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Friday, June 7, 2024



Courtesy

The Webster/Dudley Veterans Council thanks all veterans, officials, and residents who took part in a Memorial Day ceremony honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.



## Dudley election to decide funding mechanism for school upgrades

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — While Dudley voters will be selecting new town leadership during the June 10 annual town election, they will also be answering an important question regarding funding for several projects in the local schools which were previously approved in 2022.

The lone question on the election ballot asks voters to approve a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion that will authorize borrowing to cover the cost of the Dudley Middle School roof repair, upgrades to fire alarms throughout the Dudley schools, replacement and installation of cameras and video infrastructure, upgrades to radio communications, and an architectural review of Dudley's school buildings. The projects were all approved as part of a special election held during the state primaries on Sept. 6, 2022. Both Dudley and Charlton supported Phase 1 of the Dudley Charlton Regional School District's Capital Plan with Dudley's voters overwhelmingly approving the item in a vote of 1,368 to 525. However, that vote did not establish a funding mechanism for the \$3 million worth of projects which have since been completed and now the bill comes due.

"In September of 2022, voters of Dudley and Charlton went to the ballot box and authorized the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District to spend this money on capital improvements to school buildings, including a roof replacement at Dudley Middle School," Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda said in a statement. "With the money spent, the voters are now being asked how they would like to pay for the projects. Voting yes pays the debt off by temporarily increasing the tax rate. When the debt is paid, that increase goes away. A vote against the debt exclusion will result in a funding loss of about \$350,000 per year for town services."

If approved, the debt exclusion would add the cost of the projects to the town's tax levy for a duration of fifteen years, through 2039. According to a breakdown published by the town and presented to selectmen in March, the first payment in 2025 would be the highest at \$348,150.31. Payments would decrease every year from that point, as would the impact on the tax rate starting at \$86.53 in Fiscal year 2025 and ending as low as \$35.40 in 2039. As per the requirements of a debt exclusion, the increase would be temporary lasting only the length of the loan itself and wouldn't be a perma-

Turn To **DUDLEY** page **A14**

## Oxford Superintendent given glowing job review

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — The School Committee gave Superintendent Mike Lucas "proficient" and "exemplary" ratings on this year's performance review, but noted several areas are still in progress.

Chair Corey Burke summarized most of it, noting the improvements showed Lucas had accepted the recommendations from last year's "needs improvement" rating. Among other points, he said the superintendent has made "significant progress" toward "building a highly-effective leadership team," and building trust with the community, implementing the state's improvement plan, improving math teaching and mentoring programs. Burke also praised him for his outreach, work on mental health issues, and other areas, but also noted the district has made "nice strides" toward effectively using data, but it "still needs significant attention."

Several committee members praised Lucas for his community engagement efforts (where he scored "exemplary"), with David Cornacchioli saying "Mike absolutely role models this, and has since day one."

Turn To **LUCAS** page **A14**

## Neal pursues federal funding for temporary bridge

DUDLEY — A \$2.5 million federal funding request, presently in Congress, will fund a temporary bridge to reopen the Brandon Road/Hill Street crossing over the French River, if approved.

Congressman Richard E. Neal submitted the funding request to the House Committee on Appropriations as an important community project in the Massachusetts First Congressional District.

If approved by the committee, the \$2.5 million Community Project Funding grant would pay for the installation of a temporary modular bridge that would be borrowed from MassDOT, until a permanent bridge is installed.

In his May 10, 2023 letter to the committee, Neal wrote, "This is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds...its closure has restricted access between the towns of Dudley and

Webster, resulting in traffic congestion, longer response times for emergency vehicles, and impacting local business. If funding for a temporary bridge is not found, it could be five or more years before the road reopens."

One rule of the Appropriations Committee is that each Representative may request funding for up to 15 projects for fiscal year 2025, recognizing that only a handful may receive funding. Responding to pleas from Dudley officials, Representative Neal selected the Mill Race Bridge as one of his 15.

In a Jan. 11, 2022, letter to Representative Neal, Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda wrote, "The Town of Dudley has an urgent need for infrastructure funding to pay for necessary repairs on the Brandon Road Bridge."

Turn To **FUNDING** page **A14**

## School Board supports collaborative, honors students

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — Like Oxford last month, Webster School Committee recently voted to support giving the regional special ed collaborative a \$2 million capital surplus fund.

Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Director Arnold Lundwall said he realized the need for such a fund after doing some research. Normally, SWCEC has been allowed to set aside up to 25 percent of its annual expenditures as a "rainy day fund," but is not allowed to seek MSBA funding for projects. This new fund will essentially serve that purpose, and "would allow us to be good partners with our landlords."

Specifically, he said the collaborative is looking forward to potentially consolidating all of its students in one location in about 10 years. Right now, elementary students go to a site in Southbridge,

while high schoolers go to one in Dudley. Neither is big enough, and both have long had various issues (for example, one's gym is also the cafeteria), although he noted the landlord does a good job maintaining them. Lundwall said SWCEC would be "walked out" of a bank if it sought a building loan because "the only collateral I have is an old Econoline 350 van, 12 years old. We call her Big Bertha, and I don't know how long she's going to last."

After that vote, the board briefly discussed this year's timeline for reviewing Superintendent Monique Pierangeli, who has already submitted her goals report and other data. Because of various year-end events like graduation, the board opted to have members submit their evaluations by June 21 for public review at the July 9 meeting.

Otherwise, the May 28 meeting focused on stu-

dents, with Middle School Principal Heidi Peterson bringing forward several who had been part of this year's Project 351, Project Lead the Way, and Special Olympics.

The first of those is where schools in all Massachusetts towns nominate 8th graders who are "quiet leaders" demonstrating "kindness, humility, compassion and gratitude," she said. Oxford nominated six, and two of them submitted the essays to qualify; the staff picked Brianna LaForest largely for her role in "collecting goods to donate to Cradles to Crayons."

For the second, several students made duck-themed robotic projects to do different things, then came together to combine the best features of them in one robot. Their work led them to Boston, where they met with medical staff and researchers and got a chance to observe

Turn To **WEBSTER** page **A14**



Courtesy

The Oxford Woman's Club is pleased to present three \$750 scholarships this year. The deserving Seniors are Colin Plante from Bay Path who received the Josey Tyler Scholarship; Allison Carney from Oxford High School who received the Clara Barton Scholarship and Sophia Balestracci who received the Oxford Woman's Club Scholarship. We are very proud of the recipients and wish them all great success in their futures. Pictured: Anne Marie Palermo, head of the Scholarship Committee, Colin Plante, Sophia Balestracci and Allison Carney.



# Local officials partner with DEA on new e-sports initiative

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Local officials are teaming up with the DEA in a unique approach to combating dangerous drugs. The New England Field Division of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will partner with college e-sports teams from across New England to host the first-of-its-kind One Pill Can Kill Game Over Tournament.

Event organizers hope to use the increasingly popular e-sports platform to help educate young people about the dangers of fentanyl.

Each week, 22 teenagers between the ages of 14 and 18 die from drug poisoning or overdose events across New England, according to a recent study conducted

by the New England Journal of Medicine.

To more effectively reach teenage audiences, the DEA has teamed up with actress and influencer Ava Michelle Cota, as well as eight e-sports teams across the region, to take an innovative new approach to fentanyl outreach and awareness.

The new program is supported by Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and several other local officials.

“With an overwhelming 97 percent of Americans between the ages of 12 and 17 engaged in video gaming, the DEA is looking to reach young people where they often spend time—in the virtual world,” read a statement released by the DEA.

The One Pill Can Kill

Game Over Tournament will be hosted by Clark University on Thursday, June 6. Participating teams will represent Worcester Polytechnic Institute, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Boston University, Emerson College, Post University, the University of New Hampshire, and the University of Southern Maine.

The DEA will host an in-person pre-tournament program and live gameplay for invited guests at the state-of-the-art gaming center, All Systems Go, on Thursday, June 6, beginning at 4:30 p.m. Attendees will include high school aged students and community groups.

Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, is involved in the majority of drug poisonings and overdose deaths across the country.

“Fentanyl is 50 times more potent than heroin, and just two milligrams—the amount that can fit on the tip of a pencil—can be deadly,” the DEA statement read. “Often, people buy what they think is a legitimate prescription pill like Percocet or Xanax on social media, but it turns out they’ve unknowingly purchased a fentanyl pill.”

In 2023, the DEA seized approximately 15.7 million potentially lethal doses of fentanyl in New England alone.

For local officials and DEA leaders alike, it’s exciting to launch a new strategy for reaching teenage audiences. As gaming technologies and platforms have rapidly evolved over the past decade, officials have struggled to reach teenagers at their most popu-

larly visited venues.

“I am thrilled we are able to team up with these amazing e-sports teams to host this One Pill Can Kill Game Over Tournament in New England and increase awareness about the dangers of fentanyl,” said DEA Associate Administrator Jon DeLena. “This event is extremely personal to me. I know how much my own kids enjoy playing video games, so knowing they are also learning valuable, lifesaving information while doing what they love is so important.”

The One Pill Can Kill Game Over Tournament in New England will be the third tournament in this series. The first tournament was held at the DEA’s New Orleans Field Division in January and reached more than 285,500 viewers. The second tour-

namment was hosted by the DEA’s Philadelphia Field Division in March, viewed by an audience of more than 146,800.

The New England event is the first to offer an in-person outreach opportunity ahead of the tournament.

“Connecting with people in an environment where they are having fun and are open to learning has been an incredible experience. Raising awareness and providing education about the fentanyl epidemic is absolutely crucial—I genuinely believe we are saving lives,” Cota said.

The DEA thanks All Systems Go, The Rendon Group, participating colleges, and the e-sports community for their support of the tournaments.

# Central Mass Providers hold 33rd Annual Legislative Breakfast

REGION — The AC Hotel by Marriott was the location for Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kate Walsh and Undersecretary, Mary McGeown to join the 33rd Annual Legislative Breakfast sponsored by the Central Mass Providers, a group of non-profit private providers of services for people with disabilities.

Those provider sponsors are the Center of Hope Foundation, Advocates, Kennedy-Donovan Center, LUK, Inc., Open Sky community Services, Seven Hills Foundation, The Arc of Opportunity, Thrive Support & Advocacy,

Venture Community Services, The Arc of Massachusetts and Association of Developmental Disability Providers. These organizations serve tens of thousands of people with over 10,000 staff in Massachusetts.

The 200 attendees from a broad array of agencies and advocates, along with a dozen state and federal legislators and aides, came to present, listen and understand the issues around people with various disabilities, particularly intellectual, developmental, autism and behavioral health in Central Mass and the State.

Each year, this event has a theme, and this year, the theme was Myth Busters. Although the field has come a long way, there is still a long way to go to get the general public to understand the civil rights and prejudicial issues that still go on. The theme helped to clarify some of the dozens of preconceived notions still out there, such as “People with IDD cannot work,” “The state takes care of people with disabilities adequately,” “Direct Support Professionals make a living wage.” Speakers addressed the crowd with how to “Bust those Myths.” Sean Rose, President and CEO of Thrive Support and Advocacy addressed questions to the Secretary and Undersecretary in a “Fireside Chat” format. This discussion addressed the ongoing workforce crisis and the challenge in recruiting and retaining staff, which is in large part due to the rates that are paid to employees. With Inflation, food costs, electricity, and a lack of affordable housing, especially in the Worcester area, it makes it even more difficult. This workforce crisis is preventing the individuals served from accessing programming, putting a strain on families and caregivers.

The Secretary and Undersecretary explained to the participants the state budget items that will support the increases needed to address this crisis and their plans and pilot programs to address these issues, includ-



ing efforts with newly arrived immigrants to get work authorizations to work in provider agencies, along with helping them with housing.

State Representative Natalie Higgins of the 4th Worcester District spoke to the crowd about her own personal experience with her “Aunt Tilly,” who only started to live her best life in her seventies when she finally was able to go to a group home and have friendships, goals and was able to get out in the world. She urged the other legislators in the room to do all they can to ensure that this can happen for the many thousands out there, especially those who are underserved or not served at all. They need to help her Bust the Myths about people with disabilities, too.

Included in the event was recognition of Leo Sarkissian, Executive Director of the Arc of Massachusetts, for outstanding leadership as he administered

and advocated for the families and 17 Chapter agencies in Massachusetts for the last 33 years.

Awards to outstanding advocates are an essential part of this event each year. Award winners this year include:

- Davonte Johnson of LUK, Inc. – Excellence in Advocacy Award
- Kelly Pedro of Kennedy-Donovan Center – Impact for Life Award
- George Ntiamoah of Advocates – Inspirational Leader Award
- Amber Cannalonga of Thrive Support & Advocacy – Community Impact Award
- Marilyn (Fritzi) Foster of Center of Hope – Exceptional Advocacy & Compassion Award
- Alicia Randolph of Venture Community Services – Culture of Excellence Award
- Roxanna Mayas of the Arc of Opportunity – Inspiring Change Award
- Omolewa Fagboore of Open Sky & Seven Hills – Outstanding Leadership Award

A Call to Action went out to the audience about continuing advocacy from Ken Bates, President and CEO of Open Sky Community Services. Contact any of the sponsors to learn more about programs and how to support this cause.

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## Webster First Federal Credit Union merges with Cambridge Teachers Federal Credit Union

REGION — Webster First Federal Credit Union (WFFCU) and Cambridge Teachers Federal Credit Union (CTFCU) announced today that the two organizations will merge effective May 31.

Familiar with rapid growth throughout Massachusetts; since 2011 Webster First has completed mergers with Saugus Federal, Fitchburg Federal, Winthrop Federal, Filene Federal, and Industrial Credit Unions. In operation since January 1928, Webster First has attained an asset size of more than \$1.4 billion and currently serves over 90,000 members, ranking among the largest operating credit unions in Massachusetts today.

Webster First is confident that Cambridge Teachers FCU will be another successful merger for the growing credit union. “We look forward to combining the two credit unions and strengthening our presence in the Cambridge market” stated Webster First CEO John Thomasian.

Cambridge Teachers FCU contains over \$26 million in assets and has one branch located in Cambridge. Cambridge Teachers FCU was founded in 1939 to help serve the financial needs of teachers within Cambridge.

About Webster First  
Webster First Federal Credit Union has been serving Worcester County since 1928 and has since expanded to Essex, Middlesex, and Suffolk counties to become one of the top credit unions in the Commonwealth. More information on Webster First can be found online at [websterfirst.com](http://websterfirst.com).

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# bankHometown commits \$150,000 to New Worcester Chamber Fund

REGION — bankHometown recently announced its commitment of \$150,000 to a new fund established by the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce for strategic economic development and workforce initiatives in Central Massachusetts.

The Worcester Regional Strategic Opportunity Fund—formally named the Linda Salem Pervier Permanent Restricted Fund in honor of a long-time chamber employee—will support one-time initiatives, projects, or consulting services that advance economic opportunities and educational and workforce initiatives in and around Worcester. The organization already has raised nearly \$2.5 million of the \$3 million goal it set for the end of 2025, when the chamber celebrates its 150th anniversary.

For bankHometown, being an early supporter and pacesetter sponsor is in line with its focused commitment on supporting economic

growth and development through its charitable giving program, The Giving Tree. According to bank President and CEO Robert J. Morton, the bank takes its commitment to supporting small business seriously, whether that's through donations like this one, its Small Business Initiative lending program, or Morton's own time spent mentoring young entrepreneurs through the Entrepreneurship for All organization.

Chamber President and CEO Timothy P. Murray says that the fund will allow the chamber to be both nimble in pursuing economic development including business recruitment and workforce needs while remaining fiscally prudent with the chamber's annual operating budget.



bankHometown Executive Vice President, Senior Loan Officer Michael P. Mahler; Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Timothy P. Murray; bankHometown President & CEO Robert J. Morton; bankHometown Senior Vice President, Commercial Lending, Jane W. Loranger.

“Helping to unlock the potential for additional economic development in the Worcester region was an easy decision for bankHometown,” Morton said. “We’ve witnessed firsthand the profound impact that the chamber’s programs and initiatives have on area small businesses and the resulting positive effect on our local economy. We’re happy to continue supporting them in their mission.”

“bankHometown was one of the first businesses to respond to this important initiative,” said Murray. “We are grateful to both President and CEO Rob Morton and the bankHometown board for their support. The Linda Salem Pervier Permanent Restricted Fund will be a catalyst for economic activity and workforce initiatives which strengthen the 40 communities within our Chamber service area.”

## Local artist’s work on display at Rose room Café

WEBSTER — Come see paintings and prints of Webster visual artist Jennifer D’Andrea at The Rose Room Café all through June. Art is available for purchase from the café. Bring friends and enjoy the display.

## Bay Path vocational programs team up to honor Bob Wilby with Eyeglass Receptacle

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School has undertaken a unique project to honor Bob Wilby, a dedicated Lions Club member and School Committee member who passed away this past Fall. The initiative involved a collaborative effort from five of the school’s technical programs to design, build and display an eyeglass receptacle station. This project not only commemorates Wilby’s contributions as a Lion’s Club member, advisor and friend to Bay Path’s Leo Club and his role as a Bay Path School Committee member but also serves a practical purpose, providing a place for community members to donate used eyeglasses.

The receptacle is the result of teamwork among students and their instructors in the following programs: Advanced Manufacturing, Automotive Collision Repair & Refinishing, Drafting, Graphic Communications and Mason & Tile Setting reflecting

the school’s commitment to career and technical education and service to the community. This initiative highlights the school’s commitment to blending hands-on learning with community service, demonstrating the students’ skills and the strong cooperative culture of the school’s programs. Bob Wilby’s legacy of community service is honored through this initiative, exemplifying the importance of giving back to the community.

The eyeglass receptacle was dedicated on May 23, during the Memorial Day Ceremony at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School. This event also honored Bay Path Senior students, Marc Watroba (Automotive Collision Repair & Refinishing) and Kyle Sylwanovicz (Automotive Technology) entering the Army National Guard and Marine Corp branches respectively and paid tribute to Bob Wilby. The receptacle is now permanently located near the entrance of the Bay Path Hilltop Restaurant.



Mrs. Nancy Wilby donating the first pair of eye glass into the receptacle that honors her late husband, Bob Wilby.



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\$475,000, 19 Perry St, Sylvia, James D, and Sylvia, Shawna A, to Hodgetts, Gary, and Hodgetts, Julia.  
\$332,000, 231 Hampton St, Agnello, Matthew M, and Steneck, Amanda G, to Langlois, Renee M.  
\$330,000, 20 Swanson Rd, Weagle, Jessica L, and Niemann, Nathan J, to Halliday, Christopher, and Halliday, Pompea.

#### DUDLEY

\$119,900, 2 Sophies Way, Sawmill Road LLC, to Munoz, Amparo B.

#### OXFORD

\$530,000, 13 Sutton Ave, Rocco Rt, and Robbins, Patricia A, to Mills, Heather, and Mills, Michael.  
\$502,000, 2 Melvin Dr, Piascik, Christopher, and Hutchings, Michele, to Diaz, Yaa, and Ampofo, Danielle.  
\$469,000, 36 Quobaug Ave, 36 Quobaug Ave LLC, to Campbell, Rashawn A, and Campbell, Kasandra M.  
\$422,000, 27 Walnut St, Sdb Homes LLC, to Battelle, Gary, and Battelle, Sharon.  
\$385,000, 9 Sutton Ave, Rocco Rt, and Robbins, Patricia A, to Silveira, Valmiriam.  
\$235,000, 6 McIntyre Rd #3, Langlois, Renee M, to Santos, Hanna L, and Santos, Luiz G.  
\$213,950, 17 Beverly St, Lakeview Loan Servicing L, to Alma Construction Co LLC.  
\$190,000, 19 Maple Ave, Stone, Theresa A, to Prop Soln Re & Contractin.

#### WEBSTER

\$555,000, 162 Thompson Rd, Rayjack Realty Nt, and Regis, Raymond M, to Pci Realty LLC.  
\$515,000, 15 Greystone Ave, Jnapa LLC, to Oliveira, Darcilane, and Coelho, Felipe C.

## Fairy Day at Oxford Farmer’s Market

OXFORD — Obtaining quality, nutritious local food shouldn’t be a fairy tale, and the community is invited to enjoy Fairy Day at the Oxford Farmers’ Market June 21 from 2:30-6:30 p.m. at Joslin Park on the Town Common. For more information, contact Debiv21@verizon.net.



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READ, RENEW, REPEAT  
Registration begins  
Thursday, June 13  
& runs through August 11!  
Summer Reading Kickoff Ice Cream Social with Ice Cream Pharm!!  
Thursday, June 13, 1:00

Gentle Yoga  
Mondays in June  
10:00-11:00 in the Fels Community Room  
Join Jia Borgia, certified yoga instructor, for traditional “on the mat” yoga class with 15 minute relaxation at the end. Bring your own mat. Wear layers, do not eat heavily 1.5-2 hours before class.

Movies At The Pearle!!

Tuesdays in June at 1:00  
June 4: Anyone But You  
June 11: Mean Girls  
June 18: Wonka  
June 25: Night Swim

Mahjong at the Pearle  
Wednesday, June 5, 12 & 26  
10:00-12:30 Fels Community Room  
Mahjong made its way over to the U.S. from China in the early 1920s. It was marketed as an ancient Chinese game, but it was actually created in the nineteenth century. The game consists of players competing to form distinct sets or pairs of tiles, similar to gin rummy. Everyone welcome, registration not required.

Yoga  
Thursday, June 6  
6:00-7:00 in the Fels Community Room  
Join Jia Borgia, certified yoga instructor, for traditional “on the mat” yoga class with 15 minute relaxation at the end. Bring your own mat. Wear layers, do not eat

heavily 1.5-2 hours before class.

Once Upon A Crime Book Club- While Idaho Slept  
By: J. Reuben Appelman  
Friday, June 7  
11:00-12:00  
Adult Reading Area  
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.

Herbal Infused Oils & Salves  
Monday, June 10  
6:00-7:30  
Fels Community Room  
Learn to create a healing balm that has endless possibilities for the skin and body. Practice the process of infusing an oil and turning it into a topical salve using calendula, comfrey, and other beneficial herbs.

Presented by Christine Leo, M. Ed.  
Certified Traditional Herbalist and Dudley resident. This program is sponsored by the Dudley Agricultural Commission & the Town of Dudley.  
Registration required

Crafternoons with Lena  
Paper Roll Bird  
Tuesday, June 11  
2:00-3:00  
Fels Community Room

Spend the afternoon with our experienced and enthusiastic instructor, Lena. You’ll leave with a one-of-a-kind creation to enjoy!  
Registration is required.

Resume Review with Nichols  
College Career Center Director Liz Horgan  
Tuesday, June 11  
11:00-1:00 Adult Reading Area  
Do you need help updating your resume?  
A Nichols College Career Center representative will work with you individually to strengthen your resume.  
Please bring an up-to-date resume draft along with a job description of interest.  
This service is free and open to all.  
Registration is required.  
Youth Programs:

Hatch the Chicken Tuesday, June 4: All Day  
Children’s Room  
Hatching eggs will be set up in the children’s room for families to come in and watch as we incubate chicken eggs and watch them eventually hatch!  
Guest Reader Story Time  
Monday, June 3  
6:00  
Join our guest reader for a fun story along with activities. We are excited to welcome our guest readers!

Toddler Storytime - Ages  
Tuesday, June 4 & 11  
10:30-11:00  
Storytime Room  
Join us for a story and activi-

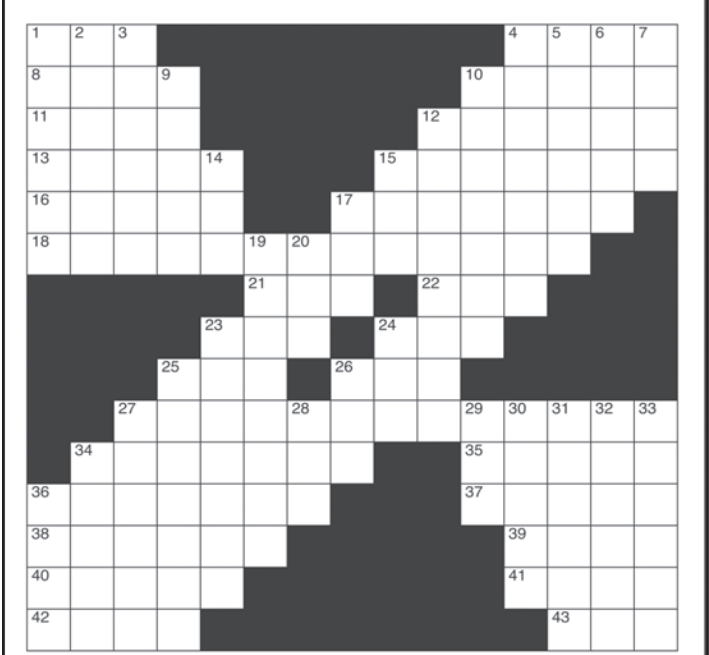
ty. For ages 0-3.  
PreK Storytime  
Wednesday, June 5 & 12  
10:30-11:15  
Storytime Room  
Join us for a story and activity. For ages 3-5.  
Young Scientist STEM Program  
Tuesday, June 4  
11:15 -12:00 Storytime Room  
Children, ages 3-6, will learn STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) concepts through hands-on activities, story time, challenges, and simple experiments in this weekly STEM series facilitated by STEM Beginnings. Parents/ Caregivers are encouraged to help their child and join in the fun during each class! Siblings are welcome and must be supervised.  
Registration required.  
YMCA Family & Community Partnership is funded by the Massachusetts Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE) Grant and awarded to the YMCA of Central Massachusetts by the Department of Early Education and Care.

Dungeons & Dragons Game  
Thursdays, 6:00-7:30  
Are you looking to play a game that contains action, adventure, and drama?  
Come play the world’s number one role playing game.  
This program geared towards kids that are looking to learn more about playing and some short adventures!

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Hillside Excavation & Property Maintenance



**774-633-0892**      **HillsideDigging@gmail.com**



CLUES ACROSS

1. Baby’s dining accessory

4. Something free

8. Ancient Egyptian deity

10. Set-like mathematical categories

11. Top-quality

12. Expansive

13. Seizure

15. People with congenital absence of pigment

16. Gains

17. Mocked online

18. Clint’s son

21. Body part

22. Humor

23. Code number
24. Your physique

25. Family of regulator genes

26. LA football player (abbr.)

27. “The Blonde Bombshell”

34. Charity

35. Bluish greens

36. Examined closely

37. A type of equation

38. Stretched uncomfortably

39. Indian religious god

40. Clocks

41. Slowly leak through

42. Witnesses

43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. Nestlings

2. Induces vomiting

3. A place to eat

4. Partner in the air

5. Offered one’s take

6. Nobel-winning French biologist

7. Farm animals

9. Prevent from growing

10. Sensationalist periodical

12. Soft-bodied beetle

14. Very fast airplane

15. Imaginative creation

17. Recipe measurement (abbr.)
19. Evoked a response

20. French river

23. Shiny yellow minerals

24. Make illegal

25. U.S. military branch

26. River in France and Belgium

27. A woman of refinement

28. Male child

29. Type of medication

30. German city

31. Animal disease

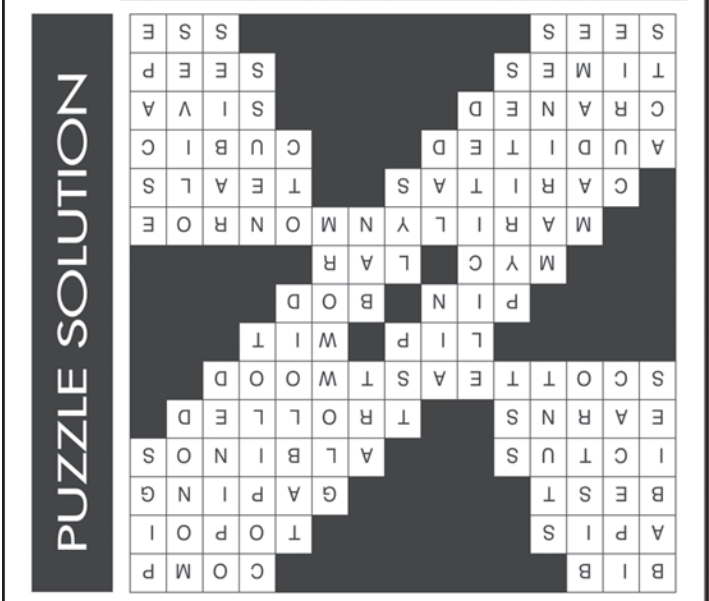
32. Mediterranean dietary staple

33. Sneak out

34. Radioactivity unit

36. Performs on stage

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**



GLADYS E. KELLY LIBRARY

2 Lake St., Webster  
508-949-3880  
Library Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.,  
Wed: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Fri: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!  
Want to receive updates about our upcoming events? Sign up for email alerts by visiting our website or contacting our Program Coordinator Randa Cox at [rcox@cwmars.org](mailto:rcox@cwmars.org).

No Spice club this month, but check out our Geraldine Brooks display in the lobby!

FRIENDS ANNUAL BOOKSALE IS COMING!  
The dates are as followed:  
THURSDAY June 20th from 9:00AM until 8:00PM  
FRIDAY June 21st from 9:00AM until 5:00PM  
SATURDAY June 22nd 9:00AM until 11:00AM

Adult Programming  
YOGA – Saturday June 8th, 15th, and 29th at 9:30 AM  
Join Julie or Lauren at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. In Sanskrit, Vinyasa yoga translates to the “uniting of movement with breath”. 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.

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP— June 20th at 6:30 PM  
This month’s book discussion will be in the Library’s Community Room. The Group will be discussing Their favorite books from childhood and adulthood. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone at 508-949-3880, or by email to [rcox@cwmars.org](mailto:rcox@cwmars.org) for inquiries.

ADULT BOARDGAME NIGHT--- June 24th at 6:00 PM  
Come in and play games with other board game enthusiasts. Learn a new one, or play one you know and help others learn!

COOKBOOK CLUB—June 11th at 6:00 PM  
Every month there will be a new cookbook and you will choose a delicious recipe to make! You can choose anything out of the cookbook to bring and share. Whether you like to cook or bake there

will always be something for you! We will eat and discuss our favorite and our least favorite things of the cooking adventure. You can pick up your copy from behind the circulation desk.

FRIENDS CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS:  
Crocodile River---- June 13th at 6:30 PM  
African rhythms, history, and culture merge into an evening of movement, cultural exploration, and joy. Internationally recognized, the group consists of members from Mali, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Guinea, and the US. Crocodile River Music’s mission is to connect audiences with African artists and cultures through performance and education. They are a diverse group of people committed to presenting African art, music, and culture to audiences of all ages, backgrounds, and capabilities.

Children’s and Young Adult Programming  
Scavenger Hunt--- All Month Long  
What’s more exciting than a scavenger hunt? Come upstairs to the Children’s room to pick up a list of things to find all around the library. Once you’ve completed the scavenger hunt, check in with the Children’s Librarian to redeem a prize.

TAKE AND MAKE CRAFT-- All month long  
Take and Make craft kids are now available for pick up upstairs in the Children’s Room. Each month will feature a different craft to create and instructions will be provided with the supplies. New Take and Make kits will be available for pick up on the 1st of every month, while supplies last, and are limited to one per patron.

MAKER MONDAYS – Mondays from 3:30-4:30 PM  
Feeling artistic? We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test! Every month we will rotate our craft material, stop in to see what we’re making this month!

LEGO CLUB--- First two Tuesdays of the month at 3:30 PM  
Come play with the library’s Legos. If you like, we can put your work on display!  
No registration Required

BUILD TUESDAYS - from 3:30-4:30 PM  
Join us for the last two Tuesday for a self-guided STEM-based building challenge, appropriate for all ages. Younger kids should bring a parent. Instruction sheets will be provided. Contact Andrew at 508-949-3880, or [atai@cwmars.org](mailto:atai@cwmars.org) for more details.

STORYTIME--- June 11th, and 18th at 10:00 AM  
Mornings will be filled with fun stories, songs, and activities perfect for ages 2-5. Siblings are welcome to join.

MUSIC TOGETHER---- Saturdays 8th, 15th, and 29th at 11:00 AM  
Fun, fabulous, uplifting, magical early childhood music class! For ages 0 to 6 and their families. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

SENSORY BIN EXPLORATION----June 10th, 17th, and 24th at 10:00 AM  
Join us for open sensory bin exploration. Bins will be filled up with sand, rice, dirt, dry pasta, and more! This program is geared towards ages 2 to 5, but siblings are welcome.

ANIMAL ADVENTURES---- June 24th at 10:00 AM  
Join us for this exciting outdoor event marking the kickoff of summer reading! There will be animals of all shapes and sizes. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

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(508) 909-4127  
**SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:**  
KERRI PETERSON  
(508) 909-4103  
[kerri@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:kerri@stonebridgepress.news)  
**TO PRINT AN OBITUARY:**  
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[obits@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:obits@stonebridgepress.news)  
CALL: 508-909-4149  
OR send to Webster Times  
P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550  
**TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:**  
E-MAIL: [news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news)  
OR send to Webster Times  
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Dudley Senior Center  
celebrates Happy  
Father’s Month

Oxford Senior Center

DUDLEY — On Wednesday, June 5, a group of seniors will be meeting at the Dudley Senior Center to carpool to lunch at Woodstock Tavern, in Woodstock, Conn. Reservations are required by calling 508-949-8015.

Wednesday, June 12 is Brown Bag Lunch with a choice of turkey or German bologna sandwiches. The cost is \$3 per person. Please RSVP for this event so we may order your sandwich and condiments. Call 508-949-8015 or sign up in the Dudley senior center.

Thursday, June 13, the Dudley Senior Center will be celebrating June birthdays. After the Tri-Valley lunch we will have cake and ice cream. Please call if you are interested in having us order a Tri-Valley meal, or bring your own lunch, have cake, and ice cream with us.

Thursday, June 20, Memory Café from noon to 2 p.m. Please come and celebrate Father’s Day with us. We will serve Italian grinders, tuna and chicken finger sandwiches, macaroni salad and tossed salad. We will have a game of name that tune! The cost for this event is \$5. Please RSVP for this event by calling 1 508-949-8015 or sign up in the Dudley senior center.

Wednesday, June 26, we will serve a Potluck Lunch meatloaf, mashed potatoes, carrots, and a variety of desserts at noon. The cost for this event is \$5. Please RSVP for this event by calling 1 508-949-8015 or sign up in the Dudley senior center.

WEBSTER SENIOR  
CENTER

5 Church St.  
(508) 949-3845  
Open Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov  
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 48-hours in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread and fruit or dessert. This week’s menu: Tuesday, 6/11 Meatloaf with Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Succotash. Wednesday, 6/12 Roast Turkey with Gravy, Mashed Sweet Potatoes, Green Peas. Thursday, 6/13 Chicken with Broccoli & Cheese, Cornbread Stuffing, Roasted Brussels Sprouts. Friday, 6/14 Ham Salad, Tomato & Cucumber Salad, Potato Salad.  
Need Transportation? Contact SCM Elderbus at 1-800-321-0243 at least 2 business days in advance to schedule transportation. Elderbus is available Mondays – Fridays 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.  
A SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) Counselor is available at the Webster Senior Center. Please call (508) 949-3845 to schedule an appointment.  
Come on 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. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays by appointment only from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Call (508) 341-8724 to schedule an appointment.  
The REC Farmer’s Market is on pause for the month of May and will return in June.  
Mondays only, Wednesdays have been cancelled until further notice. Exercise Classes with Forty Arroyo – Chair Dancing – the perfect workout for any fitness ability! Cost: \$3.00 per class.  
Mondays: Knitting/Crochet Social 10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Bingo: Every Tuesday, 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 6-card or 13-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!  
Webster Senior Center Trips! Happy 2 Gather, 60’s Flashback Show at Lake Pearl, Wrentham MA on Wednesday, September 18th. Cost: \$131.00 per person includes show ticket, transportation, luncheon, meal taxes & gratuity. Trip price does not include bus driver gratuity. For more information call (508) 949-3845.  
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 if you are interested in having a house number sign made for you. (508) 949-3845.  
Senior SAFE is a program that supports fire and life safety education for seniors. The Webster Fire Dept. will do a home visit to ensure that you have the correct smoke and CO2 alarms and that they are working properly, at no cost to you! All you have to do is give them a call at (508) 949-3875

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

Open Monday – Friday  
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Email: seniorcenter@oxfordma.us  
Website: www.oxfordma.us  
Facebook: Oxford, MA Senior Center

Lunches are served on Tuesdays and Fridays, prepared by our own in-house cook! Please call at least 48 hours in advance to reserve a lunch or come in and sign up. We offer DINE IN for \$5.00 and TAKEOUT for \$6.00.

Weekly Activities:  
Mondays and Fridays @ 10:00 am – Cribbage  
Tuesdays @ 9:15am – Strength & Balance w/ Donna Freeland – Cost \$3.00 per class  
Wednesdays @ 9:15am – Chair Yoga w/ Heidi Gambaccini – Cost \$3.00 per class  
Tuesdays and Wednesdays @ 10:00am - Needleworkers (Knitting, Crocheting, Needlepoint)  
Bring your favorite project and come join the group for conversation and laughs.  
Wednesdays @ 1:00 pm – Chair Volleyball – Lots of laughs and only two rules (1) stay seated (2) have fun!  
Thursdays @ 10:00 am – Dominoes  
Thursdays @ 12:30 pm – Quilting Class  
Fridays @ 9:00 am – Walking Club (weather permitting)

Monthly Activities:  
Let’s Talk Oxford History – 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 1pm - Sponsored by the Oxford Historical Commission  
Blood Pressure Clinic – 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 11:00am  
Senior Safety Education – 3rd Friday of each month @ 12:30 – Sponsored by Oxford Fire & EMS-June 24th “Trip Hazards”  
Men’s Coffee Group – 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 10:30am – coffee and pastry are served.  
Tri-Valley Inc. Options Counseling - 3rd Tuesday of each month from 12:30pm – 2:30pm. By appointment.  
SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) – 3rd Wednesday of each month. By appointment.  
Book Club – 1st Friday of each month @ 12:45pm – reserve your book from the Oxford Public Library  
Movie Matinee – 2nd Friday of each month @12:45 – June 14th “Catch & Release”  
BEANO – 4th Friday of each month @ 12:45pm – arrive by 12:30pm to purchase your BEANO sheets.

BUS TRIPS:  
Boston Duck Tour- July 11th, lunch @ Maggiano’s \$169pp  
Mobsters & Lobsters Trolley Tour - September 26th, lunch @ The Venezia \$169pp  
The Reagle Music Theatre presents “Christmas Time”- December 1st \$135 pp

Like to make puzzles, but don’t have the room – we always have a puzzle going on – come add a piece or two!

Need help completing paperwork? Fuel Assistance, MassHealth applications or re-certifications, SNAP etc., we can help. Call us @ 508-987-6000 to make an appointment.

Cornerstone Bank again contributes  
\$15,000 to support the ‘Food is Medicine’  
program at UMass Memorial Health Care

WORCESTER — For the second consecutive year, Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, contributed \$15,000 to UMass Memorial Health Care for its nutrition-focused “Food is Medicine” program. The goal of the program is to provide higher-risk patients with easier access to healthy food options that align with the diet recommendations provided by their physicians.

“We were impressed with the impact the Food Is Medicine program achieved last year, so we were eager to continue our support,” said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. “They exceeded their enrollment goals and are adding a new component this year. Programs like this one can have a profound impact on patient outcomes.”

For one of the program’s initiatives, UMass Memorial partnered with a community-based organization, About Fresh, to implement its Fresh Connect program in Worcester. Participants from Children’s Medical Center and the UMass Memorial Medical Center’s Oncology Department receive pre-paid debit cards, which can be used at most grocery stores to purchase healthy food options.

As part of the Growing Places program in Fitchburg, a fresh food mobile market is set up at the HealthAlliance-Clinton campus during the growing season. Participants are given tokens to purchase fresh, locally grown, healthy food from the mobile market and to further address other nutritional needs based on their specific clinical diagnosis. Enrollees are referred to Growing Place’s Winter Mobile Market during the winter.

This year, the Food is Medicine program is adding an additional food distribution partner, Eatwell, which will offer easy-to-prepare, nutritious and balanced meal kits distributed at the Diabetes Center of Excellence at the Leominster Campus of HealthAlliance-Clinton.

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\*prices subject to change




Friday’s Child



Edwin  
Age 14

Hi! My name is Edwin and I really enjoying cooking for others.  
Optimistic and having a love for cooking Edwin is described as a jokester. He is thinking of his future and plans on either joining law enforcement or becoming a chief.  
Edwin is enrolled for the 2023-2024 school year and will receives some assistance with social needs. He tends to seek out peer approval which at times has lead to poor decision making but he has made gains in this area. He would benefit from a positive male role model in his life to follow. Edwin engages appropriately with his social workers, the staff at his program and teachers in school. He can struggle with trusting others but with patience and consistency he is beginning to look toward adults for guidance. He can struggle at times with peer relationships but he has made great strides in this area over the past year. He would benefit from structure and routine in his daily life.  
https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/8700

Can I Adopt?  
If you’re at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ+ singles and couples. As an adoptive parent, you won’t have to pay any fees, adoption from foster care is completely free in Massachusetts.  
The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with.  
To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org . Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.



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

Please apply for consideration at greenpathcannabis.com or email kailyhhepburn@kailyhhepburnlaw.com.

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STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

# Supporting family and friends: A pillar of well-being

The importance of supporting family and friends cannot be overstated. Family and friends serve as our emotional anchors, grounding us during times of turmoil and lifting us during moments of triumph. The presence of a supportive network can make a significant difference in how we cope with life's challenges. For example, the comforting words of a parent or the encouragement from a friend can transform a daunting situation into a manageable one. This emotional support helps build resilience, allowing us to navigate life's ups and downs with greater ease.

Actively supporting our loved ones not only benefits them but also strengthens the bond you have with them. When we invest time and energy in the well-being of our family and friends, we create a reciprocal relationship built on trust and mutual respect. This investment pays off in the form of deeper, more meaningful connections. Celebrating successes, offering a shoulder to cry on, or simply being present during life's mundane moments can all contribute to a stronger, more cohesive network of relationships. When we model supportive behavior, we set a standard for others to follow.

Supporting family and friends can take many forms, from grand gestures to small, everyday acts of kindness. Here are a few practical ways to show support:

**Active Listening:** Sometimes, the most valuable thing we can offer is our attention. Truly listening to someone's concerns or joys shows that we care about their feelings and experiences.

**Acts of Service:** Helping with tasks, whether it's running an errand or lending a hand with a project, demonstrates a willingness to share the load and make life easier for others.

**Words of Encouragement:** Simple words of encouragement can boost someone's confidence and morale. Letting others know we believe in them can have a powerful impact on their outlook.

**Quality Time:** Spending quality time together, free from distractions, reinforces the importance of the relationship and provides opportunities to deepen connections.

**Being There:** Sometimes, just being there in times of need, whether in person or virtually, provides immense comfort and reassurance.

It's important to recognize that supporting family and friends is not a one-way street. The act of giving support often brings about a sense of fulfillment and purpose. Knowing that we have made a positive difference in someone's life can enhance our own sense of well-being.

## Letter submission policy

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

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

# VIEWPOINT

## Résumé vs. eulogy

What's the difference between a résumé and a eulogy and are you building up your résumé attributes or your eulogy virtues in your life.

Typically, a résumé is a document where we present our background, education, skills, and accomplishments in order to impress others, specifically when trying to get a job. We want to show who we are, what we've done, what our potential is, and how we can be successful if someone hires us.

A eulogy, on the other hand, is typically a sermon or speech given at a funeral or memorial that highlights the virtues of one's life. The focus isn't necessarily on worldly success but more on the virtues that we can carry with us into eternity.

A résumé and a eulogy are quite different – and the question I want all of us to wrestle with is which of these two are we building up in our lives?

Which are we spending time, putting forth effort, and conscientiously developing in our lives – our resume or our eulogy?

You see, the success which a résumé may predict and the eternal virtues that God deems successful are actually quite different. A great résumé may lead someone to become a resounding success in the world's eyes – with wealth, fame, prosperity, popularity, and all the comforts of life. Yet, what the world calls a resounding success, God may bluntly call foolishness!

Our Lord is unimpressed with worldly success. He is much more impressed with how we achieved that success, with what we did with that success, and whether we used whatever talents, gifts, treasures and life itself, which God ultimately gave us, in a way that brought glory to His name. What the Lord wants to see is whether we have acknowledged Him as the Source of all blessings, and then used these blessings in humble and wise ways to bless others.

Jesus Christ is not interested in how much wealth we have amassed but how humble and how generous we have been in sharing that wealth with others. He's not interested in how popular we are in society but whether we have acted as good and faithful stewards with all that we have received in life.

A résumé will try to emphasize all our educational accomplishments to show how smart we are; a eulogy will note how wise we were in life, acting as humble instruments in God's hands.

A résumé will try to note how hard and diligent we will work; a eulogy will highlight what we did with our time to love others, to help one another, and to care especially for the least of our brothers and sisters, the stranger, the foreigner, the marginalized and rejected in society.

Remember, what the world values may be of little importance to God. As we remember all our loved ones who have gone on to the Lord, what do we



## BEYOND THE PEWS

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

ego or to glorify God? Did they use it to fulfill their self-centered desires or to bless others? Did they use it to create divisions and feed the darkness or to help people love one another and love their Creator? Fame means nothing in God's eyes. What we do with whatever platform we are given reflects who we truly are.

Take the time to reflect on what you want others to say in your eulogy? One day we will die. And our death may come sooner than we like. Ask yourself, "How am I living my life now and what eulogy am I creating that others will say about me?"

David Brooks, a New York Times opinion columnist, notes that "there are two selves within each of us: the self who craves worldly ambitious success, who builds a resume, and the self who seeks connection, community, and love — the values that make for a great eulogy. One wants to conquer the world. The other wants to conquer themselves in order to develop their character and offer themselves back to the world."

Brooks uses Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik book *The Lonely Man of Faith* to state: "We live in perpetual self-confrontation between the external success and the internal value. And the tricky thing about these two sides of our nature is they work by different logics. The resume logic is an economic logic: input leads to output, risk leads to reward. The eulogy side of our nature is a moral logic and often an inverse logic. You have to give to receive. You have to surrender to something outside yourself to gain strength within yourself. You have to conquer the desire to get what you want. In order to fulfill yourself, you have to forget yourself. In order to find yourself, you have to lose yourself."

Our resume or our eulogy. What are we developing in our lives today. Make the effort to focus on your eulogy and live life in a way that will offer lots of good material for a memorable eulogy!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A thank you to Stevie Lavallee

To the Editor:  
"Over the side!" the Gunny yelled, then watched his men go forward.  
Clinging to the cargo nets they did what they were ordered.  
Their training days behind, their fate was still unknown,  
Stepping into a tossing boat to claim a spot his own.

The boat jumped forward, diesel smell was in the air;  
Nothing left to do now but look forward and to stare.  
The crackle of a radio, the waves against the side,  
the horror fears within them grow larger with the tide.

The sun was coming up, like so many times before;  
the waves were driving forward to the far distant shore.  
The sand began to sparkle in the early morning light,  
as each man struggled with his own internal fright.

There's courage and strength in many, but weakness and fears in each;  
a moment for last prayers as they headed toward the beach.  
"Lock and load," the Gunny yelled, "and tap those bolts secure!"

With a smell of ofear and a pounding heart, they looked forward toward the door.

When the shielding ramp fell down and time for some stood still,  
what lay ahead for those brave hearts was now their Father's will.  
Men were scrambling for their lives as far as they could see,  
and what they did on that hell day is now in history.

"Freedom isn't free," you know, at least that's what they say;  
and they sure paid for us, on that, their fateful day.  
"For God, For Home, For Country," their motto, tried and true;  
as they honored their country's colors: the red, the white, the blue.

You walked on sand where heroes fought and brought some back to me.  
Now placed proudly on our mantle for everyone to see.  
Each grain might be a witness to what they did that day,  
and with these words we thank you; in a little bit different kind of way.  
Thanks for part of the beach.

CARL W. WILSON  
OXFORD

## Fishing for seabass with Mel



THE GREAT  
OUTDOORS  
• • • • •  
**RALPH  
TRUE**

The great weather continued last week and this week, giving fishermen the opportunity to enjoy catching some impressive sea bass in both Mass. & Rhode Island. The problem with fishing Rhode Island was the two fish limit and Mass. allowing four fish daily. We chose to fish Mass. on "Fish Net" Charters last week and were pleasantly rewarded with limits of Sea Bass. We needed to weed through numerous shorts but in the end it was all worth the effort.

One of Captain Mel's fishing buddies made a call to him while we were fishing, reporting fast action on stripers. We were soon on our way to hopefully catch a few. After a half hour run to the area, it seems we were a bit late, as the school of fish had moved out of the area. That is the way it goes! We fished for stripers for a short time with no success, so we headed back to our fishing hole that had numerous seabass still feeding! Anglers fishing in Buzzards Bay area also caught limits of seabass along with many nice size scaup.

On the freshwater scene, my brother Ken and his wife Deb fished the Quabbin Res. last week, taking advantage of the nice weather and the \$25 fee for a boat rental, six gallons of gas which included admission fee. Unfortunately, the day only gave up one fish, but fishing in perfect weather, and watching wildlife made it all worth the trip.

Locally, anglers are catching some nice largemouth bass on shiners and lures, with some large pickerel mixed in.

As the forest fires rage on in parts of California, destroying thousands of acres of land and many homes, I find it hard to believe the devastation to people and wildlife in that area of the country.

Domestic animals like dogs and cats are also being impacted from the fires, and will more than likely need new homes. They are being shipped to other areas of the country, and will hopefully be adopted by new families in our area. This is a good time to go to one of the shelters in your area and adopt one for your family! You will be glad you did.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!



Courtesy

**Rob Mac from Uxbridge with a large striper he caught recently on the Cape.**



**This week's second picture shows Captain Mel True of "FISH Net" Charters with a nice seabass he caught while fishing with this Writer and Matt Fontaine of Uxbridge last week! He likes to catch fish also.**



# Best Times to Bag a Bargain

It's obvious that some people are better shoppers than others. But the best bargain hunters are not necessarily those who have a knack for a good deal. It may be that, like any good investor, savvy shoppers know when to take action. Traditionally certain times of year are better than others to save money on particular purchases with both in store and online purchases. This week's column will review some classic calendar sales throughout the year.

**\*\***

**Groceries**

Everyone has to buy groceries, but savvy shoppers know when to buy and save money all year long! Throughout the year grocery stores hold sales on specific department or aisle items, such as specials on frozen foods or soft drinks. Here are some guidelines:

**Dairy:** June is National Dairy Month, so look for exceptional sales on milk, cheese, ice cream and specialty dairy foods during June.

**Frozen Food:** Many supermarkets celebrate Frozen Food Month in March with rock bottom prices on a wide variety of frozen goods.

**Canned Goods:** February has been deemed National Canned Foods Month. Canned goods typically go on sale in January and February. Since canned foods can be kept for a long period of time, it pays to stock up for the whole year on drastically reduced items.

**Snacks:** Late August, when kids are gearing up to go back to school, is an ideal time to stockpile snack foods and drink boxes. Lunch box fillers are at their lowest prices at this time.

**Condiments:** As cook-



TAKE  
THE  
HINT  
  
KAREN  
TRAINOR

out season kicks off in June, the prices of mustard, relish, ketchup, barbecue sauce, pickles and other condiments drop in price. Smart shoppers buy enough to last throughout the warm weather season.

**Soft Drinks:** There's no better time to stock up on soda than around the holidays. Typically six and 12 packs will be on sale during warm weather holidays like Memorial Day and 4th of July; while two liter bottles are often on special during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**B a k i n g Products:** Baking supplies such as flour and sugar, as well as cake and bread mixes, pie crusts, pudding mix, etc. are marked down in time for holiday baking. Look for sales on these items, from November through December.

**\*\***

**Gas**

With gas prices fluctuating on a daily basis, getting a buying edge can be a challenge. Consumer watchdogs offer the following money saving advice: Time your trip based on whether prices are rising or falling, and purchase gas during the early morning or late evening on a weekday.

The reason is gas stations typically change their prices between 10 a.m. and noon. So it makes sense to buy early in the morning to take advantage of lower prices when gas is on the rise. If gas prices are coming down, wait until

later in the day.

**\*\***

**Cars and Trucks**

There is much debate on when is the best time to snag a bargain on the car lot. Here is some advice on timing the best deals: Consumer pundits tout weekday mornings in September as the prime bargain time. They say since the next year's models are in, car dealers are in a rush to move out the current year's stock.

Others say springtime can yield the best price all year, since spring is typically a slow season for dealerships. And some penny pinchers swear shopping for a car on a rainy day can cut the price down to size. Still others claim the end of any month or the end of a yearly quarter is best, since salespeople are desperate to make quotas. Using all this information, it appears the optimum time to drive away with the best price would be a rainy weekday morning at the end of March or September.

**\*\***

**Electronics**

Black Friday and back to school season are the best times to snag a deal on computers and electronics. Also some computer review sites claim you can snap up a super bargain on computers and electronics if you buy just after a new model is introduced (some in January). They say prices will immediately drop on the previously best-selling model as a new one takes its place.

**\*\***

**Heads Up on Monthly Sales**

Want to pocket savings the whole year long? Here is a list of months, with items that are typically offered at a discount during those

times.

**January:** Canned goods, white goods (towels, sheets, linens), appliances, Christmas items, costume jewelry, indoor plants, carpeting, shoes, furniture, toys, storewide pre-inventory sales.

**February:** Presidents' Day Sales on big ticket items such as cars, trucks and furniture. Also save on sports equipment, electronics, housewares, mens clothing, canned goods. Valentine Day specials.

**March:** Luggage, shoes, coats, shoes, appliances, pre season garden supplies, spring bulbs.

**April:** Paint, wallpaper, home decor, dresses, suits, garden adornments and tools. Sales on Easter holiday foods such as ham, pies, eggs, candy, etc.

**May:** Fabrics, outdoor furniture, tires and auto accessories, electronics, summer sport equipment, perfume, pocketbooks. Mother's Day specials.

**June:** Air conditioners, outdoor furniture, building materials, flooring, shoes, tools, Father's Day sales.

**July:** Clearance sum-

mer clothing, luggage, furniture, electronics, 4th of July specials.

**August:** Paper goods and other back to school sales, swimwear, school clothes, electronic gadgets, bicycles, fans, clearance air conditioners, clearance summer merchandise, including grills and pool supplies.

**September:** Clearance garden goods, school supplies, hardware, outgoing model vehicles, china, fall fashions, fabrics.

**October:** Major appliances, fishing/sports merchandise, furniture, clearance fall clothing, coats. Check out Columbus Day sales.

**November:** Blankets, used cars, men's suits and coats, shoes, winter clothing, Thanksgiving food sales, turkey, feast fixings. Look for day after Thanksgiving sales, held to jump start the holiday shopping rush.

**December:** After Christmas sales on most items. Stock up on wrapping paper, tape, gift bags, gift sets, ornaments, and holiday decor items.

**\*\***

**Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House**

Your tips can win you

a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or email [KDRR@aol.com](mailto:KDRR@aol.com). Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

## Stay with your dream

Achieving a dream can take a long time. Some dreams are so big that, over time, you might start to question if you truly want it. Maybe you've gotten used to life as it is, and transitioning into that dream life, even though you've worked and believed in it for many years, feels like stepping out of your comfort zone. You've settled into your current routine and wonder if you really want things to change. Spending years working on something without it becoming your main source of income is enough to make anyone consider giving up.

But when you think about giving up, you feel a bit lost and without purpose. At the same time, so many years have passed that your dream might need some adjustments. If that's the case, many people feel like they failed, but history shows us that sometimes, those with big dreams had to modify them.

Walt Disney comes to mind. In the beginning, his passion was animation, a new technology that hit the silver screens and changed cinema forever. It was such a new form of media that only a few people were doing it. Walt started his journey in Kansas City, running a small animation studio called Laugh-O-Gram Studio.

However, the studio struggled and eventually failed. Walt desperately wanted to make it work in Kansas City, but he realized he had to modify his dream to succeed.

Instead of giving up, he moved west to Hollywood, where he believed more opportunities existed.

In Hollywood, he continued to pursue animation but with a new vision that evolved even further, leading to the creation of feature-length animated films and eventually, Disneyland, transforming him from an animator to a pioneer in the entertainment industry.

Walt's story shows how modifying a dream can lead to even greater success.

Or consider Ernest Shackleton. This explorer's dream was to be the first to reach the South Pole and return home with all of his men. He made several attempts, each filled with challenges and setbacks. His last attempt, the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, found him and his crew stuck in the ice on their ship, Endurance, in conditions you wouldn't wish on your worst enemy.

Shackleton was forced to modify his dream. Instead of reaching the South Pole, his new goal was getting his men back home alive. Despite the harrowing conditions and incredible odds, Shackleton led his crew to safety, living out one of the greatest adventure stories ever. His story shows that modifying a dream can lead to an achievement as great, if not greater, than the original goal.

What about George Washington? Washington's dream was to retake New York City after the British conquered it in the summer of 1776. This goal became Washington's obsession. He believed that recapturing New York was crucial

for the American cause. However, as years passed and circumstances changed, he realized that directly retaking New York wasn't the best strategic choice. Washington had to modify his dream.

Instead of focusing on New York, he decided to strike the British in Virginia. In 1781, he led a decisive campaign in Yorktown, Va., where his forces, along with French allies, besieged the British.

This led to the surrender of British General Cornwallis and effectively ended the Revolutionary War. Although Washington had to change his original vision, he still accomplished his overall objective of defeating the British and securing American independence. In many ways, this strategic shift allowed him to fulfill his dream in a way that ensured long-term success for the new nation.

Sometimes, the original vision needs to be modified, and that's okay.

I heard somewhere: "Stay strong with your dream and be okay with how it unfolds." Your dream can often look a little different than you had originally planned.

The next time you feel like giving up or settling for what you have, I hope this inspires you to stay strong, keep going, and remain flexible about how it happens.

Stay the course, adapt as needed, and trust that you are still on the path to achieving something great. Your journey might have twists and turns, but every step brings you closer to your goal.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Please re-elect Steven “Sully” Sullivan

To the Editor:

I'm writing to you today in support of Steven P. “Sully” Sullivan for re-election to the Dudley Board of Selectmen.

Steven is Dudley's senior Selectman, having served for 18 years on the board, and was on the Planning Board before that. I believe experience matters. I have a unique perspective because I have served alongside Steve for 12 years, and know firsthand the experience and leadership he provides day in and day out. He cares deeply about Dudley and

its residents. He is the first person on the Board to get a call from a resident because he has so many relationships with neighbors, friends and business owners. I'm proud to have served with Steve, and I'm even prouder to call him my friend.

Please vote for Steven Sullivan on Monday, June 10.

Thank you!

JOHN MARSI  
DUDLEY

### I look forward to serving Dudley again

To the Editor:

My name is Steven Sullivan, and I am seeking re-election to the Dudley Board of Selectmen. I have lived on Dudley for over 25 years, and have been active in our community. My wife Leslie and I have had 4 children who all went 12 years to Dudley Schools and graduated from Shepherd Hill Regional High School. When my children were younger, I was volunteer Little League coach, an Assistant Den Leader, Community Reading Day volunteer, multiple field trip volunteer and an invited participant in Dudley Dare Graduation ceremonies. I have served in an elected position on the Planning Board including Chairman and Vice-Chairman. I have served since 2005 on the Board of Selectmen, with multiple stints as Chairman and Vice-Chairman. I currently am Dudley's representative on the South County Dispatch center, and was asked to take a position on HANDS, the amazing organization that Sarah

White runs to help area needy seniors. I am a prior member of the Capital Improvement Committee and served on numerous sub-committees on Union negotiations, Fire Chief Sub-committee, Town Administrator hiring committees (including the last 3 TA's Dudley hired) and was the signatory with then Lt. Gov. Polito as Dudley representative for the Community Compact award. I have enjoyed my time as an elected representative of the people of Dudley and I humbly ask for your vote on June 10. Unfortunately, I will not be in town on the day of the election so you will not see me holding signs at the polls. I truly hope that Dudley has a large turnout and I hope to earn another 3 years. Thank you in advance for any consideration for your vote, and I look forward to serving our community for another three year term.

Respectfully,

STEVEN SULLIVAN  
DUDLEY

### Deschenes and Kaufman have the leadership qualities Dudley needs

To the Editor:

As former Dudley selectmen, each with 30-plus years of experience in town leadership, we are writing with our endorsement of two extremely qualified candidates in the June 10 municipal elections.

Ms. Jana Deschenes is running for Selectman. We've watched Jana on the Finance, Appropriation and Advisory Committee (FAA) this year, where her career in accounting, her confidence, focus on collaboration, and curiosity helped lead the FAA to sound recommendations for Town Meeting warrants.

Ms. Monica Kaufman is running for Board of Health. Monica is a pharma-

cist, and we are struck by her leadership and organizational abilities, attention to detail, focus on teamwork, and keen interest in listening to her constituents.

Ms. Deschenes and Ms. Kaufman are the type of new, energetic and highly competent leaders we need in Dudley. For these reasons, we respectfully ask Dudley residents to vote for Jana Deschenes for Selectman and Monica Kaufman for Board of Health on Monday, June 10.

PETER E. FOX  
PAUL M. JOSEPH  
DUDLEY

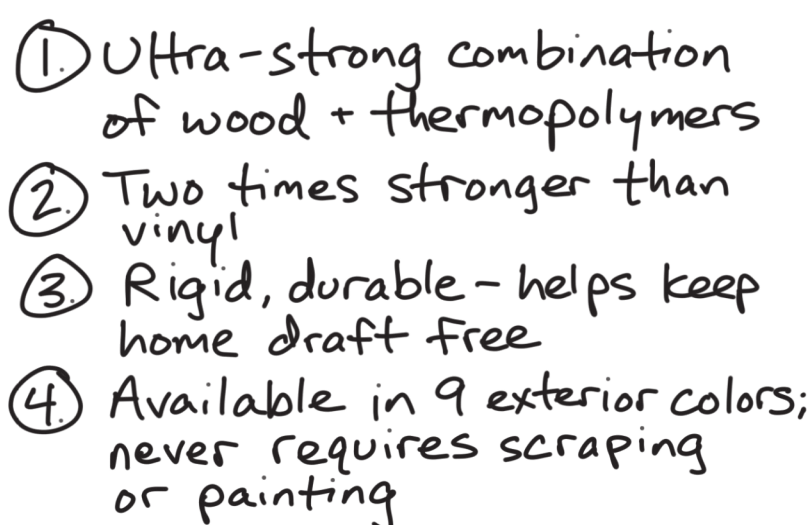
## Dudley Democratic Town Committee announces June meeting

DUDLEY — The Dudley Democratic Town Committee (DDTC) will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, June 13 at 6 p.m. at the Pearle Crawford Memorial Library, Fels Community Room, 40 Schofield Ave., Dudley, and via Zoom.

Topping off the agenda is Kerry Cyganiewicz, Sr., a stalwart Board of Selectmen (BOS) member who will describe “A Day in the Life of a Dudley BOS Member”. Also on the agenda is a recap of the June 10 town election results, and general business.

To join via Zoom, please email us at [dudleydemsma@gmail.com](mailto:dudleydemsma@gmail.com) for the link.





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# St. Joseph students honor veterans at Memorial Day parade



The Saint Joseph School float in the Webster Memorial Day Parade was led by (L to R) eighth-grade student Emily Macko, sixth-grade student Tenleigh Dowd, 8th-grade student Molly Hachigian, and Jojo the Eagle, the new Saint Joseph School mascot.

WEBSTER —On a cloudy Monday, the students from Saint Joseph School took it upon themselves to honor their local veterans during the town’s Memorial Day Parade.

Led by eighth-grade students and banner holders Emily Macko and Molly Hachigian and sixth-grade student Tenleigh Dowd, the float, driven by Headmaster, Fr. Grzegorz Chodkowski slowly made its way down Main Street. Also leading the float was the new Saint Joseph School mascot, Jojo the Eagle. The pre-Kindergarten through eighth-grade students filled the float and entertained the crowds with cheers, smiles,

and songs, all the while paying their respects to the veterans. Many parents, faculty, and staff joined the parade, and their presence was a testament to their school spirit and respect for those who served our country.

After the parade, eighth-grade student Molly Hachigian played a significant role in the Town Hall Ceremony by leading the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment that truly honored our fallen heroes. Great job, Saint Joseph School! Also, a big thank you to JK Auto Body for loaning the school their truck for the parade.

# Crocodile River to close out library’s Spring Concert Series



WEBSTER — The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library is wrapping up another fun Spring Concert Series with Crocodile River on June 13 at 6:30 p.m. Crocodile River features African rhythms, history, and culture merging into an evening of movement, cultural exploration, and joy. Please come early to guarantee seating!

This season’s concert series may be wrapping up, but the Library will bring even

more amazing acts to the Community Room beginning in September! Mark Mandeville, local musician and teacher at Blackstone Valley Music School, personally selects all the acts for the Library’s concerts. With his musical contacts and eclectic taste in music, he helps make these events a big success.

The Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library were awarded full funding by the Janet Malser Humanities Trust for the 2024-2025

concert series. Steadfast supporters of the Library’s music concerts (and many other important Library projects and programs!), the Janet Malser Humanities Trust has been very generous over the years.

The Library and the Friends are looking forward to bringing the community many more uplifting and exciting concerts, please check the Event Calendar in September for more details!

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Courtesy

Pauly Rekowski, a well known figure in town, was more than happy to assist Father Tony, of Saint Joseph Basilica, in the prayer services at Saint Joseph's cemetery for Memorial Day services in Webster.

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LEGALS

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May 24, 2024  
May 31, 2024  
June 7, 2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court Worcester  
Division**  
**Docket No. W024P1153EA**  
**Estate of: Gerald F. Spillane, Jr.**  
**Date Of Death: December 15, 2023**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE P  
UBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner James T. Spillane of Maple Valley WA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.  
**James T. Spillane of Maple Valley WA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
June 7, 2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court Worcester  
Division**  
**Docket No. W024P1153EA**  
**Estate of: Gerald F. Spillane, Jr.**  
**Date Of Death: December 15, 2023**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE P  
UBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner James T. Spillane of Maple Valley WA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.  
**James T. Spillane of Maple Valley WA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
June 7, 2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate and Family Court  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608**  
**Docket No. W024P1763PM**  
**CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF  
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT  
OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER  
PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT  
TO G.L.c. 190B, § 5-304 & § 5-405**  
**In the matter of:**  
**Barry Herbert Woodard**  
**Of: Webster, MA**  
**RESPONDENT**  
(Person to be Protected/Minor)  
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Nicholas J. Morana of Shrewsbury, MA of in the above captioned matter alleging that **Barry Herbert Woodard** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Nicholas J. Morana of Shrewsbury, MA, (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **With Corporate Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator 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 **06/25/2024**. 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.**  
May 23, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman  
Register of Probate  
June 7, 2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate and Family Court  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608**  
**Docket No. W024P1737GD**  
**CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF  
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF  
GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED  
PERSON PURSUANT TO  
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**  
**In the matter of:**  
**Barry Herbert Woodard**  
**Of: Shrewsbury, MA**  
**RESPONDENT**  
Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Nicholas J. Morana of Shrewsbury, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Barry Herbert Woodard of Shrewsbury, MA** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Nicholas J. Morana of Shrewsbury, MA** (or some 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 and may contain a request for certain specific authority. **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 **06/25/2024**. 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: May 22, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman  
June 7, 2024

**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. W024P1800EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
**Estate of:**  
Paul G. Topalian  
**Date of Death: 12/26/2023**  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Michael Z. Topalian of Worcester 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: **Michael Z. Topalian of Worcester MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration** .

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/02/2024.**  
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. **WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: May 29, 2024  
Stephanie K. Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
June 7, 2024

(SEAL)  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
LAND COURT  
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT  
Docket 24 SM 001988  
ORDER OF NOTICE  
To:  
Jessica A. O'Connell AKA Jessica A. Moody  
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq): Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Fremont Home Loan Trust 2006-3, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-3, claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Oxford, numbered 6 Mckinstry Drive, given by Jessica A. O'Connell to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Fremont Investment & Loan, It's successors and assigns, dated August 24, 2006, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 39668, Page 143, as affected by a Loan Modification dated September 20, 2013, and recorded in Said Registry of Deeds in Book 55089, Page 125, as affected by a Loan Modification dated December 21, 2022, and recorded in Said Registry of Deeds in Book 68938, Page 241, and now held by plaintiff by assignment, has/ have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before July 8, 2024, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of this Court on May 23, 2024.  
Attest:  
Deborah J. Patterson  
Recorder  
24-004467  
June 7, 2024

**Town of Dudley Conservation Commission Legal Notice for Public meeting "Notice of Intent"**  
The Town of Dudley Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting for New England Power Company (NEP) on Wednesday June 26th, 2024 at 6:15 PM in the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street, 3rd Floor, for work to be done pursuant to the Dudley Wetland Bylaw and the Wetland Protection Act MGL Chapter 131, Section 40. The proposed Notice of Intent is for work within the T20 Transmission Line Right-of-Way off Baker Pond Road, Hayden Pond Road, Mason Road Ext., Sunset Drive, Pierpont Road, Dudley Oxford Road, Oxford Avenue and Old Oxford Road, and the Applicant is requesting permission to conduct geotechnical soil boring investigations within the existing T20 Transmission Line Right-of-Way.

Plans are available at the Conservation Commission's office at the Dudley Municipal Complex on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00-3:00 PM. For more information, call 508-949-8011.  
June 7, 2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Division**  
**Docket No. W016P0235EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF  
SUCCESSOR PERSONAL  
REPRESENTATIVE**  
**Estate of:**  
Clifford E Merriam  
**Date of Death: 03/14/1990**

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

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/02/2024.**  
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

The estate is being adminstered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
**WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: May 29, 2024  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
June 7, 2024

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR RECORDS  
DESTRUCTION**  
School Administrative Unit 24 (Henniker, John Stark and Weare School Districts)  
Notice to all persons born in or prior to 1997 who attended John Stark Regional High School, Weare School District or Henniker Community School, and was identified as a Special Education student or received special education services or was identified as a 504 student, or to their parents/guardians:  
The John Stark School District may have special education records and 504 records in its possession for those students and will destroy such records after August 1, 2024. If you would like to have these records rather than having them destroyed, please contact the main office secretary at 618 N. Stark Highway, Weare, NH 03281, 603-529-7675 or email at Kathryn.cyr@sau24.org prior to July 31, 2024, to make arrangements for obtaining these records. \*The school district shall maintain, permanently, a record of a student's name, address, phone number, grades, attendance records, classes attended, grade level completed, and year completed. \* 5/20/2024  
June 6, 2024  
June 7, 2024

**NOTICE OF SALE  
OF MOTOR VEHICLE  
UNDER G.L.C. 255, SECTION 39A**  
Notice is hereby given by: A and D All Automotive Repair And Sales Inc Phone : 508-461-7733 pursuant to the provisions of G.L.C. c. 255, Section 39A, that on: 7 June 2024 at 9:00am at 5 West Main Street, Dudley, MA by private sale the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garagekeeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.  
Vehicle description:  
Year 2004  
Make: 2018 Nissan Altima silver  
Registration#/State: Un Reg.  
VIN: 1N4AL3AP0EN235734  
Name and address of vehicle owner  
Melissa Carter  
Melissa Carter  
58 Brandon Road  
Dudley, MA 01571  
By Dany Habib  
24 May 2024  
This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L.c. 255, Section 39A.  
May 24, 2024  
May 31, 2024  
June 7, 2024





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OBITUARIES

Barbara A. Lorkiewicz, 91



W E B S T E R  
- Barbara A. (S c z e p a n s k i) Lorkiewicz, 91, died at home surrounded by her family on Thursday, May 30, 2024 after an illness. Her husband of 53 years, Theodore J. Lorkiewicz died in 2010.

She leaves 3 sons, Robert J. Lorkiewicz and his wife Elena of Shrewsbury, Dr. Stephen M. Lorkiewicz and his wife Patricia of Webster and Gary M. Lorkiewicz and his wife Catherine of Sutton; 6 grandchildren, Lauren, Stacey, Katie, Julia, Matthew and Jessica Lorkiewicz; a brother, John R. Szczepanski of Webster; nieces and nephews.

She was born on June 29, 1932 in Webster; the daughter of John S. and Aniella “Nellie” (Mis) Szczepanski. She was a graduate of Bartlett High School class of 1949.

Mrs. Lorkiewicz worked as a book-keeper for Central Mass Gas in Webster from 1951 to 1959 and as the bookkeeper and office manager at the real estate office of Dr. Emile DuPont from 1971

Linda D. Borowski, 77



Linda D. Borowski, age 77 ,of Dudley died Saturday, May 25, 2024 at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center of West Brookfield, MA. after a courageous battle with Alzheimer’s disease.

She was born on September 23,1946 in Southbridge, MA. She is the daughter of the late Michael G. McLean and the late Pearl (Lamontagne) McLean.

She is survived by her beloved husband of over 55 years Stephen M. Borowski. She was the loving mother of three daughters: Kelly and her husband Michael RothKugel of Mill Creek, WA., Stacy and her husband Jeffrey Garrepy of Charlton, MA., and Kristin and her husband Thomas Morley of Quincy, MA.

Linda is also survived by 5 adoring grandchildren; Brooke and Haleigh Garrepy and Andrew, Nicholas, and Jacob RothKugel. Linda was predeceased by sisters: Carol McLean, Joan Morgan, and Barbara Morgan. Also, brother Micheal McLean and best friend, Harriette Chamberland. Linda will also be missed by her brother in-law, Lawrence Borowski and many nephews and nieces. Linda was a devoted wife to Stephen. She was also a devoted mother raising three strong girls. She worked at Sandlerette’s Shoe Factory and also the former Ames department store. Her true joy was helping to take care of her

until her retirement in 2001.

She was a member of Saint Louis Church.

Her greatest joy came from the time she spent with her family, especially the grandchildren. She also enjoyed her time at Webster Lake.

The family would like to express their thanks and appreciation to the staff of Overlook VNA and Hospice of Charlton and Visiting Angels of Worcester for their care and support during her illness.

Her funeral was held Tuesday, June 4, from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, with a funeral Mass at 11:00 AM in Saint Louis Church, 14 Lake Street. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family. A period of visitation was held Tuesday morning from 9:00 to 10:30 AM in the funeral home prior to Mass.

Donations in her memory may be made to either Overlook Hospice Services, 88 Masonic Home Road, Charlton, MA 01507 or to Saint Louis Church, 52 Negus Street, Webster, MA 01570.

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two granddaughters. Linda treasured time with her family as well as taking trips together, especially to Rockport MA. and Hampton and Misquamicut Beaches.

Linda was diagnosed in 2019 with Alzheimer’s disease and slowly lost her cherished memories of her loved ones. However, she will be remembered for always putting others first. Her love, care, and concern for others are traits that we all will remember her by. Her family would like to thank the staff of Lanessa Extended Care of Webster, MA, the staff of Quaboag Rehabilitation Skilled Care Center of West Brookfield, MA. and the staff at Compassus Hospice Care of Auburn, MA for all the wonderful, loving care of Linda over the last four years.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held 10:00 am on Wednesday, June 12 at St. Anthony Of Padua Church, 24 Dudley Hill Road, Dudley. Burial will follow in Waldron Cemetery, Dudley .

Memorial calling hours will be Tuesday, June 11th from 5 to 7 pm at the Bartel Funeral Home and Chapel, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, MA. www.bartelfuneralhome.com

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Walk to End Alzheimer’s annual walk in Worcester, MA. Stacy and Kristin have participated in this walk for the last 5 years and will be walking this year in memory of Linda. The link to donate to Team Borowski is <http://act.alz.org/goto/borowski>

Frederick J. Beaudette, 83



W E B S T E R  
- Frederick J. Beaudette, 83, of Minebrook Road, passed away on Wednesday, May 29, 2024, in his home with his family by his side. He is survived by his wife of 22 years, Linda M. (Worcester) Beaudette of Webster; six children, William Beaudette and his wife Kelly of Webster, Theresa Beaudette of Uxbridge, Katherine Rossacci and her husband Michael of Milford, Donna Theis and her husband William of Northbridge, Carolyn Beaupre and her husband Ronald of Thompson, CT; and Frederick Beaudette Jr. and his wife Michelle of Oxford; two stepchildren, Michael Hitt of Worcester, and Cara Coles and her husband Troy of Shrewsbury; four sisters, Patricia Plante of Shrewsbury, Diana Groleau of North Oxford, Anna Denham of

Indiana, and Debra Lentz of Indiana; 18 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

He was born in Worcester, son of the late Frederick and Anna M. (Leighton) Beaudette, and lived most of his life in Webster.

Mr. Beaudette was a diesel mechanic at Creative Packaging for 10 years. He enjoyed working on vehicles, hunting, woodworking, and loved to ride his Harley.

The family would like to thank the VNA Care Hospice for their exceptional care during his illness.

Memorial calling hours are Thursday, June 6, 2024, from 6-8 p.m. at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main Street, Oxford. A private graveside service will be held at a later date at St. Roch’s Cemetery in Oxford. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the VNA Care Hospice, 100 Trade Center Drive, Woburn, MA 01801.

Harold Francis “Buster” Davis, Jr., 69



Harold Francis “Buster” Davis, Jr., age 69, of Webster died suddenly Saturday, May 25, 2024 at Hubbard Regional Hospital of Webster after being stricken ill at his home.

Mr. Davis was born September 22, 1954 in New London, CT. He is the son of the late Harold F.Davis Sr. and the late Josephine (Denardis) Davis.

He is survived by his two sons: Seth P. Davis and his partner Samantha Faber of Thompson, CT and Chase E. Davis and his wife Ashley of Thompson CT. Buster also leaves behind his life partner and fiancé of 27 years , Laurie A. Bowman of Webster. Harold has three sisters: Josephine Davis and her husband Bob Banks, Elizabeth Beaudry and her husband Richard, and Kathleen Mayotte and her husband Jeff. Harold is also survived by one brother, Thomas Davis and his partner Andrea Bach.

Buster also leaves behind four grandchildren, Jacob Davis, Henry Davis,

Olivia Davis, and Luke Davis and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his wife Deborah O’Donnell Davis and his sister, Norma DeFilippo.

He was employed as a carpenter, doing construction all of his life, most recently working construction with his son Seth.

Buster enjoyed hunting and fishing all his life but more recently enjoyed his time gardening since retiring. Buster was a lifetime member of the Thompson Rod & Gun Club. He was looking forward to spending time with his family, friends, and especially his grandchildren. Buster was also looking forward to spending more time with his true love Laurie in their next chapter together.

Calling hours were Friday, May 31 from 4-7 pm at Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, MA

The funeral will be held privately on Saturday, June 1 at 10 am at Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, MA.

Thomas C. Yacuzzi, 68



PIC

Thomas C. Yacuzzi, age 68, of Dudley died Saturday, May 25, 2024 at UMASS Memorial Medical Center - University Campus. Tom was born August 31, 1955 in Worcester, MA. He is the son of the late Thomas J. and the late Beverly (Ekberg) Yacuzzi.

He is survived by his wife Linda (Card) Yacuzzi; one daughter Heidi (Peek) Hamby and her husband Billy of Apache Junction, AZ; one sister Mary, and her husband Dr. James Spiegel of Seattle, WA; daughter-in-law Emily (Peek) Lareau of Woodstock, CT; and his beloved grandchildren Clara Peek and Cody Peek. Additionally, he is survived by an extended family of nieces and nephews from Kent, CT area and Worcester, MA area. He will be missed by many but especially he will be missed by his church family and his horse riding family. He is predeceased

by a brother Richard Yacuzzi and a son Sean Peek.

Tom enjoyed horse back riding and caring for his dogs. He loved his Dudley church family. He regularly ushered, worked church suppers and the church Christmas Fair. Over his life he was actively involved with the Democratic Party. He loved to cook and was known for his spaghetti and meatballs.

Tom graduated from St. John’s High School and Nichols College. As a young man he worked in real estate and insurance with his father. He was later employed as a Tax Examiner in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Revenue. He retired from state service in 2015.


Tom cared about people in life, and in his passing gave the gift of life through organ donation.

A memorial service will be held 11 AM on Saturday, June 15 at First Congregational Church of Dudley, 135 Center Rd., Dudley, MA with Rev. John White officiating. Burial will be at a later date in Kent CT, Linda’s hometown. Calling hours will be Saturday, June 15 from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM at the church.

In lieu of flowers consider a donation to the Tiffany Window project at the First Congregational Church of Dudley MA (<https://tiffany300.org/about/>).

Bartel Funeral Home 33 Schofield Avenue Dudley is assisting the family with arrangements.WWW.bartelfuneralhome.com

Send all obituary notices to  
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to [obits@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:obits@stonebridgepress.news)





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# QCC announces Dean and Merit Lists

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College has released its Spring 2024 Semester Dean and Merit Lists. A total of 459 students were named to the college's Dean's List and 1,072 students were named to the Merit List.

## QCC's Dean's List Spring 2024

Students who meet the criteria below and have earned 12 or more credits in a given semester are named to the Dean's List:

All grades must be "C" or higher. (No grades of "I" or "X" are permitted).

Semester Quality Point Average (QPA) must be 3.50 or higher, and cumulative QPA must be 2.00 or higher.

All courses must be college-level.

Auburn: Logan Alexander, Tyrese Baffour, James Bello, Emily Briddon, Kevin Do, Kevin Duong, Emelis Henriquez, Faith Joslyn, Tue Lac, Paul Landry, Andi Loce, Evelyn Montgomery

Blackstone: Maria Attia, Silvia Attia, Valerie Girard, Destiny Ingersoll, Malysa Reese, Divya Tenny, Kyra Kangethe Wanjiku

Brimfield: Matrix Pagan Bermudez, Luis Pagan

Brookfield: Sadie Bergeron, Michael Frey, Jaymes Quinn, Alexandra Strickland

Charlton: Joshua Bond, Hayden Davis, Victoria Gaudette, Jordan Goulas, Elliott Hunt, Abigail Joesten, Kellen Kinnes, Seth Lawendowski, Kevin McManus, Meghav Patel, Demerice Wolfenden, Marina da Paz de Barros

Cherry Valley: Frankenia Castro, Cilia Lannon, Tyler Munns

Dudley: Christian Bowlin, Luke Curtis, Marc Dinary, Valeria Ellison, Christa Griffing, Thalia Hernandez, Ryan Herriage, Aaron Jackson, Emily Kolodziejczak

East Brookfield: Heidi Bain

East Douglas: Brennan Jones, Joshua McCullen, Hannah Rosenkrantz, Alyssa Williston

Fiskdale: Aiden Dieffenwerth, Joseph Joyner, Courtney Roy, Meaghan Stearns

Grafton: Devin Baraban, Sean Collins, Harrison Klumpenaar, Zane Waters

Holland: Chandler Robertson, Zane Salameh

Leicester: Amy Carr, Christopher Goodney, Sean Le, Jackie Long, Nicholas Michaelian, Ryan Murphy, James Whittemore

Milford: Gabriel O'Leary, Ryan Shaw

Millbury: Fatma Al-Bargash, Kyliegh Corey, Maria Delvina, Mitzi Ibarra Suarez, Michaela Kruzel, Lucas Ogasahara, Barifi Opere-Addo, Abdoul Aziz Salim Ouedraogo, Aran Paquin, Kelly Sandberg, Aaron Stowbridge

North Grafton: Caden Ashmore, Isabella Bianco, Sarah Bianco, Logan Donohue, Nathan Jewers, Sean Manning

North Oxford: Joshua Addo

Northbridge: Aaron Bishop, Nicholas Cleary, Leah Connell, Dianna Lyness, Jacob Marinel, Timothy Vander Hart

Oxford: Heather Byrne, Ariana Gelardi, Jennifer Gum, Christopher Hadis, Melissa Lees, Patrick Reed, Tyler Wilson

South Grafton: Holly Atchue, Nahum Echevarria-Jordan, Abigail Miklasz

Southbridge: Scott Andersen, Kristina Bachand, Kymberlee Brown, Evan Duffey, Rosemary Farrar, Claudia Maffo Fopafoung, William Rodriguez, Kiana Salmon, Shantelle Sweet, Payton Vega

Spencer: Mariannah Chase, Matthew Drainville, Josiah Gianfriddo, Matthew Heffernan, Maria Lara, Poker Meas, Michael Navickas, Kevin O'Rourke, Claudia Schlegel

Sturbridge: Abby Arena, Devin Krochmalnickyj

Sutton: Mya DiDonna, Christopher Elkins, Grace Gilroy, Madaley Mitchell, George Smith, Rielly Sobaleski

Uxbridge: Christian Core, Rachel Demrest, Madison Departie, Carl Nathan

Gallowan, Justin Meola, David Morse, Jared Peniche, Melissa Sabourin, Kaylee Tavares

Wales: Alexis Coville

Webster: Ashley Denham, Elaina Dunbar, Hlaing Htoo, Garrett Mann, Dakota Moore, Trisha Powers, Sean Sweeney, Diego Taborda, Tyler Verrier, Alexandria Wilson

West Brookfield: Israel Hickey

West Upton: Andrew Galicki, Jason Nguyen, Ciara Pape-Rasco, Kendal Rodriguez

Whitinsville: Hunter Fabri, Joseph Gauthier, Elizabeth Kramer, Joshua Poquette

## QCC's Merit List Spring 2024

Students who meet the criteria below and have earned six or more credits in a given semester are named to the Merit List:

All grades must be "C" or higher. (No grades of "I" or "X" are permitted).

Semester Quality Point Average (QPA) must be 3.50 or higher, and cumulative QPA must be 2.00 or higher.

All courses must be college-level.

Auburn: Fiona Bruce, Zoe Coleman, Angela DiTommaso, Stefany Flynn, Daquan Gooch, Andy Ho, Mark John, Leesa Kamaru, Laura Keister, Michael Langway, Lais Milioli, Chanel Napoli, Jamie Nash, Tien Luc Nguyen, My Ortega, Hannah Patterson, Christopher Pierce, Jessica Reed, Sara Rufli, Meaghan Wales, Amelia Whitney

Blackstone: Alicia Chubka, Brooke Cugini, Jessica Marvelle, Robin Marvelle, Declan Shave, Ashley Shorton, Christi Wisniewski

Brimfield: Arianna Belen, Austin McIlveen, Lillian Morrell, Tye Zola

Brookfield: Ashley Hazen, Jessica Hippert, Micah Laird

Charlton: Quinn Beck, Molly Cloutier, Alyssa Delgado, Christine Falardeau, Courtney Fowler, Joseph Gallant, Loriauna Graika, Joseph Heywood, John Jalbert, Chloe Jolin, Cheyenne Kelly, William Kinnes, Sophia Lynch, Kieya Santerre, Rebecka-Dawn Walley

Charlton City: Melissa Blanchette, Jennifer Stevens

Cherry Valley: Giovanni Garcia

Douglas: James Freeman

Dudley: Patricia Battista, Danielle Boilard, Daniel Brunelle, Xavier Collazo, Shelby Cotton, Tyler DeWitt, Holly Dolan, August Eaton, Danielle Manas, Laurelyn Mayen, Sophia McClay, Grace Nixon, Luis Pacheco, Angelina Ramirez, Michelle Reilly, Edward Ribeiro, Christina Richert, James Riordan, Clarice Smith, Natalia Sudyka, Cameron Therrien, Ashley Westgate

East Brookfield: Samantha Gibson, Deyannira Hess, Byron Tippins

East Douglas: Courtney Barch, Abigail Bonneau, Gina Kalkounis, Joseph Lavallee, Melanie Lundstedt, Dana Markey, Nina Waiswa

Fiskdale: Elaina Cardenas, Carina Holt, Summer Mageau

Grafton: Farida Abdellateef, Matthew Atchue, Cheyenne Cardin, Mackenzie Collins, Molly Corrigan, Brandon Dionne, Christina Duggan, Jocelyn Hamilton, Michele Medeiros, Lilanna Oskin, Debokkawe Pannasiri, Kara Pichierri, Ebamu Soffor, Audrey Ziegler

Holland: Melissa Blier, Drew Smith, April Swanson, Richard Vickers, Alexander Walton

Leicester: Adam Abusalah, Sofia Acero, Jacob Altman, Danielle Brewster, Sara Cameron, Gabriel Colbry, Arthur Duke, Amanda Frascolla, Lilly Kinney, Viraj Patel, Suzanne Sears

Milford: Kelliann Cote, Amanda Giacoppo, Moya Henry, Alexandra Mercier, Gabriela Olivera Kuszewski

Millbury: Retaj Al Qaysi, Alician Berenson, Rebecca Brodeur, Kristen Curran, Rebeca Garcia Cordova, Jack Jensen, Rebeca Aline Oliveira, Allison Parmenter, Daniel Preston, Natalie Price, Loren Rezende,

Mitchell Tucker, Archer Uccello, Dawn Zeek

Millville: Jaime Costigan, Amelia Tober, Danielle Zaloudek

North Brookfield: Liam Carlson, Daniel Dyson, Johnna Farley, Jennifer Farrell, Katelin Gaines, Jeanne Goyette, Kelley Harding, Justin Lusignan, Kyle Pagnoni, Juliet Prunier

North Grafton: Maximillian Cleveland, Savannah Corriveau, Rhawnie Morris, Michelle Nicolas, Tim Richardson, Kali Sage, Ashayla Scott, Harsith Thokala

North Oxford: Antony Bradford, Nicole Dayutis, Jessica Gonzalez, Shannen Hennessy, Maureen Jones

Northbridge: Krystal Bonaffilia, Matthew Conary, Dylan Mahoney, Edgar Nalbandyan

Oxford: Louis Badu, Nicole Bjorklund, Samantha Borelli, Cassandra Bute, Zachary Finizza, Colton Heerd, Destiny Lentine, Kimberly Lindsey, Ellie Makowiecki, Jared Torosian, Julie Viola, Juliana Zaleswski

South Grafton: Lyla Cutting, Daniel Do Nascimento, Meghan Hogan, Jeremy Kim, Charles Laperle, Mackenzie Matuzek, Marco Montvitt, Nicole Parella, Francis Rosales Serrano, Anjali Silina, Noah Winslow

Southbridge: Lawrencia Afari Djan, Ashley Bruinsma, Brittany Caril, Isaura Castillo, Jacquelinet Conde Arias, Christina Crosby, Alyssa Davis, Kirsten Farfan, Samantha Garcia, Ashley Gerstel, Steffyni Haven, Jennifer Killeen, Grace MacNeill, Genesis Martinez, Marcus McPhail, Nohemi Medina Otero, John Metcalf, Thomas Ortiz, Adina Pellot, Jose Quinones, Diana Ramos, Jenisey Ramos, Milady Rentas, Darleen Rivera Pagan, Joy Robinson, Sara Rousseau, Luzyvette Sagastibelza-Lopez, Keishla Sanchez Maldonado, Niko Somma, Abigail St. Laurent, Hilary Welbeck-Ankrah

Spencer: Engy Abdelmasih, Marissa Beaudin, Nicole Blais-Bennett, Michael Brousseau, Samantha Cantwell, Catrina Caseday, Connor Caseday, Draven Casey, Stephanie Cuevas, Cole Dyer, Marquis Jones, Deanna Kelsaw, Evelyn Larose, Lexie MacDonald, Hailey Mills, Daffany Rivera, Elysia Rosado, Wyatt Sadusky, Christine Shute, Celia Smith, Melissa Trotter, Dustin Vidito, Lisa Webb

Sturbridge: Emma Buck, Spencer Fancy, Jennifer Figueroa, Alexander Starr

Sutton: Meghan Andrade, Justin Brigham, Emily Chase, Matthew Dennis, Ethan Dougherty, James Fink, Dale Goodspeed, Parker Huggins, Shannon Murphy, Erin Piccioli, Alexandra Richard, Hawa Soloyan Wollie

Upton: Alexander Guertin

Uxbridge: Tanya Allen, Eric Anderson, Nathaniel Burket, Tyler Butler, Inna Embden, Amanda Flynn, Alicia Gauvin, Katie Parker, Edrick Pereira, Nolan Ray, Brandon Roux, Klaiton Thomason

Wales: Elizabeth Martinez

Webster: Sean Alger, Sarah Barr, Izabella Bezak, Tanairi Caraballo, Javery Crawford, Brandon Davenport, Jessica Davis, Jolin Etpison, Meredith Forman, Jake Franklin, Jasmine Jaber, Mallory Jakubiak, Chime Lama, Nichole Lambert, Rena McGeary, Juan Medina, Jordan Miller, Maribel Reyes Ortiz, Patricia Rose, Justin Smith, Panagiotis Vlahos, Rachael Watterson, John Zamoider

West Brookfield: Destiny Foty, Emmy Foty, Caroline Piechota

West Upton: Mitchell DePetrillo, Gianna Dowd, Timothy Fobes, Isabella Hall, Keri McCallum, Aidan McCrea, Jessica Polselli, Logan Quinn, Jacob Snow

Whitinsville: Alison Beaupre, Melissa Sue Chenevert, Alexander Dineen, Olivia Duclos, Jibran Khan, Hannah Lachapelle, Alexandria Maietta, Laura Porter, Kayla Richard, Welington Siqueira, Erin Vierck

# Local residents graduate from Anna Maria College

WORCESTER — On May 13, Anna Maria College celebrated its 2024 Commencement Ceremony at the DCU Center in Worcester. A total of 19 degrees were conferred for the 2023-2024 Academic Year. Dr. Eric W. Dickson, President & CEO of UMass Memorial Health, delivered the commencement address. More photos are available at: <https://annamaria.edu/commencement-highlights/>

## Anna Maria College's Class of 2024 New England graduates

Misha Zachary Mikhail Johnson Master of Social Work Auburn  
Sean Patrick Kennedy Master of Public Admin Auburn  
Sharon Brigid King Master of Education Auburn  
Samuel Knox Bachelor of Science Auburn  
Dianis Sanchez Bachelor of Arts Auburn  
Brianna Susan Tooley Bachelor of Science Brimfield  
Annalise Sherman Master of Education Brimfield  
Bobbilyn Baillargeon Bachelor of Arts Charlton  
Marissa Ann Brown Master of Social Work Charlton  
Ethan John Quinn Bachelor of Science Dudley  
Rachael Marie Taylor Bachelor of Science Dudley  
Keith James Remillard Bachelor of Science Dudley  
Michael Killeen Master of

Public Admin Grafton  
Allison E. Gionet Bachelor of Science Leicester  
Kyle George Master of Social Work Leicester  
Nicholas L. Morley Bachelor of Arts Millbury  
Colin Chad Johnson Master of Social Work N Brookfield  
Brodin Coughlin Bachelor of Science N Brookfield  
Joseph Gemelli Admin North Grafton  
Joel Anthony Erickson Bachelor of Science Oxford  
Gina Marie Parmenter Bachelor of Science Oxford  
Brianna Nell Spelman Master of Arts Southbridge  
Julitza Elena Delgado Master of Science Southbridge  
Kiyiana Sylvia Minton Bachelor of Science Southbridge  
Ezekial David Diaz Bachelor of Science Southbridge  
Jennifer Jean Bellows Master of Public Admin Spencer  
Kaissa Wagnac Bachelor of Arts Spencer  
Bryson Grenon Bachelor of Science Sutton  
Trevian R. Grenon Bachelor of Science Sutton  
Alyssa Wentworth Master of Education Webster  
Talia Emely Eckbold Bachelor of Science Webster  
John Leon Richard Marty Bachelor of Science West Brookfield

# Salve Regina students awarded diplomas at 74th Commencement

NEWPORT, R.I. — Salve Regina University President Kelli Armstrong conferred 503 bachelor's degrees, 271 master's degrees and 22 doctoral degrees to members of the Class of 2024. In total, this year's graduating class was the University's largest ever at 823.

Nicholas Diamond of Oxford received a BA in Admin of Justice degree.

Nathaniel Whipple of Webster received a BA in Admin of Justice degree.

Michael Breen of Auburn was awarded a BS in Business Administration.

In presenting the Commencement address, renowned author, scholar and policy analyst Susan Eisenhower spoke to graduates in the context of Salve's focus on mercy leadership and service. "As you begin your post-graduation journey, embrace the unexpected -- even the assignments that may at first disappoint you. Learn from them. Reflect on them. Don't short-change yourself by living so fast and ambitiously that you miss the enduring lessons that come every day, no matter what job or assignment. You will be the better for it, as will everyone who will come to depend on you."

In offering his congratulations, U.S. Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) said, "I am confident that all of you in the Class of 2024 will make your own

mark and serve a purpose higher than yourself. Today more than ever, our world needs your combination of knowledge, talent and, most of all, mercy."

Salve Regina University is a Catholic, coeducational institution of higher education founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1947. For more than 75 years, Salve has offered rigorous and innovative academic programming in the liberal arts tradition that prepares students to be global citizens and lifelong learners. More than 2,700 undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled at Salve from across the U.S. and around the world in 48 undergraduate majors, 13 master's degree programs, numerous combined bachelor's/master's programs and doctoral programs. Each undergraduate student participates in the Salve Compass Program, a four-year transformational framework through which students explore their strengths and interests, developing the experience, skills, and wisdom required for a long, fulfilling career and to make a positive difference in the world. Salve's Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy is a multi-disciplinary research center focused on the intersection of politics, policy and ideas. For information visit [salve.edu](http://salve.edu).

# Springfield College recognizes Dean's List students

SPRINGFIELD — Springfield College has named Sage Kaplan from Auburn to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 spring semester.

Kaplan has a primary major of Biology.

Springfield College has named Jillian LaBonte from Auburn to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 spring semester.

LaBonte has a primary major of Exercise Science / Applied ES.

Springfield College has named Hunter Audet from Dudley to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 spring semester.

Audet has a primary major of Health Science / Pre-PA.

Springfield College has named Sydney Clark from Dudley, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 spring semester.

Clark has a primary major of Communication Sci & Disorders.

Springfield College has named Carly Cornacchioli from Oxford to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 spring semester.

Cornacchioli has a primary major of Health Science / Pre-PT.

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LUCAS  
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Burke agreed, describing it as “an extraordinary effort to provide families an opportunity to contribute to the Oxford Public Schools’ success.” He praised Lucas’ involvement in various community events and his “effort to promote our students,” but also noted more work is needed on encouraging continuous learning.

Todd Proctor praised the superintendent for his “shared vision,” and particularly efforts to address chronic absenteeism, bring grants and new programs to the district, and prepare kids for college and/or workforce. “The evidence suggests he and his team understand the challenges related to enhancing student achievement” and are working on it, he said.

Palmina Griffin had the most recommendations for things needing additional focus, often citing the district’s recent DESE review. Among them, she said the district’s leadership still needs improvement, but has “made significant growth in cultivating a shared vision,” and still needs to expand support for cultural awareness, teacher language certification and various academic areas (she specifically noted disabled kids in advanced classes). In general, she said, “not all students have equitable access to a clean, safe, supportive learning environment,” specifically pointing to bullying complaints and bathroom access being an “ongoing source of student concern.” In contrast, though, Griffin said she found Lucas’ use of newsletters “fantastic” and encouraged him to save a central online archive of them.

She noted Lucas “inherited” most of the issues, adding, “I haven’t seen you run away from one of those challenges.” She ultimately praised Lucas, noting “we have made just amazing gains. ... We’re blessed to have you.”

Although acknowledging some might see her as being “nitpicky,” she said the review is the process by which the committee gets to publicly express issues, some of them raised by constituents. Several years ago, she added, the board didn’t take evaluation seriously.

Cornacchioli urged the selectmen to follow their lead when reviewing the town manager and share more with the public. He said he thinks they could “have a more robust ... evaluation system that highlights some of the positives but also shows the things that need to be worked on.”

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

FUNDING  
continued from page A1

Ruda went on to say the town used state funding to pay for the design and engineering costs and therefore, the project is “shovel ready.”

“Several steps have been completed in advance of this funding request,” Ruda wrote, adding, “A site assessment with MassDOT and Tighe & Bond Engineers was completed. Then, an internal planning meeting took place to initiate and coordinate all of the project components,

WEBSTER  
continued from page A1

Hugo, a robotic surgeon. Regarding Special Olympics, Mary DeCourcy noted “a lot of people supported me in moving this forward,” including a “very wide range of students” who served as coaches and mentors to the athletes playing unified basketball and bocci.

“This is what all of us

including the hydraulic/hydrologic report, initial geotech summary report, and identification of permitting. Additionally, a Flood Insurance Study request has been submitted to FEMA for information about the French River in Dudley and Webster.”

Dudley Town Planner William Scanlan said, “If approved, the funds will pay for a temporary bridge over the Mill Race and allow through traffic once more. MassDOT has included a complete, permanent new bridge over the French River and Mill Race in its bridge

are here for,” Peterson said after the three presentations. “We’re not here for MCAS tests. ...These are the things the state should be coming to look at on a daily basis.”

Afterward, new Family Engagement Coordinator Patricia McKay brought forward nine students who had won the state’s Seal of Biliteracy – eight in Spanish and English, one in Twi (a Ghanaian tongue) and English. She noted some of them were

program, but it is many years away from construction.”

The bridge that spans the French River on the Dudley and Webster town line has been inaccessible since June 2021 because an adjoining dry bridge on the Dudley side, known as the Mill Race Bridge, was deemed unsafe by MassDOT, and ordered closed.

The combined bridges were a popular bypass for motorists seeking to avoid Main Street traffic when traveling to points in both Dudley and Webster. The Dudley approach on Brandon

born here, while others arrived after age 10, but either way “it’s miraculous to maintain your home language after so much time away from your home country. ... I thank the parents for maintaining their languages at home, otherwise they’d forget.”

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

Road was closed at the intersection of Chase Ave. and barricades were placed on the Hill Street approach in Webster.

Dudley allocated state funding budgeted for routine road repair to demolish the bridge last spring, while town officials sought funds to erect a temporary bridge and continued work toward a permanent fix.

The campaign to gain funding included appeals to federal and local reps for special funding and grants.

“Our community has been more than patient in waiting for federal funding for this project to be approved. We’ve checked all of the boxes,” Ruda

said of the news that the funding request has reached committee.

The proposed permanent solution would eliminate the Mill Race Bridge by re-grading the area to replicate its primary purpose, which was flood control capacity.

In a January 2023 letter, MassDOT deemed the bridge work eligible for funding and approved the estimated cost of \$6,235,000. State and federal money would fund the \$6.2 million project, while Dudley would be responsible for the costly and time-consuming process of right-of-way acquisitions.

DUDLEY  
continued from page A1

nent addition to taxes.

The annual payments will be due regardless of the result of the election. A vote of “no” will force the town to make up the difference through cuts to the general fund. Ruda did not specify exactly where these cuts would be made.

Dudley’s Annual Town Election will take place on Monday, June 10. Details on the override request, a sample ballot, and voting locations are available on the Town of Dudley Web site.

# Grow fast, fun, and easy microgreens

Have fun growing some delicious and nutritious microgreens on your kitchen counter, in a sunny window, or under lights any time of the year. In as little as a week to ten days you’ll be making your first harvest to use as a garnish, snack, or add to your favorite sandwich or salad.

Simply purchase seeds of lettuce, greens, mustard, radishes, beets, peas, and even sunflowers. Buy organic seeds or those labeled for sprouting or use as microgreens to ensure they have not been treated with harmful chemicals. Or purchase a microgreen kit that contains all you need to get started.

You can grow any microgreens in soil and most hydroponically. Sunflowers, peas, buckwheat, chard, beets, and cilantro grow best in soil. Soak the seeds in cold water for 12 to 24 hours for faster and greater sprouting. Plant the seeds in a shallow container with drainage holes filled with a moist well-drained planting or seed starting mix. Gently tamp the planting mix to remove air pockets and create a flat surface for planting. Mist the soil surface and evenly sprinkle the seeds over the soil. Gently tamp

the seeds or mist them to ensure good seed-to-soil contact. Planting seeds this way makes harvesting a bit less messy. Or



GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA  
MYERS

you can lightly cover the seeds with soil.

Use a fast food container you’ve cleaned and added drainage holes to or invest in a kit like True Leaf Market’s Organic Mini Microgreens Kit to get your microgreens off to a great start. Then make additional plantings every few weeks to have a constant supply of fresh microgreens to enjoy.

Set the container on a tray to protect the surface below. Once planted, cover the container with a lid to boost humidity and reduce the need to water. Some gardeners use an opaque cover to trap humidity and keep the seeds in the dark for sprouting. Check soil moisture daily and spritz with water as needed. Remove the cover in two or three days once the sprouts break through

the soil. Then move it to a bright location or under artificial lights.

Or skip the planting media and go hydroponic using a growing pad instead. This makes harvesting clean and easy and works well for broccoli, kale, arugula, cabbage, cauliflower, mustard, and radish seeds.

Cut the grow pad made of jute, bamboo, or similar material to fit the container as needed. Thoroughly moisten the grow pad fabric. Sprinkle the seeds evenly over the pad’s surface, leaving about twice the size of a seed between each. Use a spray bottle to water and firm the seeds in place.

Use an opaque cover over the top of the tray to provide the needed darkness for the seeds to sprout. Check the seeds twice a day and mist them as needed. Remove the cover in three to five days once the seeds sprout and start growing. Move the sprouts into a bright location, a sunny window, or under artificial lights, and continue to water as needed.

Your microgreens are ready to harvest when the microgreens are two to four inches tall and the first set of true leaves – those that resemble the leaves of the mature



Photo

Courtesy — True Leaf Market  
Any microgreens can be grown in soil and most varieties can also be grown hydroponically.

plant – are just starting to emerge. This is usually seven to ten days but may be longer depending on the seeds you grow. Use a sharp knife or scissors to cut the greens about ¼” above the soil or grow pad. Gently rinse and spin dry the greens and enjoy.

Have fun as you grow a variety of microgreens to enjoy and share with friends and family.

Melinda Myers has authored over 20 gardening books, including Small Space

Gardening and Midwest Gardener’s Handbook, 2nd Edition. She hosts The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” instant video and DVD series and Melinda’s Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by True Leaf Market for her expertise in writing this article. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

# Nichols names Susan Veshi Vice President for Advancement

DUDLEY—Nichols College President Bill Pieczynski has announced the appointment of Susan Veshi as vice president for advancement. Veshi has served as interim vice president since December 2023.

As vice president, Veshi will lead the advancement and alumni relations team as it continues to seek financial investments in Nichols and engage with its dedicated alumni. Her deep knowledge of, and affinity for, Nichols alumni and friends will prove beneficial as the institution continues to include them in its efforts to recruit students; offer hands-on, experiential learning opportunities and internships; celebrate its storied history and raise funds.

“Susan is a valuable and respected member of the Nichols College community,” said President Bill Pieczynski. “During her 25-year career at Nichols

she has managed a wide variety of institutional projects and priorities, including managing external communications and public relations; assisting with campaign management; writing and editing publications, proposals and advancement materials; conducting prospect research and managing prospect portfolios for fundraisers. Susan’s work extends across campus, and she is a trusted partner and active collaborator to all who know her.”

Veshi joined Nichols in 1998 as director of donor and prospect management before assuming roles of increasing responsibility within the advancement division. Prior to Nichols, she spent more than a decade at UMass Memorial Medical Center, where she served as director of publications. She began her career at Fordham University as a public relations specialist. She earned a bachelor’s in communications at Long Island University Post and a master’s

in communications at Fordham.

About Nichols

Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols College transforms today’s students into tomorrow’s leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu

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\* June Cazeault \* Laurie Sullivan \* Matthew Ross \* Lori Johnson-Chausse \* William Gilmore II \* Bryan Pelletier



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**ON DEPOSIT**

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**WEBSTER 96 CHASE AVE**

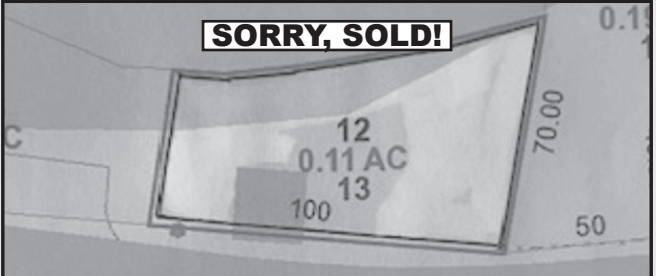
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# Webster and Dudley hold Memorial Day Parade



Jason Bleau

Flag bearers make their way through Webster leading the 2024 Memorial Day parade.



Webster Fire Chief Brian Hickey and South Worcester County Communications Center Director Gregory Lynskey picked up the rear of the parade leading the precession of emergency vehicles in Webster's popular classic Engine 2.

WEBSTER/DUDLEY — While Mother Nature threatened to put a damper on celebrations across the region, Webster and Dudley's joint Memorial Day parade braved the elements and beat the weather making its way through Webster to the center of town capped off with an emotional ceremony honoring the fallen. The parade has long been a tradition with community groups, veterans, and representatives from both communities taking part to remember those who have the ultimate sacrifice for their country.



Anne Vajcovec, a 102-year-old Navy Nurse from World War II, greeted the crowd as she led the parade.



The Shepherd Hill Regional High School Marching Band provided a mix of patriotic tunes during their march through town.

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A large, open-plan office space with high ceilings, large windows, and modern furniture. There are several desks, chairs, and a large conference table.

A view of a hallway with a black and white checkered floor, leading to a large office space with a desk and chairs.

A QR code with the text "MORE INFO:" above it and the NAI logo below it.

A circular portrait of a man with short hair, wearing a blue shirt.

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A circular portrait of a man with short hair, wearing a blue shirt.

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A float decorated with American flags and a large American flag. It is being pulled by a truck. There are people on the float.

The First Baptist Church of Webster provided the most memorable float of the morning, a sober tribute to those who have fallen that captured the spirit of Memorial Day.

A group of children and adults are sitting in a float decorated with American flags. They are waving and smiling.

The children, parents and supporters of St. Joseph School fully embraced the red, white, and blue in their float.

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A portrait of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a black top.

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