Auburn News

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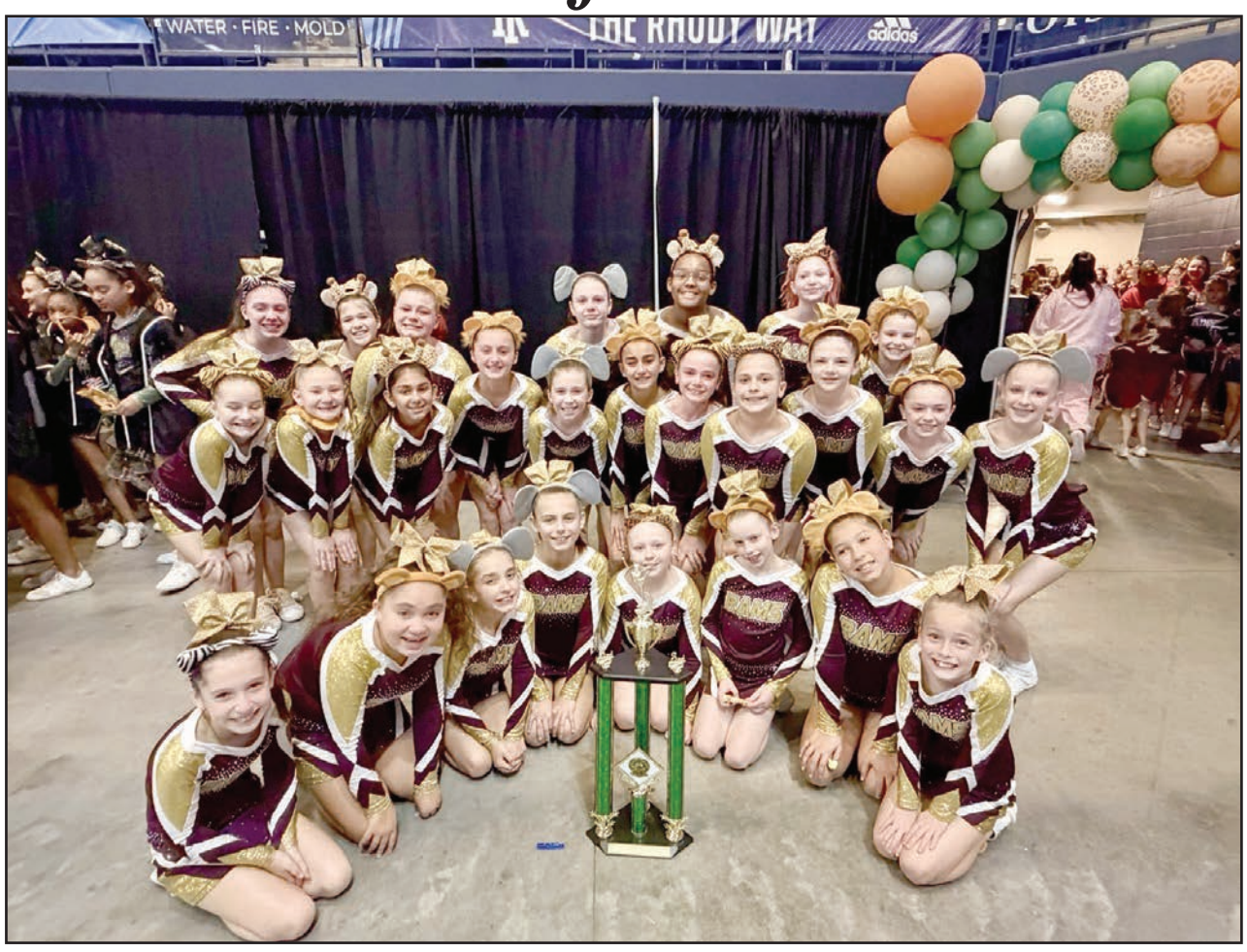
U12 Charlton-Dudley Rams Cheer team heads to AYC Nationals after incredible season



CHARLTON — The U12 Charlton-Dudley Rams cheer team is officially headed to the American Youth Cheer (AYC) National Championships in Orlando, Fla., after an incredible competition season filled with determination, teamwork, and unforgettable performances.

To earn their coveted Nationals bid, the team needed to place in the top three at three separate competitions. At each event, these young athletes have just 2 minutes and 30 seconds to showcase months of hard work, knowing that one performance could determine whether their season continues or comes to an end.

Their journey began in October at the Central Massachusetts Locals Competition, where they became Central Massachusetts Champions in their division. They then advanced to the Massachusetts State Competition, finishing in second place in their division and earning the opportunity to compete at Regionals.

Most recently, on Saturday, Nov. 14, the U12 Rams competed at the New England Regional Championships at the University of Rhode Island's Ryan Center. Facing some of the strongest teams in New England, the girls delivered an incredible performance, earning third place and officially punching their ticket to Nationals!

The U12 team is made up of 26 dedicated cheerleaders from Charlton and Dudley who have been training together since July. Through months of practices, conditioning, choreography, and countless hours of preparation, these young athletes have developed not only their skills but also an extraordinary bond built on trust, perseverance, and teamwork.

Their journey has been anything but easy. The girls have faced challenges, pushed through difficult practices, and learned what it truly means to work together toward a common goal. Their determination and commitment have now earned them the opportunity to represent their communities on the national stage.

"We are incredibly proud of these 26 girls and everything they have accomplished," said the U12 coaching staff. "This journey has required so much hard work, sacrifice, and determination. They have learned to trust one another, overcome challenges, and never give up. Watching them earn their spot at Nationals was an unforget-

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Celebrate the magic of the holidays at the Samuel Slater Experience

WEBSTER — The holiday season is coming to life at the Samuel Slater Experience! Visitors are invited to experience the magic of the season with a festive lineup of holiday activities, special entertainment, and shopping opportunities throughout December.

Whether you're looking for a fun family outing, a little holiday nostalgia, or a unique way to celebrate the season, the Samuel Slater Experience has something special planned for everyone.

Holiday Festivities Include:

Children's Christmas Crafts – Dec. 6 Bring the little ones for a festive day of creativity! Children can enjoy Christmas-themed crafts and make special holiday creations to take home.

Free gift wrapping every Sunday in December Take the stress out of holiday shopping and let us handle the wrapping! Bring a friend, bring your gifts, and leave the paper, ribbons, and bows to us. Every Sunday in December leading up to Christmas, guests who purchase one adult admission can enjoy complimentary gift wrapping. It's a fun way to spend some time with us while checking one more thing off your holiday to-do list!

A Very Merry Dickens Carolers performance – Dec. 11 at 5 p.m. Get into the holiday spirit with a special live performance by the Very Merry Dickens Carolers! Dressed in traditional Victorian-inspired attire, these festive performers will fill the Samuel Slater Experience with the sounds and charm of Christmas past.

Admission to the Dec. 11 event is $18 per person, and guests will also enjoy 20 percent off gift shop purchases, making it a wonderful opportunity to find unique holiday gifts and keepsakes.

Make the Samuel Slater Experience part of your holiday traditions this December. Bring your family, invite your friends, and enjoy a season filled with creativity, music, history, and holiday cheer!

For more information on how to register or buy tickets to any of these events visit the Samuel Slater Experience in Webster and follow along on our Web site.

Dudley ready to light up the holidays on Dec. 3

DUDLEY — Get ready to deck the halls, jingle some bells and kick off the holiday season!

The Town of Dudley's annual tree lighting celebration is set for Thursday, December 3, from 5:45 to 7:30 p.m. at Dudley Town Hall, 71 West Main St.

Hosted by the Dudley Recreation Commission, this free, festive family tradition promises an evening filled with holiday cheer, music, treats and a special visit from the man in red himself!

The festivities begin at 5:45 p.m. with holiday favorites performed by a choir from Shepherd Hill Regional High School. At 6 p.m., the big evergreen on the Town Hall lawn will come alive with twinkling lights, officially welcoming the holiday season to Dudley.

And what would a holiday celebration be without Santa? The jolly old elf will make his grand entrance aboard his big red sleigh (a.k.a. firetruck) to greet the children and spread a little Christmas magic.

The holiday fun doesn't stop there! The Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library will offer a festive craft activity for children, while volunteers from the Dudley Woman's Club will keep everyone fueled with pizza, hot cocoa and sweet treats.

So, bundle up and bring the family to share some holiday magic with friends and neighbors.



Students put heart and muscle behind Wounded Warrior Challenge fundraiser

OXFORD — Physical education classes at Barton Elementary School have transformed into a spirited tribute to America's service members this week as students lace up their sneakers for the Wounded Warrior Challenge Fundraiser.

Running throughout the week of Nov. 16–20 during all gym classes, the event invites students to collect pledges from family and friends for completing laps around the gymnasium across three distinct, military-inspired tasks—with every dollar raised benefiting the Wounded Warrior Project.

Rather than a standard fun run, the fundraiser challenges students to step into the boots of service members through three progressive tiers of effort and patriotism:

The Flag Challenge ($1 per lap, up to 10 laps): To demonstrate patriotism, students dash around the gym floor proudly carrying American flags.

The Fitness Challenge ($2 per lap, up to five laps): Students strap on their school backpacks and run laps to simulate the endurance required of a soldier marching with field gear.

The Fierce Challenge ($5 per lap, up to two laps): Designed to simulate the demanding reality of a soldier carrying an injured comrade to safety in the field, this top-tier test of grit had students hoisting a 28-pound bag of stones (adapted for elementary athletes) as they powered around the course.

Inside the gymnasium, decked out with patriotic red-white-and-blue bunting and a large American flag on the wall, the energy has been electric. Before taking off on their laps, groups of students stood shoulder-to-shoulder to offer crisp, respectful salutes. Once underway, classmates seated along the bleachers with "Lap Tracker" cards leaned forward to cheer and reach out in encouragement as runners sprinted past.

Across every grade level, students met the physical tests with determination and beaming smiles—whether gripping the 28-pound bag of pebbles, racing with loaded backpacks, or triumphantly waving miniature Stars and Stripes as they crossed beneath a bright orange inflatable finish arch.

By combining physical fitness, teamwork, and service, the Wounded Warrior Challenge gives students a tangible way to honor the sacrifices of military veterans while raising vital funds to support injured service members and their families.

You too can donate to the cause- visit: https://honortheircourage.woundedwarriorproject.org/teams/6769.

Dudley Middle School announces honor roll

DUDLEY — Dudley Middle School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2026-2027 school year.

Grade 5

High Honors: Robino Africa, Hayden Anders-Sobel, Ethan Beaudreault, Lielle Cappos, Cecilia Caracciolo, Grace Casavant, Joella Chestna, Adam Chojnacki, Juliet Craver, Anna Daigneault, Kinzley Flagg, Corwin Frappier, Chase Garney, David Gendreau, Luke Goyette, Cole Hains, Enya Huang, Will Lebeau, Kenji Ly, Miyuki Ly, Sadie Mackowiak, Bishoy Moussa, Kaylee Olszta, Tanuj Ponthangeshwar, Aidan Regan, Trevor Shorten, Emillia Spahl, Alexa St. George, Madeleine Stinson, Rosalind Stinson, Rylan Toto, Declan Trindall, Leon Walker, Logan Wang, Juliana Warms.

Honors: Gabrielle Agyekum, Rosalie Ajemian, Eva Araujo, Juley Arsenault, Lorin Baker, Grace Barnes, Parker Belisle, Travis Berthiaume, Madison Bishop, Naira Brown, Braxton Buteau, Jordan Carson, Saphira Casey, Alexa DeLisle, Emilio Diaz, Dominic DiDonato, Jude Dzanka, Judy Dzanka, Trevor Ermlick, Iris Evangelous, Zachary Figueiredo, Jackson Gardecki, Aria Giblin, Jameson Giguere, Peter Grant, Declan Grzyb, Samuel Hernandez, Caleb Johnson, Skylar Kane, Callen Konekeo, Ezekiel Koroma, Emma Leverone, Chloe Lewis, Noah Lewis, Grace Lydon, Logan MacDonald, Olivia Medina, Jaxon Melendez, Natalie Mitchell, Julien Moniz, Esther Mwatu, Benjamin Panczyk, Peyton Prieto, Mila Retallic, Naya Rosado, Jaysen Rumrill-Andino, Patrick Santic, Quinn Scott, Jana Shenouda, Ryan Shorten, Marcos Tawadrous, Avery Tombeno, Cameron Vega, Amelia Young.

Grade 6

High Honors: Joicey Agim, Xzavier Agosto, Adelynn Ashford, Madeline Avakian, Reid Bachand, Calleigh Barney, Jacob Belanger, Emily Bell, Emma Bennett, Jadiel Berrios, Estelle Brackett, Brendan Clark, Dean Curtis, Layla D'Andrea, Julianna Dos Santos, Benjamin Drewry, Isabelle England, Jonathan Fawzy, Stella Fuentes, Adelynne Greamo, Maurice Hammiel, Audrina Harrington, Averi Hortance, Makenna Karle, Mason Karle, Abigail Lamusta, Phoenix LeBlanc, Savannah Lepage, Hunter Leverone, Rosalie Lundy, Nathan MacCormack, Ivan Mayombwe, Alexandra McAvey, Christopher Mello, Mackenzie Mettel, Penny Myler, Gavin Page, Gregory Panu, Lillian Paradis, Anderson Paradise, Bayleigh Podles, Gabriella Powaza, Rafael Rabski, Quinn Remillard, Avery Ruderman, Gabriella Santos, Mackenzie Smart, Hazel St. Laurent, Gregory Standring, Kaiden Swift, Cedric Synal, Alexis White, Emma Wierbik, Kaitlyn Wilson.

Honors: Gunnar Anderson, Elaria Ayad, Oltian Bektashi, Aleah Blackburn, Mitchell Blodgett, Ayla Bonneville, Connor Campbell, Noah Chestna, Aidyn Choummanivong, Maliyah Cooley, Levon Coutu, Landen Cruz, Anthony Cunkovski, Ella Daveau, Jowells Diaz Rodriguez, Emmeline Dirodi, Charlie Durgin, Lois Dzanka, Dominic Estremera, Nevaeh Fraticelli, Ashlyn Goetz, Reagen Hansen, Dylan Jalbert, Amelia Jones, Logan Keefe, Maaray Kostandy, Cailin Lambert, Jensen Linares Calderon, Jordan Lopez, Aaliyah Maina, Aayden Maina, Anthony Manzi, Skylar Meehan, Bella Menzone, Mercurius Morgan, Eva Padgett, Landon Perez, Logan Pinto, Ann-Heavenly Pommier, Ava Racine, Skyler Rainey, Logan Rim, Ethan Rusack, Victoria Santos, Lucas Schneider, Norah Scott, Nicholas Spahl, Alice St. George, Ayla Thurber, Isla Tomlinson, Arsanios Towadros, Jovahnni Vallejo, Cameron Wilson, Owen Young.

Grade 7

High Honors: Charlie Audet, Audrey Barcelo, Riley Bell, Kaelianys Boulos, Jak Bousquet, Nina Browning, Mary Carmignani, Maya Caron, Nestor Castaneda Garland, Austin Cazeault, Abigail Craver, Eleanor Daniel, Luca DiDonato, Robin Donais, Tristan Ducharme, Kaelee Fix, Theodore Frazier, Korbin Giantsios, Geomara Gonzalez, Luke Goyette, Connor Hains, Lucas Henderson Mendoza, London Hogan, Elaria Ibrahim, Elianna Ibrahim, Michael Keefe, Owen Laro, Carter Lebeau, Sid Lindsay, Bryce MacCormack, Riley Mackowiak, Liam Mason, Maxwell Mathews, Amora Mello, Jameson Metzler, Cody Mitchell, Zachary Moisan, Iyla Navin, Irvin Nyatuka, Alayah Ruskin, Aniela Slanda, Grace-Ann Smith, Alexander Vivenzio, Theodore Weimbs-Tsvid, Carter White, Charlotte Young.

Honors: Jayden Agosto, Meadow Arena, Nicholas Bandelean, Colin Barnes, Raegan Barrile, Gianna Buccico, Gabriela Cabrera, Mason Cahill, Juliet Carter, Sadie Cerand, Seth Cregg, Rebecca Czernicki Ramsey, Vincent D'Ambra, Ella DaSilva, Eva Diaz, Madison Fortin, Wyatt Foskett, Amelia Gago, Keilani Gonzalez, Autumn Griffin, Contessa Hathaway, Gabriel Kaiser, Cash Keenan, Samuel Majka, Zachary Marrier, Alexander Massey, Alexus McGinty, Zoe Meeks, Cathaleya Melendez, Maddox Millette, Elsah Monahan, Liam Nelson, Leo Piotti, Gabriela Prusinski, Alexa Racine, Broderick Reggione, Ivy Rodrigues, Kalisia Roldan, Bryce Rousseau, Annabelle Rumrill, Hailey Shaw, Adele Sikorski, Christopher Tejera-Cortes, Bentley Toto, Geovanny Vazquez, Leah Waleski.

Grade 8

High Honors: Miah Amorelli, Jasmine Arboleda, Jacob Casey, Logan Connor, Kylie Ebbeling, Malcolm Goetz, Penelope Habib, Caiden Hathaway, Henri Hokanson, Cynthia Kerry, Timothy King, Whitney Kungu, Charlotte Langlois, Anthony LeBlanc, Alexandria Lundy, Olivia Macek, Briella McGinty, Benjamin Moisan, Rhys Myler, Delaney O'Grady, Sara Rabski, Sabella Rust, Braden Traverso, Ishak Youssef.

Honors: Ivory Agim, Connor Ares, Avery Battista, Ava Baxter, Grayson Belley, Rihnaya Bembridge, Lily Blessington, Jason Broadmeadow, Alexander Campbell, Abigail Chojnacki, Mariah Coburn, Fiona Cole, Daxton Colella, James D'Andrea, Dante Defranc, Vianeliz Diaz Rodriguez, Arianna Dos Santos, Logan Dunn, Dario Falcone, Ayla Flores, Nadia Gawrych, Julia Gorski, Leo Guardiani, Ava Hortance, Jack Joyce, Lukasz Krawczyk, Eliana Lempicki, Giada Manzi, Isabella Mathieu, Marcus Meschke, Sebastian Milewski, Lauren Mitchell, Andreas Niforos-Ortiz, Amiyah Olivo, Ella Padgett, Adriana Panu, Aralynn Patraw, Pierce Patriarca, Layla Perez, Joseph Poletta, Skylie Rivera, Logan Rodrigues, Maya Rousey, Jenna Rousseau, William Santic, Imani Sevieri, Colin Shorten, Jackson Smith, Isabella Soto, Ivy St. Laurent, Zachary Standring, Natalie Stinehart, Claire Synal, Hunter Trybulski, Jacob Wilson.

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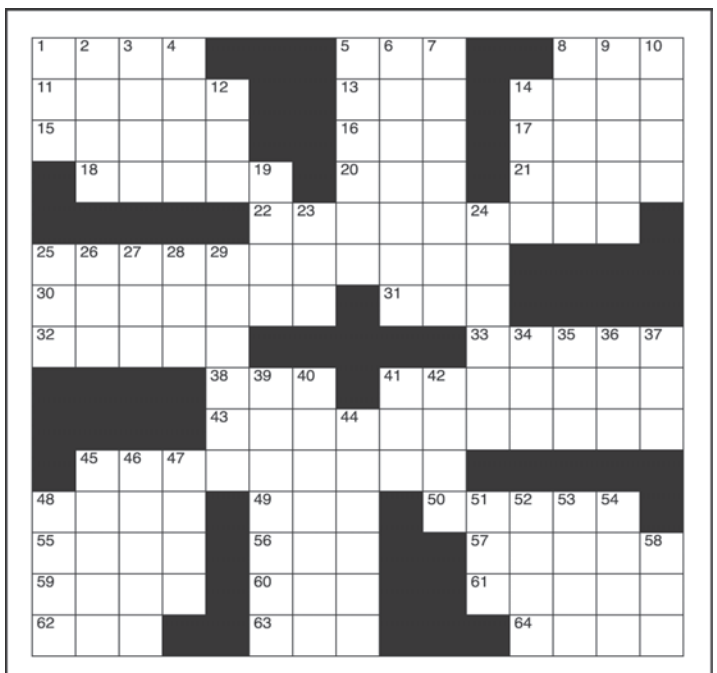

CLUES ACROSS

1. Insect feeler
5. Central processing unit
8. Part of (abbr.)
11. Typical
13. Tall, rounded vase
14. __ Alto, California city
15. Lustrous, velvet-like fabric
16. "Fresh Prince of __ Air"
17. Hebrew calendar month
18. British surgeon who discovered bone disease
20. Agreement between debtor and creditor (abbr.)
21. Elongated part of anatomical structure
22. Acts slowly on
25. Keeps a little too safe
30. Greek seaport
31. "Baba O'Riley" rockers
32. Vision
33. Potassium nitrate in mineral form
38. Midway between northeast and east
41. Not a pro
43. Give a new look
45. Sensational
48. Nobel Prize-winning physicist
49. Annoy constantly
50. Vaccine developer
55. Lying down
56. Type of language (abbr.)
57. Flat-bottomed boat
59. Smallest or slightest
60. Bind
61. Speeds
62. The products of human creativity
63. Consume food
64. Ancient Greek sophist

CLUES DOWN

1. A young canine
2. As fast as can be done
3. Soviet moon probes
4. Sharp spasm of pain
5. One who adheres to a specific art movement
6. Show parts of
7. Unfasten
8. San Diego ballplayer
9. Santa
10. Rocky peaks
12. "Matt Houston" actor Horsley
14. A written agreement between two sides
19. Beginning to end (abbr.)
23. Greek goddess of the dawn
24. Not written in any key
25. Organized missions
26. Seven
27. Work unit
28. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
29. Broadway legend Bernadette
34. Belonging to a thing
35. Vietnamese offensive
36. Bitterly regret
37. Make a mistake
39. Newborn child
40. A combined landmass
41. Satisfaction
42. Hilly peninsulas in Denmark
44. Young swine
45. Type of sword
46. Siskel's partner
47. Brood of pheasants
48. Hindu model of ideal man
51. Suitable in the circumstances
52. La __ tar pits
53. Unstressed-stressed metrical foot
54. California wine country
58. Badly

PUZZLE SOLUTION

P	A	L	P	■	■	■	C	P	U	■	■	P	C	T
U	S	U	A	L	■	■	U	R	N	■	P	A	L	O
P	A	N	N	E	■	■	B	E	L	■	A	D	A	R
■	P	A	G	E	T	■	I	V	A	■	C	R	U	S
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A	R	T	■	■	E	A	T	■	■	■	A	B	A	S

Dudley community comes together to provide holiday meals and more to local families in need

DUDLEY — 'Tis the season for good will toward all. That rings true this year when offering the joy of a holiday meal, and the security of food on the pantry shelves, seems more meaningful than ever.

With this in mind, the Dudley Board of Health has partnered with the Dudley Woman's Club to host a Holiday Food Drive to help those who receive support from the Webster-Dudley Food Share by donating nonperishables through Dec. 18.

A collection bin is located in the Dudley Police Station lobby.

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$820,000, 2 Deer Track Rd, Silva, Claudia G, to De Mortais, Erli Marques.

$479,900, 39 Elm St, Morin, Karen M, to Lahdo, Ninmar, and Gorgid, Nada.

$417,000, 12 Arrowhead Ave, Saffron, Dimitri, and Saffron, Maclynn, to Hill, Anna.

$175,000, 30 Park St, Sutherland Jr, John Wesle, to Prc Const Company LLC.

DUDLEY

$395,000, 39 Southbridge Rd, Olkowski, Ben, and Olkowski, Dawn, to Marrier, Danielle, and Chestna, Julian.

$325,000, 89 Center Rd, Innamorati, Mary, to Gaber, Mohamed, and Gaber, Nadia.

OXFORD

$515,000, 2 Maiden St, Stachura, Stephen, to Joseph, Nicholas, and Gallagher, Katie Lee.

$364,300, 190 Main St, Devinne LLC, to Kephart, Joshua R, and Maxwell, Alycia M.

$350,000, 399 Main St, Secretary Of Veterans Aff, to Amponsah, Lina.

$312,000, 7 Huguenot Rd, Butler, Roger E, to Prachnick, Jonathan W.

$215,000, 138 Sutton Ave, Harriett Shaw Ft, and Shaw, Harriett L, to Teixeira Prosperity T, and Greenwald, Steven.

WEBSTER

$455,000, 4 Concord Ct #4A, Gould Irt, and Lavoie, Christine M, to Arcure, John, and Arcure, Donna.

$380,000, 13 Tanner Rd, Sallies Jr, David R, and Sallies, Lola, to Connors, Gerald J, and Connors, Katie.

Almanac

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Monday: 8:00 AM-6:30 PM (second floor offices), Tuesday-Thursday: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, Friday: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM.

Dudley Police Department (943-4411)
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Dudley Fire Department (949-8040)
Monday-Sunday ..... 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

OXFORD

Oxford Town Hall (508) 987-6027
Board of Selectmen and Town Clerk Hours{

Monday, Tues., Thurs ..... 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday ..... 9 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday ..... 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Oxford Police Department (987-0156)
For emergencies, call 911

Oxford Fire Department (987-6012)
Monday-Friday ..... 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

WEBSTER

Webster Town Hall (508) 949-3850
Office Hours:
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Tuesday-Thursday ..... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday ..... 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Webster Police Department (943-1212)
For emergencies, call 911

Webster Fire Department (949-3875)
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Saturday ..... 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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Webster sets five focus areas for Strategic Master Plan

WEBSTER — Webster's Strategic Master Plan Committee (SMPC) has finished gathering information and community feedback and is moving into the next phase of Plan development. Over the last several months, the Committee reviewed relevant town plans and evaluated Webster's strengths and opportunities for improvement. Local businesses, government leaders, and community members expressed their views about Webster and its future through focus groups, a community survey, and interviews.

Five areas on which to focus the Plan emerged from this effort. The Committee now is developing strategic goals and objectives for them. Thanks go to all who took the time to share their ideas with the SMPC.

Information gathered provided valuable information. In general, there was a call for Webster to make better use of its resources, strengthen its economy, and help people feel more connected to the community. Business participants expressed confidence in Webster's potential for economic growth, pointing to its affordability, regional location on a major highway, the Webster lake, existing businesses, and workforce resources. They called for strengthening business support, attracting investment and jobs, and improvements to commercial areas—particularly the Downtown. They also emphasized leadership, coordination and collaboration, well maintained and safe commercial areas, streamlined business processes, and consistent follow through. Community participants expressed a strong attachment to Webster, including its lake, history, public services, and local organizations. They identified opportunities for a more vibrant and appealing Downtown, better transportation connections, and more recreation and community participation. Their feedback emphasized building on what Webster already offers while making it easier for people to take part in community life. Government participants highlighted dedicated employees who respond to residents' needs and emphasized the ability to work across departments. They also identified challenges, including financial pressures, staffing needs, maintaining town buildings and property, and changing community needs. Setting realistic priorities that can be addressed, assigning clear responsibility for work, and tracking progress are important to them.

Based on the information gathered, the Committee agreed upon the following five strategic focus areas on which to center the plan:

Economic Development and Downtown Revitalization will include steps to strengthen the local economy, support businesses, and revitalize the Downtown.

Community Assets and Webster Identity will lay out strategies for enhancing and better utilizing those places that are key to our community, such as the lake and Memorial Beach, and steps to connect people to Webster.

Communication and Civic Participation will address how the town can best share information and help people learn about and participate in town decisions, government, and community life.

Financial Stability and Municipal Assets will examine ways to keep town finances on a sound footing and maintain and improve schools, municipal buildings, parks, and recreation areas.

Municipal Capacity and Accountable Implementation will emphasize governance, resources, and clear responsibilities needed to provide services, carry out the plan, and track progress. For each of these areas the Committee is drafting goals that describe what Webster wants to achieve and objectives that make those goals more specific. The Plan is on track to be completed at the end of February.

Community members can read the strategic planning background information and reports, as well as watch videos of the SMPC meetings on webster-ma.gov. Go to the pull down Government tab and select Strategic Master Plan Committee. Residents also can take the opportunity to sign up for town updates about town meetings and committees by going to "Notify Me."

Todd A. Ethier
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Oxford invites community to celebrate the season at Holiday Lights Parade & Tree Lighting

OXFORD — The magic of the holiday season is returning to Oxford, and residents of all ages are invited to join in a festive evening of community spirit, holiday cheer, and family fun.

The Oxford Fire Department and Oxford Community Center are excited to announce the 2026 Holiday Lights Parade and Bandstand Tree Lighting, taking place on Sunday, Dec. 6.

The holiday festivities begin with the Holiday Lights Parade, stepping off at 5 p.m. from the North Fire Station, located at 656 Main St., North Oxford. Decorated emergency and DPW vehicles, illuminated floats, community groups, and holiday characters will travel along Main Street before arriving at the Town Common Bandstand at Joslin Park, 352 Main St., for the annual tree lighting celebration.

Residents wishing to watch the parade along the route are encouraged to take advantage of public parking available at:

Oxford Middle School

DPW Offices, 450 Main St.

Prior to the parade, families are invited to gather on the Town Common to enjoy holiday music, cookies, and hot chocolate provided with support from the Oxford Police Association while awaiting a special arrival from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Guests will have the opportunity to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus, and other favorite holiday characters, and capture memorable holiday photos.

For those attending the tree lighting festivities on the Common, downtown parking will be available at:

Town Hall

Oxford Community Center (parking for parade floats and spectators)

Handicapped parking only will be available in the Paradis-Givner lot.

Community participation remains a key part of this beloved Oxford tradition. The Oxford Fire Department is still accepting Holiday Lights Parade float entries. Entry forms are available at the Community Center, Town Hall, and online at oxfordma.us. All parade applications must be submitted by Dec. 3.

In support of the Oxford Police Department's "Operation Santa," donations of unwrapped toys will be accepted at the North Fire Station, the garage at Stanley Johnson Baseball Field (adjacent to North Fire Station), and the Town Common Bandstand.

"This annual event brings neighbors, families, businesses, and community organizations together to celebrate the holiday season and showcase the wonderful community spirit that makes Oxford special," organizers said. "We encourage everyone to come out, enjoy the festivities, and help light up the season."

For additional information, parade registration forms, and event updates, visit www.oxfordma.us.

Event at a Glance

What: 2026 Holiday Lights Parade & Bandstand Tree Lighting
When: Sunday, Dec. 6
Parade Start: 5 p.m.
Parade Route: North Fire Station, 656 Main St. to Joslin Park Town Common, 352 Main St.
Highlights: Tree lighting, Santa & Mrs. Claus and other characters, holiday music, cookies, hot chocolate, and community holiday fun
Float Registration Deadline: Dec. 3

Admission is free, and all are welcome. Bring your family, your holiday spirit, and join Oxford as we kick off the season together!

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Dudley, Charlton residents offered discounted tickets to Worcester Railers Hometown Heroes Night

WORCESTER — The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the St. Louis Blues (@StLouisBlues),are hosting their annual Hometown Heroes Night presented by Bay State Bank on Saturday, Dec. 5, when the Railers face off against the Maine Mariners at 6:05 p.m. (doors open at 5 p.m.).

The Railers are turning game night into a full-on celebration of first responders, with a pregame Fire vs. Police matchup, in-game recognitions, and an entrance giveaway for the first 1,500 fans.

Pregame Guns & Hoses matchup

The Worcester Fire and Worcester Police hockey teams will take to the ice and duke it out in the annual Guns & Hoses game right at the DCU Center. A ticket to the Railers game that night gets you into the Police vs. Fire game earlier in the day. The puck drops at 3pm as Worcester's Finest takes on Worcester's Bravest.

Dudley/Charlton Town Takeover Night

Fans from the Dudley/Charlton area are granted access to a special discount code for the game. The game will include a National Anthem performance by Dudley Elementary School, while all non-chorus students from both towns are welcome to join our high-five tunnel to help hype up the Railers as they take to the ice to face off against the Mariners!

Tote bag giveaway

The first 1,500 fans in the building on Saturday, December 5th will receive a Railers tote bag giveaway upon entry.

The 508 Club is now on sale for the 2026-27 season! Get access to games this season, exclusive events and additional benefits by calling the Railers front office at 774-436-6904 or by visiting RailersHC.com.

PET of the WEEK
BAYPATH
Humane Society of Hopkinton
Meet Claire!
Claire is an adorable puppy with a huge personality and so much love to give! This sweet, silly girl has already been through more than most puppies, but she hasn't let it slow down her enthusiasm for life.
Claire is playful, curious, smart, and always ready to be part of whatever is going on. She loves exploring outside, sniffing around the woods, playing with toys, and finding creative ways to entertain herself — cardboard boxes are a particular favorite! She's also crate trained, mostly house trained, and already working on skills like sit, down, touch, and leave it.
Like any young puppy who has had her activity restricted while healing, Claire has plenty of pent-up puppy energy! She can get jumpy and mouthy when she's excited and is still learning how to channel all that enthusiasm appropriately. She's a bright girl who will benefit from continued training as she grows.
Claire is looking for a foster or adopter who can continue helping her heal while giving her all the love, enrichment, and guidance a growing puppy deserves. She has so much potential ahead of her and can't wait to find people to cheer her on!
Medical: Claire has a fractured spine and slipped disc that are healing with medical management, including exercise restrictions, physical therapy, and antibiotics. She is being followed by a specialist, and Baypath will continue to work closely with her foster or adopter while she heals and until she is medically cleared by our veterinary team.
Claire may need a little extra care right now, but in return you'll get one incredibly cute, spirited, lovable puppy who is ready to make the most of every day. Come meet Claire and help this special girl continue her journey!
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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Viewpoint

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

EDITORIAL

A national stage, a hometown achievement

There is something special about watching young people discover what they can accomplish when they refuse to give up. For 26 cheerleaders from Charlton and Dudley, that lesson has taken them farther than they might have imagined when they began practicing together in July. Now, after months of preparation and an impressive series of competitive performances, the U12 Charlton-Dudley Rams are headed to the American Youth Cheer National Championships in Orlando, Fla.

Their achievement deserves recognition, not simply because they have earned a place among some of the nation's top youth cheerleading teams, but because of everything it took to get there.

Competitive cheerleading demands far more than enthusiasm and a bright smile. It requires athleticism, strength, coordination, discipline and an extraordinary level of trust. Every athlete has a responsibility to the others, and every movement must be executed with precision. A routine lasting only 2 minutes and 30 seconds represents months of preparation, with little room for error.

The Rams have demonstrated that they are up to the challenge.

Their journey began with a division championship at the Central Massachusetts Locals Competition in October. They followed that achievement with a second-place finish at the Massachusetts State Competition, earning the opportunity to advance to the New England Regional Championships.

On Nov. 14, competing at the University of Rhode Island's Ryan Center against some of the strongest teams in the region, the Rams finished third and secured their invitation to Nationals. Three competitions. Three impressive finishes. One remarkable opportunity.

For athletes this young, the experience offers lessons that extend well beyond cheerleading. They have learned that success requires preparation, that improvement takes patience and that individual talent means little without cooperation. They have also learned how to handle pressure, recover from mistakes and depend on teammates when the stakes are high. Those are lessons that will serve them long after their competitive cheerleading days are over.

Their coaches deserve recognition as well. Guiding 26 young athletes through a demanding season requires patience, encouragement and an understanding that developing character is every bit as important as developing athletic ability. The same appreciation belongs to the parents and families who have supported the team through months of practices, competitions and the considerable commitments that accompany youth athletics.

Now, however, the Rams face a different kind of challenge. With the national championships approaching in early December, the team has little more than two weeks to raise money for travel, lodging and competition-related expenses. For families already balancing the ordinary costs of raising children, an unexpected trip to Florida can represent a substantial financial burden. That is where the broader community has an opportunity to make a difference.

The team is organizing fundraising efforts, including community collections, lottery ticket fundraisers and outreach to local businesses. These efforts deserve serious consideration from residents and businesses in Charlton, Dudley and neighboring communities.

Supporting these athletes is about more than helping finance a trip. It is about recognizing the value of commitment and giving young people an opportunity they have earned through their own efforts.

There is also an important distinction worth remembering. The Rams are not asking their communities to reward them for participating. They have already competed, succeeded and qualified for a national championship. The fundraising effort is intended to ensure that the financial demands of attending do not overshadow what they have accomplished.

Not every family can contribute, and no

Turn To EDITORIAL *page* A5

A Thanksgiving worth remembering

LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET
By CHARLES

Thanksgiving has a way of sneaking up on a fellow. One minute, you're mowing the lawn and complaining about the heat, and the next, you're standing in the grocery store wondering how a frozen turkey can cost that much and whether anybody in the family actually likes cranberry sauce.

I've reached the age where Thanksgiving means something a little different than it did when I was younger. Back then, I was mostly interested in the food, the football and finding a comfortable chair before somebody recruited me to wash dishes. These days, I still appreciate all three, although I've learned that volunteering for dish duty can be a pretty good way to escape a conversation about politics.

The older I get, the more I realize that Thanksgiving isn't necessarily about having everything we want. It's about recognizing how much we already have, even when life hasn't turned out quite the way we expected. That's not always an easy thing to do.

We live in a world where somebody is constantly reminding us of what we're missing. A better car, a bigger house, a newer television, a vacation someplace warm. Apparently, according to the advertisements, happiness can be purchased in convenient monthly installments. I haven't found that to be particularly true.

Some of the happiest Thanksgivings I can remember took place around tables that were too small, in houses that were too crowded, with folding chairs borrowed from wherever we could find them. Somebody always got stuck sitting next to the kitchen doorway, somebody complained that the gravy was too thin, and somebody inevitably asked when we were going to eat, usually about 20 minutes after being told. Nobody seemed to mind very much.

I remember when Thanksgiving dinner was a production that began days in advance. The good dishes came out of the cupboard, the dining room table got its annual polishing, and there was a certain amount of nervous discussion about whether the turkey would be ready on time.

There was always one person who insisted the meal should begin at noon and another who thought three o'clock was perfectly reasonable. Somehow, we usually managed to eat around two. And there was always enough food to feed twice as many people as showed up.

Nowadays, the gatherings are a little smaller. The kids have grown, schedules have become complicated, and the old familiar faces aren't all around the table anymore. That's the part of getting older nobody puts in the holiday advertisements. You notice the empty chairs.

You remember the relatives who used to tell the same stories every year, the ones you pretended to be tired of hearing. Funny thing is, you'd give quite a bit to hear one of those stories again.

But Thanksgiving shouldn't become an exercise in counting what's missing. Those memories are worth keeping, certainly, but so are the people and moments we still have in front of us.

My wife and I have been married long enough to know that a successful holiday doesn't require everything to go according to plan. In fact, some of our favorite memories involve things going completely sideways.

A burned dinner roll isn't a catastrophe. Neither is a lumpy potato or a pie that looks like it lost a fight with the oven. And if somebody forgets to put the cranberry sauce on the table, there's a decent chance nobody will notice until Friday.

I think one of the great advantages of growing older is that you finally begin to understand which things matter and which things don't. The tablecloth doesn't matter. The centerpiece doesn't matter. Whether the turkey looks like the photograph in the cookbook certainly doesn't matter. What matters is the conversation, the laughter, the opportunity to spend a few hours with people who know your faults and love you anyway. And sometimes, what matters is simply having a peaceful afternoon.

Not everybody has a house full of relatives coming for dinner. Some people will spend Thanksgiving working. Others will be alone, whether by choice or circumstance. Some families are dealing with illness, financial worries or the first holiday after losing someone they love.

It's worth remembering that a holiday celebrated with such enthusiasm can be difficult for others. A phone call, an invitation or a plate of leftovers delivered to somebody's door might mean more than we realize. It doesn't have to be a grand gesture. Most worthwhile things aren't.

I also think Thanksgiving offers us a chance to reconsider what we call good fortune. Having a roof that doesn't leak, a reliable vehicle that starts on a cold morning, a friend who answers the telephone and somebody who notices when we haven't been around for a while are all pretty substantial blessings. They don't make for exciting television commercials, but I'd put them ahead of most things being advertised.

This year, I intend to enjoy my Thanksgiving dinner, probably eat more than I should, and settle into a comfortable chair afterward with every intention of staying awake. I will almost certainly fail at that last part. But before the day is over, I hope to spend a little time appreciating the ordinary things that have made my life a good one. The people who have stood beside me, the lessons I learned the hard way, and the many kindnesses I probably didn't appreciate enough when they happened.

And if the turkey comes out a little dry, I'll reach for the gravy. At my age, I've learned that most things in life can use a little gravy.

Happy Thanksgiving, folks.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A beautiful letter

To the Editor:

Michael Bailey wrote what I consider to be a beautiful letter in last week's Webster Times, as he (rather unintentionally I am quite sure), has proven my point.

I have never asked for violence of any kind, have never asked for work stoppages, walkouts, or anything that would disrupt anyone else's daily lives. I have, however, included some very important words every time. Those being ,

Please don't take my word for it — look it up; the information is easy enough to find!

Michael Bailey has proven that a certain political party does not want anyone to look it up, does not want that information to be found, and does not want opposite views to be heard, but would rather cancel, deplatform, or ban others from writing or sharing that information. If Michael Bailey wishes to gather 1,000 signatures, or have 1,000 writers repeat his demands, they will all be proving my point by trying to silence anyone with opposing views, which would make them all just as guilty as what they claim to be so afraid of happening now. Which, of course, hasn't happened, because if so, his opinion would never have been printed.

As a ta payer, I, along with everyone else, has a right to question and know where our money is going, and if a certain political party is trying to hide what they are doing with it, or write laws that would ban people from finding out, they are no better than the other.

If Michael Bailey or, for that matter, anyone else, has no problem giving their money away, please feel free to give it to me. I, like every politician, especially those running this state, will have no problem spending everyone else's.

Thank you, Michael Bailey, for proving my point.

JOHN GIAQUINTO
DUDLEY

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.

Year-end considerations for your wealth strategy



FINANCIAL FOCUS
DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

As 2026 winds down, year-end planning is an opportunity to evaluate how your taxes, investment decisions and wealth-transfer strategies work together.

Start with some self-reflection. Focus on your progress, your feelings about it and actions you might want to take next year. If you›ve had personal, family or employment changes, think about how they could affect your goals and your ability to achieve them.

Consider your tax situation. Work with your financial advisor and tax professional to identify year-end tax opportunities. This could include tax-loss harvesting, where you can sell unrealized losses in your taxable accounts to offset capital gains recognized throughout the year, including long-term capital gain distributions from mutual funds. Also starting this year, a new limitation may reduce the value of itemized deductions for some taxpayers in the 37 percent tax bracket.

If you're 73 or older, be sure to check if you have required minimum distributions to take before the year-end.

Make the most of tax-advantaged savings opportunities. Consider whether you›re making full use of your health savings account (HSA) and retirement plan opportunities. You should also review your mix of pre-tax and after-tax retirement savings to determine if you should adjust where you›re saving. Depending on your circumstances, you may want to evaluate opportunities such as Roth conversions, backdoor Roth and mega backdoor Roth contributions. If you›re saving for education, a 529 plan provides both flexibility and potential tax benefits.

Review giving strategies that can reduce your gross estate. If giving to others is one of your goals, consider charitable giving or annual gifting strategies to help support the people and causes you care about while also reducing the size of your taxable estate. You can also receive a current tax benefit from your charitable donations. If you›re age 70 and a half or older, you may be able to exclude up to $111,000 from your adjusted gross income (AGI) by making qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) directly from your IRA. These distributions can satisfy your RMD if you have one, which helps lower your AGI.

Also note that the rules for other charitable donations changed this year. If you take the standard deduction, you can now deduction up to $1,000 (or $2,000 if you file jointly) of cash donations. On the other hand, if you itemize deductions, you may not be able to deduct as much of your charitable giving as in the past. Work with your tax professional and financial advisor on related strategies.

Revisit your estate plan and beneficiary designations. Changes in your family circumstances, finances or estate laws can make existing plans outdated. Review beneficiary designations, account titling and estate-planning documents to help ensure your assets transfer according to your wishes.

As your financial life becomes more complex, the connections between investment, tax and estate-planning decisions become more important. Year-end is an ideal time to evaluate those relationships and identify opportunities to strengthen the overall efficiency of your wealth strategy.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Dennis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert St., Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com. Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors, cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation. Edward Jones, Member SIPC



Courtesy

Erica Jajliardo and Karen Nixon from the Sheriff's Office.

United Church of Christ Federated launches new community internet café to bridge local digital divide

WEBSTER — The United Church of Christ Federated is proud to announce the grand opening of Selah, its new community Internet Café, located in the church office at 4 Church St. in Webster. The café provides free high-speed Wi-Fi, public computer access, printing, complimentary coffee and snacks, and a welcoming gathering space for local residents, students, and job seekers.

Designed to serve as both a practical resource and a welcoming community hub, Selah Internet Café addresses the growing need for reliable internet and computer access in today's world. Whether visitors need to complete schoolwork, apply for jobs, access telehealth services, or complete applications/get resources such as Social Security, SNAP benefits applications, the space is open to everyone in the community. The church is grateful to the Webster Sheriff's Department who made the Café possible by donating 5 laptop computers through a grant from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute.

"Our mission has always been to love and serve our neighbors in practical ways," said Pastor Sabina Terrades. "In today's world, internet access is essential for education, employment, and staying connected. By opening this café, we hope to remove barriers for individuals and families alike." Volunteer staff will be on hand during select hours to assist guests with basic computer skills, resume formatting, and online job applications.

The United Church of Christ Federated is 4 Church St. in Webster, and can be reached at 508-943-0061 or uccfedwebster.org, facebook.com/websterfederated. The church is committed to serving the needs of our community. This dinner is just one of our many outreach programs that aim to build connections and support our neighbors.

Dudley Middle School to spread holiday cheer to 500 children with annual "Marching of the Gifts"

DUDLEY — What began 25 years ago as a small act of kindness for a handful of children has grown into a heartwarming holiday tradition that will bring Christmas joy to 500 children this year.

Dudley Middle School will celebrate its annual "Marching of the Gifts" at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10, at Dudley Middle School, 70 Dudley-Oxford Rd. The event marks the culmination of the school's annual Community Service Learning project, which brings students, families, businesses and community organizations together to provide Christmas gifts for children in need throughout Worcester County.

Led by Dudley Middle School teacher Lesa A. Patrock, the project benefits Youth Opportunities Upheld Inc. (YOU Inc.) through its "Adopt-a-Child for Christmas" program. Each year, YOU Inc. provides wish lists for children receiving the agency's services, many of whom face difficult family circumstances or are living in foster care. Ms. Patrock and her students work with generous donors throughout the school and greater community to fulfill those wishes, providing gifts, clothing and other essentials.

The project culminates with a "Marching of the Gifts," where students carry the donated presents from the school to an awaiting delivery truck. The festive procession is a celebration of months of hard work, generosity and the true spirit of giving.

Now in its 25th year, the project began when Ms. Patrock and her students set out to brighten Christmas for just seven children. Since then, it has grown into a remarkable community-wide effort, touching the lives of hundreds of children each holiday season.

Members of the community and local media are invited to attend the December 10 celebration and witness this special holiday tradition.

Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation awards nearly $24,000 in grants to local schools

DUDLEY — The Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation (DCEF) Inc. awarded nearly $24,000 in grants to the Dudley-Charlton School District.

"We are humbled to have the opportunity to support our community in tangible ways that directly impact our schools and students," says Sabrina Webb, president of the DCEF. "These grants will empower our teachers and staff to go above and beyond when it comes to the student experience in and out of the classroom."

Thirteen projects will receive funding. Initiatives by school include:

Mason Road: Making Math Memorable with Manipulatives; Reading for RULER!; Outdoor Classroom: The Sequel; Tactile Enhancement to Sensory Path; and Learning in a New Light: Sensory Exploration in Preschool.

Dudley Elementary: Sensory Hall Upgrade.

Dudley Middle: Titan Treat Trolley: A Student-Run Real-World Learning Experience.

Charlton Elementary: Jumping into Hands-On Learning with ALN-Inspired Math Materials.

Heritage School: Traverse Climbing Wall for Gymnasium ($3,250); Paint the Path to Play.

Charlton Middle: Scanning for Books.

Shepherd Hill Regional High School: American Heritage Museum; Weight Room Enhancements.

"The Dudley-Charlton Regional School District extends its sincere appreciation to the Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation for their continued generosity and partnership, shares," Steven M. Lamarche, superintendent of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District. "Their grant program supports innovative ideas that fall outside our operating budget but make a meaningful, positive impact on students' experiences in every school. We are grateful for their commitment to inspire educators and enriching learning opportunities across the district." Grants will be carried out in the 2026-27 school year.

OXFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

OXFORD — Oxford Middle School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2026-2027 school year.

High Honors

Grade 8 - Diego Aponte, Kaylee Augustynski, Narta Berisha, Audrey Buffum, Hazel Burlingame, Sadie Coghlan, Amber Conway, Hadley Coraccico, Olivia Daoust, Cora Descheneau, Joshua George, Trevor Gould, Margaret Griffin, Kellen Harrison, Jackson Harvey, Isabella LaMountain, Joseph Menke, Ava Montalvo, Caroline Montalvo, Mackenzie Olds, Stella Pantano, Jenna Shenette, Chad Sliwoski, Mia St. Peter, Sadie Stewart, Raeann Teal, Marissa Worden, Makenzie Zwang

Grade 7 - Audrey Almstrom, Ayla Ansah, Katrina Chuong, Rylee Cordova Del Cid, Janek Czapnik, Evelyn Decoster, Eli Dexter, Emmett Dunlavey, Delaney Duval, Natalia Ferrante, Nahashon Gachuna, Edward Graham III, Jaelyn Halley, Bennett Harding, Liam Huambachano, Lukas Kasprzycki, Savannah Langlois, Kaylee Lucien, Seth Maki, Mia Mazzella, Gabriel Mendoza, Gregory Meneguzzo, Tai Nguyen-Le, Natalie Olds, Emilia Raimondi, Carlos Ramirez, Jack Richard, Hannah Riley, Avery Robillard, Bradley Seeley, Harper Skowron, Slate Skowron, Kylie Stidsen, Thomas Stone, Seamus Sweeney

Grade 6 - Rowyn Angell, Chase Arrell, Jack Berry, Max Brouillard, Charlotte Daoust, Zoe Dunn, Cameron Gillis, Yveana Gould, Benjamin Hall, Josue Henriquez II, Julianna LaMountain, Kane Perry, Landon Silva, Nyla Walker, Nora Yogaratnam

Honors

Grade 8 – Clayton Almstrom, Ava Andrews, Charles Augustynski, Logan Barnes, Maritza Barreiro, Hayden Bates, Jack Belmore, Emile Bourbeau IV, Bradley Bush, Lucas Bush, Riley Capistran, Briella Caracciolo, Brynn Czernicki-Nasis, Kendall Donnelly, Jorge Etwaroo, Jazziebel Gonzalez, Isabelle Gurney, Ethan Gustafson, Vanessa Johnson, Gavin Lucier, Landon Morris, Sofia Moura, Brandon O'Connor, Aria O'Neil, Alana Ortega, Tianna Parker, Victoria Rivera, Mya Skeates, Briley Todd, Liam Valipour, Aislyn White, Lilliana Woods

Grade 7 - Tyleeah Adorno, Bridget Bejune, Sabastian Benoit, Savannah Brooks, Sophia Colon, Jaxon Cortis, Juan Escobar, Maddox Either, Mckenna Evans, Alexzander Farrar, Janiah Flores, Keira Hryzan, Xavier Garcia Valdez, Maeve Genatossio, Abel Kielinen, John Kinhan, Annabel Kryger, Zaidyn Kubilis, Ella MacDonaldAniah Madaio, Avianna Mahoney, Ryan Marlborough, Harlei McConnell, Shyanne Murphy, Owen Ortiz, Colby Palin, James Paul, Margret Paul, Ozkar Perez, Ayla Shonberg, Aiden Socia, Daniel Spaulding, Logan Thomas, Charlese Williams, Lily Wolford

Grade 6- Hero Aiguier, Dzifa Amegbedzi, Madison Bergman, Addison Burlingame, Jonathan Bosowski, Shaiyara Chowdhury, Mason Damstrom, Eva Dexter, Zoey Doeg, Aria Erb, Lucia Giotta, Delaney Gustafson, Violet Keller, Madison Klipp, Kaleb Kniskern, Isabella Lavalley, Maddox Lengle, Nora Mcclure, Cody Morrow, Hunter Morrow, Karyna Murta, Annabelle Nussey, Nolan Olson, Olyviah Perron, Faith Renaud, Trystan Ring, Ava Salvidio, Tamar Sarkeesian, Chloe Stevens, Isabelle Stidsen, Theo Tork, Grayson Wolfe, Adasynn Wilson, Talia Yahnian

EDITORIAL

continued from page A4

one should feel obligated to give beyond their means. But those who are able to help, whether through a donation, a fundraising purchase or a business sponsorship, have an opportunity to support something meaningful.

Regardless of what happens in Orlando, these 26 young athletes have already accomplished something extraordinary. They have represented their towns with determination, demonstrated the value of teamwork and earned the right to compete on a national stage.

The trophies and rankings will eventually become memories. The confidence, friendships and lessons learned along the way may last a lifetime.

Charlton and Dudley have every reason to be proud of their Rams. Now comes the opportunity to help them finish the journey they worked so hard to begin.

And when those 26 cheerleaders take the floor in Orlando, they will carry more than the hopes of their teammates and coaches. They will carry the pride of two hometowns cheering them on from Massachusetts.

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Prestige Salon & Day Spa celebrates multiple Best of Central Mass. awards

WEBSTER — Prestige Salon & Day Spa, located in the heart of downtown Webster, is celebrating another exciting achievement after being recognized at the Best of Central Mass Awards, held Nov. 13 at the DCU Center in Worcester.

Prestige proudly earned Best Spa for the third consecutive year, along with Best Nail Salon – Manicure/Pedicure, and placed among the Top 3 for Best Brow, Lash & Waxing Services.

Owner Lorri Ducharme credits the success to her talented, dedicated team and the continued support of the community, commenting, "Our vision has always been to create a welcoming space where wellness, relaxation, and exceptional service come together. These awards are a reflection of our team's passion and the trust our guests place in us."



Courtesy

The staff from Prestige Salon & Day Spa – Joanna, Iwona, Jordan, Savannah, Amber, Lorri, Hannah, Skyler, Isabelle, Gianna and Lexie.

Prestige operates with a unique team-based approach, bringing together skilled professionals specializing in natural nail care, pedicures, skin care, massage therapy, organic spray tanning, and salt therapy (halotherapy). Continuing its commitment to innovative wellness services, Prestige will introduce red light therapy this December as its newest wellness modality.

For Lorri, the vision extends beyond the spa itself. She is passionate about bringing holistic wellness services to downtown Webster while contributing to the continued growth and revitalization of Main Street.

As one of the growing businesses thriving in downtown Webster, Prestige Salon & Day Spa is proud to invest in the community, support local revitalization efforts, and help make downtown a destination for wellness, shopping, and connection.

Prestige Salon & Day Spa – "Where wellness meets luxury."

118 Main St., Webster
Phone: 508-671-0069
Website: www.theprestigesalon.com
Instagram: @prestigesalon.dayspa

Massachusetts coach and three-time American Ninja Warrior national finalist breaks 24-hour Murph world record

WORCESTER — Jonathan Godbout, founder of online coaching company Adaptation Through Perseverance (ATP) and a three-time American Ninja Warrior national finalist, has set a new unofficial world record for the most Murph workouts completed in 24 hours. Starting at 9 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 13, at CrossFit Worcester, Godbout finished 20.5 Murphs at 8:57 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14, with three minutes to spare. The previous record of 20.16 was held by Russell Stringer of Australia.

Murph is a CrossFit Hero workout, one of a series named to honor fallen service members. It carries the name of Navy Lt. Michael Murphy, who was killed in Afghanistan in 2005, and is traditionally done each Memorial Day: a 1-mile run, 100 pull-ups, 200 push-ups, 300 air squats and a second mile, all in a 20-lb vest. Godbout wore the vest for every round, and by the finish he had run 41 miles and completed 2,050 pull-ups, 4,100 push-ups and 6,150 squats.

The attempt traces back to the day Godbout and his friend Paul Woods knocked out 10 unweighted Murphs in 10 hours together, at 17 and 15 years old, and walked away agreeing that one of them had to go after the weighted 24-hour record. That mark climbed steadily in the years that followed, and Godbout spent the past eight months preparing for it, with strength and conditioning work five days a week, hundreds of Murph-specific workouts and physical therapy.

"This has been in the back of my mind for five years," Godbout said. "Once I gave it my full focus, I improved even faster than I expected, and I did more than I ever thought I could."

His coaches at CrossFit Worcester hosted the event and looked after him around the clock, keeping him safe and making the attempt as fair as possible. They judged every rep, counted every round and measured the mile to the exact distance, down to the door he ran out of.



The hardest hours came overnight, when the cold set in on top of mounting physical fatigue and mental exhaustion. Woods and Godbout's girlfriend, Abby Saner, who had done three Murphs of her own earlier that day and stayed awake with him all 24 hours, worked as his pit crew: piling on layers for each mile, stripping them off the moment he came back inside, holding cooling towels to his head and picking him up off the floor after push-ups during the last few rounds. His extended family stayed through the night too, covering many of the miles at his side.

"I literally couldn't have done it without my coaches, Abby and Paul, and my whole family," Godbout said.

Godbout dedicated the record to his grandfather, a military veteran, and to all who have served, as a thank-you for their service and sacrifice.

"This challenge was insanely hard, but it's nowhere near as hard as what veterans go through," he said.

The 24 hours were also a test of the idea his coaching company is named for.

"You have to go through something hard in order to come out stronger on the other side," he said. "That's what Adaptation Through Perseverance means to me."

Video of the finish has drawn more than 1.9 million views on Instagram, and a mini documentary of the attempt, told largely through the voices of his clients, friends, family and gym community, will premiere on the ATP Fit Co YouTube channel.

About Jonathan Godbout

Jonathan Godbout is a three-time American Ninja Warrior national finalist, an endurance athlete and a certified personal trainer with a degree in physical education. He has coached for about eight years and now works full-time as an online strength and conditioning coach.

About Adaptation Through Perseverance (ATP)

Adaptation Through Perseverance LLC is a Massachusetts-based online coaching company founded by Jonathan Godbout. ATP offers personalized coaching for ninja, obstacle racing and endurance athletes, as well as everyday athletes who want to train like them. Learn more at atpfitco.com.

Friday's Child



Thomas
Age 16
Registration #8537

Tommy is an energetic and passionate young person who truly enjoys connecting with others — both adults and children. He thrives in conversation and especially loves a thoughtful debate with a trusted adult. Curious and confident, Tommy brings enthusiasm and insight to the topics he cares about. He has a strong love for techno music and Pokémon, and he enjoys sharing what he knows with others. When he's not diving into his interests, Tommy is often outside riding his scooter around the neighborhood or helping his foster mother with gardening and yard work. He takes pride in being active and contributing at home. Tommy also has an impressive entrepreneurial spirit. He is currently developing a small business plan to mow neighbors' lawns, showing initiative, responsibility, and creativity well beyond his years. Golf is another passion of his. Tommy is a wealth of knowledge when it comes to different club styles and putting techniques, and he enjoys learning more about the game whenever he can. With his drive, curiosity, and determination, Tommy has so much potential to continue growing and thriving.

https://www.mareinc.org/child/21177981306

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.

November 2026 interpretive programs at Blackstone River Greenway Visitor Center at Worcester

WORCESTER — All programs are free and open to the public. Registration is not required. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear. Meet at the Visitor Center unless otherwise stated. Programming is subject to change or cancellation. For the most up to date programming information, call (508) 373-7056. Reasonable accommodations available upon advance notice. To make a request, please contact Moneesha Dasgupta at (617) 645-0358 or moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov. The Blackstone River Greenway Visitor Center at Worcester is located at 3 Paul Clancy Way, Worcester MA 01607.

Visitor Center Exhibit Tour

Saturdays, 11 – 11:30 a.m.

Join us on a tour of the Heritage Center's exhibit hall! Learn how the Blackstone Canal helped transform Worcester from a sleepy county seat to a thriving industrial city and hub for immigration and innovation. Appropriate for ages 6 and up.

Mill to Meadow

Saturdays, Nov. 7 & 21, 2 – 3 p.m.

The land on which the Visitor Center stands was once the largest factory complex in Worcester — and now not a single building remains! In this short walk, find out about "brownfield" reclamation on site and how it fits into the Blackstone Valley's environmental renaissance. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. About ¼ mile over paved surfaces.

Woodlands and Waterways

Saturday, Nov. 14, 2 – 3 p.m.

Walk along the banks of the Blackstone River and learn about the life that it supports. We'll look for signs of wildlife as we discuss the ways we can keep our watershed clean! Appropriate for ages 12 and up. The walk is roughly one mile over a paved surface with slight inclines. Meet 205 North Main Street, Millbury. Bathrooms and water are not available at this site.



Courtesy

Booklovers' Gourmet in Webster is hosting an art exhibit of paintings by Christine O'Brien, "An Artist's Journey through New England," Dec. 1-31. The show includes beautiful, breathtaking scenes and subjects painted in the realistic tradition using vivid colors, soft brush strokes and remarkable detail. All artwork and prints will be available for sale from the late artist's estate. The show may be viewed during regular business hours in December: Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday noon to 4 p.m. For more information, call 508-949-6232 or visit booklovers gourmet.com. Booklovers' Gourmet is located at 72 East Main St., Webster.



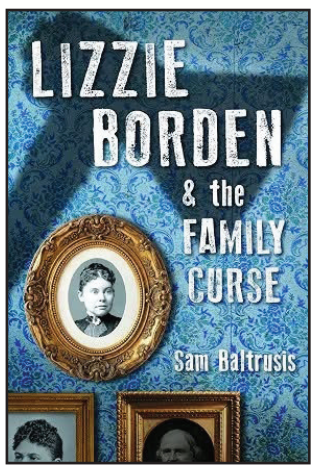
Courtesy

Rachel's Table's first Dine for Good Weekend wrapped up on Nov. 14. Locally, Eller's Restaurant in Leicester kicked things off with a Community Buffet Night on Nov. 10, and Local Home Bakery in Webster sold Mini Cake Boxes, with $5 from each going to Rachel's Table. Rachel's Table is a volunteer-driven nonprofit that delivers more than 500,000 pounds of surplus food a year to shelters, pantries and meal programs across the county.

Explore Lizzie Borden case with author Sam Baltrusis at Booklovers' Gourmet

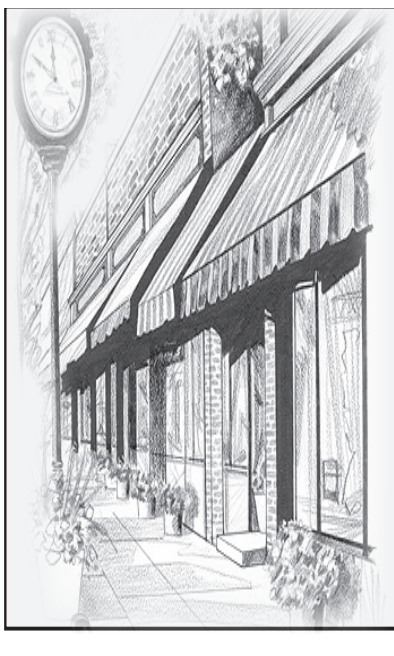


WEBSTER — Booklovers' Gourmet, located at 72 East Main St. in Webster, invites all to meet Sam Baltrusis, author of "Lizzie Borden & the Family Curse," on Sunday, Dec. 6, 1-3 p.m. The event is free and signed copies will be available for purchase. To RSVP or for more information, call 508-949-6232 or visit booklovers-gourmet.com.



The infamous 1892 murders of Andrew and Abby Borden have captivated New Englanders for more than one hundred years. But the story doesn't end in Fall River. Far beyond the locked doors of the Borden household, there is a wider web of people, places, and histories connected to the case. By weaving these parallel tales of crime, gender, and societal upheaval into the central narrative, local author Sam Baltrusis takes a deep dive into the ultimate whodunit—placing Lizzie's story within a broader historical and cultural context of rumors, power, and the shifting expectations of women in American society.

Sam Baltrusis is a Boston-based author who has been featured on the Travel Channel's "A Haunting and The Curse of Lizzie Borden." He is the author of two dozen paranormal-themed books, including "Ghosts of Salem" and "Related to Evil." His latest True Crime book from The History Press/Arcadia, "Lizzie Borden & the Family Curse," was released in October 2026.



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LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Norfolk Probate and Family Court
35 Shawmut Road
Canton MA, 02021
Docket No. NO24P0893PM
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT
In the matter of: Ronald Coolidge
Of: Auburn, ME
Protected Person/Disabled Person/ Respondent

Norfolk Probate and Family Court
35 Shawmut Road
Canton MA, 02021

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the 1st & 2nd account(s) of Norman S Gellatly of Auburn, ME as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been
presented to the Court for allowance.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **12/09/2026.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

WITNESS, Hon. Lee M. Peterson, First Justice of this Court..
November 02, 2026
Colleen M. Brierley
Register of Probate
November 27, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P3755EA
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR ORDER OF
COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
Estate of:
Eleanor Olive Carter
Date of Death: 05/17/2020

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by
Lori E Carter of Birchwood Village MN
requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/15/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 17, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 26, 2026

NOTICE OF MEETING

THIS NOTICE TO BE FILED IN DUPLICATE WITH THE TOWN CLERK AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING AS REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 303 OF THE ACTS OF 1975

THE Z.B.A. WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING FOR:
Jessica Prefontaine of 6 Ziemba Road on **THURSDAY, Deember 3, 2026 @ 7:00 pm** IN **ROOM 321A** TO HEAR THE APPLICANT'S REQUEST FOR:
A special permit for chickens & goats
Amanda Holmes
ZAB Clerk
November 20, 2026
November 27, 2026

TOWN OF DUDLEY
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
71 WEST MAIN STREET,
DUDLEY MA 01571

Please take notice that:Samantha Costello
Have applied to the Zoning Board of Appeals to vary the terms of the Zoning By-Laws Section: 2.04.00 Density Regulations
Location: 50 Center Road
In the following respect: A frontage variance of 24.34' (proposing 25.66' of frontage fot Lot R2, which require 50' of frontage for a retreat lot).
An area variance of 44,653.35 sq. ft. (Proposing 173,146.65 sq. t. for Lot R1 when 217,800.00 sq. ft. (5 acres) is required for a retreat lot)
The Public Hearing will be held on Thursday December 3, 2026 6:00PM at the Town Hall room 321A, at which time you may heard relative to this Public Hearing.
Please contact Amanda Holmes at 508-949-8012 or building1@dudley-ma.gov to attend the meeting.
Steve Watroba, Chairman
Zoning Board of Appeals
November 20, 2026
November 27, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P1211EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Ethel A Lecuyer
Date of Death: 08/10/2018

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **William J Lecuyer 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: .
William J Lecuyer of Webster MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/15/2026.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 16, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 27, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO26P3679PM
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO
G. L.c. 1908, § 5-304 & § 5-405
In the matter of:
Carol Denham
Of: Webster, MA
RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/Minor)

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by UMass Memorial Health-Harrington H of Southbridge, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Carol Denham** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that **Lisa S Judkins of Shrewsbury, MA**(or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservato to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **12/01/2026.**This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 06,2026
Stephanie K. Fattman
November 27, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO13P0458EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
William J. Rafferty
Date of Death: 01/08/2013

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **S/A - Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Mary Ellen Rafferty of Webster MA** and **Patricia A Marrier 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: .
Mary Ellen Rafferty of Webster MA and **Patricia A Marrier of Webster MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/15/2026.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 16, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 27, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P0949PM
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A CONSERVATOR
In the Interests of:
Robert Jacob
Of: Webster, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by
Scott M Corbin of Carson, CA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:
Expand the powers of a Conservator.
The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **12/01/2026.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date:October 28, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman
November 27, 2026

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
26 SM 003646
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
Carmelo Perez; Evelyn Oquendo
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq):
Freedom Mortgage Corporation
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in North Oxford (Oxford), numbered 64 Merriam District, given by Carmelo Perez and Evelyn Oquendo to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, dated February 16, 2018, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 58451, Page 64, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status.
If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the abovementioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before December 28, 2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on November 12, 2026.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
November 27, 2026

For Legal Advertising Information, Call 508-909-4127
email: legals@stonebridgepress.news

OBITUARIES

Ann M. DeFeudis, 93



WEBSTER – Ann M. (Desy) DeFeudis, 93, of Deerfield Drive West, died peacefully on Monday, November 16, 2026, in her home surrounded by her family.

She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Donald R. DeFeudis of Webster; two daughters, Cheryl A. Hetherman and her husband James of Webster, and Mary Beth White of Sturbridge; five grandchildren, Nicole Bergmann of Webster, Corey Hetherman and his wife Julie of Miami, FL, Michael DeFeudis of Tallahassee, FL, Sean Hetherman and his wife Beth of Concord, and Danielle White of Sturbridge; and six great-grandchildren, William, Marlene, Eva, Jack, Ada, and Alden. She was predeceased by a daughter, Patricia Mahota; a son, Donald J. DeFeudis; and four siblings, Ruth Leone, Claire Walsh, Jane Montigny, and Paul Desy Jr.

She was born in Worcester, daughter of the late Paul P. and Blanche G. (Quillia) Desy, and lived most of her life in North Oxford before moving to Webster in 2007. She graduated from Oxford High School in 1951.

Ann was an administrative assistant for Chess King in Worcester for many years prior to retirement. She was a longtime member of St. Ann's Church in North Oxford, where she participated in church activities, volunteered in various roles, and served on the St. Vincent de Paul Society. She attended the Silver Sneakers in Oxford and enjoyed country line dancing, knitting, reading, hiking, and taking walks with her husband. They spent many summers camping in Wells, Maine.

Ann enjoyed hosting and cooking for friends and family in her home, which often included playing cards. She enjoyed watching weekend football games on TV with her family. She was a dedicated and supportive grandmother, who attended all her grandchildren's sporting events.

The family would like to thank Central Care VNA and Hospice, especially Jennifer Gardner, for the exceptional care given to Ann during her illness.

A funeral was held on Tuesday, November 24, 2026, from Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford, followed by a Mass at 11 a.m. at St. Roch's Church, 332 Main St., Oxford. Burial followed at St. Roch's Cemetery in Oxford. Calling hours were Monday, November 23, 2026, from 4-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Special Olympics, 2600 Virginia Ave NW, 11th Floor, Washington, DC 20037, or to the Alzheimer's Association, 320 Nevada St., Suite 201, Newton, MA 02460.

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

CHEER
continued from page A1

table moment. They have worked so hard for this opportunity, and we cannot wait to see them take the national stage!"

With Nationals quickly approaching in early December, the team is now rallying the community to help make this incredible opportunity possible. The Rams have just over two weeks to raise funds to help offset travel, lodging, and competition-related expenses for the athletes and their families.

The team will be organizing several fundraising efforts, including community collections, lottery ticket fundraisers, and outreach to local businesses. Every contribution, no matter the size, will help support these 26 young athletes as they prepare to compete among the best teams in the country.

Community members, local businesses, and supporters are encouraged to join the Rams in making this once-in-a-lifetime experience possible.

The Charlton-Dudley Rams U12 cheerleaders have already made their communities incredibly proud. Now, they are ready to take their talent, determination, and Rams pride all the way to Orlando!

LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO26P3679PM
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO
G. L.c. 1908, § 5-304 & § 5-405
In the matter of:
Carol Denham
Of: Webster, MA
RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/Minor)

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by UMass Memorial Health-Harrington of Southbridge, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Carol Denham** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Connection Guardianship of MA, In of Shrewsbury, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **12/08/2026.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 10,2026
Stephanie K. Fattman
November 27, 2026

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Gladys E. Kelly Public Library

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Library Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!

Want to receive updates about our upcoming events? Sign up for email alerts by visiting our website or contacting our Assistant Director, Evan Hale, at ehale@cwmars.org

Special Events

Tiny Art Show – Starting November 2nd

Calling all art lovers! The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library is hosting a Tiny Art Show, showcasing miniature pieces of art from our community. All creators are invited to participate -- no matter their age or skill level! Starting Monday, November 2nd, pick up your 3 in. x 3 in. canvas from the main Circulation Desk or the Children's Desk. All mediums are strongly encouraged. Important Dates: Canvas Pick Up: November 2nd-21st Art Submission Deadline: Tuesday, November 24th! Please be sure to complete the submission form with your artwork. Artwork on display: All of December

Tiny Art Show Reception – Thursday December 3rd 4-6PM

Come celebrate all of our creative artists who participated in our Tiny Art Show this year! Stop by to admire the artwork and enjoy some refreshments. Did you enter a piece yourself? Find Miss Paige for a goodie bag as a thank you gift for your participation.

Drop-in Gift Wrapping – Month of December

Check our event calendar in December for drop-in Gift-Wrapping times. Get away from prying eyes, and enjoy a cozy and warm atmosphere with free gift-wrapping supplies!

Adult Programming

Literacy Volunteers: ESL Classes – Tuesdays at 6:00pm

The Literacy Cafe is a free weekly English conversation class offered by Literacy Volunteers of South Central Massachusetts (LVSCM). This class is free to attend and is open to all adults. For more information, email us at info@lvscm.org.

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

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

Yoga – Saturdays at 9:15am

Join Meg 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.

Drop-in Mahjong – Mondays 1:00-3:00PM

Stop in for a weekly mahjong game at the Gladys E. Kelly Library. All skill levels welcome! Mahjong is a tile-based game for two to four players.

Digital Literacy Course: Essential Computer Skills – Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30pm, beginning September 29th

Ready to get comfortable using a computer? This six-week course is designed for adults with little or no computer skill or experience who want to build confidence using technology for everyday life, work, and education. Students will learn the essential computer skills needed to navigate today's digital world. Through hands-on instruction and guided practice, participants will gain confidence using a computer, the internet, and common online tools in a supportive, beginner-friendly environment. Classes meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, through November 10th, at 5:30-7:30PM. If you have any questions, email websterabelinkages@webster-schools.org or call (508) 949-8282 to register.

Registration through Adult Basic Education is required.

The Nest: Small Business Growth Marketing Program – November 7th, 14th, December 5th, 12th, January 9th and 16th

The Nest Small Business Growth Marketing Program is a three-month practical training program designed to help local small-business owners develop a repeatable system for attracting new customers, converting prospects, increasing repeat business, and generating referrals.

This program consists of six sessions held the first two weeks of November, December, and January.

Women's Circle – The Last Monday of the Month starting November 30th 6:30-8:00PM

Rooted in the practices described in The Way of Council, the Women's Circle offers a welcoming space for authentic connection, deep listening, and personal reflection. Through the simple yet powerful practices of speaking from the heart, listening without judgment, and honoring each person's experience, participants build community, cultivate self-awareness, and discover wisdom in shared stories. Whether navigating a life transition, seeking meaningful connection, or simply longing for space to be heard, Women's Circle provides an opportunity to gather in a spirit of presence, respect, and mutual support.

New England Ringer: Experience the Magic of Handbells Up Close! – Thursday, December 10th 6:30-7:30PM

New England Ringers, founded in 2000, is an advanced performing handbell ensemble made up of highly energetic musicians playing complex, dazzling literature. For this festive performance, we are proud to present the NER Chamber Ringers—a specialized, intimate subset of our larger group designed perfectly for smaller venues. This select ensemble brings you the same high-energy performance you love, but in a cozy setting that lets you see the precision and artistry up close. Ring in the season with an enchanting program of Classic Christmas Carols and beloved holiday favorites. Learn about the various techniques we use and ring a bell or chime yourself! We delight listeners of all ages and are thrilled to bring this joyful celebration to the Webster! Join us for an unforgettable evening of music and holiday cheer!

Programming for All Ages

Library for All: Crafts –Mondays and Fridays at 10am

Library for All is an inclusive program for teens and adults of all abilities and their caregivers. Please let us know if you need any special accommodations! Join us every Monday and Friday! September-February, the crafts will rotate between coloring and painting. We'll provide the space and supplies, you bring the creativity!

Puzz Fest- Thursday. November 19th at 6:00 PM

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. Please only register 1 person per team; you cannot complete the registration process online if you say there are more attendees. We do not need to know how many people are on your team, but the maximum is 5.

Children's and Young Adult Programming

NEW Toddler Storytime – Mondays, 10:30am

Join us every Monday from 10:30–11:30am for a storytime designed for toddlers and their caregivers! We'll read stories, sing songs, and enjoy fingerplays together before diving into hands-on sensory free play. Together we'll build early literacy skills, spark curiosity, and discover the joy of learning through play!

Creators Club – Mondays at 4:00pm

Come explore our Creators Club, where each month features a new theme highlighting a different art supply for kids to experiment with and turn into their own masterpieces!

Tiny Groovers –Tuesdays at 10:30am

Join Miss Paige for a groovy storytime! Toddlers ages 2-5 and their caregivers will dance to popular kids' tunes while using instruments and playful props, and enjoy an interactive story each week.

Winter Craft Series: Cookie Decorating Party – Monday, December 1st at 4:00PM and 5:00PM

Who doesn't love cookies and hot chocolate on a cold winter day? Join us for a cozy session of cookie decorating and hot cocoa sipping! Space is limited and will be held in two sessions. Please register your child for only one session. PJs are encouraged!

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.

THE SENIOR CENTER WILL BE CLOSED ON Nov. 26 & 27!

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

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least three business days in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A $3.00 donation for 65 and up, and $5 for 55- 64 is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, 11/24: Turkey with gravy, cornbread stuffing, and winter squash. Wednesday, 11/25: marinated pork loin, mashed potatoes, brussels sprouts.

Love playing low-key card games? Come play Pass the Trash with us on Monday, 11/30 and 1:00 pm! Each game costs $3 to play that goes into the prize pot.

Need Transportation? Contact SCM Elderbus at 508-248-4299 at least two business days in advance to schedule transportation. Elderbus is available Mondays-Fridays 8:30 am- 3:00 pm.

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

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

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.

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.

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

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

We now have an official Bridge group! We will be meeting every Friday from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. All that are interested are welcome to join!

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

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

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First Congregational Church of Oxford to host annual Christmas Tea and Gift Shop Dec. 5

OXFORD — The First Congregational Church of Oxford will welcome the holiday season with its annual Christmas Tea and Gift Shop on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., continuing a cherished tradition that has brought people together for more than 25 years.

The annual event offers visitors an opportunity to enjoy a traditional holiday tea, complete with fine China, a selection of premium loose-leaf teas and an assortment of homemade foods.

Organizers take pride in providing an authentic tea experience, serving selections purchased from Asiago Teas. Unlike traditional tea bags, loose-leaf tea allows guests to experience the flavors and aromas of carefully selected tea leaves.

Each serving is presented in a China teapot and poured into a China teacup, adding an elegant touch to the holiday gathering.

In addition to the tea selections, guests can enjoy a variety of homemade soups, sandwiches and desserts prepared for the occasion.

Several dining options will be available, with prices ranging from $6 for tea and dessert to $18 for a complete meal featuring soup, a sandwich, dessert and tea.

The Christmas Tea has been a longstanding holiday tradition at the church, offering an opportunity for friends, families and neighbors to gather during the busy Christmas season.

The event also includes a gift shop, providing visitors with an opportunity to browse while enjoying the festive occasion.

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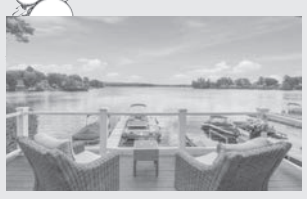

Expansive water views! Beautiful, completely remodeled home on scenic Webster Lake! Combines effortless modern luxury with lakefront living. It boasts a spacious, sunny open-concept layout, designed for both relaxation & entertaining! Swim off your private dock, warm up in your personal sauna, share stories around the firepit on chilly nights ~ everyday feels like a vacation!
MLS# 73589032 **NEW PRICE $1,150,000**

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Webster - 106 East Main St (Rte 12) Commercial Opportunity!



Corner Lot, 275' +/- Road Frontage, Extremely High Traffic Count, 6,200 SF (75x80) Commercial Building, Currently 2 Units -> Potential for More. Economical, Efficient Natural Gas FHA Heat & Cooling. Its close proximity to Successful National Franchised Businesses generates Significant Commerce at this Location. Convenient Access. **MLS #73512426 $ 615,000**

24 Laurelwood Dr Webster Lake Waterfront



On the shores of prestigious Webster Lake! Experience ultra-luxury lakefront living with direct water access. This young modern craftsman lake home is masterly designed to maximize panoramic Western views through a two-story architectural tower. The home boasts 3,790 +/- square feet of sophisticated, three-story living space, complete with multilevel waterside decks, a radius stone faced patio, and a tiered landscape with its own waterfall. The living room flows seamlessly onto an expansive open deck and into an exquisite sun-drenched sitting room. A magnificent primary bedroom suite offers a private full bath, double sink vanity, walk-in closet and dressing room. The purposely designed lower level delivers effortless, large-volume entertainment, featuring a full second kitchen and a sprawling recreation room that opens to a substantial lakeside patio. With 2 additional bedrooms and bath, this level easily serves as a private guest floor. This Lake property is designed to create long-lasting memories!
MLS#73563787 **$1,750,000**

Webster ~ 33 Slater Street



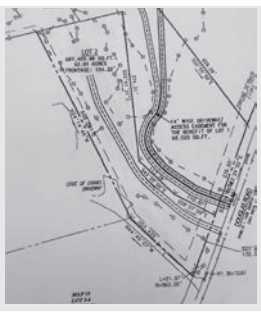
Sprawling fieldstone faced Ranch! Located on a +/- 0.5-acre, 2 car garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 2 stone fireplaces-FHW BB heat. Open floor plan kitchen, living rm, dining rm, breezeway w/ sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom
MLS # 73500183 **$464,900**

Woodstock ~ 500 Route 169



Historic Woodstock Hill! Distinctive 1800 Vintage ~ 2,500+/- sq ft home blends period charm with panoramic views. Features 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, multiple living areas, and a scenic sitting porch. It includes two furnished guest suites with strong booking history near Woodstock Academy and Pomfret School. Lush grounds boast established flower gardens and a flower stand, offering potential for a studio or business (subject to approval). Own a rare piece of Woodstock history!
CT MLS# 24209434 **$779,000**

Webster - Douglas Rd (Rt 16) ANR Lot # 2



Building Lot, 2.01 +/- acres, 154' road frontage, Surveyed and portioned out of a larger tract of land, Zoned ASFR (Agricultural Single Family Residential) Located near State Land
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On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake Waterfront 22 Union Point Snug Harbor Villa Open House UNday 12-2



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VIEW REALTOR MLS # 73507605 FOR MORE DETAILS **$948,000**

Webster Lake ~ 60 Wakefield Ave ~ Corner Lot!

Rare Lake Residential Building Opportunity! 1 of 2 build-ready level, landscaped lots ~ each with 1/3 ownership of a private, prime waterfront lot, swimmable & boatable, where you will enjoy a sun drenched sandy shoreline & boat dock ~ just baby steps away from your NEW home! You will have direct lake access, low off-Lake taxes, access to municipal water/sewer services and an established neighborhood. Build now or build later BUT enjoy Webster Lake IMMEDIATELY!



Go To MLS # 73582966 $277,500.

Webster Lake ~0 Wakefield Ave



Rare Lake Residential Building Opportunity! 1 of 2 build-ready level, landscaped lots ~ each with 1/3 ownership of a private, prime waterfront lot, swimmable & boatable, where you will enjoy a sun drenched sandy shoreline & boat dock ~ just baby steps away from your NEW HOME! You will have direct lake access, low off-Lake taxes, access to municipal water/sewer services and an established neighborhood. Build now or build later BUT enjoy Webster Lake IMMEDIATELY!
Go To MLS # 73582967 $247,500





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Please inform Auburn Historical Society of any donations

AUBURN — The mission of the Auburn Historical Society is to preserve and share the history of our town and surrounding area. Through the collection, preservation, and exhibition of historical materials, artifacts, and stories, we strive to engage the community and promote a deeper appreciation of our local history for current and future generations.

Recently, the Auburn Historical Society and Museum received an anonymous donation of a large vintage topographical map book which was left at the museum's door in a plastic bag. The museum appreciates any and all donations that help preserve the past, especially Auburns. As the museum is only open on Tuesday and Saturday mornings, this donation may not have been discovered before the predicted rain that came later on in the week. There is a phone number on the door that donors can call and leave a message that a donation has been left at the museum, whether you wish to remain anonymous or not.

'Memories of Christmas' handbell concert coming to Oxford Dec. 20

OXFORD — The sounds of the holiday season will fill the First Congregational Church of Oxford on Sunday, Dec. 20, when "Memories of Christmas," a holiday handbell concert directed by Cheryl Townsend, is presented at 2 and 5:30 p.m.

The concert, celebrating the memories and joys associated with Christmas, will offer audiences an opportunity to enjoy the distinctive sounds of handbell music during the final days leading up to the holiday.

Handbell performances bring a unique musical dimension to familiar holiday traditions, with musicians working together to create melodies and harmonies through carefully coordinated ringing. The resulting sound is particularly well suited to the warmth and nostalgia of the Christmas season.

"Memories of Christmas" will take place at the First Congregational Church of Oxford, located at 355 Main St.

Admission is $20 per person, $15 for seniors and $2 for children ages 9 and younger.

With two performances scheduled, the concert offers families and other music lovers a choice of afternoon or early evening entertainment as Christmas approaches.

For additional information about the concert, visit www.newenglandringers.org.



Dudley Conservation Land Trust announces hunting ban for newly acquired properties

DUDLEY — The Dudley Conservation Land Trust (DCLT) today announced that hunting, trapping, the use of bows and arrows or crossbows, and the discharge of firearms are strictly prohibited at its two newest properties: the 23-acre Antos Farm in Dudley (Marsh Road) and the 21.33-acre Kulisa-Tierney Preserve in Oxford (Whiting Road).

Volunteers are actively installing boundary signs and conducting regular patrols. Patrols were recently heightened after DCLT stewards discovered significant damage to a mature tree at the Kulisa-Tierney Preserve, where giant metal bolts had been driven into the trunk to support an unauthorized, makeshift tree stand.

"Keeping these spaces safe for visitors of all ages is our top priority," said Liza Moran, President of DCLT. "Finding human-caused damage to a mature tree on sanctuary land is heartbreaking. As we open these lands to the public, shared respect is vital for our outdoor community. We are asking the local sporting community to partner with us by respecting these new boundaries so that everyone can enjoy Central Massachusetts safely."

DCLT emphasizes that its policies are not anti-hunting; ethical hunting plays a vital role in regional conservation. While hunting is banned on these two smaller tracts, seasonal hunting is open to the public at the 142-acre Slater Woods/Hiland Park Sanctuary in accordance with state regulations.

Passive recreation remains welcome at all DCLT sites from sunrise to sunset. However, DCLT strongly reminds all outdoor enthusiasts to wear bright blaze orange when visiting local woods during autumn. Visitors can verify property boundaries and rules across all 470 acres under DCLT stewardship at dudleyclt.org.

Girl Scout troops welcome new members

AUBURN — Girls entering grades K and 1 in the fall are invited to join Troop 65600, which meets in Auburn every other Tuesday 5:30-6:30 p.m., and Troop 655999, which meets every other Thursday in Dudley from 6-7:15 p.m. Girl membership registration fee is $111, and is active until September 30, 2027. Financial Assistance is available.

Girl Scouts is the premier organization for girls to learn about leadership, financial literacy, life skills, the outdoors, community service, science and technology.

Girl Scout programming is customizable for all types of learners!

Previous Girl Scout experience is not necessary.

You can register for a spot in the troop at https://go.gscwm.org/troop65600

Questions? Email info@gscwm.org or call 508-365-0115.

About Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts serves nearly 6,000 girls in grades K through 12 with the strong support of over 2,500 adult volunteers in 186 towns and cities in central and western Massachusetts. The Girl Scout program allows girls to discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together while building their personal leadership qualities. GSCWM supports girls by giving them extraordinary opportunities to explore, experience, and learn about their world and helps girls recognize that they are vital members of their communities.

First Congregational Church of Dudley hosting Annual Christmas fair!

DUDLEY — Please join us at The First Congregational Church of Dudley (135 Center Rd.) for our annual Christmas fair on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This year's fair will include online and in-person auctions, quilt and basket raffles, craft vendors, a café, cookie corner, live entertainment, and, of course, a visit from Santa Claus.

The online auction will close on Dec. 5 at 10 a.m. The live auction will be held on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 1 p.m.

To register for the virtual auction, either copy/paste the link, https://new.biddingowl.com/firstcongregationalchurchofdudley01571, into your Web browser or scan the QR code. Bidding Owl will ask for a private auction code. Use fccd2026 (case sensitive) to see the current items listed. Please email dudleyucc135@gmail.com with any questions.

We hope to see you there!

Come to give blood, experience the magic of Trans-Siberian Orchestra

WORCESTER — The American Red Cross and Trans-Siberian Orchestra invite eligible donors to make an appointment to give blood, platelets or plasma and enjoy a special opportunity to experience the magic of the holiday season while helping save lives.

When donors hurry in to give blood, platelets or plasma, they can earn at least 100 points through the Red Cross Donor Rewards program, which can be used to redeem two tickets to select performances of Trans-Siberian Orchestra's The Ghosts of Christmas Eve: The Best of TSO and More, while supplies last. Trans-Siberian Orchestra will perform in Worcester on Nov. 28, for the 7:30 p.m. show at the DCU Center. (To learn more about Donor Rewards, visit RedCrossBlood.org/rewards.)

"The Red Cross is in constant need of blood donations, and it's so important that we all step up," said Trans-Siberian Orchestra's Al Pitrelli. "You give blood to support a wonderful cause and in exchange, you come spend the holidays with us. It's a win-win!"

Quantities are limited! To make an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS or download the Blood Donor App.

The holiday season can be a challenging time to ensure the blood supply remains stable, even as busy schedules may prevent regular donors from giving. "Blood donors make a profound difference in the lives of patients every day," said Darren Irby, executive director of brand partnerships for the Red Cross. "This special Donor Rewards offer is a meaningful way to thank those who come to roll up a sleeve to help others while giving them the chance to enjoy an unforgettable holiday experience, thanks to the generosity of TSO."

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information about our work, please visit redcross.org/MA or CruzRojaAmericana.org, or follow us on social media.



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