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Friday, June 26, 2026

**BVT students  
earn 132  
Medals at  
SkillsUSA  
Competitions  
in 2025-26**

UPTON — Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) students demonstrated their vocational-technical abilities at the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC), held June 1-5 in Atlanta. The annual event is the world's largest gathering of career and technical education students and highlights the critical role of career-ready skills.

The national conference marked the third and final stage of the SkillsUSA competition series. BVT students earned five bronze medals, while contestants who earned medals or met a threshold score for their event were also awarded skill point certificates representing achievement in demonstrating proficiency and workplace readiness.

"Our students welcome the opportunity to compete against themselves and other highly skilled students at the SkillsUSA district, state, and national championships," said Superintendent-Director Anthony E. Steele II. "During the 2025-26 school year, our students proved their technical skills are among the best in the country by earning 132 medals at all three levels."

The following BVT students placed among the top 30 competitors at the 2026 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. Additional information is available at [www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/skillsusa](http://www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/skillsusa).

**BLACKSTONE**  
4TH Place: Hunter Savard and James Thibault, Additive Manufacturing.

**DOUGLAS**  
Bronze: Devin Drumheller, Mechatronics.

**GRAFTON**  
Bronze: Robert Lazo, Mechatronics.  
24th Place: Caroline Brown, Advertising Design.

**HOPEDALE**  
Bronze: Ella Foster, Career Pathways Showcase Engineering.

**MILFORD**  
National Voting Delegate: Maria De Oliveira, also the outgoing Western Region Vice President.  
13th Place: Emily Kee, Health Occupations Portfolio.

Turn To **MEDALS** page **A10**

**Uxbridge High School names Christine Prior  
and Hurley Silbor "Educators of the Year"**

U X B R I D G E — Uxbridge High School held its final faculty and staff meeting of the school year on Tuesday, June 16, recognizing two incredible educators who are retiring, as the UHS Educators of the Year. The award, instituted in 2016, recognizes outstanding educators for their contributions to the school and community. This year, the award was given to Hurley Silbor and Christine Prior, who are retiring after lengthy careers at UHS in which both have made lasting impacts to their students, colleagues, community, and school.

In sharing remarks about the two excellent educators, Dr. Michael Rubin referenced the classic nonfiction piece by John Updike, *Hub Fans Bid Kid Adieu*, about the last game of baseball legend



Ted Williams' career and his home run on his final at bat.

"There are those in sport and history who leave their careers perhaps a bit too

long," said Dr. Rubin. "For example, we remember reading stories of Napoleon isolated on an island, or Ronald Reagan absorbing jokes about his declining faculties, or Willie Mays in a Mets uniform. For Chris Prior and Hurley Silbor, there was no such decline. They leave the profession still doing the job as well as they ever have, setting the example for what it means to be a professional, the consummate educator,

a great teammate, and a tremendous colleague."

The two were presented with the traditional Adirondack chair as built for retirees in the school's manufacturing program, as well as a plaque that recognized them for "steadfast commitment and professionalism to the students and community of Uxbridge." Reflecting on their legacy, UHS Principal Michael Rubin noted that both Prior and Silbor are

concluding their tenures at the height of their professional impact. Comparing their exit to the legendary final home run of Ted Williams, Rubin remarked that their contributions are firmly "in the books" as they transition into retirement. Their careers have been defined not just by longevity, but by a deep sense of purpose and a mastery of their craft that has left an indelible mark on both students and colleagues.

Throughout their years of service, Prior and Silbor have embodied an "indefensible hope" in the potential of their students and the success of the school. While they may not have sought the title of the greatest educators to ever live, the sentiment of their excellence will endure in the minds and spirits of the generations of learners they have inspired.

The Uxbridge High School community extends its deepest gratitude to Chris Prior and Hurley Silbor for their years of dedication and wishes them the very best in their future adventures.

**Simon Fairfield Public  
Library announces July  
programs and Summer  
Reading events**

DOUGLAS — The Simon Fairfield Public Library has announced a full schedule of programs for children, teens and adults throughout July, including Summer Reading Program events, book clubs, gardening activities and creative workshops.

The library, located at 290 Main St., will be closed on Saturday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

Library staff remind residents that some programs require advance registration. Anyone with questions may contact the library at 508-476-2695 or email [douglas@cwmar.org](mailto:douglas@cwmar.org).

**Summer Reading Program**  
The library's Summer Reading Program will feature a series of weekly Wednesday presentations at 1 p.m.

The schedule includes:  
Wednesday, July 8: Diane Edgecomb presents *Sprouting Tales*.

Wednesday, July 15: Rainforest Reptile Shows.

Wednesday, July 22: Massachusetts Horticultural Society Plantmobile presentation (registration required).

Wednesday, July 29: Ed the Wizard presents *Reading is Magic*.

**Special Family Event**  
Children and families are invited to attend *Barks and Books with Dog Orphans* and *Louise Chabourne on Monday, July 20*, at 1 p.m.

**Children's Programs**  
Summer Storytime sessions will be held at 10 a.m. on:

Mondays: July 6, July 13, July 20 and July 27.

Thursdays: July 9, July 16, July 23 and July 30.

Registration is required for all storytime sessions.

Children can also participate in Reading to Bryce on Wednesday, July 15, at 5:45 p.m. Registration is required.

**Teen Programs**  
The library's Battletech Club will meet for teens at 4 p.m. on:

Tuesday, July 14.

Tuesday, July 28.

**Adult Book Clubs**  
Two book discussion groups are scheduled during the month:

**Intrepid Readers** will discuss *Cleopatra* by Stacy Schiff on Tuesday, July 14, at 6:30 p.m.

**SciFi Book Club** will discuss *The Infinite Sadness of Small Appliances* by Glenn Dixon on Tuesday, July 21, at 6:30 p.m.

**Adult Activities**  
The library will host several recurring adult programs:

**Writer's Accountability Group** meets Mondays, July 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 6:30 p.m.

**Fiber Arts Friends** meets Wednesdays, July 8 and 22 at 5:45 p.m.

**SFPL Gardeners** meets Saturday, July 18, at 10:30 a.m.

The Simon Fairfield Public Library is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For additional information or to register for programs, contact the library at 508-476-2695 or visit the library at 290 Main St. in Douglas.



Rev. Daniel Gregoire of UUSGU reads during a past 'Reading Frederick Douglass Together' event.

**UUSGU to host Frederick Douglass  
reading July 5**

GRAFTON — On July 5, the Unitarian Universalist Society of Grafton and Upton (UUSGU) and Grafton Public Library will host a public reading of Frederick Douglass' powerful speech "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" first delivered in 1852 in Rochester, N.Y. to the Ladies' Anti-Slavery Society. The event will be held at the UUSGU meetinghouse at 3 Grafton Common in Grafton, MA, beginning at 5 PM.

The injustice that continues in our country makes the Frederick Douglass speech as relevant today as it was in 1852, and the reading offers an occasion to consider racism and the legacy of slavery in the United States.

The program begins with a "call to the Common" by African drummer Akili Jamal Haynes, as Frederick Douglass called people to the Common with a bell in 1842 after initially being denied access to local churches, homes, and marketplaces when he came to Grafton to speak out against slavery. He returned to Grafton Common to speak again in 1874.

The drumming will resonate throughout the Grafton Common, inviting the community into the meetinghouse. Once indoors, volunteers will take turns reading Douglass' speech aloud from start to finish. The moving oratory prompts our consideration of the nation's stated values, its triumphs and failures, and the actions and resolutions required of us as participants in the American project, a 250-year-old experiment in democracy.

Following the reading, those interested will break into smaller groups to discuss what we, each of us, here in 2026, can do to further Douglass' vision of a more just and equitable American society.

Reading Frederick Douglass Together, a free community event, is made possible by a grant from Mass Humanities, provided by funding through the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC). The UUSGU meetinghouse is welcoming to everyone, is accessible, and offers assistive listening devices. Volunteer readers will speak from an accessible lectern.



**PAW of the WEEK**  
**CHESTER**  
5 YR./59 LB./MALE/RETRIEVER/CATTLE DOG MIX

About Me: Hi, I'm Chester — equal parts sweet, silly, and snuggly. I'm the kind of guy who will happily toss a toy around one minute and then roll over for belly rubs the next. I love my people deeply and bond closely with "my" humans. Once you're in my circle, you're in for life. I'm happiest when I'm playing, relaxing near you, or soaking up affection. I have a big heart, a playful streak, and a soft side that just wants to feel safe and loved.

*A Few Honest Notes (Because Communication Matters)*  
I'm not a cat guy — it's just not my vibe. I've been around other dogs at the rescue and have done fine, but I didn't have much proper socialization before coming here. When dogs rush up to me, I can feel unsure and a little overwhelmed. Because of that, I'd feel most confident being your one-and-only pup while I continue building skills and confidence at my own pace.

Vet visits used to make me nervous too — especially nail trims and being confined for exams. But guess what? I've made amazing progress. With the help of our awesome trainer, Jackie, I learned to file my own nails (yes, I'm basically a DIY king), and I've been muzzle trained so I can safely and successfully handle checkups and vaccinations! With a little medication beforehand and the right support, I'm doing so much better already. I'm proof that patience and training truly work.





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

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# Blackstone Valley State Parks offer Night Skies and Pride hikes and outdoor adventures

UXBRIDGE — Residents looking to explore the outdoors, learn about the night sky, or connect with nature on guided hikes will have numerous opportunities throughout 2026 as the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) rolls out a full slate of programs across the Blackstone River Valley.

The schedule includes stargazing events at Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park in Uxbridge, a series of guided recreational hikes throughout the region, and a special Pride Hike at Douglas State Forest in June.

All programs are free and open to the public, and most do not require advance registration.

One of the most popular offerings returns with the annual Night Sky 2026 series at Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park. Participants will gather in the field across from the River Bend Farm Visitor Center at 287 Oak St. in Uxbridge for guided observations of celestial events throughout the year. Upcoming sessions are planned for July 17, Aug. 28, Sept. 18, Oct. 23 and Nov. 6.

Highlights include a June evening featuring Venus, Jupiter and Mercury, an August full moon rising shortly after sunset, and a November program that will include viewing opportunities for the Milky Way.

The programs are suitable for all ages, although children must be accompanied by an adult. Organizers recommend dressing for weather conditions and bringing insect repellent.

Outdoor enthusiasts can also

take advantage of the Exploring the Blackstone River Valley Recreational Hike Series, which began May 3 and continues each Sunday through June 28.

The hikes will visit several regional conservation areas and state parks, including Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park, Upton State Forest, Douglas State Forest, Whitehall State Park and the Blackstone River Greenway.

Among the featured outings are the Worcester Greenway Hike on June 28.

The guided hikes vary in length and difficulty, ranging from a two-mile paved walk along the Blackstone River Greenway in Millville to more challenging woodland routes featuring rocky terrain and steep inclines.

Participants are encouraged to wear sturdy footwear and bring water and insect repellent. Children attending must be accompanied by an adult.

The DCR is also continuing efforts to create welcoming outdoor experiences for all visitors through its annual Pride Hike program.

This year's regional Pride Hike is scheduled for June 27 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Douglas State Forest. Participants will meet at the Ridge Trail parking area and complete an approximately 2.5-mile hike over gravel surfaces and steep inclines.

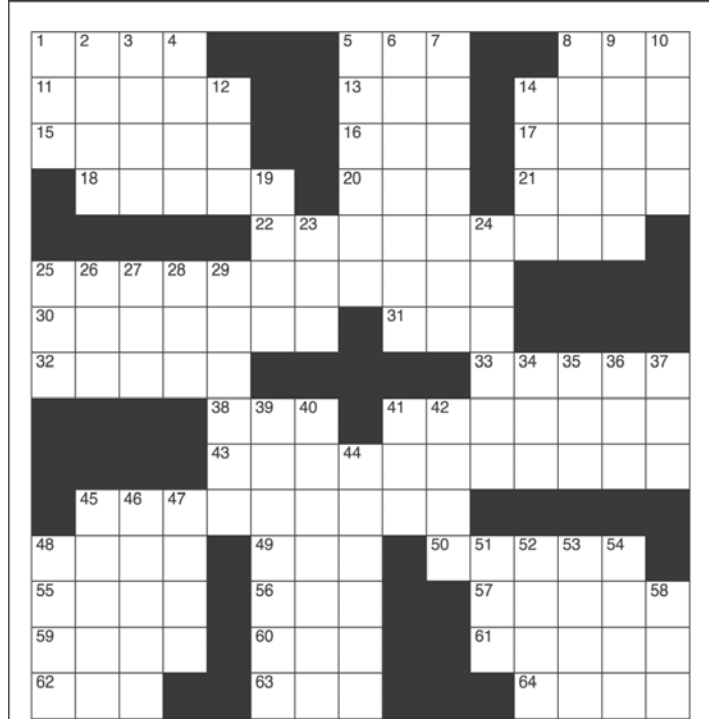
The event is designed for LGBTQIA+ individuals,

their families and allies, providing an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors in an inclusive and supportive environment. Organizers encourage participants to wear pride colors and prepare for changing weather conditions.

The Pride Hike is recommended for ages 12 and older. Restroom and water facilities are not available at the trailhead.

DCR officials note that all programs are subject to change or cancellation due to weather or other conditions. Up-to-date information is available by calling the park office at (508) 278-7604.

The Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park serves as one of the region's premier gateways to outdoor recreation, offering access to trails, historic canal features, wildlife viewing opportunities and educational programming throughout the year.



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Egyptian bull god
- 5. Romanian monetary unit
- 8. Santa's helper
- 11. Fictional Pink Floyd corporal
- 13. Sea eagle genus
- 14. Broad volcanic crater
- 15. Minneapolis suburb
- 16. Actual commercial worth (abbr.)
- 17. Exchange rate
- 18. Ethnic peoples in Guinea
- 20. Men's fashion accessory
- 21. Craft material
- 22. Offerings
- 25. Early
- 30. Large room
- 31. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 32. One who hauls
- 33. Shorthand for accepting
- 38. Promotional materials
- 41. Loss of memory
- 43. One who beheads
- 45. Photographers
- 48. Small, rich sponge cake
- 49. White clerical vestment
- 50. Partner to "oohed"
- 55. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- 56. Zero
- 57. Owl monkey genus
- 59. Lace bug genus
- 60. Mild expression of surprise
- 61. Storage devices
- 62. Keyboard key
- 63. Make a mistake
- 64. One-time Korean president

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Bridge building degree
- 2. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 3. Large, stocky, lizard
- 4. Rumanian river
- 5. Missive
- 6. Stout-bodied moths
- 7. Brings out
- 8. Bird of prey
- 9. King of Thebes
- 10. Cleaving tool
- 12. African antelope
- 14. Three are particularly famous
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. C. European river
- 24. Dictator
- 25. Portion of (abbr.)
- 26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 27. Consume food
- 28. Woman (French)
- 29. Scrape or wear away by friction
- 34. Popular vegetable
- 35. Pacific Standard Time
- 36. Brazilian state capital
- 37. Paddle
- 39. Cause to become insane
- 40. Drier and flakier
- 41. Mimic
- 42. ESPN host Kimes
- 44. One who moseys
- 45. Secret political clique
- 46. Behind the stern of a ship
- 47. Supernatural force
- 48. Sanctuary in Orthodox churches
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Grayish white
- 53. Engrave
- 54. UNC's chief rival
- 58. Midway between south and southeast

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

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	F	T	E			P	E	T		V	L	V	B		

## Grace Boisvert of Uxbridge earns Dean's List honors at American International College

SPRINGFIELD — American International College (AIC) student Grace Boisvert of Uxbridge has earned Dean's List honors for the Spring 2026 semester.

Dean's List honors are awarded to full-time students who have achieved a 3.3 to 4.0 GPA. AIC commends Grant and all of those on the Dean's List for their hard work and dedication.

Founded in 1885, American International College (AIC) is a private, co-educational, doctoral granting institution located in Springfield, Massachusetts, comprising the School of Business, Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, and the School of Health Sciences. AIC supports and advances education, diversity, and opportunity for its students and the community.




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REAL ESTATE

**BLACKSTONE**  
\$340,000, 12 Market St, Meers James William Est, and Meers, Michael J, to Lacroix, Barbara, and Plourde, Paul.  
\$325,000, 133 Lakeshore Dr, Taylor, Virginia S, to Lakeview Const & Remodeli.

**DOUGLAS**  
\$360,000, 86 Main St, Michael E Cahill Ret, and Cahill, Michael L, to Veaudry, Jeffrey.  
\$357,895, 410 NE Main St, Mccallum Wealth Ft, and Mccallum, Erica M, to Mccallum, Coady.

**NORTHBRIDGE**  
\$519,000, 225 N Main St, Gignac, Debra, to Josselyn, Simone B, and Josselyn, Jesse.  
\$515,000, 155 Kelly Rd, Lang Jr, John P, to Gonzalez, Daniela Torres, and Davila, Nathaniel Marcus.  
\$479,000, 130 Sheryl Dr, Mcdevitt, Sean, and Mcdevitt, Dana, to Schott, Russell.  
\$445,000, 24 Mcquades Ln, K Jr & Nancy C Piper Irt, and Deery, Cathy A, to Conti, Mark A.  
\$380,000, 237 Heritage Dr #237, Souza, Katia Ferreira, to Franciose, Stephanie R.  
\$170,000, 46 Heritage Dr #46, Ebbeling Dzicek Ft, and Dzicek, Linda, to Dzicek Ret, and Dzicek, Steven C.

**UXBRIDGE**  
\$479,900, 20 Maple St, Crosby, Craig E, and Crosby, Laura, to Therriault, Olivia Jean.  
\$430,000, 85 Rivulet St, Avila, Marc, and Avila, Melissa, to Singh, Santsaroop, and Kaur, Komalpreet.  
\$375,000, 5 Ascot Ln #1, Dileo Ft, and Pelczarski, Kimberly F, to Alves, David, and Alves, Denise.  
\$335,000, 35 Beverly Ave, Bacigalupo, Ryan L, to Latour, Matthew R.  
\$265,000, 24 Kettle Hill Rd, Mobley, Philip, and Mobley, Phillip, to Monteiro, Geovane A.  
\$125,000, 1008 Quaker Hwy, Bevilacqua, Steven, to Alves, Cesar.

**WARE**  
\$106,000, 8 Bellevue Ave Ext, Theresa, Wendy, and Lakeview Loan Svc LLC, to Pah Properties LLC.  
\$20,000, 32 Coffey Hill Rd, Beaver Associates Inc, to Poirier, Erick, and Poirier, Susanna.

# Cornerstone Bank donates \$4,500 to Golf Fights Cancer Golf Marathon



Courtesy

Jim Sandagato, Cornerstone Bank SVP Commercial Lender; Jim Coghlin Sr., Founder of DetecTogether and Chairman of Coghlin Cos., Inc.; Brady Coghlin, Supply Chain Analyst at Coghlin Companies; and Tricia Scannell Laursen, President of DetecTogether.

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank donated \$4,500 to support the successful 2026 Golf Fights Cancer 100-Hole Golf Marathon benefiting DetecTogether and its mission to promote early cancer detection education.

Held June 4 & 5 at Juniper Hill Golf Course, the annual fundraiser brought together golfers of all skill levels who played 100 holes to raise funds for can-

cer-related organizations and programs focused on awareness and early detection.

“DetecTogether is helping people better understand the importance of early cancer detection and encouraging them to take an active role in their healthcare,” said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. “We are proud to support Golf Fights Cancer and the organization’s efforts to educate communities and help save lives.”

Cornerstone Bank has supported the event for several years, contributing \$21,000 over the last three years.

Founded by Jim and Nancy Coghlin and their family, DetecTogether works with healthcare professionals, workplaces, schools and fire departments to provide education focused on recognizing cancer warning signs earlier and improving outcomes through early detection. According to DetecTogether, nearly 40 percent of people will receive a cancer diagnosis in their lifetime, and approximately half of cancers are diagnosed at a late stage.

The Golf Fights Cancer Golf Marathon challenged participants to complete approximately 100 holes of golf while raising funds to support cancer education and advocacy initiatives. The event once again brought together supporters from across the region to advance the fight against cancer through education, awareness and early detection.

### About Cornerstone Bank

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

service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone, which is a subsidiary of PeoplesBankCorp, MHC, operating independently under its own name and brand, provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations. With the addition of Athol Savings Bank, a

Division of Cornerstone Bank, in 2026, Cornerstone offers customers access to 17 branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts, the most in Worcester County. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit [cornerstonebank.com](http://cornerstonebank.com) or call 800-939-9103.

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## Emily Martinez named to Dean’s List at University of Maryland Global Campus

ADELPHI, Md. — Emily Martinez of Whitinsville was named to the Dean’s List for the spring 2026 term at University of Maryland Global Campus. To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.

University of Maryland Global Campus was founded more than 75 years ago specifically to serve the higher education needs of working adults and military servicemembers. Today, UMGC is the largest provider of postsecondary education in Maryland and continues its global tradition with online and hybrid courses, more than 175 classroom and service locations worldwide, and more than 100 degrees and certificates backed by the reputation of a state university and the University System of Maryland. For more information, visit [umgc.edu](http://umgc.edu).

## Local residents inducted into National Scholastic Honor Society

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Local Saint Anselm College students, including Brianne Rett of Uxbridge, have been accepted into the Tau chapter of the Delta Epsilon Sigma National Scholastic Honor Society for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Students are considered for membership if they have completed at least 50% of the credit requirements for their degree and are ranked in the top 20% of their class. Candidates also must have demonstrated dedication to intellectual activity and service to their community.

Founded in 1939, Delta Epsilon Sigma (DES) is the national scholastic honor society for students, faculty, and alumni of colleges and universities with a Catholic tradition. Their purpose is to recognize academic accomplishments, foster scholarly activities, and encourage a sense of intellectual community among its members. The Tau chapter at Saint Anselm College is one of 119 DES chapters nationwide and has inducted 763 members to date.

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

## Local resident inducted into International Honor Society in Social Sciences

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Saint Anselm College student Brianne Rett from Uxbridge, a Sociology Major and Community and Public Health Major in the class of 2026, has been inducted into the Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society in Social Sciences for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Pi Gamma Mu is the oldest and pre-eminent interdisciplinary social science honor society. Founded in 1924, its goal is to encourage and promote excellence in the social sciences while upholding scholarship, leadership, and service. Pi Gamma Mu serves the various social science disciplines that seek to understand and explain human behavior, social relationships, and their related problems and issues. There are around 150 active chapters of Pi Gamma Mu in the United States and abroad.

## Morgan Martello of Uxbridge receives degree from American International College

SPRINGFIELD — Morgan Martello of Uxbridge has graduated from American International College (AIC) with a Doctor of Physical Therapy.

Founded in 1885, American International College (AIC) is a private, co-educational, doctoral granting institution located in Springfield, Massachusetts, comprising the School of Business, Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, and the School of Health Sciences. AIC supports and advances education, diversity, and opportunity for its students and the community.

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## EDITORIAL

# Leaving at the top of the game

There is something especially meaningful about a career that ends not because someone can no longer do the job, but because they have chosen the right moment to step away.

In sports, fans often debate whether a favorite player stayed too long. History is filled with examples of once-great figures whose final chapters failed to match the brilliance of their earlier accomplishments. That is why the comparison made at Uxbridge High School's recent faculty and staff meeting resonated so deeply.

As educators Chris Prior and Hurley Silbor prepare for retirement, they leave not as people whose best days are behind them, but as professionals still performing at the highest level. They leave as respected teachers, trusted colleagues and positive influences on generations of students. They leave, as Principal Michael Rubin noted, with their accomplishments firmly in the books.

Education is a profession where success is often measured differently than in sports, business or politics. There are no championship trophies displayed in cases, no statistics printed on the back of a card. Instead, the true measure of an educator's career can be found in the lives they have touched.

For every student who gained confidence in a classroom, discovered a passion for learning, overcame a challenge or found encouragement during a difficult moment, teachers like Chris Prior and Hurley Silbor played a role. Those contributions do not fade when the school year ends. They ripple outward through families, workplaces and communities for decades.

That kind of impact is difficult to quantify, but it is impossible to overlook.

Schools depend on talented educators, but they also depend on veteran educators who provide stability, mentorship and institutional knowledge. Every successful school has teachers who quietly set the standard for professionalism and dedication. They model what it means to show up every day prepared, committed and focused on students. They become the people younger educators look to for guidance and inspiration.

The careers of Prior and Silbor appear to embody exactly that kind of leadership.

What stands out most is not simply the number of years they served, but the consistency with which they served. Longevity alone does not create a legacy. Commitment does. Excellence does. Caring does.

The phrase "indefensible hope" used during the recognition ceremony is particularly fitting. Great educators must possess a remarkable faith in young people. They must believe in students on days when students may not believe in themselves. They must continue encouraging, teaching and guiding despite obstacles, setbacks and changing circumstances.

That kind of optimism is not easy. Yet it is often what makes the greatest difference.

As the school community celebrates these two retirees, it is also worth reflecting on the broader importance of recognizing educators while they are still with us. Too often, the contributions of teachers become fully appreciated only after they leave the classroom. Taking time to acknowledge their service reminds us that strong schools are built by dedicated people whose influence extends far beyond lesson plans and report cards.

Chris Prior and Hurley Silbor leave Uxbridge High School with the respect of their colleagues and the gratitude of their community. More importantly, they leave knowing they made a difference.

Few careers offer a greater accomplishment than that.

As they begin the next chapter of their lives, they do so having achieved something many strive for but few attain: the opportunity to leave at the very top of their game.

# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The Revolution was about more than independence

To the Editor:

Celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence with patriotic enthusiasm! Please!

But wait, do you know that it is fashionable today among the clever folks to call our Revolutionary War "the American War of Independence?" That re-naming was invented by the so-called Ivy League colleges, who are so Communist that they just cannot tolerate the idea that colonials were Revolutionary and exceptional.

We are exceptional because it was a revolution. We did not just want to be independent of Britain and the King. We wanted to create a new country with new values, in which we recognized that "we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

We were so revolutionary that our women were radicals, too. Abigail Adams reminded her husband, John, that he must include women in this new nation of rights at his peril. Women in 1775 did not hesitate to take action. In April of 1775, after their men had taken their muskets and ran toward Lexington, the women of Pepperell got wind of a plan by Loyalists to bring a message from the British in Canada to the British in Boston, and they would pass through Pepperell.

Prudence Wright and Sarah Shattuck leaped into action, and into history. They organized about 40 women, to dress in their husbands' or father's clothes, pick up whatever firearm was handy or a pitchfork, and muster at Jewett's Bridge — the road to Boston. Wright was voted Captain. Shattuck, Lieutenant. They heard horsemen approaching and stepped across the bridge. Halt! State your business!

Needless to say, the men were surprised. And then captured. The women captured the horsemen with papers in their boots. The women in wolves' clothing delivered the captives and messages to the Committee of Safety in Groton. The two men and their associates were charged with "carrying treasonable dispatches from Canada to the British in Boston...and with being persons suspected of being inimical to the Rights and Liberties of the United Colonies." They were acquitted but fled. Only one remained in America for the long term.

We continue to be Exceptional and so successful that countries like Canada and Europe, the Old World where the kings remain in place, tax us for any "income" we make in their socialist countries. Canada

still has a King, for goodness sake. Spain, the Netherlands, Britain, Denmark, and Norway still have their royal families. We say: Europe has kings, queens and princesses. We do not.

Have you ever considered that the most imprisoned person can write the most eloquently about Freedom? Thomas Jefferson was a captive of the slave-holding system, but his first draft of the Declaration of Independence included language that denounced the slave trade, blaming England for imposing it on us.

Jefferson, due to plantation debt, could not extricate himself from generations of slavery, just as Harvard cannot — even though it changes the name and symbol of its law school to divert attention from its benefactor. Isaac Royall Jr., a wealthy slave owner, made a bequest to the school in 1781, funding a law professorship. This led to the creation of the law school [1817]. Royall owned a sugar plantation in Antigua in the Caribbean. No one has asked Harvard Law to close because it is illegitimate. They merely changed the name and put up a tiny plaque.

As an example of how revolutionary we were, Major General John Peter Muhlenberg [born in 1746, died 1807], was a pastor in 1776. On Jan. 12, 1776, in an Anglican church in Virginia, he based his sermon on Ecclesiastes chapter 3: "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven, a time to be born, a time to die, a time to plant and a time to reap..."

When he read the last verse, "a time of war and a time of peace," he removed his clerical robe to reveal his colonel's uniform. He said: "this is time of war." The next day, he formed the Eighth Virginia Militia with 300 men.

The colonials put everything on the line, the Revolutionary line. Benjamin Franklin said to the Continental Congress, "Gentlemen, we must all hang together, or surely we will all hang separately." When they gathered in a hot room in Philadelphia in 1776 and signed their names to the Declaration, they knew they had signed their death warrants if this revolution failed.

David McCullough, author of John Adams, famously said: "Our forefathers and foremothers were not like us."

"They knew the cavalry wasn't coming. They had to rely on themselves."

In America today, can we rely on ourselves? I think we can. Do you?

Celebrating the 250th,

BEV GUDANOWSKI  
UXBRIDGE

### The mystery of the empty front porch

A few evenings ago, I was taking a walk through a neighborhood not far from home when I noticed something I couldn't stop thinking about. The porches were beautiful.

Fresh paint. Hanging flower baskets. Rocking chairs. Porch swings. Flags fluttering in the breeze. Everything looked exactly the way a New England front porch is supposed to look in June. There was just one thing missing.

People.

Not a single person sat on any of them.

Years ago, front porches were practically community centers. On a warm summer evening, families would gather outside after supper. Neighbors would stop and chat while walking by. Children played in the yard while adults exchanged news, complaints, weather observations, and the occasional town rumor. You didn't need a formal invitation. You simply happened to be outside at the same time. Some of my strongest memories involve those kinds of evenings. Not because anything important happened, but because nothing important happened. Someone waved from across the street. A neighbor wandered over with a question about their lawn mower. A passing dog stopped to make friends. You sat for an hour and somehow

learned everything that had happened in town during the previous week.

Today, most of those conversations occur elsewhere. Some happen online. Some happen by text mes-

sage. Some never happen at all. The porch itself hasn't disappeared. The purpose of the porch seems to have changed. Many of them have become decorative spaces instead of gathering places.

Now, before someone points out that people are busier than they used to be, I understand that. Summer schedules are packed. Youth sports seem to occupy every available hour. Many people work longer days than previous generations. But I don't think busyness tells the whole story. I suspect we've become remarkably good at retreating indoors.

Air conditioning certainly deserves some of the credit. Once temperatures climb into the 80s, a comfortable living room can be difficult to resist. Streaming television, smartphones, laptops, and every other form of entertainment are waiting inside.

The front porch, meanwhile, offers only fresh air and the possibility of an unexpected conversation. Maybe that's exactly why it mattered. Porches created opportunities for small connections that weren't planned or scheduled. They allowed

neighbors to become familiar with one another without making a special effort. You learned who always walked their dog at sunset. You knew which neighbor grew the best tomatoes. You recognized the sound of someone's laugh before you ever saw them coming down the sidewalk.

Communities are built from those small interactions. Not grand events. Not official meetings. Not carefully organized programs. Just people seeing each other regularly.

The funny thing is that I don't believe we've stopped wanting those connections. Every time a power outage knocks out the Internet for a few hours, people seem to emerge from their houses. Suddenly, neighbors are talking again. Children appear in driveways. The street feels alive. It's as though the desire was there all along, waiting for a reason to come outside.

This summer, I may try an experiment. Instead of heading indoors after dinner, I might spend an evening on the front steps with a cold drink and no agenda. Maybe nobody will walk by. Maybe the whole neighborhood will remain tucked away behind screens and air conditioners. Or maybe someone will stop and say hello. If they do, I suspect we'll find plenty to talk about.

After all, the porch is still there. Perhaps all that's missing is us.

## Turn your savings into paychecks in retirement



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Margaret had saved diligently for decades. Every paycheck, a portion went toward her retirement account. Then, the day finally came and she retired. Suddenly, the hardest part wasn't the saving. It was learning to spend.

If that sounds familiar, you're not alone. Many retirees find the shift from building savings to living off them emotionally difficult, even when they've planned carefully. Here are five smart strategies that can help you feel more confident about what's ahead.

Give yourself permission to spend conservatively. Your retirement plan likely assumes a certain annual spending amount, with increases each year to account for inflation. All else being equal, the lower those initial withdrawals, the longer your money will last. A financial advisor can help you set up portfolio withdrawals personalized to your goals and situation. Feel free to give yourself permission to spend those amounts, knowing there's intention behind them.

For many retirees, the challenge isn't math — it's mindset. After years of being rewarded for saving, spending can feel like doing something wrong. It can help to reframe withdrawals as a paycheck you've already earned. For example, using your monthly distribution to cover travel, hobbies or time with family isn't indulgent; it's the purpose of the plan you built. Connecting spending to your values can make it feel more natural and sustainable.

Do be sure to review your spending regularly and don't forget to set aside funds for annual expenses like taxes and insurance.

Keep some cash on hand. A general rule of thumb for retirees is to keep about 12 months' worth of withdrawals in a separate account for spending and another three to five years' worth in short-term, fixed-income investments. This cushion can allow your stock investments time to recover from a market downturn, reducing the need to sell investments when markets are down. That said, holding too much cash carries its own risk, as your portfolio may not grow fast enough to keep pace with inflation. So, while some cash is good, you'll also want to remain invested in assets with more growth potential to help your portfolio last through retirement.

Review regularly. Retirement can last 25 years or more, and even the best-laid plans need updating along the way. Review your financial strategy at least once a year or after any major life change.

Stay flexible. Even small adjustments to your spending can have a big impact on how long your money lasts. Retirees who hold off on spending increases in years when their portfolio declines are often able to stretch their savings further than those who increase withdrawals each year for inflation regardless of market performance.

Making the switch from saving to spending takes both careful planning and a genuine shift in mindset. A financial advisor can help you build out an effective approach to switch from saving to spending, and work with you so you can fully enjoy the retirement you worked so hard to reach.

*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, Member SIPC*

## Douglas resident inducted into Honor Society for First-Year Success

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Saint Anselm College student Sophia Bushika from Douglas, a Forensic Science Major in the class of 2029, has been accepted into Alpha Lambda Delta, a national honor society for first-year success, for the 2025-2026 academic year.

To be eligible for invitation, students must be enrolled full-time at an institution with an active chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta and have a 3.5 grade point average or higher in their first semester or first year.

Alpha Lambda Delta was founded in 1924 by Maria Leonard, the Dean of Women at the University of Illinois, to recognize academic excellence among freshman women. One year prior, Dean Thomas Arkle Clark had founded Phi Eta Sigma, an honor society to recognize academic excellence among freshman men. Both groups became coeducational in 1976 in response to Title IX. Alpha Lambda Delta has grown to over 280 chapters and has initiated over one million students.

## Eastern student Collin Falconer of Whitinsville makes Dean's List

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — Eastern Connecticut State University recently released its Dean's List for the spring 2026 semester, recognizing 1,216 students for maintaining high GPAs.

Among them is Collin Falconer of Whitinsville, a full-time senior majoring in communication.

To qualify for Dean's List, full-time students must complete a minimum of 12 credits in letter-graded courses with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher in the semester. Part-time students are eligible if they've accumulated 15 or more credits of letter-graded coursework with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher.

## Dean's, President's List students named for UA Spring 2026 Term

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — A total of 14,306 students enrolled during Spring Semester 2026 at The University of Alabama were named to the dean's list with an academic record of 3.5 (or above) or the president's list with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's).

Local students include:

Kole Wyndham of Northbridge — Dean's List

Matthew DiLibero of Uxbridge — Dean's List

The University of Alabama, part of The University of Alabama System, is the state's flagship university. UA shapes a better world through its teaching, research and service. With a global reputation for excellence, UA provides a forward-thinking environment and over 200 degree programs on a beautiful, student-centered campus. A leader in cutting-edge research, UA advances discovery, creative inquiry and knowledge through more than 30 research centers. As the state's largest higher education institution, UA drives economic growth in Alabama and beyond.

## 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.

## Sutton Historical Society hosting annual Bottle & Can Drive

SUTTON — The Sutton Historical Society will sponsor its annual returnable bottle and can drive from Saturday, July 4 through Sunday, July 12. Simply drop your rinsed empty returnable bottles and cans in the trailer parked at the M. M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop, 6 Singletary Avenue. This event is a significant fundraiser for the Society supporting our annual scholarship for a local graduating senior as well as assisting with our operating costs.

The Society is dedicated to preserving the history of Sutton. Check us out at Sutton1704.org for membership information, our calendar of events, and much more. Membership is open year-round, and members do not have to reside in Sutton.

## Bay Path celebrates 59 CTI graduates, expands workforce training programs

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School proudly celebrated the graduation of 59 students from its Career Technical Initiative (CTI) program last evening, marking a significant milestone in the program's continued growth and impact.

The CTI program, launched in 2024, provides adult learners with access to high-quality, hands-on technical training designed to meet regional workforce demands. Last night's graduates represent a diverse group of individuals who demonstrated dedication, perseverance, and a strong commitment to building new career pathways. Many balanced work, family, and personal responsibilities while completing rigorous 200-hour training programs that prepare them for immediate employ-

ment in high-demand industries.

"This graduating class represents the heart of what the CTI program is all about—opportunity, access, and workforce readiness," said Marci Komssi, Program Coordinator. "We are incredibly proud of these 59 graduates and the determination they demonstrated throughout the program."

The success of the CTI program is made possible through continued state investment and workforce development partnerships. As part of the Commonwealth's commitment to economic recovery and growth, \$24.2 million was awarded to 23 organizations throughout Massachusetts to train 2,490 individuals. These strategic investments, led by the Massachusetts Workforce

Skills Cabinet, are designed to expand access to career pathway programs and better position residents to fill critical workforce needs across the state.

Building on this momentum, Bay Path is expanding its program offerings to reach even more adult learners. For the first time, the school will offer a 200-hour Building Maintenance program in a five-week hybrid summer format, running from June 29 through July 31. This program is offered in partnership with MassHire, with applications opening this week.

Looking ahead to Fall 2026, Bay Path will offer nine CTI programs, further increasing access to career training opportunities. These programs include:

Building Maintenance

HVAC  
Culinary  
Manufacturing  
Auto Collision  
Auto Technology  
Diesel Mechanic  
Welding  
Electrical

Since its inception, the CTI program has continued to expand in both enrollment and program diversity, attracting students from local communities as well as across the region. The program remains a critical component of Bay Path's efforts to support workforce development and provide meaningful career pathways for adult learners.

For more information about the CTI program or to apply for upcoming opportunities, please contact Marci Komssi at mkomssi@baypath.net.

## BHS Class of 1986 seeks community's help locating classmates for 40th reunion

REGION — As the Bartlett High School Class of 1986 prepares to celebrate its 40th reunion on Sept. 26, organizers are asking the community for assistance in locating classmates who have not yet been reached through social media or via text.

To make the process simple, the reunion committee has created a short contact-information form and is encouraging residents, friends, and former classmates to help spread the word. If you know someone on the "missing classmates" list, organizers ask that you text them the link to the form so they can update their

information.

Contact Info Form: <https://tinyurl.com/BHS1986-40Years>

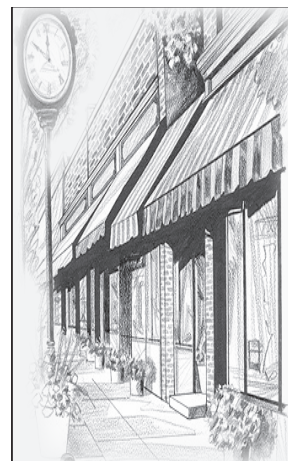
If it's easier, you may also complete the form on a classmate's behalf—so long as you have their current contact details. Organizers emphasize that any help tracking them down is truly appreciated, as personal connections often succeed where digital outreach falls short.

A list of classmates the committee is hoping to locate appears below. With the community's support, they hope every member of the Class of '86 will have the opportunity to join this milestone celebration.

Peter Allain  
Beth Antonopoulos  
Marie Aperges  
Andrew Baca  
Austin Bailey  
David Beardsley  
Frank Belanger  
Carolyn Bembenek  
Richard Bernier  
Sheila Bialoncik  
Beth Bialy  
Jason Borski  
Doreen Bourget  
Eric Brisbois  
Kathleen Brown  
Paul Browning  
Paul Bugar  
Cindy Bullens  
Sandra Butt  
Mont Canterbury  
Stephen Carlson  
Daniel Chapdelaine  
Kelly Cobb  
Ken Courmoyer

Timothy Decker  
Tammy Deschenes  
Aaron Dorcas  
Daniel Doyle  
Dorothy DusoSelina Fife  
James Gardner  
Jeffrey Gatto  
Tina Giakoumis  
Alicia Goudreau  
Richard Guerin  
Robert Hamm  
Scott Horanzy  
Jane Houle  
Todd Hufault  
Joseph Hughes  
Melissa Jankowski  
Thor Johnson  
Nena Johnston  
Lisa Kozlowski  
Robert Krasnecky  
Jill Krause  
Michael Kryger  
Rick Lawson  
Deborah Leite  
Linda Lifer

Patricia Majewski  
Renee Marchand  
Jennifer Marsh  
Jennifer Mason  
John Meagher  
Fumiyo Mochizuki  
Deborah Munsch  
Brett Napierata  
Wayne Parmentier  
Brian Poplawski  
Gary Poplawski  
Edward Powers  
William Radcliffe  
James Remy  
Debra Ross  
Collin Salmon  
Dale Schleis  
Theresa Sergel  
Henry Skiba  
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Jeffrey Surozenski  
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# Camp Invention's fun, action-packed summer STEM program coming to area

REGION — Camp Invention®, a nationally recognized, nonprofit summer enrichment program, is coming to the following locations.

Auburn: Auburn Middle School the week of July 6 - July 10.

Uxbridge: Our Lady of the Valley Regional School the week of June 22 - June 26.

Regional program sponsors include Johnson Controls Foundation and Overdeck Family Foundation.

A program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame® in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Camp Invention challenges children in grades K-6 to tap into their natural curiosity and use their creativity to solve problems. Through hands-on activities, Camp Invention promotes STEM learning; builds confidence, leadership, perseverance and resourcefulness; and encourages entrepreneurship □ all in a fun and engaging environment. Each year, the program features new curricula inspired by some of our nation's most world-changing inventors □ the National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductees. This year's Spark program encourages children to be confident in their ideas and explore their innovativeness through hands-on activities including:

Space Morphers™: Kids build a DIY rocket and launch an epic mission to transform a new planet's atmosphere, ter-



Courtesy

In Camp Invention's Make Waves experience, children ride the waves of entrepreneurship and invention by creating prototypes, pitching their products and building a billboard boat.

rain and ecosystem. After a high-energy Rover Race to collect samples and data, they grow dazzling crystal trees and hatch a mysterious animal egg in a Space Lab.

Make Waves™: Campers ride the waves of entrepreneurship and invention! Inspired by a surfer's journey, they create prototypes, pitch their innovative products to hook investors and build a billboard boat to set sail and "make waves" in the market.

Fur-ensics™: Kids sharpen their animal detective skills with Cap E. Bara and a fleet of robotic capybaras. They investigate a trail of footprints, collect bits of fluffy fur and examine suspicious splatters before forensically analyzing evidence that has a surprising twist.

The Infringers™: Campers use their invention superpowers to solve challenges in their community and around the world. They miniaturize top-secret innovations,

safeguard their designs using cryptography and protect their intellectual property from the Infringers.

"I love that this camp lets my kids step out of the usual roles that they have at

home and in school, and explore different parts of themselves," said the parent of 2025 Camp Invention campers. "At camp my son learns to be more creative and my daughter learns to be more independent."

All local Camp Invention programs are facilitated and taught by qualified educators who reside and teach in the community. Camp Invention serves 147,000 students every year and partners with more than 2,600 schools and districts across the nation. For more information or to register, visit [invent.org/camp](http://invent.org/camp).

About Camp Invention Camp Invention is the only nationally recognized summer program focused on creativity, innovation, real-world problem solving and the spirit of invention. Through hands-on programming, Camp Invention encourages children entering kindergarten through sixth grade to explore science, technology, engineering and mathematics curricula inspired by some of the world's greatest inventors. Since 1990, our education programs have served more than 3.3 million children, and 297,000 teachers and Leadership Interns. Regional program sponsors include the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

## QCC sergeant completes FBI LEEDA leadership training



Courtesy

Sgt. Daniel Litchfield (left) with Chief of Police Stephen DiGiovanni.

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College Campus Police Sergeant Daniel Litchfield has upheld the college's commitment to excellence in training by recently completing the FBI-Law Enforcement Executive Development Association (FBI-LEEDA) Trilogy series.

"FBI-LEEDA offers some of the top training in the country. This ensures that we are consistent, make the best possible decisions in the field and set the example for new officers," QCC Chief of Police Stephen DiGiovanni said. "Sergeant Litchfield has shown great leadership and effort in his 20 years at QCC."

The Trilogy series is comprised of three trainings, the Supervisor Leadership Institute, the Command Leadership Institute and the Executive Leadership

Institute. Topics include accountability, organizational effectiveness and implicit bias awareness.

"Completing the FBI-LEEDA Trilogy is more than earning a certificate; it's a commitment to leadership, service, and the continual pursuit of excellence," Litchfield said.

Litchfield is the third officer at QCC to complete the Trilogy series, after DiGiovanni and Deputy Chief of Police Operations Mike Vigeant. All of QCC's patrol sergeants have completed the Supervisor Leadership Institute.

FBI-LEEDA is a non-profit organization that provides leadership training and education for law enforcement professionals.

**HOME IMPROVEMENT HEADQUARTERS**

To advertise in this directory the 2nd and 4th weeks of the month, please call Mikaela at 774-200-7308 or email [mikaela@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:mikaela@stonebridgepress.news)  
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## Friday's Child

**Trendiva**  
Age 9  
Registration #9437

Trendiva is a bright, kind, and curious young girl with a warm and engaging personality. She enjoys learning, sharing her thoughts with others, and exploring the world around her. Trendiva makes connections easily when she feels comfortable and supported, and she takes pride in her accomplishments. She is thoughtful, creative, and self-aware, showing maturity as she works on positive habits and personal growth. Her resilience, kindness, and eagerness to try new things make her a joy to be around. Trendiva is a creative learner who especially enjoys math and reading. She loves hands-on activities and projects, such as planting a chia seed fairy garden, and enjoys opportunities to express her creativity. She also takes pride in helping around the home and demonstrates responsibility in her daily routines. Trendiva responds well to encouragement, consistency, and structure, and she thrives when given opportunities to learn, create, and connect with others. With continued support and guidance, Trendiva will continue to grow and shine. She would benefit from a nurturing and encouraging family that can support her academic interests, creativity, and social development while helping her build confidence and explore new experiences.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/50901156408>

**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](http://www.mareinc.org). Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.

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**Brookfield Water Department**  
6 Central St.  
Brookfield MA. 01506

**Water Superintendent/Primary Operator**

The Town of Brookfield is seeking a full time MA DEP Licensed Water Superintendent/Primary Operator dedicated to water system operations, with additional duties as directed and assigned.

The Superintendent/Primary Operator will work under the direct supervision and authority of the Brookfield Water Commissioner. This position is responsible for all aspects of supervision, planning, administration, operations-maintenance and customer service of the Brookfield Public Water Department, D1/T1 system.

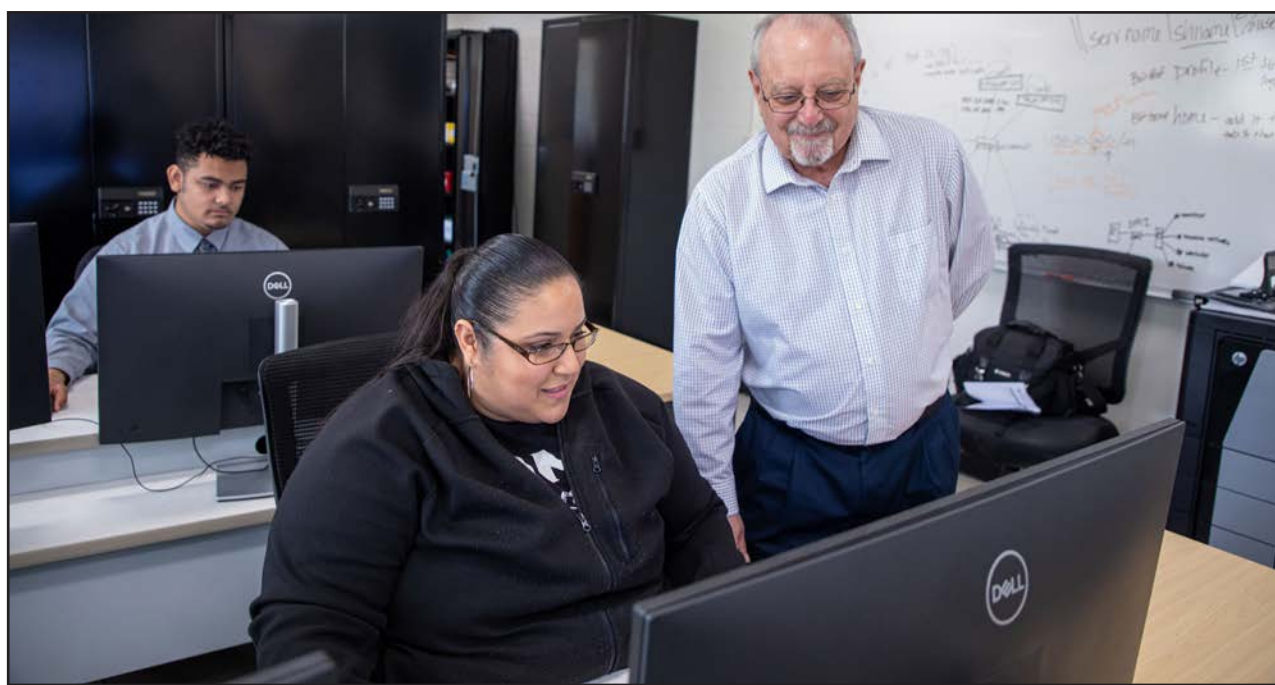
In accordance with MA DEP regulations, the Superintendent/Primary Operator must be available to the system within one hour travel time.

For more information and a copy of the Position Description, please contact the Brookfield Water Department at 508-867-2930 X17 or via email: [hchisholm@brookfieldma.us](mailto:hchisholm@brookfieldma.us)

# QCC invites employers to partner on Cybersecurity Apprenticeship degree program

**WORCESTER** — Quinsigamond Community College is calling on regional employers to partner in its Cybersecurity Apprenticeship Degree Program, a workforce-driven initiative designed to address the growing demand for skilled cybersecurity professionals. In addition to classroom instruction, QCC also handles most administrative responsibilities, making it easy for employers to participate.

The program combines paid, on-the-job training with college-level coursework, enabling participants to earn a degree while gaining practical experience, without disrupting daily work schedules. Through MassEducate and MassReconnect, many participants qualify for a free degree, significantly reducing or eliminating education costs for employers



QCC's Cybersecurity Apprenticeship Degree Program helps employers reduce onboarding and training gaps.

supporting their workforce. Designed for both incumbent employees seeking to upskill and new hires entering entry-level roles, the program offers

employers a flexible and cost-effective approach to workforce development.

"What sets QCC's Cybersecurity Apprenticeship apart is its

adaptability," said Project Manager of Apprenticeship Degree Initiatives Krista Piazza. "Many participants bring prior education, certifications or professional

experience. Through prior learning assessment and competency alignment, we can often accelerate their path to graduation without compromising academic

standards."

This tailored approach delivers measurable benefits for employers, including faster time to fully credential cybersecurity professionals, reduced onboarding and training gaps and debt-free or low-cost degree pathways for employees.

"This talent strategy results in a stronger, more loyal workforce pipeline developed in direct alignment with organizational needs," Piazza said.

QCC collaborates closely with employer partners, while managing program coordination, academic instruction and apprentice support, allowing employers to focus on mentoring and integrating apprentices into their operations.

Employers can obtain more information by contacting Krista Piazza at [kpi-azza@qcc.mass.edu](mailto:kpi-azza@qcc.mass.edu).

## Greater Worcester Community Foundation awards \$1.14 million to strengthen local grassroots nonprofits

**WORCESTER** — Greater Worcester Community Foundation has awarded \$1,140,000 in Facing Change: Sustainable Pathways grants to 15 community-based organizations in Worcester and surrounding areas, providing multi-year support to strengthen operational infrastructure, build long-term sustainability and position organizations to meet growing demand.

The three-year grants, ranging from \$35,000 to \$120,000, are tailored to each organization's annual budget and stage of development. Most of the grantees are founder-led and volunteer-driven, and many have experienced rapid growth in recent years. These investments will help organizations align their internal capacity with that momentum, often by hiring staff, improving systems and developing diversified funding strategies.

"Facing Change: Sustainable Pathways is about meeting organizations at a pivotal moment," said Pete Dunn, President & CEO of Greater Worcester Community Foundation. "These groups are doing vital work in our community, and many have outgrown their current infrastructure. This support gives them the tools and time to build a stronger foundation so they can sustain and expand their impact at a time of significant funding uncertainty."

In addition to financial support, grantees will participate in a cohort experience offering peer learning, mentorship and opportunities to share best practices. The cohort model is designed to reduce isolation often experienced by small, founder-led organizations and to foster collaboration across the region.

Grantees are advancing a wide range of community-rooted work across Worcester and the region. For example, Project New Hope will receive \$100,000 to support its work with veterans and their families; Community Health Awareness Network Grows Equity (CHANGE) will receive \$90,000 to support its work with African immigrant communities; and Adaptive Recovery Teaching Incorporated (A.R.T. Inc.) will receive \$60,000 to support individuals and families affected by substance use, mental health challenges and trauma.

"This investment will help us stabilize our operations and strengthen our infrastructure to meet demand," said Lovo Koliego, President & Founder of CHANGE. "Through the Facing Change: Sustainable Pathways program, we hope to develop a diversified funding roadmap and vetted governance structure, ensuring CHANGE remains a resilient pillar of health equity in Worcester."

A full list of grantees is available below.

The Sustainable Pathways grants are part of the Foundation's Facing Change initiative, a \$3 million investment announced last year in response to growing financial pressures and shifting federal priorities impacting Worcester County's nonprofit sector.

The \$3 million commitment includes \$2.5 million from the City of Worcester and \$500,000 in additional support from the Foundation's Community Leadership Fund and other sources. These supplemental resources enabled three nonprofits outside Worcester to receive funding: Our Bright Future and The Wellstorm, Inc. in Southbridge and Centro Celeste in Fitchburg.

To learn more about the Facing Change initiative program, visit [greater-worcester.org](http://greater-worcester.org).

About Greater Worcester Community Foundation

Greater Worcester Community Foundation is central Massachusetts' leading community foundation, employing its expertise and resources to address the region's most urgent needs. Since 1975, it has worked in partnership with donors to build a \$270 million endowment composed of more than 650 named charitable funds and award over \$186 million in grants that have helped transform communities and build a strong and vibrant region. For more information on the Foundation's programs and how to give, please visit [www.greater-worcester.org](http://www.greater-worcester.org).

Full List of grantees

The Village — \$120,000 — Founded in 2020, The Village is an Afrocentric cultural center in Worcester's Main South neighborhood advancing racial and social justice through learning, creativity, community and healing.

Love Your Labels —

\$120,000 — Founded in 2018, Love Your Labels fosters social connection and identity development for LGBTQIA+ youth and community through programs like Threads, a multi-month sewing and fashion design initiative for youth.

Project New Hope — \$100,000 — Founded in 2010, Project New Hope is a military-affiliated resource hub that connects Veterans, service members and their families to wellness resources.

UHAI for Health — \$90,000 — Founded in 2010, UHAI for Health serves African immigrants and refugees with culturally and linguistically appropriate prevention, intervention, education, advocacy and support services.

Community Health Awareness Network Grows Equity (CHANGE) — \$90,000 — Founded in 2018, CHANGE supports African immigrant communities in Greater Worcester by addressing complex integration challenges and empowering individuals to navigate the healthcare system.

508 C.H.E.E.R.S. — \$80,000 — Founded in 2022, 508 C.H.E.E.R.S. is a youth-led Worcester organization providing leadership workshops, advocacy training, community service initiatives and civic engagement opportunities.

Refugees and Immigrants Cultural Empowerment Massachusetts (RICEMA) — \$80,000 — Founded in 2023, RICEMA is a performance arts and education organization that builds community and preserves culture among immigrants and refugees through cultural arts and learning.

Her Way Home — \$80,000 — Founded in 2025, Her Way Home is a survivor-led Worcester nonprofit supporting women healing from the violence of the sex trade, homelessness and substance use disorder.

Adaptive Recovery Teaching Incorporated (A.R.T. Inc.) — \$60,000 — Founded in 2020, A.R.T. Inc. is a Worcester-based grassroots nonprofit supporting individuals and families affected by substance use, mental health challenges and trauma through creative, peer-centered programming.

Guardians of Tradition — \$60,000 — Founded in 2019, Guardians of Tradition is a nonprofit dedicated to preserving cultural heritage

and empowering under-represented communities through arts, education and inclusive programming.

El Salón — \$60,000 — Founded in 2019, El Salón is a nonprofit artist collective creating inclusive spaces that empower BIPOC artists to share skills, build community and create opportunities.

Casita Cultural Latina — \$60,000 — Founded in 2021, Casita Cultural Latina is a collective that hosts cultural and creative

activities in inclusive, inter-generational spaces while elevating issues affecting Latino communities.

Our Bright Future — \$60,000 — Founded in 2016, Our Bright Future empowers youth through STEAM-based programming that builds skills, resilience and leadership through hands-on learning opportunities.

The Wellstorm, Inc. — \$45,000 — Founded in 2021, The Wellstorm provides community-rooted support across Worcester

County by increasing access to essential resources while centering dignity, equity and lived experience leadership.

Centro Celeste — \$35,000 — Founded in 2021, Centro Celeste is a Fitchburg-based grassroots nonprofit serving Latino families by fostering cultural connection, inclusion and access to community resources across Worcester County.

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## 4<sup>th</sup> OF JULY SALE!

We are in the process of selling out some of our current stock to make room for new Fall Models. Because of this, we are offering savings throughout the store!

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## PLUMMER PLACE

Home of the Northbridge Senior Center

The following events will take place at Plummer Place, Home of the Northbridge Senior Center. We are located at 20 Highland Street in Whitinsville. Telephone: (508) 234-2002. Northbridge residents have priority for all programming and events. Please call the main office to sign up for special events and programs, so we can plan accordingly. All July programs will be open for registration starting Wednesday, July 1.

### Medical Drivers

We are in need of medical drivers for out-of-town medical appointments. This is a very important service that we provide for seniors who cannot drive themselves to their medical appointments. If you are interested and can spare any time, it would be most appreciated. Drivers are reimbursed for their mileage. For more information, please call the main office.

### Regular Programs:

Meditation with Kelly  
Every Thursday morning at 9:30am  
Book Club:  
3rd Wednesday at 10:30am  
July 15th: Summer on Sag Harbor by Sunny Hostin  
Please call Kelly for more information.  
Brew Crew:  
No Meetings in July and August  
Scrabble:  
First and Third Mondays at 9:30am  
June 29th  
Women's Collective:  
2nd Thursday at 10:00am  
July 9th ~ Guest Speakers: Heather Carr Reiter and Abbie Jackman Tallent from Carr Funeral Home  
August 13th ~ No meeting  
Please call Amy for more information.  
Writing Your Way  
2nd and 4th Thursdays at 2:00pm  
Please call Lori for more information.

### Highlights of Boston Red Sox History

Thursday, July 9th  
1:30pm-2:30pm  
This program will showcase the team's colorful seasons of success (and also some of the years of frustration) and focus on star players that were fan favorites, such as Ted Williams, Carl Yastrzemski, Carlton Fisk, Luis Tiant, Pedro Martinez, and David Ortiz. Light refreshments will be served. Sign up in the main office.

Joe Fusco Jr. ~ Worcester County humorist/stand-up poet

Tuesday, July 21st  
1:30pm-2:30pm  
Joe is the author of six books of semi-amusing poems and essays: "Here We Go Again" (2026), "Random Thoughts from a Curmudgeon" (2023), "Pondering the Pandemic during The Rust Years" (2021); "Hm...That's Different" (2020); "Three Score" (2014); and "The Lost and Found Essays" (2012), all available at local bookstores and Amazon. Joe's musings have appeared in Damfino Press, Ballard Street Poetry, Worcester Review, Asinine Poetry, Soul Lit, and the e-zine Clean Sheets. He was a co-winner of the Jacob Knight Poetry Award in 2002 and was named Best Poet by Worcester Magazine readers in 1999 and 2002. Joe is a Humor Columnist for Worcester Magazine and the last Worcester Mega-Slam winner in 2017. He features at bookstores, libraries, clubs, and coffeehouses throughout Central Massachusetts and Belgium. He is the host of The Poetry Extravaganza at The Mill in West Boylston and The Richard Fox Poetry Series in Worcester.

Funny Programs About Funny Programs  
Thursday, July 23rd  
1:00pm-2:00pm  
Award-winning author and pop culture historian Martin Gitlin will host this fun and enlightening presentation based on his book, "The Greatest Sitcoms of All Time!" He will show funny video snippets from many shows, challenge patrons with sitcom trivia, discuss criteria he has used to rank 70 years of sitcoms and talk about how they have evolved. This program is really entertaining so join in on the fun! Sign up in the main office.

What is Alzheimer's Dementia?  
Come and learn the strategies to help cope with both symptoms and behaviors.

Tuesday, July 28th  
1:30pm-2:30pm  
We will explore what the term dementia means, look at changes in the brain, review how diagnoses are made, investigate possible symptoms, and share coping strategies.  
Sign up in the main office.  
Presented by Salmon Health and Retirement

TRI-Valley Nutrition Presentation: "Healthy Eating on a Budget"  
Wednesday, July, 29th 1:00pm-2:00pm

Rising gas prices, along with increasing food and household costs, are putting pressure on our everyday budgets—but eating well doesn't have to be out of reach.

Join us to discover practical, money-smart shopping strategies that support both your health and your wallet. Light refreshments will be served. Sign up in the main office.

# New Bocce League open to community

SOUTHBRIDGE — Bay Path Continuing Education & the Southbridge Italian Club have teamed up to launch an exciting new bocce league on Tuesday nights throughout May and June.

Bocce is a game that all can enjoy—no special skills or talents are required! If you can roll a ball, you can play! These two community organizations

are thrilled to bring this sport to a wider audience. Both Bay Path Continuing Education and the Southbridge Italian Club are dedicated to offering various events for people to engage, socialize, and have fun. This new league is a perfect fit. Here are the details:

Tuesdays: May 12 – June 30 (eight weeks)

Teams of four to eight play-

ers  
\$240 per team  
One game per week at either 6 or 7 p.m.

Maximum of eight teams – don't wait!

Only team captains need to register for their team.

A brief informational captain meeting will be held before the season starts.

Gather your friends (18 and

older), form a team, and come join us for a fantastic time on the court!

Games will be held at: Italian American Club 20 North St., Southbridge

To register your team, call Bay Path Continuing Education at 508-248-5971, ext. 1715. Spots for teams are limited, so don't hesitate—call today!

## UXBRIDGE SENIOR CENTER

36 South Main St.  
508-278-8622

Lisa Bernard – Director  
Gail Boutiette – Outreach Coordinator  
Donna Oncay – Transportation Coordinator  
Omer Boucher – Van Driver  
Sally Selvidge – Activities Coordinator  
Pat Ordway – Chef

### DIRECTOR NEWS

Our Shuttle Service is officially three years old this month!

This community shuttle takes older adults and individuals with disabilities to destinations such as the post office, pet care appointments, hair salon or barber, the bank, the pharmacy, and shopping anywhere in the Uxbridge and Northbridge area. The shuttle runs every Wednesday from 9am-3pm, requests require a 48-hour notice. For more information and to book your rides, please call the senior center.

For medical appointment transportation, please call Donna to book your ride. This service is available Monday through Friday and is on a first come first serve basis.

The Uxbridge Police Association will be sponsoring our July 4th picnic celebration on Friday, July 10th at 12 noon at the senior center. Come for a free luncheon, which will include hotdogs, hamburgers, salads, and a special ice cream dessert. Please RSVP as space is limited! Nancy Marshall will be here to sing patriotic songs with us! We thank Chief Montminy and the Uxbridge Police for this annual event for our seniors!!!

Feeling depressed, lonely, anxious, or troubled, the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Help Line is here to help, call 1-833-773-2445: You will talk with a trained staff member who will assist you in accessing the treatment or support that meets your individual needs. It is free of charge and confidential.

Standards of Independence for Senior Center Participation & Attendance

Just a reminder that the Senior Center has protocols regarding those that can participate & attend our programs. Participants need to be physically independent and require no care or assistance to attend programs, be respectful to others, and be responsible for their own personal health and well-being. For a copy of the complete list, please stop by the senior center desk. We may request that some participants bring a companion to assist them during their attendance. We appreciate your understanding.

Have a safe and happy 4th of July!  
Lisa

Thursday, July 2nd & Friday, July 3rd – The Senior Center will be closed in observance of Independence Day. We will re-open on Monday, July 6th at 8:00 am.

Monday, July 6th – 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm - Computer Tutoring with students from Blackstone Valley Tech. Please call ahead to book an appointment. This will be held on the first Monday of each month.

Starting Tuesday, July 7th – Mah Jongg is now scheduled a scheduled event here at the Uxbridge Senior Center. Thanks to Gail Epstein for teaching us!

Thursday, July 9th - 10:30 am – Veterans' Services with Carl Bradshaw by appointment only. Call 508-278-8622 to sign up.

Friday, July 10th – 12:00 pm –

Lunch & Learn with Chief Montminy & Uxbridge Police Association Annual Cookout! Come join the UPD for lunch! We will be serving hamburgers, hotdogs and all the fixings! We thank the UPD for sponsoring this annual event. Nancy Marshall will be here to sing patriotic songs with us! There is typically a wait list for these events. Be sure to RSVP.

Monday, July 13th – 11:00 am – 1:00 pm – Pout Pond Outing. Join us at Pout Pond for lunch! If inclement weather, we will have lunch at the senior center. Drew Carey will be entertaining us! Please call ahead to RSVP. Transportation is available and you are more than welcome to meet up there. Bring comfortable seats.

Tuesday, July 14th – 9 am – SHINE Appointments. Pat Nectow will be available for your health insurance questions. Call to book an appointment.

Tuesday, July 14th – 1:00 pm – Uxbridge Library Book Club. They will be discussing "The Martha's Vineyard Book Club" by Martha Hall Kelly. You are welcome to join us for lunch on this day, just be sure to call ahead to "book" yours! Next book club meeting is on Tuesday, August 11th.

Tuesday, July 14th - 1:00 pm – Benefit Enrollment Specialist – Tri-Valley, Inc. Call the senior center to book an appointment. Next date will be Tuesday, August 11th.

Thursday, July 16th – 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm – Big BINGO at the Uxbridge Senior Center. Join us for a fun afternoon of BINGO & cash prizes! Packets of 10 games for \$10. Transportation will be provided. Let us know if you'd like to join us for lunch on this date by calling or stopping by to RSVP. You must sign up by 12 noon the day before game day.

Friday, July 17th – 12:00 pm – Lunch & Learn to discuss the Master Plan Survey for Uxbridge – a long-range strategic roadmap to outline the town's future framework. CMRPC will present along with members of the Planning Board. Please RSVP.

Monday, July 20th – 1:30 pm – "Ask the Attorney" with Attorney Ralph Tepper by appointment only. Please call 508-278-8622 to schedule your appointment.

Thursday, July 23rd – 11:30 am - Empire Buffet Trip – Come join us for lunch at the Empire Buffet located in Woonsocket, RI. You can either ride on the van or meet us there. Cost is \$17 per person which includes meal, soda or tea & gratuity. You must pay when you sign up.

Friday, July 24th – The Beer Can Museum – The evolution of an American Icon (the Beer Can). Kevin Logan will be here to talk about the infamous Beer Can Museum. Please RSVP.

Monday, July 27th – 1:30 pm – Bemis Farms Milhouse Pitcher Craft – Join us in making a craft with Bemis Farms Nursery. Class size is limited, and cost will be \$20.00 per person which is payable upon signup. Re-fill date for the flowers will be on August 10, 2026.

Tuesday, July 28th - 11:00 am – 12:00 pm – Ask the Nurse Free Blood Pressure Clinic with the Salmon Health VNA. RSVP if you'd like to join us for lunch.

Wednesday, July 29th - 11:30 am - 12:30 pm – "PopUp Library". Books will be on display to check out, library card sign-ups, book hold pick-ups, etc. This program is being offered by the Uxbridge Free Public Library.

Thursday, July 30th – 1:30 pm – Free Afternoon Movie at the Senior Center! We will be watching Frankie Avalon & Annette Funicello's "Beach Party". Refreshments to be served and transportation is available.

Friday, July 31st - 12 noon – July Birthday Cake Celebration. We will celebrate all the July birthdays! Heather Deary will be back to entertain us during lunch!

Card Game played during lunch on Mondays. No game July 13th.

Walk & Talk Every Monday @ 9:00 am. Join Doreen Cedrone, our wellness coordinator, to walk the Town Loop every Monday morning. Weather permitting. Pre-registration required! Get enrollment forms at the center. Meet at the McCloskey School.

Hannaford grocery shopping every Tuesday. Pick up begins at 8:30 AM. Please sign up in advance by calling 508-278-8622 to reserve your seat on the van.

Knitting Club every Tuesday @ 1:30 pm – Even if you don't know how to knit or crochet, come and visit us! The group members are always willing to teach you!

Mah Jongg every Tuesday @ 1:30 pm - Thanks to Gail Epstein for teaching us!

Every Wednesday – 9 am – 3 pm – The Uxbridge Senior Center Transportation Program Community Shuttle. This shuttle is for seniors and individuals with disabilities to destinations such as post office, pet care appointments, hair salon or barber, bank, pharmacy & shopping anywhere in the Uxbridge/Northbridge area. Call 508-278-8622 for more information and to book your FREE ride. Requests require a 48-hour notice. NO SHUTTLE JULY 22ND

Every Wednesday – BINGO is played during lunch! No Game July 8th.

Wednesdays - "Canasta" Hand, Knee & Foot Card Game @ 1:15 PM. Let us know if you'd like to join us for lunch!

Wednesdays – Play Scrabble! – 1:15 PM – Come by for an afternoon playing Scrabble. Boards are supplied by the senior center. Let us know if you'd like to join us for lunch!

Medical Transportation is accepting appointments. Call 508-278-8622 to schedule your rides.

Feel free to contact us at 508-278-8622 or visit us on our web page at [Uxbridge-ma.gov/coa](http://Uxbridge-ma.gov/coa) or like us on our FB page or by googling Uxbridge Senior Center and our new YouTube Channel or even dropping by.

[www.facebook.com/UxbridgeMASeniorCenter](http://www.facebook.com/UxbridgeMASeniorCenter)

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNh\\_RIq99rucmFH-UO7VFBw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNh_RIq99rucmFH-UO7VFBw)  
<https://www.uxbridgetv.org/schedule/192>

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# OBITUARIES

## Kent G. Taft, 84



Kent G. Taft, 84, of Uxbridge, MA passed away at home on Friday, June 12, 2026 surrounded by his loving family. He was the husband of Patricia (Rondeau) Taft. On July 25 they would have celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary.

Kent was born January 16, 1942 in Worcester, MA. He grew up and attended schools in Millbury, MA. Kent was the son of the late Frank Howand and Sylvia (Swallow) Taft

He is survived by his four children, Kent Jr and spouse Michele of Shrewsbury; Michael and his spouse Melissa of Webster, Thomas of Uxbridge and Suzanne Sullivan and her spouse Michael of Uxbridge. He has one surviving brother, Calvin of Ohio. He leaves 17 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

Kent worked many years at General Motors of Framingham; he drove truck for Valley Transportation and ending with many years as warehouse supervisor for Prime

Materials of Uxbridge. He finally retired at the age of 80. Kent had many passions including fishing (especially when his grandchildren would dump the bait back into the lake saying "swim fishies swim"), he enjoyed camping with family and friends, waking everyone up early to get wood for the fire. His passion for baseball included coaching little league straight to high school ball. He then went on to form an adult softball league where many lifelong friendships were formed.

Calling hours will be held Thursday June 25, 2026 from 10:00am to 12:00 pm followed by a funeral service at noon, at the BUMA Funeral Home, 101 N Main Street, Uxbridge.

A celebration lunch will be served after the service at the Grill 122 in Linwood.

Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers donations in his name can be made to the Americal Cancer Society.

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



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# New England Water Ski Collective to host State Slalom Championships at Buffumville Lake

CHARLTON — The New England Water Ski Collective (formerly known as the Webster Water Ski Collective) is proud to announce that it will host the Massachusetts State Slalom Championships on July 15 at Buffumville Lake, located on the Oxford/Charlton town line. A competitors practice session will take place on July 14 for this event.

This event marks the first time in many years that a Massachusetts State Slalom Championship tournament will be held in the Commonwealth. The New England Water Ski Collective is honored to bring this prestigious competition back to Central Massachusetts, where it will showcase the best water skiers from across the state and surrounding regional area.

How Slalom works  
Slalom skiing is one of the most popular and recognizable disciplines in water skiing. Performed on a single ski, it is the skill that many beginners aspire to master — and what elite skiers make look effortless.

In competition, a slalom course is comprised of six fixed buoys positioned 11.5 meters (37.73 feet) to the left and right of the boat's centerline. The centerline itself is marked by boat guide buoys spaced 2.1 meters (6.89 feet) apart to ensure precise boat path alignment.

A successful pass

requires the skier to:

Enter through the starting gates

Pass around the outside of all six buoys

Exit cleanly through the end gates

Only after clearing the exit gates is the pass considered complete.

Depending on a skier's category and ability level, rope length begins as long as 18.25 meters (60 feet) and can shorten to an incredibly challenging 9.75 meters (32 feet). After each successful pass, the rope is shortened — increasing the difficulty — while boat speeds can increase up to a maximum of 36 mph depending on division.

As rope lengths shorten and speeds increase, the physical demands grow dramatically. Professional skiers are known to generate cross-course speeds between 60–75 mph across the wake as they accelerate from one buoy to the next.

Final scores are recorded based on boat speed, rope length, and the number of completed buoys. The skier who can complete the most buoys at the shortest rope length and highest speed earns the victory.

Competition will be conducted under the standards of the American Water Ski Association (AWSA), whose official rules govern sanctioned tournament slalom events.

Supporting conservation

and accessibility

Tournament profits will be donated to support conservation efforts and improvements to the grounds at Buffumville Dam, maintained by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

In addition, the New England Water Ski Collective plans to install accessible beach mats at Buffumville Beach this summer to improve shoreline access for individuals with mobility challenges — ensuring more members of the community can safely enjoy the lake.

Built on partnership and community

The Collective's Slalom/Competition Team has worked diligently to build partnerships with regional ski teams, individual competitors, and the Army Corps of Engineers to bring this championship event to life. The coordination of athletes, officials, volunteers, and site logistics represents months of collaboration.

Led by director Joe Zmetra, the New England Water Ski Collective's competition team is especially excited to see many of its own members compete on home water as they pursue qualification for AWSA Eastern Regionals and Nationals.

Zmetra reflected on the athleticism required in the sport: "Slalom is as much about strength as it is about

precision. The skier has to generate incredible power across the wake, maintain perfect form in and out of their cuts, and carry maximum velocity into each turn. At the buoy, you need the ability to stop on a dime, change direction instantly, and set up your next cut with total control. It's a balance of explosiveness and technique — and when it all comes together, it's an amazing thing to watch."

All abilities — one passion

The championship represents more than just competition — it reflects the Collective's mission of "All Abilities — One Passion."

"Our team is incredibly excited to bring the Massachusetts State Slalom Championships back to Central Massachusetts," said Leonardo Topa, President of the New England Water Ski Collective. "All three divisions of our organization have worked together to make this event possible,

while also supporting our other major initiatives this season — including our Learn to Ski programs and our traveling adaptive ski clinics. This tournament shows how our organization continues to grow while making sure everyone has the opportunity to get out on the water and enjoy the sport we love."

The New England Water Ski Collective is eagerly awaiting the warmer weather as it prepares to begin a busy season that will see its members actively skiing and competing across the New England region.

About the New England Water Ski Collective

The New England Water Ski Collective is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization devoted to making water skiing and water sports accessible to all. Through its Adaptive, Competitive, and Recreational ski teams, the organization works to remove barriers to participation and grow the sport throughout the New England region.

As a nonprofit, the Collective relies on the generosity of donors, community partners, and sponsors to help expand programming, host events, and provide opportunities for athletes of all abilities.

If you are interested in donating to support our Adaptive, Competitive, or Recreational ski teams, please contact our Sponsorship Coordinator, Juliet, at Juliet@NewEnglandWaterSki.org

By supporting the New England Water Ski Collective, you are helping ensure that more individuals — regardless of age or ability — have the chance to experience the thrill and community of water skiing.

For more information about the Massachusetts State Slalom Championships or the New England Water Ski Collective, please contact New England Water Ski Collective at (774) 495-0165 or comp@newenglandwaterski.org.

## Central Mass. farmers' market season starts now!

REGION — May marks the semi-official beginning to farmers market season, with many of the seasonal farmers' markets in our region starting their regular schedules, with more starting in June. Central Mass Grown is proud to support more than two dozen farmers markets across the Worcester County area.

Just in the city of Worcester, residents can choose from no less than six different markets, including the markets run by the Regional Environmental Council, both the Beaver Brook Market (306 Chandler St.) Friday mornings starting June 12 and the University Park Market (965 Main St.) Saturday mornings starting June 13, plus the Out To Lunch Market on the Worcester Common Oval behind City Hall every Wednesday from June 24 to Aug. 26. On Sundays, there's both the Market on Exchange Street starting May 17th and the Brussels Street Market starting June 7. And on Thursdays, check out the Burncoat Center for Arts and Wellness at 78 Burncoat St. for their new farmers market starting May 14th. Some of these

markets feel like festivals, while others are farmers markets in the truest sense, focused on offering fresh food and agricultural products directly from local farms.

Throughout the region, there's a market nearly every day of the week: for example, the

Sturbridge Farmers Market on Sunday, Holden on Tuesday, Grafton on Wednesday,

Westborough on Thursday, and Westminster on Friday. And so many, many more markets featuring a wide variety of items you won't find anywhere in supermarkets, including purple cauliflower, celeriac, husk cherries, goat cheese, duck eggs, or alpaca wool socks!

Every farmers' market is important to the farmers and other vendors that are there.

According to Central Mass Grown Executive Director David Reed, "Farmers markets are a vital source of revenue for farmers, because every dollar goes right back to them. And they are an important way for consumers to see where their food, flowers, wool, and soap all come

from. If you usually shop in a big box store or online, you've never had a real chance to know anything about what you are buying."

Most farmers markets in our region have one or more farms that participate in the Healthy Incentives Programs, a benefit connected to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP recipients can use their EBT card to purchase fresh produce from participating farms and receive an immediate refund to their card, up to a monthly limit that is based on household size. The end result? Free farm-fresh fruits and vegetables, and the reward of knowing you supported your local farm!

So this summer season, visit a farmers' market and take a second to say hi to your local

farmers. The farmers want to meet you. They want to say hi. Because farming is hard work, and they do it because they love it and they want you to love it, too.

Find out more about local farmers markets at centralmassgown.org.

### MEDALS

continued from page A1

15th Place: Dominic Quintino, Cyber Security.

#### MILLBURY

Bronze: Allison Garden, Career Pathways Showcase Engineering.

26th Place: Jonathan Tremblay, Diesel Equipment Technology.

#### NORTHBRIDGE

5th Place: Autumn Gromelski, Restaurant Service.

15th Place: Tarek

Bensellam, Cyber Security.

U P T O N State Officer Elect: Madison Denise, also a National Voting Delegate.

#### UXBRIDGE

Bronze: Gabrielle Gannon, Career Pathways Showcase Engineering.

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## LEGALS

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket Number: 26 SM 001787 Date Filed: 6/1/2026 ORDER OF NOTICE TO: Brian M. Macdonald and Debra J. Macdonald and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq) Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Argent Securities Inc., Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-MI claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Uxbridge, 410 High Street, given by Brian M. Macdonald and Debra J. Macdonald to Argent Mortgage Company, LLC, dated May 3, 2006, and recorded or filed in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38927, Page 288, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you

may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 7/13/2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 6/1/2026. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder. June 26, 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. WO26P1915EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:  
**Michael Patrick Casey, Jr.**  
Date of Death:03/21/2026  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Michael Patrick Casey, III of Bedford, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.  
The Petitioner requests that:  
**Michael Patrick Casey, III of Bedford, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the estate in **unsupervised administration.**  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/14/2026.**  
This is NOT a hearing date, but a dead-

line 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: June 12, 2026  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
June 26, 2026



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Webster - 3 Oakwood Dr



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Webster - 24 Cooper Rd  
New Construction - Craftsman Style home



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## Nichols College to expand Bloomberg Finance Lab through grant from Affinity Group, Inc.

DUDLEY — Nichols College has received a six-figure grant from Affinity Group, Inc. to expand its on-campus Bloomberg Finance Lab. The grant will enable Nichols to purchase four new Bloomberg terminals, bringing the total number of terminals available to students to 20. Nichols continues to be a national leader in the number of Bloomberg terminals per student and the number of certifications achieved annually.

Nichols launched its Bloomberg Finance Lab in fall 2018 with 12 terminals and expanded to 16 terminals in 2020, with support from the Affinity Group. In its first semester of use, more than 250 students earned Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC) certification, quickly elevating Nichols to Bloomberg Experiential Learning Partner status. The Bloomberg ELP group comprises institutions that incorporate Bloomberg terminal usage into their curriculum and have at least 100 students who earn certification each year.

Since the Bloomberg Lab's inception, more than 1,500 Nichols students have achieved Bloomberg certification, including the BMC; the Bloomberg Finance Fundamentals Certification (BFF); and the Bloomberg Environmental, Social and Governance Certification (BESG).

All first-year business students are required to complete the BMC certification—a notable professional advantage as they apply for internships and jobs.

The Bloomberg terminals are also vitally important to the success of the student-managed Thunder Fund, an experiential learning opportunity that enables students to manage a stock portfolio. Students enrolled in Thunder Fund I and Thunder Fund II courses serve as associate, junior or senior stock analysts, using Bloomberg financials, analyst reports, Bloomberg Intelligence and other platform features to prepare their own equity research reports and guide their financial decisions.

“We continue to be enormously grateful to Affinity Group for its investment in Nichols College and our students,” said Nichols President Bill Pieczynski. “The grant directly supports our institutional focus to provide a hands-on, experiential education that prepares students for career success. The Bloomberg Finance Lab, Bloomberg certifications and Thunder Fund offer our students the practical experience that employers value most.”

There are currently more than 350,000 Bloomberg terminal users worldwide, including student users at the nation's top business colleges and universities.

The Bloomberg network also includes financial professionals, corporate executives and government officials who rely on the platform for real-time analytics and financial news and to evaluate companies, monitor markets and make data-driven decisions.

Affinity Group, Inc. includes the Southbridge-based professional cutlery manufacturer Dexter-Russell.

President and CEO Alan Peppel, an MBA graduate of Nichols, added, “As a leading employer in central Massachusetts, including the Southbridge and Dudley communities, the Affinity Group and Dexter-Russell continue to view Nichols College as a worthy investment. Nichols alumni contribute significantly to the growth and success of our communities, and we see the expansion of the Bloomberg Finance Lab as a means of ensuring that Nichols remains at the forefront of business education.”

About Nichols  
Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network

## Nichols College, Anna Maria College announce partnership to support students' degree completion

DUDLEY — Nichols College and Anna Maria College have announced a partnership to transition Anna Maria's respected public safety and administration programs to Nichols, including its signature fire science program. The two institutions have finalized a proposal outlining the terms of the partnership, which will be submitted to the necessary higher education regulatory agencies, and expect formal approval of the plan soon.

“Nichols College is committed to enabling Anna Maria College students enrolled in its fire science and other vital programs to continue on a clear and seamless pathway toward graduation,” said Nichols President Bill Pieczynski. “Our proposal is intended to preserve an important regional pipeline for fire and emergency management professionals across New England. We will also fully support Anna Maria students in other majors we already offer such as business administration, criminal justice, psychology and sport management as they transition from their cherished institution to a new home at Nichols. We share a commitment to active, hands-on learning within a small, close-knit community and look forward to welcoming these students to Nichols.”

Anna Maria announced on April 23 that it would cease academic operations at the end of the spring 2026 semester after 80 years of operation.

Under the terms of the proposal and subject to securing the necessary regulatory approvals, Anna Maria's in-person Bachelor of Science (B.S.) programs in fire science and emergency management; online B.S. degree completion programs in fire science and criminal justice; and online Master of Public Administration and Master of Science in criminal justice would transition to Nichols. The Anna Maria B.S. in fire science program is the largest in New England and boasts outstanding certification exam pass rates. Nichols will adopt their existing Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education Initiative (FESHE)-aligned curriculum to ensure that current Anna Maria students remain on track to graduate and that the popular and well-regarded program continues to thrive. Additionally, Nichols intends to bring on several of Anna Maria's dedicated faculty to support the transition and provide continuity for students.

To facilitate quick onboarding, any Anna Maria student in good standing is guaranteed acceptance to Nichols. Further, Nichols' tuition is within 1% of Anna Maria's, and Nichols will match each student's institutional grant up to \$32,000. Housing is available for those students who plan to reside on the College's 200-acre campus in Dudley. Anna Maria alumni are eligible for the same 10% discount that Nichols alumni receive for graduate coursework at Nichols.

“Our responsibility is to ensure that our students are able to move forward and complete their education,” said Anna Maria President Sean Ryan. “Nichols has an excellent criminal justice program and is a business school widely respected for its career preparedness, leadership outcomes and commitment to students. We are confident that this proposal with Nichols College provides a strong and stable path forward for our students.”

Anna Maria students seeking information about transferring to Nichols are encouraged to visit: [www.nichols.edu/annamaria](http://www.nichols.edu/annamaria). The two institutions will share additional information with students, their families and the public as it is available.

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

About Anna Maria College  
Anna Maria College was founded in 1946 by the Sisters of Saint Anne and has operated continuously as a Catholic liberal arts institution in Paxton, Massachusetts, for 80 years. [www.annamaria.edu](http://www.annamaria.edu)



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