



# Auburn News

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Friday, February 27, 2026

©2026, Issue #8

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



## Breast Friends Connection Spa Retreat offers a day of healing and heart

WEBSTER — On Sunday, Feb. 15, Prestige Salon & Day Spa opened its doors and hearts to host a deeply meaningful spa retreat in partnership with The Breast Friends Connection, a nonprofit based in Shrewsbury.

Eighteen breast cancer survivors were treated to a peaceful afternoon of gentle, oncology-safe services designed to nurture both body and spirit. Guests

enjoyed relaxing facials, chair massages, soothing foot soaks paired with hand, arm, foot, and leg massages, along with restorative hydrogen therapy and salt therapy. Every service was thoughtfully provided by Prestige team members specially trained in oncology-safe care, ensuring comfort, safety, and compassion at every touchpoint.

The retreat was more than a spa day—it was a

heartfelt give-back. Through this experience, Prestige Salon & Day Spa honored the strength of survivors while supporting the mission of The Breast Friends Connection, which provides emotional support, friendship, and resources to those impacted by breast cancer.

The afternoon was filled with quiet moments of relaxation, shared smiles, and a powerful sense of community—reminding everyone

present that healing is not just physical, but emotional and communal as well.

To learn more about

Prestige Salon & Day Spa, visit [www.theprestigesalon.com](http://www.theprestigesalon.com).

To support or learn

more about Breast Friends Connection, visit [www.thebreastfriendsconnection.com](http://www.thebreastfriendsconnection.com).

## Interactive presentation on the art of respectful dialogue at Booklovers' Gourmet

WEBSTER — Booklovers' Gourmet, located at 72 East Main St. in Webster, invites the public to a free information session on "Mastering the Art of Respectful Dialogue" with Jessica Butler on Saturday, March 7 at 2 p.m. Please RSVP to 508-949-6232 or [deb@bookloversgourmet.com](mailto:deb@bookloversgourmet.com).

This session will help attendees better communicate with others when they disagree. It will focus on strategies, listening skills and prompts that can be used to diffuse stressful situations and even turn them into opportunities to learn more about others (and oneself.)

Learning Outcomes:

Understand why we feel threatened and get defensive when our opinions are questioned or challenged

Learn how to replace defensiveness with curiosity

Learn several techniques that can be used to diffuse tense situations, improve relationships, and help you find "common ground"

Prior to retiring this past Spring, Jessica Butler was principal and founder of Attain Consulting Group, specializing in Business Process Improvement for more than 20 years. Before starting her consulting company, she was a partner in an international accounting and consulting firm. She holds a BS in Psychology and an MBA in Finance. Since her retirement, Jessica is focusing on activities that "feed her soul" as well as give back to the community, including communication skills, joint problem solving, tolerance and finding common ground. Formerly from New Jersey, Butler and her husband moved to Webster in 2023.

## Oxford Women's Club offers scholarships

OXFORD — The Oxford Women's Club is pleased to offer the availability of three \$750 Scholarships to deserving Seniors that reside in Oxford. They are available to all pursuing a four-year college program and a two-year program.

The following Scholarships are Josie Tyler: to attend a 4 year college in education or business, Clara Barton: for attending a two- or four-year college in the medical/nursing/healthcare field and The Oxford Women's Club to attend a four-year college to pursue their future goal.

The Scholarship applications have been sent to all schools that our Seniors attend. Questions can be directed to Anne Marie at [simplyannie14@gmail.com](mailto:simplyannie14@gmail.com)



Courtesy

Student Council Officers from Saint Joseph School present donated coats, hats, scarves, and gloves to Webster Police Chief Michael Shaw. The items will be distributed through the Webster-Dudley Food Share.

## Saint Joseph School Student Council puts faith into action with winter drive

WEBSTER — At Saint Joseph School, Student Council is designed to help students become thoughtful leaders who serve their community. Elected annually by their peers, Student Council members represent the voice of the student body and support school life through outreach projects, student-led initiatives, spirit activities, buddy programs, and school dances. The goal is not only to build leadership skills, but also to form students who understand that leadership includes responsibility and service.

Student Council members are guided by Beth Boudreau, Principal, Mary Ann Weaver, Teacher Moderator, and Rev. Richard Polek, Pastor and Headmaster. That mission was especially visible

when the Student Council partnered with the Webster Police Department for its annual coat, hat, and glove drive. With support from school families, the Council collected 40 coats, 48 hats, 36 scarves, and 90 pairs of gloves, making it the most successful drive the school has held to date. Students presented the donations to Webster Police Chief Michael Shaw. The items will be distributed through the Webster-Dudley Food Share to help local families stay warm during the winter months.

School leaders noted that the drive's success reflects both the generosity of families and the commitment of students who organize and lead service projects that benefit others.

# Clara Barton Drone Club launches Mission 2026 – “Time Warp”

OXFORD — The Clara Barton School’s after-school aerial drone teams are preparing to launch Mission 2026, themed “Time Warp,” following an impressive inaugural season.

In its first year, the program fielded two competition teams that achieved notable success on the national stage. One team placed 147th out of 674 middle school teams nationwide and ranked 41st out of 134 teams in the Northeast region. The second team finished 223rd nationally and 58th in the Northeast—an extraordinary accomplishment given that students had only a few months of practice before competing.

Building on that early success, the drone club is expanding this year and is expected to field six or even seven teams. The growth of the program has been made possible through the generous support of the Cecelia J. Smolenski-Millette Charitable Trust, which provided initial funding for the purchase of drones and has continued to support the program’s expansion this year.

Students and staff at Clara Barton School expressed their gratitude to the Cecelia J. Smolenski-Millette Charitable Trust for the opportunity to participate in this innovative program and are looking ahead with excitement to another outstanding season of competition.



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## Oxford Community Center Friends hosting shoe drive fundraiser

OXFORD — The community is invited to clean out their closet for a shoe drive to raise funds to help support the Oxford Community Center. Donations of gently worn, used and new shoes, boots, sneakers, sandals and slippers will be accepted through April 15. The amount of money raised is determined by the total weight of the shoes collected.

All donated shoes will be redistributed to micro-enterprise partners through Funds2Orgs, a for profit social enterprise, and used in developing nations for impoverished people to start their own businesses.

Donations may be dropped off during business hours at the Oxford Community Center, 4 Maple Rd., or the Oxford Free Public Library,

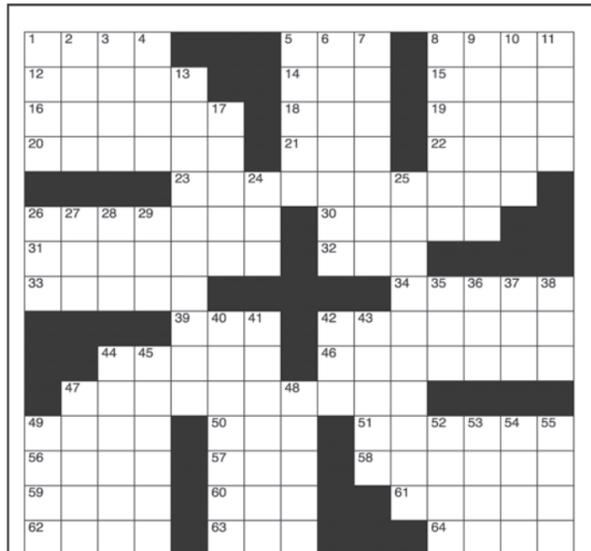
339 Main St.

In the US alone, more than 300 million pairs of shoes are thrown away per year. The materials used to manufacture a pair of shoes are created from chemical compounds that will create health hazards if left to disintegrate openly or in landfills. By donating your gently worn, used and new shoes to the Oxford Community Center Friends Fundraiser, your shoes are given a second chance to make a difference.

About Oxford Community Center Friends

Oxford Community Center Friends (OCCF) is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, nonprofit organiza-

tion formed to support the Oxford Community Center (OCC). The mission of the organization is to run fundraisers and locate sources of grants, funding and contributions to supplement and expand the activities and programs offered by the OCC.



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. What travelers must do
- 5. Calendar month
- 8. Hopefully quickly
- 12. Once more
- 14. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 15. “Cheers” actress Perlman
- 16. Astronomy unit
- 18. Savings vehicle
- 19. Get your ducks in this
- 20. Right away
- 21. Popular sports league
- 22. Containers
- 23. Entireties
- 26. One who wassails
- 30. Turned-up position
- 31. Extreme modesty
- 32. Writing utensil
- 33. Rewards (archaic)
- 34. Ancient capital
- 39. S. American wood sorrel
- 42. General discomfort
- 44. Philippine island
- 46. A witty saying
- 47. One who summarizes
- 49. Covered in
- 50. Mimic
- 51. Henry was a notable one
- 56. Daughter of Hera and Zeus
- 57. Retired NFLer Newton
- 58. Playground equipment
- 59. Concept
- 60. Satisfaction
- 61. Fishing net
- 62. Hammer end
- 63. A father’s male child
- 64. Japanese drink

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Off-Broadway figure
- 2. Gelatinous substance
- 3. Concern
- 4. “Lick It Up” rockers
- 5. Serbian river
- 6. Part of a hat
- 7. Bowl-shaped drinking vessel
- 8. Semitic language
- 9. Utter a shrill cry
- 10. Long times
- 11. Animal parts
- 13. Causing annoyance
- 17. Amorous talker
- 24. Attempt
- 25. Harmonic effects
- 26. Cost per mile
- 27. They \_\_\_
- 28. Bitterly regret
- 29. Not even
- 35. A way to drop
- 36. Title of respect
- 37. World leader
- 38. Georgia rockers
- 40. National capital
- 41. Great Plains people
- 42. Duck-sized dinosaur genus
- 43. Architectural recesses
- 44. Member of U.S. Navy
- 45. Mountainous
- 47. Kite bird
- 48. Sweetheart (archaic)
- 49. Popular snack made of potato
- 52. 70s songsters The Bee \_\_\_
- 53. SE China port \_\_\_men
- 54. Something to fill up
- 55. League of Legends character

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

I	K	V	S		N	O	S		N	E	E	d				
E	N	I	E	S		V	H	V		V	E	d	I			
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d	V	S	V		C	E	d		K	C	V	d				

## Learning in Retirement to hold open house in Killingly

DANIELSON — Learning in Retirement (LiR -QV) is holding a free Open House on Friday, Feb. 27 at 1 p.m. at the Killingly Community Center, 185 Broad St., Danielson. Living History Interpreter Karlee Turner Etter will present “The Arrest of Suffragist Elizabeth Glendower Evans.” Preview spring courses.

Light refreshments will be served. Limited seating will be available; no reservation required. For more information, visit www.lir-qv.org.

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OR send to Webster Times  
P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

**Stonebridge Press**

**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

**REAL ESTATE**

**AUBURN**  
\$539,000, 48 Appleton Rd, Sciaraffa, Michael J, and Sciaraffa, Jane M, to Bianchi, Kimberly.  
\$405,000, 52 Harrison Ave, Bultright Realty LLC, to Dao, Nhatthanh T, and Rykerson, Jennifer.  
\$402,500, 6 Paul St, Seb Properties LLC, to Campbell, Elizabeth D, and Lally, Kyle W.

**DUDLEY**  
\$690,000, 66 Old Southbridge Rd, Kenol, Karla, to Martin, Orlando O.  
\$325,000, 389 W Main St, Dumont, Jared P, to Fullen, Patrick.

**OXFORD**  
\$463,000, 62 Larned Rd, Brule, Debra-Lee, and Smith, Bruce M, to Sciaraffa, Michael, and Sciaraffa, Jane.  
\$450,000, 8 Bacon St, Goodrich, Michelle, and Mtshali-Runt, Marya, to Matias, Miranda J, and Alcantara, Julio.  
\$145,000, 581 Main St, Smith, James D, and U S Bank TNA Tr, to Scribner Development LLC.

**WEBSTER**  
\$575,000, 730 School St, Stewart School St Rlty LL, to Travieso, Sharinna, and Travieso, Shirley.  
\$485,000, 55 Granite St, Palkon Tomasz Est, and Palkon, Maria, to Morcos, Mark, and Andrawis, Kirols.  
\$345,000, 36 N Main St, Lindstrom, Duane, to Allende, Magie N.

**ALMANAC**

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**DUDLEY**

DUDLEY TOWN HALL (508) 949-8000  
Monday: 8:00 AM-6:30 PM (second floor offices),  
Tuesday-Thursday: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, Friday: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM.  
DUDLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-4411)  
Staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week  
DUDLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-8040)  
Monday-Sunday .....6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**OXFORD**

OXFORD TOWN HALL (508) 987-6027  
Board of Selectmen and Town Clerk Hours  
Monday, Tues., Thurs .....9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday .....9 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Friday .....9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

OXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT (987-0156)  
For emergencies, call 911  
OXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT (987-6012)  
Monday-Friday .....8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**WEBSTER**

WEBSTER TOWN HALL (508) 949-3850  
Office Hours:  
Monday .....8 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Tuesday-Thursday .....8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Friday .....8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

WEBSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-1212)  
For emergencies, call 911  
WEBSTER FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-3875)  
Monday-Friday .....8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Saturday .....8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

## WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

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

Senior Center hours are Monday- Friday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

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

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least three business days in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation for 65 and up, and \$5 for 55- 64 is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and dessert. This week's

menu: Tuesday, 2/24: Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, honey glazed carrots. Wednesday, 2/25: Braised beef, gemelli pasta, roasted broccoli. Thursday, 2/26: Ranch chicken, wild rice, spinach. Friday, 2/27: Veggie cheese bake, red bliss potatoes, peas and carrots.

Need Transportation? Contact SCM Elderbus at 1-800-321-0243 at least two business days in advance to schedule transportation. Elderbus is available Mondays- Fridays 8:30 am- 3:00 pm.

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

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 be held from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm on the last 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 10:00 am to 12:00 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

## Live entertainment and more at the Dudley Senior Center in March

March 11: Brown Bag Lunch with a choice of a ham or turkey panini. The cost for this event is \$4 per person. Please RSVP with your sandwich choice by calling 508-949-8015 or sign up in the Dudley Senior Center.

March 19: Memory Café features a St. Patrick's Day celebration. Thanks to the Dudley Cultural Council, Roger Tincknell will entertain us with music from Ireland to America. We will be serving Irish Bangers, mashed potatoes, Irish soda bread, vegetable and dessert. The cost for this event is \$5 per person. Please RSVP calling 508-949-8015 or sign up in the Dudley Senior Center. Thank you to the Dudley Cultural Council!

March 26: Potluck lunch of ham, baked beans,

potato salad and homemade hot fudge Sundaes for dessert. Cost for this event is \$5 per person. Please RSVP calling 508-949-8015 or sign up in the Dudley Senior Center.

Due to the cost of food for the Brown Bag Lunch, Memory Café and Potluck lunch, you must sign up and give 24-hour notice if you are unable to make it. Seating is limited and no shows will be charged \$5.

Monthly Activities at Dudley Senior Center:  
Tuesdays at 1 p.m. – Pitch League  
Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. – The Dudley Senior Center Knitters  
Tri Valley lunches are served Monday and Thursday. Ask about our Book Club!

## Local residents attend Saint Anselm College's Blessing of the Hands ceremony

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Natalie Burdett and Jared Ferschke of Dudley were celebrated ahead of their clinical experience at Saint Anselm College's annual and treasured Blessing of the Hands ceremony.

The Blessing of the Hands ceremony is a special tradition and major milestone for second-year nursing students at Saint Anselm. Family, friends, and faculty gather in the college's Abbey Church to support nursing students as they prepare to enter a clinical environment for the first time. The ceremony marks the beginning of their clinical practice, a halfway point to pinning, and a step towards an impactful future in healthcare. Members of the monastery preside over the blessing and present each student the medal of Saint Raphael, patron saint of nurses.

Founded in 1889, Saint Anselm College is a nationally-ranked four-year liberal arts college providing a 21st century education in the Catholic, Benedictine tradition. Located in the greater Boston region in southern New Hampshire, Saint Anselm is well known for its strong liberal arts curriculum, the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, commitment to inclusiveness, a highly successful nursing program, and a legacy of community service.

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

COLCHESTER, Vt. — Austin C. Brush of Dudley and Dakota Vaudreuil of Webster were named to the Dean's List at Saint Michael's College for the Fall 2025 semester. Students who complete at least 12 credits of classes and achieve a grade point average of at least 3.5 in a particular semester are cited on the Dean's List for that semester.

About Saint Michael's College

Saint Michael's College, founded in 1904 on principles of social justice and leading lives of purpose and consequence, is a selective, Catholic college just outside Burlington, Vermont, one of the country's best college towns. Located between the Green Mountains and Lake Champlain, our closely connected community guarantees housing all four years and delivers an internationally respected liberal arts education, preparing students for fulfilling careers and meaningful lives. Young adults here grow intellectually, socially, and morally, learning to lead with empathy and professionalism, and to be responsible for themselves, each other, and their world.

## WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests from Feb. 8-21.

Stephanie F. Plant, age 53, of Webster was arrested on Feb. 8 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license (subsequent offense) and in connection with a warrant.

A 40-year-old male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Feb. 8 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member (subsequent) and Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

A 32-year-old male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Feb. 11 for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

Kellie Nan Finnegan, age 55, of Webster was arrested on Feb. 16 in connection with a warrant.

Paul Robert Summa, age 40, of Webster was arrested on Feb. 17 in connection with a warrant.

Belinda Ann Weaver, age 43, and Peter Weaver, age 44, both of Webster, were arrested on Feb. 19 in connection with warrants.

A 30-year-old female from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Feb. 19 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

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**PET of the WEEK**





**MEET Cory**  
Meet Cory & Paloma — Two Sweet Seniors Looking for One Forever Home  
Cory is a loving senior Chihuahua with a calm, affectionate personality and a serious talent for cuddling. She adores being close to her people, whether that means curling up under a blanket or snoozing beside you on the couch. Cory adjusts a bit more easily than Paloma, and her relaxed presence helps her best friend feel safe and secure.  
Like Paloma, Cory is a gentle sweetheart who thrives in a peaceful home where she can enjoy soft beds, quiet days, and lots of love. The two girls are deeply bonded and must be adopted together — they've spent their lives side by side and find comfort in each other's presence.  
If you're looking to open your heart to two loving senior souls who will fill your home with warmth, calm, and endless cuddles, Cory & Paloma are ready to share their golden years with you.

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Milford Federal Bank is proud to sponsor Baypath Humane Society's Pet of the Week!

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

**Gentle Yoga**  
Every Monday  
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.

**All About Sourdough with Brandon**  
Monday, March 2nd @ 6:00

This one-hour presentation reviews how to make, maintain, and store a sourdough starter with a live demo on how to feed your sourdough starter. Attendees even leave with free sourdough starter!

Registration is required.

**Mahjong at the Pearle**  
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 Softer Side of Celtic with Jeff Snow**  
Thursday, March 5th @ 6:00

An evening of enchanting melodies, poignant stories, and cultural immersion into the heart of the Celtic lands. All ages welcome!

**Once Upon A Crime Book Club-Raised by a Serial Killer by April Balascio**

Friday, March 6th  
11:00-12:00

Do you have a passion for true crime and examining the details of each case? This book club is for you! The "Once Upon A Crime Book Club" meets the first Friday of every month in the adult reading area. All books will be pre-ordered and available for pick up at the circulation desk.

**Pearle's Picking Parlor Jam, a "mostly" Bluegrass**

**Focused Jam Session**  
1st Saturday of every month

Saturday, March 7th  
10:00-12:00 in the Fels Community Room

This is the group that played at our 15 Year Celebration! This is an unplugged acoustic jam. All talent levels welcome... beginners on up! Don't want to play? No problem, listeners are welcome too!

**Friends of the Library Monthly Meeting**  
Monday, March 9th @1:15

Join the Friends of the Library for the monthly meeting.

**Pearle's Genealogy Group**  
Monday, March 9th  
4:00-5:30

The genealogy group is growing! Join us in the Local History Room on the second Monday of every month. Facilitated by professional genealogist Patricia St. Marie.

**The Missing Piece Puzzle Race**  
Monday, March 9th  
6:00-7:30

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.

**Book Bingo-My Friends by Fredrik Backman**  
Thursday, March 12th  
6:00-7:00

Book Bingo because Therapy is Expensive! Join us for a fun night of book BINGO. Each Bingo card is filled with answers pulled directly from our pick. This month will be based on the book My Friends by Fredrik Backman.

Ages 17+ Registration is required

**AI for Everyday Life**  
Saturday, March 14th  
11:00-12:00

If you don't know what AI is, this program is for you! Join us for a 60-minute beginner's session designed to demystify Artificial Intelligence. We will explore two topics: how to use simple, free AI tools to make daily life easier and how to spot and protect yourself from the new wave of AI-enhanced scams.

**Create A Treasure Journal**  
Monday, March 16th  
5:30-7:30

Happy Arts Events will be onsite to teach you various art journal making techniques to create your own unique and beautifully inspired keepsake or gift. This event is sponsored by

the Ages 14+ Registration is required.

This 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.

**Bay Path RTVHS (CTI) Program**  
Thursday, March 19th  
6:00-7:00

This presentation is designed to give community members a clear and comprehensive overview of the CTI program and the opportunities it offers. During the session, we will cover:

An overview of the Career Technical Initiative (CTI) program, the admissions process and eligibility requirements, how candidates qualify for admission, the interview and candidate selection process, the nine career-focused programs we will be offering for the upcoming school year, career-readiness resources available to participants. In addition, we will be providing informational hand-outs for attendees to take home. More about the program here: <http://baypath.net/web/content/page/334>

**"Cook the Book" Book Club- No cook book this month- Bring a Family Favorite**

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

Any family recipe 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.

**The Music of McCartney: The World's Most Successful Songwriter**  
Thursday, March 26th  
6:00-7:00

This program will explore the music of Paul McCartney as he developed his songwriting through the 1960s with the Beatles and beyond. From the influences of his father, a jazz musician in the 1920s/30s, his incorporation of those sounds of ballroom and dance-hall big bands in his music, to his successes as a pop and rock performer in Wings and as a solo musician. The listener will relive a wide spectrum of musical styles covered over Sir Paul's 65-year career.

This 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.

**Crawford Library Book Group**  
Thursday, March 26th  
Yellowface by RF Kuang  
6:00-7:30

Books are available at the circulation desk for check-out one month prior to discussion.

No Registration Required.

**All About Mushrooms**  
Saturday, March 28th  
10:30-12:00

They're all over the web, all over the news, and if you're lucky (and in the right season),

all over your local woodlands. They're mushrooms, the mysterious eruptions from an otherwise hidden world of life and death. When they emerge, they can delight us with beautiful colors, strange shapes, and curious aromas.

About Jonathan Krantz: Krantz leads mushroom walks and talks for libraries, land trusts, clubs, and other interest groups in southern New England. In addition to being a MA Audubon Certified Field Naturalist, Krantz currently serves as vice president of the oldest mushroom club in North America, the Boston Mycological Club, and is a board member of the Pioneer Valley Mycological Association.

**CrafterNIGHT-Spring Shadow Box**  
Monday, March 30th  
6:00-7:00  
OR  
**CrafterNOON-Spring Shadow Box**  
Tuesday March 31st  
1:00-2:00

Create a beautiful spring-themed wooden shadow box guided by staff member Jubille! Choose from a variety of fun embellishments — flowers, butterflies, gems, and more — to design a piece that's uniquely yours. Layer textures, play with color, and add the perfect finishing touches to celebrate the season.

Space is limited, registration is required.

**Listen Up-Communication Workshop**  
Monday, March 30th  
6:30-7:30

Our library doesn't just lend books- it lends perspectives. Join us for an exciting workshop focused on listening, sharing, and finding understanding. Real-life conversations matter—learn skills you can use in every area of life.

**Burned by Billionaires: How Concentrated Wealth & Power Are Ruining Our Lives & Our Planet-book discussion.**

Monday, March 31st  
6:00  
OFF SITE EVENT: LOCATED AT THE CHARLTON PUBLIC LIBRARY 40 Main St Charlton, MA

Author Chuck Collins will discuss his latest book *Burned by Billionaires: How Concentrated Wealth and Power Are Ruining Our Lives and Planet*. He is a senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, DC., and a cofounder of Wealth for Common Good. Chuck is an expert on economic inequality in the US, and has pioneered efforts to bring together investors and business leaders to speak out publicly against corporate practices and economic policies that increase economic inequality.

Charlton Library will hold a book discussion on Tuesday, March 10 at 6pm for anyone interested in reading and discussing the book before the author talk. In collaboration with: Merrick Public Library in

Brookfield, Charlton Public Library, Pearle L. Crawford Library in Dudley, Oxford Public Library, Joshua Hyde Library in Sturbridge, and Merriam-Gilbert Public Library in West Brookfield.

**Children's Programming**  
Pre-K Power  
Every Tuesday -NO SESSION Tuesday, March 10th  
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**  
Every Wednesday-NO SESSION Wednesday, March 11th  
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.

**Tinker Playgroup**  
Every Thursday in March  
10:30-11:30

Join YFCP and the Pearle L. Crawford Library for a FREE 4 - week Tinkering Playgroup series. Children, ages 3 - 6, with a parent/caregiver, will be introduced to hands-on activities to practice and develop foundation STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) skills including problem solving, fine motor, and working together through tinkering activities designed by the Boston Children's Museum. There will be family sheets to extend playgroup activities at home.

Registration is required. Please register for each class separately.

**Baby Open Play**  
Every Friday  
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

**Dr. Rosie Helps the Animals-Story and Hands-On Veterinary Kit**  
Friday, March 6th  
1:00-1:45

Join us as author Jennifer Welborn and illustratorMH Rozillia talk about and read their book, "Dr. Rosie Helps the Animals". After, each child will receive a mini vet kit and treatment sheet that they can use to do a hands-on activity with a stuffed animal they bring from home. After, the children can take the kit and treatment sheet home.

This program is best for ages 4-8, and siblings are always welcome. Registration is required.

**Graphic Novel Book Club**  
Thursday, March 12th  
6:00- 6:45

Do you love graphic nov-

els? Join us for Graphic Novel Book Club! Each month we will meet to discuss the graphic novel of the month. Copies of the book will be located at the circulation desk in the Children's Room. Best for ages 8 and up. Registration not required. This is not a drop off program.

**Pokemon Club**  
Thursday, March 19th  
6:00-6:45

Do you love everything Pokemon? Join us for Pokemon club! Each month we will have exciting crafts and activities! Best for ages 6 and up. No Registration Required. This is not a drop off program.

**Yoga for Children**  
Friday, March 20th  
10:00-10:45

Join certified Yoga instructor, Patricia (also known as Buffy), for a 45-minute yoga class for children ages 3-5 and their caregivers! Caregivers are encouraged to participate in the class, but it is not required. If you will be participating, please bring your own mat. (Yoga mats will be provided for the children.) Registration is required as space is limited.

**Deb's Sing & Swing-Hello Spring!**

Friday, March 27th  
10:30-11:15

Pre-K Music & Movement offers a 45-minute interactive program featuring singing, guitar music, dancing, rhythm instruments, stories, and a variety of fun props, including a parachute, beanbags, scarves, and pom poms. These programs are theme-based, and cover everything from holidays and seasons to dinosaurs and bugs!

Registration is required.

**Teen Programming**

**Dungeons & Dragons Game**  
Every Thursday  
6:00-7:30

Ages 14-19

Are you looking to play a game that contains action, adventure, and drama?

Come play the world's number one role-playing game.

**Create A Treasure Journal**  
Monday, March 16th  
5:30-7:30

Happy Arts Events will be onsite to teach you various art journal making techniques to create your own unique and beautifully inspired keepsake or gift. Ages 14+ Registration is required.

This 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.

**Clay Sea Turtle Bowl for Teens**  
Friday, March 27th  
1:00-2:30

Create your own unique turtle-themed bowl with air dry clay! Pop Up Art will be here to guide you step-by-step to craft and paint a finished piece that's truly your own! Ages 12-17 ONLY. Registration is required

## TAX PREPARATION

**Michael Jarominski**  
Certified Public Accountant

6 Stratton Road • Worcester, MA 01606

**(508)864-3542**

[jarominskicpa@spectrum.net](mailto:jarominskicpa@spectrum.net)

## TOWN OF POMFRET

### POSITION OPENING – HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Qualified self-starter wanted for Town of Pomfret Highway Department. Must hold Class B CDL license/valid medical card and have a background in operating heavy equipment. Position includes, but is not limited to, assignments on all municipal road work including road grading, snowplowing, landscaping, building maintenance, and any other duties as needed and assigned. Five years of driving/equipment operation experience is preferred. Must be available to work nights and weekends as needed, able to lift up to 100 pounds, possess mechanical aptitude in heavy equipment repair, pass a DOT physical and drug screen, and consent to random drug/alcohol testing as required by the DOT. Salary dependent upon qualifications and experience. Attractive benefit package. Interested persons should forward resume/application and three references to the Selectman's Office, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret Center, CT 06259 on or before March 10, 2026. Application form available at [www.pomfretct.gov/first-selectmans-office](http://www.pomfretct.gov/first-selectmans-office). EEO/AA



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

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 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.

90s Museum – Thursday, February 26th from 12:00-8:00pm

Nostalgic for the 90s? Didn't experience the 90s, but want to see what it was all about? Join us for our one day only 90s museum. We'll have 90s tech, 90s toys, 90s memorabilia, and 90s fashion.

Winter Armchair Travel Series for Seniors: Rome – Friday, February 27th at 10:00am

The tour takes you through some of Rome's most iconic landmarks. Starting at Venice Square, we'll continue to Capitol Hill with its panoramic view of the Roman Forum, then explore the Forum more closely before finishing at the Colosseum. This program is for senior citizens and will be facilitated by one of our librarians. Please come with questions for your tour guide!

Dream Your Life Vision Board Party – Saturday, February 28th at 11am

You are invited to come to our 2026 Dream Your Life Party. Brandy Bonner who is a Dream Board Specialist, Ted Talk Speaker, will lead us in creating a dream board that will help you have your best year yet. Bring your favorite magazine and magazines and all supplies will be provided. Come out and have your hearts lifted and enjoy refreshments as you create your 2026 Dream Board.

Trivia Palooza 6 – Monday, March 2nd at 6:00pm

Join Evan and Jess for General Knowledge Trivia. Assemble your team (up to 5 people) and put your thinking caps on! Registration is required.

Midnight Society Book Club – Wednesday, March 4th at 6:30pm

Love to read

spooky books all year round? Join us for a horror book club where we will meet and discuss a book every month! We will try out classic horror as well as newer releases, and scary horror as well as cozy. Prepare to have fun being scared! Copies of this month's book are available at the circulation desk. To be added to the group, email Janessa at [jbarrette@cwmar.org](mailto:jbarrette@cwmar.org)

Programming for All Ages

Library for All – Mondays and Fridays at 10am

Library for All is an inclusive program for teens and adults of all abilities and their caregivers. Please let us know if you need any special accommodations! Join us every Monday and Friday! The 1st week of the month is coloring, the 2nd week is LEGO, the 3rd week is chair yoga, and the 4th week of the month is painting.

March Miniatures – Thursdays in March at 5:00 and 6:00pm

We're embracing March Miniatures this month! Each Thursday we'll be making miniature-sized crafts for you to take home. March 5th – Zen Gardens, March 12th – Teacup Scenes, March 19th – Mini Bookshelves, and March 26th – Painted Pots. Registration is required.

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! February's theme is: Wooden Art Magnets! Kids will decorate different wood pieces to bring home. 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.

Mighty Builders – Tuesdays at 4:00pm

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

"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 SôL Pelvic Wellness Studio located in Webster, MA.

Twist and Shout Balloon Show – Saturday, March 7th at 11:00am

Come one, come all to the Twist & Shout Balloon Magic Show. There will be exciting games, tricks, and balloon magic! Fun for all ages, but suggested for children 3-8 years old. This program is generously funded by a grant from United Way of South Central MA.

## Friday's Child

Heily  
Age 16  
Registration #5217

Heily is a bright and engaging teenager who demonstrates remarkable resilience and an impressive ability to adapt to new environments. She brings creativity into many aspects of her life and is able to express herself thoughtfully and confidently. Heily enjoys creative activities such as arts and crafts, baking, and experimenting with hair paint, which allows her to showcase her individuality and imagination. Music is another important outlet for Heily, and she enjoys listening to her favorite songs to relax and express herself. She also enjoys being out in her community and appreciates opportunities to stay connected and involved. Heily has a deep love for animals and is especially caring and gentle with them, often showing compassion and responsibility in their care. She is a personable and warm young person who cares deeply about the people in her life and values meaningful relationships. With the right support and encouragement, Heily has the potential to continue thriving, growing her creativity, and building strong connections with a loving, permanent family.

https://www.mareinc.org/child/22549428086

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.



# Community Connection

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**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
EDITOR

**EDITORIAL**

# The value of ordinary Tuesdays

Not every measure of a town's health shows up in a headline.

Some of it reveals itself on an ordinary Tuesday afternoon.

It is the steady hum of traffic along Route 12 in Auburn. It is the line at the post office in Webster. It is the familiar rhythm of dismissal at Shepherd Hill Regional High School or the quiet movement in and out of Oxford Town Hall before a meeting begins.

In small communities like ours, it is easy to focus on the big moments. Budget votes. Major development proposals. Controversial zoning changes. Those events deserve attention. They shape the long-term direction of a town.

But what keeps a town strong, week after week, is something less dramatic: consistency.

Municipal employees who show up every day to keep water running, roads plowed and paperwork processed rarely make the front page. Teachers who arrive before sunrise and stay long after dismissal do not ask for applause. Police officers and firefighters train, respond and prepare, often without fanfare, until the moment someone needs them most.

The same can be said of volunteers. Library trustees. Youth coaches. Senior center organizers. Historical society members preserving the stories of Webster's mill days or Auburn's early farms. These residents build stability through routine effort.

There is a temptation to think that progress only comes through sweeping change. Yet in towns like Webster, Dudley or Auburn, much of what works well does so because it has been tended carefully over time. Responsible budgeting. Thoughtful planning. Maintenance of public buildings. Incremental improvements to parks and fields.

That kind of stewardship does not generate excitement, but it generates trust.

Trust grows when residents see that snow is cleared promptly. That school buses run safely. That town meetings are conducted with fairness. That disagreements are handled with civility.

This year, as boards across the region prepare budgets and outline capital projects, the conversation will inevitably turn to costs. Inflation continues to pressure households. Municipal expenses rise. Decisions about staffing, equipment and infrastructure are not easy.

Yet even in tight financial times, it is worth remembering what we are funding. We are not simply approving line items. We are sustaining the ordinary Tuesdays that make life here predictable and secure.

A stable town is not a stagnant town. It can welcome new businesses along Southbridge Street in Auburn or support revitalization efforts in downtown Webster. It can invest in school programs while maintaining strong public safety services. It can improve recreational spaces in Oxford and Dudley without losing sight of fiscal responsibility.

The key is balance. Measured growth. Careful oversight. Open communication.

When residents attend meetings, ask informed questions and vote thoughtfully, they reinforce that balance. When officials provide clear explanations and transparent reporting, they strengthen public confidence.

The real story of our communities is not written in moments of crisis alone. It is written in the quiet continuity of daily life.

On that ordinary Tuesday afternoon, when traffic flows, schools operate smoothly and storefronts open on time, it may not feel remarkable. But it is.

That steadiness is the product of many hands and many years of effort. It is worth protecting.

In a world that often feels unpredictable, the simple reliability of Webster, Dudley, Oxford and Auburn remains one of their greatest strengths.

# Viewpoint

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



Courtesy

Webster Council 228 and District 14 held their annual Free Throw Competition Feb. 14 at St. Joseph's School in Webster. Council 228 wishes to thank John Kottori and St Joseph's School for the use of their gym. Winners will now advance to the Massachusetts State Central Regional Competition at Nichols College, on March 7th. Qualifying shooters on Feb. 14 were: Girls 10-year-old - Jamie Ashton, Girls 11-year-old - Julia Ashton, Boys 10-year-old, Cameron Blodgett, Boys 11-year-old, Joseph Cyr, Boys 13-year-old, Grayson Dollar, Boys 14-year-old, Jordan Ashton.

## The knowledge that never makes the manual

There is a certain kind of knowledge that never makes it into a manual.

You learn it by watching. By listening. By standing quietly off to the side while someone who has done a thing for a long time does it without explanation. No checklist, no diagram. Just habit, muscle memory, and a rhythm built over years.

I think about that kind of knowledge more now than I used to.

It shows up in ordinary places. The person who knows exactly how much force it takes to close a stubborn door without slamming it. The clerk who can tell, just by the sound, whether a register is about to jam. The neighbor who can look at the sky and know, with surprising accuracy, whether you ought to bring the chairs in tonight.

These are not skills anyone brags about. They are simply carried, quietly, until one day they're gone.

I noticed this recently while trying to fix something simple. Simple, that is, for the person who used to handle it. I followed the instructions. I watched a video. I did everything "right," and still ended up with a result that worked, but not well. It functioned, but it lacked the ease of the original.

That's when it occurred to me that what was missing wasn't information. It was judgment.

In small towns, we are surrounded by people who carry that kind of judgment. They know when to tighten something just a little more, and when to leave it alone. They know when to speak up at a meeting, and when silence does more good. They know which traditions matter, and which ones we only keep because we always have.

Much of this knowledge never gets passed along formally. It transfers sideways, through example.

LANTERNS  
ALONG  
MAIN  
STREET  
By CHARLES

A younger person watches an older one. A newcomer notices how things are done. A habit forms, not because it was required, but because it made sense.

The trouble is, this kind of knowledge doesn't announce when it's about to leave. One day the familiar person retires. Or moves. Or simply stops showing up. And only then do we realize how much was being held together by someone's steady presence.

I don't think this is something to panic about. Towns have been losing and gaining quiet experts forever. What matters is whether we notice them while they're still around.

There's value in paying attention to how things are done, not just that they get done. In asking why a process works the way it does. In recognizing that experience has a texture that can't always be replicated by instructions alone.

At home, this shows up, too. We all have ways of doing things that make sense to us but might look odd to someone else. Over time, households develop their own unwritten rules. You don't realize how many there are until someone breaks one accidentally.

Living alongside other people, whether in a family or a town, means learning these invisible systems. It also means being patient when someone hasn't learned them yet.

I suppose what I'm really saying is that wisdom often arrives quietly and leaves the same way. If we're too busy, we miss it entirely. If we're paying attention, we can catch pieces of it before it goes.

And maybe pass a little of it along, not in a lecture, but in the way we do things day after day. That's usually how it's been done around here, and it's worked pretty well so far.

## Vintage Maywood Auburn

BY HELEN POIRIER  
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A small museum needs to utilize every bit of space it has to display exhibits and artifacts and the Auburn Historical Museum is no exception. The museum started as a two-room schoolhouse and along the way was a hospital, overflow for the Auburn school department, and the Auburn Visiting Nurses offices. It was natural to add indoor plumbing and a kitchen area. The kitchen displays vintage utensils for cooking and baking like flour sifter, hand eggbeater, tin measuring cups and measuring spoons, graters, even a metal recipe box which held vintage recipes. The museum has several old recipe books from churches and school groups as well as neighborhood families who got together to share their favorite recipes. Looking through the collection there was some from the "Friends in Maywood Auburn Mass 1911". One of the authors happened to be Mrs. C.L. Tuttle. Since the museum is at "Tuttle Square" and the museum was once called Tuttle School, more investigation had to be done to find this "Maywood Auburn" area.

In 1912, there was a Maywood School on Cedar Street with the first teacher being M. Louise Edjerly. The school records showed that it was closed in 1935 with its last teacher being Fannie Williams, who held the position for seven years. The school remained vacant until bought in 1975 and turned into a many roomed house.

There was also the Maywood Crossing train stop at the corner of Cedar and South Streets. The train tracks are still there, but the three-sided enclosure used to wait for the train is gone. The train only stopped if there was a red flag displayed stating that passengers were waiting.

So where did the Tuttle family live? The 1900 census had them living in Needham with Charles's mother, his wife and children; Florence, Chester, Earl and Alice. In the 1910 census, Charles and Ada Tuttle were living on a farm on Barnes Street, which is off South Street not far from Cedar with their children. The family had moved to Worcester by the 1930 census with Ada, Earl, Alice and granddaughter Florence. Chester had died in World War I in France.

Maywood Auburn area might be defined as between Southbridge Street to South Street, Oxford Street South, to Barnes Street by way of Cedar Street. It was all farm area when Ada Tuttle and her neighbors got together to share their recipes. One of the recipes was Molasses Cookies and it is exactly the way Mrs. C.L. Tuttle had it.

Molasses cookies  
1 Cup Molasses  
" sugar  
" sour milk  
" melted lard or butter  
2 large teaspoons of soda in sour milk. (soda = baking soda)  
Teaspoon salt  
Tablespoon of Ginger  
Flour enough for a soft dough roll out and bake in a very quick oven.  
I use a large cutter and put two rasains (sic) on each cookie which everyone likes.

(In 1911 the ovens were either coal or wood with no temperature gauge on them A "quick oven" is about 375-400 degrees.)

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.

### 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.

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# Poets At Large to present special International Women's Day reading March 8



Fred Gerhard



Meg Smith



Karen Warinsky

WEBSTER — The public is invited to a spoken word/poetry reading to celebrate International Women's Day on Sunday, March 8 organized by Poets at Large. The free event will be held at The Rose Room, 4 E. Main St., Webster, from 1-3 p.m. Featured readers will be Fred Gerhard, Meg Smith and Karen Warinsky. There will be an open mic as well. Donations are welcome.

Fred Gerhard is the author of *Drifting to "Hello"* (Khotso Publishing, 2023), and *"Lilacs Still Bloom in Ashburnham"* (Local Gems Poetry Press, 2023). His poems have been published in *Amethyst Review*, *BlazeVOX*, *Entropy Magazine*, *Friends Journal*, *Pif Magazine*, *POETICA REVIEW*, and other magazines and anthologies. He is one of the 2023 winners

of Poetry in the Pines in New Hampshire, is the 2024 poetry winner for Art on the Trails in Massachusetts and serves as an editor for *Quabbin Quills* and for *Smoky Quartz*. Gerhard is one of the founders of the New Dawn Writers' Group in Ashburnham where he runs poetry workshops and open mics. Gerhard will also read some poems written by his mother, Rena Gerhard. Mrs. Gerhard was a published poet who wrote for much of her life, composed hymns and counterpoint musical pieces and taught Logic at the Penn

State Campus in Altoona, Pa. Meg Smith is a first-generation Irish-American poet living in Lowell, Mass. Her poetry has been published widely including in *The Cafe Review*, *Muddy River Review*, and *Lowell Review*. She currently serves as content editor for *Worcester Magazine*, and as science columnist for the *Telegram & Gazette*. She is producer of *Poe in Lowell*, celebrating Edgar Allan Poe's visits to Lowell. She welcomes visits to meg-smithwriter.com.

Karen Warinsky is the author of: *"Gold in Autumn"* (2020) and *"Sunrise Ruby"* (2022), both from Human Error Publishing. *"Dining with War"* (2023 Alien Buddha Press), and her new release *Beauty & Ashes* (Kelsay Books 2025), and she has published widely in numerous journals and lit magazines. Her poem "Mirage" won first place in the 2024 Ekphrastic Poetry Trust, she is a Best of the Net nominee and a former finalist of the Montreal International Poetry Contest. Warinsky

coordinates spoken word events in MA and CT under the name Poets at Large, in various venues, including The Vanilla Bean Café in Pomfret, Conn. She is retired from careers in media and teaching. Woodstock based Poets at Large is a project of Windham Arts. All events are ADA compliant and are recommended for ages 16 and up. Contact karen.warinsky@gmail.com to sign up for the open mic; five-minute max as time allows.

## Master Masons hold 12th Annual Chinese New Years Party



Courtesy

Master Masons along with family and friends enjoy the great evening with many laughs but most the fraternalism and comradery.

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE  
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Saturday, Feb. 21, Master Masons converged to the Major General Salem Towne Lodge (MGST) in Southbridge for their 12th Annual Chinese New Year's Party (The Year of the Fire Horse). MGST's annual Chinese New Year party continues to expand in size every year. The party included Brethren and their families from all around the 24th District. Most oriental food served was store-bought, a few dishes were homemade. There were games for adults and children to play. There were fraternalism and many laughs to make for a great night. A movie was shown featuring Jackie Chan called "Ride On." Fraternalism and comradery, being with brethren's, family and friends is what freemasonry is all about. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, go to [www.massfreemasonry.org](http://www.massfreemasonry.org) to find a lodge near to you.

"Moody Abstract Art," paintings by Steev Ricardo, will be on display and for sale from March 3-31 at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 East Main St., Webster. The public is invited to a meet the artist reception on Saturday, March 14, 2-4 p.m. The show may also be viewed during normal business hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. For more information, call 508-949-6232. Steev Riccardo is an abstract artist from Webster, who has been displaying his work primarily in galleries in New England and Pittsburgh PA. His work is pure patterns of form color and line, non-objective, Geometric, Fragmented, and deviations of representation. His process is to pick out the colors and just start painting.



Courtesy

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# LEGALS

## 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 Grace Boro to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mega Capital Funding Inc., dated March 17, 2023 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68940, Page 170, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mega Capital Funding Inc., its successors and assigns to Mega Capital Funding, Inc., recorded on August 26, 2024, in Book No. 70937, at Page 59

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 3:00 PM on March 23, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 15 Glenview Road a/k/a 15 Glen View Road, Auburn, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT:

The land in Auburn, County of Worcester, bounded and described as follows:

Being all of Lot #14 on a Plan of Highlawn Manor Estates, dated July, 1951, drawn by R.B. Cullinan, Surveyor, recorded in Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 186, Plan 61, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a stone bound on the easterly side of Glenview Road, it being the northerly corner of said Lot # 14 as shown on said plan;

THENCE S. 50 degrees 35' 40" E. 142.81 feet by Lot #13 as shown on said plan to a stake;

THENCE S. 35 degrees 14' 30" W. by lots 9 & 10 as shown on said plan 100 feet to a stake;

THENCE N. 52 degrees 37' W. by lots # 15 as shown on said plan 149.77 feet to a stake;

THENCE by a curve to the right a radius of which is 160 feet, a distance of 40.39 feet to a stone bound;

THENCE N. 37 degrees 23' E. 19.07 feet to a stone bound;

THENCE by a curve to the right the radius of which is 124.29 feet, a distance of 47.05 feet to the point of beginning.

Said last three courses being by Glenview Road.

Containing 15,200 square feet of land, more or less.

For mortgagor's(s)' title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68821, Page 330.

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 Fifteen Thousand (\$15,000.00) 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.

MEGA CAPITAL FUNDING, INC.

Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,

HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.

150 California St.

Newton, MA 02458

(617)558-0500

26353

February 27, 2026

March 6, 2026

March 13, 2026

## CITATION ON PETITION FOR REMOVAL

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court Probate and Family Court

Docket No. WO18P3763EA  
Worcester Probate and Family Court  
225 Main Street,  
Worcester, MA 01608  
(508) 831-2200

Estate of: Julia Stephanie Sedor

Date of Death: 08/27/02018

To all interested persons:

A Petition has been filed by Joseph J. Sedor of Oxford, MA, requesting that:

Susan A. Sedor of Harwich, MA be removed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate.

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.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 04, 2026

Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate

February 04, 2026

February 27, 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 Espino of Webster, MA

requesting for leave to adopt said child and that he name of the child be changed to

Alivia Grace Espino

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERE-TO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT:

Worcester  
ON OR BEFORE TEN O-CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON:

03/03/2026

WITNESS, Hon. :Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 3, 2026

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

February 13, 2026

February 20, 2026

February 27, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
Town of Dudley  
Planning Board

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L., Chapter 40A, Sections 9 and 11, the Town of Dudley Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 7:15 p.m. in the Dudley Municipal Complex, Room 321-A (DMC, Veterans Memorial Hall), 71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571, on the proposed bylaw changes regarding Accessory Dwelling Units. A copy of the proposed bylaw changes may be viewed in the offices of the Planning Board or Town Clerk, located in the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571, during regular office hours.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated.

David Durgin, Chairman

Dudley Planning Board

February 27, 2026

March 6, 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. WO26P0445EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:

Daniel E. Frieswick

Date of Death: 12/12/2025

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Brian Frieswick of Millbury 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:

Brian Frieswick of Millbury 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 03/10/2026.

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: February 12, 2026

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

February 27, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate and Family Court

225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608

Docket No. WO26P0367GD

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO

G. L.c. 1908, § 5-304 & § 5-405

In the matter of:

Liam Gore

Of: Dudley, MA

RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by

Ann Gore of Sturbridge, MA

in the above captioned matter alleging that Liam Gore is in need of a Guardian and requesting that

Ann Gore of Sturbridge, MA

(or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 03/10/2026.

This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 11, 2025

Stephanie K. Fattman

Register of Probate

February 27, 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

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage dated November 10, 2022 given by Daniel Yarnie to Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Three Trust u/d/t dated October 25, 2022 (recorded in Book 68416, Page 212), said mortgage recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68476, Page 194, and which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 p.m. on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026 on the premises at 64 Leicester Street, Oxford, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

To wit:

Property Address: 64 Leicester Street, Oxford, Massachusetts 01537

The following parcels of land in Oxford, Worcester County, Massachusetts:

Lots 26A and 26B as shown on that certain plan recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 407, Plan 119.

Lots 27 and 28 as shown on that certain plan recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 78, Plan 1.

Lot 2 as shown on that certain plan recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 817, Plan 116.

For title see deed recorded herewith [Book 68476, Page 190].

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 and rights of any tenants and parties in possession, if there be any, 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. The successful bidder will pay all costs of recording the foreclosure deed and any other foreclosure documents including, without limitation, all state and county excise stamp fees, and shall also be responsible for any Title V inspection and repair requirements.

Terms of sale: A deposit of Fifty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$50,000.00) 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 to Mirrione, Shaughnessy & Uitti, LLC, 2 Batterymarch Park, Suite 202, Quincy, MA 02169 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.

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

Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Three Trust

u/d/t dated October 25, 2022

Present holder of said mortgage

By his Attorneys,

Mirrione, Shaughnessy & Uitti, LLC

2 Batterymarch park, Suite 202

Quincy, MA 02169

February 20,2026

February 27, 2026

March 6, 2026

For Legal Advertising Information, Call 508-909-4127

email: [legals@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:legals@stonebridgepress.news)

## Oxford Women's Club meets March 3

OXFORD — The next meeting of the Oxford Women's Club will be held March 3 at the Senior Center, behind the town hall at 6 p.m. The subject will Senior Plan Consultant for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts with Luisa Lewis. She has more than 30 years of experience working in the Health Insurance Industry with a focus on Selling, Customer Service and most recently working with Medicare Products. She loves presenting and educating audiences on Medicare and Medicare related products. She conducts multiple seminars and speaks to hundreds of people every year.

So join us at our meeting, meet new friends and listen to our guest speaker.

For further information about the Women's Club, please contact Paula at 508-612-8274 or email Phparker1951@gmail.com.

## Oxford launches community rain barrel program

OXFORD — The Town of Oxford has teamed up with The Great American Rain Barrel Company to offer discounted rain barrels.

Order your rain barrel online at [www.tgarb.com](http://www.tgarb.com) by May 3. Click on Community Programs and the select Oxford. Choose your color, quantity, and any accessories. You can pay online or call The Great American Rain Barrel Company at 800-251-2352.

Rain barrel pickup will be on Saturday, May 16, 10:30 a.m.-noon at the DPW Garage, 34 Charlton St. Oxford.

For more information, please call Oxford DPW at 508-987-6006.

## Public hearing planned on Webster school budget

WEBSTER — The Webster School Committee has proposed an operating budget for FY2027. A Public Hearing will be held on

Tuesday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Michael Makara Conference Room, 77 Poland St., Webster.

Copies of the budget and supporting documentation can be found immediately on the Webster Public Schools Web site at [www.webster-schools.org](http://www.webster-schools.org) on the Office of Business and Finance page. Hard copies may also be obtained from the Webster Public School Administration Offices, 77 Poland St.

# OBITUARY

## Thelma "Timmy" R. Cazeault, 94



OXFORD — Thelma "Timmy" R. (Bacon) Cazeault, 94, of Winter Street, died Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

She was predeceased by her husband of 57 years, Leo P. Cazeault who died in

2008. She is survived by five children, Leo P. Cazeault Jr. and his wife June of North Grosvenordale, CT, Sharon M. Ito and her husband Warren of Woodstock, CT, Bonnie J. Bray of Oxford, Heidi M. Mellen and her husband Howard of North Grosvenordale, and Wayne A. Cazeault and his fiancée Shelley Hill of Webster; a brother, John H. Bacon and his wife Beverly of Kennebunk, ME; six wonderful grandchildren, Brandon, Brianne, Kyle, Kory, Courtney, and Chelsea; four wonderful great-grandchildren, Austin, Ali, Leona, and Nora; a daughter of her heart, Marsha "Sunshine" Prunier of Cherry Valley; and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by six brothers, Frederick "Leroy" Bacon, Roger "Cye" Bacon, Glenn Bacon, Robert Bacon, Charles Bacon, and Russell Bacon; and two sisters, Theo Belvery and Agnes Dangredo.

She was born in Webster, daughter of the late George A. and Edith M. (Scott)

Bacon, and lived in Webster before moving to Oxford in 1940. She graduated from Oxford High School in 1949.

Mrs. Cazeault was a cook at Bay Path R.V.T. High School in Charlton for 16 years prior to retirement. She spent many years caring for her home and raising her children. She was known for her chocolate chip cookies and spaghetti and meatballs. She loved to entertain, hosting parties, Memorial Day cookouts and family reunions for many years.

Timmy had a warm heart that everyone gravitated to. Her home was a gathering place for family and friends, and was open to everybody. She was the center of her family and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2026, from 12 noon – 3:00 p.m. at J. Anthony's Restaurant, 206 Southbridge Rd. (Routes 12 & 20), Oxford. Family and friends will share stories and memories at 2:00 p.m. Burial will be held privately at North Cemetery in Oxford.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, KS 66675-8516.

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

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# Retired Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director & husband lead 'Bikes for Change' road trip

ROCKVILLE, Md. — A chance breakfast conversation in Gardner has turned into a life-changing mission for the North Quabbin community, led by a familiar face in local education. Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, who recently retired as the Academy Director of the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton (October 2025), has traded the classroom for the open road to deliver hope on two wheels.

Alongside her husband, Joseph, the retired director spearheaded a «Road Trip to Deliver Bikes for Change.» a mission fueled by the overwhelming support of the Bay Path community, local residents, and the spirit of global Bayanihan (a core Filipino cultural value representing communal unity, work, and cooperation to achieve a common goal without expecting anything in return.)

A legacy of service continues: Partnership of Purpose, 2012–2026

Having spent over a decade guiding future nurses at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Dr. Bolandrina is no stranger to humanitarian efforts. While her retirement in late 2025 marked the end of an era for nursing education, it signaled the beginning of a new “tour of duty” alongside her husband.

The 2026 project began when the Bolandrinass visited Bruce and Mary Willoughby, the retiring owners of O’Neil’s Bicycle Shop in Gardner. Faced with hundreds of used bicycles that needed a new home, Joseph reached out to Bikes for the World (BfW), a non-profit they have supported for years and have helped to send shipments to the Philippines (coordinated with Bikes for the Philippines).

This mission is the continuation of a shared passion; both Joseph and Gretheline have been volunteers with Bikes for the Philippines since 2012. For 14 years, the couple has worked in tandem—collecting, organizing, and delivering donated bicycles from their local Massachusetts community to the BfW headquarters. Their long-standing partnership has been instrumental in ensuring that hundreds of bicycles have reached the Philippines through Bikes for the Philippines, transforming the lives of students and workers across the archipelago. Hundreds more for the rest of the world through Bikes for the World.

Powered by the Bay Path community

The mission was a true team effort. The Bay Path community—comprising former students, faculty, and local friends—helped the Bolandrinass reach their fundraising goals. A

key celebration and fundraiser held on Gretheline’s 59th birthday at Kuru Kuru Ramen shop in the Worcester Public Market provided the necessary funds to rent the 20-foot U-Haul truck required for the long haul to Maryland.

“I have seen how second-hand bikes enrich lives,” Joseph explained. “From helping a student graduate to giving a small-scale entrepreneur a way to reach the market, these bikes are tools for independence.”

Navigating the “Plan B” route

The trek to the Bikes for the World headquarters in Rockville, Md., tested the couple’s resolve. The duo spent hours navigating around New York’s low-clearance parkways.

“Every time we saw a ‘NO TRUCKS’ sign on a parkway on-ramp, we had to scramble for a Plan B,” Joseph shared. Despite adding hours to their transit time, the couple arrived safely to deliver 55 bicycles to BfW leaders Yvette Powell Hess and Taylor Jones.

A commemorative honor

In recognition of their years of advocacy, Yvette presented Joseph with an Official Bikes for the World 2005–2025 Commemorative Coin. The Bolandrinass plan to keep the coin as a family heirloom, eventually passing it to their grandson, Tidus, to



Courtesy

Gretheline Bolandrina with Yvette Powell Hess of Bikes for Change.

inspire the next generation of service.

For the retired Academy Director, the journey was a reminder that while she

may have stepped down from the helm of the practical nursing Academy, her mission to heal and help the world is far from over.

“Life is best shared,” the couple reflected. “We are tired, but we have a grateful grin that isn’t going away.”

## Worcester County Sheriff’s Medical named Wellpath Facility of the Year



Courtesy

Sheriff Lewis Evangelidis presents a congratulatory plaque to the WCSO Medical Team for being named 2025 Wellpath Facility of the Year.

WORCESTER — The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office (WCSO) is proud to announce that the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office Medical Team, the Office’s subcontracted medical provider, has earned the title of Facility of the Year by its parent company, Wellpath. The award recognizes excellence in leadership, innovation, and the delivery of

high-quality correctional healthcare.

Sheriff Lewis Evangelidis noted that shortly after taking office in 2011, he decided to privatize the WCSO Medical Department, believing that it was one of the best decisions of his tenure.

“Subcontracting medical services through Wellpath significantly reduces liability for the Commonwealth

while allowing us to provide a higher level of care to those in our custody,” Evangelidis said.

The recognition reflects a year of sustained progress under the leadership of Anjuli Richard, Health Services Administrator, and Kayla Carlo, Assistant Health Services Administrator. Together, Richard and Carlo built upon the facility’s strong foundation by strengthening workplace culture, refining clinical and operational processes, and expanding access to care

through enhanced interdisciplinary coordination.

Anjuli Richard commented, “This award highlights the hard work, resilience, and teamwork demonstrated every day by our staff, as well as the strong collaboration with the Sheriff’s Office in supporting a safe, respectful, and effective environment for care.”

Wellpath is an international provider of contracted healthcare services for correctional facilities and other high-risk environments. The company employs more

than 8,000 professionals and serves nearly 300 facilities across the United States and Australia, providing care to approximately 200,000 patients each day.

The WCSO medical team includes physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, and other healthcare professionals who provide 24/7 medical coverage. The medical unit is housed within the Sheriff’s Office Intake and Medical Unit, a modern, purpose-built facility that opened in 2021 and was designed to centralize intake, medical screening, and long-term care.

Key accomplishments contributing to the Facility of the Year designation include securing a \$25,000 UMass Medical School grant to expand ophthalmologic services and vision care, as well as partnering with MCPHS University to enhance dental health education through student involvement. The facility also prioritized workforce development by establishing a nurse-led onboarding committee, implementing shift huddles and a staff Idea Board, achieving zero first-year staff turnover, and maintaining 100 percent compliance with annual training requirements.

Additional partnerships

with Anna Maria College allowed 27 Bachelor of Science in Nursing students to complete clinical observation hours. Collaboration with UMass hospital case managers further improved continuity of care for patients returning from hospital stays. Operational enhancements included the creation of an Infirmary Committee to support compliance with updated NCCCH standards and the launch of regular interdisciplinary meetings with non-Wellpath mental health partners.

“This award affirms the meaningful progress we have made over the past decade to strengthen the operations of the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office,” said Lewis Evangelidis. “I’m especially proud of the strong partnership we have built with our healthcare team and the professionalism our corrections staff demonstrates in working alongside them to support those in our care.”

Through consistent results across patient care, workforce engagement, partnerships, operational processes, and performance outcomes, Worcester County Jail Medical exemplifies Wellpath’s Five P’s and is a deserving recipient of the Facility of the Year award.

## Local students named to Dean’s List at Tufts University

MEDFORD — Lilianna Sigalovsky, Class of 2026, of Webster and Sophia Gawronski, Class of 2027, of Auburn were named to the dean’s list at Tufts University for the fall 2025 semester. Dean’s list honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

Tufts University, located on campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Grafton, and in Talloires, France, is recognized among the premier research universities in the United States. Tufts enjoys a global reputation for academic excellence and for the preparation of students as leaders in a wide range of professions. A growing number of innovative teaching and research initiatives span all Tufts campuses, and collaboration among the faculty and students in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs across the university’s schools is widely encouraged.

## Webster First Federal Credit Union achieves top rankings in 2025

WORCESTER — Webster First Federal Credit Union has been recognized as a leader in Massachusetts lending, earning multiple top positions in Banker & Tradesman’s “Top Lenders of 2025” rankings. These achievements highlight the institution’s strong contributions to both commercial and multi-family lending statewide.

2025 Rankings Highlights

- #1 in Number of Commercial Loans
- 31 commercial loans closed
- #1 in Multi-Family Lending – Dollar Volume
- \$37,141,050 in multi-family loans
- #1 in Multi-Family Lending – Number of Loans
- 22 multi-family loans closed
- #2 in Commercial Lending – Dollar Volume
- \$45,544,150 funded
- #4 in Non-Purchase Consumer Loans – Dollar Volume
- \$67,264,864 in HELOCs and refinances
- #8 in Non-Purchase Consumer Loans – Number of Loans
- 205 non-purchase transactions processed

Senior Vice President of Commercial Lending, Bryan Regele, credited the lending team and leadership with

the institution’s ongoing success, commenting, “These achievements reflect the support of our leadership, the collaboration of our team, and a shared commitment to serving our members with practical, thoughtful solutions. We look forward to continuing this work and strengthening the value we provide to our members and the communities we serve.”

Webster First’s recognition comes as the credit union continues to expand its services and support for local businesses and homeowners. The institution’s consistent performance across a range of lending categories demonstrates its reliability and unwavering commitment to meeting the financial needs of its members.

About Webster First Federal Credit Union Webster First is a member-owned financial institution serving communities across Massachusetts. With a focus on outstanding service and comprehensive financial solutions, the credit union offers a variety of personal and business banking products, including checking accounts, mortgages, and commercial loans. Webster First is dedicated to member satisfaction and community support.



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# Dudley Woman's Club supports local charities

DUDLEY — Members of the Dudley Woman's Club shared simmering soups and stews with representatives from local charities during their February Stew & Story of Giving meeting. The meeting highlight was awarding \$500 donation checks to each of six charities: Charlton Helping Hand Society, No Mutts Left Behind, Josh Thibodeau Helping Hearts Foundation, JAK-L Foundation, Charlton REAS Foundation and the Friends of John Paire Foundation.

The club also donated "mutt merch" valued at \$376 to No Mutts Left Behind.

The DWC membership of more than 70 women of various ages and backgrounds from Dudley, Webster, Southbridge, Charlton, Uxbridge, and several Northern Connecticut towns work together to uplift and support our communities. More information at [www.dudleywomensclub.org](http://www.dudleywomensclub.org)



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