and what it says about our community

There is something noticeably different about the week between Dec. 19 and Dec. 26 in Webster.

The meeting rooms go dark. The usual agendas pause. The phones at Town Hall ring less often. Even traffic seems to move with a little more patience. For one brief stretch of the year, the rhythm of the town softens.

That quiet is not accidental, and it is not empty.

This is the week when many families step back into long-standing traditions. Some gather around kitchen tables that have seen generations come and go. Others attend Christmas Eve services, familiar hymns echoing through churches that have anchored this town for more than a century. Some residents volunteer quietly, delivering meals or checking in on neighbors who might otherwise spend the holiday alone.

It is also a week that reminds us how much of our civic life depends on people showing up the other 51 weeks of the year. Boards, committees, coaches, librarians, firefighters, and town employees all carry heavy loads. This brief pause is not a break from responsibility, but a recognition that community life is sustained by balance as much as effort.

For those who have lost loved ones, the holidays can feel heavier. For others facing financial strain or uncertainty, they can feel complicated. The quieter pace of this week offers space for empathy. A phone call. A knock on the door. A simple check-in can matter more than we sometimes realize.

The end of December is also a natural moment to look ahead. In just a few days, the town will shift back into motion. Meetings will resume. School hallways will fill again. Budgets, plans, and projects will return to the foreground. The work of maintaining our community, caring for it, and shaping its future will continue.

But for now, this is a week to slow down, notice one another, and appreciate the fabric of a community that knows when to pause together.

That, too, is a sign of strength.

BY HELEN POIRIER  
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

“For blooded cattle of the Holstein breed one is welcome to Overhill Farms of J.C. MacInnes where you can purchase what may meet your desire.”

This was part of an article from the Auburn News which touted the interesting things about Auburn from 1773- 1925. The name of John Comrie MacInnes can also conjure up the memories of a wonderful dry goods store in Worcester that was second only to Denholm’s Department Store on Main Street. What does the owner of such a successful store be doing with milking cows?

The farm in question was at 69 Bancroft St. It was known as the old Hervey Bancroft place. John MacInnes showed up as a non-resident owner in the 1894 tax records as it was only his summer home. The livestock included four horses, 40 cows, four yearlings, a pair of two-year-olds, and 40 fowl on 113 and a half acres. There were

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 spirit of Saint Nicholas

Saint Nicholas is one of the most beloved saints throughout the world. Of course, our secular culture often calls him by other names - Santa Claus, Sinter Klaus, Father Christmas. While the world around us has taken this figure and wrapped him in commercialism, glitter, and shopping lists, there is still something deeply beautiful hidden inside the popular image of Santa Claus.

When people say “Christmas has lost its meaning,” in some ways, it’s true. The American commercial Christmas has changed the story and obscured the miracle. Yet, within this secular picture there remain certain echoes of the original truth, holy traces of what Christmas is really about.

Think for a moment about what people associate with Santa Claus and Christmas. We see a spirit of joy and wonder, a spirit of generosity, a spirit of good will toward all, a spirit of love and hospitality, and a spirit that goodness is real and possible

These are not inventions of modern culture. These are faint reflections rooted in two realities – 1) the actual, miraculous event of Christmas, when God Himself entered into the world when the Word became flesh and Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem; and 2) the life and witness of Saint Nicholas, whose the true bishop whose holiness became the seed of the Santa Claus tradition.

What is the true spirit of Christmas? Well, it’s nothing less than the moment when the Infinite God becomes a tiny child. Heaven enters the world when the Creator of the universe steps into His own creation and becomes a humble baby. Christmas is the season of Good News of Great Joy “for unto you is born this day a Savior.” The Lord Almighty reveals His good will toward all humanity by letting us know of His unlimited love, entering into our brokenness in order to heal us from within.

If there is joy, generosity, wonder, and love at Christmas, these gifts come from God Himself, who pours His love into the world through the birth of His Son.

And then we have Saint Nicholas. Not the cartoon character of a jolly red-suited old man flying on reindeer but a real bishop, a true shepherd, a faithful witness to Jesus Christ. He is loved around the world not because of myths but because he lived the Gospel fearlessly and tenderly.



BEYOND THE PEWS

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

This was a man who was imprisoned for Christ, suffering for his faith during the persecutions of Emperor Diocletian. He was a bishop who stood up for the truth of the Christian faith, defending the divinity of Christ at the First Ecumenical Council. He lived a life wholly dedicated to God, a bishop whose heart belonged to Christ alone. He shared the blessings of God with others, especially those who were in need. He noticed the poor, the marginalized, and the forgotten of society not with pity but with loving acts of kindness. He defended the innocent, intervening for those unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. And He secretly gave generously and anonymously, protecting the dignity of others, never drawing attention to himself but doing all his good deeds solely for the glory of God.

This is how saints shine. This is how holiness becomes contagious.

This is how the life of a 4th-century bishop becomes, over centuries, the inspiration for stories of a generous gift-giver who cares about children, the poor, and the forgotten.

Imagine what would happen if we reclaimed the true meaning of Saint Nicholas. Instead of a Christmas built on shopping, noise, and stress, we would see Christmas as a season filled with a joy rooted in the Good News of Jesus Christ. We would understand generosity shaped by sacrifice. We would offer hospitality to strangers, foreigners, and immigrants. We would offer good will rooted in God’s love for all.

Saint Nicholas reminds us that Christmas is not about receiving gifts, but about giving gifts and about becoming a gift. He reveals to us that holiness is humble, quiet, and often hidden. He reminds us that such a faith can transform those around us.

So, our Christmas challenge is to celebrate and imitate the true Santa Claus, Saint Nicholas, by doing what he did. Let us notice the poor and needy all around us and offer a loving hand to them. Let us give quietly and generously, without attention or praise. Let live this season with the joy and wonder of those who know that God is with us. Let us become people whose lives reflect the light and love of Jesus Christ, bearing the true spirit of Christmas.

And may Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker pray for us, that we too may become living icons of the love of Jesus Christ.

AI in personal finance: The promise and the limits



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Your smartphone buzzes with an alert: Your budgeting app has spotted an unusual spending pattern and suggests transferring \$50 from your savings account to your checking account. Later that day, a robo-advisor automatically rebalances your investment portfolio. Welcome to the age of artificial intelligence (AI) in personal finance, where technology is reshaping how we manage money.

What AI can do for your wallet. From tracking every latte to forecasting next month’s bills, AI-powered tools are making financial management more accessible than ever. Some apps categorize transactions automatically, while other platforms offer conversational financial advice through text messages. These tools can monitor your credit score, suggest budget adjustments and even negotiate lower bills on services like cable and internet.

The investing landscape has transformed as well. Robo-advisors use algorithms to build diversified portfolios, automatically rebalance holdings and apply strategies to minimize tax bills. Educational tools powered by AI can explain complex concepts through interactive games and simple question-and-answer formats, making financial literacy more accessible.

Where AI falls short. Here’s what the algorithms can’t do: understand what truly matters to you.

AI doesn’t know whether you value sustainable investing over maximum returns. It can’t weigh the emotional complexity of saving for a child’s education versus retiring early. When sudden illness strikes or a job change upends your plans, AI lacks the context and empathy to guide you through those human moments.

Technology can crunch numbers brilliantly, but it can’t offer wisdom. It can’t replace human judgment, experience or ethical reasoning. Robo-advisors’ predetermined algorithms may not suit investors with complex financial needs like estate planning or comprehensive tax planning.

- The human touch still matters. This is where human financial advisors remain indispensable. They provide what technology can’t:
- Long-term perspective: Help you maintain focus when markets get volatile and emotions run high
  - Goal coordination: Balance competing priorities, help partners merge their financial visions and remind you of goals you’ve tucked away and didn’t know still mattered
  - Accountability: Keep you on track with your financial strategy through life’s inevitable changes
  - Emotional support: Offer reassurance and wisdom during major financial decisions

Research validates it: Those who regularly work with a financial advisor and have a financial strategy are more likely to feel optimistic about their financial future than those who manage finances on their own, according to 2025 research from Edward Jones and Morning Consult.

Find the right balance. The future likely lies in a hybrid approach: combining data-driven AI insights with the human wisdom of a financial advisor who understands your values, priorities and life’s inevitable curveballs. Think of AI as a powerful calculator and your financial advisor as the mathematician who knows which equations to use.

As these technologies evolve, the key is treating AI as a tool, not a guide.

Stay curious about what technology can do for your finances. Stay critical of its limitations. And remember: What matters most in your financial life is something only you can define.

Overhill Farm

85 acres in one square, and the Tutor style house that is now at 71 Bancroft St. had 16 rooms. There was also a horse barn, large cattle barn, 400-ton silo, hennerly, windmill and icehouse. There were Dutch Belted Cattle as well as Holstein milkers. The Belted Cattle could remind you of an Oreo cookie. The cattle were shown throughout New England at agricultural fairs. In 1923, an ad offered breeding to the farm’s champion herd sire [Overhill Cornucopia] winner of the Sweepstakes Gold Medal at the New England Fair in 1922

John’s family was originally from Scotland and lived on the Achtermuthill farm on the Drummond Castle estate, so here may lie is love of cows? John completed his apprenticeship in a dry goods store in Glasgow. After the death of his parents, John immigrated to New York City in 1868 and spent several years working in a dry goods store in Providence Rhode Island. It was in1874 that he co-founded William Finlay & Co., which was a dry goods store at 462 Main St. in Worcester. Around 1877, John bought out his partners and was the sole owner and changed its name to John C. MacInnes Department Store. The business became extremely successful to the point that it incorporated the entire building operating until 1958.

John got his naturalization papers in 1877, and in 1890 that he married Abbie A. White. They had their only child, Jessie Comrie, on Dec. 23, 1891. Unfortunately, Abbie died Jan. 5, 1892. John then married Eva Moore of Grafton on June 30, 1896. This would be Eva’s second marriage also; she was married to Albert Eaton who died in 1886. In the 1900 census, the MacInnes lived in Worcester with Jessie 8, Harry A. Eaton 20, Margeret G. Daley 21, Mary Murry 25 and Frank Reynold 29. John was listed as a merchant of dry goods. In the 1900 town tax records, it showed that land off Curtis was acquired by John. That land was originally listed as belonging to Daniel and Mary Ann Kennedy. In the overlay street map at the Auburn Historical Society

Museum, the parcel of land looks to be right next to Overhill Farm, which was paying taxes for 165 acres.

In 1901 an article in the Worcester Telegram detailed the 25th wedding anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. George M. Humes who were married in Sutton on March 19, 1884. George had been living in Auburn and assumed management of the John MacInnes farm. A 1915 article also tells of Jessie C. MacInnes marrying John Tuck who was originally from Biddeford Maine. The wedding was performed at the Harvard Street home with Rev. Dr. Francis Alden Poole, pastor of the Union Church in Boston. Mrs. Harry A. Eaton, her sister-in-law from St. Louis MO was the matron of honor, Alice Tuck, sister of the groom, was maid of honor, Jessie May Tuck was the flower girl. A Boston string orchestra played all the music and some of the flowers for the bridal bouquet were from Scotland. After the festivities the couple left for a wedding journey and would return after Dec. 1 to live at Overhill farm. Mr. Tuck is the manager of Lee, Higginson & Co.,338 Main St., Worcester. This was the same year that Jessie’s father died from influenza. It was interesting to see that from 1920 – 1925 in the town tax records, livestock and farm were listed in Mrs. John M. Tuck name. Her husband was listed in the voting poll. In 1925 there were four horses, five registered cows, three cows, five two-year-olds, seven yearlings, one registered bull, 25 sheep [which were unusual to have in this area], one registered swine, 14 swine, and 300 fowl. There were also ads selling potatoes with a phone number to call.

In 1930, Mrs. Jessie (MacInnes) Tuck, died at Faulker Hospital in Boston. She was buried in Hope Cemetery. The farm continued and according to an article in October of 1935, the Quaboag Herd Improvement Association conducted a tour of southern Worcester County farms to study pasture



# Lanterns Along Main Street

Winter has a way of turning simple errands into minor expeditions. You leave the house thinking you will be gone for fifteen minutes. Milk. Bread. Maybe one other thing you forgot to write down. An hour later, you are still out, wearing a coat that feels too bulky indoors and not quite warm enough outside, wondering how you managed to pick the slowest line in the store. I have come to accept that winter errands operate under a different set of rules. In warmer months, we move quickly. We duck in and out of places with purpose. But winter slows us down whether we intend it to or not. Boots squeak on tile floors. Coats get draped

over shopping carts. Gloves vanish into pockets and reappear in unexpected places. Everyone looks slightly uncomfortable, including the people who work there and have been standing under fluorescent lights for hours. The grocery store in winter becomes its own little community. You see neighbors you have not run into since autumn. There is a nod of recognition, sometimes a brief conversation about the weather that both parties know is unnecessary but feels polite anyway. There is a shared understanding that no one is at their best

right now. What fascinates me most is how patient people become, at least on the surface. Someone blocks an aisle with a cart and does not notice. Someone else reaches for the same loaf of bread. A register freezes, and the line grinds to a halt. In summer, these moments might cause irritation. In winter, they are met with sighs and shrugs. We have all been on the other side of it. There is also a rhythm to winter errands that I did not notice when I was younger. The list is shorter, but the trip feels longer. The conversations are fewer, but they linger. The goal is not speed. The goal is completion without aggravation. At this stage of life, I find myself more aware of how

small interactions set the tone for the day. A cashier who takes an extra moment to ask how you are holding up. A stranger who helps reach an item on a high shelf. Someone holding the door while cold air rushes in behind them. None of this is remarkable, and that is precisely the point. We spend a lot of time talking about community as if it only exists at meetings or events or organized gatherings. But most of it happens quietly, in places like grocery stores, pharmacies, and hardware aisles, where people are just trying to get through the day. Winter makes those moments unavoidable. You cannot rush past them as easily. You are bundled up, slowed down,

forced to share space. You notice things you might otherwise miss, like how many people shop alone, or how often someone pauses to reread a label because they are no longer certain what they came in for. I see a bit of myself in that. There was a time when errands were something to get through as quickly as possible so I could get back to the next obligation. Now, they feel more like markers in the day. A reason to step outside. A reminder that life still moves forward, even when the days are short and the weather discourages enthusiasm. By the time I load the bags into the car and wrestle the cart back into place, I am usually ready to go home. Ready for warmth,

for quiet, for the comfort of familiar routines. But I am also aware that I have just participated in something small and shared. We all did. Winter will keep testing our patience. The lines will stay slow. The aisles will stay crowded. The errands will keep taking longer than planned. But there is something grounding in knowing that everyone around you is navigating the same small inconveniences. It is not grand. It is not poetic. It is simply life in winter, Massachusetts style, carried out one errand at a time. And somehow, that feels like enough.

## Last minute antique and collectibles holiday gifts

If you typically are shopping at the mall on Christmas Eve or ordering one day delivery for gifts on Amazon on Dec. 23, you still may have time to buy that special gift for the collector in your life.

We run our auctions on LiveAuctioneers, so I'll start by discussing their platform. There are over 5,000 auction houses running auctions on liveauctioneers.com. No matter what you are looking for, you can probably find it there. As an example, I searched "oil lamp" and found 233 auction listings currently running. You can narrow your search to a 20-mile radius from your location or expand it to search around the world. Many auction

### AUBURN

continued from page A6

improvement methods, bull pen construction and several high producing herds. The group of 60 men met at the Highland Farm which was the F.P. Knowles estate in Auburn at 10 a.m., then proceed to Overhill Farm at 11 a.m. On Sept. 1, 1957, a public auction was held of the buildings and farm equipment pertaining to dairy farms at 69 Bancroft St., Overhill Farm, and High-Lawn Farm at 201 Pakachoag St. This was due to a new toll road being built and a flood control project.

The MacInnes/Tuck family was very well off, according to a New York paper dated Nov. 11, 1941, "Edward Tuck, the minor son of Mr. & Mrs. John Tuck of Overhill Farm, Auburn, Mass., will receive \$6,000 in securities, and personal property in France valued at 1,200 francs, according to an accounting in the estate of Edward Tuck, American banker and philanthropist, filed in the Surrogates Court, here. Mr. Tuck died April 30, 1938, at Monte Carlo. He was 95. As a member of an international banking house, he amassed a large fortune."

As for John MacInnes, his store, according to a June 1903 article in the Worcester Gazette, is credited with the first white sale ever. The chief feature was that everything that was "white" would be on sale at a "greatly reduced price." This sale went on for two weeks and was copied by other retailers.

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.

houses allow local pick up so you can get the item right away. You can also search for auctions that are ending soon. You will want to check the auction house's shipping policy. Some auctioneers may ship in-house quickly after an auction, and others may contract outside shippers, and it can take longer.

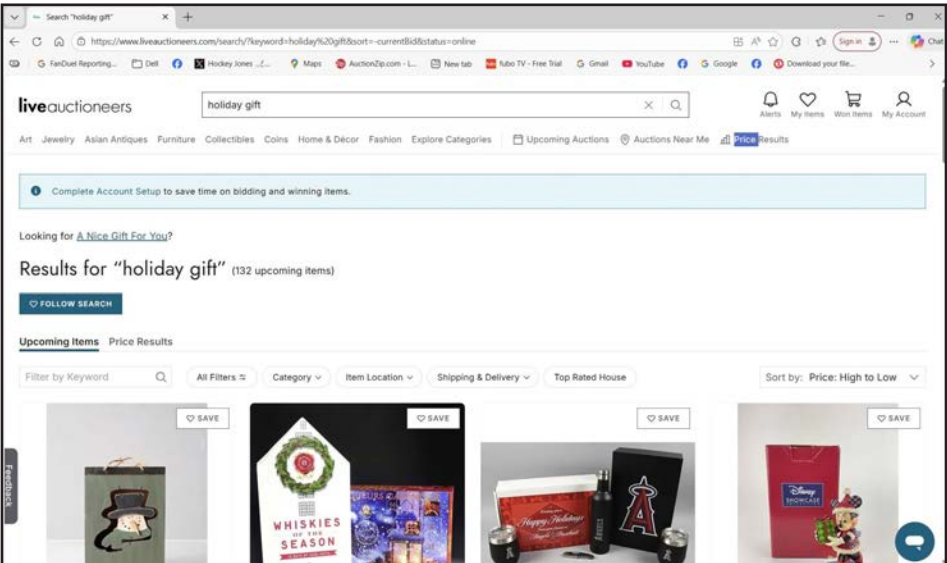
Other online auction options include HiBid. Their website also touts having thousands of auctioneers on their hibid.com platform. Invaluable is United Kingdom based with their website claiming "over 5,000 premier auction houses and dealers globally." If you search invaluable.com you will find many United States auction houses based there.

With time running out before the holidays you may want to attend a live local

antiques, collectibles & estates Wayne Tuiskula to individual New England states. You can find both live and online auctions on auctionzip.com. You can search for auctions in your area by entering your zip code in the search bar. The default is 30 miles but can be expanded further. You can also search by date and narrow your results down to auctions in New England and even

If you want to purchase something online right away TIAS (The Internet Antique Shop) tias.com has been in business since 1995. I used to sell on there when they first went online. Ruby Lane (rubylane.com) offers antiques from around 1,500 dealers, according to their website. They were formed in 1998. Also, check individual sellers shipping policies with these sites.

You may also find that gift you've been look-



ing for online locally on Facebook Marketplace. I did the same "oil lamp" search and found hundreds of listings throughout New England. There are also Facebook groups for people selling antiques locally and you can also search on Craigslist.

An estate sale is another option. Estate sales may be listed in newspapers along with the websites estate-sales.net and estatesales.org. Serious buyers get there early, sometimes the

day before the sale to sign lists to be one of the first admitted into the sale.

Of course, there are plenty of local antique shops where you can search for gifts. You can walk in and buy a gift and make sure you still have plenty of time to wrap it for the holidays. Happy Holidays!

The single-collector Civil War auction is starting soon. Following that, we'll have a major auction with fine jewelry, sterling silver,

art, and other antiques and collectibles. There is still time to consign items for that sale. 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](mailto:info@centralmassauctions.com) or (508-612-6111).

## SOPHOMORES NAMED TO BAY PATH HONOR ROLL

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School congratulates the following Grade 10 students on being named to the honor roll for the first quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

### High Honors

Madeline Candice Adugyamfi, Yaniel Aviles, Caterina Beverlianna Boon, Morgan Lynn Brooks, Claire Elizabeth Calnan, Derek Alexander Campos, Cassidy Lynn Chickering, Sydney Faustina Chisholm, Noah James Cole, Alyssa Marie Cuevas, Aaron Justin Desautels, Ayla Rose Drisco, Christopher Jeremy Feliciano, Madelyn Helena Frost, Melody Starr Fuentes, Vanessa Diane Gordon, Shaylan Rose Hesselton, Emma Mae Jalbert, Max Everett Landry, Isabella Grace Leatham-Wright, Ginely Shantel Molina, Adalynn Jane Nietzsche, Giavanna Bella Orsi, Saverio James Palaia, Julian Thomas Papierski, Jacob Louis Pecore, Kurtwood Russell Pettiford, Ava Sophia Reed, Alexia Grace Rondeau, Thomas Francis Shivick, Grace Autumn Shoblom, Paul Joseph Skarzenski, Tatiana Maria Smolynsky, Nelson Tobias Sorto, Olivia Ruth Torres, Thomas Earl Welch, Spencer Thomas Wisniewski

### Honors

Azhan Nasir Ahamd, Davian Alexander Alicea Aponte, Arlind Aliu, Chase Michael Anthony, Matheus Holanda Antonelli, Nyahlise Lillian Aviles, Isabella Elizabeth Barrell, Zachary Barry Barsalou, Gianna Rae Bedard, Elizabeth Susan Bennington Lynch, Addam James Bergeron, Cody James Blair, Austin Gordon Brodeur, Benjamin Robert Brooks, Brian Bui, Julia Rose Bukowski, Collin Edward Burt, Andrew Mason Carter, Sydney Rae Cavan, Keegan Jack Champlin, Julie Elizabeth Chenier, Sadie Ann Cleary, Raymond Joseph Clouthier IV, Ayva Marie Coffey, Jackson Murray Coughlin, Addyson Kaeleigh Coutu, Esme Elizabeth Cyr, Holly Marie Dailey, John Michel Rousseau Daniel, Tavish McKinley Davis, Norah Abigail Dean, Arielle Grace Deauseault, Tristan Nichole Defazio, Oliver Gage DeLorge, Nicolas James DiGoia, Ava Marie Dufault, Fable Dufresne, Rylie Anne Dwyer, Dominik John Dzibasik, Brian Thomas Finnegan, Madyson Riley Fitzgerald, Kylee Marie Fournier, Anthony Joseph Fredette, Charlotte Susan May Fredette, Tyler Blake Friend, Mehki Styles Fuentes, Jayden Robert Afolabi Giwa-Bello, Matthew Donald Graves, Colton Philip Hall, Marcus Roy Hamilton, Addison Katie Harrington, Kasey Lee Harris, Yadiel Enrique Hernandez Navarro, Fatima Edilene Herrera, Chloe Rose Hosley, Veronica Mae Jansrud, Colin Henry Joyce, Jannie Mahoney Kabba, Victoria Rose Kaiser, Brooke Marie Kasprzak, Cadence Gillian Kilderry, Alana Dianne Kowalewski, Brayden Albert Kruas, Jordyn Kate Labrecque, Brianna Ashleigh Laforest, Andrew Arthur Lashua, Wesley Patrick Lawless, Ryan Khai Lima, Valentina Medeiros Lima, Juliano Ligeniale Lopez, Kaitlin Angela Lulu, Emily Ann Macko, Amelia Layne Magorian, Cynthia Kagan Marc, Julia Danielle Marini, Aydan Michael Marsh, Sherlyn Mazariegos Hernandez, Madison Grace McKinstry, John Steven McMahon, Ashlyne Emily Monsen, Derek Omar Morales, Jesus Morel, Bryton Favor Mosong, Shea Alfred Mulligan, Mia Angell Navedo, Raider Keith Newton, Nathaniel Leif Noyes, Teagan Patrice O'Halloran, Landen Spencer Olszta, Anthony Jadon Ribeiro Ortiz, Gabriella Olivia Pace, Matilda Cecile Paradis, Mason D. Michael Parker, Michael Thomas Payson, Jocelyn Rose Peck, Aleya Jeanne Pereira, AJ Jesse Perron, Parker

Jonathan Piehl, Tyler Garcia Procino, Joseph Lewis Pretty, Brady Leonard Reilly, Randall Roland Richard, Christopher Jeffrey Richardson, Bo Carl Riley, Shaye Patricia Riley, Camden David Rockwood, Danna Paola Rodriguez Lopez, Emilyanis Joan Rodriguez, Ethan Vance Rodriguez, Riley Sebastien Rodriguez, Sylah Diane Rodriguez, Ava Victoria Rondeau, Keomar Arnaldo Rosario Sanchez, Esmerelda Rosario Tirado, Isabella Roszkowski, Aiden Lee Rubito, Rianna Gathoni Ruu, Jayden Jose Santos, Kayla Elizabeth Shepard, Brianna Jingchen Shi, Alejandro Javier Sierra Varas, Liam Charles Sirmans, Victor Manuel Sobinski, Heather Holiday Starr, Jade Antonia Stien, Angela Sofia Suarez Pineros, Victoria Marie Sullivan, Gavin Joseph Thompson, Shafick Yamal Vasquez-Grande, Gina Grace Vautour, Angelina Marie Vazquez, Colin Anthony Vega, Logan James Verity, Sadie McKenna Villegas, Sione Flynn Villegas, Ella Violette Wall, Robert Charles Welch, Colby Deary Wells, Madison Elizabeth Wells, Riley John West, Sydney Alexandra Winer, Julianis Paola Zayas Rivera

### Principal's List

Gregory Todd Amos, Cameron Michael Barry, Emerson Hagen Borgeson, Liam David Bray, Abel Pax Burdick, Miguel Camacho, Aiden Michael Collins, Elijah Gabriel Cornier, Brody James Coughlin, Nadya Anita Delgado, Ian Joseph Fantasia, Adrie James Ford, Grace Willow Foster, Rylan James Fuller, Autumn Rae Gatto, Evelyn Ann Gray, Caleb John Kozlowski, Lindsay Kanha Labonte, Logan James Mondino, Angel Adalberto Morales, Marieliz Magdalena Morel, Martha Mumbi, Gabriel Armando Ortiz, Genesis Lianni Pacheco, Treva Mae Plank, Tianyu Qi, Blake Leonard Richard, Nicholas Donald Richard, Owen Miles Stewart, Jaelyn Doherty Thomas, Nayelis Nahir Torres Godineaux, Haidynn Anne Tuttle, Joniel Leonardo Velez Diaz, Collyn Walter Walker, Noah Joel Waterhouse, Benjamin Richard Wolanski, Chloe Olivia Young, Isabella Anne Zorena

## Demolition bylaw proposed in Southbridge

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Town Council is currently holding readings of a proposed bylaw regarding the demolition of buildings. This proposal has been worked on for the past several years with the Historic Commission and Building Department.

This bylaw is being proposed for the purpose of preserving and protecting significant buildings and structures within the Town of Southbridge which constitute or reflect distinctive features of the architectural, historical, or cultural history of the Town and to limit the detrimental effect of demolition on the character of the town.

A copy of the proposed bylaw is available at the Town Clerk's office as well as the Town Manager's office. If you wish to provide any comments, please send them in writing to the Town Manager's office.





Children wait patiently as Santa called the children’s names and he handed them their Christmas presents.

Courtesy  
Master Masons gathered for the 1st official Christmas Party of the Major General Salem Towne lodge (MGST).

# Masons Christmas Party has great turnout

**BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE**  
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE  
MASONIC LODGE

**SOUTHBRIDGE** — On Saturday, Dec. 13, the Webster apartment’s (formally Webster Masonic Lodge) dinning hall area was packed with Master Masons, from the Major General Salem Towne Lodge (MGST) and the Doric Chapter of Southbridge. About 40 members, families and significant others attended and enjoyed fine food and most of all being together and the comradery. The best part of the gathering was watching the excitement of the children when they were told Santa was coming, and they all went running to see Santa as he entered the room waving and saying HO.HO.HO. The children and adults alike started cheering and clapping as Santa enters the dining hall and Santa proceeds to sit in his chair. As Santa sat in his chair the children went running over and they jumped up and down with joy and so much excitement.

He waved to everyone and started to take his gift bag out and started to call the names of children to hand out the gifts. Camera phones click as people photograph their children, and adults with Santa. If you would like more information about Freemasonry and to find a lodge nearest you, visit our website at [www.massfreemasonry.org](http://www.massfreemasonry.org).

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# Barton Elementary honors veterans with heartfelt holiday celebration

OXFORD — Barton Elementary School was filled with gratitude, music, and community spirit on Dec. 5 as fifth grade students hosted a special Veterans Holiday Celebration to honor local veterans.

The event opened with great respect and tradition as the NJROTC presented the colors, setting a solemn and meaningful tone for the program. Students then presented two wreaths in tribute, recognizing the service and sacrifice of veterans past and present.

Throughout the concert, fifth graders proudly sang patriotic songs and shared thoughtful reflections on the importance of showing honor, respect, and appreciation for those who have served. Their words and voices resonated throughout the room, creating a powerful reminder of the values of service and gratitude.

Following the performance, the celebration continued in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Students and guests enjoyed hot chocolate and pasties while mingling with the veterans, many of whom were family members of the students. The opportunity for conversation and connection made the event especially meaningful for all in attendance.

Special thanks go to Anna Hill, Barton Elementary's building principal, for organizing the event, and to Emily Stark, the school's music teacher, for coordinating the musical portion of the celebration. Appreciation is also extended to all staff and students who worked together to create such a welcoming and respectful environment.

Most importantly, Barton Elementary extends a heartfelt thank you to all veterans. Their service was honored not only through song and ceremony, but through the genuine gratitude of an entire school community.

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# Bartlett dominates Southbridge in 105th Thanksgiving Day matchup



WEBSTER — Bartlett High School delivered a decisive performance in the 105th Thanksgiving Day football game, defeating Southbridge 50–6 at Memorial Field. The Indians controlled the contest from start to finish, piling up 338 rushing yards and forcing multiple turnovers to improve to 7–4 on the season while winning their third consecutive Thanksgiving Day matchup, while the visiting Pioneers dropped to 2–9.

Senior Lawrence Smith led the way for Bartlett, rushing 15 times for 214 yards and four touchdowns. Smith was named the recipient of the Vincent Sabatinelli Trophy as the game’s Most Valuable Player for the second consecutive year. He also contributed through the air, completing two two-point conversions to Kenny Arpin.

Bartlett opened the scoring in the first quarter on a nine-yard touchdown run by Smith, followed by a two-point conversion. The Indians extended their lead in the second quarter with three additional touchdowns, including a 44-yard run by Jaesean Atkins and another long scoring run by Smith. Southbridge answered with a 70-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by Alex Bermudez Miranda, however, Bartlett took an imposing 30–6 lead into halftime.

The ground game remained dominant in the second half. Arpin had an 8 yard touchdown run in the third quarter while Smith added a 24-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter. Arpin capped the scoring with a 57-yard interception return on the final play of the game. Arpin also rushed for 29 yards and a touchdown, while Atkins finished with 55 yards and a score on three carries.

Kenny Arpin added two interceptions, including the game-ending pick-six.

Bartlett’s balanced attack and disciplined defensive effort allowed the Indians to pull away early and maintain control throughout the rivalry matchup. The victory closed the regular season on a high note for Bartlett in one of central Massachusetts’ longest-running Thanksgiving football traditions.



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# Dudley community comes together to provide holiday meals and more to local families in need

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

With this in mind, the Dudley Board of Health enlisted town employees to join in a Holiday Food Drive to help those who receive support from the Webster-Dudley Food Share by donating nonperishables through Dec. 5.

“As we conclude this year’s Holiday Food Drive, I extend my heartfelt thanks to every resident who donated and to the Board of Health and our staff volunteers who made this effort possible,” Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda said. “I’m grateful to be part of a community that shows such generosity and compassion year after year.”

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

Those bins overflowed with the Dudley community’s generosity.

“On behalf of the Dudley Board of Health and the Town of Dudley, we are grateful for the community’s participation in this year’s food drive,” chairperson Roberta Johnson said, adding, “Because of the generosity of many, we donated a large amount of nonperishable goods to the Webster-Dudley Food Share. Thank you!”

# Annual tree lighting at Dudley Municipal Complex brings holiday cheer!

DUDLEY — The weather outside was frigid at 6 p.m. on December 4 when scores gathered outside for seasonal songs by Shepherd Hill Regional High School choirs and the large evergreen on the front lawn was lit.

Soon after, Santa came rolling into town on his big red sleigh (aka firetruck). Santa and Mrs. Claus visited with the littles, and photos were snapped with Bluey. Our library folks offered snowman crafts and Dudley Woman’s Club volunteers served pizza, cocoa and sweets.

Our thanks and appreciation go out to our volunteer Recreation Commission for organizing this high-spirited, family fun event!

The Recreation Commission thanks the following for their invaluable contributions to the event:

Donations from our local businesses:  
Dippin Donuts  
Big Al’s Pizza  
Jimmy’s Pizza

The volunteers who helped make this happen:  
Dudley Library  
Dudley Woman’s Club  
Dudley Police  
Dudley Fire  
Shepherd Hill Regional High School Choirs  
And of course, Santa, Mrs. Claus and Bluey!

# OBITUARIES

## Kathleen M. Perry, 82



OXFORD – Kathleen M. (LaRose) Perry, 82, of Linden Street, died Thursday, December 11, 2025, at UMass Memorial Medical Center – University Campus in Worcester.

She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Joseph A. Perry Jr. of Oxford; two daughters, Donna M. Maryanek and her husband Robert “Bo” of Holland, and Michelle “Mimi” R. Strzelewicz and her husband Mark of Webster; her sister, Karen LeClaire and her husband James of Millbury; three grandchildren, Brad Strzelewicz of Torrance, CA, Mandi LaBelle and her husband Phillip of Willington, CT, and Jacob Blain of Woodstock, CT; a great-granddaughter, Meredith Rose LaBelle of Willington, CT; and many nieces, and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother, Ernest LaRose of Pennsylvania.

She was born in Worcester, daughter of the late Ernest and Lucienne (Vaillancourt) LaRose, and was a lifelong resident of Oxford. She graduated from Oxford High School in 1961.

Mrs. Perry worked for the Town of Oxford for many years, first as a clerk in the Assessor’s office, and later the Oxford Housing Authority before retirement. Previously, she worked at Mass Electric

and Worcester County National Bank, and was an Avon lady for several years.

Faith and music were important parts of Kathy’s life. She was a longtime member of St. Roch’s Church in Oxford, where she was the organist for over 20 years and taught CCD. She played accordion in the Gerry Hadean Band. She also played in her own band, the Monterey’s, and was a member of KMD. She played every Saturday night at the Scandinavian Athletic Club in Shrewsbury for many years, and taught organ and accordion in her home. She had a gift for writing poetry, and enjoyed yoga, dogs, and camping, where she made many friends.

The family would like to thank everyone at Lanessa in Webster, for their loving care over the past ten years.

A funeral will be held on Friday, December 19, 2025, from Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford, followed by a Mass at 11 a.m. at St. Roch’s Church, 332 Main St., Oxford. Burial will follow at St. Roch’s Cemetery in Oxford. Calling hours are Thursday, December 18, 2025, from 4-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf, 4 Maple Rd., Oxford, MA 01540, or to the Alzheimer’s Association, 320 Nevada Street, Suite 201, Newton, MA 02460.

## Valerie J. Deschenes, 76

DUDLEY – Valerie J. (Lucas) Deschenes, 76, of Joseph Street, died Saturday, December 13, 2025, in her home.

She was predeceased by her husband of 42 years, Leo R. Deschenes Jr. of Webster, who died in 2010. She is survived by two daughters, Tammy A. Lamica and her husband Chris of Charlton, and Bonnie J. Miglionico and her husband Jason of Dudley; and four grandchildren, Paige, Nathan, Lucas, and Jayden.

She was born in Woonsocket, RI, daughter of the late Charles J. and Ida (Poudrier) Lucas, and lived in Woonsocket, RI, before moving to Webster in 1968 and Dudley in 2010.

Funeral services will be held privately, followed by burial at North Cemetery in Oxford. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Paralyzed Veterans of America, P.O. Box 758589, Topeka, KS 66675-8589.

Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

ter of the late Charles J. and Ida (Poudrier) Lucas, and lived in Woonsocket, RI, before moving to Webster in 1968 and Dudley in 2010.

Funeral services will be held privately, followed by burial at North Cemetery in Oxford. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Paralyzed Veterans of America, P.O. Box 758589, Topeka, KS 66675-8589.

Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

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# LEGALS

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket Number: 25 SM 003803 Date Filed: 12/4/2025 ORDER OF NOTICE TO: Sharron A. Barber Robidoux, Individually and as Personal Representative of the Estate of Michael A. Robidoux, Billy J. Robidoux, Brent M. Robidoux, David M. Robidoux, and Jonathan M. Robinson and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq) UMB Bank, National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as legal title trustee for PRL Title Trust I claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Auburn, 81 Bancroft Street, given by Michael A. Robidoux to CitiMortgage, Inc., dated April 11, 2005, and recorded with the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 36093, Page 267 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 1/19/2026 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 12/4/2025. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder. December 19, 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. WO25P4244EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Michael B Gagner**  
**Date of Death:08/14/2025**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Monique Pierangeli of Dudley MA and Michael Gagner of Putnam Keith Gagner of Dudley 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: **Monique Pierangeli of Dudley MA and Michael Gagner of Putnam Keith Gagner of Dudley 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 01/06/2025.** 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: December 09, 2025  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
December 19, 2025

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE**  
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jeffrey R. Burley, Lisa C. Burley to Ameriquest Mortgage Company, dated March 16, 2005 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 35946, Page 133, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Citi Residential Lending, Inc., as attorney-in-fact for Ameriquest Mortgage

Company to Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Ameriquest Mortgage Securities Inc., Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-R4, Under the Pooling and Servicing Agreement dated May 1, 2005, recorded on February 17, 2009, in Book No. 43804, at Page 215 Affected by a judgment dated July 20, 2016 and recorded with said Registry on August 19, 2016, in Book No. 55829, at Page 213 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 4:00 PM on January 16, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 71 Charlton Street, Oxford, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,  
TO WIT:  
The land in Oxford, Worcester County, Massachusetts bounded and described as follows:  
Beginning at the northeasterly corner of the tract to be conveyed at a stake on the southerly line of the County highway from Oxford to Charlton known as Charlton Street, also being the northwesterly corner of other land now owned by the grantors and said stake is located thirty (30) feet westerly, measured along the southerly line of said street from the northwesterly corner of land of Victor J. and Frances Page, now or formerly from said;  
thence by the southerly line of said street, south 81 degrees 51' West fifty (50) feet to a drill-hole in a concrete Worcester County highway boundary post set in the ground and also being at other land of the grantors;  
thence by said land of the grantors, South 8 degrees 45' East, one hundred twenty-five (125) feet to a stake;  
thence by land of said grantors, North 81 degrees 15' East, fifty (50) feet to an iron pipe driven in the ground;  
thence by land of the grantors, North 8 degrees 45' West, one hundred twenty-five (125) feet to the place of beginning.  
Containing 6,250 square feet.  
For mortgagors' title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 12736, Page 195.  
These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.  
**TERMS OF SALE:**  
A deposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.  
**DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR AMERIQUEST MORTGAGE SECURITIES INC., ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-R4**  
Present holder of said mortgage  
By its Attorneys,  
**HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.**  
150 California St.  
Newton, MA 02458  
(617)558-0500  
28372  
December 19, 2025  
December 26, 2025  
January 2, 2026

**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. WO25P4257EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Thomas E Walkowiak**  
**Date of Death:12/27/2015**  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Gregory T Walkowiak 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:  
**Gregory T Walkowiak 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 01/06/2025.** 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: December 10, 2025  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
December 19, 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. WO25P414EA**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
Estate Of:  
**George G Casavant**  
**Date of Death: October 8, 2025**  
To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of **Shannon M Hawkes of Oxford MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.  
**Shannon M Hawkes of Oxford 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.  
December 19, 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. WO25P4210EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Mary Ann Lacki**  
**Also known as: Maryann Lacki**  
**Date of Death:11/24/2025**

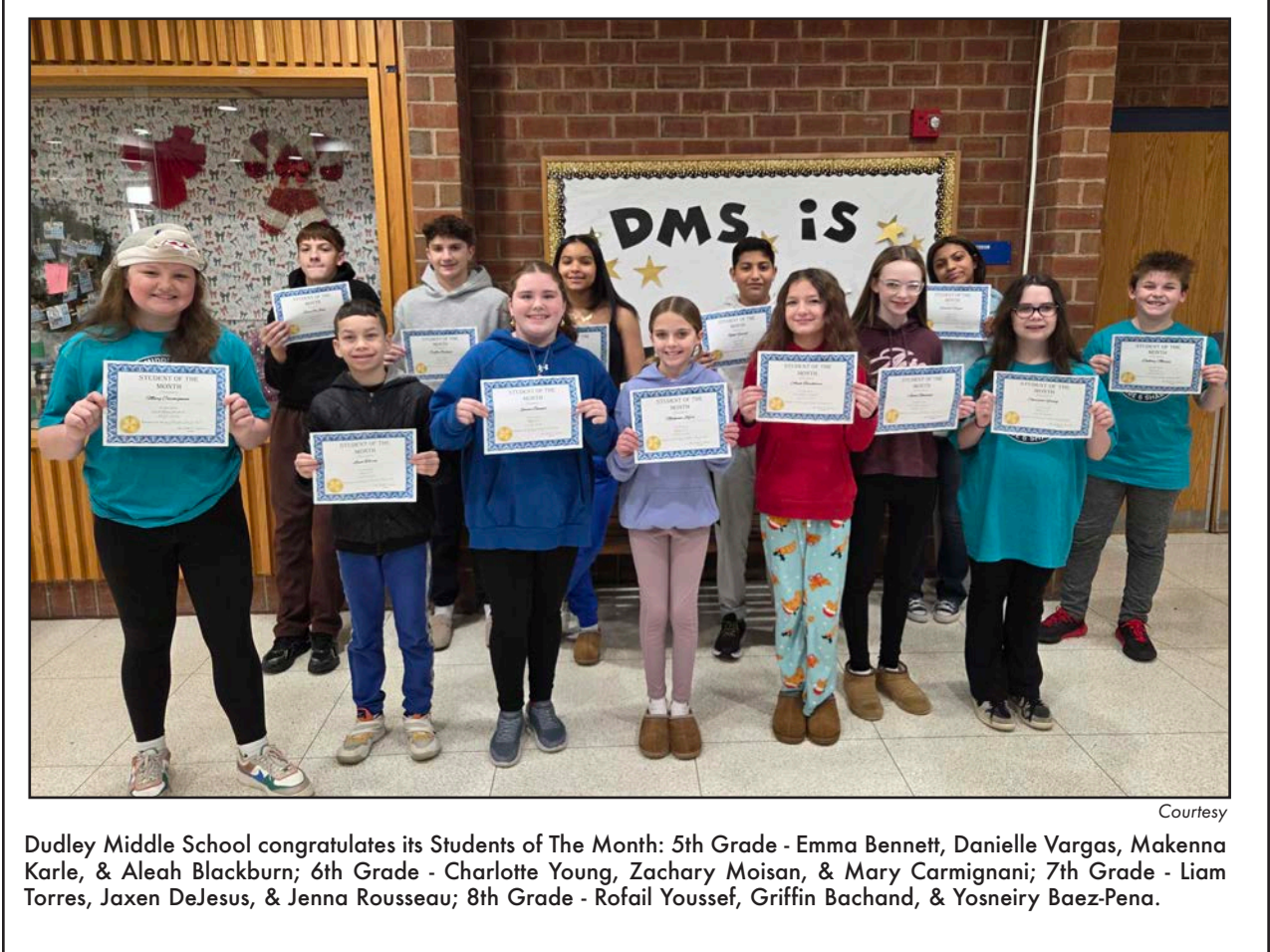
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Donald R Wentworth Jr of Oxford MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Donald R Wentworth Jr 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 appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/06/2025.** 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: December 05, 2025  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
December 19, 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. WO25P4138EA**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
Estate Of:  
**Raim Phillip Devish**  
**Also Known As: Raim Devish**  
**Date of Death: September 26, 2025**  
To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Thomas E Devish of Webster MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.  
**Thomas E Devish of Webster 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.  
December 19, 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. WO25P4193EA**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
Estate Of:  
**Jane F. McKay**  
**Also Known As: Jane McKay**  
**Date of Death: 10/19/2025**  
To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Paula L. McKay of Webster MA** Petitioner **Carleen A Lewis of Thompson CT** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.  
Petitioner **Paula L. McKay of Webster MA** Petitioner **Carleen A Lewis of Thompson CT** 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.  
December 19, 2025





Courtesy

Dudley Middle School congratulates its Students of The Month: 5th Grade - Emma Bennett, Danielle Vargas, Makenna Karle, & Aleah Blackburn; 6th Grade - Charlotte Young, Zachary Moisan, & Mary Carmignani; 7th Grade - Liam Torres, Jaxen DeJesus, & Jenna Rousseau; 8th Grade - Rofail Youssef, Griffin Bachand, & Yosneiry Baez-Pena.



Courtesy

The Dudley PTO would like to extend a huge thank you to Pro Automotive for their continued support of our annual Holiday Card Contest over the years. Three Dudley Middle School sixth grade students came in first, second, and third place.

## QCC Police Chief first collegiate member of Central MA board of directors

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College Chief of Police Stephen DiGiovanni has been sworn in as a member of the Board of Directors for the Central Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, marking a historic first for the organization. He is the first collegiate chief to hold an officer position within the association.

DiGiovanni was nominated to fill a vacant three-year term and was elected by his peers during the association’s November 2025 meeting and started his tenure on December 9, 2025.

The Central Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association represents more than 75 police departments across the region. Its mission is to promote effective law enforcement, support education and professional development, and foster collaboration among public and private agencies concerned with law enforcement.

DiGiovanni has worked at QCC since 2008, becoming the college’s first full-time detective in 2014, Deputy Chief of Police Operations in 2015 and Chief of Police in February 2024.

“I am humbled and honored to be trusted in this position, and I am fortunate to be among some of the best police chiefs in the Commonwealth,” said DiGiovanni. “It’s inspiring to be part of a network of leaders who support and learn from one another.”

## Tuesday Club holds annual Christmas Luncheon



WEBSTER — The Tuesday Club held its annual Christmas Luncheon at the historic Woodstock Inn, Woodstock, Conn. on Tuesday, Dec. 9.

In attendance were Barbara Plasse, Celebrated Honorary Member, Anne Vajcovec (103 years old), Robin Craver, Pat Nectow, Anne Marie Palermo, Susan Schade, Joann Kotkin, Ruth Danforth, Susen Hofeller, Cathy Pokorny, Ellen Thompson, Elizabeth Luchina, Rena Klebart, Stasia Beach, MaryAnne Hickey, Judy Keegan, Heidi Ritchie, Robin River, and Elaine Davies.

Enjoying this annual celebration of fellowship and lots of laughter, which included a lively round of Yankee Swap.

## LEGALS

**MORTGAGEE’S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Robert L. Haynes, Jr. and Lisa J. Haynes to Ameriquest Mortgage Company, dated April 20, 2004 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 33422, Page 72, subsequently assigned to DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE, IN TRUST FOR THE REGISTERED HOLDERS OF AMERIQUEST MORTGAGE SECURITIES INC., ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-R5 by AMERIQUEST MORTGAGE COMPANY, CITI RESIDENTIAL LENDING, INC., AS ATTORNEY-IN-FACT by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 43226, Page 147, subsequently assigned to DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE IN TRUST FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS FOR AMERIQUEST MORTGAGE SECURITIES TRUST 2004-R5, ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-R5 by AMERICAN HOME MORTGAGE SERVICING, INC., AS SERVICER FOR DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE, IN TRUST FOR THE REGISTERED HOLDERS OF AMERIQUEST MORTGAGE SECURITIES INC., ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-R5 by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 44834, Page 332 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM on January 9, 2026 at 10 Linwood Street, Oxford, MA, all and singular the prem-

ises described in said Mortgage, to wit: The land with the buildings thereon situated in Oxford, Worcester County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at an iron pin tied in as follows: North 38° 45’ East (6.03) feet of a M.H.B. located on the westerly line of Old Worcester Road; Thence North 63° 47’ West (117.00) feet; Thence South 40° 10’ West (90.00) feet to an iron pin at the northwest corner of the following described parcel; Beginning at an iron pin in the northwest corner of Lot #5; Thence S. 40° 10’ West by Lot No. 7 and Lot No. 6 (141.31) feet to an iron pin; Thence South 88° 05’ East (43.29) feet to an iron pin; Thence South 75° 40’ East 120 feet more or less to the westerly line of Old Worcester Road; Thence by a curve with a radius of 478.81 feet northerly by the westerly line of Old Worcester Road 90 feet more or less to the point of beginning. Being shown as Lot 5 on a plan recorded in Plan Book 215, Plan 77. Subject to an easement to the owners of Lot #7 for future expansion of septic system over the area described below: Beginning at a point at the northwesterly corner of Lot 5 as shown on said plan; Thence S. 40° 10’ W. 42.50’ more or less; Thence S. 49° S0’ E., 19.00’ more or less; Thence N. 40° 10’ E. 47.22’ more or less; Thence N. 63° 47’ W., 19.58 more or less to the point of beginning. To have and to hold the above-described property, together with all the improvements thereon and the rights, privileges, and appurtenances thereunto belonging, unto said Grantees and to the heirs or successors and assigns of said Grantees, forever. Grantor and his successors in such

office, as such, shall warrant and defend all said property unto said Grantees and the heirs or successors and assigns of said Grantees, against every person claiming or to claim the same or any part thereof, by, through, or under Grantor. For title reference see deed recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 18739, Page 242. The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney’s fees and costs. TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$10,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer’s check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer’s check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee’s attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee’s attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Ameriquest Mortgage Securities Inc., Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2004-R5

Present Holder of said Mortgage, By Its Attorneys, ORLANS LAW GROUP PLLC PO Box 540540 Waltham, MA 02454 Phone: (781) 790-7800 25-001073

December 19, 2025  
December 26, 2025  
January 2, 2026

**TOWN OF DUDLEY  
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS  
71 WEST MAIN STREET,  
DUDLEY MA 01571**  
Estate Of:  
**Michael B Gagner**  
**Date of Death:08/14/2025**

Please take notice that: Vincent Fasan

Have applied to the Zoning Board of Appeals to vary the terms of the Zoning By-Laws Section 2.04.02

Location: 17 Lakeside Drive

In the following respect: Applicant is seeking a variance for front porch addition of 7725ft for lot area, 10ft for lot frontage, 15ft for front setback, 4ft for left side setback

The Public Hearing will be held on Thursday January 8, 2026 @ 7:00pm at the Town Hall room 321A, at which time you may be heard relative to this Public Hearing.

Please contact Amanda Holmes at 508-949-8012 or building@dudleyma.gov to attend the meeting.

George Slingo, Chairman Zoning Board of Appeals  
December 19, 2025  
December 26, 2025



MERRY  
continued from page A1

and its greater communi-ty provided for 412 chil-dren. Additionally, Darlene Wolcott provided 200 paja-ma bags for children in need, which brought that total to 240. Overall, the program provided for 650-plus children.

Ms. Patrock expressed a very special thanks to the following contribu-tors: Mercury Wire of Spencer, Dudley Woman's Club, Hylka Construction, Dudley Middle School, Precision Auto Rebuilders, Nichols College, Prestige Hair Salon, E.J. Stochaj Insurance Agency, Saint

Anthony's Parishioners, Dudley Park & Shop and Patrick Motors Volkswagen of Auburn.

"Thank you for help-ing to brighten a child's Christmas. I appreciate you more than words can express," she said. "I am so grateful to our communi-ty, my family, friends from near and far that contribute and childhood friends who sponsor a child. My heart is overflowing with grati-tude!"

The "Marching of the Gifts" on Dec. 11, where students walk the gifts out to an awaiting truck, was attended by state Sen. Ryan Fattman, state Rep. John Marsi, Dudley Town Administrator Jonathan

Ruda, Superintendent of Schools Steven Lamarche, DMS Principal Gregg Desto and Nichols College President William C. Pieczynski.

"The annual Community Service Learning project at Dudley Middle School is one of the best reflec-tions of who we are as a town," Ruda said. "What started years ago as a small act of kindness has grown into a remarkable commu-nity effort that now brings joy to hundreds of children each year. Dudley is a place where people show up for one another, and this project captures that beautif-fully. I am proud to serve a community that leads with kindness, year after year."

YOU Inc. is a private, non-profit child welfare and behavioral health agency serving troubled and at-risk children, adolescents and families in the Worcester County area. Its Adopt-a-Child program provides gifts to children receiving the agency's services, many of which are separated from

their biological families. YOU Inc. assembles a list of children identified by their first name and a code. Next to each name is a wish list of three items.

Ms. Patrock and her stu-dents network within the school and throughout the community to secure a benefactor for each child.

The donors deliver the gifts to the school, where they are checked and labeled. While the program is based in Worcester, children all over the county will be touched by Ms. Patrock and the Dudley students' gener-osity. For all they know, it could be a child living in foster care next door.



OXFORD  
continued from page A1

media trend frequently used by students online and in conversation. Often said simply as "six-seven," the phrase doesn't have a literal meaning, but instead is used playfully to express excite-ment, silliness, or to punc-tuate a moment—much like an inside joke shared across

platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

By leaning into this trend, Oxford Middle School found a lighthearted way to connect with students, show awareness of their world, and build a sense of community. The celebration turned an ordinary school day into a shared experi-ence, reminding everyone that school can be a place for learning, connection,

and a little bit of fun. A big thank you to principal Leigh Joseph and her amaz-ing staff for creating this surprise for the students.

The 67th day celebration was a perfect example of how small, joyful moments can make a big impact—bringing students and staff together through laughter, creativity, and a willingness to be just a little bit silly.



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Full-Time Maintenance Laborer

The Spencer Housing Authority is seeking a qualified full-time Maintenance Laborer. The individual hired for this position must have general knowledge of property maintenance, carpentry, floor repairs, minor plumbing, and electrical repairs. Applicant should also have experience with painting, cleaning, plowing, shoveling, and snow removal. Individuals must be available for rotating on-call shifts as well as being available for any weather-related emergencies. Must be able to lift 50 pounds or more. General knowledge of maintenance systems, building equipment and small tools a plus. This is a full time (40 hours) benefited position. Retirement is through the Worcester County Retirement Office. Must possess a valid driver's license and be insurable under Housing Authority insurance. The selected applicant must be able to pass a criminal background check (CORI), and pre-employment physical. Base wage rate is determined by the current Department of Labor (DOL) wage rates in effect at the time of hire. Additional compensation is paid for on-call and after-hours' service. Incumbents will be required to obtain a valid Pesticide Certification/License within one year of hire. The Spencer Housing Authority offers a generous benefits package including health, dental and vision insurance.

Applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to:  
Spencer Housing Authority 13 McDonald Street Spencer, MA 01562 Attn: Kimberly Hurlbrink  
You may also email cover letter and resumes to  
Kimberly Hurlbrink: kim.hurlbrink@spencerhousing.org  
Resumes will be accepted until 2:00PM on December 19, 2025.  
Spencer Housing Authority is an equal Opportunity Employer

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WAR SOUVENIERS  
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Friday's Child

Jaiianne  
Age 14  
Registration #7402

Jaiianne, lovingly called "Jai," is a bubbly, joyful, and energetic girl who lights up every room she walks into. She has a deep love for animals and nature, especially cats and dogs, and shows her compassionate side by looking out for little critters she finds outside—she even builds tiny homes for frogs using natural materials.

Creative and expressive, Jai enjoys singing, dancing, and performing, often using these outlets to share her bright personality. Her social worker believes she would flourish in a chorus or acting class, where she could showcase her talents and build her confidence. With her warmth, playfulness, and imagination, Jai is a child who brings joy and creativity wherever she goes.

https://www.mareinc.org/child/22533922820

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

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



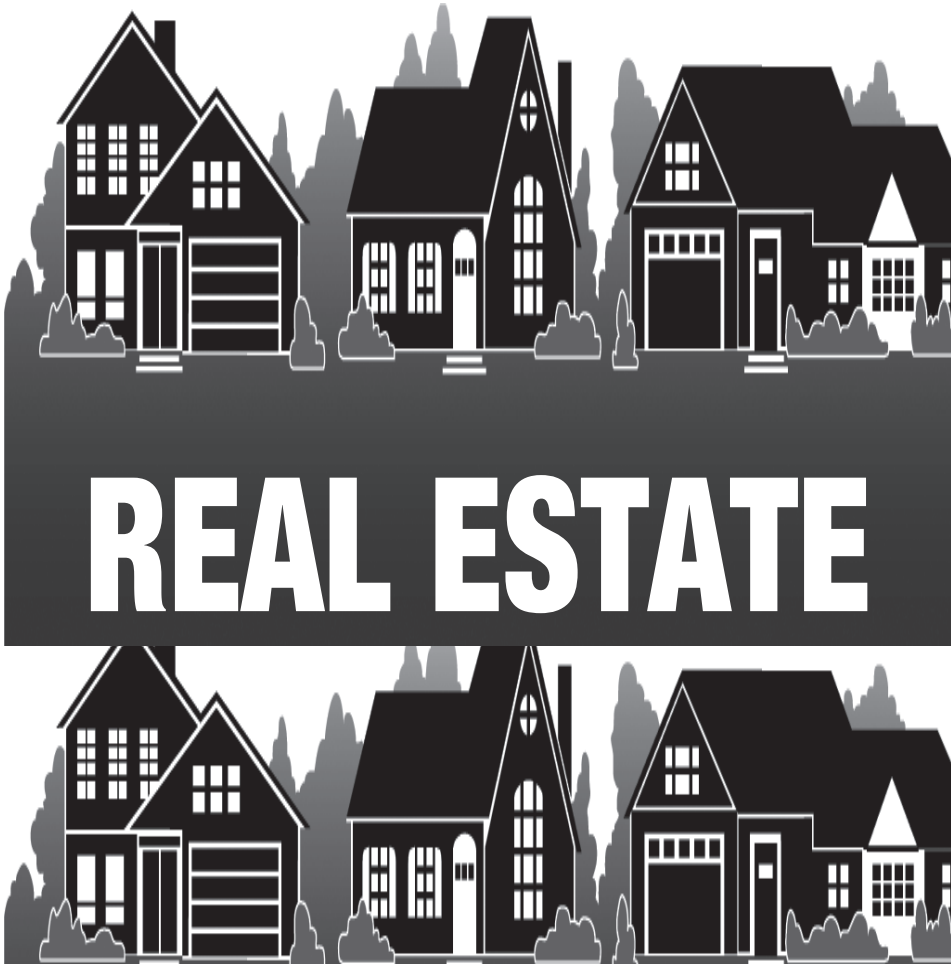


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## continued from page A1

Three scarves  
A longtime supporter of local law enforcement, St. Pierre noted that he was aware of the Worcester

“Our distribution loca-

“For us as a law enforcement agency, the coat

"I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with Eversource and the Worcester County Sheriff's Office to support individuals facing hardship during this challeng-

On Dec. 3, Evangelidis and members of his team visited the Auburn work center to collect the donations and personally thank Eversource employees for their efforts.

The donated items from

the Auburn center will be distributed through the Fitchburg Community Support Center, one of three centers operated by the Sheriff's Office that assist individuals reentering society after incarceration, and generally support the greater community.



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