

# Auburn News

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## Marianapolis' Sienna Stawiecki signs letter of intent with Pace University

THOMPSON, Conn. — Sienna Stawiecki, a senior from Dudley, signed her National Letter of Intent to play softball for Pace University on Monday, Nov. 17.

Stawiecki, a standout pitcher and leader within the Marianapolis softball program, has been involved in the sport since the age of five, beginning with T-ball, town teams, and later launching a successful travel ball career at the age of 12. Throughout her time at Marianapolis, she has made lasting friendships and found a community that feels like home. Stawiecki's love for the game is powered by energy and unity.

"The energy brought into the sport is something truly

admirable," she says. "Energy is what makes this game so special. Hying up your teammates for a big win is what I look forward to when I step on the field, and I love to lead with my actions and words."

Throughout her Marianapolis softball career, Stawiecki has delivered unforgettable moments on the field. Three moments in particular stand out to her the most.

"The first is throwing a no-hitter as a freshman, which hasn't been done in over 10 years," she shares. "The second is hitting a home run in a playoff game that lifted my team to a 2-0 lead, and we ended up winning 6-4. Lastly, all the bus rides with my best friends are something I will never forget."

Signing with a nationally ranked program like Pace University, currently 4th in Division II softball, is a milestone that holds deep meaning.

"This Division II commitment means more to me than I can express," says Stawiecki, "as only a certain percent of high school athletes are able to play at the next level. Being able to add my talents to an already talented roster is something I look forward to in my future."

As Stawiecki looks ahead to her final season at Marianapolis, she is excited for one last run with her teammates.

"I'm looking forward to a good season with a great group of girls," she says. "Having new and returning talent is truly exciting, and we're hoping to bring home a championship this season!"

Stawiecki's coaches at Marianapolis and beyond have contributed to her development over the years. She would like to personally

thank Coach Jim, Coach Kelly, Coach Nate, Coach Dave, Coach Tyler, Coach Cady, and everyone at Planet Fastpitch for their mentorship and support.

Marianapolis Varsity Softball Coach Jim Baca, commends Stawiecki's leadership and drive: "Sienna Stawiecki is a player who leads by example. She is a true team leader, whether by being a captain on the field or exemplifying the dedication and hard work it takes to achieve your goals off the field. Pace University is lucky to have her joining their roster, and I can't wait to see her do great things. Congratulations, Sienna."

Looking ahead to her softball career at Pace University, Stawiecki is eager to embrace new experiences and challenges. "I'm looking forward to all the collegiate games I have the privilege to take part in, as well as all the friendships I will make along the way," she says. "Being part of an amazing program is something I'm really looking forward to."



Pace University, with two main campuses located in New York City and Pleasantville,

N.Y., is a Division II school playing in the Northeast-10 Conference.

## Very Merry Dickens Carolers perform at Samuel Slater Experience Dec. 14

WEBSTER — The Very Merry Dickens Carolers will bring the music of the holiday season to the Samuel Slater Experience museum on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 5 p.m.

A professional group of a cappella singers, the Very Merry Dickens Carolers look the part in period costumes. Their repertoire of 4-part harmony features a variety of styles, including traditional, swing, and jazz.

Holiday refreshments are included in the price of admission. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://samuel SlaterExperience.org>, by phone at 508-461-2955, or at the box office during regular open hours. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.

Come spend a little time indulging in the holiday spirit on Webster's recreated "Main Street" at the Samuel Slater Experience museum, 31 Ray St., Webster.

About Samuel Slater Experience

Samuel Slater Experience opened in 2022 to tell the story of Samuel Slater, the beginnings of the American Industrial Revolution, and Slater's impact on mill towns such as Webster, Massachusetts. The museum uses advanced digital technology with immersive video and interactive exhibits to recreate two time periods: the early 1800s and the early 1900s. For more information and tickets, visit [www.samuel SlaterExperience.org](http://www.samuel SlaterExperience.org).

## Booklovers' Gourmet opens new exhibit

WEBSTER — Booklovers' Gourmet, located at 72 East Main St. in Webster, is hosting "The Wonders of Nature," artwork by Deb Lifer-Piselli in the cafe gallery. The show will be on view Dec. 1-31

during normal business hours. The shop will be open daily through Dec. 24. Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday noon to 4 p.m.

A meet the artist reception will be held on Saturday,

Dec. 6, 2-4 p.m. with light refreshments. Free and open to the public. For more information call 508-949-6232.

"Art, photography and writing are my passions," Lifer-Piselli writes. "Many

of my paintings are inspired by my photography. I am drawn to the quiet beauty and wonders of nature. Detail oriented, I gravitate towards painting animals.

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## Learning at sea

SAINT JOSEPH STUDENTS TAKE FIELD TRIP TO BATTLESHIP COVE



Courtesy

Saint Joseph School seventh grade students stand on the deck of the USS Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. at Battleship Cove during a recent field trip. Behind them is the mighty battleship USS Massachusetts, a powerful reminder of the courage and sacrifice of the sailors who served on these historic ships.

FALL RIVER — Students in Grades 5-8 from Saint Joseph School recently traveled to Battleship Cove in Fall River for a memorable field trip on the eve of Veterans Day.

At Saint Joseph School, field trips are carefully chosen to correlate with teaching units and serve as extensions of the curriculum. This year's visit to Battleship Cove was planned to honor the service and sacrifice of our nation's veterans, deepen students' understanding of U.S. military history, and

connect classroom learning in social studies, science, and STEM with real-world experiences aboard historic naval vessels.

Battleship Cove is a nonprofit maritime museum and war memorial that houses the world's largest collection of World War II-era naval vessels. Located along the waterfront in Fall River, the museum is home to several National Historic Landmarks, including the battleship USS Massachusetts, the destroyer USS Joseph P. Kennedy

Jr., and the World War II submarine USS Lionfish, as well as historic patrol torpedo boats and other craft. Together, these ships preserve the stories of American sailors and commemorate the sacrifices of veterans from World War II through the Vietnam era.

For many Saint Joseph School students, the highlight of the trip was stepping aboard the USS Lionfish, a World War II submarine preserved much as it appeared during its service in the Pacific. Students were

struck by the submarine's cramped quarters, narrow passageways, and stacked bunks, all of which offered a powerful visual of what daily life was like for submariners at sea. They were especially fascinated by the size of the torpedoes and the complexity of the equipment needed to operate the vessel beneath the ocean's surface. The experience brought to life the courage, precision, and teamwork required of the sailors who served on

Turn To FIELD TRIP page A10

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# Cornerstone Bank sponsors EcoTarium’s ‘Legacy of the Stars Gala’ to celebrate opening of Stoddard Exhibition Hall

SPENCER — Cornerstone Bank is proud to support the EcoTarium with a \$5,000 sponsorship of the Legacy of the Stars Gala, celebrating the grand opening of the Stoddard Exhibition Hall. The new hall marks a milestone moment for the EcoTarium, enabling Worcester to host major national exhibitions for the first time in its history.

bring world-class educational experiences to Worcester.”

This sponsorship builds on Cornerstone Bank’s ongoing support of the EcoTarium through its multi-year commitment to the museum’s Capital Campaign, to which Cornerstone contributed a total of \$12,500 in 2023 and 2024.

Founded in 1825 as the Worcester Lyceum of Natural History, the EcoTarium is one of the oldest natural history museums in the United States. The Legacy of the Stars Gala honors the individuals and community partners who have strengthened the EcoTarium over its 200-year history. Proceeds from the event will support “The Secret World of Elephants,” the first major exhibition to be featured in the new Stoddard Exhibition Hall when it opens in March 2026.

“The EcoTarium has enriched generations of children and families by making science and nature accessible and inspiring,” said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. “We are honored to support the opening of the Stoddard Exhibition Hall and help

Cornerstone Bank remains committed to investing in organizations that inspire curiosity, support lifelong learning and broaden access to educational opportunities for local families.

About Cornerstone Bank  
Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank’s local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch.

Cornerstone, which is a subsidiary of PeoplesBankCorp, MHC, operating independently under its own name and brand, provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities through a broad range of deposit and loan products and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit [cornerstonebank.com](http://cornerstonebank.com) or call 800-939-9103.

## Sheriff’s Office partners with Emerge Career to deliver free, high-demand diesel and HVAC training

WORCESTER — The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office and Emerge Career [www.emergecareer.com], a national leader in workforce development for individuals directly or indirectly involved in the criminal justice system, are proud to announce a new partnership to provide Free, High-Demand Training in Diesel Technician and HVAC Technician Careers to qualifying residents across the county. These fast-growing vocations offer starting salaries averaging \$75,000, creating direct pathways to economic mobility for participants and their families. Student eligibility includes individuals who have experienced arrest, probation, parole, or incarceration, as well as those with an immediate family member who has gone through these experiences.

taining an extraordinary 0% recidivism rate among program graduates.

“Emerge Career is bringing real solutions to an often-overlooked population,” said Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis. “This partnership is about dignity, opportunity, and second chances. When individuals leave our facilities with job-ready skills and employers ready to hire them, our communities become safer and stronger.”

Through this expanded partnership, individuals in the county will now have access to:

- Free Diesel Technician Training (new)
- Free HVAC Technician Training (new)
- Free CDL Training (continuing program)

Each program includes employer-aligned curriculum, nationally recognized certifications, and job placement support to ensure graduates seamlessly transition into high-wage, high-growth careers.

### How to Enroll

Apply for Free CDL Training Here [https://www.app.emergecareer.com/register?utm\_source=sheriffs\_office-out-of-custody&utm\_medium=press-release&utm\_campaign=donnelly&utm\_term=nov2025&utm\_content=no-incentive]

Apply for Free Diesel Tech & HVAC Tech Training Here [https://form.jotform.com/253055956415158?utm\_source=sheriffs\_office-out-of-custody&utm\_medium=press-release&utm\_campaign=ma-new-vocations-launch-2025&utm\_term=nov2025&utm\_content=no-incentive]

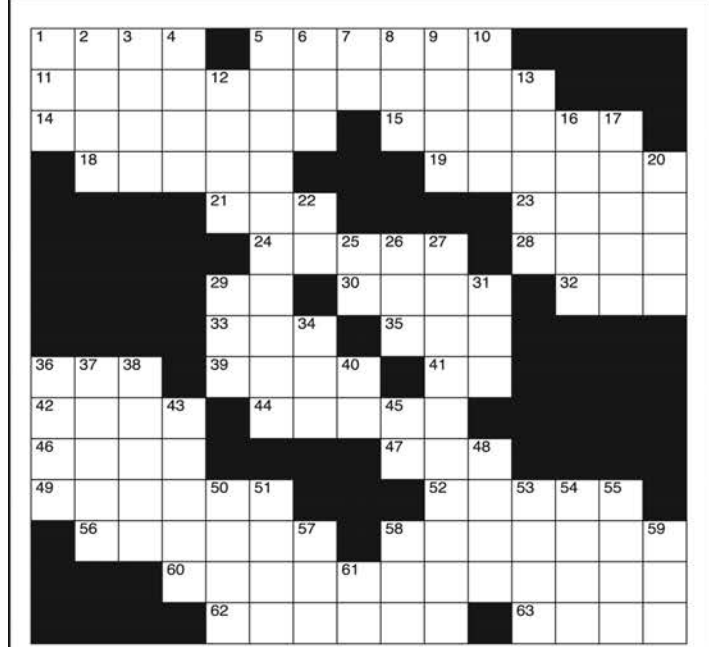
“Our goal has always been simple,” said Tyler Brewer from Emerge Career. “Provide training that leads directly to real jobs with real wages. Worcester County continues to show what’s possible when reentry is focused on evidence-based opportunity.”

This partnership underscores both organizations’ shared commitment to reducing recidivism, strengthening families, and empowering individuals with the skills needed to build stable, successful futures.

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### CLUES ACROSS

- Dough made from corn flour
- Rise
- Gratitude
- A low wall
- Kidnap
- A cup golfers want to win
- Outgoing
- “Partner” to flow
- Former Michigan coach Brady
- Proverb
- Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- Helps a body recover
- Baseball Cy Young winner
- Very fast airplane
- Offensive baseball stat
- Body of water
- Record of one’s heartbeat
- Signs a contract
- Atomic #24
- Bind securely
- French Jesuit theologian
- Fragrant brown balsam
- Post office box
- Sells tickets at inflated prices
- Places to hang coats
- Jewish salutation
- Yellow fruits
- Poorly educated
- Microorganism
- Talk show host Barrymore

### CLUES DOWN

- A way to plan
- Three-banded armadillo
- Mobile
- Romanian city
- Making sour
- Take a seat
- “The Golden State”
- When you hope to arrive
- Pointed ends of pens
- Extinct flightless bird
- Sharp-pointed dueling sword
- Nape of neck
- Problems (Spanish slang)
- Narrow carpet
- To avoid the risk of
- Spiritual academic degree (abbr.)
- Equally
- Traditional cars still need it
- Eligible voters
- Greek alphabet letter
- Body part
- Referee-declared outcome
- Means to moving money
- Popular footwear brand
- Cockatoo
- NFL’s big game
- Botswana currencies
- News-reporting organization
- Batman villain
- Urgent request
- Not all
- Hallmark’s specialty
- Knot in a tree
- Satisfy
- Notable space station
- Baby’s dining accessory
- Stitch clothing
- \_\_ and behold

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

## HACE gala marks 40 years of empowering Hispanic youth

WORCESTER — The Hispanics Achieving and Celebrating Excellence (HACE) Awards celebrated its 40th anniversary yesterday, honoring decades of work uplifting Hispanic and Latino youth across Worcester, Southbridge and surrounding communities.

for the Office of U.S. Congressman James P. McGovern. “For 40 years, HACE has not simply spoken about it,”

Speakers at the event highlighted the program’s role in creating pathways to higher education and leadership for Latine youth, especially amid systemic challenges such as financial barriers, underfunded schools and cultural isolation.

State Sen. Robyn Kennedy praised the organization’s impact, calling it “a lifeline and a launching pad” for generations of students.

“When Latino students succeed, our entire community succeeds,” Kennedy said.

“I stand on the shoulders of people who created the path for me to be here today,” said Worcester City Manager Eric Batista, a former HACE recipient.

“It’s my job to continue that legacy and give back to the young people of the city.”

The celebration also honored founders and long-standing committee members, such as Maria Addison, Olga Lopez Hill and former State Senate President Harriette Chandler, who have sustained the program for four decades. Leaders urged continued support through mentorship, volunteerism and financial contributions to ensure future success for Latino youth.

“Your support for this organization is saying to each one of those students, ‘We believe in you.’ Higher education changes lives and you are changing lives by being here,” said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja.

For more information or to contribute, visit [QCC.edu/hace](http://QCC.edu/hace).

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# QCC's food pantry supporting students through record demand

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College's HomePlate Food Pantry & Resource Center is experiencing unprecedented demand, serving more students and families than ever before as economic pressures and food and housing insecurity impact the local community. The college is focusing its Giving Tuesday campaign on raising funds for the food pantry to meet this demand. Since the beginning of July,

the pantry has registered more than 750 students, supporting close to 1,700 household members. This marks a significant increase from the same period last year, when close to 450 students and 890 household members were served. "We have adjusted our system so that we don't have to turn anyone away, but the need goes up every week," said Manager of the Home Plate Food Pantry and Resource Center Charlotte Operach.

On the busiest days, HomePlate serves up to 100 students. The pantry provides food items as well as personal hygiene items such as toothpaste and diapers. Additionally, students experiencing housing issues are connected to resources. "If I think about my kids going hungry, I would rather miss a day at school, just to go to work to save my kids," said a nursing student using the food pantry. "As a mother, it's

worrying. You cannot concentrate in school." About 75 percent of the pantry's food supply comes from the Worcester County Food Bank, with the remainder purchased through donations and grants. Popular items include fresh fruits and vegetables, frozen meats, oatmeal, pasta and diapers. Operach noted that commu-

nity support is critical, especially as the demand continues to increase. The pantry accepts product donations at the main campus as well as monetary donations through the QCC Foundation. Grocery store gift cards, now accepted up to \$50, are also highly valued, allowing students to meet specific dietary needs. "With everything going on

with SNAP benefits and the cost of living so high, there's a lot of anxiety," Operach said. "But our students are so resilient." For more information or to donate, visit QCC.edu/foodpantry and QCC.edu/giving-tuesday.

## Celebrate the spirit of the season at Oxford's Holiday Lights Parade and Tree Lighting

OXFORD — Join us to witness Oxford come alive with holiday spirit! The Oxford Fire Department and Community Center are excited to announce the 2025 Holiday Lights Parade and Bandstand Tree Lighting will be held Saturday, Dec. 6. The Parade kicks off at 5 p.m. from Oxford's North Fire Station, 656 Main St., North Oxford, and travels to the Town Common Bandstand at Joslin Park, 352 Main St. If you'd like to watch the parade along

the route, parking will be available at Oxford Middle School, R&M leasing, and DPW offices at 450 Main St. If you'd like the opportunity to take a picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus join us on the Common and enjoy music, Jess' Sweets & Treats cookies, hot chocolate (with the Oxford Police Assn) and N&J Donut holes while you await their arrival upon the OFD tower truck. Downtown parking is available in St. Roch's lot, Town Hall, and there will be limited parking

available in the Community Center lot. Handicapped parking only will be available in the ParadisGivner lot. The Fire Department is still accepting parade float entries — forms are available at the Community Center and Town Hall, and on the Oxford website, oxfordma.us. All entries must be received by Dec. 4. After festivities on the Common are completed, all are invited to walk over to 4 Sigourney St. to enjoy Mr. Biando's holiday display.

## Dudley church offers guided tours of Tiffany windows during Christmas Fair

DUDLEY — Step into history and beauty at the First Congregational Church - United Church of Christ (135 Center Rd.) during the Annual Christmas Craft Fair (Dec. 6)! Join us for exclusive guided tours of the stunning Tiffany windows. The tours will be led by educator and church member Tom Boyd, Church Historian, and his team of specially trained docents, these 20-minute tours will reveal the fascinating story behind the windows' creation — and the remarkable connection between famed inventor Hezekiah Conant and the legendary Louis Comfort Tiffany himself.

Come celebrate the rich history of Dudley, be inspired by the breathtaking stained-glass windows, and join a meaningful effort to preserve these irreplaceable treasures as we look ahead to the Church's 300th anniversary in 2032! During the Christmas Fair (10 a.m.–2 p.m.), enjoy delicious food such as clam chowder, chili, pulled chicken sandwiches, and hot dogs. Take in the festive entertainment, visit the famous Cookie Corner, try your luck at the basket and quilt raffles, and browse the work of talented local crafters. Be sure to stop by the Tiffany 300 Gift Table, where Scott Donovan's stunning handcrafted jewelry captures

the beauty of the windows — offering a one-of-a-kind holiday gift that lets you take a piece of this cherished heritage home (see photos below). The day concludes with a live auction at 1:30 p.m.—a fun and exciting way to wrap up the celebration! Tours begin at 10 a.m., and depart every half hour until noon. No reservations needed — just bring your curiosity and sense of wonder! Don't miss this rare opportunity to see, learn, and fall in love with a piece of living history! And don't forget to stop at the gift shop.

### Community Calendar Dec. 5–12

Friday, Dec. 5  
Cold winds swirl 'round houses bright,  
The Gladys E. Kelly Library starts the night—  
At 5 p.m. young hands take flight,  
Crafting ornaments trimmed just right.

Saturday, Dec. 6  
Cookies, cocoa, carols cheer—  
The Oxford Community Center draws folks near.  
At 10 a.m., vendors fill the hall,  
Perfect gifts both big and small.

Sunday, Dec. 7  
A season stroll with lantern light,  
Dudley's Healy Road Trail shines bright.  
Meet at 3:30, dress warmly, please—  
A gentle walk among the trees.


Monday, Dec. 8  
Books and blocks and winter play,  
At 10 a.m. on a Monday day.  
The Webster Library's Toddler Time Welcomes wiggles, jumps, and rhyme.

Tuesday, Dec. 9  
Warm soup simmers—  
don't be late—  
The Dudley Senior Center Lunch begins at 11:30 straight.  
A gathering spot for friends and cheer,  
A cozy pause this time of year.

Wednesday, Dec. 10  
Need a stretch before the snow?  
Try Chair Yoga at 10—  
give it a go.  
The Oxford Library hosts the class,  
A calming midweek hour to pass.

Thursday, Dec. 11  
Puzzle fans, assemble tight—  
6 p.m. Puzzlers' Night delights.  
At the Kelly Library, teams compete—  
A jigsaw challenge none can beat.

Friday, Dec. 12  
Holiday humming fills the air,  
A 6 p.m. Concert at Webster Town Hall—  
be there.  
Local voices, bright and clear,  
Lift songs of warmth as winter nears.



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### PAW of the WEEK

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Milford Federal Bank is proud to sponsor the Pawfect Life Rescue PAW of the WEEK!

Bring your furry friend along on your next trip to MFB for a treat from our drive-up tellers, or stop in any branch and bring home a treat from our complimentary doggy biscuit bar.

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## OXFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

OXFORD — Oxford Middle School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

**High Honors**  
Grade 8: Sadie Crouch, Zachary Dubsy, Shea Dunlavey, Ella Gasasira, Liam Harrity, Sophia Meneguzzo, Maxwell Palaia, Henrique Paniagua, Mateo Quintero, Megan Riley, Rachael Rodriguez-Pacheco  
Grade 7: Saige Angell, Diego Aponte, Narta Berisha, Tyle Bouley, Hazel Burlingame, Sadie Coghlan, Amber Conway, Hadley Coraccio, Brynn Czernicki-Nasis, Olivia Daoust, Cora Descheneau, Joshua George, Margaret Griffin, Ethan Gustafson, Kellen Harrison, Jackson Harvey, Isabella LaMountain, Ava Montalvo, Caroline Montalvo, Sofia Moura, Stella Pantano, Tessa Peloso, Jenna Shenette, Eric Sloan, Sarah Stebbins, Sadie Stewart, Raeann Teal, Briley Todd, Liam Valipour, Aislyn White, Marissa Worden, Makenzie Zwang  
Grade 6: Audrey Almstrom, Bridget Bejune, Katrina Chuong, Jaxon Cortis, Tianna Delacruz, Eli Dexter, Jaelyn Halley, Bennett Harding, Liam Huambachano, Savannah Langlois, Mia Mazzella, Jack Richard, Bradley Seeley, Harper Skowron, Kylie Stidsen,  
**Honors**  
Grade 8: Bethany Abrahamson, Gemma Balboni, Dylan Barberio, Marina Biancanello, Olivia Boulette, Abigail Burque, Isaac

Deechaleune, Lily Dolbec, Joseph Esposito, Brielle Fournier, Mya Gelinis, Jillian Gustafson, Willow Keller, Alana LaFrance, Lucas Laurie, Brookelynn Mangano, Savanna O'Hearn, Ashton O'Malley, Dylan Powers, Jr., Hunter Rodriguez, Heather Stebbins, Lilliana Tervo, Jordyn Torteson, Parker Tyrell, Anabelle Watters  
Grade 7: Clayton Almstrom, Kaylee Augustynski, Hayden Bates, Emile Bourbeau IV, Gavin Brown, Bradley Bush, Lucas Bush, Riley Capistran, Briella Caracciolo, Kyle Case, Makayla Cooper, Grant Corriveau, Kendall Donnelly, Caleb Dubsy, Grady Eason, Jazziebel Gonzalez, Trevor Gould, Isabelle Gurney, Vanessa Johnson, Vanessa Judge, Castiel Kaiser, Travis Kogbe, Baileigh Mazerolle, Avery McEvoy, Joseph Menke, Zoe Morello, Aria O'Neil, Jack Pearson, Victoria Rivera, Mya Skeates, Chad Sliwoski, Mia St. Peter, Brooklyn Stukowski, Bradley Toedt  
Grade 6: Tyleeah Adorno, Ayla Anshah, Leeann Carlson, Ava Churchill, Rylee Cordova, Ella Davis, Evelyn Decoster, Delaney Duval, Mckenna Evans, Natalia Ferrante, Nahashon Gachuna, Lukas Kasprzycki, Zaidyn Kublis, Kaylee Lucien, Elia MacDonald, Seth Maki, Gregory Meneguzzo, Tai Nguyen-Le, Annelise Palaia, Colby Palin, Fernando Paniagua, James Paul, Everly Powers, Emilia Raimondi, Lorenzo Riccardi, Hannah Riley, Avery Robillard, Slate Skowron, Aiden Socia, Thomas Stone, Seamus Sweeney, Mackenzie Watkins

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**FRANK G. CHILINSKI**  
STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

# Saving the stories we still haven't written down

Every town has its own unwritten history—the kind that doesn't appear in archives, doesn't rest in museum cases, and won't show up in a search engine. It lives instead in the memories of longtime residents, in family photo albums, in the quiet recollections shared at kitchen tables or after meetings at the senior center. These are the stories that shape Webster, Dudley, and Oxford just as much as the official dates and records do. And they are the stories we risk losing if we do not take the time to preserve them.

We are fortunate to live in towns where many families can trace their roots back generations. Mills, lake cottages, church picnics, snowstorms that changed whole streets, factories that closed and opened again—every resident who lived through those moments carries something that won't be captured in a census or a deed book. These are the firsthand accounts that turn dates into meaning.

But small-town history is fragile. The people who remember the old storefronts on Main Street, the days when Dudley's mills ran three shifts, or the long afternoons spent skating on the ponds in Oxford are growing older. Too often, we only realize how much knowledge they held after it's already gone.

This is the moment to act. Every resident can play a part in preserving local memory. A recorded conversation with a grandparent, the labeling of an old shoebox of photographs, or the donation of documents to a historical society—each one adds a piece to the larger picture of who we've been and how we got here. Even sharing a recollection at a local history night, library event, or veterans gathering helps ensure our collective past does not fade. Local institutions stand ready to help. The historical societies, libraries, veterans' groups, and cultural organizations in our communities rely on contributions from residents who understand that history is a living thing. Their collections grow only when someone decides that a story, a map, or an old program book is too important to keep tucked away in a drawer.

Documenting these pieces of memory strengthens more than our knowledge of the past. It deepens community identity. It ensures that future residents—whether they grew up here or arrived last year—can understand the traditions, struggles, and triumphs that shaped their new home.

This winter, when time indoors increases and families gather more often, consider asking the questions that rarely get asked. What used to stand at that corner? Who ran the old shop everyone remembers? What traditions vanished that once united the neighborhood? And perhaps most importantly: What would you want future generations here to know?

We cannot preserve everything. But we can ensure we do not lose the stories still within reach.

## Letter submission policy

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

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

# VIEWPOINT

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

## The family behind the street name

BY HELEN POIRIER  
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Running between Southbridge and Hampton Streets there is Eaton Ave., which isn't as wide as one may think an avenue should be. Long after the formation of the South Parish of Worcester and the taking part of the land known as Pakachoag to a portion part of the Parish, the name Eaton appears in the town records. The Eaton family was a well-respected and prominent family in town. They were originally from Reading Massachusetts with Thomas Eaton Sr. being born in 1696 and married to Mary Gowing. They had a son, Thomas, who was in the Revolutionary War. Thomas was a captain of a company in Colonel David Green's 2nd Middlesex Company Regiment which marched on the alarm of April 19, 1775. Captain Thomas marched along with his son, Jonas.

Jonas married Lydia Nichols in 1788 and about 1790 they moved to Auburn and started their family on land which is now part of the North American Martyrs Church. Jonas and Lydia had seven children, but the first three died in 1796. Then they had Elizabeth in 1797, William in 1799, Thomas in 1800, and Sarah in 1802.

One of the people of interest in this article is Thomas who married Hannah Pierce of Millbury. They had four children, Daniel T., Lydia, Joseph P. and Thomas. The brothers Daniel Temple Eaton and Joseph Pierce Eaton enlisted Jan. 18, 1861, in Company A of the 25th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry to fight in the Civil War.

Daniel re-enlisted Jan. 18, 1864, transferring to Co. C, when the regiment was reduced to Battalion size on Oct. 5, 1864. He was discharged July 13, 1865. He was involved in the Battle of Roanoke Island, N.C. Which, according to Web site This Day in History, "Union General Ambrose Burnside scores a major victory when his troops capture Roanoke Island in North Carolina. It was one of the first major Union victories of the Civil War and gave the Yankees control of the mouth of Albemarle Sound, allowing them to threaten the Rebel capital of Richmond, Virginia, from the south."

After the war, Daniel married widow Sara Field Stone from Cambridge in 1866. They had a daughter, Hannah Adelia, in 1870. Daniel worked on the family farm until 1870 when the census showed him on his own farm not far from his father's farm. He served the town in 1860 on the School Committee, a constable in 1871 and a selectman in 1894. He was a member of the George Ward Post #10 G.A.R. Worcester. He died in Auburn on August 29, 1914, and is interred in Hillside Cemetery with most of the Eaton family.

Joseph Pierce Eaton enlisted on the same day as Daniel for three years. According to a family story that was uncovered by John Hartwell, a past town historian, as the two brothers were going to the barracks at Camp Lincoln, to put on their new uniforms, they encounter a team of mules misbehaving. The team master was unable to control them. Legend has it that 21-year-old Joseph gave his folded uniform to his brother and walked over to the mules. He spoke a few words to that mule, then put his hand on the

animal's shoulder and the critter quieted down. This incident was witnessed by the Company A's commander, Capt. Josiah Pickett. It was decided that Joseph would be the company's wagoner. He received \$14 and the clothes and ration of a soldier. His job was to transport the supplies needed by the army, with that was the responsibility to care for and maintain the mules and wagons under him. That also meant that the wagoner had to be ready to take up a gun to defend his wagon, mule and supplies that were being transported. In the 1862 campaign in North Carolina, Joseph was promoted to wagon master of the entire regiment. By the fall he was promoted again to sergeant and wagon master of the 1st brigade, Second Division, of the XVIII Corps, which was 120 wagons and 140 soldiers. As the Division was moving toward Cold Harbor VA in late May of 1864, Joseph slipped in knee-deep mud and the wagon rolled over his right leg. He had to be hospitalized for 3 months and nearly lost his leg. When his term of enlistment was up in October and Sgt. Eaton was mustered out. He went back to the Eaton homestead to help work the family farm. He married Ella Hoare in September 1866, daughter of Sawyer & Mary of Littleton. Unfortunately, she died a year later in September 1867. Joseph then married Charollette E. Boyden in 1869. They had two sons, George Bancroft Eaton June 1873, but died Sept 7, 1874, and Harry Putnam in 1877. Unfortunately, Harry died in 1888 of "bilious Fever." Charlotte died in 1915. Joseph married Addie Hewitt in the 1920s. Joseph did his share of town offices in his lifetime. He started as an Assessor 1872-1884, Selectman 1892-1900, Overseer for the Poor 1894-1895, Trustee for the Free Public Library 1901-1903, and was on the Cemetery Commission 1908-1914, then 1921-23. His wife, Charlotte, was on the School Committee 1891-1894.

The last son of Thomas Eaton and Hannah Pierce was Thomas Stowe Eaton who was born July 2, 1832, in Auburn. He married Martha Marie Blood who was from Charlestown, Massachusetts. Their children were Herbert William 1863-1877, Alice Maria 1864-1882, Arthur Adelbert 1866-1951, Luella Adeila 1869-1958, Ida Louise Lavinia [Vaughan] 1872-1927, and Charlotta P. 1875-1909. Thomas stayed on the original family farm working it until he died in 1920. It seems he also had working boarders as well as a domestic servant through the years.

Thomas S. as well as some of his children were involved with the workings of the town. Thomas was a selectman from 1871-1877, then again 1883-1886, School Committee member 1872-1873 and 1883-1884. He also served as an auditor 1893-1895. Ida Louise was an Assessor from 1892 to 1894, Charlotte was a Trustee of the library 1902-1912, and Luella was a Library Trustee 1911 to 1924.

With all the service to the town that the Eaton family did, it is fitting that there is Eaton Square Memorial, which is located at the intersection of Elmwood Street and Pakachoag Street, along with Eaton Avenue.

This article is made possible by the Auburn Historical Society & Museum, 41 South St. The museum is open Tuesday and Saturday mornings 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and may be reached at auburnmuseum@verizon.net or 508-832-6856, www.auburnhistoricalmuseum.org or follow us on Facebook at Auburn Historical.

## Lanterns Along Main Street

LANTERNS  
ALONG  
MAIN  
STREET  
By CHIPPY

There's a small ritual I've noticed in a lot of Massachusetts towns—something so ordinary you could miss it unless you're paying attention. It happens in the morning, long before the school buses growl to life or the commuter rush begins. Shopkeepers unlock their doors, sweep a few stray leaves from their thresholds, and prop the door open for a minute to "let the day in," as one fellow once told me.

I've always liked that expression. You don't open the door; you let the day in. As if the day were something polite, waiting on the step with its hat in hand.

That morning moment reveals something about these towns. You learn who gets up early, who doesn't mind the cold bite of a December morning, who chats across the street as naturally as breathing. You learn that the fellow who runs the hardware store has the same whistle every day, and that the woman who works the bakery counter taps her knuckles on the window before she flips the sign to Open, like a quiet promise that she means it.

What strikes me isn't the routine itself, but the way people seem to take comfort in it. In a world with so many moving parts—so much technology, so many shortcuts, so many alerts and reminders buzzing for our attention—there's something steadying about a place where the first order of business is sweeping off the stoop. You don't need an app for it, and nobody's angling for recognition. They just do it

because it makes the day feel like it's beginning on the right foot.

I drove through a handful of towns in the area last week and found myself stopping for coffee in one of those little places where the tables wobble and the mugs are mismatched. The man behind the counter asked if I wanted a refill before I had even taken my first sip. It wasn't pushy—just habit, the way some people press a hand against your shoulder before they walk by. A courtesy without any expectation attached.

At the table next to mine, two men were talking about the high school basketball team. One of them still called the gym the new gym, even though it was built sometime in the mid-1990s. You hear that kind of thing a lot around here. Old labels have a long half-life. A building can be new for decades if the one before it was older still.

That's the quiet charm of these towns: time doesn't hurry. Not in a stubborn way, but in a comfortable one. Something might change—a new family moves in, a business closes, a bridge gets repaired—but life doesn't shove ahead. It ambles. And in that ambling, people notice things that would go unremarked elsewhere.

They notice if the library lights are on a little later than usual. They notice when a regular stops showing up for morning coffee and someone goes to check in. They notice when the town hall flag flaps oddly because the rope has caught, and someone climbs up to fix it without

## A rich fool or rich toward God?



BEYOND  
THE  
PEWS  
BY FR. LUKE  
A. VERONIS  
SAINTS  
CONSTANTINE  
AND HELEN  
GREEK  
ORTHODOX  
CHURCH,  
WEBSTER

Thanksgiving! A special day to say "thank you" to God for all the good things He gives us - from our families and loved ones, to our homes and possessions, to our church and faith, and for the love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Countless blessings!

There is an interesting story from the Gospels that reflects the antithesis to Thanksgiving. Jesus tells a story about a rich man, a man so rich that he didn't know what to do with all his wealth. Can you imagine having such wealth? Do you envy such people?

Well, this man did what many of us would do. He built a bigger house. He got more things. He thought of whatever he dreamed of and fulfilled his own dreams. He simply wanted to eat, drink and be merry! Live in the moment

and enjoy the day. Does that sound great? Well, many in our society would envy this lifestyle and say this man was a resounding success!

Yet, Jesus called the man a fool! Our Lord criticizes the rich man as foolish precisely because he only thought of himself. Instead of thanking God for his blessings and thinking about how he could share his blessings with others, the man only says, "I will build bigger and better. I will get more for myself. I'll sit back, relax, and say, 'I have everything I need. I don't need to worry about anything.'"

Does that sound like a man who is grateful? He never said, "Thank you Lord for all my blessings." And true gratitude, of course, is not reflected in words alone but can be seen in actions. True gratitude implies saying to ourselves, "How can I share from the blessings I have received? How can I help those less fortunate from my abundance? How can I act like a good and faithful steward, living out the words of Jesus Christ that it is more blessed to give than to receive?"

True gratitude leads to generosity. The foolishness of the rich man, however, led him to think only about himself. And this is why Jesus called him a fool! Not because he had lots of riches but because he wasn't rich toward God. He forgot the most fundamental perspective in life - that all our blessings come from God, that a healthy spirit reflects an attitude of gratitude, and that we express authentic thanksgiving by sharing our blessings with others!

Can we reflect on this during this Thanksgiving weekend? Can we strive to do the opposite of the Rich Fool and truly act rich toward God? Instead of saying, "All of this is mine," let us say "Thank You Lord for all You have given me and show me, Lord, how I can generously share with others."

When we're thankful, our hearts grow bigger - not our houses and possessions! Being rich toward God never means amassing more and more for ourselves but it implies giving back to God through our generosity and love toward others.

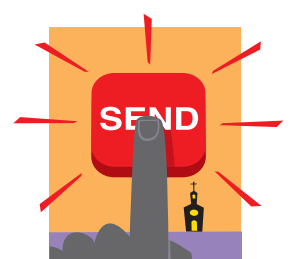
As Saint John Chrysostom once said, "The rich man is not the one who has much but the one who gives much. For whatever he gives away remains his forever."

May we live with this spirit of thanksgiving not once a year but every day of our lives!

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# Latest auction news

I hope that you had a Happy Thanksgiving! While most of us were out grocery shopping and cleaning up after the big meal, some major auctions were in the headlines.

Famous puppets made news when Jim Henson's puppets and memorabilia auction took place late last month. Henson was the beloved creator of the "Muppets." Henson's "Crystal of Truth" from "The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance" sold for \$89,600, according to the UPL, while Miss Piggy's high heels went for \$22,400. The auction brought in \$2.6 million total, which will be used to preserve Henson's archives.

A major piece of art that saved a woman during the Holocaust broke a modern art record last month. Gustav Klimt's "Portrait of Elisabeth Lederer" was painted over three years from 1916 to 1918. It depicts the daughter of one

of Vienna's wealthiest families wearing an Asian Emperor's cloak. When Nazi Germany annexed Austria in 1938, they raided the Lederer's art collection. "Elisabeth Lederer made up a story that Klimt, who was not Jewish and died in 1918, was her father," according to AP News. She convinced the Nazis to give her a document stating that she was Klimt's daughter, which spared her life. Some of Klimt's works burned in a fire in an Austrian castle, making the existing works more valuable. The painting is one of two full length portraits in private hands. The sale surpassed the previous record for 20th century art held by an Andy Warhol portrait of Marilyn Monroe, which brought \$195 million in 2022. "Portrait of Elisabeth



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES  
WAYNE TUISKULA

Lederer» sold for a record \$236.4 million.

A different type of art also made news recently, with a rare Fabergé egg coming to auction. "Peter Carl Fabergé and his company created more than 50 of the eggs for Russia's imperial family between 1885 and 1917, each elaborately unique and containing a hidden surprise," according to CBS News. Czar Alexander III gifted an egg to his wife every Easter. Nicholas II continued the tradition by presenting eggs to his wife and mother. A four-inch-tall "Winter egg" was carved from carved rock crystal, featuring platinum snowflake decorations and 4,500 rose-cut diamonds. When open, it reveals bejeweled quartz flowers

symbolizing spring. There are currently 43 known Fabergé eggs, and most are in museums. The "Winter egg" was originally sold when Russia was struggling in the 1920s and selling off artifacts. A London antique dealer purchased the egg for £400, which is a little under \$700 at current exchange rates. It exchanged hands several times and was once thought to be lost for decades until being sold in 1994 for 7 million Swiss francs (\$5.6 million at exchange rates then). It was resold for \$9.6 million in 2002. The current auction record for a Fabergé egg is \$18.5 million from a 2007 sale. This egg is expected to crack that record with a \$26 million estimate.

Our single-collector Civil War auction will be taking place this month. Following that, we'll have a major auction with fine jewelry, sterling silver, art, and other antiques and collectibles. Please visit



our website <https://central-massauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula

Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services [info@centralmassauctions.com](mailto:info@centralmassauctions.com) or (508-612-6111).

# Christmas tree alternatives that provide year-round beauty



Melinda Myers

Lemon cypress trees surrounded by poinsettias create a festive holiday display.

When looking for a unique holiday tree this season consider adding a plant you can enjoy now and throughout the year. Select a larger specimen to use as a floor plant, adding dramatic scale to your indoor décor. Smaller plants can be placed on tabletops throughout the house to add a bit of extra cheer in any room.

Transform a weeping fig, rubber tree or fiddleleaf fig into a holiday tree with a few lights, garland and ornaments. All three of these make great additions to an indoor garden and their tree-like appearance makes them a perfect substitute for more traditional Christmas trees.

Grow them in bright, indirect

light with evenly moist but not soggy wet soil. Water thoroughly and pour off any excess water that collects in the saucer. Or place pebbles in the saucer to elevate the pot above the water, creating a gravel tray. The excess water will evaporate, increasing humidity around the plant. Avoid drafts of hot and cold air and be prepared for some leaf drop

on the weeping fig with a change in the seasons or growing conditions. It will survive and eventually send out new leaves.

Consider a Norfolk Island pine when looking for something that looks more like a pine tree. You will often find them decorated and sold for the holidays in garden centers and floral shops. Or add your own decorations for the festive look you prefer.

Grow Norfolk Island pine in a cool, well-lit location that's free of drafts of hot and cold air. Regularly turn the plant to encourage even growth. Avoid dry air and keep the soil evenly moist to retain green, flexible and healthy needles and branches. Boost the humidity around this and other plants while reducing maintenance by using a gravel tray.

Purchase Rosemary wreaths and tree topiaries for a festive as well as fragrant and edible addition to the holidays. Just give the leaves a pet to enjoy the fragrance as it boosts your spirits. Pluck a sprig



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

or two to add flavor to your winter meals and beverages.

Growing Rosemary indoors can be challenging so don't let past failures stop you from trying. Experiment until you find the location and maintenance routine that keeps your plant thriving. Grow it in a sunny window or under artificial lights and water thoroughly as the soil begins to dry. If the plant turns brown, move it out of sight to the back of your indoor garden. It still smells good when you give it a pet and only you will know.

Lemon Cypress makes a great miniature holiday tree, centerpiece or gift for a friend. The fragrant chartreuse foliage of this dwarf evergreen continues to brighten your

winter décor long after the holidays are over. Grow it in a sunny window and turn it occasionally to encourage even growth. You'll have the best results if you keep it in a cool location free from cold and hot air drafts.

Investing in one of these plants is sure to brighten your spirits and holiday décor. With proper care you can continue to enjoy them year-round and for next year's holiday celebrations.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" streaming courses and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

## TRINITY CATHOLIC ACADEMY ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

SOUTHBRIDGE — Trinity Catholic Academy has released its honor roll for the first trimester of the 2025-2026 school year.

Grade 4  
Honors: Emelia Franco, John Nadeua, Elizabeth Nellenback, Owen Quigley, Vincent VLK  
High Honors: Lucius Bath, Victoria LaBonte, Joseph Nellenback

Grade 5  
Honors: Vera Abud Fuentes, Jaime Cruz, Mason Gonzalez, Connor Kreidemaker, Matthew Olson, Jeziah Suarez  
High Honors: Charlotte Heckendorf, Jameson Howard-Donlin, Emma LaBarge, Elinor Matzelle

Grade 6  
Honors: Emiliana Boswell, Tesslynn Cahill, Cameron Clifford, Karieliz Colon-Martinez, Juliana Dintino, Theodore Frazier, Elizabeth Gordon, Carson Lazo, Sachi Swadia, Jaydin Wales, Benjamin Zuziak  
High Honors: Alerix Gonzalez, Kaleigh Haglund, Jake Simanski

Grade 7  
High Honors: Aurora Brother, Evelyn Howard-Donlin, Olivia Latour, Michael Poulin, Mia Yanez Velasquez  
High Honors: Angel Delgado, Ainsley Heckendorf, Jayden Zarzycki-Kotarba

Grade 8  
Honors: Nicolas Gauvin, Carilyne Norris, Caius Ovalles, Zyon Stockley, Alexio Yacavace  
High Honors: Abigail Frazier, Celia Ladd, Heer Swadia

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# Park Avenue Faculty Spotlight



**WEBSTER** — Each year, Park Avenue is filled with remarkable student learning — made possible by the dedication, creativity, support, and most importantly, the hope carried by the extraordinary staff here in our town. This week, we are proud to highlight three more exceptional members of our PAE team: Sue Ricard (Academic Interventionist and Kindergarten Teacher), Gina Kajano (3rd Grade Teacher), and Lois Taylor (After School Coordinator).

Sue Ricard, Academic Interventionist and Kindergarten Teacher, is known for her incredible flexibility, leadership, and genuine

warmth. Ricard is the kind of person who makes everyone around her feel supported — a true friend to every member of the PAE staff. She consistently goes above and beyond to meet the needs of students and colleagues, adapting seamlessly to any situation. Her positive energy and steady presence make her a shining star in our building. Her students love every minute they spend with her and thrive in the supportive, encouraging environment she creates.

As one colleague shared, “Sue is a bright light in our school. She lifts others up with her kindness and is always willing to help, no matter what.”

Ricard’s commitment, com-

passion, and unwavering dedication make her an invaluable part of our school family.

Gina Kajano, 3rd Grade Teacher, brings expertise, creativity, and a wealth of instructional tools to her classroom each day. Her students absolutely adore her — they feel safe, supported, and excited to learn under her guidance. Kajano’s colleagues appreciate her just as deeply, knowing she is always willing to lend a hand, share ideas, or step in when someone needs help. Her ability to connect with students and staff makes her a treasured member of the third-grade team.

One colleague remarked, “Gina is always there when you need her. She’s the calm in the storm — supportive, reliable, and incredibly kind.”

Kajano’s dedication and nurturing spirit shine through in all she does.

Lois Taylor, After School Coordinator, brings joy, energy, and compassion to students across every grade level. Taylor creates a fun and welcoming environment in the after-school program, where students feel safe, engaged, and eager to participate. Her flexibility and playful nature help her build strong, meaningful relationships with both children and families. Parents appreciate her communication and warmth, and students are drawn to her upbeat, supportive personality.

As one colleague noted, “Lois has a special way of making every child feel included and excited to be here.”

Taylor’s commitment to fostering a positive after-school experience makes her an essential part of our PAE community.

Courtesy

Lois Taylor (After School Coordinator), Sue Ricard (Academic Interventionist and Kindergarten Teacher) and Gina Kajano (3rd Grade Teacher) take a moment to smile at PAE.

## SENIORS NAMED TO BAY PATH HONOR ROLL

**CHARLTON** — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School congratulates the following students in Grade 12 on being named to the honor roll for the first quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

### High Honors

Helena Rowan Adkins, Addison Emily Aho, Adriana Nataly Alicea, Jacob John Archambault, Alexander Tyr Audunsson, Vincent Paul Bedard, Isabella Aria Bitar, Edward Stephen Blash, Dominic Dewayne Boyd, Aleah Claire Brink, Brianna Livia Brink, Samuel Elia Ceppetelli, Frederick James Cierpich, Emily Ann Corey, Jacob William Creeron, Valentina Ashley Culberson, Brody Lawrence Cunningham, Myiah Kiara DeLaRosa, Basil Doud, Jocelyn Elizabeth Evans, Yandel Feliciano, Jordan Mariah Ferreira, Jayla Marie Fowler, Luke Robert Heller, Liam Wayne Hesselton, Nicholas Edward Jalbert, Tabian Marschall Keegan, Zackery Collin Kelleher, Phoebe Alyson Lawendowski, Nicholas Sebastian Londono, Cullen Gregory MacLeod, Ava Rose Mastrotoataro, Alexis McGee Messina, Liam Macrae Nicoll, Sebastian Alexander Nieuwenhoff, Benjamin Francis Nocchi, Mariah Lynn Pereira, Jacob Paul Pratt, Kayleigh Jean Ramm, Nathan Alexander Rouille Montoya, Luke William Smolski, Ashley Mikayla Tingle, Anne Louise Turcotte, Esmerelda Velez, Ava Quiyn Wall, Hunter Earl White

### Honors

Bayleigh Alexis Abdella, Sarah Rebecca Appiah Kubi, Violet Renee Aucella, Victoria Rose Bachand, Rhianna Anne Balliet, Arianna Rose Belanger, Nathan Paul Bernard, David Betancur, Roger Joseph Bishop, Dominic Raymond Brodeur, Lucien Stephen Brodeur, Alissa Lynn Burlingame, Dimitri Anthony Burt, Liam Michael Carlson, Lily Sabina Chartier, Charles Michael Congdon, Lorelie May Curboy, Connor Anthony Czechowski, Joseph Michael Daige, Smauel Richard Davis, Treyton Joseph Dery, Cody Daniel Dombroski, Christopher Michael Dufresne, Zenovi Irene Dupont, Heidi Lynne Ebbeling, Matthew Aaron Falcigno, Leia Marie Foster, Rylee Rose Fulmine, Bridgette Anne Gaudreau, Aiden Mark Giroux-Provencher, Aliyah Marie Gonyea, Jocelynn Rose Gordon, Molly Elizabeth Grant, Anna Rosa Guay, Isaiah Terrence Harris-Harrington, Sadie Lynn Hawley, Kolton Trevor Hemenway, Lillian Elaine Horner, Hannah Jean Ingalls, Natalie Rose Ingles, Joshua William Irons, Amara Kimberly Johnson, Christian Michael Johnson, Ayden Matthew Kennedy, Samuel Arjun Kittredge, Allison Hemenway Klar, Cassie Lee Kotomski, Kirstine Marie Laflash, Marshall Thomas Lafond, Nia Mya Laforest, Callie Mae Lambert, Joel Carlos Landor, Jomar De Jesus Landor, Zachary Raymond Landry, Gabrielle Ruth LaPan, Michael Wayne Lapointe, Nathan Ryan Legendre, Miranda Kate Linde, Matthew James Lopez, Julianna Rose Lovejoy, Michael Anthony Lulu, Philipos Anastasio Makrodimtras, Mystic Leigh Marion, Bradley Anthony McCarthy, Emily Jean McDonald, Madeline Beverly McDonald-Trimby, Avery Lynn McLaughlin, Felix Casey Menard, Sebastian Luke Moniz, Angelo Michael Montiverdi, Alexis Paige Moody, Jackson Ryan Mullins, Chaser Patrick Newman, Connor James O’Brien, Matthew Thomas Obrycki, Kelsey Lynn Olson, Cole Henry Paradis, Adam Jason Phaneuf, Samuel Joseph Prefontaine, Jae Mia Prochnow, Samantha Jeanne Reseigh, Grace Elizabeth Retallic, Taylor Lynn Richard, Vincent Timothy Rose, Jordan Joyce Russell, Brianne Marie Sentence, Jaxon Russell Sitko, Alexis Lynne Spenard, Keagan Robert Stranding, Nathan Adam Steen, Gaige Charles Thompson, Josiah Felix Torres, Yandel Omar Torres, Ezekiel Velazquez, Harley Ann Wilson Wadden, Londyn Nancy Walker, Marcanthony Justin Weld, Katherine Marie Widebeck, Trey Stephen Wilkin, Noah Williamson, Harrison Riley Wilson, Adrianna Marie Young, Haylee Marie Zurowski

### Principal’s List

Gianna Marie Albano, Emma Theresa Baldyga, Logan Amanda Barriere, Megan Lucy Bell, William Stephen Blash, Mecheanise Monic Calo Resto, Emily Rose Casault, Hunter Matthew Coombs, Abigail Taylor DeJong, Savannah Jane Dubois, Caden Joseph Edwards, Mya Reese Federico, Ethan Alexander Ford, Tristan Alexander Garcia-Cruz, Anthony Mark Gonya, Kylie Dorothy Greska, Isaias D’Jesus Henriquez Baez, Elyse Louise Laramie, Alyssa Ivellisse Lopez, Lucas Scott Lyons, Emmanuel McDaddie, Izaiah Timothy Monette, Gianna Marie Morelli, Tyson Joseph Moriarty, Jeremiah Betsaleel Noel, Kamryn Leigh Nourse, Niti Nilesh Patel, Amari Audrey Pereira, Aiden Charles Perzanoski, Angelina Marie Petro, Marcus Joseph Rodriguez, Sawyer Luke Schultz, Jared Robert Senosk, Alexander Chares Skladzien, Damion Robert Taylor, Thadaeus Boadi Tweneboaa, Sebastian Paul Vargas, Aynara Shirel Vazquez, Kyle Evan Velez, Natalie Helen Vigeant, Zaylie Elaine Whiteman, Brook Michelle Worthington

### CRAWFORD

continued from page A6

It’s time for a Stuffed Sleepover! Drop off your stuffie (only 1, please!) on Saturday, December 13th, anytime between 10:00 am and 1:30 pm. in the Storytime Room. (Please be sure you bring a stuffie that you can be without until Monday!)

While you’re here, you can make a special blanket for your stuffie and let us know everything they’ll need before bed. We’ll see what kind of mischief the stuffies got into after we check our security cameras! What do you think your stuffie will do?

You can pick up your stuffie on Monday, December 15th, between 10:00 am and 8:00 pm, or Tuesday, December 16th, between 11:00 am and 5:00 pm. Please don’t keep them waiting - they’ll miss you!

Family Christmas  
Tuesday, December 23rd  
1:30-3:30

Join us for a family movie to kick off your Christmas vacation! We’ll have Christmas cookies to munch on while we watch. \*\*Please bring your own drink.\*\*

No registration needed. This is not a drop-off event.

Learn to Play: Pokemon Trading Card Game with One Up Games

Tuesday, December 30th  
1:00-4:00

One Up Games will be here to give registrants hands on instructions on how to play the Pokemon Trading Card Game, with a free Structure Deck for each player!

This program is for children ages 8 and up, and registration is required, as space is limited.

This is not a drop-off program.

Dungeons & Dragons Game Thursdays in December-NO SESSION December 25th

6:00-7:30  
Ages 14-19

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

Come play the world’s number one role playing game.

Snow House Luminaria for Teens

Thursday, December 18th  
4:00-5:30

Join us as Pop Up Art teaches you to create a cozy winter scene that glows with warmth and creativity! Using mixed-media, you’ll create a charming snowy landscape with a glowing paper house and needle-felted woolen trees.

This program is for teens ages 12-17 ONLY, and registration is required as space is limited.



Courtesy

## 100 THANKSGIVING BASKETS DELIVERED



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church gave away 100 Thanksgiving baskets with turkeys and gift cards to help families celebrate a wonderful Thanksgiving. They delivered these baskets to three local schools – Park Ave Elementary School, Webster Middle School, and Eastford Road Elementary School in Southbridge – while also offering them to families that requested help directly from the church. “We love when our church is able to get involved with the local community and share the blessings we receive with others. That’s what our faith is all about,” stated Fr. Luke Veronis. “One of our parishioners, Tina Colello, is a teacher at Barlett High School and she got students from the National Honor Society involved by getting them to put together 50 of the bags.”

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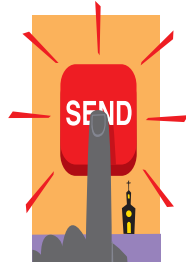
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# OBITUARIES

## Lauren Elizabeth “Laurie” McGarry, 54



**SOUTHBRIDGE** – Lauren Elizabeth “Laurie” (Gatzke) McGarry, 54, died Sunday morning, November 23, 2025 in UMass/Memorial Hospital University Campus, in the arms of her family. She leaves her beloved husband of 27 years, Matte G. McGarry, daughter Abigale E. McGarry, son Gus A. McGarry, and her dog Harper, who comforted her throughout the past 5 years (all of Southbridge). Lauren also leaves her father, Robert F. Gatzke, brothers Bobby and Timmy Gatzke, sisters Jenny and Julie Gatzke, and Julie’s partner Chris Filippone (all of Webster). Cousins, nephews, a niece, and countless friends were blindsided by this catastrophic loss of our gentle, vivacious soul. Lauren was born on May 12, 1971 in Webster, one of three daughters of the late Kathleen R. (Dugan) Gatzke, and her father Bob. She was raised in Saint Louis Church, attending St. Louis School through junior high,

where she was a cheerleader. As a child, she played Lassie League softball, and volunteered during American Red Cross Blood Drives. She brought endless joy as the family comedian, and fierce devotion as a sister. She could convince her sisters to do almost anything by framing it as a “Big Fun Sister Thing”. Sassy and sarcastic, Laurie was the spark who lit our lives. During her teenage years, Laurie continued to develop as the highly creative person she was, excelling at art and photography. Her first job was at Thompson Speedway and Golf Course, manning the hotdog stand and contributing as a banquet server. She blossomed from a shy child to a social butterfly in high school. As mischievous as she was enchanting, Laurie endeared herself with students and teachers alike, graduating Bartlett High School in 1989 with scores of friends. She pursued her love of art by studying graphic arts and photography, earning an associate’s degree from Becker Junior College. Always a caregiver, Laurie returned to school in order to pursue a career in Physical Therapy. She earned an associate’s degree with a 4.0 GPA from Lasell University in Newton. Her char-

acteristic bohemian eclectic style and vibrant personality earned her friends through every phase of her life, as she was a loyal companion. Lauren and her husband built their dream home on 51 acres of woods in Southbridge, where they were married then raised their 2 children, Abi and Gus. They created an imaginative woodland oasis for the children, encouraging exploration and a world of pretend. Family ‘Funcations’ were cherished. She was a wonderful host to friends and family, and her annual Pumpkin Party became a way for so many to celebrate the fall season. She excelled at embroidery, cake decorating, drawing, and sculpture. Even during her lengthy illness, Lauren supported the children’s activities, volunteering to support Abi’s Shepherd Hill Show Choir and voice lessons. Laurie introduced Gus to horse riding as a child and he continues to this day. She was always trying to create a childhood equal to her own, and often believed she’d failed. She did not. Everything Lauren did was for her children, creating memories despite her personal discomfort. Lauren worked as a physical therapy assistant at multiple regional agencies, including

Sundance, and most recently the Kennedy-Donovan Center in Southbridge. She loved working with patients of all ages, going out of her way to enhance the lives of those confined to care, and bringing peace to those with brain injuries. Laurie loved working with children, healing their tiny bodies with her magical hands. She reluctantly retired due to chronic disability in 2020. She exhibited unwavering, awe-inspiring courage, and endurance throughout her battle with cancer. During her last days, her choices were to suffer any interventions that might keep her with her children. Lauren’s life was dedicated to her family. Visitation with Lauren and family will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 PM Tuesday, December 9, in the funeral home. Her funeral will be held on Wednesday, December 10, from Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main Street, Webster, with a Mass at 10:00 AM in Saint Louis Church, 14 Lake Street, Webster. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Dudley. Donations in her memory may be made to UMass Chan Medical School Foundation. [www.websterfuneral.com](http://www.websterfuneral.com)

# LEGALS

**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. WO25P3921EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Jean Marie Mackowiak**  
Date of Death:10/17/2025

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Judy A Daigle of Dudley MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

**Judy A Daigle of Dudley MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/16/2025.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection 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: November 14, 2025  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
December 5, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate  
and Family Court  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
(508) 831-2200  
Docket No. WO25P4087EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Robert E. Cloman Jr.**  
Date of Death:10/17/2025

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Judy M. Cloman of Webster MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

**Judy M. Cloman of Webster MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/23/2025.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

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

Date: November 24, 2025  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
December 5, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate  
and Family Court  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
(508) 831-2200  
Docket No. WO25P4080EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Cheryl Anne Trudeau**  
Date of Death:10/21/2020

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Nicholas B. Trudeau of Webster MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

**Nicholas B. Trudeau of Webster MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/23/2025.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

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

Date: November 25, 2025  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
December 5, 2025

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

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jeffrey A. Patterson, Melissa A. Patterson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for First Horizon Home Loans, a division of First Tennessee Bank, N.A., dated November 12, 2007 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 42107, Page 356, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for First Horizon Home Loans, a division of First Tennessee Bank N.A., its successors and assigns to Nationstar Mortgage LLC, recorded on February 24, 2023, in Book No. 68857, at Page 395

Nationstar Mortgage LLC to US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST, recorded on December 18, 2024, in Book No. 71432, at Page 39

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 3:00 PM on December 26, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 8 1/2 Sutton Avenue a/k/a 8.5 Sutton Avenue, Oxford, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

JEFFREY A. PATTERSON AND MELISSA A. PATTERSON, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS TENANTS BY THE ENTIRETY

A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND WITH THE BUILDINGS SITUATED THEREON OFF THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SUTTON AVE., OXFORD, WORCESTER COUNTY, BEING SHOWN ON PLAT OF LAND OXFORD PREPARED FOR STANFORD SEED COMPANY, DATED JANUARY 30, 1991 AND RECORDED N PLAN BOOK 647, PLAN 121 BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT A POINT ALONG THE DIRT DRIVE AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAN, WHICH POINT IS THE NORTHEASTERLY CORNER OF THE 15,183 SQUARE FOOT PARCEL OF LAND SHOWN ON SAID PLAN; THENCE N. 83 DEGREES 27 MINUTES 41 SECONDS W. 71.35 FEET BY SAID PARCEL OF LAND IDENTIFIED ON SAID PLAN CONTAINING 15,183 SQUARE FEET; THENCE N. 6 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 05 SECONDS E. 62.30 FEET BY

LAND OF PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD TO THE MOST NORTHWESTERLY CORNER; THENCE S. 82 DEGREES 59 MINUTES 56 SECONDS E. 131.34 FEET BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OWNED BY BARRE;

THENCE S. 8 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 00 SECONDS W. 139.26 FEET BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OWNED BY MILLER;

THENCE N. 82 DEGREES 59 MINUTES 56 SECONDS W. 57.75 FEET BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OWNED BY C. PARISEAU AND SAID DIRT DRIVE;

THENCE N. 8 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 00 SECONDS E. 77.52 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

SAID PARCEL CONTAINING 12,533 SQUARE FEET, MORE OR LESS.

BEING THE SAME PREMISES CONVEYED TO THE GRANTORS BY DEED OF HERITAGE EQUITY RESOURCES, INC. DATED APRIL 7, 1993 AND RECORDED WITH THE WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS BOOK 15077, PAGE 389. SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS, RESERVATIONS, EASEMENTS, COVENANTS, OIL, GAS OR MINERAL RIGHTS OF RECORD, IF ANY. MAP: 34C; LOT: E28

For mortgagor’s(s’) title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 19484, Page 253.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

**TERMS OF SALE:**

A deposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

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

US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST

Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,  
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.

150 California St.  
Newton, MA 02458  
(617)558-0500  
23228

November 28, 2025  
December 5, 2025  
December 12, 2025

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



## Mary Ann Lacki, 66

OXFORD - Mary Ann Lacki, 66, of Main Street, died unexpectedly on Monday, November 24, 2025, at Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge.

She was predeceased by her parents, William and Anna (Sluckis) Lacki. She is survived by a cousin, Paul Sluckis, of Worcester; and a small group of close friends.

Mary Ann was a lifelong resident of Oxford. Mary Ann was a Spanish teacher at Oxford

High School for many years before retiring in 2020, but her family farm was her life, she was a farmer first and foremost. Mary Ann loved going to yard sales, crafting, making jewelry, and taking trips to York Beach, Maine in her free time.

A private graveside service will be held at St. Roch's Cemetery in Oxford.

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

## Anthony "Tony" Naines, 81



Anthony "Tony" Naines 81, of both Hayesville, North Carolina and Naples, Florida passed away Sunday, November 2, 2025 at his residence. He was a native of Woodstock, Connecticut and served in the United States Army for six years.

In 1980, he moved to Naples, Florida where he was president of Loos and Company, where they manufactured commercial airline components. He served as President throughout his career until retiring in 2018. Tony loved the outdoors and was an avid fisherman who traveled the world chasing elusive and exotic fish. His love of fly fishing brought him to the mountains of Western North Carolina. He was a true patriot and loved his country. Tony was a kind and caring man and always willing to help others. His sense of humor was one of his greatest attributes.

He was the son of the late Joseph and Lucille

Lavigne Naines. He was also preceded in death by his first wife, Donna Naines.

Surviving are his loving and devoted wife, Peggy Naines; one son, Brian Naines; one granddaughter, Kaia Williams and husband, Chris; one great-grandson, C.J. Williams; and one sister, Lucille Rucki and husband, Walter; one niece, Cheryl Lemieux and husband, Philip; one nephew, Robert Blackmer and wife, Karen; great niece, Katherine "Kat" Blackmer Fetzter; and great nephew, Michael Blackmer.

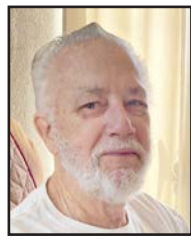
The family will gather privately to honor Tony's life.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials be made in memory of Anthony "Tony" Naines to Valley River Humane Society, P.O. Box 658, Murphy, North Carolina, 28906.

Ivie Funeral Home, Hayesville in charge of all arrangements.

# OBITUARIES

## Robert "Bob" Metcalf



OXFORD - Robert "Bob" Metcalf died on November 26, 2025, in his house in Oxford after complications from a lengthy illness. He was the first-born son of the late Leslie William Metcalf Sr. and Della Mae (Sutherland) Metcalf.

Bob spent the first 13 years of his life living on Tower Street in Worcester. Then in 1954, Les and Della decided to move the family to a house on Carron Lane in Oxford. Bob graduated from Worcester Boys Trade School in 1960, and was a skilled welder. He landed a position with Massachusetts Electric Company, where he spent his entire career until his retirement in 1998.

He has 3 living siblings; Kenneth Metcalf, Donald Metcalf, and Kathy (Metcalf) Schall. He was pre-deceased by another brother, Leslie "Billy" Metcalf Jr.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Helen (Strack) Metcalf, whom he married in 1962.

At that time, they purchased their life-long house at 52 Walnut Street in Oxford. He leaves a daughter Ann (Metcalf) Girard, son Paul Metcalf and his wife Robin, two grandchildren, Benjamin and Theodore Girard, and great-granddaughter Hannah.

Bob and Patricia would enjoy summer trips with Ben and Ted, bringing them to Ocean City, Maryland. During his later years he enjoyed spending warm seasons at his vacation house on Sabattus Pond in Maine. Time was spent caring for his precious dogs, Bear and Angel, carefully manicuring his lawn and gardens or enjoying local seafood. He also enjoyed the Red Sox and the Patriots and spent many afternoons trying to coach the teams through the TV from his couch.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, December 5, 2025, at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford. Burial will follow at St. Roch's Cemetery in Oxford. A calling hour will be held on Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home prior to the service.

Send all obituary notices to Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail to [obits@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:obits@stonebridgepress.news)

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**FIELD TRIP**

continued from page A1

submarines like the Lionfish. Adding a very special dimension to the day was the students' tour guide, Chloe Johnson, daughter of Saint Joseph School's middle school math instructor, David Johnson. Chloe is a senior at Massachusetts Maritime Academy, where she is majoring in Marine Engineering. Earlier this year, she completed an immersive internship with the Military Sealift Command,

sailing on the USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20) in Gaeta, Italy. During her internship, Chloe gained hands-on experience in the world of marine engineering by performing daily maintenance, troubleshooting mechanical systems, and contributing to the overall operation of the ship.

Johnson shared stories from her time aboard the Mount Whitney and explained how systems like those the students were seeing on the historic vessels continue to function—albeit in more modern forms—on today's ships. Her

firsthand perspective helped students connect what they were observing at Battleship Cove with real career paths in engineering, maritime service, and the military. Hearing from a young adult who is now working toward a future at sea made the experience especially inspiring.

Throughout the visit, students were encouraged to reflect on the bravery and dedication of the men and women who served aboard these ships, as well as the responsibilities we share as citizens to remember their sacrifices. By walking the decks, climbing the ladders, and peering into the living and working spaces of sailors from another era, students gained a deeper appreciation for the history they study in class and the freedoms they enjoy today.

The Grade 5-8 field trip to Battleship Cove exemplified Saint Joseph School's commitment to meaningful, experience-based learning. It blended history, STEM, and career exploration while fostering respect for veterans and gratitude for those who serve. As students returned to Webster, they carried with them not only facts and photographs, but also a renewed sense of appreciation for our nation's military history and the people whose stories are preserved within the steel hulls at Battleship Cove.

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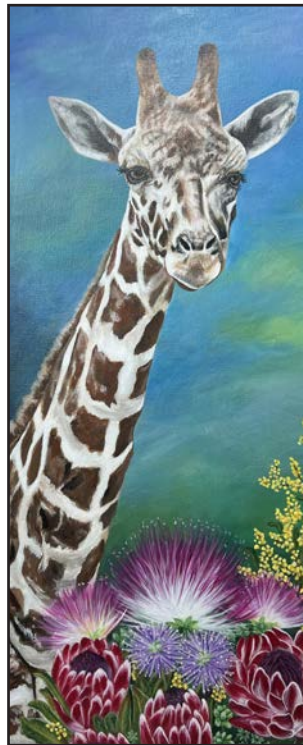
**EXHIBIT**

continued from page A1

while my photography focuses mainly on flowers and nature. My paintings blend realism with emotion, often incorporating natural elements.

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**Christopher Age 16 Registration #8213**

Christopher ("Chris") is an energetic, sweet, and lovable young person with a big personality and a heart to match. He's known for his quick wit, sense of humor, and perfectly timed one-liners that always make the people around him laugh. Chris has a playful, sassy side and brings lighthearted energy wherever he goes. Chris loves being active and outdoors—whether it's swimming, shooting hoops, or tossing a football, he's always ready for a game. He enjoys trying new activities and thrives when he's part of a team. When it's time to relax, Chris can often be found playing video games or diving into a good book. He especially enjoys sports-themed stories and graphic novels, which combine his love for adventure and creativity. Those who know Chris describe him as kind, thoughtful, and full of life. He's a caring friend who enjoys connecting with others, sharing laughs, and showing his genuine personality. With his curiosity, humor, and warm spirit, Chris brightens any room he walks into and brings a smile to everyone he meets

https://www.mareinc.org/child/21179006879

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.

**WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER**

5 Church St. (508) 949-3845  
 Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov  
 Senior Center hours are Monday- Friday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., with one Thursday a month 9 a.m.- 7 p.m.

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

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least three business days in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation for 65 and up, and \$5 for 55- 64 is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, 12/9: Turkey Supreme, herbed stuffing, mixed vegetables. Wednesday, 12/10: Hot dogs, baked beans, coleslaw. Thursday, 12/11: Baked potatoes with chili and cheese, roasted broccoli. Friday, 12/13: Soup du jour, turkey salad sandwiches, bean salad.

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

Movie matinees are every Wednesday at 1:00 pm. December's movie lineup includes 'Red One' on 12/10, and 'A Christmas Carol' on 12/17.

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

am- 3:00 pm. Please call (508) 341-8724 to schedule an appointment.

Chair Dancing Exercise classes with Forty Arroyo are the perfect workout for any fitness ability! The cost is a recommended \$3.00 donation per class. A new video class will be offered Thursday and Friday mornings, free of charge.

Knitting/Crochet group meets on Mondays from 10:00 am- 12:00 pm.

Bingo is every Tuesday and starts promptly at 1:00 pm. Please plan to arrive by 12:30 pm to allow time to buy your bingo sheets. Bingo sheets are not sold after 12:45 pm.

Do you like to play Cribbage? Our weekly Cribbage group meets every Thursday at 1:00 pm. Feel free to join us!

Calling card players or interested persons to the Webster Senior Center! Come join us for six-card or thirteen-card pitch! Six-card pitch meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. Thirteen-card pitch meets on Thursdays at 1:00 pm.

Mahjong group meets every Friday at 1:00 pm. Beginners welcome!

We now have an official Bridge group! We will be meeting every Friday from 10 am to 12 pm in the upstairs activity room. All that are interested are welcome to join!

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office House Numbering Program will create a custom wooden sign with your house number free of charge. One sign per senior household. Please contact the Webster Senior Center at (508) 949-3845. If you are interested in having a house number sign made for you.

Senior SAFE is a program that supports fire and life safety education for seniors. The Webster Fire Dept. will do a home visit to ensure that you have the correct smoke and CO2 alarms, and that they are working properly. This is at no cost to you! All you have to do is give them a call at (508) 949-3875.

**OXFORD SENIOR CENTER**

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

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

Bring your favorite project and come join the group for conversation and laughs.  
 Wednesdays @ 1:00 pm – Chair Volleyball – Lots of laughs and only two rules (1) stay seated (2) have fun!  
 Thursdays @ 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Dominoes

The Oxford Senior Center will be closing at 12:00pm on December 24th & will be closed on December 25th

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

Weekly Activities:  
 Mondays and Fridays @ 10:00 am – Cribbage  
 Tuesdays @ 9:15am – Strength & Balance w/ Donna Freeland – Cost \$3.00 per class  
 Wednesdays @ 9:15am – Chair Yoga w/ Heidi Gambaccini – Cost \$3.00 per class  
 Tuesdays and Wednesday @ 10:15 am - Needleworkers (Knitting, Crocheting,

Monthly Activities:  
 Let's Talk Oxford History – 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 1pm - Sponsored by the Oxford Historical Commission  
 Men's Coffee Group – 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 10:30am – coffee and pastry are served.  
 Tri-Valley Inc. Options Counseling - 3rd Tuesday of each month from 12:30pm – 2:00pm. 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 @ 12:45pm– December movie- "The Family Man"  
 BEANO – 4th Friday of each month @ 12:45pm – arrive by 12:30pm to purchase your BEANO sheets.

**DECEMBER HAPPENINGS AT THE DUDLEY SENIOR CENTER**

Dec. 4: the Dudley Senior Center will be celebrating December birthdays with cake and ice cream after the Tri Valley lunch.  
 Dec. 10: Brown Bag Lunch at noon with your choice of ham or turkey breast. The cost is \$4 per person. Please RSVP and tell us your food selection by calling 508-949-8015 or sign up in the Dudley Senior Center.  
 Dec. 11: Blood Pressure Clinic starting at 11 a.m. Please stop by and have Cheryl check your blood pressure.  
 Dec. 18: Potluck lunch combined with Memory Café from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come and enjoy all your favorite Holiday Songs with Christmas Karaoke. We will be serving roast pork, mashed potatoes, carrots, peas and dessert. The cost is \$5 per person. Please RSVP for this

event by calling 508-949-8015 or sign up in the Dudley Senior Center.  
 Monthly activities at Dudley Senior Center:  
 Tuesdays at 1 p.m. – Pitch League  
 Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. – The Dudley Senior Center Knitters  
 Tri Valley lunches served Monday and Thursday  
 Ask about our Book Club!  
 The Senior Center will be closed Dec. 24 and 25.

**WEBSTER POLICE LOG**

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests from Nov. 9-22.  
 Albert Manuel Burgo, Jr., age 39, of Putnam, Conn. was arrested on Nov. 9 for Possession of a Class B Drug (subsequent offense) and in connection with a warrant.  
 Julie Ann Karłowicz, age 31, of Dudley was arrested on Nov. 9 in connection with a warrant.  
 A 49-year-old male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Nov. 12 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member, Resisting Arrest, and Strangulation or Suffocation.  
 Xian Bruno, age 32, of Dudley was arrested on Nov. 15 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and a Marked Lanes Violation.  
 Ronald Paul Tourville, age 59, of Keene was arrested on Nov. 15 for being a Fugitive From Justice on a Court Warrant.  
 Two juveniles, both aged 16, was arrested on Nov. 15 for Disturbing the Peace, Vandalization of Property, Disorderly Conduct, and Conspiracy. A third juvenile, age 17, was arrested during the same incident for Disturbing the Peace, Disorderly Conduct, Vandalization of Property, Resisting Arrest, Affray, Assault & Battery on a Police Officer, Assault & Battery on a Police Officer resulting in Serious Bodily Injury, Assault & Battery, Conspiracy, and Assault & Battery while Attempting to Disarm a Police Officer.  
 Christopher M. Orszulak, age 41, of Danielson, Conn. was arrested on Nov. 17 in connection with a warrant.

**FCC Oxford hosting Christmas Tea Dec. 6**

OXFORD — The First Congregational Church of Oxford invites the community to its annual Christmas Tea Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.  
 The luncheon begins at 10:30 a.m., featuring a menu that includes cream of broccoli soup, Autumn bisque, baked apple French toast with syrup (lactose free), French meat pie with gravy, chicken salad sandwiches with chips and pickles, and roasted vegetable Quinoa with feta cheese (gluten free), along with assorted teas and desserts served all day.  
 The church is located at 355 Main St., Oxford.

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*Featured Listing*

**DUDLEY - 13 OXFORD AVE**

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

*Webster Lake -*  
**302 Killdeer Island**  
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*Featured New Listing!!!*  
**WEBSTER - 19 FIRST STREET**



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Bring an open mind to this unique property & let your creative design ideas flow! This one level 1,040 sf, 3 BR home is reminiscent of an English Country Cottage! It evokes a cozy, rustic, lived-in vibe. The overall aesthetic is one of practical comfort, collected charm and a relaxed, slightly whimsical atmosphere. Key characteristics include spacious rooms, hardwood floors, a primary BR with sliders to a very private deck, retractable awnings, replacement windows, etc. Move right in! \$304,900



**WEBSTER - 24 COOPER RD**

NEW CONSTRUCTION Craftsman Style Home! Tucked away on Cooper Rd, Webster Lake w/Access at Lakeside Beach/Boat Ramp. 3rd of 4 Homes being built at this Site. Offers 2,155 SF +/- of Living Area, 7 Rms, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 9' Ceilings, Wood Flooring Throughout w/Ceramic Tile Floors in the Baths. Spacious Main BR Suite w/ Walk-in Closet & Private Full Bath, Double-Sink Vanity! Lower level walkout w/ Slider. Basement-rough plumbed Central AC! Garage \$649,900.

**WATERFORD CT - 20 AVERY LN.**



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Panoramic View, from this absolutely lovely home. 2600 +/- SF, 3+ Beds, 2 full baths, 2 car detached garage! 63' +/- waterfront. .37 Acres! Sandy Waterfront! \$1,100,000



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# Girls on the Run Worcester County celebrates coach for 10 seasons of impactful service



Jennifer Bolt

WORCESTER — Girls on the Run Worcester County, a nonprofit that empowers young girls, is proud to recognize volunteer coach Jennifer Bolt for achieving the incredible milestone of 10 seasons of service with the organization. Jennifer Bolt has made a long-term impact on the lives of more than 232 girls through her consistent dedication, compassion, and belief in the power of positive mentorship.

Girls on the Run inspires girls in grades 3 to 8 to be joyful, healthy, and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum that creatively integrates running. In addition to preparing participants for a celebratory 5K at the end of each season, the program equips them with life skills that last. Local volunteer coaches, like Jennifer, are at the heart of this work, leading teams through lessons that combine fun physical activity with vital

social-emotional development.

Bolt first became involved with Girls on the Run in 2018.

In her words, "I love GOTR so much, and I'm so happy to be part of such an important program that helps girls shine!"

She is consistently bringing energy, compassion, and a commitment to every participant's growth. Combined with the organization's evidence-based curriculum, Girls on the Run coaches help meet today's girls' mental and physical needs. With an increase in girls reporting greater levels of sadness and depression, encouraging role models who consistently show up like Jennifer are critical in preparing girls for adolescence and beyond.

Program Director Katie Esposito praised Bolt for her enduring contributions, saying, "Her dedication has become a shining example of what it looks like to live out the GOTR mission every single day. Jen embodies the heart of this program. Through her dedication, she has created a space where girls feel supported, empowered, and inspired to reach their full potential. She is an Adjustment Counselor who understands the importance of girl only programming. By showing up consistently, Jen not only encourages girls to believe in themselves, but also helps shape a culture of empowerment and commu-

nity at the school. Leaders like her embody the very essence of programs that aim to inspire and support young women."

As the organization expands, remarkable role models like Jennifer are essential to ensuring the program reaches girls when they need it most. Girls on the Run Worcester County is always looking for caring and enthusiastic individuals to join its roster of coaches and help the next generation pursue their dreams. In a recent post-season experience survey of coaches, 97 percent felt Girls on the Run had been a valuable experience for them, 98 percent formed positive relationships with the participants on their team, and 95 percent felt that they were making a difference in participants' lives. In a separate research study, coaches reported that coaching a Girls on the Run team helped them build community connections, enhance their own social-emotional skills, strengthen their professional skills, and gain more confidence.

Visit [www.gotr-worc.org](http://www.gotr-worc.org) for more information about Girls on the Run Worcester County and how to get involved.

About Girls on the Run Worcester County

Girls on the Run (GOTR) Worcester County offers after-school empowerment programs designed for girls in grades 3 through 8. The nonprofit helps girls in Worcester County build confidence,

increase their level of physical activity, and learn essential life skills. Facilitated by trained volunteer coaches, the research-based curriculum explores core topics relevant to 8- to 13-year-olds, including managing emotions,

expressing empathy, and standing up for ourselves and others. The program includes a Community Impact Project and culminates with a 5K Celebration. GOTR Worcester County is one of more than 160 councils a part of Girls on the

Run International (GOTRI). Since GOTR was founded in 1996, this national movement has served more than 2.5 million girls in all 50 states and Canada. Visit [www.gotr-worc.org](http://www.gotr-worc.org) to learn more.

# All Saints students join in World Diabetes Day



WEBSTER — In honor of All Saints Academy students living with Type 1 diabetes, the entire school community joined together on World Diabetes Day to learn more about the condition and show their support. Through engaging videos, food comparisons, and hands-on lessons, students explored how the body uses energy from food to play, learn, and grow.

During the lessons, students discovered that people with Type 1 diabetes are unable to fuel their bodies properly because their pancreas does

not produce insulin. Insulin acts like a key, unlocking the door that allows energy from food to enter the body's cells. Without it, sugar remains in the bloodstream instead of reaching the places where it is needed, which can make a person with diabetes very sick. These activities gave students a clearer understanding of why individuals with diabetes check their blood sugar, take insulin, and use medical devices. Most importantly, they learned that kids with diabetes can do everything their peers can do. To cap off the day, students

created blue backpack rings to hang on their backpacks as a symbol of solidarity with everyone living with diabetes—especially their fellow ASA classmates. The circular shape represents life, health, and unity, while the blue mirrors both the sky that connects all people and the color of the United Nations flag.

The event aimed to raise awareness and foster a supportive, informed, and inclusive school environment—one where every student feels understood and empowered.

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# Master Masons do it again!



Courtesy

Major General Salem Towne Lodge booth with members working hard to accommodate these tasty treats to people waiting in line, who attended the busy event on the Southbridge town common.

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

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SOUTHBRIDGE — Saturday night, Nov. 29 was a beautiful, cold, clear night for the Christmas Tree lighting festivities on the Southbridge Town Common. The Major General Salem Towne Lodge (MGST) Community Outreach Program has taken part in this annual event for approximately five years.

The smell in the air of kettle corn cooking stopped people in their tracks and kept them waiting in line. To see the smiles on the children's faces as they tell their parents what they wanted, hot dogs, fried dough, deep fried Oreos, or kettle corn. There were all kinds of vendors selling Christmas items, like ornaments that light up that they could wear around their necks or heads. Christmas music played from the Gazebo in the town common. Vendors sell hot chocolate and cookies. Even had two white Lamas on display from the Orchid Patch/Andes Alive organization. Santa and Mrs. Claus were seated taking pictures in the Gazebo on the common. When the parade started, and Santa came by, the line to purchase these tasty treats that MGST Lodge was selling was still long while many adults and children watched the parade go by. The common was lit up with Christmas lights and decorations of all kinds. Many commented on the cold and were grateful to the Master Masons for returning to offer delicious treats.

The Master Masons will continue to carry out this tradition with the community at the Christmas Tree lighting event. For further information regarding Freemasonry or to locate a lodge in your area, please visit our Web site at [www.massfreemasonry.org](http://www.massfreemasonry.org).