

WEBSTER TIMES

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Friday, April 3, 2026

A memorable experience for Bartlett High School students



Ron Donais (left) demonstrating to the BHS students about official mechanics.

Courtesy

WEBSTER — Former Bartlett High School, Class of 1971, alumnus, Ron Donais recently returned to his roots to make a meaningful

impact on the next generation of student officials. As an National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Certified Referee along

with a forty-one year officiating career, Donais volunteered his time to work with students in the school's Refereeing (RefReps) class.

During his visit, Donais focused on teaching the proper mechanics of officiating, breaking down positioning, signaling, and game management in a

clear and engaging way. Students had the opportunity to see firsthand how officials communicate, move on the court, and maintain control of the game skills that are essential for anyone looking to step into the role of a referee.

His hands-on approach allowed students to actively participate, practice signals, and ask questions, creating an interactive learning experience going beyond the classroom. The class was thankful for his time and enjoyed the opportunity very much.

Dudley residents enrolled in town's energy aggregate realize winter savings

DUDLEY — The Dudley Community Choice Power Supply Program currently provides competitive power supply to approximately 2,800 consumers in the Town of Dudley.

The aggregation report for the fourth quarter of 2025 shows those consumers saved a combined \$153,314 compared to NGRID's Basic Service rates.

"With over \$150,000 in savings in just one quarter, this program is delivering real results for Dudley residents," Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda said. "The Board of Selectmen and I are pleased to offer an option that helps our community—especially seniors and families—manage rising and unpredictable energy costs."

Turn To SAVINGS page A10

Saint Joseph 1-25 Club receives 2026 Partners in Education Award

WEBSTER — Saint Joseph School is proud to recognize the Saint Joseph 1-25 Club as the recipient of this year's Partners in Education Award, presented in appreciation for the organization's long standing dedication and support of the school.

Founded in 1976 by Monsignor Stanislaus Kubik—originally as the 1-20 Club—the organization was created to help offset the school's winter heating costs while bringing members of the parish community together in fellowship. Over the years, the club has remained a cherished tradition, combining its weekly drawings and membership banquets with a shared commitment to supporting Catholic education at Saint Joseph School.

While the club's primary mission has always been to provide financial



Courtesy

Pictured following the presentation of the 2025-2026 Partners in Education Award at Saint Joseph School's Annual Migration Mass on Sunday, March 15, are members of the Saint Joseph 1-25 Club Leadership with Bishop Robert McManus, Fr. Richard Polek, and Principal Beth Boudreau. From left to right: Felicia Kolodziejczak, Fr. Richard Polek, Jane Wilk, Bishop Robert McManus, Sheryl Bergeron, Lorraine Biadasz, Marlene Proulx, and Beth Boudreau.

assistance to the school, it has also fostered a strong sense of community. The gatherings and dinners have created opportunities for friendship and fellow-

ship that have strengthened the bonds within our parish for nearly fifty years.

Saint Joseph School extends sincere gratitude

to the many volunteers who have sustained the club through the years, including its early leaders: Theresa Jankowski, Constance Czechowski,

Magdalen Gromelski Bibeau, Jo-Ann Canty, Elizabeth Meagher, Eleanor Noga, Patricia Parslow, and Theresa Wagner.

Today, the 1-25 Club continues to thrive under the leadership of Marlene Proulx (Director), Lorraine Biadasz (Co-Director), Sheryl Bergeron (Captain), and Barbara Kryger (Captain), along with the dedicated kitchen crew managed by Felicia Kolodziejczak and Jane Wilk, whose meals and hospitality have become a hallmark of the club's gatherings.

We congratulate and thank the 1-25 Club for nearly five decades of generosity, fellowship, and unwavering support of Saint Joseph School. Your dedication continues to strengthen both our school and our parish community.

Dudley sets ribbon cutting for new Richard Carmignani Sr. Fun Zone at the Dudley Municipal Complex

DUDLEY — A ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of the new, modern Fun Zone playground is set for 5 to 7 p.m. June 17, with a rain date of July 8 or 9.

All are invited to the evening ceremony at 71 West Main Street as our community comes together to mark the completion of a rebuild project that began in 2022.

"This is Dudley at its best—neighbors, partners, and local organizations coming together to create something special for our kids and families," Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda said. "The Board of Selectmen and I are proud to see the Fun Zone come back stronger than ever."

The original Fun Zone was closed early in the COVID-19 pandemic. When it was to reopen, damaged equipment, deteriorating surface materials and accessibility deficiencies caused its permanent closure. Residents' call to reopen the playground in 2022 prompted town officials to enlist help from the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to gain grant funding.

The playground was selected by the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to receive a \$496,650 Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant. The grant represents an amount of up to 70 percent reimbursement of the project cost, which is estimated at \$704,410. The local contribution, therefore, is expected to be \$207,760.

Town meeting voters approved the \$704,410 borrowing. Once the \$496,650 reimbursement is received and applied to the borrowing, the remaining debt is to be paid from available town funds.

Radner Design and Assoc. worked with the Recreation Commission and met with local children to develop the one-of-a-kind playground and select its equipment. Since the groundbreaking in August, the Commission has been overseeing the construction by lowest bidder Landscaping by J. Michael.

New to the playground rebuild story is the Webster-Dudley-Oxford Chamber of Commerce,

Turn To RIBBON page A10

Friends of the Oxford Library Spring Book Sale set for April 16-18

OXFORD — The Friends of the Oxford Free Public Library Spring Book/Bake Sale is scheduled for April 16 -18. The sale will be held on Thursday, April 16 from noon to 7 p.m.; Friday, April 17 from noon to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, April 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Oxford Free Public Library, 339 Main St., Oxford, in the downstairs meeting room. We accept cash or check only. Great books at bargain prices. Thousands to choose from and all are in good to excellent condition. Hardcover and trade size paperbacks are \$1, regular size paperbacks are 50¢ and children's books range from 25 cents to

\$1. There is also a selection of "Special books at special prices." We offer a great "half price" deal on classroom books for teachers on Thursday and Friday. The last hour of the book sale on Saturday, from 1 to 2 p.m., you have the option of buying a provided bag and filling it for only \$10. Dealers are welcome on Saturday only.

The Friends of the Oxford Free Public Library was formed and incorporated in 1992. As a non-profit, our purpose is to maintain a membership of people who are supportive of the library and its ongoing programs. All

money donated through dues or fundraisers goes directly back to the library to support children's programs, reading programs, museum passes, and other services. We are always looking for new members, supporters, and

volunteers. Membership dues for the current year can be paid at any time. The membership year runs from Jan. 1 – Dec. 31. If you have already renewed your membership or are a new member, thank you. Membership forms

are available at the library adult circulation desk and also at the book sale. Please include your email address. This is a wonderful opportunity to stock up on books for your Summer reading. Hope to see you there!

Dudley's annual town-wide yard sale set for June 20

DUDLEY — What better time for a yard sale than the end of spring-cleaning season? The Dudley Recreation Commission has set its annual town-wide yard sale for 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 20, with a rain date of June 27.

Residents are invited to set up and sell at their home or at the Dudley Town Hall where free 10x10-foot spaces are available in the parking lot on a first-come, first served basis.

A site map, prepared by the Recreation Commission, will guide bargain hunters to the sale locations. Participants are encouraged to register for free by June 6 to be included in a map. The maps will be available for a \$3 donation at the Dudley Town Hall from 7 to 11 a.m.

To register, email recreation@dudleyma.gov with your name, address, phone and description of the items for sale, or stop by the Recreation Office at Town hall.

Webster Lions offer George Sellig Memorial Scholarship

WEBSTER — The Webster Lions Club is currently accepting applications for the George Sellig Memorial Scholarship. The recipient will be selected based on the student's community service and their financial need.

The 2026 award of \$1,000 will be presented to two graduating high school seniors who are residents of Webster and will be continuing his or her education in an accredited college program.

The scholarship is named in honor of former Webster Lions Club president Mr. George Sellig. Sellig was once a teacher at Tourtellotte Memorial High School, a Webster selectman and a superintendent of the former Webster-Dudley School Union.

Applications are available at Bartlett High School, Shepherd ail Reginabligh athere as well as Bay Path Regional Technical High School Guidance Departments or by contacting Sandi Grzyb at 774-230-3500. Deadline is May 1.

Oxford Woman's Club to hear from new Police Chief

OXFORD — On Tuesday, April 7, the Oxford Woman's Club will be introducing and meeting with our interim Police Chief, Peter McGowan, who was sworn in to lead the department during the selection period for a new police chief. He will explain his current role to ensure the safety of our town.

Our organization works to help our local community, helping to fund free passes at our library, donations to our schools, police and fire departments, food shelf and Veterans.

Oxford Women's Club welcomes new members from Oxford and other towns in joining out organization. Our meetings are held in the Oxford Senior Center located behind the Town Hall starting at 7 p.m.

For more information, please contact Paula at 508-987-2804 or email Phparker1951@gmail.com or Chris at 508-987-5479 or chris12945@aol.com.

Oxford Women's Club offers scholarships

OXFORD — The Oxford Women's Club is offering three scholarships to deserving high school Seniors who reside in Oxford.

Each scholarship is worth \$750 to be used towards a two- or four-year continuous education. The three Scholarships are, Josie Tyler to pursue a career in education or business, Clara Barton for a career in medical/nursing/health care and the Oxford Women's Club to pursue an education of their choice.

Check with the school you're attending to fill out an application, it must be returned by April 17.

Questions can be directed to Anne Marie by email at simplyannie14@gmail.com.



ARTHRITIS?

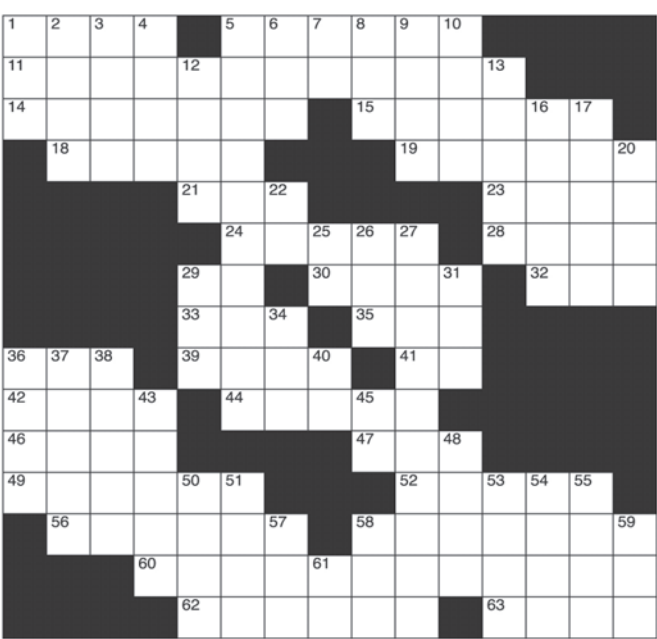
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Absence of difficulty
- 5. Preserve a dead body
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. The act of coming together again
- 15. More cushy
- 18. Visionaries
- 19. Large fish-eating bird
- 21. Indicates near
- 23. Former CIA and CIA critic
- 24. Icelandic poems
- 28. Pop
- 29. Hammer is one
- 30. Selfs
- 32. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
- 33. Nowhere to be found
- 35. Electronic data processing
- 36. Drivers' licenses and passports are two
- 39. Snake-like fishes
- 41. Air Force
- 42. Popular personal computers
- 44. Stages in ecological succession
- 46. Wings
- 47. In the center
- 49. Pleasantly smooth
- 52. Jeweled headdress
- 56. In slow tempo
- 58. ___ Falls
- 60. Reiterations
- 62. Eras
- 63. Hyphen

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Body part
- 2. Mimics
- 3. Expel or eject (variant sp.)
- 4. Sea eagle
- 5. Taxonomic category
- 6. Chinese languages
- 7. Mr. T's "A-Team" character
- 8. Consumed
- 9. Chinese dynasty
- 10. NFL legend Randy
- 12. Ireland
- 13. Palm trees with creeping roots
- 16. Fungal disease
- 17. Tall, slender-leaved plants
- 20. Affirmative! (slang)
- 22. It says who you are
- 25. Atlantic coast state
- 26. Grow older
- 27. Associations
- 29. Woman (French)
- 31. Sunscreen rating
- 34. Brew
- 36. Leader
- 37. Indigo bush genus
- 38. Burn with a hot liquid
- 40. Junior's father
- 43. Mackerel genus
- 45. Morning
- 48. Straight line from side to side (abbr.)
- 50. Type of molding
- 51. Small, thin or twisted bunch
- 53. Worn by exposure to the weather
- 54. Mars crater
- 55. Humanities
- 57. Relating to the ears
- 58. "To the ___ degree"
- 59. Residue when something is burned
- 61. It cools a home

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Poets at Large presents Stewart and Anderson April 18

POMFRET, Conn. — Poets at Large will once again present well-known poets Joshua M. Stewart and Doug Anderson on Saturday night, April 18 at 7 p.m. at The Vanilla Bean Café, 450 Deerfield Rd. in Pomfret.

Joshua Michael Stewart is currently the Massachusetts Beat Poet Laureate (2025-27) and he has published poems in the Massachusetts Review, Louisville Review, Rattle, Night Train, Evansville Review, Cold Mountain Review, and many others. His first full-length collection of poems, "Break Every String,"

was published by Hedgerow Books in April 2016. Stewart received his BA from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and lives in Ware, MA. He's employed as a teacher/counselor, working with individuals with special needs.

Doug Anderson's most recent book, "Undress, She Said," was published by Four Way Books. He has received awards from the NEA, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Poets & Writers, the Massachusetts Artists Foundation, the Virginia Quarterly Review, and others.

His first book, "The Moon Reflected Fire," won the Kate Tufts Discovery Award, and his second, "Blues for

Unemployed Secret Police," a grant from the Eric Matthew King fund of the Academy of American Poets. His third book, Horse Medicine, was published by Barrow Street Press in 2015

and his memoir, Keep Your Head Down was published by W.W. Norton in 2009.

Anderson taught in the Pacific University of Oregon and Bennington College MFA programs, and at Smith and

Emerson Colleges. He lives in Ashfield, Massachusetts.

Poets at Large has brought over 120 published and awarded poets to the area since 2020 and dozens of people have participated in the open mic portions during that time. Poets at Large is a project of Windham Arts. All events are ADA compliant and are recommended for ages 16 and up. Readings for the rest of the season are sponsored in part by donations from bankHometown, Charter Oak FCU, WHZ Financial and The Putnam Area Foundation. Contact karen.warinsky@gmail.com to sign up for the open mic; five-minute max as time allows.

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Dudley sets Earth Day cleanup for April 18

DUDLEY — The Dudley Board of Health calls residents to an Earth Day cleanup from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 18, with a rain date of April 25.

This annual event sponsored by the Board of Health and the Last Green Valley celebrates the arrival of Spring by removing trash from our roadways and waterways.

Starting at 8 a.m. volunteers may pick up trash bags, gloves, sanitizers, reflective vests, snacks and water from the Dudley Highway Garage at 7 Indian Road. Trash is to be returned to the Highway Garage when finished.

Teams are encouraged!

For more information, please contact the Board of Health at 508-949-8012 or email building1@dudleyma.gov.

P.E.O. Chapters R and AA join forces to revive beloved "Chocolate Sunday" fundraiser



CHARLTON — After a hiatus of several years, a cherished local tradition is making a decadent return. Sheila Ansley of P.E.O. Chapter R recently announced that the organization's signature "Chocolate Sunday" is officially back on the calendar, thanks to a dynamic new partnership with Chapter AA.

The fundraiser—an afternoon dedicated to sampling gourmet chocolate treats, coffee, and tea—was previously sidelined due to the intensive labor required for a single small group to manage. However, after Chapter R reached out to their sisters in Chapter AA, the two groups agreed to a joint venture. By splitting the workload, the chapters have found a sustainable way to bring the sweetness back to Charlton.

Event details
Date: Sunday, May 17
Time: 2 p.m.

Location: The Performing Arts Center at The Overlook, Charlton

Mission: All proceeds support the P.E.O. Sisterhood's mission of providing life-changing education-

al opportunities and scholarships for women.

Contacts: Sheila Ansley 508-434-2649 or Elizabeth Pacey 508-829-4504

A season of sisterhood: Chapter R's Active Winter

The revival of Chocolate Sunday comes on the heels of a busy winter for Chapter R. Despite a string of "historically biting" temperatures, members remained dedicated to their cultural and social calendar.

In December, members braved one of the coldest nights of the year to tour the "Winter Reimagined" display at Tower Hill Botanic Garden. While the air was frigid, the spectacular light installations proved well worth the chill.

The momentum continued into January with two standout events:

Musical excellence: Members attended a moving organ concert performed by Amanda Mole, daughter of Jackie Mole. The performance offered a warm, soaring reprieve from the January frost.

Founders Day: The group hon-

ored the P.E.O. Sisterhood's 1869 roots at the Founders Day Program. Members «toughed out» the New England cold to enjoy a commemorative meal and program honoring the seven women who started the organization over 150 years ago.

Looking ahead to spring

As the frost thaws, Chapter R is looking forward to milder weather and continued community engagement.

For over a century and a half, the P.E.O. Sisterhood has focused on the intersection of friendship and philanthropy. Through various

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

A playground rebuilt, a community renewed

There are some projects in a town that go far beyond bricks, boards, and budgets. The rebuilding of Dudley's Fun Zone playground is one of them.

When residents gather this June to celebrate the reopening at 71 West Main St., they will not only be marking the completion of a construction effort. They will be celebrating the return of a shared community space that generations of local families have counted on as part of everyday life.

The original Fun Zone served children and parents for years before safety concerns and aging equipment forced its closure during the early days of the pandemic. At the time, the loss was felt quietly but deeply. A playground is not simply a place to swing and climb. It is where neighbors meet, friendships begin, and families build routines around time outdoors together.

What stands in its place today reflects something stronger than what was lost.

The rebuilt playground represents careful planning, cooperation across agencies, and a willingness by residents to invest in the town's future. Support from the state's Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities program made the project financially possible, covering a significant share of the cost and easing the burden on local taxpayers. That kind of partnership shows how state programs can work effectively when local communities are prepared with a clear vision and steady leadership.

Equally important was the decision to involve local children in the planning process. Inviting young residents to help shape the playground they will use is more than a thoughtful gesture. It sends a message that their voices matter and that public spaces belong to everyone.

Projects like this do not succeed on funding alone. They succeed because people care enough to stay involved over time. The Recreation Commission's oversight, collaboration with design professionals, and persistence through the long process from closure to reopening all played a role in bringing the effort across the finish line.

Now, another chapter is beginning. The Webster-Dudley-Oxford Chamber of Commerce has stepped forward to help reduce the local financial share through a sponsorship campaign that invites businesses and residents to take part in supporting the playground's future. Naming opportunities and sponsorship levels give community members a chance to leave a lasting mark on a space that will serve families for decades to come.

That kind of participation strengthens the connection between local organizations and the people they serve. It also reminds us that public spaces are not maintained by government alone. They depend on shared responsibility.

There is something encouraging about seeing a project that began with a problem end with a celebration. What started as a closure became a conversation. That conversation became a plan. And that plan became a playground built for the next generation.

As families gather for the ribbon cutting this summer, they will be stepping into more than a new recreation area. They will be stepping into proof that when neighbors, local leaders, and community partners work together, even familiar places can return better than before.

Viewpoint

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

A Revolutionary family: The Rices of Auburn

BY HELEN POIRIER
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

When the South Parish of Worcester was formed in 1773, people living in Oxford, Leicester and Worcester, within three miles of where the meeting house was going to be built, were included as were those from Sutton living within a mile and a half. Among the families from Worcester were Gershom Rice Sr, Gershom Jr. and his son, Comfort Rice.

The Rice family goes back to Stanstead, Suffolk England with Deacon Edmund Rice. It was his son, Thomas, who migrated to Sudbury before Gershom Sr. was born in 1696. Gershom was the second settler of Worcester around 1722. He was buried, at the age of 102, in the Old Burial Ground that was under what is now the Worcester Common. He was moved along with 110 other remains to Hope Cemetery in 1968. An article in the Worcester Spy after his death states, "He was naturally of very pleasant disposition, very courteous in his behavior towards all and withal grave and serious." Gershom Sr. built his house on land in the area of 204 Pakachoag in 1736. It housed five generations of the Rice family through the years with great grandson, Edward, replacing the original building in 1921-22. In the 1890's the estate was purchased by Frank P. Knowles and renamed "Highlawn Farm."

The Rice family was very involved with the town participating in town government and military service. Gershom Jr. served as a private in Captain John Crowl's company, Colonel Ebenezer Learned's regiment from Oxford, which marched on the alarm of April 19, 1775. He served 6 days. He also held town and church offices from 1775-1777.

Comfort Rice did military recruitment as a member of the town's committee of commission in 1775 and purchased beef for troops in 1780, both of which qualify as "Aiding the Cause." At this time, he had the rank of lieutenant, which was sighted with his name on town records, although no specific documentation for field duty has been

found. Other offices he held through the years included assessor, school squadron leader, treasurer, town meeting moderator, highway surveyor, tax inquiry committee, bondsman and fence viewer.

Comfort's son, Jonathan, was a private in Captain John Cutler's Company, in Colonel Luke Drury's regiment from August 28, 1781, to Nov. 28, 1781. He appears with rank of private on Muster & Pay roll of Capt. John Cutler's Company, Col. Luke Drury's regiment Time of Marching 20 Aug 1781. He joined regiment at West Point 28 Aug 1781, time of discharge: 28 Nov 1781. He became a deacon later in life. His son, John [1787-1813] became a successful blacksmith in town. At the time of his death, the real estate of John Rice consisted of a very valuable and new blacksmith's shop, a new and well finished dwelling-house and barn, and ½ acre of land near the meeting house in Ward. It also included 10 acres of valuable mowing and pastureland within ½ mile of the other estate.

George Dwight Rice, great grandson of Comfort, enlisted in the Union Army on Aug. 20, 1862, and was mustered in on Sept. 2 to Company C, 51st Regiment M.N.M. The 51st regiment was organized in Worcester between Sept. 25 and Oct. 30, 1862. In Nov. the unit was moved to Boston then New Bern NC. It was assigned to Major Gen. John G. Foster, and took part in the Battles of Kinston, White Hall and Goldsborough Bridge, to name a few. George died in New Bern March 9, 1863.

The service to town and country seems to run deep in the Rice Family of Auburn.

This article is part 8 of the Auburn and the Revolution Series and is made possible by the Auburn Historical Society & Museum, 41 South St. The museum is open Tuesday and Saturday mornings 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and may be reached at auburnmuseum@verizon.net or 508-832-6856, www.auburnhistoricalmuseum.org or follow us on Facebook at Auburn Historical.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Veteran community will restructure the 2026 Memorial Day Parade to reflect current realities

To the Editor:

The veteran community will decide early next month to restructure the Memorial Day Parade and related activities due to declining participation caused by an aging and shrinking veteran population.

This decline has also reduced attendance at veterans' organization meetings and ceremonies. The trend reflects a broader cultural shift, as younger veterans from recent conflicts are less represented than older generations. During the Vietnam Era, approximately 10 percent of the US population served in the military. Since the mid-1990s, following the Cold War, about four tenths of a percent of Americans have served, a decrease from eight tenths of a

percent after Vietnam. The writer of this article served in the US Army after the Vietnam Era during both periods and have observed these changes firsthand.

After extensive coordination with the Veterans Services District of Webster and Dudley, the Memorial Day Committee, and the Veterans Council, I can confirm the disappointment felt by veterans and local citizens. This is an extraordinary time, and although the decision to restructure is made with concern and sadness, it is necessary.

STEPHEN P. ROGERSON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF VETERANS' SERVICES
VETERANS DISTRICT OF DUDLEY AND WEBSTER

Easter morning on Main Street

Easter has always felt a little different from the other holidays that come around each year. It does not arrive with the deep certainty of Christmas, when the calendar and the weather seem to agree with each other. Easter comes when it is ready, sometimes in snow flurries, sometimes in warm sunshine, and often right in the middle of that muddy, hopeful stretch we call early spring here in Massachusetts.

LANTERNS
ALONG
MAIN
STREET
By CHARLES

When I was younger, I used to think Easter was mostly about new shoes and stiff collars. My mother believed strongly that everyone ought to look their best that morning, and she was not alone. If you stood outside almost any church in town back then, you would see a line of families stepping carefully across damp grass, children holding woven baskets and fathers brushing lint from jackets they had not worn since the year before.

Even now, I still notice those small details on Easter Sunday. The parking lots fill earlier than usual. The bells seem to ring a little longer. People who have not seen one another since winter's first snowfall stop to talk in the sunshine as if they had been waiting all season for that chance.

There is something comforting about that rhythm.

In many of our towns, Easter also means the return of activity on the common. Before long, there will be egg hunts organized by local volunteers, bright plastic eggs scattered across grass that only weeks ago was hidden under snowbanks. Parents stand along the edges with coffee cups in their hands, calling out reminders not to run too fast, while the youngest children

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.

Risks threatening Gen Z's retirement – and how to tackle them



FINANCIAL
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ANTONOPOULOS

While older generations worry about having enough money for retirement, many Gen Z workers aren't even starting to save. Research in 2025 by Edward Jones and Morning Consult shows that nearly half haven't begun setting money aside for their golden years, and only 22 percent are contributing to a workplace retirement plan.

The culprit is a perfect storm of financial pressures that can make saving for the future feel impossible.

One of the biggest challenges this generation faces is debt. High-interest credit card balances and persistent student loan payments leave many feeling they're just trying to stay afloat, rather than planning decades ahead.

The cost of living doesn't help either. Nearly 60 percent of Gen Z renters are considered "rent-burdened," spending more than 30 percent of their pre-tax income on rent, according to a StreetEasy analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data. Rising prices driven by inflation and tariffs squeeze budgets further, moving retirement savings down the priority list.

The nature of work has also changed. Gen Z is more likely than previous generations to hold gig jobs, contract positions or other flexible work arrangements that often don't include employer retirement plans, according to Pew Research. Even when plans are available, only 22 percent participate. Feeling overwhelmed by jargon, confused by investment choices or focusing only on today's experiences and technology can all delay participation. These early gaps may lead to catch-up needs later in life.

Unfortunately, Gen Z has little faith in the retirement safety net. Only about a third of Gen Z-ers say they believe Social Security will still exist when they retire, according to the latest information from the CATO Institute.

Fortunately, there are steps Gen Z can take now to get their retirement savings off to a good start:

Start small: Even a few dollars per paycheck builds a savings habit and gets compounding interest working in their favor. Early momentum matters more than starting big.

Let compounding do its work: Small, consistent contributions can grow dramatically over time, especially when they have decades to accumulate.

Use a workplace retirement account: For anyone with access to a plan, enroll and contribute at least enough to receive any employer match. It's one of the few forms of "free money" available.

Open an IRA: If no plan is available through work, take charge by opening an individual retirement account (IRA).

Simplify investing: If the choices feel confusing, consider options such as a target date fund, which reduces complexity and helps keep you properly invested without needing expert advice.

Use found money: Direct tax refunds, bonuses or gig income into retirement savings to boost progress without straining the monthly budget.

Automate contributions: Automatic transfers make saving effortless. Review this annually and increase contributions as income grows.

Build confidence: If investing feels overwhelming, look for quick financial education resources from an employer, plan provider or reputable nonprofit organization. Even a little knowledge can make decisions easier.

The path to retirement doesn't require perfection — just progress. Building consistency early helps create choices, security and financial breathing room later in life.

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 Street, Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

DUDLEY SENIOR CENTER ANNOUNCES APRIL EVENTS

DUDLEY — The Dudley Senior Center will offer the following events during the month of April.

April 8 at noon: Brown Bag Lunch with a choice of turkey cranberry salad, or egg salad. Please RSVP with your sandwich choice by calling 508-949-8015 or sign up in the Dudley Senior Center. The cost for this event is \$4 per person.

April 16 at noon: Memory Café with Franny Mik to entertain us with all our favorite oldies. We will be serving baked ziti, meatballs, salad and dessert. Please RSVP by calling 508-949-8015 or sign up in the Dudley Senior Center. The cost for this event is \$5 per person.

April 22 at noon: Potluck Lunch serving chicken, mashed potato, stuffing, butternut squash, cranberry, and dessert. Please RSVP by calling 508-949-8015 or sign up in the Dudley Senior Center. Cost for this event is \$5 per person.

Due to the rising food costs for the Brown Bag Lunch, Memory Café and Potluck, you must sign up and give 24-hour notice if you are unable to make it. No shows will be charged \$5. Seating is limited to 45 people.

Monthly activities at Dudley Senior Center
Tuesdays at 1 p.m. – Pitch League
Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. – The Dudley Senior Center Knitters
Tri Valley lunches served Mondays and Thursdays
Ask about Book Club!
The Dudley Senior Center is closed Monday, April 20 for Patriots Day.

OXFORD SENIOR CENTER

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

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

Weekly Activities:
Mondays and Fridays at 10 a.m. – Cribbage
Tuesdays from 9:15 – 10 a.m. Strength & Balance w/ Donna Freeland – Cost \$3 per class
Wednesdays from 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga w/ Heidi Gambaccini – Cost \$3 per class
Tuesdays and Wednesday at 10:15 a.m. - Needleworkers (Knitting, Crocheting, Needlepoint)
Bring your favorite project and come join the group for conversation and laughs.
Wednesdays from 1 – 2:15 p.m. Chair Volleyball – Lots of laughs and only two rules (1) stay seated (2) have fun!
Thursdays from 10 a.m. – noon Dominoes

Monthly Activities:
Let's Talk Oxford History – 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. - Sponsored by the Oxford Historical Commission
Men's Coffee Group – 2nd Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. – coffee and pastry are served.
Book Club – 1st Friday of each month at 12:45 p.m. – reserve your book from the Oxford Public Library
Movie Matinee – 2nd Friday of each month at 12:45 p.m. ~ April Movie "Hope Springs"
Senior Safety with Oxford Fire/EMS - 3rd Friday of the month at 12:30 p.m.
BEANO – 4th Friday of each month at 12:45 p.m. – arrive by 12:30 p.m. to purchase your BEANO sheets.

April Presentations:
Tuesday, April 7 at 12:30 p.m. ~ Understanding Carotid Artery Disease & Stroke ~ Presented by The Vascular Care Group
Tuesday, April 21 at 12:30 p.m. ~ Online Scams & Fraud ~ Presented by bankHometwon

LANTERNS

continued from page A4

move carefully as if each egg might be a small treasure. Those moments matter more than we sometimes admit. They remind us that spring is not only a change in temperature. It is a change in spirit. After months of early sunsets and quiet evenings, people begin opening their doors again. Neighbors wave from across drive-ways. Someone starts raking leaves that should have been gone last November. Someone else sets a chair on the porch for the first time in months.

Easter seems to arrive right when we need that reminder most.

Over the years, I have also come to appreciate the quieter side of the holiday. Not every Easter is crowded or busy. Some are spent around a kitchen table with only a few voices. Some pass with a short walk after church and a long conversation later in the afternoon. And some are marked simply by noticing the first real warmth in the air and being thankful for it.

There is a steadiness in that kind of celebration.

In small towns like ours, holidays have a way of carrying memories forward. The same churches still open their doors. The same streets lead to the same town halls.

www.Stonebridge Press.com

WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

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

THE SENIOR CENTER WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, APRIL 3 FOR GOOD FRIDAY!

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

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least three business days in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation for 65 and up, and \$5 for 55- 64 is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, 4/7: Chicken fajitas, Spanish rice, black beans and corn. Wednesday, 4/8: Roast pork with gravy, cranberry stuff-

ing, winter blend veggies. Thursday, 4/9: Beef with onions and peppers, potato wedges, honey glazed carrots. Friday, 4/10: Chicken Tiki Masala, couscous, roman blend veggies.

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

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

Are you ready for spring? Come celebrate with us at our Spring Fling Party on Monday, April 6th at 1:00 pm, featuring a live performance from Kalifornia Karl to wash away your winter blues.

Chair Dancing Exercise classes with Forty Arroyo are the perfect workout for any fitness ability! The cost is a recommended \$3.00 donation per class.

A new video class will be offered Thursday and Friday mornings, free of charge.

Now introducing Line Dancing with Forty Arroyo! Classes will be held from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm on the last Monday of the month.

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

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

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

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

Mahjonn group meets every Friday at 1:00 pm.

Beginners welcome! We now have an official Bridge group! We will be meeting every Friday from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in the upstairs activity room. All that are interested are welcome to join!

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

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

Calling all gardeners, growers & farmers to Fifth Annual Dudley Grows Together Plant Hop

DUDLEY – The Dudley Agricultural Advisory Commission is excited to announce the Fifth Annual Dudley Grows Together Plant Hop, taking place on Saturday, May 16 from 9 a.m. to noon – rain or shine.

The Plant Hop is a community event that gives local Dudley farmers and gardeners the opportunity to sell vegetable and flower seedlings directly from their homes or growing locations throughout Dudley.

A map of participating locations will be created and distributed by the Commission so visitors from Dudley and surrounding communities can easily travel from stop to stop to shop for locally grown plants.

New this year, the Agricultural Advisory Commission seeks Dudley residents who are interested in participating as plant sellers. Gardeners are welcome to sell vegetable or flower seedlings and plants (please note cannabis and hemp plants are not permitted).

Residents who would like to participate should sign up by emailing ameradaholsteins@charter.net or LLorkiewicz@dudleyma.gov so their location can be included on the official event map.

The deadline to sign up as a seller is Monday, April 20.

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Dottie has been soaking up all the love and sunshine in foster and now she's looking for that special someone who will give her the time and space she needs to thrive. She may take a minute to warm up, but once she does, she's all in — loyal, affectionate, and eager to be near her people. She loves lounging on the bed or sunbathing on her foster's deck in the backyard. While she can be quiet and independent at times, she also has a playful, silly side. She does best in a calm, predictable environment. Dottie is looking for an adult-only home, where she will be the only pet, with people who understand that good relationships take time. Once she feels safe and secure, her sweet, affectionate side really shines. Dottie's adoption fee has been generously sponsored!

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Annual JAK-L 5K returns to Oxford to support youth mental health

OXFORD — The pavement of Maple Road will soon be filled with the sound of rhythmic footsteps and the spirit of community remembrance. On Saturday, June 13, the annual JAK-L Strides 5K Run/Walk will return to the Oxford Community Center, aiming to turn miles into momentum for local mental health awareness and suicide prevention.

The event, which officially kicks off at 9 a.m., is more than just a race; it is a dedicated effort to fund vital mental health programs within local school systems. In a time when student well-being is a top priority for educators and parents alike, the proceeds from this year's 5K will go directly toward providing resources for suicide prevention and emotional support for the community's youth.

A fast course for a great cause

For the competitive runners,



Event Committee members, in alphabetical order: Christine Afful, Kerry, Boucher, David Bielicki, Laurie Boucher, Ruth Cahill, Joy Kochinskas, Steve Kochinskas, Kathy Konkol-Saad, Devon Renfro, Shirley Shepardson, Karen Sisko, and Kim Sterczala.

course offers a "flat and fast" profile, boasting a minimal elevation gain of only 108 feet. The race features electronic timing for precision, and the top three finishers will receive special prizes.

Organizers have ensured that participants stay supported throughout the 3.1-mile trek, with a water station positioned at the half-way mark. To celebrate the achievement of those taking

part, the first 150 participants to cross the finish line will be awarded finisher medals.

Registration details
Community members are encouraged to sign up early to take advantage of tiered

pricing:
· Early Bird: \$30 (Before April 1)
· Standard: \$35 (After April 1)
· Race Day: \$40 (June 13)
The first 150 people to

register will also receive an official race T-shirt. On the day of the event, check-in and bib pickup will begin at 8 a.m.

Planning Your Visit
Event Director Devon Renfro notes that while the race begins and ends at 4 Maple Rd., onsite parking is limited. Participants are highly encouraged to carpool and arrive early to secure a spot, though additional street parking will be available in the surrounding neighborhood.

"Join us as we run, walk, and honor those we carry with us," the organizers shared in a statement. "Every step helps support mental health programs in our local schools. Come make a difference with us."

For those interested in registering or learning more about the event, please visit the official event website or contact Devon Renfro at 774-253-3581.

Masonic Lodge of Instruction class has huge turnout

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Thursday March 26, the 24th Masonic District Lodge of Instruction (L.O.I.) class was held at the Major General Salem Towne Lodge (MGSTL), Webster apartments (the Webster Lodge building).

Brother Paul Hanson spoke about the Scouters Lodge as the evening's guest speaker. The lodge currently consists of both former and current Boy Scout members. To join this exclusive Masonic Lodge, you must have met specific criteria and achievements as a Boy Scout. You must be a recipient of the Eagle Scout, or a recipient of the Daniel Carter Bearded Masonic Scouters Award, a Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope or Silver Buffalo Award recipient. Currently,

most of their meetings and degree work are conducted outdoors weather permitting, and the Lodge officers have been granted permanent dispensation (permission) to wear their Scout uniforms during these Lodge meetings. When permitted following these outdoor meetings, gathering by the firepit to share camaraderie, toast marshmallows, and eat smores the reminiscing about experiences as a Boy Scout is genuinely rewarding.

The L.O.I. classes are given every month at one of the six lodges in the 24th Masonic District. This is where new candidates are provided with information about Freemasonry, accompanied by a guest speaker who discusses topics related to fraternity and other relevant subjects. Major General Salem Towne Masonic Lodge had the highest attendance of the six District Lodges.

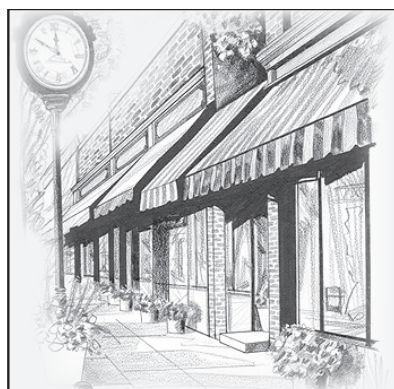
These brethren wanted the Traveling Chainmail Armor Attendance Apron that travels within the 24th District monthly L.O.I. classes. The Traveling Chainmail Armor Attendance Apron is a tradition that began in 2010. The lodge with the most brethren in attendance gets to bring this beautiful Chainmail Armor Attendance Apron back to their lodge home and the bragging rights until the next L.O.I. monthly class. For further details about the fraternity of Freemasonry, please visit our website at www.massfreemasonry.org. There, you can learn more about our organization and locate a lodge near you.

Courtesy

Pictured, left to right: District Deputy Grand Master of the 24th Masonic District Brother Gordon Forsberg, Bro. Paul Davidson holding the L.O.I. Traveling Chainmail Armor Attendance Apron for MGSTL and Bro. Bill Belanger.



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Maryellen Huck — Courtesy

Residents of Webster and surrounding communities joined in the nationwide No Kings protests this past weekend against what they view as abuses of power by the Trump administration.

**21 Thompson Pond Road Spencer MA \$709,000
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GORGEOUS Single level living. Meticulously maintained - House is set back from the road on 2.23 acres. Three bedrooms PLUS an office. Many large windows for abundant natural lighting. Two-car garage leads into the partially fin basement. Hookup for a generator (included). Propane fireplace in lr. Extensive upgrades inc. complete kitchen renovation (2025), landscaping & hardscaping (2023-2024), Fenced in yard (2022), reeds ferry shed (2017), new hot tub (2022), heat pump (2022) & many more upgrades too numerous to list. The rear deck has a retractable awning & there is another granite patio area great for entertaining. This property is located near the Paxton line, & is 2.3 miles away from Moore State Park. This will not last long



to list. The rear deck has a retractable awning & there is another granite patio area great for entertaining. This property is located near the Paxton line, & is 2.3 miles away from Moore State Park. This will not last long

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Check out the new Fall/Winter menu

Dudley Woman's Club Pocketbook Bingo event a winning success



DUDLEY — The Dudley Woman's Club Pocketbook Bingo on March 22 at the PACC in Webster was a winning success!

More than 200 enthusiasts gathered to win designer handbags, raffles and contests. As part of a Giving Project, our generous guests donated 201 breakfast items valued at \$1,283 to the Webster-Dudley Food Share.

Also, as a thank you to our volunteer emcees Lester Boggio and Ben Kane, the DWC donated \$200 in their name to the Webster-Dudley Food Share.

Proceeds from this event support the many charitable undertakings of the DWC, including college scholarships. For more information about the club and the charities we support, visit www.dudleywomansclub.org

Club members thank our sponsors who made this fundraiser possible:

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- Fins & Tales Restaurant
- Flynn Law, P.C.

- Gary's Pest B Dead Hair for You
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The Library will be closed on Friday, April 3

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!

Want to receive updates about our upcoming events? Sign up for email alerts by visiting our website or contacting our Adult Services Librarian Jessica Fontaine at jfontaine@cwmar.org

Adult Programming

One Book One Community: R. F. Kuang – April 29th at 6:30pm

Join us in welcoming award-winning author, R. F. Kuang, this spring as part of our One Book One Community series. Kuang will speaking about her writing process, and discussing some of her work, including *Yellowface*. Rebecca F. Kuang is the award-winning, #1 New York Times and #1 Sunday Times bestselling author of the *Poppy War* trilogy, *Babel: An Arcane History*, *Yellowface*, and *Katambasis*. She has an MPhil in Chinese Studies from Cambridge and an MSc in Contemporary Chinese Studies from Oxford; she is now pursuing a PhD in East Asian Languages and Literatures at Yale. This event will take place at the newly renovated Bartlett High School auditorium. The event begins at 6:30 and the doors open at 5:45pm. Thank you to our sponsors, Janet Malsler Humanities Trust, Friends of the Gladys Kelly Library, Library Board of Trustees, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Webster

Cultural Council, Mandile Family Fund.

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

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

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

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

Yoga – Saturdays at 9:30am

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

Yoga Nidra with Jess – Fridays at 9:00am NEW TIME

Join Adult Services Librarian Jess for a relaxing yoga nidra practice to start your day. Jess will guide partici-

pants through a few simple yoga asanas to release physical tension. Participants will then settle into a reclined position for a guided relaxation (yoga nidra). Registration is required and Jess will meet you at the program door. If you have your own yoga mat, please bring it and be sure to dress in comfortable clothing.

Programming for All Ages

Library for All – Mondays and Fridays at 10am

Library for All is an inclusive program for teens and adults of all abilities and their caregivers. Please let us know if you need any special accommodations! Join us every Monday and Friday! The 1st week of the month is coloring, the 2nd week is LEGO, the 3rd week is chair yoga, and the 4th week of the month is painting.

Something from Nothing Pantry Series: Plant-based Milks – Monday, April 6th at 6:00pm

Each month we'll focus on creating a simple recipe from low-cost ingredients that you can put together at home again and again. This month we'll be hosting Courtney Squire from Unbound Glory Farm! Come learn how to make a variety of plant-based milks using simple ingredients from your pantry! Attendees will learn how quick, easy, and cost-effective it is to make these at home - with better ingredients and oftentimes way cheaper than those you can buy at the grocery store. We will also get to enjoy a couple of delicious preparations using the milks we make in this class.

Agree to Disagree: Mastering the Art of

Respectful Dialogue – Monday, April 6th at 6:30pm

Overview: This session will help attendees better communicate with others when they disagree. It will focus on strategies, listening skills and prompts that can be used to diffuse stressful situations and even turn them into opportunities to learn more about others (and yourself). This program is for adults and requires registration.

Cookbook Club – Wednesday, April 8th at 6:00pm

We're doing something a little unusual this month: we're cooking from *Last Dinner on the Titanic* by Rick Archbold and Dana McCauley and we're having a Titanic themed dinner! come dressed in your finest...if you want to! There are very limited copies available, so reach out to Jess for some recipes: jfontaine@cwmar.org

Friends Spring Concert Series: Blackstone Valley Music Presents the Doors – Thursday, April 9th at 6:30pm

For the fourth consecutive year, our community music school located in downtown Uxbridge MA has organized a band of students and staff to perform a quality tribute concert, this year featuring the music of The Doors. The high energy set will showcase music from the band's studio albums, and focus on capturing their iconic musical dynamic. Our group features BVM piano, voice and brass instructor Sam Masoud on Rhodes bass keyboard/organ/vocals, BVM executive director Mark Mandeville on guitar/electric bass/vocals, Turn To LIBRARYage A9

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 1 Westwood Drive, Auburn, MA 01501

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by William J. Richinick to Sovereign Bank, and now held by **Santander Bank, N.A. f/k/a Sovereign Bank, N.A. f/k/a Sovereign Bank**, said mortgage dated September 28, 2011 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 47972, Page 164, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on April 29, 2026 at 02:00 PM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in Auburn, Worcester County, Massachusetts, being lot #3 on plan of Westwood Acres, recorded in Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 270, Plan 106, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the northwesterly corner of the lot herein described at land of owners unknown on the easterly side of Burnett Street; THENCE S. 2 degrees 18 minutes E. by said Burnett Street, eighty-nine and forty hundredths (89.40) feet to a point; THENCE by a curve to the left having a radius of 10 feet, connecting Burnett Street and Westwood Drive, fifteen and seventy-one hundredths (15.71) feet to a point on Westwood Drive; THENCE N. 87 degrees 42 minutes E. by Westwood Drive, ninety-five (95) feet to lot #4 on said plan; THENCE N. 2 degrees 18 minutes W. by said lot #4, ninety-two and eighty-one hundredths (92.81) feet to a point; THENCE N. 88 degrees 42 minutes 20 seconds W. by land of owners unknown, one hundred five and twenty-one hundredths (105.21) feet to the point of BEGINNING. Being the same premises conveyed to the grantor by deed of J.E. Murray ET UX dated October 18, 1963 and recorded at Worcester district registry of deeds, book 4414, page 1. Subject to restrictions, reservations, easements, covenants, oil, gas or mineral rights of record, if any. Being the same premises conveyed to William James Richinick from William J. Richinick by deed (subject to a life estate of William J. Richinick) dated 1/8//2003, and recorded on 9/3//2003, at book 31498, page 18, in the Worcester County, MA. Assessors Parcel Number: MAP: 3: BLK: 32 ATI order Number: 201109210604 Source of Title: Book 31498; Page: 18

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

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated January 8, 2003 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 31498, Page 18.

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

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

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Santander Bank, N.A. f/k/a Sovereign Bank, N.A. f/k/a Sovereign Bank
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701

April 3, 2026
April 10, 2026
April 17, 2026

(SEAL)

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
26 SM 000986
ORDER OF NOTICE**

TO: Michael Belseth; Georgetta Belseth and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq): New American Funding, LLC f/k/a Broker Solutions, Inc. d/b/a New American Funding claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Dudley, numbered 176 Corbin Road, given by Michael Belseth and Georgetta Belseth to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for New American Funding, LLC, dated November 6, 2023, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69849, Page 378, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the 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 May 11, 2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on March 25, 2026.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
April 3, 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. WO19C0559CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of:
Ryan Addison McAdam
A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by
Ryan Addison McAdam of Dudley MA

requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Ryan Addison DaSilva

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10 a.m. on the return day of 04/28/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 26, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
April 3, 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. WO22P0138EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

Estate Of:
Alicia M Nottage
Date of Death: 12/14/2021

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has been filed by: **Stanley A Nottage of Oxford MA**

requesting that the court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.
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 **04/21/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 19, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
April 3, 2026

**Docket No. WO26E0011PP
Petition to Partition Citation (A.C.92A)**

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Worcester Probate & Family Court**
To Susan L. Grzyb and to all other per-

sons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Robert Grzyb, Bruce Grzyb, Sharon A. Basso of Webster, Dudley, New Smyrna, FL in the County of Worcester and Volusia representing that he hold as tenant in common undivided part or share of certain land lying in Dudley in said County Worcester and described as follows:

EXHIBIT A DESCRIPTION
The land in Dudley, County of Worcester, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, more fully bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at the southwesterly corner of the tract to be conveyed at an iron pipe driven in the ground on the easterly line of Mason Road, and also being the northwesterly corner of land now or formerly of Jenny T. Pulaski;

THENCE by land of said Jenny T. Pulaski, now or formerly, N. 86° 56' E., 154.80 feet to an iron pipe driven in the ground at other land now or formerly of Antone Krupinski, et ux;

THENCE S. 03° E., 20 feet to an iron pipe driven in the ground at land now or formerly of Aldemore Bibeault et ux; THENCE by land of said Bibeault now or formerly, N. 79° 48' E., 36.70 feet to an iron pipe driven in the ground at land now or formerly of Antone Krupinski et ux;

THENCE by said land of Antone Krupinski et ux, now or formerly, N 10° 12' W., 150 feet to an iron pipe driven in the ground on the southerly line of Fairfield Drive, so-called;

THENCE by the southerly line of Fairfield Drive, S. 72° 32' W., 187.55 feet, more or less to an iron pipe driven into the ground on the easterly line of Mason Road;

THENCE by the easterly line of Mason Road, S. 15° 31' E., 85 feet to the place of beginning.

BEING the same premises conveyed to Susan L. Grzyb, Sharon Basso, Robert Grzyb and Bruce Grzyb by deed of Stanley M. Grzyb and Hazel M. Grzyb, Co-Trustees of the Grzyb Family Trust by deed dated May 17, 2018 and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 58967, Page 237 setting forth that he/she desire that all the aforesaid described part of said land may be sold at private sale for not less than three hundred eighty thousand (\$380,000) dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the twenty-eighth day of April 2026 the return day of this citation.

Witness, Kathryn M. Bailey, Esq., First Judge of said Court, this thirteenth day of March 2026.

Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
March 27, 2026
April 3, 2026
April 19, 2026

GLADYS E. KELLY PUBLIC LIBRARY

LIBRARY

continued from page A8

Sutton High School senior Charlie Randell on drums, and Grafton Middle School music director James Briand on guitar/vocals.

For more information on Blackstone Valley Music lessons, workshops and special events, please visit www.blackstonevalleymusic.com or call (508) 278-7211.

Children's and Young Adult Programming
Play-Doh Storytime – Mondays at 10:30am

Join us for an engaging storytime filled with interactive stories and Play-Doh fun! Kids are invited to explore, squish and make new creations

each week. This sensory-friendly program is perfect for young learners and their grown-ups.

Creators Club – Mondays from 4:00-5:30 PM

We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test! Come explore our newly rebranded Monday night program: Creators Club! April's theme is: Origami!

Kids will make their own origami masterpieces to share with friends and family. All creations left behind will be displayed in the Children's program room for the rest of the month.

Tiny Groovers – Tuesdays at 10:30am
Join Miss Paige

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

Mighty Builders – Tuesdays at 4:00pm

Unleash creativity in our free-build program featuring LEGOs, magnet tiles, wooden blocks, marble runs, and more!

Spring Egg Hunt for Littles – Saturday, April 4th at 9:30am

Join us for an egg-citing egg hunt egg-stravaganza! This is perfect for young walkers up to age 6. This program requires registration.

Spring Egg Hunt (7-13) – Saturday, April 4th at 10:45am

Join us for an egg-citing egg hunt egg-stravaganza! This is perfect for kids 7-13. This program requires registration.

Music at the Blissful – Saturday, April 11th 11:00-12:00

10x Boston Parent Paper Family Favorite and National Touring Musician, Music at the Blissful (Evan Haller) from Boston, Massachusetts comes to the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library for a high energy, fun-filled, interactive, movement-packed music experience for the whole family. Come join the fun as we sing, jump, shake,

laugh and go slow and fast with Music at The Blissful. Featuring songs off his new album, "This." This pro-

gram is generously funded by a grant from United Way of South Central MA.

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of March 22-28.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on March 24 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member (subsequent offense), Wanton or Reckless Behavior Causing Risk to a Child, and Malicious Destruction of Property.

Jayvyn Omar Guadalupe, age 21, of Webster was arrested on March 26 for Disorderly Conduct, Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, Disturbing the Peace, Resisting Arrest, Carrying a Loaded Firearm Without a License, Carrying a Firearm on School Grounds, Possession of a Large Capacity Feeding Device, Defacing a Firearm Serial Number, and multiple counts of Vandalization of Property.



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OBITUARIES

Arthur B. Gomes, 87



Arthur B. Gomes, 87, of Dudley died Sunday, March 29, 2026 in the comfort of his home surrounded by his loving family. Arthur was born January 26, 1939 in Webster, MA. He is the son of the late John B and Yvonne (Brunette) Gomes.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years Barbara (Pikul) Gomes, daughter: Brenda Gomes and her husband Thomas Lauria of Sturbridge, and son: Gary Gomes and his wife Jennifer Gomes of Dudley. His sisters: Theresa Evans and Janet Peckham both of Thompson, CT.; Grampy to 4 grandchildren; Erica; Jonathan; Colleen; and Mariah. Great Grampy to 5 great grandchildren.

Arthur Moved from Thompson in 1961 and settled in Dudley with his wife Barbara as they ran St. Georges Flowers and Gifts on West Main St. for 30 years retiring in 1998. Arthur was a people person and his staff of flower girls loved him dearly. Art loved his Nascar he traveled to Dover,

Talladega, Loudon and Albany. He was a Jack of all trades. In his retirement he took up golf and enjoyed planning trips to Myrtle Beach with his golfing buddies Spenny and Bobby.

He was a communicant of St. Louis Church and a Life time Member of the Elks Lodge 2118 in Auburn.

Predeceased by his brother, Albert Gomes and sisters Tina Larose, and Delores Lavigne.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held 1 PM on Wednesday, April 1 at St. Louis Church, 14 Lake St., Webster. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Garden Of Peace Cemetery, Webster. Calling hours are Wednesday Morning from 11 AM to 12:30 PM at Bartel Funeral Home 33 Schofield ave. Dudley.

The family would like to thank the visiting nurse Tarah and aides Betty and Pam at Care One Nursing and Hospice, and also his special care helpers Pat, Sue and Kelly. Memorials for Arthur may be made to St. Junes Childrens Hospital or a charity of ones choice.

www.bartelfuneralhome.com

Nike Avlas



WEBSTER – Nike (Diakoumakos) Avlas, affectionately known as “Nicky”, passed away peacefully Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at CareOne at Millbury.

Her husband and love of her life, George Avlas, died in 2002. Nike is survived by her two sons, Ted Avlas and his wife Gail of Webster, MA and Nicholas Avlas and his fiancée Mary Stoico of Thompson, CT and several nieces and nephews that she loved. She is predeceased by her three brothers, Michael, James and Andrew Dillon; and her four sisters, Ann Dillon, Poppy Chapman, Mary Wade and Barbara Donovan.

Nike was born in New Bedford, the daughter of the late Nicholas Diakoumakos and Estella (Mitsakos) Diakoumakos and following her marriage to George in 1949 lived in Webster.

Raised during a historic period and member of the “greatest generation,” she developed a resilient spirit and loving heart who poured her love into her family. She worked at Bentley and Sanderlette

Shoe before spending 20 years at Cranston Print Works, retiring in 1989.

Nike was a member of Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church and past member of the Philoptochos Society. She loved spending time at the church, including providing coffee and refreshments after Sunday Mass in the church hall.

The family wishes to express their deep appreciation to the dedicated staff at CareOne Millbury, with special thanks to the nurses and aides for their loving care and compassion, making Nike’s final years comfortable and filled with dignity.

Nike’s funeral service was held on Monday, March 30, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 35 Lake Parkway, Webster. Burial followed at Mt. Zion Cemetery in Webster.

Calling hours were held on Monday, March 30, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., at the church prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, P.O. Box 713, Webster, MA 01570.

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

Phyllis W. Collins, 99

CHARLTON – Phyllis W. (Houghton) Collins, 99, of Charlton, died Monday, March 23, 2026, at Brookdale Eddy Pond West in Auburn, with her family by her side.

She was born in East Halls Harbour, Nova Scotia, Canada, daughter of the late Willard and Mary Ellen (Borden) Houghton.

She is predeceased by her husband of 46 years, C. Milton Collins who died in 1992; one brother; and two sisters.

She is survived by five children, twelve grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. She moved to the U.S. in the early 1950’s with her husband and four children, and her last child was born in the United States. She enjoyed taking care of her home and

family. She was an avid quilter and enjoyed knitting, crocheting, and baking. She always considered her family to be the light of her life. Phyllis always enjoyed the time she spent with her First Congregational Church family.

A celebration of life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on April 11, 2026, at the First Congregational Church, 355 Main Street, Oxford. Burial will be at a later date in Nova Scotia, Canada.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the First Congregational Church, 355 Main Street, P.O. Box 585, Oxford, MA 01540.

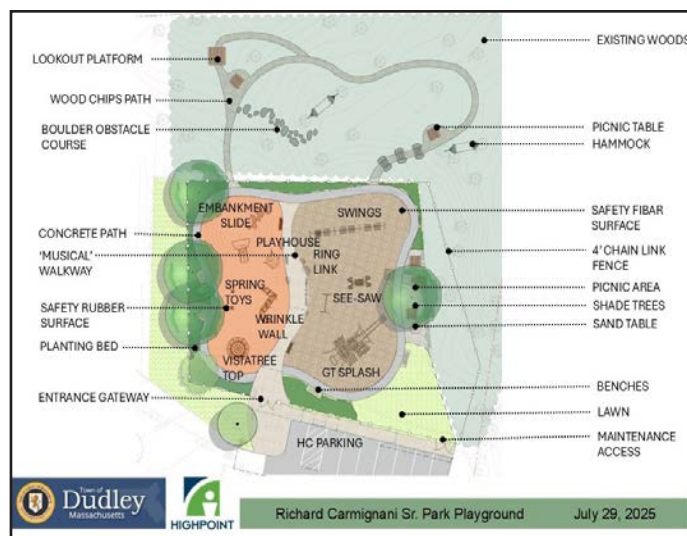
Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

RIBBON

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who has stepped forward with a fundraiser to help defray the \$207,760 local contribution cost to taxpayers. The Chamber fundraiser is offering equipment naming rights ranging from \$1,000 to \$50,000 along with Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsorships.

For more information on the Chamber fundraising initiative, please call John Milas at 508-943-9700 or



email director@wdochamberma.com.

SAVINGS

continued from page A1

The town’s first electricity aggregation program was developed by Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda to reduce energy costs for Dudley residents. Mr. Ruda worked with a municipal aggregation consultant, Colonial Power Group, Inc., and the state Department of Energy Resources to devel-

op a public aggregation in compliance with state law.

The plan represents Dudley residents in competitive markets to negotiate electricity rates. In doing so, it brings together the buying power of more than 11,900 consumers to reduce energy costs for residents. It further enables the town to take greater control of its energy options, including the ability to pursue price stability,

savings opportunities and increased renewable energy procurement.

The 18-month contract with First Point Power, which began in April 2025, offers three products with varying amounts of renewable energy content.

More information about the program is available at <https://colonialpowergroup.com/dudley/>.

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

news

Friday's Child

Robert is a creative and imaginative boy with a bright personality and a big heart. He loves exploring the world around him and has a special fascination with nature and animals. Robert enjoys learning fun facts about different creatures and can talk about them with excitement and curiosity. Always on the move, Robert loves to stay active. You can often find him riding his new bike, shooting hoops, or finding new outdoor adventures to dive into. When it's time to relax, Robert enjoys watching his favorite movie, The Lion King, and playing with his collection of Lion King stuffed animals—characters that spark his imagination and make him smile. Robert is a funny, kind, and sweet boy who gets along well with others and loves to make new friends. His friendly nature and sense of humor make him a joy to be around. Robert would thrive in a family that shares his love of the outdoors and encourages his creativity, helping him continue to grow into the bright and caring young person he's becoming.

Robert
Age 10
Registration #9142

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/24212037266>

If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ+ singles and couples. As an adoptive parent, you won't have to pay any fees, adoption from foster care is completely free in Massachusetts.

The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with. To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org. Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.

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Dudley - 108 Southbridge Rd
Featured New Listing!

ESTATE SALE - REHAB PROPERTY BEING SOLD AS IS - ONE LEVEL RANCH HOME w/980 SF, Eat-in Kitchen, Living Rm, 3 BR, 1 Bath, Full, unfinished basement w/walkout access. FHW Baseboard Oil Heat, ~ In need of a septic system. Sloping back yard with views of the Quinebaug River. \$210,000.

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

Featured Listing ~ New To Market!
Webster ~ 33 Slater Street



Sprawling 62'x30' fieldstone faced 1 Level Ranch, located on a +/- 0.5-acre level, w/24'x24' 2 car att'd garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 2 stone fireplaces w/pellet stove inserts, FHW BB heat by oil. Open floor plan w/15'x13' kitchen, 15'x22' living rm, 13'x11' dining rm, 10'x28' breezeway w/sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom, hardwood & c-tile floors, replacement windows/doors & more, more, more! How do you like it? **Call today to schedule a showing!** \$525,000

Webster - 24 Cooper Rd
New Construction - Craftsman Style home



Tucked away on Cooper Rd. Webster Lake with access at Lakeside beach/boat ramp. 3rd of 4 homes being built at this site. Offers 2,155 sq. ft +/- of living area, 7 rms, 4 brs, 2 1/2 baths, 9ft ceiling, wood flooring throughout with ceramic tile baths. Spacious main BR Suite w/ walk-in closet, and private full bathr, double sink vanity, finished lower level walk-out w/ slider. Central AC, garage \$649,900.00

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagogmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake Waterfront Listing!!
On Indian Point # 10 "Private Rd"



Astounding Panoramic Views across mid-section of Webster Lake! Sun drenched from early morning sunrise till sunset! View the lake from all windows. Located on a peninsula providing 2 Shorelines. Fireplaced Living Room! Recent Kitchen & Bath! Primary Bedroom w/walk-in closet. Hardwood Floors. 2 Baths. FHW Oil Heat! Central Air. Garage. \$900,000.

Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island



Renovated + move-in ready lakefront home w/1,700+/- sq ft. Open kitchen/dining/living w/cathedral ceilings + wall of windows. Primary suite w/private bath! 2 add'l bedrooms, 2nd Full bath. Lower level family room w/walkout to water. Wraparound deck, new vinyl railings, terraced yard, sandy beach, professional landscaping. Many updates \$775,000

Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!



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

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Old Southbridge Rd. \$124,900

Southbridge- Dudley

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Historic Black Tavern, Dudley

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1-2 *Learn about how to be show ready in selling your home *Learn about the impact of Solar, Title 5, Home Inspection Requirements, and Buyer Agency when Selling Your Home

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Nature photography by Janel McDonald on display at Booklovers Gourmet

WEBSTER — “Still,” a series of nature photographs by Janel McDonald, will be on display and for sale throughout April in the cafe gallery at Booklovers’ Gourmet, 72 East Main St., Webster. A meet and greet with the artist will take place on Saturday, April 11 from 2-4 p.m. The public is invited to attend. The show may also be viewed during normal business hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. For more information, call 508-949-6232.

McDonald states, “This exhibit is an invitation to pause, to observe and to remember that photographs are a glimpse into an entire ever-changing landscape. These captured moments, frozen in time, tell a story, evoke a feeling, memorialize a memory.

“As I raise my camera to capture these still moments, the photograph becomes a fraction of the world around me. My canoe will glide past the subject. I’ll continue my walk down a garden path or my hike in the woods, leaving the stillness to continue or disappear from sight.

“Enjoy these photographs and the luminous detail that emerges on the surfaces. And enjoy the concept of fleeting moments and the feelings they evoke instead of skipping to the end. It’s about taking the time to stop and smell the roses along the way!”



Saint Louis Church Hispanic children’s choir is joyfully preparing for Easter Sunday. Their voices, full of faith, remind us that Christ is alive.

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