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Friday, February 13, 2026

## Oxford K-5 students celebrate 100 Days of Learning

OXFORD — Oxford's elementary schools marked an exciting milestone on Thursday, Feb. 5, as K-5 students celebrated their 100th day of school with creativity, collaboration, and plenty of math fun.

At Chaffee Elementary School, students embraced the spirit of the day by dressing as if they were 100 years old. Gray hair, glasses, canes, and "vintage" outfits filled the hallways as students showed off their imaginative costumes while reflecting on how much they have learned in the first 100 days of the school year.

Meanwhile, at Barton Elementary School, students wore shirts featuring numbers, turning the entire school into a moving math puzzle. Throughout the day, their mission was to



## Webster educators, students featured in One8 Applied Learning Hub volunteer kickoff

WEBSTER — Webster Public Schools was honored to play an integral role in the One8 Applied Learning Hub's Volunteer Kickoff Zoom meeting for Student-Industry Connects, highlighting the district's commitment to authentic applied learning experiences.

Representing Webster were Bartlett High School educator Artur Duque and sophomore Angela Sarfo, along with Webster Middle School educator Kate Berti and eighth grader Xander Nieves. Angela Sarfo opened the meeting by leading a warm-up activity for volunteers, setting an engaging and welcoming tone for the session.

Following the activity, the Webster team shared their perspectives on the value and importance of industry feedback from both educator and student viewpoints, emphasizing how professional insight strengthens classroom learning. One8 staff later shared that multiple volunteers remained on the call after the webinar concluded, noting that although they had participated in Student-Industry Connects for years, this was the first time they heard directly from teachers and students about the impact of their feedback—making this kickoff the most successful start to SIC to date.

This year's Student-Industry Connects initia-

tive will include over 400 student projects from 84 schools, reviewed by 380 volunteers representing 117 organizations, including Liberty Mutual, Sanofi, Alnylam, and National Grid. Volunteers provide students with authentic, personalized, and professional feedback, offering real-world insight into their work and reinforcing expectations found in industry settings.

S t u d e n t - I n d u s t r y

Connects gives students

the opportunity to showcase their hard work to an authentic audience, making coursework more motivating, engaging, and mean-

ing.

Turn To ONE8 page A9

## Worcester Model Railroaders announce open house



WEBSTER — The Webster Division of the Worcester Model Railroaders announces an open house at 14 Railroad Ave. in Webster to be held on March 1. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., families, friends and kids of all ages will be able to view and operate two large, model railroad layouts in operation. The first is a 40-by-60-foot HO gauge layout depicting railroad operations in New England. This layout is computer controlled using Digitrax DCC. Watch the

trains as they climb to the second level via the helix. The second layout is a 10-by-30-foot O gauge layout—a typical Lionel train operation that is familiar to most folks.

During the open house, visitors of all ages will have an opportunity to control the trains as they make their way around the layout. Club members will be available to give tours of the layouts and discuss club activities. This is also a great opportunity to donate any railroad equipment that might

find classmates whose shirt numbers could be added or multiplied to equal 100. The activity encouraged teamwork, problem-solving, and lots of excited conversations as students worked together to reach the goal.

Students at both schools had a great time celebrating 100 days of learning while reinforcing important math skills in fun and meaningful ways.

As a fun math fact shared during the celebration: for fifth graders, the 100th day of school this year also marks their 1,000th day of school overall—a reminder that learning really does add up. From costumes to calculations, the day was a perfect example that math is everywhere and learning can be something to celebrate.

## Fels Family Foundation grant expands access to Boys & Girls Club for Webster youth

WEBSTER — The Boys & Girls Club of Webster-Dudley is proud to share that a recent grant from the Fels Family Foundation has made a meaningful and immediate impact on local youth by funding bus transportation for Webster members to attend the Club.

For many families, transportation has long been a barrier to participation in out-of-school programming. With the support of the Fels Family Foundation, the Club is now able to provide reliable bus transportation, opening the door for more Webster youth to access our Club's academic support, enrichment activities, and safe, welcoming environment after school.

Since transportation began, the Club has seen an

increase in attendance from Webster youth who previously had no way to get to the Club. This expanded access has strengthened programs, increased consistency for members, and ensured that more young people can benefit from the opportunities the Club provides.

The grant covers transportation costs for the remainder of the school year, a considerable financial investment, ensuring that students can attend regularly and safely through the end of the academic year. This gift has provided stability for families and allowed the Club to focus on delivering high-quality programming.

The Fels Family Foundation has long been a dedicated supporter of the

greater community, with sustained investments in local young adult and youth-serving organizations. Their continued commitment reflects a deep belief in education, opportunity, and community well-being.

"The ability to get to the Club may seem like a small thing, but for many families it makes all the difference," said Club leadership. "This support directly impacts our members' lives and strengthens our entire community."

The Boys & Girls Club of Webster-Dudley extends its sincere gratitude to the Fels Family Foundation for their generosity and continued partnership in helping local youth reach their full potential.

### PUBLIC NOTICE RIGHT OF WAY MAINTENANCE

As required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 132B, National Grid (New England Power and/or Massachusetts Electric Company) hereby gives notice that it intends to selectively apply herbicides along specific transmission line rights-of-way in 2026.

The selective use of herbicides to manage vegetation along rights-of-way is done within the context of an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) program consisting of mechanical, chemical, natural, and cultural components. In right-of-way vegetation management the pest or target is vegetation (primarily tall growing) that will cause outages and safety issues. National Grid's IVM program encourages natural controls by promoting low growing plant communities that resist invasion by target vegetation. The selective use of herbicides and mechanical controls are the direct techniques used to control target vegetation and help establish and maintain natural controls.

National Grid may utilize any of the herbicides noted on the MA Sensitive Materials list. Rodeo, and possibly one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, will be applied directly to the surface of stumps immediately after target vegetation is cut (Cut Stump Treatment). Garlon 4 or Garlon 4 Ultra will be applied selectively to the stems of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Basal Treatment and Dormant stem treatment). Krenite S or Rodeo, mixed with Escort XP, and one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, or Milestone will be applied selectively to the foliage of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Foliar Treatment). Cambistat as a tree growth regulator. Applications shall not commence more than ten days before nor conclude more than ten days after the following treatment periods. The herbicide mixes and additional information about rights of way management in Massachusetts can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/rights-of-way-vegetation-management>

Municipalities that have rights-of-way scheduled for herbicide treatments in 2026: Auburn

### Treatment Periods

February 1, 2026–May 30, 2026	May 30, 2026–Oct 15, 2026	Oct 15, 2026–Dec 31, 2026
CST	Foliar	CST
Basal	CST	Basal
Dormant stem	Basal	Dormant stem
	Cut stubble	

\*The exact treatment dates are dependent upon weather conditions and field crew progress.

Further information may be requested by contacting (during business hours, Mon-Fri from 8:00 am-4:00 pm):  
Mariclaire Rigby, National Grid, 939 Southbridge Street, Worcester, MA 01610.  
Telephone: (781) 290-8310 or email: [mariclaire.rigby@nationalgrid.com](mailto:mariclaire.rigby@nationalgrid.com)


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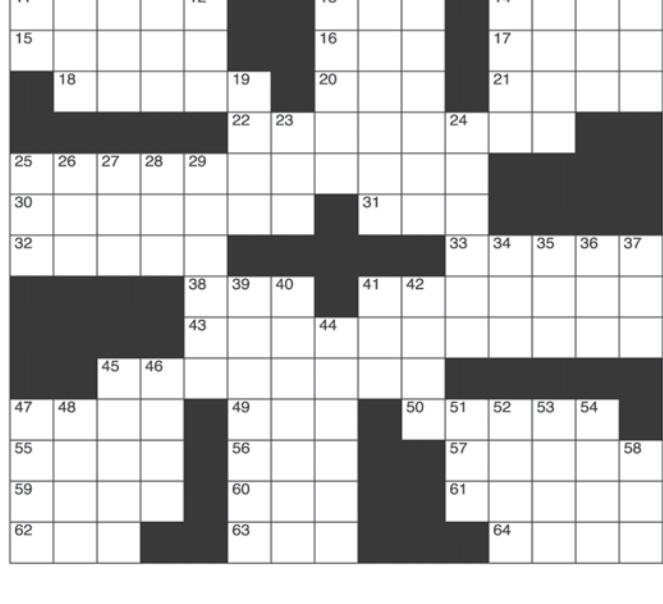
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### CLUES ACROSS

- Breezed through
- Consumer protection agency
- Criminal syndicate
- Moves back from
- Satisfaction
- Feel concern or interest
- Monetary units
- Congressman (abbr.)
- Israeli city
- Restaurants
- 2,000 lbs.
- Grandmother
- North, South and Central
- In an early way
- Foes
- Social networking platform
- Early term for basketball player

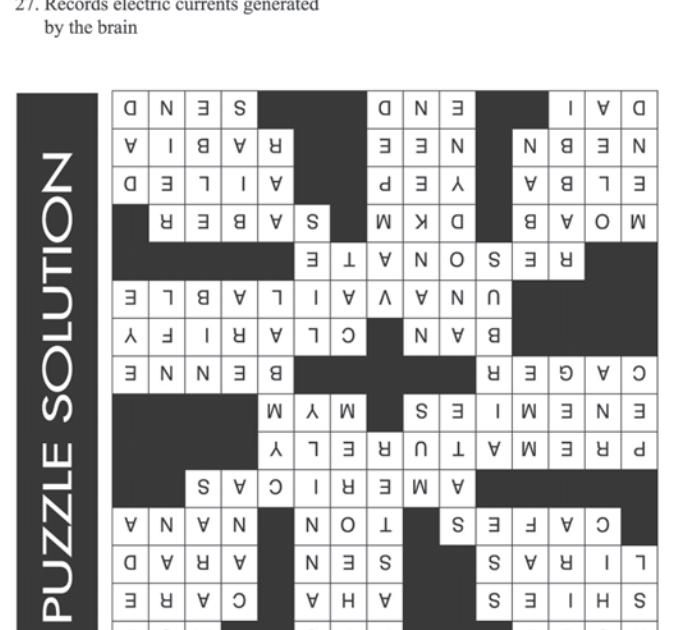
- Another name for sesame plant
- Disallow
- Provide greater detail
- Inaccessible
- Evoke emotions
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- Celtic punk rockers
- A fencing sword
- Actor Idris
- Affirmative (slang)
- Afflicted in mind or body
- One point north of northeast
- Born of
- Social media hand gesture
- Hong Kong food stall — pui dong
- Opposite of beginning
- Email function

### CLUES DOWN

- Sign language
- Fashionable
- Borough in Helsinki
- Inability to hear
- More quickly
- An idea accepted as a demonstrable truth
- Shrewdly
- Rooney and Kate are two
- Mediterranean port
- Beneficent monk
- Midway between south and southeast
- Town in Galilee
- Satisfy
- Mice genus
- Brass instrument
- Chest muscle (slang)
- Transmits genetic information from DNA
- Records electric currents generated by the brain

- Woman (French)
- Short route aircraft
- Pitching statistic
- Pointed end of a pen
- Popular sports league
- Body part
- Inoffensive
- Yellowish cotton cloth
- Feline
- Does not tell the truth
- Seduced
- Spiritual leader
- Abba —, Israeli politician
- Repair
- Olive genus
- Swiss river
- Prejudice
- C. European river
- Keep under control
- Father

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**



# Worcester Polytechnic Institute announces Fall Dean's List

WORCESTER — Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has announced its Dean's List for academic excellence for the Fall 2025 semester.

The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differ from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI students are named to the Dean's List based on the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and hands-on projects.

"WPI's academic programs are rigorous and require a level of independence beyond what is required in traditional courses. WPI students work on real-world, open-ended problems on campus and in communities around the globe. Far from being simple academic exercises, the projects students complete have genuine and lasting impacts in our partner communities," said Provost Andrew Sears. "Some of this nation's best and brightest students come to WPI to study engineering, science, business, and the humanities. Those named to the Dean's List have excelled in all of their work, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students."

The following students were named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List:

Justin Bernier of Auburn, class of 2029, majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Tien Nguyen of Auburn, class of 2026, majoring in Computer Science

Nathan Card of Dudley, class of 2028, majoring in Aerospace

### Engineering

Gabriel Colebourn of Webster, class of 2027, majoring in Chemical Engineering

Dylan Dipietro of Oxford, class of 2029, majoring in Mechanical Engineering

Elijah Gray of Oxford, class of 2026, majoring in Computer Science

Jonathan Hutchinson of Dudley, class of 2029, majoring in Aerospace Engineering

Kayah Jadczak of Webster, class of 2029, majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Samantha Loy of Webster, class of 2028, majoring in Biology and Biotechnology

Szymon Mamro of Webster, class of 2026, majoring in Computer Science

Sofia McCarty of Dudley, class of 2028, majoring in Computer Science

Benjamin Perry of Dudley, class of 2026, majoring in Computer Science and Interactive Media and Game Development - Technology

Luke Poirier of Dudley, class of 2028, majoring in Civil Engineering

Adrianna Roszkowski of Oxford, class of 2028, majoring in Civil Engineering

Domadious Tawadrous of Dudley, class of 2029, majoring in Mechanical Engineering

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute Worcester Polytechnic

Institute (WPI) is a top-tier, STEM-focused university with an R1 research classification and global leadership in project-based learning. Founded in 1865, WPI's distinctive approach integrates classroom theory with real-world practice, preparing students to tackle critical challenges through inclusive education, impactful projects, and interdisciplinary research. With more than 70 Bachelor's, Master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments and over 50 global project centers, WPI advances knowledge and innovation in fields such as life sciences, smart technologies, advanced materials and manufacturing, and global innovation.

Learn more at [www.wpi.edu](http://www.wpi.edu).

## WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests from Jan. 11 to Feb. 7.

Renee M. Andrews, age 53, of Webster was arrested on Jan. 11 in connection with a warrant.

Jose Luis Mandujano, age 34, of Southbridge was arrested on Jan. 14 for Attempting to Burn a Motor Vehicle, Carrying a Dangerous Weapon, multiple counts of Malicious Destruction of Property, and in connection with a warrant.

A 32-year-old male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Jan. 14 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

A 28-year-old male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Jan. 17 for Assault & Battery on a Pregnant Victim and Wanton or Reckless Behavior Causing Risk to a Child.

A 31-year-old male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Jan. 20 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

A male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Jan. 23 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Jason Echevarria, age 42, of Worcester was arrested on Jan. 24 in connection with a warrant.

Anthony Paul Pietrowski, Jr., age 24, of Webster was arrested on Jan. 30 on Probable Cause from Another Agency.

Robert Copko, age 35, of Webster was arrested on Jan. 31 in connection with a warrant.

Cameron C. Andrews, age 31, of Webster was arrested on Jan. 31 in connection with a warrant.

Edwin A. Lugo, age 52, of Webster was arrested on Feb. 4 in connection with a warrant.

Luis Javier Ramos, age 29, of Webster was arrested on Feb. 6 in connection with a warrant of apprehension.

A 40-year-old male from Manchester, New Hampshire whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Feb. 7 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member and Wanton or Reckless Behavior Causing Risk to a Child.

### PAW of the WEEK

#### BRONC

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I'm a true "velcro dog" at heart. I love quiet moments, head scratches, and being close to my people. I'm not flashy or chaotic — I'm steady, affectionate, and deeply loving. The kind of dog who makes a house feel like home.

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# Dudley Middle School announces honor roll

DUDLEY — Dudley Middle School has released its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

## Grade 5

High Honors: Adelynn Ashford, Madeline Avakian, Reid Bachand, Calleigh Barney, Emily Bell, Emma Bennett, Estelle Brackett, Layla D'Andrea, Isabelle England, Ashlyn Goetz, Maurice Hammie, Averi Hortance, Amelia Jones, Makenna Karle, Mason Karle, Abigail Lamusta, Phoenix LeBlanc, Roaslie Lundy, Ivan Mayombwe, Bella Menzone, Penny Myler, Gregory Panu, Anderson Paradise, Gabriella Powaza, Gabriella Santos, Mackenzie Smart, Hazel St. Laurent, Gregory Standing, Kaiden Swift, Jovahnni Vallejo, Emma Wierbik

Honors: Joicey Agim, Xzavier Agosto, Gunnar Anderson, Elaria Ayad, Jacob Belanger, Jadiel Berrios, Ayla Bonneville, John Campbell, Noah Chestna, Brendan Clark, Maliyah Cooley, Emmeline Dirodi, Benjamin Drewry, Charlie Durgin, Lois Dzanka, Dominic Estremera, Jonathan Fawzy, Nevaeh Fraticelli, Stella Fuentes, Adelynne Greamo, Reagen Hansen, Audrina Harrington, Dylan Jalbert, Logan Keefe, Savannah Lepage, Hunter Leverone, Jensen Linares Calderon, Nathan MacCormack, Anthony Manzi, Alexandra McAvey, Skylar Meehan, Christopher Mello, Mackenzie Mettel, Mina Morgan, Eva Padgett, Gavin Page, Lillian Paradis, Bayleigh Podles, Rafael Rabski, Quinn Remillard, Logan Rim, Avery Ruderman, Ethan Rusack, Lucas Schneider, Norah Scott, Nicholas Spahl, Alice St. George, Cedric Synal, Ayla Thurber, Arsanios Towadros, Alexis White, Cameron Wilson

## Grade 6

High Honors: Jayden Agosto, Natalia Androlewicz, Charlie Audet, Audrey Barcelo, Riley Bell, Nina Browning, Mary Carmignani, Maya Caron, Nestor Castaneda Garland, Austin Cazeault, Abigail Craver, Luca DiDonato, Connor Hains, London Hogan, Elaria Ibrahim, Carter Lebeau, Bryce MacCormack, Riley Mackowiak, Samuel Majka, Maxwell Mathews, Amora Mello, Jameson Metzler, Maddox Millette, Irvin Nyatuka, Kalisia Roldan, Alayah Ruskin, Hailey Shaw, Aniela Slanda, Camellia Sobinska-Colon, Bentley Toto, Alexander Vivenzio, Theodore Weimngs-Tsvid

Honors: Julianne Androlewicz, Meadow Arena, Hunter Baldwin, Nicholas Bandelean, Colin Barnes, Raegan Barille, Biman Basalious, Kaelians Boulus, Gabriela Cabrera, Mason Cahill, Sadie Cerand, Anthony Coccia, Kaiden Coulson, Seth Clegg, Rebecca Czernicki Ramsey, Vincent D'Ambra, Eleanor Daniel, Robin Donais, Rowan Doyle, Logan Duarte, Tristan Ducharme, Madison Fortin, Wyatt Foskett, Amelia Gago, Korbin Giantsios, Geomara Gonzalez, Keilani Gonzalez, Maddox Harden, Lucas Henderson Mendoza, Kristopher Kay, Owen Laro, Sid Lindsay, Zachary Marrier, Liam Mason, Alexus McGinty, Zoe Meeks, Cathaleya Melendez, Cody Mitchell, Zachary Moisan, Liam Nelson, Leo Piotti, Gabriela Prusinski, Alexa Racine, Ivy Rodrigues, Bryce Rousseau, Xander Sanchez, Adele Sikorski, Grace-Ann Smith, Hannah Staruk, Andrew Szpakowski, Hunter Tomlinson, Geovanny Vazquez, Leah Waleski, Charlotte Young

## Grade 7

High Honors: Miah Amorelli, Jasmine Arboleda, Rihnya Bembridge, Caleb Coddington, James D'Andrea, Penelope Habib, Elliott Harnois, Henri Hokanson, Whitney Kungu, Charlotte Langlois, Anthony LeBlanc, Olivia Macek, Benjamin Moisan, Andreas Niforos-Ortiz, Aralynn Patraw, Layla Perez, Sara Rabski, Ivy St. Laurent, Claire Synal, Braden Traverso, Ishak Youssef

Honors: Connor Ares, Sophia Bastardo, Avery

Battista, Ava Baxter, Grayson Belley, Lily Blessington, Jason Broadmeadow, Alexander Campbell, Jacob Casey, Abigail Chojnacki, Silas Ciuchta, Fiona Cole, Daxton Colella, Logan Connor, Liv Cushing, Lana Denson, Vianeliz Diaz Rodriguez, Arianna Dos Santos, Kylie Ebbeling, Arianna Fitzherbert, Ayla Flores, Nadia Gawrych, Malcolm Goetz, Leo Guardiani, Cynthia Kerry, Timothy King, Mia Kreft, Abigail Larrabee, Angelina LeBlanc, Eliana Lempicki, Makayla Madee, Giada Manzi, Isabella Mathieu, Briella McGinty, Sebastian Milewski, Lauren Mitchell, Rhys Myler, Delaney O'Grady, Ella Padgett, Adriana Panu, Jacob Paradis, D'Andre Parra-Olivera, Gavin Patenaude, Peter Penesis, Isaiah Pinero, Hunter Reid, Skylie Rivera, Logan Rodrigues, Amarie Rosario, Ava Rosario, Maya Rousey, Jenna Rousseau, Sabella Rust, William Santic, Imani Sevieri, Colin Shorten, Jackson Smith, Leilani Sobinska-Colon, Zachary Standing, Natalie Stinehart, Charlotte Tipple, Lorenzo Trifone, Hunter Trybulski, Naomi Vargas

## Grade 8

High Honors: Oltina Bektashi, Jackson Bell, Gwyneth Boudreau, Richard Carmignani, Celeina Collins, Isabella Congdon, Josephine Conrad, Tiffany DePaula, Jason Donais, Addison Duval, Taya Greene, Phoebe Houatchanbara, Eliora Ibrahim, Camden Karle, David Kruszewski, Olivia Laskowski, Taylor Laskowski, Calista Lawless, Alexander Lewandowski, Maria Mankarios, William Martel, Jolene Ndegwa, Arianna Norton, Mia Piotti, Valentina Sedykh-Gil, Evan Steriti, Ivanka Twumassi-Ankrah

Honors: Jordan Ashton, Abigail Avakian, Griffin Bachand, Yosneiry Baez Pena, Sophie Barcelo, Jason Bianchi, Alexandria Brooks, Sofia Cabrera, Kellen Caines, Kolby Campbell, Paul Chabot, Matilda Cronauer, Olivia DeLisle, Olivia Dubreuil, Dylan Dufresne, Benjamin Durgin, Chase Dzivases, Kristina England, Mason Fanion, Jaxon Flagg, Milani Hammie, Jasmine Hansen, Shawn Hastings, Karolina Janusz, Coleton Lempicki, Cooper LeVierge-Mallet, Macy MacDonald, Chidimma Madu, Julia Mahadeo, Josiah Mangual, Eleanor McCool, Michael Menard, Victor Mensah, Natalia Osowska, Carter Paquin, Kiersten Plocher, Alayna Pontbriand, Alivia Rada, Ariana Rodriguez, Justen Shenouda, Maddex St. George, Jacob Strafer, Malik Thomas, Ayla Tombeno, Anastasia Towadros, Ryder Trajanowski, Avianna Vega, Devante Whitcomb, John Whitcraft, Lucas White, Rofail Youssef

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**Call 774-200-7308**  
**email: mikaela@stonebridgepress.news**

Green Path Cannabis in Southbridge, Massachusetts, is proud to offer a monthly record expungement program! Each month, Green Path will choose one interested person to receive legal services to evaluate and assist their petitions to seal or expunge a criminal record of cannabis possession. Green Path will give hiring consideration to qualified participants as well as their spouses and children if an employment vacancy exists.

*Please apply for consideration at [greenpathcannabis.com](http://greenpathcannabis.com) or email [kailyhepburn@kailyhepburnlaw.com](mailto:kailyhepburn@kailyhepburnlaw.com).*

## Friday's Child



**Tristan  
Age 15  
Registration #8627**

Tristan is a healthy, energetic young boy who is eager to find his forever family. He has a love for staying active and enjoys participating in a variety of sports, including basketball, baseball, and karate. Tristan is always excited to try new things and will soon be starting swimming lessons, which he's looking forward to as another fun challenge. In addition to his athletic interests, Tristan enjoys playing video games and can happily spend time relaxing indoors when it's time to unwind. That said, he truly thrives in outdoor environments and loves being outside whenever he can. Some of his favorite activities include camping, fishing, and hiking, where he can explore nature and stay

active at the same time. Tristan would do well with a family who enjoys an active lifestyle and values spending time together, whether that's cheering him on at a game, heading out on outdoor adventures, or simply enjoying quality time at home. With the right family, Tristan will continue to grow, explore his interests, and share his enthusiasm, energy, and love for fun experiences.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21188696732>

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

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

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

## EDITORIAL

# What keeps a town feeling like home

There is a difference between a town that functions and a town that feels like home. Both have roads, buildings, and budgets. Only one has a sense of belonging.

In Webster, Dudley and Oxford, that feeling does not come from any single event or announcement. It grows quietly, shaped by habits people barely notice while they are happening. A familiar face behind a counter. A neighbor who remembers your name. A library program that draws the same small group week after week. These moments rarely earn attention, yet they are what make a place feel settled and human.

Much of community life exists in this middle ground, somewhere between official business and personal routine. Town boards meet, organizations plan events, and residents go about their days, often unaware of how interconnected these rhythms are. The strength of our communities lies not in constant activity, but in consistency. Things happen because people reliably show up, even when no one is watching closely.

It is easy to focus on what feels missing. A business closes. A program ends. A building needs repair. Those moments matter, but they can also obscure what remains steady. The measure of a town is not whether change occurs, but whether change happens without erasing the sense of familiarity that binds people together.

This is where smaller, quieter efforts matter. Volunteers who maintain traditions. Staff who keep services running smoothly. Residents who attend events not because they are exciting, but because they value connection. None of this is dramatic, and none of it happens overnight. It is the accumulation of ordinary care.

As we continue to move forward, the challenge is not simply growth or improvement. It is preservation of character while allowing room for progress. That balance cannot be legislated. It comes from shared expectations about how people treat one another and how much they invest in the place they live.

A town feels like home when people believe they matter to it, and when they act accordingly. That belief is built slowly, through repetition, patience, and trust. Our towns have that foundation. The task now is to recognize it, protect it, and allow it to keep doing the quiet work that makes this town more than just a collection of streets.

## Letter submission policy

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

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

# Viewpoint

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

## Auburn's connection to the Corps d Afrique in the Civil War

BY HELEN POIRIER  
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

John Hartwell, who was a past town historian, worked diligently to document as many of the military men credited to Auburn who served in the Civil War that he could find. This information was recently added to the Auburn Veterans database.

One of the few men with rank was Captain Eugene H. Newton. Eugene's family originally came from the Middlesex County area and were farmers. His mother was from Shrewsbury. He married in 1867 in Auburn to Mary Lucretia Warren of Auburn, and they had two daughters, Lydia Mertice and Ella Augusta.

Eugene's second great grandfather was Deacon Gideon who served as a Private in Captain Josiah Fay's company of minutemen and militia, which marched on the alarm of April 19, 1775. He served for 31 days.

Alongside Captain Eugene Newton's information was a note stating he was involved with the colored regiment. It was natural to think that it was the Massachusetts 54th which was created in Worcester in 1862. It was an all-colored regiment but commanded by white officers. The roster did not reveal Captain Newton with this regiment. Captain Newton, as it turns out, was eventually assigned to Corps d Afrique, which were colored troops raised in Louisiana. It was re-designated the 98th U.S. Colored Infantry and still served as Engineers. Captain Newton remained in command of this unit until his discharge in January 1866.

When he was 19 years old Eugene enlisted in Boston on November 19, 1861. He was assigned to Company C, US Engineers. Company C was under Lieutenant James Macpherson and became part of the Engineer Battalion, Army of the Potomac which went from Peninsula through Gettysburg. He was then discharged on September 7, 1863, so that he could accept a commission as Captain in the Department of the Gulf. He was assigned to Company F, 4th Regiment of Engineers, Corps d Afrique. The regiment was re-designated 98th U.S. Colored Infantry but still served as Engineers. The regiment was very active in the region from New Orleans and Baton Rouge to Pensacola, Florida. Captain Newton was in command of Fort Barrancas, Florida, where he worked on reconstructing the fortifications.

This article is part of the Veterans of Auburn series and 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](mailto:auburnmuseum@verizon.net) or 508-832-6856, [www.auburnhistoricalmuseum.org](http://www.auburnhistoricalmuseum.org) or follow us on Facebook at Auburn Historical.

According to the Journal of the Registry the Corps d Afrique was created on May 1, 1863, but according to an article written by Christopher Bates this Corps began November 23, 1861, and was officially mustered into service on September 27, 1862. They were supposed to defend the city of New Orleans from the Union army. "When the Union army captured New Orleans in 1862, the disillusionment of the unit's membership was complete and most of its members consented to join the union army as the first Corps d Afrique. As such it was the first African American regiment to be formally recognized as part of the Union army, predating the 54th Massachusetts Regiment by 8 months." There were 33 officers and 731 men all African American from New Orleans and surrounding areas.

These men were mostly Mulattoes, educated, and financially well off. The unit was used to guard prisoners of war, build fortifications and fight in Port Hudson, Mansura, & Mobile. The last 6 months or so before Captain Newton was discharged was spent on Provost Marshal duty in St. Martin Parish, LA. He was discharged on 6 Jan 1866.

After his discharge, Eugene returned home and resumed his farming life. He became a member of the George Thomas Post #131 GAR, [Grand Army of the Republic], and a member the Leicester Republican when he participated in the demonstration and illumination in October 1876. He was also a member of the Union Agricultural Society where he was on the executive committee in 1881, the Grange, and the Oxford Agricultural Society. In 1888 he was secretary to the 10th congressional district caucus. In 1883 he was elected as town moderator, and he was a member of the Worcester Central District Temperance Union.

The 1900 census has the Newton family living at 210 Southbridge St. owning his own home where he remained until his death. He and his family are buried in the West Auburn Burial Ground. His name appears on the African American Civil War Memorial, in Washington, D.C.

This article is part of the Veterans of Auburn series and 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](mailto:auburnmuseum@verizon.net) or 508-832-6856, [www.auburnhistoricalmuseum.org](http://www.auburnhistoricalmuseum.org) or follow us on Facebook at Auburn Historical.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Vote no on Article 5 in Auburn

To the Editor:

Auburn residents should vote no on Article 5 in their town election ballots. The measure would appropriate money for the notorious Immigration and Customs Enforcement goons to harass and detain persons of color and to kidnap God's children off the streets and force them onto aircraft bound for faraway lands to spend the rest of their lives in wretched, Third World poverty.

Always remember that the police forces of a hostile domestic government are the enemy as much as the armed forces of a hostile foreign government. The proposed budget would provide \$1,878,296 for the

Auburn Police Department which, with its 287(g) partnership, is just another regiment of the same enemy I.C.E. army terrifying U.S. citizens and immigrants alike.

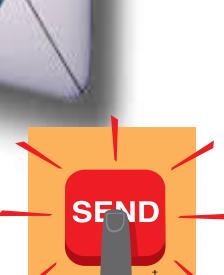
If somebody was born outside some lines on the map, what are they supposed to do about it? We are all children of the same God and are endowed by our Creator with the unalienable right to liberty. Unalienable rights are not the product of legal documents and, by definition, preempt the Rule of Law whenever the two things conflict with each other.

TOM ALCIERE  
AUBURN

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stonebridgepress.news



## The quiet comfort of familiar errands

There is a particular kind of comfort in doing the same small things the same way, week after week, year after year. It is not the sort of comfort that announces itself. It does not come with fireworks or applause. It slips in quietly, usually while you are not paying much attention, and settles somewhere between habit and gratitude.

LANTERNS

ALONG

MAIN

STREET

By CHARLES

Not the big ones. Not the kind that require lists, calendars, or steeling yourself for frustration. I mean the ordinary errands. The ones you could almost do with your eyes closed. The trip to the grocery store where you already know which cart has the wobbly wheel. The stop at the post office where the clerk nods before you even reach the counter. The gas station where you don't have to think about which pump to use because you always pull into the same one.

In small-town Massachusetts, these errands are less about the task and more about the reassurance. They remind you that, despite everything else changing at a dizzying pace, some parts of life remain dependable.

I sometimes think about this when I am standing in line, waiting my turn, listening to the quiet hum of everyday life. Someone ahead of me is chatting with the cashier about a grandson's basketball game. Someone behind me is patiently holding a cup of coffee and pretending not to be in a hurry. No one is performing. No one is in a rush to be impressive. We are all just there, together, taking care of small necessities.

Years ago, I did not appreciate this. I wanted efficiency. I wanted things done quickly and without interruption. Conversations felt like obstacles. Familiarity felt dull. I mistook speed for progress and novelty for meaning.

Age has corrected that misunderstanding.

Now I notice the rhythm. I notice how often I see the same faces and how comforting that repetition can be. I notice how a brief exchange, no longer than a sentence or two, can brighten an otherwise ordinary morning. A simple "Good to see you" carries more weight than it used to.

These errands also remind me how much of community life is held together by people who rarely get any attention. The clerks, tellers, attendants, and cashiers who show up every day, learn names without trying, and quietly make things run. They are part of the architecture of our towns, as essential as sidewalks and stop signs.

When one of them is missing, you feel it immediately. The day is still functional, but something is off. A familiar note is missing from the chord.

I think my parents understood this better than I did when I was younger. They treated errands as opportunities rather than obligations. They lingered. They listened. They understood that life is not only what happens at milestones, but also what happens between them.

Now I find myself doing the same. I take the long way through the aisles. I exchange a few words even when silence would be faster. I leave with what I came for, yes, but also with a quiet sense that I am part of something ongoing and shared.

There is comfort in knowing where things are. There is comfort in knowing who will be behind the counter. There is comfort in knowing that tomorrow or next week, you will likely do it all again, and that repetition is not a failure of imagination but a sign of belonging.

In a world that constantly urges us to upgrade, optimize, and move on, these familiar errands gently suggest another approach. Stay. Notice. Appreciate. Let the ordinary be enough.

Some nights, when I drive home as the last light fades and the streetlamps come on along Main Street, I think of them as lanterns. Small points of steady light, not meant to dazzle, just meant to guide you home.

That is what these routines are, too. Lanterns along the way.

## PEARL L. CRAWFORD LIBRARY

40 Schofield Ave., Dudley  
508-949-8021

To register for events or sign up for the newsletter go to [www.crawfordlibrary.org](http://www.crawfordlibrary.org) or call 508-949-8021.

The library will be closed on February 16th in observance of Presidents' Day.

New to the Library! [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com) Search obituaries, announcements, news, ads, comics, and more—right from home with your Dudley Library card. Join us for a hands-on tutorial exploring the largest online newspaper archive on Monday, February 9th @ 5:45

Please join us in February to celebrate local artist Kalia Pfeiffer. Kalia is self-taught in watercolors. A variety of her work will be on display for you to enjoy in the Fels Room whenever the Library is open.

### Gentle Yoga

Mondays in February—NO SESSION February 16th  
10:00-11:00

Join yoga instructor Patricia, for a traditional "on the mat" yoga class with chair yoga modifications. This truly is a one size fits all class.

Bring your own mat. Wear layers, do not eat heavily 1.5-2 hours before class.

### Registration is required.

Mahjong at the Pearl  
Every Wednesday  
10:00-12:30 Fels  
Community Room

The game consists of players competing to form distinct sets or pairs of tiles, similar to gin rummy.

Everyone is welcome, registration is not required.

### Quilting Group

Every Wednesday  
1:30- 3:30

All quilters and would-be quilters are invited to join our new group. Bring your projects!

Knit & Crochet Group  
Every Thursday 5:30-7:45  
and Friday 10:00-12:00

All stitchers are welcome for this informal group.

Bring your project, enjoy the company

The Missing Piece Puzzle  
Race

Saturday, February 14th  
11:00-12:30

Teams will compete against each other, with the ultimate goal of completing a puzzle faster than their opponents. The first team to assemble the puzzle wins! Don't have enough for a team? Don't worry, we will match you up! There is enough room for 6 teams! Registration is required.

Seasonal Painting with  
Jean Walker

Thursday, February 19th  
6:00-7:45

Join Jean to create a seasonal acrylic masterpiece! No experience needed—all materials provided. Ages 17+Registration required

"Cook the Book" Book Club

Monday, February 23rd  
6:00-7:00

Book: Once Upon a Chef: Weeknight/Weekend by Jennifer Segal

Pick one recipe from the book selected for the month, the dishes don't have to be complicated or fancy. Any recipe from the book is fair

game, except alcoholic beverages—sorry! Prepare the recipe at home and share it at the library. We cannot reheat or keep food warm, so consider this when choosing your recipe.

You are responsible for bringing serving utensils. We will provide paper goods and utensils for eating.

There will be a place to include your recipe selection in the reservation form. Registration required.

National Grid Community  
Advocates

Thursday, February 26th  
10:00-2:00

National Grid has a team of Community Advocates dedicated to assisting low-to-moderate-income customers in navigating their utility needs. Our Advocates provide personalized support and can help residents with a variety of services. Drop in for one-on-one help between 10-2.

Crawford Library Book  
Group

Thursday, February 26th  
The Wager by David Grann  
6:00-7:30

Books are available at the circulation desk for checkout one month prior to discussion.

No Registration Required.

Popular Music and  
Veterans with Jon Waterman

Thursday, February 26th  
6:00-7:30

"Popular Music and  
Veterans" is an offshoot of the "Roots of American Popular Music" program with an exploration through songs of some of the experiences

No Registration Required.

and sacrifices of veterans throughout American history—the Revolution, the Civil War, World Wars I and II, Korea and Vietnam—alongside some related popular music history.

Funded, in part, by a grant from the Dudley Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Children's Programming

Baby Open Play

Fridays in February

10:00- 12:00

Open play for babies! Parents and caregivers can let babies play while getting to know others in the community. Come anytime between 10-12 or stay the whole time!

No Registration Required

Pre-K Power

Tuesdays in February—NO  
SESSION February 17th

10:00-10:45

For ages 3-5 and their caregiver (siblings always welcome!). Join us for stories, songs, fingerplays, scarves, shaker eggs, moving our bodies to music, activities, bubbles, a craft, and free play!

No Registration needed.

Toddler Storytime

Wednesdays in February—  
NO SESSION February 18th

10:00-10:45

Best for children 6 months - 36 months and their caregiver (siblings always welcome!). We'll have fun with songs, fingerplays, a story, moving our bodies to music, shaker eggs, scarves, and bubbles!

There will be time for free play and socialization, too!

No Registration needed.

Local Author Storytime  
with Louise Chadborne

Tuesday, February 17th

to make to ensure there are enough supplies for everyone.

Kim the LEGO Lady –

Tuesday, February 17th at

4:00pm

Do you love building, creating, and having fun with LEGO? Look no further! Kim the LEGO Lady is here and we want YOU to be part of our LEGO CLUB adventure. Join us for interactive building challenges, new skills and create fabulous imaginative builds. For ages 5 to 11. Registration is required.

"Mommy and Me" Workout/Mobility Series –

Thursdays, February 19th-March 12th

Join us for a postpartum-friendly "Mommy & Me" class designed to help women feel strong, supported, and confident. All activity levels are welcome, with a focus on recovery during the

first 12 months postpartum.

The series includes one class on breathing and mobility, one

on core, one on pelvic floor,

and a final class combining everything to give you tools for safe, effective workouts at home. Mommas are welcome to attend with their baby in a carrier, on the mat, or on their own for some self-care. This program requires registration.

This postpartum-friendly

"Mommy & Me" class is led by Dr. Kellyn Snow, a pelvic

floor physical therapist and owner SÓL Pelvic Wellness

Studio located in Webster, MA.

Rolie Polie Guacamole –

Friday, February 20th at

10:30am

Rolie Polie Guacamole turns library programs into joy-filled, high-energy music parties for kids and their grown-ups. Born in Brooklyn and beloved nationwide, the band mixes smart,

11:00-11:45

Join local author, Louise Chadborne, as she reads her book, "Granite: The Bullmastiff Story". There will be a fun craft after the story. This is best for children ages 4-8 and siblings are welcome!

Build Your Own Clay  
Snowman

Tuesday, February 17th

1:00-3:00

Drop by the Fels Room on Tuesday, February 17th anytime between 1:00-3:00 to make your own clay snowman! While supplies last. No registration needed.

How to Draw Mario  
Brothers Characters with Pop  
Up Art School!

Wednesday, February 18th

1:00-2:30

Join us as Pop Up Art

School guides you step-by-

step while you learn to draw your favorite Mario Brothers characters! This program is for ages 8-14 only and registration is required as space is limited. This is not a drop-off program.

Playful Engineers

Thursday, February 19th

11:00-12:30

With space to work and play, time for trial and error, and access to open-ended materials, children will learn how the world works, through their own exploration and discovery.

Jay Mankita from Playful Engineers will be there to facilitate as children engage in playful engineering activities! For children ages 4 and up only, as there will be many small parts. No registration needed. This is not a drop-off program.

Pokemon Club

Thursday, February 19th

6:00-6:45

Do you love every-

silly lyrics with irresistible

grooves, big harmonies, and just the right amount of rock 'n' roll. Parents love the throwback vibes, kids love the fun, and everyone leaves smiling.

Princess Tea Party –

Saturday, February 21st at

11:00am

Join us for a charming Princess Tea Party filled with delightful treats and tons of fun! Come meet Mirabel and Belle as they share a story, sing some songs, and enjoy a cup of 'tea' and some treats with you. Everyone who attends will have the chance to meet both princesses and take a picture with them. Due to limited supplies, registration is required. This program is generously funded by a grant from United Way of South Central MA.

## GLADYS E. KELLY PUBLIC LIBRARY

2 Lake St., Webster  
508-949-3880  
Library Hours: Monday-  
Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.;  
Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.;  
Saturday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Library will be closed on Monday, February 16th for President's Day

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!

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

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).

Grief Support Group – 2nd Tuesday and 4th Saturday of the Month (6:30pm on Tuesdays; 10:00am on Saturdays) in the Local History Room

Losing a loved one is never easy. Please know that you are not alone. If you need support in trying to navigate the changes in your life, join us in a place of safety and comfort with others who have also experienced loss. This grief support group is a place to find understanding as we explore our grief, share coping strategies, and begin to heal.

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 – Fridays in January, 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 relax-

ation (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.

Adult Book Group –

Wednesday, February 18th at

6:30pm

Join the adult book group for their monthly book discussion! This month's book is Master Slave Husband Wife by Ilyon Woo. This group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Copies of the book are always available at the circulation desk.

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.

Mighty Builders –

Tuesdays at 4:00pm

Unleash creativity in our free-build program featuring LEGOs, magnet tiles, wooden blocks, marble runs, and more!

Read to Ginger OR Maple, the Therapy Dogs – Tuesday, February 17th Appointments from 9:30-11:30am

Join us for a cozy event as families get to select a picturebook to read to Ginger or Maple the Therapy Dogs! Each session will be 10 minutes long to allow for multiple families to enjoy this experience. You will randomly be assigned a dog to read to at the start of your time slot. Registration is required.

Boba Slime – Tuesday,

February 17th at 4:00pm

Celebrate Winter Break by creating your very own Boba Slime! This fun, hands-on activity is perfect for kids who love to mix, stretch, and get a little messy. Each child will choose from three different Boba recipes</

## BHS Indians finish season strong at New Balance Center

BOSTON — Last Sunday, the Bartlett High School Indoor Track and Field Team competed in the CMAC Small School Championships at The New Balance Center.

Xavier Sarfio finished 4th in the 55 meter dash and 5th place in the 300 meter run. Brittany Jubin and Karielyz Morales ran their personal best times in the 55 meter dash. Hunter Claypool ran his personal best times in the 55 meter dash and the 300 meter run.

Finally, in the field events, Eryk Piwowarczyk finished sixth overall in the high jump. Congratulations to all the players for their efforts and hard work during the 2025-2026 campaign.

## Oxford Democrats to hold caucus on Feb. 28

OXFORD — The Oxford Democratic Town Committee will host the annual town Democratic caucus on Saturday, Feb. 28 at 11 a.m. at the Oxford Free Public Library, 339 Main Street, Oxford. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m.

At the caucus, registered and preregistered Democrats in Oxford will gather to elect delegates and alternates to represent the town at the 2026 Massachusetts Democratic Convention, and to connect with neighbors and fellow Democrats.

All are welcome to attend, and firsttime participants are encouraged. To vote or run for delegate or alternate, you must be a registered Democrat in Oxford. Eligible voters who are not yet registered as Democrats may register at the caucus.

## DWC presents Stew & Story of Giving

DUDLEY — The Dudley Woman's Club invites women from all towns to our most popular meeting of the club year: A Stew & Story of Giving. The Feb. 12 meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Dudley Town Hall.

Please join our more than 70 members as we share warm stews and donation checks with representatives from Charlton Helping Hand Society, No Mutts Left Behind, and Josh Thibodeau Helping Hearts Foundation.

As a part of Stew & Story, we will also send donation checks to JAK-L Foundation, Charlton REAS Foundation, and Friends of John Paire.

Our voluntary February Giving Projects are disposable diapers of any size for the Webster-Dudley Food Share. Merch mutt (dog supplies) for No Mutts Left Behind.

Learn more about the DWC at [dudleywomansclub.org](http://dudleywomansclub.org).

**www.StonebridgePress.com**

## Valentine's Night

Maxwell Luciano's at Union Station

Dine & Dance to your favorite LOVE SONGS

Luciano's Cotton Club

4pm Dinner

6pm DJ

Saturday, February 14, 2026

Call 508 755-1200

for reservations

## Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition announced

WEBSTER — Webster/Dudley Knights of Columbus Council #228 with District 14 will be holding its annual Free Throw Competition Saturday, Feb. 14 at St. Joseph's School, 47 Whitcomb St., Webster.

This free competition is open to all area boys and girls ages nine to 14. Age is determined as of Jan. 1, 2026, with proof of birthday required at registration. Registration starts at 8:30 AM with the completion starting promptly at 9 a.m. Winning shooters will represent Council #228 and District 14 at the Central Region Competition in March at Nichols College.

Questions can be directed to Paul Perry, PGK: 508-943-9345 or email: [pjpknights@yahoo.com](mailto:pjpknights@yahoo.com).

## OXFORD SENIOR CENTER

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

Open Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Email: [seniorcenter@oxfordma.us](mailto:seniorcenter@oxfordma.us)

Web site: [www.oxfordma.us](http://www.oxfordma.us)  
Facebook: Oxford, MA Senior Center  
Monthly CHATTER Newsletter [www.oxfordma.us](http://www.oxfordma.us)

The Senior Center will be closed on Monday, February 16th in observance of President's Day.

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

Weekly Activities:  
Mondays and Fridays @ 10:00 am – Cribbage  
Tuesdays @ 9:15am – Strength & Balance w/ Donna Freeland – Cost \$3.00 per class  
Wednesdays @ 9:15am – Chair Yoga w/ Heidi Gambaccini – Cost \$3.00 per class  
Tuesdays and Wednesday @ 10:15 am - Needleworkers (Knitting, Crocheting, Needlepoint)  
Bring your favorite project and come join the group for conversation and laughs.

Wednesdays @ 1:00 pm – Chair Volleyball – Lots of laughs and only two rules (1) stay seated (2) have fun!  
Thursdays @ 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Dominoes

Monthly Activities:  
Let's Talk Oxford History – 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 1pm - Sponsored by the Oxford Historical Commission  
Men's Coffee Group – 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 10:30am – coffee and pastry are served.

Book Club – 1st Friday of each month @ 12:45pm – reserve your book from the Oxford Public Library  
Movie Matinee – 2nd Friday of each month @ 12:45pm  
Senior Safety with Oxford Fire/EMS - 3rd Friday of the month @ 12:30pm

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

Other:

Senior Tax Work -Off Program: Paper applications can be picked up at the Town Manager's Office  
2026 Census forms will be arriving soon. Please don't forget to sign and return to the Town Clerk's Office.

Don't forget Your 2026 Dog License(s). Oxford Residents aged 70 or older are FREE!

**SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!**

**Email Us** 

news@  
[stonebridgepress.news](http://stonebridgepress.news)



**308 LAKESIDE**



OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK  
11 - CLOSE  
CLOSED MONDAYS

Please visit our website or Facebook page for our full menu.

308 MAIN STREET  
EAST BROOKFIELD  
774-449-8333  
[308LAKESIDE.COM](http://308lakeside.com)

[Find us on Facebook](#)

**CASUAL WATERFRONT DINING ON LAKE LASHAWAY**

**LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEK!**

**2/13 Ryan Hood  
2/20 Evan Couture  
2/27 Joe Macey**

**WEEKLY SPECIAL**

**Check out our \$19.99 Three-Course Meal Deals**

Available Every Tuesday, Wednesday, And Thursday.

Please call 774-449-8333 for reservations, take-out or reserve online [308lakeside.com](http://308lakeside.com)

**2022 BEST OF CENTRAL MASS**



**Check out the new Fall/Winter menu**

**MUSIC BINGO**

**EVERY**

**THURSDAY**

**7 TO 9**

**2022 BEST OF CENTRAL MASS**

**WORCESTER COUNTY**

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

Western New England University (WNE) takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of nearly 600 students who have been named to the President's List for the Fall 2025 semester. Students are named to the President's List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.80 or higher.

## Dudley library to host program on "Popular Music and Veterans"

DUDLEY — On Thursday, Feb. 26, Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library in Dudley will host the program "Popular Music and Veterans," performed by Jon Waterman at 6 p.m. The program consists of original and traditional songs along with an accompanying slideshow about the history of veterans in America and some related music history. The library is at 40 Schofield Ave. in Dudley.

Jon Waterman has performed music and history programs in venues throughout New England as part of his Live Music Making History Live series. The series was designed to encourage the celebration and exploration of history through music. Jon is a lifetime musician and songwriter and licensed history teacher in Massachusetts. The program is supported in part by a grant from the Dudley Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

## Pocketbook Bingo is back!

DUDLEY — The Dudley Woman's Club most popular fundraiser is back! Pocketbook Bingo will be held Sunday, March 22 at the PACC, 37 Harris St. in Webster.

Doors open at 1 p.m., with BINGO starting at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$35 per person for this fun afternoon of BINGO with the gals plus the chance to win 10 designer handbags!

Lots of laughs, giveaways and raffles. The DWC's voluntary Giving Project for this event is nonperishable breakfast items for the Webster-Dudley Food Share. Tickets online at [www.dudleywomansclub.org/pocketbookbingo](http://www.dudleywomansclub.org/pocketbookbingo).

## Western New England University celebrates outstanding academic achievements

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University (WNE) takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of nearly 600 students who have been named to the President's List for the Fall 2025 semester. Students are named to the President's List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.80 or higher.

Carter Coughlin of Dudley has been named to Western New England University's President's List for the Fall 2025 semester.

Abigail Alicandro of North Oxford has been named to Western New England University's President's List for the Fall 2025 semester.

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

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# *Cornerstone Bank donates \$10,000 to RCAP Solutions to support housing counseling in Worcester*

— Cornerstone Bank today announced a \$10,000 donation to RCAP Solutions, Inc., in Worcester to support staffing at its Housing Consumer Education Center (HCEC) following state funding cuts that have reduced access to free housing counseling services across Worcester County.

HCEC is a proven, no-cost resource that helps individuals and families stabilize their housing through one-on-one counseling, financial education, sustainable spending classes and pre- and post-homebuyer support. Recent reductions in state funding have limited staff capacity at a time when demand for housing guidance continues to grow, placing low-income residents at greater risk of housing instability.

“Stable housing is the foundation of strong families and healthy communities,” said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. “With state funding cuts putting essential counseling services at risk, we felt it was important to step up and support RCAP Solutions’ Housing Consumer Education Center so they can continue helping Worcester County residents stay housed, informed and financially resilient.”

support will make a meaningful difference for the individuals and families we serve," said Brian D. Scales, President & CEO of RCAP Solutions. "This funding strengthens our Housing Consumer Education Center's ability to provide essential counseling and guidance at a time when many in our community are facing growing challenges. We are deeply grateful for Cornerstone Bank's commitment to helping local families find stability and a path forward."

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 [cornerstone-bank.com](http://cornerstone-bank.com) or call 800-939-9103.

# *Annual Lunar New Year celebration at EcoTarium features live Lion Dance performance!*



WORCESTER — The media is invited to join us at the EcoTarium on Sunday, Feb. 15 as we celebrate the Lunar New Year and welcome the Year of the Fire Horse. Experience the vibrant traditions of this cultural celebration with a live Lion Dance performance by the SUN Lion Dance Team from the Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts (SEACMA) at 12:15 p.m. on the Museum's lower level.

Date: Sunday, Feb. 15  
Event Time: Live Lion Dance  
Performance at 12:15 p.m.  
Media Arrival Time: Noon  
Location: The EcoTarium, Worcester  
Lower Level of the Museum  
The media is invited to attend this event. Please contact Danielle Fisher at [dfisher@ecotarium.org](mailto:dfisher@ecotarium.org) or 508-929-2736 with questions and to RSVP.

# Lily Kenney of Dudley makes Dean's List at Adelphi University

Kenney, from Dudley, was among a select group of outstanding students recognized by Adelphi's deans of Arts and Sciences, Education and Health Science, Business, Nursing

Adelphi's Dean of Arts and Sciences, Education and Health Sciences, Business, Nursing and Public Health, Social Work and Psychology for superior academic performance. The list comprises full-time students-registered for 12 or more credits-who have completed at least nine graded credits who achieved a GPA of 3.5 or above for the semester. This recognition becomes part of the student's academic record and is entered into the individual's transcript.

Adelphi University, New York, is a highly awarded, nationally ranked, powerfully connected doctoral research university dedicated to transforming students' lives through

small classes with world-class faculty, hands-on learning, and innovative ways to support academic and career success. U.S. News & World Report named Adelphi a 2026 Best National University, Best College

Best National University, Best College for Veterans, and Top Performer in Social Mobility. In addition, Forbes has ranked Adelphi the top private university on Long Island for three past three years.

at its beautiful main campus in Garden City, New York—just 23 miles from New York City’s cultural and internship opportunities—and at dynamic learning hubs in Manhattan, the Hudson Valley and Suffolk County, as well as online.

have gained the skills to thrive professionally as active, engaged citizens, making their mark on the University, their communities

## OUR NEWS!!!!



# LEGALS

## NOTICE OF SALE, NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 2 Aleda Drive, Auburn, MA 01501, By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Raymond Fortin to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Pacific Union Financial, LLC, dated October 25, 2018, and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59596, Page 152, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by assignment of mortgage from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Pacific Union Financial, LLC to RoundPoint Mortgage Servicing Corporation, dated December 12, 2019, and recorded with said Registry in Book 61610, Page 346, and by an assignment of mortgage from RoundPoint Mortgage Servicing Corporation to Freedom Mortgage Corporation, dated October 16, 2020, and recorded with said Registry in Book 63625, Page 83, and by an assignment of mortgage from Freedom Mortgage Corporation to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as legal title trustee for RMTT Trust Series 2021 Cottage-TT-V, dated June 10, 2022, and recorded with said Registry in Book 68002, Page 239, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold by Public Auction at 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the 4th day of March, 2026, at the mortgaged premises located at 2 Aleda Drive, Auburn, MA 01501, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, To wit: A certain tract of land in said Auburn situated in the northerly side of Aleda Drive and further bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point in the northerly line of Aleda Drive at the southeasterly corner of the land now or formerly of Raymond Hallberg, said point being N. 78 4 7' E. forty (40) feet from a stone bound set at an angle in said street line; THENCE N. 78 47" E. ninety (90) feet by said street lien to a stone bound at a corner of land now or formerly of Verner Richardson et ux; THENCE northerly one hundred (100) feet by said Verner Richardson land to a point at other land now or formerly of Werner W. Richardson et ux; THENCE S. 78 47' W. ninety (90) feet more or less to the northeasterly corner of said Hallberg land; THENCE S. 11 13'E. one hundred (100) feet by said Hallberg land to the point of beginning. CONTAINING 9,000 square feet by approximation and being Lot 9 on a Plan of Ridgewood, a development by Werner Richardson in Auburn, date May 1951, approved by Auburn Planning Board July 23, 1951, recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan 176, Plan 23. The above premises are conveyed subject to the following restrictions: That no buildings shall be erected on the said premises other than a one-family type home to cost not less than \$10,000.00 and garage in connection therewith. Being the same premises as conveyed to the Grantors by deed of Virginia M. Soloperto dated July 11, 2012, and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 49389, Page 374. Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

**TERMS OF SALE:** A deposit of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. High bidder to sign written memorandum of sale upon acceptance of the high bid. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid by certified or bank check at Friedman Vartolo LLP, 1325 Franklin Avenue, Suite 160, Garden City, New York 11530, within thirty (30) days from the date of the sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee for RMTT Trust, Series 2021 Cottage-TT-V, Present holder of said mortgage by its Attorneys, **Friedman Vartolo LLP** 1325 Franklin Avenue, Suite 160, Garden City, New York 11530

February 6, 2026  
February 13, 2026  
February 20, 2026

## TOWN OF DUDLEY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Please take notice that: Sombath Keophaymany Have applied to the Zoning Board of Appeals to vary the terms of the Zoning By-Laws Section 2.03.02 Location: 54 Old Southbridge Road In the following respect: Applicant is seeking a special permit for chickens The Public Hearing will be held on Thursday March 5, 2026 @ 7:00pm at the Town Hall room 321A, at which time you may be hard relative to this Public Hearing. Please contact Amanda Jacobson at 508-949-8012 or building@dudleyma.gov to attend the meeting. George Slingo, Chairman Zoning Board of Appeals February 13, 2026 February 20, 2026

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

### DOCKET NO. 26 SM 000367

### ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: Jessica A. O'Connell

a/k/a Jessica Moody

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. C. 50 §3901 (et seq): Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Fremont Home Loan Trust 2006-3, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-3 claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Oxford, numbered 6 McKinstry Drive, given by Jessica A. O'Connell to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Fremont Investment & Loan, its successors and assigns, dated August 24, 2006, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 39668, Page 143, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated September 20, 2013, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 55089, Page 125, and further affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated December 21, 2022, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 68938, Page 241, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 03/23/2026 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 2/3/2026. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder February 13, 2026

Notice is hereby given by: Precision Auto Rebuilders, Inc., 243 W Main St, Dudley, MA 01571 pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39 A that on March 20, 2025 5PM at: Precision Auto Rebuilders, Inc., 243 W Main St, Dudley, MA 01571, the following motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles:

#### Description of vehicles:

Vehicle: 2015 Ford Focus

VIN# 1FADP3K23FL380803

Owner: Paul Bonczyk 2 Trinity Ave Worcester MA 01605

This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. c.225, Section 39 A February 26, 2026

March 5, 2026

March 12, 2026

February 13, 2026

Notice is hereby given by: Precision Auto Rebuilders, Inc., 243 W Main St, Dudley, MA 01571 pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39 A that on March 6, 2025 5PM at: Precision Auto Rebuilders, Inc., 243 W Main St, Dudley, MA 01571, the following motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles:

#### Description of vehicles:

Vehicle: 2012 Honda Civic

VIN# 2HGFB2F5XCH564873

Owner: Christian Cooley 11 Western Ave Norwich CT 06360

This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. c.225, Section 39 A

February 13, 2026

February 20, 2026

February 27, 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. WO25P2217EA

### CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:

John P Reidy

Date of Death: 03/25/2025

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Michael A Reidy of Westborough 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:

#### 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 03/03/2026**.

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. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 29, 2026

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

February 13, 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. WO26P0329EA

### CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:

Dennis Raymond Wasielewski

Also known as:

Dennis Wasielewski

Date of Death: 12/04/2025

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Dianne Wasielewski 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:

#### Dianne Wasielewski 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 03/03/2026**.

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.

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#### WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 30, 2026

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

February 13, 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. WO26P0247EA

### CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:

John W Riopel, Jr.

Date of Death: 01/02/2015

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Emily L Riopel of Charlton 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:

#### 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 03/03/2026**.

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)

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#### WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 23, 2026

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

February 13, 2026

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## The Trial Court Probate and Family Court

Docket No. WO26P0669AS

### CITATION

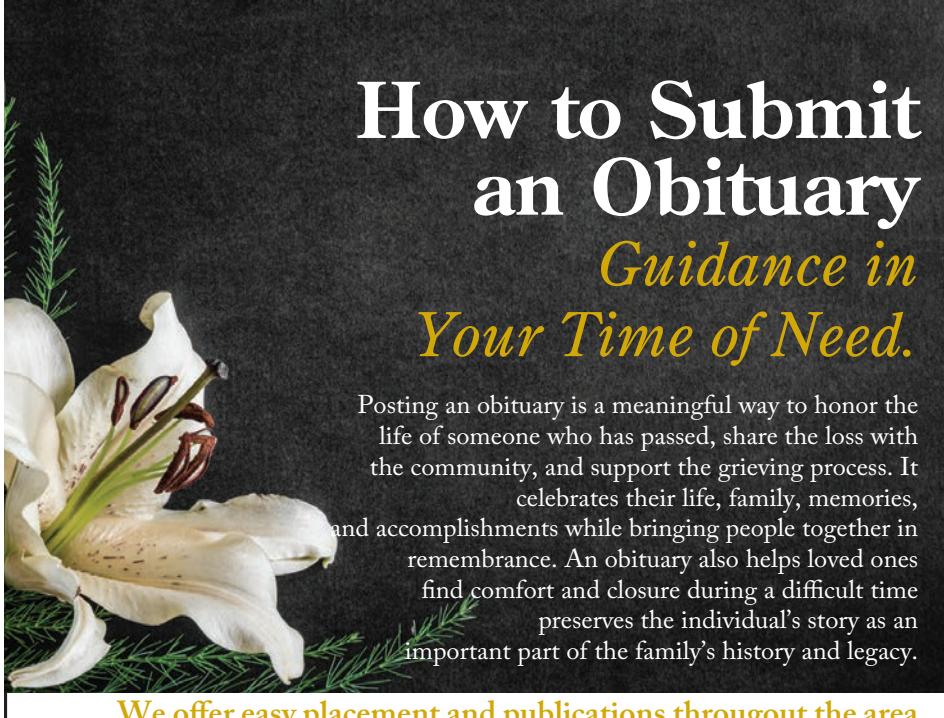
G.L.c.210, §6

To:

Julio Caesar Oliveras, Jr.  
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth:

A Petition has been presented to said Court by:

Alexandra Baldwin of Webster, MA  
Tanisha



## How to Submit an Obituary Guidance in Your Time of Need.

Posting an obituary is a meaningful way to honor the life of someone who has passed, share the loss with the community, and support the grieving process. It celebrates their life, family, memories, and accomplishments while bringing people together in remembrance. An obituary also helps loved ones find comfort and closure during a difficult time preserves the individual's story as an important part of the family's history and legacy.

### We offer easy placement and publications throughout the area

Just drop us an email, be sure to include a photo if you would like. Include your publication choice and provide a contact number for prepayment.

Deadline is Monday at noon for this week's edition.

Our Rates: \$ 250 per newspaper for 400 words or less.

Photos and symbols included at no extra charge.

For obituaries over 400 words, the charge is \$ 250 for each additional 400 words or less.

Please note this price is per newspaper.

*Send all Obituaries to [obits@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:obits@stonebridgepress.news)  
If you have any question please call Julie at 508-909-4105*

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508-909-4105 | [www.stonebridgepress.com](http://www.stonebridgepress.com)

# OBITUARY

## Walenty Szlosek, Jr., 91

Southbridge: Walenty Szlosek, Jr., 91, of Blackmere Rd., passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026 in his home after a long illness.

His wife of 67 years, Hazel V. Szlosek, passed away in 2020. He leaves his son, Dwayne D. Szlosek of Dudley; his daughter, Vanessa V. Schoonover and her husband Royl of Westminster, VT; and his two grandchildren, Beckie Boyd and Ryan Schoonover; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by four brothers, Peter Szlosek, John Szlosek, Winslow Szlosek and Stanley Szlosek and four sisters, Helen Robinson, Stephanie Szlosek, Wanda Zach and Theresa Walek. He was born in Webster the son of Walenty and Amelia (Zajac) Szlosek Sr.

Walenty owned and operated the Tall Pine Greenhouse in Southbridge for 35 years. He also worked for CPC Engineering in Sturbridge for over 20 years. Prior to CPC he worked at the former Charlton Woolen Mills. Walenty loved fishing and was a licensed pilot and flew out of the Southbridge Airport in his younger years. Above all Walenty was devoted to his family.

A graveside service will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 11th, at 12:00pm in West Ridge Cemetery, Charlton. There are no calling hours.

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, is directing arrangements.

[www.morrillfuneralhome.com](http://www.morrillfuneralhome.com)

### ONE8

continued from page A1

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and critical details—such as providing context, labeling drawings, and clearly commenting on code—helping students see how their applied learning translates beyond the classroom.

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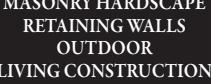
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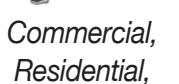
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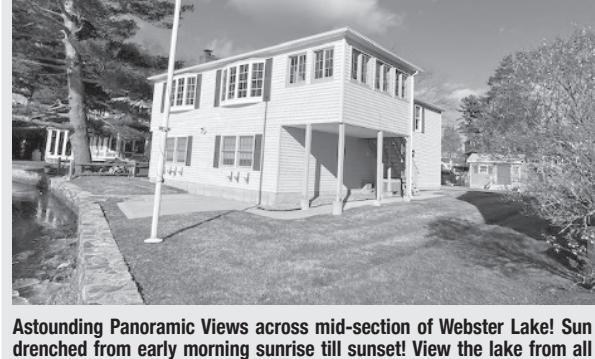
2-FAMILY offers 2,354 SF of living area! 2 Large Apartments, 5 Spacious Rms, 2 BRs, 1 Bath each. Beautiful grand front entry foyer with the charm of yesteryear! double French doors & other unique features. Plenty of Natural light that flows into these apartments! 2nd flr apt has a private enclosed rear entry with its own outside covered porch. Up-dates were done to electric & roof to accommodate Solar Panels. Property was family occupied \$379,900.

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Featured  
Webster Lake Waterfront Listing!!  
On Indian Point # 10 "Private Rd"



Astounding Panoramic Views across mid-section of Webster Lake! Sun drenched from early morning sunrise till sunset! View the lake from all windows. Located on a peninsula providing 2 Shorelines. Fireplaced Living Room! Recent Kitchen & Bath! Primary Bedroom w/walk-in closet. Hardwood Floors. 2 Baths. FHW Oil Heat! Central Air. Garage. \$ 900,000.

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Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!

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



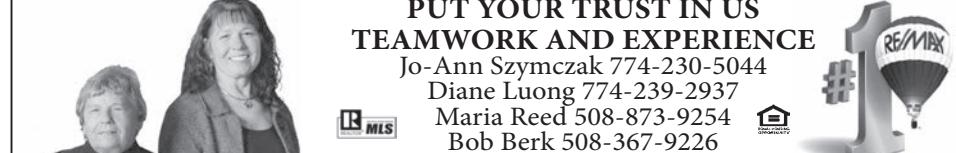
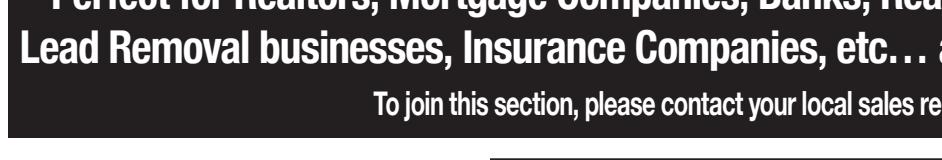
Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island

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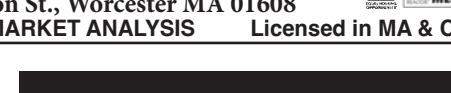
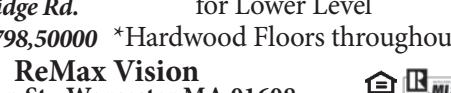
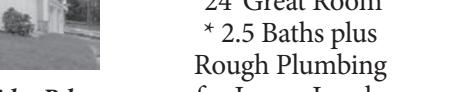
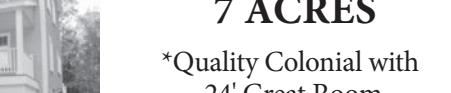
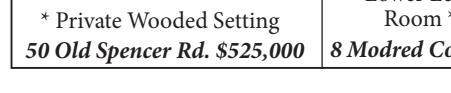
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# Park Avenue Faculty Spotlight

WEBSTER — Each year, Park Avenue is filled with meaningful learning experiences — made possible by the dedication, creativity, and commitment of our incredible staff. This week, we are proud to highlight two exceptional members of our PAE team: Monique Canty (4th Grade Instructional Assistant) and Lorelle Dodge (1st Grade Teacher).

Monique Canty, fourth grade Instructional Assistant, is a dependable and dedicated member of the Park Avenue team who consistently steps up whenever support is needed. Adaptable and flexible, Monique works seamlessly with students and staff, adjusting to changing needs with professionalism and care. Her willingness to take on challenges

and provide steady, reliable support makes a meaningful difference in the classroom each day.

As one colleague shared, "Monique is always ready to jump in and help — no matter what the situation is. She brings calm, consistency, and compassion to everything she does."

We are incredibly grateful for Canty's dedication and flexibility, and our students are truly lucky to have her supporting their learning each day.

Lorelle Dodge, first grade teacher, brings energy, joy, and enthusiasm into everything she does. Students are immediately drawn to her warm and engaging personality, making her classroom a place where learning feels exciting and fun. Lorelle is a tremen-

dous lesson planner who thoughtfully designs instruction to meet the needs of all learners, skillfully adapting lessons to ensure every student can access and succeed.

As one colleague noted, "Lorelle's classroom is full of joy — her students are engaged, happy, and learning at high levels because of the care and creativity she brings each day."

Her creativity, flexibility, and playful approach keep students motivated and eager to learn, while her strong instructional practices ensure meaningful growth for every child. Thank you for the passion and positivity you bring to first grade — your students are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated and joyful teacher.

Courtesy

Monique Canty (IA) and Lorelle Dodge (1st Grade Teacher) stand for a picture in front of Glacier!



## Jack and Jill Preschool welcomes visitor from True Robotics program

OXFORD — True Robotics provides a curriculum-based robotics program designed to give all students meaningful, hands-on exposure to robotics and STEM beginning as early as kindergarten through 8th grade. The program is structured to be engaging and developmentally appropriate at every level, building skills and confidence over time through guided exploration, problem-solving, and teamwork. True Robotics focus on easy implementation for busy teachers, with clear lesson materials, ready-to-use activities, and flexible scheduling that fits into the school day. True Robotics also includes personalized training and support for educators, ensuring teachers feel prepared and supported while students experience a high-quality robotics program year after year.

Jack and Jill Preschool was very excited to welcome Mrs. Jachimczyk and her robots, includ-



ing Fido the Dog, to visit the Preschool and Pre K classes recently. Students were given the opportunity to utilize either a tablet or joystick type controller and move the robots themselves. Fido the Dog demonstrated lots of tricks, including walking, sitting, hopping, and making a heart to say I Love You. Mrs. Jachimczyk explained about sensors, how the robots are built and how they take care of them, and ways robots are making tasks easier for humans. Programs interested in exploring these programs can contact True Robots to arrange a visit.



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