

WEBSTER TIMES

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©2025, Issue #36

Friday, September 5, 2025



Courtesy

The winners of the award and volunteers pose for a picture holding the Long Subaru tote bag with supplies.

Long Subaru shows support for Park Ave teachers

WEBSTER — On Aug. 27, Long Subaru presented several teachers at Park Ave Elementary School with \$500 to spend on their classroom, but it didn't stop there, as every classroom also received a tote bag full of classroom supplies and, on top of all of that, provided lunch.

"I have to go thank them personally," exclaimed Rebecca Beaupre, a 4th grade teacher at PAE and one of the winners

of 500 dollars, as she sought out each of the representatives volunteering their own time from the company to help.

"There is nothing like an event that brings the entire community at PAE together to celebrate the beginning of the year, but what made this special was the volunteer staff. You could tell they were excited to present this award and to help Park Ave, which means a lot to all of us," said Matthew Aronian, the

Dean of Students at the school.

Long Subaru was even running a special for educators from now until the month of October with a little extra cash back when you purchase a new vehicle.

"From the bottom of our hearts we can't thank Long Subaru enough," said Amy Puliafico, the Principal of Park Ave Elementary. "It just means a lot to our community."

Community invited to join focus group to help fight scams

DUDLEY — Tri-Valley, Inc., an Aging Services Access Point (ASAP) serving the southern Worcester County area, is partnering with SilverShield, a leading scam prevention organization, to host a community focus group dedicated to helping older adults and caregivers recognize and fight scams using a new scam detection service.

The focus group will take place on Thursday, Sept. 25 at Tri-Valley, Inc., 10 Mill St., Dudley, with two available sessions: 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-2 p.m.

Participants will have the opportunity to test a new anti-scam tool developed by SilverShield, which is designed for use via text and email, no app required. In addition, participants will share their experiences and

offer feedback related to this new service.

To thank attendees for their participation, all focus group participants will receive:

A free lunch
A free one-year subscription to the SilverShield Scam Detector service
Entry into a gift card raffle, with the first four

Turn To **GROUP** page **A8**

Dudley Woman's Club celebrates 18th year at The Mill @ French River

WEBSTER — The Dudley Woman's Club is excited to announce the kickoff of its 18th club year at The Mill @ French River, located at 9 Frederick St., on Sept. 11 at 6:30 p.m. Join us for an evening of socializing with friends, followed by our meeting at 7 PM. Whether you're coming solo or bringing a friend, we invite you to discover all the wonderful activities we have planned for the year ahead!

The Dudley Woman's Club is more than just an organization; we are a vibrant community of dedicated women from diverse backgrounds and ages, united in our mission to support and address the growing needs of our local communities. Together, we make a difference! Our membership is open to all women from Dudley and surrounding towns, and we warmly welcome your participation.

Don't let our name hold you back! Our club and all events, including the Meet & Greet, are open to women from all towns. Our more than 70 members come from Webster, Dudley, Southbridge, Charlton, Uxbridge, Millbury, and several Northern Connecticut communities.

As volunteers, we strive to uplift our neighborhoods and contribute positively wherever we can. Our club year runs from September to May, and you can see just how much we accomplish during this time in our Charitable Giving report available at www.dudleywomensclub.org. We believe in making an impact while having fun!

Bring a friend or five and join us on Sept. 11 at The Mill @ French River for our kickoff event. It's a relaxed opportunity to connect—just walk in and be greeted with a smile!

This year, our voluntary giving project will support the Boys and Girls Club of Webster, highlighting our commitment to community enrichment.

For more information about our club, please visit www.dudleywomensclub.org. We look forward to welcoming you!

Tackle The Stigma program coming to Shepherd Hill

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The Shepherd Hill Regional High School cheerleading team is introducing a new fundraiser for 2025, the Tackle the Stigma 5K, helping raise awareness of organizations that focus on spreading awareness of mental health initiatives.

Shepherd Hill cheerleading coach Loretta Andre credited students Paige Warner and Lucilia Tryba for leading the effort which will help support Break the Silence and Jak-L Foundation, mental health advocate groups that have worked with the district in the past. The run will take place on Sept. 14, utilizing sports fields and other properties at Shepherd Hill Regional High School.

Speaking to the School Committee in August, senior Paige Warner said they felt the event would be a great day of unity for the community supporting an important cause. Andre added how proud she was that this was a student-organized initiative.

"I feel like this event is going to become very successful and we're looking to do this annually. That's our hope. I think this is very important and I love how these girls came up with this," Andre said.

Superintendent Steven Lamarche echoed those sentiments noting the event will help solidify the existing relationship with the benefiting organizations to continue the district's focus on the mental health and wellbeing of the students.

"It's really strengthened our relationship with Break the Silence and Jak-L. We're really partnering with them moving forward. It's really because it was started by the students – It's going to help us put some things in place that will really help our school and school community, not only for this year but for the future as well," the Superintendent said.

The event will also include a vendor fair featuring other mental health resources in the area. Registration is now open for the race which is scheduled for Sept. 14 at 10 a.m. Those looking to register can visit tacklethestigma.racewire.com for full instructions.

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Courtesy

Father Javier and youth from Saint Louis Church, Webster, enjoyed the end of summer on an Aug. 14 whitewater rafting trip. This trip was organized through the Diocese of Worcester and attended by middle and high school students from all the Diocesan Churches.

QCC’s Children’s School getting a start on leadership

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College’s Children’s School: Early Childhood Education Lab School has been promoting leadership through recent visits by guests, including Senator Robyn Kennedy and QCC Chief of Police Steve DiGiovanni.

In an effort to introduce young learners to positive leadership role models, both Kennedy and DiGiovanni held reading sessions and engaged in a discussion that educated the children on their roles in the community. The visit was part of the Children’s School’s ongoing commitment to providing enriching experiences that support early childhood development.

“Our focus with the children right now is on all the different roles it takes to make a community thrive,” said Director of the Children’s School/Early Childhood Education Lab Erin Roache. “These visits were a wonderful way to start. It was beautiful to see our diverse population of children given a connection to people in leadership whom they might not otherwise have the opportunity to connect with.”

Both visiting leaders emphasized the importance of early childhood education and community investment in young people’s development. The interactive format allowed

children to ask questions and see leadership in action.

“Chief DiGiovanni and Sen. Kennedy were patient and took time to listen and respond to the children. Senator Kennedy even fielded a few tough questions about the current political climate. What a beautiful moment to see the children we advocate for become their own advocates with leadership,” Roache commented.

Following DiGiovanni’s visit, the children participated in a Touch-a-Truck style event, where they could explore various community service vehicles up close. The hands-on experience allowed children to learn about different careers in public service while fostering curiosity about their community helpers.

The Children’s School serves as both a childcare facility for community families and a practical learning laboratory for early childhood education students at QCC. The dual purpose creates a unique environment where future educators gain real-world



Courtesy Sen. Robyn Kennedy (left) reads a book at QCC’s Children’s School: Early Childhood Education Lab School.

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66						67				68			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Fairly large

6. Barrels per day (abbr.)

9. Cover the entirety of

13. Leafy appetizer

14. Showy ornament

15. Norse personification of old age

16. Athletes

17. Closes tightly

18. Attack via hurling items

19. Where the reserves stand

21. Sword

22. Begat

23. Damage another’s reputation

24. Northeast

25. Turf

28. For each

29. Hours (Spanish)

31. Western state

33. One who offers help

36. Flanks

38. A woolen cap of Scottish origin

39. Free from drink or drugs

41. Tunnels

44. Mature

45. More dried-up

46. News organization

48. Steal something

49. Forms one’s public persona (abbr.)

51. Female fish eggs

52. Small petrel of southern seas

54. Edible starches

56. Historical

60. In a place to sleep

61. Horse grooms

62. Off-Broadway theater award

63. Chinese dynasty

64. Resembling a wing

65. Small projection on a bird’s wing

66. Of the Isle of Man

67. Derived unit of force (abbr.)

68. Plate for Eucharist

CLUES DOWN

1. Vipers

2. Ancient city in Syria

3. Slog

4. Emits coherent radiation

5. “Pollock” actor Harris

6. Bleated

7. Monetary units of Afghanistan

8. Tooth doctor

9. One who takes apart

10. Commoner

11. Beat poet Ginsberg

12. Cave deposit material

14. Home energy backup

17. Begets

20. Face part

21. Frocks

23. Hill or rocky peak

25. Giving the impression of dishonesty

26. About ear

27. Male parents

29. Popular grilled food

30. Vaccine developer

32. Not conforming

34. Polite address for women

35. 1970 U.S. environmental law

37. Astronomical period of 18 years

40. One who fights the government

42. Center for Excellence in Education

43. Watches discreetly

47. An electrically charged atom

49. Hymn

50. Arabic given name

52. Popular pie nut

53. City in Zambia

55. Species of cherry

56. John __, British writer

57. Be next to

58. Make angry

59. Give birth to a lamb or kid

PUZZLE SOLUTION

N	E	L	V	d		N	A	d		X	N	V	W		
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Experience the magic of Tiffany with guided tours of Tiffany windows at FCC Dudley

DUDLEY — Step into history and beauty at the Grange’s Apple Festival and Black Tavern Craft Fairs (Oct. 4)! Join us for exclusive guided tours of the stunning Tiffany Windows at the First Congregational Church of Dudley (135 Center Rd.).

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 hear the rich history of Dudley, marvel at the breathtaking artistry of the windows, and be part of an exciting effort to help preserve these irreplaceable treasures for the Church’s 300th anniversary in 2032!

Tours begin at 10 a.m., and depart every half hour throughout the day. 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!

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REAL ESTATE

AUBURN

\$545,000, 3 Winchester Ave, Beaudin, Lonn, to Laflash, Hannah, and Laflash, Bryan.
\$275,000, 701 Oxford St S, Spillane, Janine T, to Spillane, Patrick, and Nuzzolilo, Samantha.

DUDLEY

\$610,000, 69-A Mason Rd, Boudreau, Adam P. and Skeates, Marissa A, to Sullivan, William M, and Sullivan, Doreen N.
\$140,000, 22 Intervale Rd, Constitution Prop LLC, to Djousse, Sylvie.

OXFORD

\$440,000, 80 Ennis Rd, Gmerek, Tyler, and Gath, Ariana, to Snow, Holly, and Snow, Jack.
\$370,000, 14 Sutton Ave, Diaz-Alvarez, Maria, to Brandao, Maria I.
\$275,444, 15 Thayer Pond Dr #1, Miller, Tammy L, to Hurlbut, Connor.

WEBSTER

\$4,650,000, 15 Maynard Ave, Tiffany Murphy Prop LLC, to Webster 35 Re Hldg LLC, and 4vm LLC.
\$4,650,000, 19 Park St, Tiffany Murphy Prop LLC, to Webster 35 Re Hldg LLC, and 4vm LLC.
\$4,650,000, 24-26 E Main St, Tiffany Murphy Prop LLC, to Webster 35 Re Hldg LLC, and 4vm LLC.
\$4,650,000, 24-26 E Main St, Tiffany Murphy Prop LLC, to Webster 35 Re Hldg LLC, and 4vm LLC.
\$4,650,000, 51 Prospect St, Tiffany Murphy Prop LLC, to Webster 35 Re Hldg LLC, and 4vm LLC.
\$4,650,000, 72 Granite St, Tiffany Murphy Prop LLC, to Webster 35 Re Hldg LLC, and 4vm LLC.
\$4,650,000, 8 Lake St, Tiffany Murphy Prop LLC, to Webster 35 Re Hldg LLC, and 4vm LLC.
\$1,100,000, 49 Wawela Rd, Sullivan, William M, and Sullivan, Doreen N, to Candow T, and Candow, Scott R.
\$577,000, 18 Emerald Ave, Jrq Investments LLC, to Addai, Timothy.
\$540,000, 6 Brook St, Lopes, Daniel A, to Joubert, Jyovani.
\$445,000, 48 Aldrich St, Vu, Livia Q, and Tran, Dat L, to Agyei, Abena O, and Tsetse, Eric.
\$408,000, 18 Ash St, Henry P & E E Gawle RET, and Moseley, Karen A, to Rigel Jr, Nicholas.
\$160,000, 13 Goddard St, Millett Jr, Thomas R, and Bk Of Ny Mellon Tr, to Amtd LLC.

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24th Masonic District participates at Old Home Day

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

CHARLTON — On Sunday, Aug. 31, it was a beautiful day at the Charlton Old Home Day festivities on the common in Charlton.

The tradition of Old home Day began more than 128 years ago. This celebration is filled with fun entertainment, music, games, crafts and food vendors and of course the citizenship awards and parades. Two local lodges from the 24th Masonic District have been participating in this fun event for a decade now to set up to sell their goods. Quinebaug

Masonic Lodge of Southbridge and Oxford Masonic Lodge of Oxford had a very, very busy and exciting day trying to keep up with the demands of what the people wanted.

There were all kinds of food being sold, entertainment and activities for the children. The Charlton Old Home Day committee members announced activities that's going on and the live bands and music was awesome. I loved watching the Frog Jumping contest and watching the children trying to get their frogs to jump. There were various organizations, nonprofit organizations, all kinds of crafts,

and many vendors selling their goods. At the end there was a parade with a lot of beautiful old cars, firetrucks and much more. Quinebaug Masonic Lodge was selling fresh hand cut homemade French fries. The long lines of people waiting for those French fries said it was worth the wait. The lodge went through many, many pounds of potatoes.

Oxford Lodge was selling Lobster rolls, clam chowder, chili and snow cones. The delicious lobster rolls was a big hit and selling fast. The children were going wild, crazy over the flavored snow cones and the chili went fast. Both lodges at times



Courtesy

The lines got long in the afternoon for those fresh cut homemade French fries from the Quinebaug Lodge (on the right), and Oxford Lodge on the left with their lobster rolls going fast and children going wild over the snow cones.

had long lines and people were waiting for their great, delicious, tasty treats. If you would like more information about Freemasonry and to find a lodge near-

est you, visit our Web site at www.massfreemasonry.org.

Climate, health advocates concerned about new solar and battery rules

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — As area towns face changing their bylaws to address larger solar and battery storage projects in light of state law passed last November, citizens are trying to figure out what the new laws actually mean, and how to face the issue.

Last week, several from across the state came together in an online forum under the auspices of Responsible Solar Massachusetts, with the big takeaway being that local Boards of Health (BOH) have a lot more authority to regulate, and even stop, such projects than many people think.

According to Mass Association of Health Boards' Government Relations Director Mike Hugo, local health boards have a different status than other boards.

southeast, in part because those pines are fairly short-lived.

To Faith Berry, it's "disconcerting" that many solar arrays and battery sites of that area are in cranberry wetlands and often above Plymouth County's key water sources. (That's a key issue for Oakham residents, too; their Planning Board rejected a battery storage site in part because it'd endanger the Quabbin watershed, but the company appealed to the state.)

"I have some concerns about how the state is circumventing NEPA [National Environmental Protection Act] guidelines," Berry said.

She also noted the electric companies have been adding significant fees to customers' bills to cover such projects, but the fees don't seem to be related to what their energy use is.

Commission require consulting with any affected Native tribes if the project requires a state permit or has state funding, and local boards can do that, too.

Hugo said BOH authority comes from the MGL Chap 111 "nuisance" statutes, which requires the board to take action if it determines something is a public health threat. That has been used to shut down long-running businesses and to kill projects even after other boards have approved them.

Regarding battery projects specifically, he said they pose various potential public health risks, including noise from the industrial cooling fans. Others have cited the fact such facilities usually cannot be extinguished if they catch fire; fire departments can only limit their spread while they burn and produce toxic gases.

"A health regulation is looked at by the court as a state statute," he said.

Courts often say other kinds of boards "did it wrong," but will only review a BOH decision to determine "whether it's arbitrary and capricious or not." If the BOH held public hearing(s) on the issue and can show they did due diligence to look at possible health harms, the courts typically uphold such decisions, he explained.

Such information was good news to other participants. They're concerned the new laws defining what's eligible for state alternative energy incentives – dubbed "Smart 3.0" – aren't actually very protective for land and communities.

Responsible Solar's Janet Sinclair said the law says developers "can't put solar in core habitat" or on "permanently protected land," but those are already prohibited. She's concerned it does too little to save the most important remaining forests, the ones that sequester the most carbon.

Sinclair said NEPA limits might not apply because most of the funding isn't federal money; most of it comes from those ratepayers via the "smart program" fees. The 2024 law requires the state to create regulations for such projects, with solar arrays of more than 25 MW and battery storage over 100 MW both going directly to the state's Energy Siting Board for hearings. Smaller ones go to local boards, but can be appealed to the state.

She described the problem as not illegal, just "really bad."

To Berry, "What we really need to focus on is how do we grasp some level of control locally?"

She sees that as happening "through having more local siting hearings."

Other issues the forum raised were impact on Native American lands, with Harrison observing Natives "have stewarded this land for thousands of years." But today, most important Native cultural and sacred sites are in private hands and some are "prime sites for solar," so she urged raising Native land concerns through the public hearing process. She noted the Mass Environmental Policy Act and Mass Historical

To Hugo, "We can save this industry tons of money by putting the Boards of Health in the process early. ... They should be going to the Board of Health first."

He said he's organizing a zoom forum for health boards on this issue, noting, "If you're talking clearcutting forests, you're talking public health. ... If it's framed the right way, it works."

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

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At 11 years old, this handsome senior is the perfect mix of calm and silly. His foster describes him as easygoing, adaptable, and happiest just being with you. He's gentle, affectionate, and loves people and new friends - whether that means joining you on a walk, curling up for a couch snuggle, or keeping you company while you work. Kipper is housetrained, crate trained, and knows all the basics (sit, down, paw, place, off, rollover)—and he's still learning! Whoever said old dogs can't learn new tricks has clearly never met this boy. He travels well in the car and is always up for a daily woods walk, a neighborhood stroll, or a burst of zoomies in the yard. Stuffed toys are his favorite, and he'll happily toss them around before settling in at your side. At night, Kipper is easygoing - he sleeps soundly through the night in his bed. Kipper is looking for a cat-free home, but he has enjoyed the company of other dogs and may do well with a well-matched sibling—or happily as a solo pet. He's enjoyed walking with doggy pals in the past. Could Kipper be the senior sidekick you've been searching for?

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Volunteers: ESL Classes – Tuesdays at 6:00pm
The Literacy Cafe is a free weekly English conversation class offered by Literacy Volunteers of South Central Massachusetts (LVSCM). This class is free to attend and is open to all adults. No pre-registration is required. For more information, email us at info@lvscm.org.

Yoga Nidra– Wednesday Mornings at 8:15am
Join Adult Services Librarian Jess for a relaxing yoga nidra practice to start your day on Wednesdays. Jess will guide participants through a few simple yoga asanas to release physical tension. Participants will then settle into a reclined position for a guided relaxation (yoga nidra). If you have your own yoga mat, please bring it and be sure to dress in comfortable clothing. This program takes place before the library officially opens. Registration is required and Jess will meet you at the program door.

Library for All – First Two Mondays; Last Two Fridays 10AM (Chair Yoga or Craft)
This program includes one chair yoga class and one craft project that will be held on first two Mondays and the last two Fridays of the month. Either join Jess for a one-hour relaxing Chair Yoga class or join us for our craft program. Check the online calendar to see which event is scheduled. No experience necessary. This program is for teens and adults of all abilities and their caregivers. Please call ahead if special accommodations or requirements are needed.

Yoga – Saturdays at 9:30am
Join Julie or Lauren at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. A typical class involves centering the mind with the breath, aromatherapy, movement of the body to release energetic blockages, and, finally, rest and relaxation. Classes are free. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

Computer Basics for Beginners – Tuesday, September 9th at 3:00pm
Come learn some computer basics with Assistant Director Evan Hale and Adult Services Librarian Jess Fontaine.

Literacy Volunteers: Citizenship Test Preparation Class – Series Begins Thursday, Sept. 11th at 6:00pm
Literacy Volunteers of South Central Massachusetts (LVSCM) is pleased to offer a free, 10-week US Citizenship Test Preparation Class. Please note that the class is taught in English, so students should be comfortable speaking and listening to English in class. Space is limited and registration is required. To register, please email Emily at info@lvscm.org.

Fall Concert Series: Oakes and Smith – Thursday, September 11th at 6:30pm
With close harmonies, soulful songs, Robert's engaging storytelling, and Katherine's soaring voice, husband-and-wife folk duo Oakes and Smith creates an ethereal sound not often heard in today's popular music. Since their start in 2010, the duo has performed in many venues, including The Guthrie Center in Great Barrington, MA; the NJ Folk Project in Morristown, NJ; Infinity Music Hall in Norfolk, CT; FloydFest in Floyd, VA; Andrea Clearfield's Salon in Philadelphia; The Kripalu Center for Yoga & Health in Stockbridge, MA; and Canyon Ranch in Lenox, MA. They have also released several EPs, singles, and a full-length album. At the heart of this project are the bond of love between Robert and Kate and their shared passion to make meaningful music. Oakes and Smith hope to inspire their listeners and remind them that sincerity and soul are still alive in our world.

Programming for All Ages

Introduction to Capoeira – Saturday, September 6th at 12pm

Introduction to Capoeira – A brief overview of its history, high-

lighting its African roots and evolution in Brazil. Musical Engagement – Hands-on experience with traditional capoeira instruments, such as the berimbau and atabaque, and learning and singing traditional songs in Portuguese. Demonstration – A live performance by our instructors, showcasing the fluid and acrobatic movements that define capoeira. Interactive Practice – Participants will practice foundational capoeira movements, emphasizing rhythm, balance, and coordination. Closing Roda – A traditional capoeira circle where participants apply what they've learned to play capoeira together in the workshop finale.

Puzz Fest – Thursday, September 11th at 6:00pm
Assemble your team (up to 5 people!) and join us to see which team can complete their puzzle first. We'll have snacks to keep you fueled as you tackle your 500 piece jigsaw. All teams will get to keep their puzzle. Registration is required.

Children's and Young Adult Programming
Creators Club – Mondays from 4:00-5:30 PM
We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test! Come explore our newly rebranded Monday night program: Creators Club! Each month features a new theme highlighting a different art supply for kids to experiment with and turn into their own masterpieces. September's theme is Yarn - kids can weave, wrap, or invent their own creations! Artwork left behind will be displayed in the children's program room for the rest of the month.

Toddler Playtime-- Tuesdays at 10:00 AM
Kids 0 to 6 are invited to get their wiggles out with weekly obstacle course and fun.

Mini Block Party – Tuesdays at 6:00pm
Play with magnets, wooden blocks, and Legos.

Storytime for Littles – Wednesdays at 10:00am
Join us for a few of our favorite stories, felt story fun, and some free play. This storytime is geared toward ages 0 to 3, but siblings are welcome.

Play-doh Storytime – Fridays at 10AM
Join Youth Services Librarian Andrew for stories, play-doh, and fun! This storytime is geared toward ages 2 to 5, but siblings are welcome.

Beginner Origami-Fridays at 3:45PM
Are you interested in making origami, but you don't know where to start? You can start here. And if you do know how to make some origami, feel free to come make some as well. For kids of all ages.

Snack Club: English Muffin Pizzas – Monday, September 8th at 5:30pm
This is our newest program just for tweens. Each month, kids ages 8-12 will get to make their own tasty treats or try out fun new flavors with friends. This month's snack: English Muffin Pizzas! Due to limited supplies, this program requires registration. Please only sign up your child if they fall within the required age range.

Kim the LEGO Lady – Tuesday, September 16th
Do you love building, creating, and having fun with LEGO? Look no further! Kim the Lego Lady is here and we want YOU to be part of our LEGO CLUB adventure. Join us for interactive building challenges, new skills and create fabulous imaginative builds. For Ages 5-11.

Bay Path announces opening of new Diesel Technology program

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is proud to announce the launch of its newest Chapter 74-approved program, Diesel Technology, beginning with the start of the 2025-2026 school year. Incoming freshmen will be the first to enroll in the program, making Diesel Technology the school's 23rd Career Technical Education (CTE) shop.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recently approved Bay Path's application to establish Diesel Technology as an official Chapter 74 program. The new offering was made possible in part through grant funding from the Skills Capital Modernization Grant, supported by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education.

Students in Diesel Technology will embark on a four-year program that provides a solid foundation in preventative maintenance, safety practices, diagnostics, and essential technical skills. Areas of study will include diesel engine systems, electrical and electronic fundamentals, hydraulics, braking systems, and other relevant topics. The program is designed to prepare students for both immediate entry into the workforce and advanced training opportunities in the diesel technology industry.

"We are incredibly proud and excited to announce the launch of our new Diesel Technology program at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School. This is more than just a new program—it's a direct investment in the future of our students and our local economy. The demand for skilled diesel technicians is high and growing, offering our graduates access to high-paying, essential careers right here in our community. This program will provide our students with the hands-on skills and technical competencies needed to succeed in a rapidly evolving industry. By partnering with leading local businesses and using state-of-the-art equipment, we're ensuring our students receive an education that is both rigorous and relevant. We're preparing them for a meaningful career that will contribute to the strength and vitality of our region for years to come," said Kyle Brenner, Superintendent-Director of Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School.

The Diesel Technology program underscores Bay Path's mission to provide high-quality technical education that equips students with real-world skills and opens doors to meaningful careers.

Bay Path extends its gratitude to MassHire, our many sponsors, community partners, and advisory board members whose guidance and support made the launch of Diesel Technology possible, including: Advantage Truck Group, C.M.T.S. Truck Service, E.L. Harvey & Sons Inc., Massasoit Community College, Milton CAT, National Grid, and Volts, LLC.

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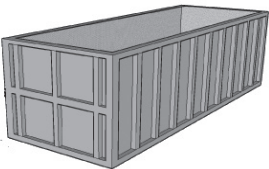
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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Back to school, back to community

As the first yellow buses rumble down our roads and the leaves begin their slow turn toward autumn, families across the region are preparing for another school year. For some, it's the excitement of a child stepping into a kindergarten classroom for the first time. For others, it's the nervous pride of watching a senior set out on their last first day. Whatever the stage, the back-to-school season is more than a turning of the calendar—it's a reminder of how deeply education is woven into the fabric of community life.

Our schools are more than buildings where lessons are taught. They are living centers of connection, growth, and shared identity. Friday night football games bring neighbors together across generations. Elementary school art shows brighten the walls of libraries and town halls. School concerts, plays, and robotics competitions showcase not only student talent but also the quiet dedication of teachers, parents, and volunteers who make them possible.

In a time when rural towns across Massachusetts face tough questions about growth, development, and how to preserve their character, investing in our schools remains one of the surest ways to safeguard our future. A strong school system makes our towns more attractive to families, sustains property values, and—most importantly—gives our young people the skills and confidence to succeed, whether they stay here close to home or venture farther afield.

But education is not only the responsibility of educators and administrators. It is the work of an entire community. Parents can play a part by attending open houses, volunteering in classrooms, or joining booster clubs. Local businesses can help by offering internships, sponsoring youth programs, or donating expertise. Retirees, too, can lend their time and wisdom—whether tutoring, reading to young children, or serving on school committees.

And it isn't just about giving. It's about showing up. When we fill the bleachers at a game, clap at a school play, or stop to congratulate a student we know in the grocery store, we send a powerful message: You matter. What you do matters. We are proud of you. That encouragement shapes character just as surely as any textbook.

This year, as the school doors open once again, let's make a renewed commitment to support our students and those who guide them. Let's remember that every investment of time, energy, and attention we give to our schools is an investment in the long-term vitality of our local communities.

Back-to-school is not just about the children returning to class. It's about all of us returning—returning to a sense of shared purpose, shared responsibility, and shared pride in the place we call home.

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



Courtesy
Congratulations are in order for Emmeline Curtis and Nolan B. for reaching their goal of completing the “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” program at the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library this August. Way to go, Emmeline and Nolan! The 1,000 Books Foundation's mission is to promote reading to newborns, infants, and toddlers, and to encourage parent and child bonding through reading. The 1,000 BBK challenge at the Crawford Library is funded by the Friends of the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library.

Welcome to our Greek Festival!

Welcome! You are invited to our Saints Constantine and Helen Church's annual Greek Festival, happening in Webster this Saturday and Sunday, Sept 6-7. It is time when our Church Family welcomes you, the larger Webster and Central Massachusetts/Northeast Connecticut communities, to come and share with us in a weekend of delicious food, fun, faith, and celebration.

We are a Church that was founded 106 years ago by immigrants from Greece and Albania. For many decades, when our people felt marginalized by society as despised immigrants, our Church acted as a safe haven for parishioners to gather together, worship God in their own native tongue, feel comfortable speaking their own language, maintain their ethnic traditions, and remember their homeland and heritage.

The community would gather during the summer and hold a Church picnic, with everyone cooking their favorite Greek foods and baking delicious pastries. Everyone enjoyed an afternoon where it felt like they were back home in the old country.

In the early 1980s, some of our parishioners thought it would be wonderful to share the treasures of our faith and heritage with our neighbors and co-workers, giving people around town the opportunity to “Taste Greece for a Day.” Thus, began the tradition of our annual Greek Festival, a hallmark for the town of Webster, which is always held on the weekend following Labor Day.

Our parishioners offer a labor of love for weeks prior to the Festival baking pastries in their homes, coming together at the church to share in fellowship as they cook and bake all our delicious foods and treats.

We have a loving, warm, and welcoming Church Family that loves to offer it's Christ-centered hospitality to all people. Yet, we don't want to only share our ethnic traditions and treasures. We also want to show everyone the love that we have for our neighbors. Our festival is just as much about our Greek Orthodox Christian Faith as it is about our Greek food and heritage. Jesus Christ teaches us that the greatest two commandments in life are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Our Festival is one of the ways our Church Family shares its love with our neighbor.

Of course, we strive to show our love for neighbor in many other ways. On the first Saturday of every month at 12:30 p.m., we offer our Living Bread Luncheon. This is a delicious home cooked meal offered to whomever wants to come for a special treat in a warm hospitable atmosphere. We typically get between 70-90 people, many elderly, who come and enjoy a day out. Many of our guests actually come an hour or two before the meal, simply to enjoy coffee, pastries, and a warm, friendly atmosphere of love. Everyone is welcome!

Recently, our Church participated in Habitat for Humanity, helping to build affordable housing for low-income families. This is a local way to imitate what



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

we've been doing for the past 18 years during which we have sent over 170 people to travel to Tijuana, Mexico to build homes for families in need through the organization Project Mexico. We've had the blessing to build 12 homes over those years which have changed the lives of the families there.

As a new school year begins, our Church offered 100 backpacks and supplies to our local schools. We will also give away 100 Thanksgiving baskets and turkeys with gift cards to the schools to help families enjoy the holidays in November, as well as offer support during the Christmas season. Our Church is also involved in a prison ministry.

Our Saints Constantine and Helen Church Family feels deeply blessed with God's love and riches, and with the treasures of the priceless ancient faith of the original Church.

Thus, we try to share our blessings with the community at large.

Sometimes people ask us if only Greeks can be a part of our Church, or if our church services are in Greek. Of course not! Our Church in Webster was founded by immigrant Greeks and Albanians and some of the members of our Church Family are third, fourth, and fifth generation family members of the original founders. The majority of our community, however, are people who have come to our church over the past 20 years from all backgrounds and ethnicities. Just these past two Sundays, we had 12 adults who discovered Orthodox Christianity and were baptized or chrismated into our Church Family. We are a Church that welcomes everyone to “come and see” and discover a loving community of faith in which you can grow in your relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

I often preach and remind our people that it doesn't matter what you believe, what your lifestyle is, what mistakes you've made in life, or where you're at or not at in your journey of faith. Everyone is welcome to come and discover a beautiful faith community which will love you, support you, encourage you, and help you fulfill your divine potential. Everyone is invited to come and begin a journey of transformation and change.

When one enters into the Church, no one should stay as they are. We believe that one's faith journey is a journey into union with God, where we fulfill the potential that He has placed in us from the moment that we were conceived in the womb of our mothers. This is what makes our Journey of Faith so exciting. It's a journey without end into the eternal glory of God.

So, “Come and See.” Come to our Greek Festival September 6 and 7 and enjoy the delicious food, pastries, Greek dancers, Gift Shop, Church Tours, Cafenio, Children's Booth, Center Table, and Raffles. “Come and See” our Church also any Sunday morning, joining us for worship. We hope to see you soon!

You can go to our Church Web site, www.schwebster.org, for the details of our upcoming festival and for our church calendar to come and visit us anytime!

Latest auction news



It's been over a month since my last auction news update. As usual, there is a lot to catch up on beginning with some news from the United Kingdom.

Auction staffers found a rare book while appraising items in a Bristol, England estate. A book specialist was looking through a “run of the mill bookcase” when she spotted the rare book, according to the Smithsonian Magazine. She recognized the pale green book with mountains and a dragon as “the Hobbit.” When the book was first published in 1937 the author, J.R.R. Tolkien, designed the cover with eagles soaring over forests and mountains. Tolkien also created ten black and white illustrations. There were 1,500 copies of the first edition printed with a few hundred now currently known. The book was missing the dust jacket and had faded over the years. Despite this, it sold for nearly \$57,000.

It seems like every year I write about a new sports memorabilia auction record. A new sports card auction record was set by the “2007-08 Upper Deck Exquisite Collection Dual Logoman Autographs Jordan & Bryant card, numbered 1-of-1” card. Collector Matt Allen and Canadian investor Kevin O'Leary (known as “Mr. Wonderful” on the “Shark Tank” television show) were the winning bidders. Upper Deck first issued “Exquisite” cards for \$500 for five cards during their 2003-2004 release. This is one of the first times that patches and signatures were used with a card, according to ESPN. The card sold for \$12.932 million, eclipsing the \$12.6 million paid for a 1952 Topps Mickey Mantle card in 2022.

In upcoming auction news, over 1,000 Hollywood props are hitting the auction block this week. One of the highlights of the auction is Tobey Maguire's Spider-Man costume from the 2002 movie that is estimated to bring between \$100,000 and \$200,000. The Batman suit worn by Michael Keaton in the 1989 Batman movie is expected to bring from \$250,000 to \$500,000. The bullwhip, belt, and whip holster used by Harrison Ford in “Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade” also has a \$250,000 to \$500,000 estimate. After some vetting, a lightsaber thought to have been used by Darth Vader was confirmed to be authentic. The lightsaber was created from a camera flash. Plastic strips were added, and it was modified to hold a blade, according to CBS. Estimated at \$3 million, the “Star Wars” saber is sure to be the highlight of the auction.

We are offering some film props and clothing in a one collector Laurel and Hardy memorabilia online auction that is currently running. The online Pennsylvania transportation museum auction ends on September 9th. A one collector Civil War memorabilia auction will be online next month. Future auctions will include gold jewelry, sterling silver, art, and advertising signs, along with a wide variety of other items from multiple estates. We are always accepting valuable pieces and collections for upcoming sales. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions and Appraisal Services info@centralmassauctions.com or (508-612-6111).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A thank you

To the Editor:
I would like to thank Dudley Library Director Nicole Messier and the library staff for allowing the Dudley Senior 13 Card Pitch League the use of the Fels Community Room while the Dudley Senior Center was closed for renovation.

This gave me the opportunity to continue the enjoyment of my weekly card playing.

I appreciate the library staff's cooperation and hospitality.

GARY BARONOSKI
DUDLEY

Planting Bulbs this Season for Spring Flowers

Following a long New England winter, few signs of spring are more welcome than the first sprouts of green popping up in a barren garden. The promise of a season of beautiful blooms, the tiny shoots are the gardeners reward of a past autumn spent preparing and planting. Experts agree fall offers ideal conditions to plant perennials. In fact, autumn is the preferred time to plant spring blooming bulbs. Therefore, it's time once again to review a beginner's guide to preparing, planning and planting bulbs now for a flourish of flowers come spring.

Choosing Choice Bulbs

If you are selecting bulbs in bulk, such as loose bulbs offered at discount garden centers, it's important to follow a few rules of thumb. Typically, big bulbs produce the largest blooms and may yield more flowers, therefore, it may be worth the cost to pay a bit more for good sized, healthy bulbs. However, if you are on a budget and have the time to wait, smaller bulbs will even-

tually increase in size and bloom each year. When choosing a bulb, look for those that are firm and plump. Hold them in your palm and select bulbs that feel heavy for their size. Avoid bulbs with bruises, spots or signs of mold. And steer clear of soft, mushy and lightweight bulbs. Sprouting bulbs may indicate a bulb that has been in storage for a long time.

Planning a Flower Garden

A little thought and preparation go a long way in reaping the benefits of a successful spring and summer flower garden. The planning you take time for in the fall will be apparent when the flower garden plantings burst with color and texture next year. Know your flowers before you plan to plant. While most bulbs require an area where there is full sun, other varieties such as the iris and crocus enjoy some shade after blooming. For best results select a location in full sun or sun with morning shade only. Well drained soil is a requisite for flower bulbs. If



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

you have poor soil, raised flower beds may be an effective alternative.

For best results, design your garden with pen and paper first, mapping out the size of the beds and the flowers to scale. Keep in mind color, texture and fragrance are all important factors when deciding on a particular flower garden plan. Plotting a garden plan is an exciting chore, and there are some basic rules that ensure a pleasant mix of color for a showy display. Notice how a clump of daffodils and tulips are much more charming than a tidy row of the springtime flowers. The eye is drawn toward the burst of color when these flowers are situated in generous groups of plantings. Be sure to take an accurate bulb count of such large splashes of plantings. Your layout plan should also include

using flower bulbs as accents in perennial beds, or to fill in rock gardens or as an interesting border to greenery. Be sure to plan for extra bulbs to fill in areas or to add as landscape accents.

For an interesting mix, merge short plants with tall specimens to give variety and depth as well as differing textures. And don't underestimate the power of fragrance. Nothing is more delightful than a pathway of floral scents welcoming visitors to your door! You should also decide if you want to plan out every aspect of planting a semi formal garden, or if you choose instead to toss convention and bulbs to the wind, planting bulbs the natural way, thus creating a natural sprinkling of blooms. Scaling plants to the bed is another important factor when plotting your plan. A simple rule to follow is to keep in mind the tallest plant in an island flower bed should have a mature height that is equal to about half the width of the bed. Place these plants in the center, so they can be viewed

from all sides. Also remember to take into account plants that grow and expand quickly.

Color is another major consideration when planting your bulbs. If you want your garden to be a showcase all season, select a variety of bulbs that flower during early, middle and late spring and summer for a continuous burst of color. Just as in the home, in the garden bed cool colors seem to recede and warm colors appear to come forward. To make a small garden area appear larger and more spacious, plant flowers in cool, light colors. As a general rule white goes a long way in a garden bed, but if you use a lot of white flowers in an area, consider adding a dramatic splash of bright red or bright pink or purple for visual contrast. And, remember, if you are growing flowers to cut and bring the blooms indoors, choose colors that will go with the decor of your home, as well as harmonize with one another in the garden. Gardens, in fact, are often planned around color. The ambiance of your outdoor living space is determined by color and your choices decide whether your garden flowers contrast or complement each other which can result in either a subtle hue of color or a spectacular show of brilliant blooms. The former, which relies on soft pastels to make a statement in the flower garden, is often achieved through monochromatic planning. Choosing flowers of all the same color family may offer a soothing garden setting. Interest is accomplished by providing varying textures and flower heights in monochromatic pastel gardens. For a more showy garden, eye catching bright reds, yellows, purples and whites take center stage in a flower bed. Such contrasting colors can be often be achieved with little effort simply by matching up opposite colors on the standard color wheel.

Planting Prep: Planting time varies depending on location, but here in the Northeast it ranges from September until as long as the soil can be worked, usually around the end of October. Prepare your bed by making sure soil is properly fertilized. Be sure to dig out the soil to the proper depth. Loosen the soil and if you choose, add a bulb booster to the soil. Bulbs should be planted with pointed side up. Place them firmly, yet

gently, into the ground. Cover the bulbs loosely with soil, water lightly and add a layer of mulch. Typically, bulbs should be planted three times as deep as the bulb is wide. In sandy soils, you can plant a little deeper, and in heavy soils you can dig a slightly shallower hole. Bulbs should be spaced approximately a width twice the diameter of the bulb. Note: Tulips should be planted one inch deeper than indicated if the soil is not too heavy and their location is permanent as deep rooting can prolong the effective life of the tulip bulb.

Forcing bulbs

Forcing bulbs indoors allows the impatient gardener to enjoy springtime blooms during the winter season. Certain bulbs, such as the narcissus and hyacinth lend themselves to forced budding.

To do: Drop a bulb into a glass jar and fill with water and small pebbles until the water level reaches the base of the bulb. Position the jar in a sunny window. Water must remain at the same level, so add moisture as needed. To prevent mold, change the water periodically.

Win a Three Course Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

From anger to strength

We've all had those moments—the ones where your blood goes from zero to boiling in two seconds flat. You're cool, calm, and collected until you're not. It could be the driver who cuts you off or the co-worker who sends a "quick email" at 4:59 p.m. Maybe it's that person with a different political opinion than yours. It's different for everyone, but sometimes we lose control!

There's a part of your brain called the amygdala—two little almond-shaped clusters buried deep in your head, responsible for fight or flight mode. Whenever you lose control, the amygdala presses the panic button. Stress signals flood your body. Heart rate spikes. Cortisol surges. Rational thought goes out the window, and you're in fight mode.

The amygdala is like a built-in alarm system, constantly scanning for threats. It's the reason our ancestors ran from saber-toothed tigers instead of trying to pet them.

You'd think letting it all out would make you feel better, like releasing steam from a pressure valve—but it's not really like that. After a moment of rage, your brain doesn't just cool off. It can stay locked in fight mode for hours. During

that time, your logical thinking is foggy, you are emotionally reactive, and even your memory and ability to learn drop dramatically.

Why? Because when the amygdala floods your system with stress signals, it hijacks the prefrontal cortex—the part of your brain responsible for reasoning, planning, and impulse control. That's why you say things you regret, or make decisions that feel smart in the moment but dumb five minutes later.

The brain is like clay—it reshapes itself based on what you do over and over. Every time you snap, you're carving a deeper groove in that "anger pathway." The more you use it, the stronger it gets. Which means the next outburst comes faster, with less provocation.

It's like lifting weights for the wrong muscle. The more reps you put in, the bulkier that anger response becomes. Or like watering weeds instead of flowers—pretty soon the weeds take over, choking out everything else.

Over time, your fuse shortens. You become easier to trigger. People start tiptoeing around you, because they don't know what version of you they're going to get. To add insult to injury,

chronic anger literally weakens the brain circuits tied to empathy and self-control. The amygdala causes your fight response to grow more dominant, while the prefrontal cortex loses influence. The result? You become more impulsive, less compassionate, and stuck in a loop where anger trains the brain to get angrier.

But let's look on the bright side! When you pause, take a breath, and decide not to blow your top, you're doing more than just "holding it together"—you're actually retraining your brain. That moment of restraint activates your prefrontal cortex—the part of your brain responsible for judgment, impulse control, and higher reasoning. At the same time, it signals the amygdala to calm down, which lowers stress hormones such as cortisol and adrenaline.

The more often you do this, the stronger those calm, rational circuits become. You'll find yourself less over-reactive, more compassionate, and better at handling conflict. Neuroscientists refer to this as emotional regulation—your ability to feel the surge but not get swept up by it. It's like building a stronger inner

pilot who can take back the wheel from that raging chimp in your head.

If the payoffs to restraint weren't obvious, there are other benefits as well. People tend to trust and respect those who stay steady when others lose control. Cooler heads don't just prevail—they lead.

Regulating your outbursts is essential, no matter what—but especially if you're leading an organization or a family. Keeping calm isn't just about appearances; it keeps your brain in an optimal state where you can make wise decisions, guide others with clarity, and earn respect that lasts. Have you noticed? The strongest leaders—the ones people trust most—are typically those who remain calm under pressure.

So next time your blood starts to boil, hit pause. Walk into the other room, close your eyes, and breathe for a few minutes. That's how you train your brain for strength instead of weakness. Anyone can lose it—real power is staying calm.

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of Emmy-Nominated A Separate Peace, and the CEO of Cubestream Inc.



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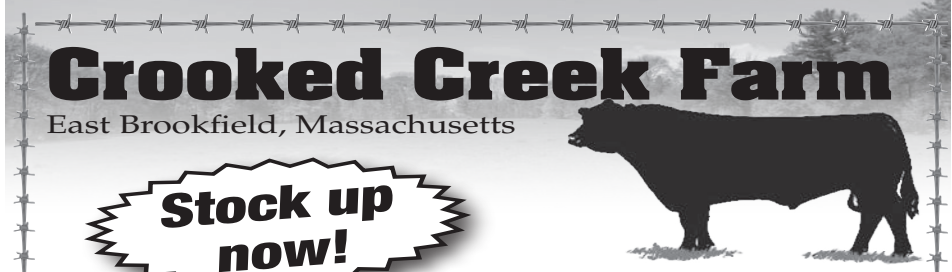
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OBITUARIES

Arthur P. Daskowski, 76



WEBSTER – Arthur P. “Art” Daskowski, 76, died Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at home surrounded by the love of his family after an illness. His wife of 56 years, Pauline R. “P” (Verdone) Daskowski died in April. He leaves 2 sons, Thomas “TJ” Daskowski of Webster and Todd M. Daskowski and his wife April A. of Chicago, IL; he was a proud “Poppy” to his 2 grandchildren, Ty and Olivia “Livvy” Daskowski; 2 sisters-in-law, Johnna Lussier and her husband Richard of Webster and Jean Silvestri; 2 brothers-in-law, Thomas Verdone of Dudley and Emile Malboeuf of Webster; a sister, Deborah Patrowicz and her husband Richard of Thompson, CT; He was “Uncle A” to many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister Sandra Avalos and his sister-in-law Roberta “Bobbie” Malboeuf. He was born in Webster on February 22, 1949 and raised there, a son of Paul and Julia (Kuchar) Daskowski and was a 1967 graduate of Bartlett High School. He received his Bachelor’s of Business from Nichols College. Mr. Daskowski first worked for Goff & Cagan, C.P.A. in Worcester, he then was the plant manager for General Spring in Oxford, later the general manager for Imperial Spring Company in Southington, CT, and in retirement delivered cars for Long

Subaru in Webster. He also worked as a funeral assistant for Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home and Scanlon Funeral Service, both of Webster. He fully retired in 2020. Arthur was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, serving during the Vietnam Era. He was a lifetime member of the Polish American Veterans.

He was a communicant of Saint Louis Church. His greatest joys were his sons and grandchildren.

A memorial Mass will be held on Saturday, September 6 at 11:00 AM in Saint Louis Church, 14 Lake Street, Webster (please meet at church). Burial with military honors provided by the Webster-Dudley Veterans Council will be in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace, Webster. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster. Pauline and Arthur were able to adopt their sons through the Catholic Charities, because of this, it was their wish that donations in his memory be made to Catholic Charities, 10 Hammond Street, Worcester, MA 01610 or to Saint Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, or to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, KS 66675-8516. www.websterfunerals.com



Wayne “Curly” F. Demers, 64



SUTTON / OXFORD – Wayne “Curly” F. Demers, 64, of Charlton, and formerly of Oxford and Sutton, passed away on Thursday, August 21, 2025, in his home after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Susan M. (Nestor) Demers of Charlton; four children, Alison E. O’Neill and her partner Benjamin Cormier of Charlton, Nicholas P. Demers of Oxford, Nathan F. Demers and his fiancée Jessica Gilmore of Sturbridge, and Patrick W. Demers of Charlton; two grandchildren, Brady P. O’Neill and Aubrey E. O’Neill, both of Charlton; two brothers, Kevin Demers and his wife April of Douglas, and Jeffrey Demers and his wife Jana of Dudley; and many brothers- and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces. He was predeceased by his son-in-law, Jack O’Neill;

and his mother’s long-term partner, Harold “Biz” Konkol.

He was born in Northbridge, son of the late Adelard G. and Joyce A. (Guertin) Demers. He was raised in Sutton and lived in Oxford before retiring to Charlton.

Curly worked at Aggregate Industries in Shrewsbury for over 30 years, retiring in 2018. He was a member of the Teamsters Local 170 in Worcester. In retirement, Curly was a sought-after stone mason who built walls throughout Massachusetts. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, antiquing, farm animals and farm equipment. He liked tractors, cars, and anything with a motor. He will be remembered as a hard-working man who liked to have fun, and who valued family above everything.

Memorial calling hours are Saturday, November 8, 2025, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford. A prayer service will be held on Saturday at the conclusion of calling hours.

Robert S. Kokernak, 95



WEBSTER – Robert S. Kokernak, 95, died Wednesday, August 27, 2025 at home in the presence of his family. His wife of 63 years, Lorraine B. (Savageau) Kokernak, died in 2018. He leaves a son, Gary R. Kokernak and his wife Christine of Dudley; a daughter, Kim B. Fafard of Webster; 3 grandchildren, Ian M. Fafard and his wife Nicole of Oxford, Tyler G. Kokernak and his wife Moria of Sturbridge, and Drew R. Kokernak of Dudley; a great-grandson, Nathan M. Fafard; many nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by 2 brothers, Morris Ashley and Walter Kokernak and by 2 sisters, Alice Grzelecki and Eleanor Gadoury.

He was born in Webster on May 6, 1930, a son of Stephen and Bertha (Fuchs) Kokernak and attended the former Bartlett High School Trade School.

He served in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean Conflict.

Mr. Kokernak first worked at Cranston Print Works Company and then for 15 years for Reliable Painters in Dudley. He retired as an assembler at Jamesbury Corporation in 1995.

He was a Jack of All Trades and master of several. He enjoyed gardening, hunting, fishing and camping. He loved to assemble model ships. His life centered on his family, particularly his grandchildren and great-grandson.

No funeral services are planned. Donations in his name may be made to VNA Care, 67 Millbrook Street, Suite 500 North, Worcester, MA 01606. Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street. www.websterfunerals.com



Pourings & Passages: Books leading a local renaissance



Jim Weigel, left, talks to a customer as a couple store volunteers look on

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

While education can lead to an intellectual renaissance, physical bookstores can do the same economically.

That, at least, could be said of Main Street in Danielson, where one of the earlier establishments was Pourings & Passages in April of 2021.

“Main Street was dead,” but since then about a dozen stores and restaurants have opened in their neighborhood, store owner Jim Weigel said.

Unlike many stores, this one’s entirely non-profit, with all of its 30 staff being volunteers, including Weigel, and all of the thousands of books being donated. But like many, it’s a labor of love, something Weigel said he’d “always wanted” to do while spending 37 years as a school librarian. Over the years, he’d been running book sales for St James School, and a friend said “you have to get a brick and mortar. ... I’ve been learning constantly on the job.”

These days, that seems to fly in the face of internet dominance of marketing, especially in books. He noted Amazon’s rise led to the demise of most of the nation’s independent bookstores, although there’s been some resurgence in recent years. Now there are about 2400 indie bookstores nationwide – a “staggering statistic” when there are 2000 coffeshops in Connecticut alone, he said.

Pourings & Passages is part coffeshop in the sense you can get a coffee from the coffeemaker if you want one. It doesn’t have a counter for that purpose, although counters and displays around the store feature locally made jewelry, crafts from St James folks, giant seashells, half-done puzzles, Killingly students’ art, fancy tableware, toys and teddy bears, among other things.

Those are interspersed with what Weigel’s calls their “main mission” – the books themselves, shelved through seven rooms, one of them “The Man Cave.” That’s where automotive, firefighting, policing, and home repair books are.

Some visitors know that room once had a very different life. It was the fitting room for the site’s previous incarnation as a bridal shop. It’s become one of the various representations of Weigel’s



The store as seen from the street corner.



READER’S
JOURNEY
GUS
STEEVES

sense of humor on subtle display around the store.

As you’d expect with thousands of books, there’s a broad spectrum of topics – pretty much anything from kids’ earliest picture books to archaeology, local authors to famous world names, a fair amount of politics (which he noted doesn’t move well right now), history, crafts, foreign languages, and loads of cookbooks, spiritual books, and children’s books.

One of the latter stood out as the store’s most successful author event: Allison Silver’s “Book of Sam’s Dreams” sold 72 copies in a couple hours. Like other local authors’ books, that sells for the retail price, and Weigel noted many authors give the store a share of the earnings or donate the copies entirely. (Most of the store’s used books go for a few bucks apiece.)

Although the place raises funds for St James – he aims to donate \$25,000 a year – Weigel noted that he’s sometimes had people complain about a few of the books they offer, objecting they’re not Catholic. He makes a point of saying Pourings & Passages is not a religious bookstore, and talk- ing about some of his experiences with past efforts to censor books (which he strongly opposes, noting “The good guys never ban books”).

One of them was Judy Blume’s “Forever,” which one parent of a school he worked in got the administration to require students to get parental permission to read. He recalled the students themselves got creative about circumventing that

– they obtained several copies and set up their own lending library for just that book.

“Every adolescent kid needs to read this because they shouldn’t get their information from their friends or a back alley,” Weigel said, describing the book as

“extremely well written.” Since they rely on donations – and a couple boxes of them came in while we talked – and don’t order books, they can’t guarantee any particular book will be available, but do take a list of ones clients are seeking. Weigel noted he discards quite a few because of condition and refuses those that smell like the attic or basement. But he’s also seen some unusual titles sell despite being in not-good shape, since the buyers were seeking their information.

“Whenever I open a box of books, I do my Snoopy dance,” he noted.

To Weigel, although bookstores are “a very risky business” normally, this one has the “perfect” business model, since it’s all-volunteer and all-donation-based, in a place with “a very reasonable rent” for five years. He has started getting some calls lately from people seeking to sell books because of the slowing economy, but he turns them down, and noted even other places that normally do buy are refusing or only offering store credit.

Despite that, he said he thinks “used bookstores tend to do well in economic downturns because they can still afford to buy used books,” and is looking forward to the store’s 10th anniversary in November.

“I love when kids come in to get books,” he added. “That’s the best part.”

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

GROUP continued from page A1

attendees of each focus group to check in receiving an additional raffle ticket

This event is open to the public and aims to bring community members together to help shape tools that empow-

er individuals to better detect and respond to fraudulent activity.

“Scams are becoming increasingly sophisticated and harder to spot,” said Joe Vaudreuil of Tri-Valley, Inc. “We’re excited to partner with SilverShield to equip our community with the tools and knowledge they need to stay protected and

informed. We’re thrilled to offer this opportunity to older adults and caregivers in our community to have their voices heard.”

To sign up for a focus group, participants can register directly at <https://forms.gle/eLXiRfcz6UCDrnVz9>.

Send all obituary notices to
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to obits@stonebridgepress.news



Students named to Western New England University’s Spring Dean’s List

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University (WNE) takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of over 790 students who have been named to the Dean’s List for the Spring 2025 semester.

Abigail Alicandro of North Oxford
Alyssa Clemence of Dudley
Carter Coughlin of Dudley
Kiana Tonkin of Dudley

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

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

Three ways to preserve the beauty of your summer garden



Melinda Myers
Lay flat-faced flowers, like these Shasta daisies, face down on a flat surface to dry.

Fall is quickly approaching and as you prepare for the change of seasons, consider preserving some of your summer garden's beauty. Photograph, dry, or press a few of your favorite flowers to enjoy and share with others. Cell phone cameras have greatly improved and allow

even novice photographers the opportunity to capture the beauty of their gardens and favorite plants. Visit your garden in the early morning or evening when the light tends to be perfect for taking pictures. Try focusing on a favorite flower, bouquet or garden that you love. Watch how plant shapes,

colors and textures contrast and combine to create pockets of beauty in the garden. Harvest and dry some of your favorite flowers for dried arrangements and crafts. Pick the flowers when they are at peak bloom and dry them. Cut the flowers midday when they contain less moisture, reducing the dry time. Use a bypass pruner or garden scissors to cut the stems above a set of healthy leaves. Remove the foliage and gather them into small bundles. Secure the stems with rubber bands. They will contract when the stems shrink and continue to hold the stems tightly. Use a spring-loaded clothespin to hang the bundles from a hanger, clothesline or nail. Allow the flowers to dry in a warm, dark, dust-free location. Lay flat-faced flowers, like daisies, face down on a flat surface to dry since they tend to close a bit when hung upside down. Simply cut off the stem and place the flowers face down on newspaper or craft paper in a warm, dry location. Once dried, you can glue them in place or use florist wire to create stems for arranging. Be sure to pick a few seedpods and seedheads from



GARDEN
MOMENTS
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MELINDA
MYERS

in between the paper and pages of the book, close it, and stack a few books on top for added weight. Or evenly tighten the flower press to apply needed pressure. Your dried flowers will be ready in about a month. Store pressed flowers in paper envelopes or between sheets of paper. Place them in cardboard boxes in a dry location until you are ready to create your pressed flower project. As your gardens transition into fall, look for other flowers, foliage and seed pods to add to your dried flower collection. Continue to photograph your garden and enjoy the beauty every change of season provides. 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" instant video series 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.



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LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Laura L. Fasshauer to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Radius Financial Group Inc., dated March 20, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 62099, Page 119, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Radius Financial Group Inc., its successors and assigns to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, recorded on April 25, 2024, in Book No. 70432, at Page 61 JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association to Selene Finance LP, recorded on June 20, 2024, in Book No. 70652, at Page 245 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 5:00 PM on September 19, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 4 Wysocki Drive, Unit 25, Phase III, Stonegate Condominiums, Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT: Condominium Unit #25 in Phase III of the Stonegate Condominiums, Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts, a Condominium created pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 183A by Master Deed dated June 2, 1986 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 9497, Page 150, which unit contains 1,022 square feet and is shown on the floor plans filed with said Master Deed and on a copy of a portion of said plans attached to Unit Deed recorded in Book 10154, Page 182 and made a part thereof, to which it is affixed the verified statement of a registered architect in the form required by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 183A, Section 9. Said Unit is conveyed together with an undivided 1.78 percent interest in the common areas and facilities described in said Master Deed. Said Unit is conveyed to and with the benefit of rights and interests recited in the hereinbelow referenced Deed and to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 183A. Said Unit is to be used solely for residential purposes. The mailing address of said Unit is 4 Wysocki Drive, Unit 25, Dudley, Massachusetts 01571. Being the same premises conveyed to the herein named mortgagor by deed recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 34534, Page 306. For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 34534, Page 306. 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 Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) 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. SELENE FINANCE LP Present holder of said mortgage By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 27961 August 29, 2025 September 5, 2025 September 12, 2025

Warrant Article #14 (General) has been partially approved and no action will be taken on Article #15, of the Special Town Meeting held on October 21, 2024, from the Attorney General's Office on April 25, 2025.

The entire text of this by-law is posted in the following five places in accordance with G.L c. 40 § 32: Dudley Municipal Complex, Pearle Crawford Memorial Library, Mason Road School, Dudley District Court House and Shepherd Hill High School. Attest: Lori A. Smith, Dudley Town Clerk September 5, 2025 September 12, 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 Thomas F. McCain to Manufacturers and Traders Trust Company, dated October 17, 2022 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68447, Page 232, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 5:00 PM on September 26, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 17 Pinehurst Drive, Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT: The land in Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, on the northerly side of Pinehurst Drive, being shown as Lot 31 on "Plan No. 1, Subdivision of Property of Emil DiDonato, Webster, Massachusetts," dated March 2, 1953, recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 225, Plan 114, and bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a stake in the northerly line of said Pinehurst Drive, 75 Feet easterly on the easterly line of Ellen Steel, measured along the northerly line of said Pinehurst Drive: Thence South 77 degrees 12' east by the northerly line of said Pinehurst Drive, 75 Feet to a stake; Thence North 12 degrees 48' east by Lot 32 a distance of 142.6 Feet to a stake at land now or formerly of Hector Patenaude; Thence westerly by land now or formerly of said Patenaude and edward LaPlante 75.29 Feet to a stake; Thence South 12 Degrees 48' west by Lot 30 a distance of 136 Feet to the point of beginning. Subject to the following restrictions: 1. No building or part of a building shall be erected nearer than 25 Feet to a street or proposed street line, with the exception of the easterly side of Ellen Street on which the proposed street building line shall not be nearer than 15 Feet. Subject to a first mortgage dated April 23, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 65032, Page 177 in the original principal amount of \$216,879.00. For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 49959, Page 62. 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. M & T BANK Present holder of said mortgage By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 26850 August 29, 2025 September 5, 2025 September 12, 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. WO25P2960EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate Of: Deborah F Surozenski Also known as: Deborah Fay Surozenski, Deborah Surozenski Date of Death: 07/27/2025

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Richard J Surozenski 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: Richard J Surozenski 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 09/23/2025.

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: August 22, 2025 Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate September 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. W025C0297CA CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

In the matter of: Nicole Colton Valente A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Nicole Colton Valente of Oxford MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Nicole Erin Angers IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10 a.m. on the return day of 09/16/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding. WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court. Date: August 12, 2025 Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate September 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. WO25P3001EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate Of: Bennett John Smith, Jr. Date of Death: 11/19/2022

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Carol H. Smith 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: Carol H. Smith 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 09/23/2025. 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: August 28, 2025 Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate September 5, 2025

Town of Webster Office of the Town Clerk The following Articles from the Annual and Special Town Meetings held on May 12, 2025 which received positive votes have been approved by the Attorney General's Office: Special Town Meeting Article 14 -To eliminate the Bylaw Committee, Section 14-1 Annual Town Meeting Article 8 -To amend Section 334-2-Request for Building Numbers Complete copies of the articles are available in the Town Clerk's Office, Webster Town Hall, 350 Main Street, Webster, Massachusetts. August 29, 2025 September 5, 2025 September 12, 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. WO25P2899EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate Of: Alfred R Marks Date of Death: 08/12/2024

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by David Marks of North Grosvenord CT requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: David Marks of North Grosvenord CT 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 09/16/2025.

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 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: August 18, 2025 Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate September 5, 2025

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 two 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 fruit or dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, 9/9: Braised beef, gemelli pasta, broccoli, pear crisp. Wednesday, 9/10: Jambalaya, rice pilaf, green peas, pineapple. Thursday, 9/11: Vegetable cheese bake, seasoned potatoes, mixed vegetables, chocolate pudding. Friday, 9/12: Soup du Jour, turkey salad sandwiches on multigrain bread, bean salad, graham's.

The next Friends Meeting will be on Wednesday, September 10th at 10:00 am.

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

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

Come enjoy September's Forget-Me-Not Memory Café on Friday, September 12th from 1-2:30 pm! We'll be falling into autumn with live music from Tony Funches, formally of "The Platters". Make sure to sign up for all Friends events! Deadline for sign-ups is Monday, September 8th.

Let's celebrate the Fall equinox! The Friends of the Webster Senior Center will be hosting their next Friendship Series party on Monday, September 22nd from 1-2:30 pm with live music from Bob Jordan! We will also be hosting a Soup Social at 11:30 am! Please make sure to sign up for BOTH! Deadlines for reservations will be on Wednesday, September 17th.

We are now offering MOVIE MATINEES every Wednesday at 1:00 pm! Popcorn is provided, no registration is needed. Our September movies are-, "Girls Girls Girls" on 9/10, "Father Goose" on 9/17, and "Mystic Pizza" on 9/24.

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.

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

Calling all bridge players! Are you looking to spend an afternoon playing Bridge? We're looking to get a group together! If you're interested, please leave your name and number with the front desk. Once we have enough sign-ups, we'll see what day works best for everyone!

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.

Care Central VNA & Hospice to support transition of patients, staff from Overlook VNA & Hospice

WEBSTER — Care Central VNA & Hospice, a leading provider of community-based home health, hospice, private duty, and adult day care in Central Massachusetts, will be accepting the transfer of care of patients and will be welcoming staff for employment, following the upcoming transition from Overlook VNA & Hospice.

Overlook VNA & Hospice recently announced its decision to transfer operations effective Aug. 28. In collaboration with Overlook leadership, Care Central is coordinating a compassionate, well-structured transition of care for patients who choose to seamlessly continue with their home health & hospice services.

"Our foremost priority throughout this transition is to ensure patients and families continue to receive uninterrupted, high-quality care," said Holly Chaffee, President

and CEO of Care Central VNA & Hospice. "We are also proud to welcome members of the Overlook team who share our commitment to compassionate, community-focused care."

Care Central has initiated onboarding efforts for Overlook clinicians and support staff, many of whom will continue serving the same patients and service areas to preserve continuity and trust. Patients and families will be personally contacted to ease the transition and provide updated information about their new Care Central care team.

"As a proud, free-standing non-profit organization serving Central Massachusetts, we are thrilled to share a milestone moment in our history—we are doubling in size," said Holly Chaffee, President & CEO of Care Central VNA & Hospice. "With this expansion, our service

territory will reach 128 towns, welcoming 30 new communities into our care. This tremendous growth allows us to touch the lives of even more patients and families with the compassionate, high-quality care they deserve. Equally important, we are honored to welcome talented members of the Overlook team whose dedication to our mission will further strengthen our presence and

amplify our impact across the non-profit community."

"This transition guarantees that those we have been honored to serve will continue receiving the same high-quality, compassionate care through a trusted organization that shares our values and unwavering commitment to residents and the community. By choosing Care Central VNA & Hospice, patients will not only experience continuity of care but will also be comforted by the familiar faces of staff they already know and trust," said Tameryn Campbell of Overlook VNA & Hospice.

For more information about Care Central VNA & Hospice or to inquire about services or employment opportunities, please visit www.carecentralvna.org or call 508-943-0612.

About Care Central VNA & Hospice Founded over a century ago, Care Central VNA & Hospice provides home health, hospice, palliative care, and wellness services to residents across Central Massachusetts. With a team of compassionate professionals, Care Central is committed to helping individuals live safely and comfortably at home while receiving high-quality, personalized care.

About Masonic Health System Masonic Health System of Massachusetts, Inc. (MHS) is the parent corporation of two subsidiaries: The Overlook Life Care Community and Overlook Health & Rehabilitation Center. Together, these organizations provide a fully integrated continuum of health care and senior living services throughout the Commonwealth.

For more information, call 866-753-5429 or visit www.overlook-mass.org.

Local students named to President's List at Western New England University

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University (WNE) takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of more than 400 students who have been named to the President's List for the Spring 2025 semester. Students are named to the President's List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.80 or higher.

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

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

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
Web site: www.oxfordma.us
Facebook: Oxford, MA Senior Center

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

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

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.
SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) – 3rd Wednesday of each month. By appointment.
Book Club – 1st Friday of each month @ 12:45pm – reserve your book from the Oxford Public Library
Movie Matinee – 2nd Friday of each month @ 12:45 – September movie "80 for Brady"
BEANO – 4th Friday of each month @ 12:45pm – arrive by 12:30pm to purchase your BEANO sheets.

Information Presentations:
MassEDP/Massachusetts Equipment Distribution Program- Specialized phone equipment for qualified individuals with permanent disabilities~ Education/ Presentation Tuesday, September 16th @ 12:30pm
Oxford Housing Authority (OHA)- Information Presentation Tuesday, September 23rd @ 12:30pm

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 6 Carol Drive, Unit 5B, Oxford, MA 01540

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Brian Elliot and David Elliot to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Caliber Home Loans, Inc., and now held by NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, said mortgage dated January 7, 2019 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59912, Page 297, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Caliber Home Loans, Inc. to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing by assignment dated August 29, 2024 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 70962, Page 330; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on October 9, 2025 at 01:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, **directly in front of the building in which the unit is located**, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

Unit B (the "Unit") in Building 5 (the "Building") of Buffumville

Heights Estates Condominium (the "Condominium") located in Oxford, Worcester County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts and created pursuant to a Master Deed recorded on July 1, 1987 with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 10602, Page 30.

The mailing Address and Post Office Address of said Unit is 6 Carol Drive (formerly Dolge Court), Unit 5B, Oxford, MA 01540.

Said Unit 5B contains 2250.1 square feet, more or less, as shown on floor plans of said condominium recorded with said Registry, Plan Book 579, Plan 12, a copy of a portion of said plan being attached to the first unit deed to which is affixed a verified statement in the form required by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 183A, Section 9. Said Unit is also conveyed together with and subject to:

a. An undivided interest of 4.9400% in the common areas and facilities described in the Buffumville Heights Estates Condominium Master Deed. b. The benefit of, and subject to all easements, rights, restrictions, agreements and provisions created in said Master Deed, and the Declaration of Trust creating the Buffumville Heights Estates Condominium Trust and the By-Laws contained therein, recorded in Book 10602, Page 58, as the same may be amended of record, the Rules and

Regulations from time to time promulgated thereunder, and the floor plan. c. Subject to and with the benefit of all easements, rights, restrictions and agreements as recited in a deed of Matthew Rockman Trustee of the Estate of Monsam Building Contractors, Inc. to John J. Sneade dated January 19, 1989, recorded with said Registry in Book 11883, Page 256. d. The Exclusive right to park passenger motor vehicles with the driveway or portion of the driveway that exclusively serves said Unit (the "Parking Area"); and e. The exclusive right to use the deck adjacent to said Unit as shown on said plans.

This conveyance is also subject to and with the benefit of the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 183A, as now in force and as from time to time amended. For title See deed from Jeffrey M. Fox and Kara M Fox f/k/a Kara M. Pierce to be recorded herewith.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated December 13, 2018 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59912, Page 295.

Said Unit will be conveyed together with an undivided percentage inter-

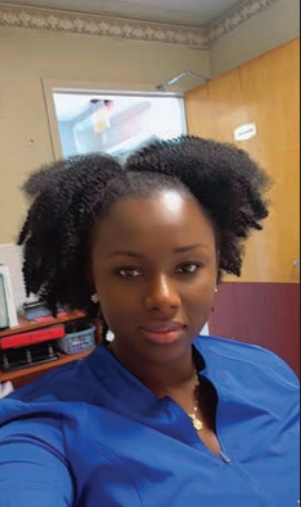
est in the Common Elements of said Condominium appurtenant to said Unit and together with all rights, easements, covenants and agreements as contained and referred to in the Declaration of Condominium, as amended.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.
Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
September 5, 2025
September 12, 2025
September 19, 2025

Agawam South Rehab promotes Bay Path alum to Assistant Director of Nursing



Isabella Boateng

C H A R L T O N — Agawam South Rehabilitation is proud to announce the promotion of Isabella Boateng, RN, to the position of Assistant Director of Nursing & Infection Control Nurse. In her new role, Boateng will help lead the facility's nursing department, ensuring the continued delivery of high-quality, patient-centered care. Boateng will be responsible for overseeing daily nursing operations, supervising and mentoring nursing staff, and leading the facility's vital infection prevention and control initiatives. She will collaborate with interdisciplinary teams to develop and implement comprehensive care plans, serving as a key liaison between administration, healthcare providers, residents, and their families. "Isabella is a natural leader whose dedication to patient-centered care is evident in everything she does," said Dr. Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, where Boateng graduated from with a Certificate in Practical Nursing in 2021. "Her clinical expertise, calm demeanor under pressure, and compassionate approach have made her an invaluable asset. I am thrilled to see her step into this leadership role and confident she will excel in advancing the mission of care at Agawam South Rehab."

Boateng's journey to this leadership position is marked by continuous professional growth. She recently earned her Associate of Science in Nursing from Capital Community College and became a Registered Nurse in June 2025. Her career includes valuable experience as a Clinical Nurse Liaison with Stern Consultants, where she honed her skills in care coordination and patient advocacy, and as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) with Genie Healthcare. Boateng shared her excitement and feelings of being honored for the opportunity with Dr. Bolandrina, who recognized Boateng's focus on providing compassionate, high-quality care and advocating for patients even as a PN student. Boateng looks forward to supporting Agawam South Rehab's exceptional nursing team and contributing to their continued success in serving the community. With a strong foundation in geriatric treatment, dementia care, and regulatory compliance, Boateng brings a wealth of knowledge and a resourceful, energetic approach to her new role. Her promotion reflects Agawam South Rehab's commitment to recognizing and fostering talent from within its community.

Dudley Cultural Council accepting grant applications

DUDLEY — The Dudley Cultural Council will begin accepting grant applications from qualified local organizations, schools, and individuals for community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs on Sept. 2, and ending on Oct. 16.

Applications may support a variety of artistic projects and activities in Dudley including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies, or performances in schools, workshops, and lectures.

Dudley Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils representing every city and town in the Commonwealth. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

This year, the Dudley Cultural Council will distribute \$11,600 in grants. Mass Cultural Council online application and processing information may be found at: <https://masscultural-council.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program/application-process/>

Dudley Cultural Council application guidelines and priorities may be found at: <https://masscultural-council.org/local-council/dudley>



Courtesy

Drawings and Mixed Media Art by Tim Oliver will be on display and for sale Sept. 6-30 at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 East Main St., Webster. A meet the artist reception will take place on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 2-4 p.m. Free and open to the public with light refreshments. For more information, call 508-949-6232. Oliver states, "My artwork is quite varied. Works range from pen & ink, sharpies, stained glass, working with real spider webs & mosaics from crushed egg shells. My joy of course is creating the actual art. But there is also great joy when one of my pieces makes a person stop & want to explore it a bit. I view this as a gift & privilege."

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Sincere
Age 10
Registration #7381

Sincere, who prefers to go by John, is an incredibly smart and thoughtful boy with a bright imagination. When asked what he wants to be when he grows up, John says he wants to be "brave" like a superhero—a reflection of his kind heart and strong spirit. John enjoys a variety of creative and enriching activities. He loves drawing, coloring, baking, swimming, playing video games, and going to church—especially because it means a trip for ice cream afterward. He does very well in school and is especially passionate about science, though he also has exceptional reading skills for his age. While John isn't interested in most sports, he thrives in artistic settings and truly enjoys swimming. His creativity, intelligence, and gentle personality make him a joy to be around.
<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22542013028>

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