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“Just stay on track, and never look back” – *Dolly Parton*

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Free by request to residents of
Douglas, Northbridge, Uxbridge, Linwood, Whitinsville and North Uxbridge

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS

Friday, September 25, 2026

UHS students named Commended students in National Merit Scholarship Program

UXBRIDGE — Dr. Michael Rubin, Principal of Uxbridge High School, announced that Iain Andrews and Sarah Stark have been named Commended Students in the 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®) which conducts the program, was presented by the principal to these scholastically talented seniors.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2027 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 students who entered the 2027 competition by taking the 2025 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).

“Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic suc-

Turn To STUDENTS page A8



State Rep. Joseph D. McKenna presents a copy of the Declaration of Independence to the Board of Selectmen in the town of Douglas on Saturday.

Timothy Ryan — Courtesy

BVT secures \$124,000 grant to support new biomanufacturing program

UPTON — The Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District has been awarded a \$124,320 grant from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) through its Pathmaker initiative to support the launch of a new Biomanufacturing Technician program for adults through the Blackstone Valley Technical Institute (BVTi).

The award was announced Sept. 17 at the MLSC’s Pathmaker Announcement Event, recognizing organizations across Massachusetts that are expanding education and workforce development opportunities in the life sciences.

The grant will support BVTi’s new grant-funded, earn-to-learn Biomanufacturing Technician program, designed to prepare adult

learners with foundational knowledge, technical skills and industry-recognized credentials needed to pursue careers in the growing biomanufacturing sector.

“Biomanufacturing is an exciting and rapidly expanding field, and this grant gives us an opportunity to connect adults in our region with meaningful pathways into the life sciences,” said BVT Superintendent-Director Anthony E. Steele II. “We are grateful to the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center for investing in workforce development and in the future of our students and our region.”

Biomanufacturing is an advanced technology sector within biotechnology focused on the large-scale production of biopharmaceuticals, biologics and human tissues.

Massachusetts is a global leader in the life sciences, and the industry continues to expand beyond the Boston-Cambridge area into Central Massachusetts, including the Worcester region and South Coast.

As the number of life sciences and biomanufacturing companies in Massachusetts continues to grow, employers need a skilled workforce prepared to meet the technical demands of the industry. BVTi’s program is designed to help address that need while providing adults with an accessible pathway to explore and enter the biotechnology workforce.

The eight-week program will provide students with an overview of the biomanufacturing industry, along with hands-on and technical training. Students

Turn To GRANT page A8

SUTTON/DOUGLAS — The Manchaug Pond Foundation will be holding their Fall Clean Up of scenic Manchaug Pond on Saturday, Oct. 24, volunteers are invited to join members and Friends of the Manchaug Pond Foundation in cleaning up Manchaug Pond and its watershed. Volunteers with boats are also welcome to help us clean up coves. The Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) public charity dedicated to the welfare and correct use of Manchaug Pond and its watershed.

The effort is scheduled to take place Saturday, Oct. 24 from 9 a.m. to noon, with volunteers meeting at the state Public Access Boat Ramp on Torrey Road in Sutton. Everyone will hit the pavement with garbage bags in hand to clean the roadsides, shoreline, and boat ramp - all areas within the Manchaug Pond watershed and volunteers are not required to stay for



the duration of the clean up. Good company, beautiful scenery, safety vests, rubber gloves, and garbage bags will be provided. Rain date will be Sunday, October 25th and a rain date notice will be posted on the Manchaug Pond Foundation’s Facebook page and website early Friday the 23rd.

The Manchaug Pond Foundation’s educational events look to improve the water quality of the picturesque 380-acre community lake, which lies within Douglas and Sutton,

through the education of the many users and watershed residents. Educational information on residential Low Impact Development (LID) techniques such as landscaping with buffer zones and rain gardens to limit runoff of fertilizer nutrients are available on the Foundation’s website. Educational materials have been made possible by the MPF’s previous three water quality grants awarded by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. For more information, visit manchaugpond.org.

Lori Gannon shares “Leona’s Gift” at Northbridge Senior Center



NORTHBRIDGE — Local author Lori Gannon recently presented her book, “Leona’s Gift,” to the Women’s Collective at the Northbridge Senior Center.

“Leona’s Gift” is a work of historical fiction set in the Blackstone Valley, inspired by the life of Leona Dona, a naturalist and conservationist who welcomed many to her home at the Freegrace Marble Farm in Sutton.

Gannon shared the story as a tribute to a beautiful woman whose love of nature, generosity, and spirit left a lasting impact on those around her. She also shared her personal journey of publishing

her first book—a process that was not always easy, but one she pursued with determination and passion.

Gannon’s presentation sparked a wonderful discussion about women supporting and inspiring one another, with members sharing their own thoughts and experiences. It was a meaningful gathering celebrating friendship, connection, and the lasting impact one woman can have on others.

The Women’s Collective hopes to hear more from Lori Gannon, this gifted and talented author, and looks forward to following her writing journey.

Coming Up: The next Women’s Collective gath-

ering will focus on an important topic for women of all ages—taking care of yourself. The group will explore the importance of self-care, making time for yourself, and finding healthy ways to nurture your own well-being while caring for others. Please consider joining us for this special conversation and an opportunity to connect with other women in our community. The Women’s Collective meets on the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Northbridge Senior Center. For more information, please call Amy Cowen, program and volunteer coordinator at (508) 234-2002.



PAW of the WEEK
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Hil I'm Greere, and if you're looking for a dog who loves to stay busy and have fun, I think we might be a perfect match. I'm a smart, active girl who enjoys learning new things and thrives when I have a job to do. I've already started my training and have been doing really well, but I'm hoping my future family will keep the momentum going. After all, learning is more fun when we do it together!

Whether it's hiking, neighborhood walks, playing fetch, or practicing new tricks, I'm happiest when I'm spending time with my people. At the end of a fun-filled day, I'm more than happy to relax by your side and dream about tomorrow's adventures.





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

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Visit Waters Farm for 46th Annual Farm Days celebration

SUTTON — Visit Waters Farm on Oct. 17 and 18 for a family-oriented weekend full of fun activities and educational experiences. In addition to the many activities and vendors you look forward to seeing each year, there are new activities and performances scheduled for the 46th Annual Farm Days celebration in West Sutton.

The Providence Brigade Band, a 19th century brass band, will offer two performances each day at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Band members dress in military uniforms of the period and play with Civil War era instruments. The band has performed throughout southeastern New England as well as Gettysburg, Pa. Additional music will be provided by Cruisin' Bruce Palmer. We will also welcome back the Witches of Sutton for a Sunday afternoon performance.

The Sutton Agricultural Trust is planning a Farmer Fitness Competition. More information on this event will follow. Also sponsored by the Sutton AG Trust, the Animal Showcase will include 4-H animals, goats, small farm animals, cattle projects, and Angel Hair Alpacas. Other animal exhibitors will include horses, donkeys, mules, working teams of oxen, pet rescues and dog agility demonstrations.

The Ken Ethier Memorial Antique Tractor Show features the Chapter 18 International Harvester Club and other enthusiasts from New England, who will be displaying and demonstrating their antique tractors, implements, and doodlebugs. The farm also features Antique Tractor Pulls, with registration beginning at 9:00 a.m. and pulling beginning at 10 a.m. and ending when the last tractor pulls the heaviest load over the finish line. Kiddie pedal tractor pulls will be held, track permitting, during lunch breaks at the pull. Come and cheer them on! The Sten Brote Memorial Engine Show honors decades of collecting, restoring, and honoring antique engines. On Sunday, come and view all of the

vehicles participating in the Bruce Nichols Memorial Car Show, located in the upper field.

Did you know that Stephen Waters, builder of the original 1757 portion of the farmhouse, and all three of his brothers served in the Revolutionary War? Learn about their service, Waters family history, and speak with our resident Waters genealogist in the Darling Barn. You may also view local history presented by the Sutton Historical Society.

There will be a number of craft vendors and food vendors located throughout the farm property, including Waters Farm Famous Apple Crisp, served plain, with ice cream or homemade caramel sauce. Delicious! Stop in at the Peddler's Shop for Waters Farm related clothing and gifts. Visit the Darling Barn to view a Halloween Village display, courtesy of Doug Matthews. Demonstrations from years past include our working Blacksmith Shop, Maple Sugar House, and Shingle Mill, plus an antique hammer mill processing grain near the Shingle Mill. Costumed interpreters will cook on the restored hearth in the Waters Farmhouse and give tours of the family home.

Children's activities take place on both days. Enjoy games, contests, barrel train rides, inflatables, and bottle rockets. The Sutton Robotic Team and Scouts will also be onsite. Wagon rides will be provided by our neighbor, Whittier Farms. Representatives from the Sutton Food Pantry will be collecting donations of shelf stable food and supplies in the

parking lot.

There is so much to see and do at the 46th Annual Farm Days at historic Waters Farm. We hope to see you there!

TRIBUNE ALMANAC

REAL ESTATE

BLACKSTONE

\$830,000, 48 Mendon St, Morin, Alfred E, and Morin, Lynn J, to Arnold Street Realty LLC.
\$702,000, 280 Blackstone St, Eldridge, Gary J, and Eldridge, Mary V, to Buckley, Kathleen.
\$621,150, 89 Elm St, Labonte, Steven R, and Labonte, Tracy L, to Naf Cash LLC.
\$445,000, 259 Main St, Cb2 Builders LLC, to Meza, Jeffrey, and Leduke, Emily.
\$380,000, 3 Michelle Ln #A, Vanzile, Christine M, and Vanzile, Christopher, to Harrison, Kyle, and Harrison, Kandyce Nicole.
\$335,000, 246 Blackstone St, Carter, Dianne I, to Eldridge, Gary J, and Eldridge, Mary V.

DOUGLAS

\$929,900, 56 Yew St, Orbison Corp, to Pellegrino, Anthony, and Misite, Michelle.
\$775,500, 35 West St, Klatt, Brian, to Nicoletti, Lucio, and Kelley, Hannah.
\$769,900, 2 Isabella Dr, Morningview LLC, to Meagher, Erin K.
\$740,000, 31 Brookside Dr, Howell, Nathan, and Howell, Bethany, to Howard, Robert, and Howard, Emily.
\$500,000, 27 Compass Point Dr #62, Johnson, Shakeh, to Thurber, Haley, and Krayem, Mohamad Ali.
\$345,000, 78 Franklin St, Wingstream Capital LLC, to Acosta, Handerson.

NORTHBRIDGE

\$750,000, 132 Tipperary Dr, Weber, Scott, and Weber, Peggy A, to Shannon, Breana L, and Shannon, Thomas L.
\$639,999, 68 High St, Bertou, Renier P, to Zile, Christine Van, and Zile, Christopher Van.
\$570,000, 11 Mendon Rd, O'Toole, Cameron, and O'Toole, Shelbe P, to Offermann, Carly K, and Distefano, Anthony.
\$530,000, 14 Linden St, Sambito, Matthew, and Sambito, Maia, to Georgian, Nicole, and Petersen, Karl.
\$480,000, 100 Delmar Dr, Hill, Heather, to Ball, Noah.
\$477,500, 45 Highland St, Flanagan, Joel E, and Flanagan, Jennifer E, to Chartier, Amanda, and Licata, Vito.
\$445,000, 579 Church St, Beinema Ft, and Masnoon, Sally, to Pena, Luis E Lopez.
\$201,000, 7 Highland St, Buxton Jr, Lewis D, to Bho Realty LLC.

UXBRIDGE

\$625,000, 665 Blackstone St, Rainville, James, to Clark, Nicole, and Nunez, Eric.
\$570,000, 41 Church St, Combs, Douglas A, and Combs, Laurie B, to Seavey, Kaylah, and Lefrancois, Max H.
\$563,000, 21 Concord Ln #21, Frank, Jennifer L, to Mirabelli, Thomas, and Mirabelli, Linda J.
\$550,000, 56 King St, Corino, Thomas A, and Caputo, Kristin E, to Loureiro, Samantha.
\$538,000, 60 Rogerson Xing #43, Gary J Penna Sr T, and Penna Sr, Gary J, to Weiner, Tammy.
\$532,500, 385 River Rd, Millville Investment LLC, to Beltrane, Gustavo, and Peniche, Sophia.
\$515,000, 12 Summerfield Dr #12, Blood, Norman L, to Pellerin, Linda.
\$515,000, 161 Rumonoski Dr, Cullen, Todd, to Haines, Daniel.
\$500,000, 123 Carrington Ln #123, 123 Carrington Ln Unit 14, and Amorello, Mary J, to Mason, James E.
\$365,000, 182 Rivulet St, Mary Anne Smith Irt, and Smith, Mark S, to Robinson, Jeffrey.
\$122,319, 140 Blackstone St, Ambrosino, Jared, and Ambrosino, Justin, to Ambrosino, Justin, and Kahn-Mcqueen, Ava F.

Uxbridge Booster Brewfest returns Nov. 7 to support students "and athletes"

UXBRIDGE — Get ready for an evening of great drinks, delicious food, live music and community spirit. The Uxbridge Boosters - USABC will host the Booster Brewfest on Saturday Nov. 7 from 6 - 10 p.m. at the Polish Hall in Uxbridge

Tickets are \$35 per person or two for \$50, can be purchased at <https://brews-for-boosters.cheddarup.com>.

Featuring beer, wine and seltzer tasting from Rushford & Sons Brewhouse, Murder Hill Brewery & Taproom, Shovel Town Brewery, Surfside and more. Guests can also enjoy food from Mendon Street Kitchen and live music from Junior Jefferson.

Proceeds from Brewfest will benefit the Uxbridge Boosters - USABC a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting Uxbridge High School athletes and students. Fundraising helps support programs and scholarships.

Questions or if interested in being a sponsor please email USABC19@gmail.com.



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1. "Wicker Man" actor Nic

5. Protection

8. Cloth worn over a shoulder

12. Ceramic jars

14. Midway between northeast and east

15. South American hummingbird

16. Platforms

18. Taxi

19. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls

20. A citizen of Yemen

21. Military mailbox

22. Nuclear near reach weapon

23. Clears

26. Broken

30. Actress Lathan

31. Avid fan

32. One and only

33. Proceeding

34. River in Portugal and Spain

39. Doctor of Education

42. Defeat handily

44. Less complicated

46. Handyman tools

47. Written works

49. Castle dweller's safety net

50. Honorable title (Turkish)

51. Greatest

56. Can do

57. A place to sleep on the road

58. Member of U.S. Navy

59. 24-hour units of time

60. Actor Horsley

61. In a way, sounds off

62. Formerly (archaic)

63. Eye infection

64. Plundered

1. William __, Buffalo Bill

2. Wings

3. Candle or lantern

4. Freedom from difficulty

5. A type of pie

6. Metrical foot

7. __ Kerr, actress

8. Nap

9. Popular singer Bocelli

10. Immune responses

11. "Mad Men" leading man

13. A citizen of Senegal

17. Philly basketball player

24. Not even

25. Measures wind speed

26. Insecticide

27. Jordan glided through it

28. Bird-like dinosaur genus

29. Expression of satisfaction

35. Big Blue

36. One point east (clockwise) of due north

37. Of she

38. Oral rehydration solution

40. Knocks off course

41. Popular cop show of yesteryear

42. Zhou dynasty state

43. Genus of gulls

44. Onion flatbreads

45. Declare as true

47. Of a lobe

48. Missouri county

49. Produced

52. Volcanic crater

53. Off-Broadway theater award

54. KU hoops coach Bill

55. Check for

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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REPORT HIGHLIGHTS FACTS, FIGURES, AND THE LAUNCH OF BVTI

“As responsible stewards, we remain committed to maintaining and improving our campus

through smart budgeting, low debt and thoughtful long-term planning,” said Superintendent-Director Anthony E. Steele II. “In FY26, we launched BVTi, which offers hands-on, career-focused learning beyond our day programs (first shift) and into the evening (second shift). Through grant-funded, credential-based programs in advanced manufacturing, electrical, HVAC, plumbing and welding, BVTi supports adults, strengthens the regional workforce, and gener-

Annual Report available online
The FY26 annual report, titled Second Shift, explores BVT's continued expansion of career-focused education and highlights the school's day and evening programs. The 2026 Annual Report is available at www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/annualreport.

About Blackstone Valley
Regional Vocational Technical

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the heart of the

Blackstone Valley, BVT creates a positive learning community that prepares students for personal and professional success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of rigorous vocational, technical, and academic skills.

DOUGLAS — The Blackstone Valley Community Chorus welcomes new and returning singers to Open Call for our 2026 holiday concert season! Open Call will take place on Sunday, Oct. 4, at 6 p.m. at the Douglas Municipal Center Resource Room located at 29 Depot St. in Douglas.

at 6 p.m. beginning on Oct. 11. This season the BVCC is preparing a holiday program to be performed with a full orchestra on December 13th at Valley Chapel in Uxbridge.

The Blackstone Valley Community Chorus is a non-audition, multi-generational chorus with people of varied musical abilities brought together by a shared love of music and a commitment to providing our community with exceptional musical experiences. The BVCC has been singing throughout Central Massachusetts for over twenty

New members do not need to prepare an audition song, but should come ready to sing. There is a \$40 membership fee to join, payable by cash, check or credit card (credit card payments are subject to a \$2 service fee). Rehearsals take place on Sundays

ty years at concerts, community events, and holiday festivals. We have also performed at the Hanover Theater and Worcester Art Museum, the Massachusetts State House and Fenway Park. We welcome anyone who would like to join us, we only ask that you have the ability to carry a tune and are committed to coming to rehearsal prepared. Whether you enjoy singing at your school, with a church choir, or in your car or shower, we hope you will consider joining our friendly musical family! For more information on the BVCC, visit us on Facebook or at www.bvccchorus.org.

DOUGLAS — St. Denis Church will welcome the community for its Annual Holiday Fair on Saturday, Nov. 7, offering crafts, raffles, baked goods and activities for children.

with raffles and a selection of baked goods. A kids' table will provide an activity geared toward younger visitors.

A luncheon will also be served during the fair from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., giving visitors an opportunity to enjoy a meal while attending the event.

Organizers are currently accepting additional vendors, with spaces still available for those interested in participating in this year's fair.

The annual event brings together holiday shopping, food and family activities as the Christmas season approaches, while providing local vendors and craftspeople an opportunity to offer their goods to the community.

The St. Denis Church Annual Holiday Fair will be held Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Douglas. The luncheon will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WHITINSVILLE — St. Patrick's Spring Recycling Event, 7 East St., Whitinsville, will take place on Saturday, October 3rd from 8am - 1pm in the Church parking lot. The profits will benefit upcoming YIA service projects. Please keep items for each station separate. If you cannot make it on event day, please call office to donate. For more information & electronics pricing, call 508-234-5656 or email officesupport@mystpatrick.com. Thank you for your support!

Cans/Plastic Bottles - Please rinse. Items must be returnable in Massachusetts. No glass.

Textile/Clothing Collection - Clothing; handbags/totes; accessories; table linens; shoes; bed linens; window treatments; yarn; fabric by the yard/quilting squares (no scraps), etc. No rags/rugs. No toys/housewares. Items must be gently used (no stains), and in a condition to be resold.

Books - donate gently used books (no encyclopedias)

Media - donate magazines; CD's; DVD's; video games; vinyl records, etc.

Electronics Recycling for a fee - No batteries/light bulbs/propane tanks. All equipment must be bone dry of oils/liquids.

WHITINSVILLE — To celebrate Library Card Sign Up Month, Whitinsville Social Library invites you to show off your creativity in its first bookmark design contest. From Aug. 20 to Sept. 30, aspiring artists of all ages can submit an original bookmark design inspired by reading, books, libraries, or your own imagination. Participants will submit designs in the following age categories: Kindergarten – Grade 2, Grades 3 – 5, Grades 6 – 12, and Adult. Designs must be original (no copyrighted characters). Artists must reside in Northbridge. Only one entry per person. Visit the library to pick up the entry form or download the entry form on the library's website <https://whitinsvillelibrary.org/bookmark-contest-2026>. Creators can drop off their completed entry at Whitinsville Social Library during business hours or submit it online.

In October, Library staff will announce the winner in each age group. The four winning designs will be made into professionally printed bookmarks and distributed to all visitors to Whitinsville Social Library.

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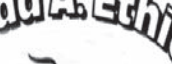

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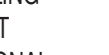
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**STUDENT RECORDS TO BE DESTROYED
IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE REGULATIONS**

In compliance with Massachusetts Student Records Regulation, the Northbridge Public School District will destroy the Special Education records of any Northbridge student who transferred, graduated, withdrew or terminated from Special Education programs services prior to June 30, 2019. This is in accordance with the requirements to destroy such records after a period of seven years.

Any parent/guardian or student, age 14 years or older, can obtain their original record within two weeks of this notice. They may do so by contacting the Pupil Personnel Services office at 508-234-8156 x5215 no later than by Wednesday, September 30, 2016.

All unclaimed student records meeting the above criteria will be destroyed after the September 30th deadline.

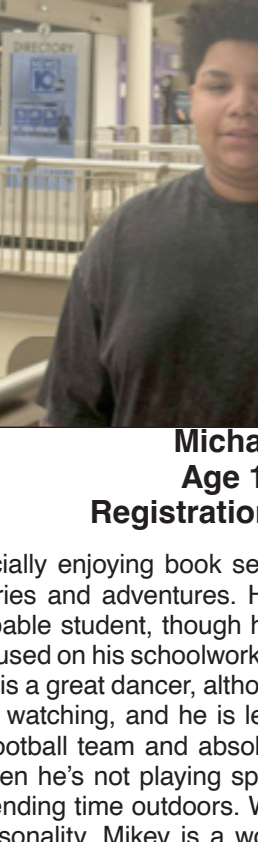




Friday's Child







Michael, who prefers to be called Mikey, is a bright, friendly, and lovable young man with a wonderful sense of humor. He has a warm and joyful personality that can light up a room, and his smile and laughter are truly contagious. Mikey has a natural ability to make others laugh and connect with the people around him. Mikey is very curious and loves asking questions when there is something he doesn't understand. He is an avid reader, especially enjoying book series that allow him to get immersed in different stories and adventures. He is currently in 8th grade and is a bright and capable student, though he may occasionally need some support staying focused on his schoolwork. Mikey also has a creative and adventurous side. He is a great dancer, although he can be a little self-conscious when others are watching, and he is learning to play the guitar. He recently played on a football team and absolutely loved it, proving to be an excellent player. When he's not playing sports, Mikey enjoys fishing, hiking, camping, and spending time outdoors. With his curiosity, sense of humor, and infectious personality, Mikey is a wonderful young man who is sure to bring joy to those around him.

Michael
Age 14
Registration #6309

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22549117966>

Can I Adopt?

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PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

An achievement worth celebrating

Academic achievement does not always arrive with the noise and attention that accompany a championship game, a packed auditorium or a community celebration. Sometimes, it comes quietly, after years of studying, reading, asking questions and putting in the work when nobody outside the classroom is watching. That makes the recognition earned by Uxbridge High School seniors Iain Andrews and Sarah Stark particularly worthy of attention.

Andrews and Stark have been named Commended Students in the 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program, placing them among approximately 34,000 students nationwide receiving the distinction. They earned that recognition through their performance on the 2025 Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

While Commended Students do not advance in the competition for National Merit Scholarships, the larger context puts their accomplishment into perspective. They ranked among the top 50,000 students who entered the competition nationally.

For two students from Uxbridge High School to reach that level is something their families, teachers, classmates and community can celebrate. There is also a broader lesson in their accomplishment.

Schools are frequently judged through numbers. Test scores, graduation rates, enrollment figures and budgets all have their place. They help communities understand whether schools are meeting expectations and where additional work may be needed.

But numbers alone cannot tell the full story of a school. The accomplishments of individual students offer another important measure. When young people distinguish themselves academically, artistically, technically, athletically or through service, they provide a glimpse of what is happening inside their classrooms and throughout their school community.

National Merit recognition is especially noteworthy because it places student performance in a national context. Andrews and Stark were not measured only against classmates or students elsewhere in Massachusetts. Their performance placed them among a relatively small group selected from students across the country. That deserves recognition, but it should also serve as encouragement.

One of the most important things a community can do for its young people is make clear that academic effort matters. Athletic achievements deserve applause. So do accomplishments in music, theater, vocational education, volunteer service and countless other pursuits. Academic achievement belongs prominently on that list.

Recognition can have an impact beyond the students receiving it. Younger students notice when high school seniors are celebrated for what they have accomplished in the classroom. It sends a message that studying hard, challenging oneself and taking education seriously are pursuits worthy of community attention.

Uxbridge High School Principal Dr. Michael Rubin also properly pointed toward what comes next for Andrews and Stark. Senior year is a period when students begin making consequential decisions about college, employment, military service, technical training and other opportunities beyond high school.

Awards such as this one are milestones, not destinations. There will be more difficult classes, new challenges and undoubtedly a few setbacks along the way. That is part of education and, eventually, adulthood. The value of academic success is not merely the certificate or recognition that accompanies it. It is the discipline, curiosity and persistence developed while earning it.

Uxbridge should be proud to see two of its students recognized on a national level. Congratulations are certainly in order for Iain Andrews and Sarah Stark. So is something equally important: encouragement to keep going. Their latest achievement deserves to be celebrated, but the most interesting part of their story is still ahead of them.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AI competition and the Trump dividend

To the Editor:

Oh, my! Have you heard the absolutely horrific news? The same group of programming dunderheads that created all sorts of defective AI models are oh so desperately trying to have the US government step in to stop any new companies or corporations from entering the AI field to compete with their multibillion dollar financial interests. Just think about how quickly the world would come to an end if China were actually stupid enough to pirate away Microsoft’s Windows 12 platform, or worse...Google AI!

Hundreds of millions of Chinese citizens waiting around for a lifetime or two for their Windows 12 updates to complete. While being totally misinformed as to what the true dangers are in regards to their leaders’ misbegotten uses of AI. All made possible by the communist’s version of Google AI. Now how stupid is all that?

Not quite as stupid as it sounds, since everybody should know by now that President Trump was way ahead of the crowd on this one. We are winning the AI race thanks to Mr. Trump and will continue to do so. Provided the AI field in the US remains sufficiently open to the new and upcoming entrants in the AI competition.

Meanwhile, as to the Trump dividend,

that too is simple enough to understand. But not if you’re foolish enough to believe the PBS version of what is going on.

Roughly \$5,000 in legally stored up tax revenues have already been set aside for distribution to every US citizen down to about the age of 18. Depending on the state’s legally recognizable particulars, one would assume. With the biggest battles involving the distribution fees.

Democrats insisting on a \$50 trillion distribution fee. With their RINO co-conspirators pushing for a mere \$25 trillion fee. Versus the Donald Trump version where he personally guarantees that what amounts to his remaining salary as our President will be more than enough to cover the expense of sending out the dough. Those funds to be sent out via the very same channels that the Biden administration used with its pandemic-related monetary distributions.

The kicker in the Trump plan is that any of the remainder of that distribution expense is returned to Trump’s personal coffers. Which you have to assume will be a good deal more than the simple arithmetic suggests.

Go figure? The man’s not a fool when it’s his money on the line.

STEPHEN GAMBONE
NORTHBRIDGE

A trip down Deportation Alley

To the Editor:

Here is a little trip down Deportation Alley.

Did you know that President Obama deported three million illegal aliens? He was “The Deporter-in-Chief.” President Trump has deported, or “encouraged” to self-deport, three million. They thought they had immunity.

We know that one can enter the United States legally. One can enter, illegally, violating federal law. Federal law is the law of the Land. ICE is law. ICE is charged following federal law, and can arrest anyone who enters illegally.

If you vote for Democrat Communists, we will get 10 to 20 million more illegals with no talent, no work skills except in criminality, who will crush the economy and any hope of affordable housing in our state.

Here is an example of why ICE must arrest and deport. In our state, a Colombian voted in four different towns in 2024, stole the identity of a U.S. citizen from Puerto Rico, stole \$400,000 to \$750,000, and was arrested by federal agents when she applied for a U.S. passport. Voted 4 times in Saint Massachusetts!

Ay mi madre. Lina Maria Orovio Hernandez thought she was immune. She got away with it for 20 years. Our state bureaucrats handed her our benefits. Maura Healey, followed by Andrea Campbell, never investigated her. Never. Ever.

Now comes the federal government! Miss Lina has been convicted, and sentenced to federal prison for stealing \$752,000 in U.S. benefits: Food stamps, \$43,000. SSI benefits, \$101,000. Section 8 housing, \$259,000. For stealing a U.S. citizen’s identity. She was convicted for fraudulent voting. Lina made her big mistake when she applied for a REAL ID and a U.S. passport. And lied.

Our state politicians gave her immunity. When federal agents arrived to arrest her, she hid under the bed. The federal prosecutor said that she had “no consistent work history” for twenty years! She worked – at defrauding U.S. tax payers. El crappo!

The federal judge sentenced her to three years. Prosecutors asked for five. Miss Lina screamed. Lina had a “witness!” The judge said, this is “sentencing time.”

Has Miss Lina had learned anything about the U.S.A. despite stealing from us for 20 years? She had nine Massachusetts state identification cards. How did this fraudster obtain nine Massachusetts IDs?! Your state bureaucrats at work.

Here are more examples of why ICE must deport them. The drunk driver who drove the wrong way on Route 1 in Essex County on June 6 and slammed into a State Trooper [recovering] is Lucas Gustova Brajak Di Bennedetto. Guess where he is

from? Newburyport, as local news said? No, Brazil!

He thought he was immune. But before 41 year old drunk Foreign National Lucas could be arraigned and squirreled away in the Massachusetts Sanctuary Court system, ICE arrested him as he showed up for court on the sidewalk.

Federal Attorney General Leah Foley is cleaning up our state, one illegal criminal at a time. She announced the indictment and arrest of 26 “residents” of Lawrence and Boston, members of the Colombian Trinitarios Gang. Indicted for 15 murders, 30 attempted murders, armed robberies, kidnapping, armed home invasions, and “horrific acts of violence.” Federal agents seized enough fentanyl from these foreign national gangsters to kill one million Massachusetts citizens.

Leah Foley said: “they believed they were immune from prosecution. They were wrong.” Law enforcement is notifying ICE on the Q-T. Don’t tell Maura!

A criminal illegal from Brazil, Guilherme Campos-Candido, has been charged in the death of a 29 year old woman. He struck her with his car when she was crossing a Lowell street. Border Patrol had arrested him in 2022, but Biden Autopen released him until his 2052 “asylum” hearing. As he was being bailed for the hit-and-run in July 2026, ICE took him into custody. Prosecutors quickly asked the judge to revoke bail on the excuse that if ICE released him, he could not be “monitored”. So, instead of ICE deporting him, he sits in a Billerica Jail.

For those of you who missed the news, The Boston Herald reported this: “Government budget writers have projected the state will shell out approximately \$932 million on the emergency shelter system in fiscal year 2024 and another \$915 million in fiscal year 2025. The massive costs were spurred by an influx of migrants over the past year. Gov. Healey’s finance and housing offices said the state had spent \$715 million on the emergency shelter program as of June 27, 2025, though the figure only represents costs through mid-March 2025.” As of September 2026, \$700 million this year. A billion here, a billion there.

Is this why you pay your high Massachusetts taxes? To provide a slush fund for illegals? No new senior centers. No new cop cars. Yet Healey giggled as she signed the new “Protect Act,” which protects criminal illegals from ICE. Do you feel safer, or do “they” feel safer?

BEV GUDANOWSKI
UXBRIDGE

The chair that knows summer is over

There is a chair sitting in my backyard that knows something I have been refusing to admit. Summer is over.

Technically, I suppose there are arguments to be made about calendars and equinoxes. I am not interested in them. The chair has rendered its verdict.

It is one of those outdoor chairs that spent most of June, July and August getting dragged around the yard. Sometimes it was on the patio. Sometimes it migrated under a tree. Occasionally it wound up near the grill, where I would sit with a cold drink and offer completely unnecessary supervision to whatever was cooking.

For three months, that chair had a purpose. Now it sits there alone. I walked past it the other morning and realized nobody had occupied it in at least two weeks.

This is how September works in New England. Summer does not really end. We simply stop using summer things. Nobody holds a ceremony for the garden hose. One day, it is stretched across the lawn because the tomatoes need water. A few weeks later, it is still lying there, except now you step over it and think, “I really ought to put that away.” You do not put it away. You simply continue thinking about putting it away until sometime in October, when the weather forecast contains a word such as “freeze,” and suddenly the garden hose becomes an emergency.

The same thing happens with the citronella candle. Back in July, that candle was essential equipment. It sat proudly on the table, bravely defending civilization from mosquitoes. Now it contains three drowned moths, two leaves and approximately half an inch of rainwater.

Still, I cannot throw it away. There is wax left. That is how they get you.

My wife has begun making subtle observations about the collection of summer equipment lingering around the house.

“Are you going to put those chairs away?”

Eventually.

“What about the fan in the bedroom?”

Still warm occasionally.

“The cooler?”

Could need it.

“For what?”

You never know.

This is not procrastination. It is seasonal caution.

Anyone who has lived in Massachusetts long enough knows that September cannot be trusted. It will give you a 48-degree morning, convince you to locate a sweatshirt, then produce an afternoon warm enough to make you regret every decision you have made since breakfast.

So we hesitate. The window fan stays upstairs. The rake comes out, but the lawn mower remains ready. There might be a pumpkin on the front steps while a beach towel is still hanging in the garage. This is the only time of year when the household inventory makes absolutely no sense.

Eventually, of course, autumn wins. The chairs get folded. The hose gets drained. The grill gets used less often. That forgotten bottle of sunscreen gets moved somewhere mysterious, where nobody will be able to find it next Memorial Day. But I am not quite ready yet. The chair can stay out another week.

Maybe we’ll get one of those unexpectedly warm September afternoons. Maybe I’ll sit outside for a while with a cup of coffee and enjoy the yard before the leaves really start coming down. Or maybe I won’t. Either way, putting the chair away feels a little too much like admitting something. And around here, summer deserves at least a decent argument before we let it go.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“A.for.da.bil.a.tay”

To the Editor:

Affordability — the quality of being reasonably priced so that people can buy or pay for things without financial hardship.

Donald Trump promised to “make America affordable again” during his 2024 campaign. Despite using variations of the term during his run, Trump has recently claimed that “affordability” is a “made-up” word and a political “hoax” invented by Democrats and the media after he took office. A ‘hoax,’ right up there with the ‘Russian hoax’ and the ‘Epstein hoax.’

In truth, price increases realistically can’t be blamed on a president, even though the party out of power certainly tries to push that claim. Republicans blamed Joe Biden for inflation, even though he inherited the Covid pandemic, and its associated cost increases due to supply chain issues and other factors beyond his control.

Trump is so colossally dumb that he found ways “that no one has ever seen before” to make it absolutely right and factual for you to blame him. Tariffs were original intended to protect fledgling American manufacturing, which has now all been shipped overseas, so rich business owners would not have to pay American workers a living wage. It’s not coming back. Despite warnings and counsel of the best economic minds, Dementia Donny unilaterally started a trade war with our allies and largest trading parties. Ol’ Cement Head couldn’t grasp the fact that tariffs are a tax on us – American companies pay the tariff and then pass the cost on to consumers. The trade deficits we have with our trading partners are not because they are ‘screwing us,’ it’s a simple syllogism – A: we have a larger consumer base; B: we buy more from them, than they buy from us; C: ergo, (therefore) a trade deficit exists. No wonder he won’t release his college grade transcripts.

The Supreme Court ruled that Trump could not unilaterally impose global tariffs without authorization from Congress. He was told to return the accumulated tax revenue. The businesses affected kept the money. I didn’t get a penny, did you? Ever the stable genius, Trump just did it again, imposing tariffs on Canada, and more of our allies. They, of course, reciprocated, raising the price of everything we import. They will also no longer ship much needed drugs, like my girlfriend’s Eliquis, to the States. MAGA!

Then, after campaigning on “no more wars,” Meta Mucillini started a war with Iran, at the behest of Israel’s Bibi Netanyahu, who, for 40 years, had been trying to convince a U. S. President to do his dirty work. We can only guess at how much AIPAC money and side deals were involved. The supposed reason behind the war is that “we can’t allow Iran to have nuclear weapons.’ Since when? We had a nuclear pact with Iran that Trump terminated, without cause. Iran poses no threat to us. They do pose a threat to Israel, primarily because of what Israel has done to the Palestinians. Israel, with Jewish money pouring into our government, now poses more of a threat to us than Iran ever could.

Between the tariffs and the war, diesel is up to \$6.31, and gas is up to \$4.31. Oil is up over 80 percent since January. Aside from these, the war has driven up prices for jet fuel, heating oil, natural gas, fares, hotel rooms, shipping, and general groceries. Affordability is no hoax, Captain Bone-spurs. Always one to deflect blame, Trump now says that diesel prices are Ukraine’s fault because they have started bombing Russia’s production facilities.and he wants them to stop! That’s right, Putin’s bosom buddy wants Ukraine to stop defending itself because it’s affecting ‘affordability’. There’s the real hoax. Diesel prices jumped because Trump’s “it will be over quickly” war is now in its 7th month, and has spread throughout the Middle East, affecting global oil supplies. The war has cost us over \$40 billion so far. For what?

This is what happens when you elect a failed, adjudicated criminal to run your country. This is what happens when you elect spineless jellyfish Republicans to Congress. Notice that Trump isn’t telling Putin to withdraw from Ukraine and end his unlawful invasion. That’s because son-in-law Kushner and real estate developer Witkoff are in Russia making Trump family business deals, rather than negotiating peace proposals. A Russian oligarch just paid for Don Jr’s wedding reception in the Bahamas, after trying to

hide the gift by funneling money through a shell company in Dubai. I just learned that Trump’s wedding to Melania was also paid for by Russia! All part of the Russian hoax!

To quote Stephen Colbert... “Meanwhile”...Canada, tired of being Trump’s whipping post, just signed a 100-year deal with Ukraine and cut the Trump family out of the drone empire they were trying to steal. In August 2024, Ukraine offered the United States a joint interceptor drone program, including privileged access to Ukraine’s best drones. Ukraine asked America to fund half the venture. This was Ukraine’s way of giving back to the US for past and future security help.

The Trump administration said no. They didn’t want a partnership, they wanted the intellectual property rights on Ukrainian drones, specifically the AI-assisted terminal guidance and the navigation systems that work in GPS-denied environments. Owning that IP means you can replicate, modify and scale it without Ukraine’s involvement. Meanwhile, the president’s sons sit on the board of the company selling exactly that class of weapon, without the desired functionality. So Trump refused Ukraine’s partnership, demanded Ukraine’s guidance and navigation IP for free, all because the proposed partnership would hurt his son’s investment in another company. That’s ‘America First!’ isn’t it? Now Carney and Canada have a 100-year deal with Ukraine.

Canada has also convened a global investment conference with billionaires from around the world, in an attempt to forge closer ties with Europe, because of their unreliable, antagonistic neighbor to the south. Good job isolating us from our friends and neighbors, Donny. In just two years, you have destroyed 250 years of American faith, trust, and good will around the world, all the while enriching your family and friends.

If you think things are tough now, wait until January when the big, beautiful bill goes into effect. Republicans purposefully delayed implementation until after the midterms, just as little Mikey Johnson sends Congress home whenever they want to avoid having to take a public stand against a bill beneficial to we-the-people. In January, health care and SNAP will end for millions of Americas, Medicare costs will go up, and subsidies for Medicare Part D prescription for the elderly will be eliminated. The good news is that the rich will get their new tax cuts! (Trump’s IRS has now stopped reporting on the billions in unpaid taxes already owed by the rich.)

PS I know Bev meant to include Republicans Chuck Grassley (93), Mitch McConnell (83) and Hal Rogers (88) in her list of congressional fossils that need to retire. But, who is this person who will return to his real job after his 3rd term? Is Trump fomenting another coup attempt, and then returning to bankrupting everything he touches...and sexually assaulting women?

RICK BEVILACQUA
WHITINSVILLE

Uxbridge Senior Center to host flu shot clinic Oct. 6

UXBRIDGE — The Uxbridge Senior Center will host a flu shot clinic Tuesday, Oct. 6, from 9 a.m. to noon at the center, 36 South Main St.

The clinic is sponsored by Hannaford Pharmacy and will provide local residents with an opportunity to receive their seasonal influenza vaccination.

Advance registration is required. Those interested in receiving a flu shot should call the Uxbridge Senior Center at 508-278-8622 to register.

Transportation will also be available for those who need assistance getting to and from the clinic.

The clinic is scheduled as the fall flu season gets underway and offers residents a convenient local option for vaccination.

For registration, transportation information or other questions about the clinic, call the Uxbridge Senior Center at 508-278-8622.

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.

Uxbridge Cultural Council now accepting grant applications

UXBRIDGE — The Uxbridge Cultural Council is now accepting applications for the Local Cultural Council Program’s 2027 grant cycle. The council prioritizes funding for activities that enrich cultural awareness through the arts, history, music, and performances held in the town of Uxbridge and its surrounding communities. This year, the council is especially interested in funding exciting new programs in our community. Individuals, schools, and cultural organizations are eligible to apply.

Applications open on Sept. 1. The application deadline is Oct. 15. Please apply through the Massachusetts Cultural Council Web site at <https://massculturalcouncil.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program/>.

The Uxbridge Cultural Council is holding an info session and meet and greet event at the Uxbridge Free Library in mid-September. Please check the Uxbridge Cultural Council Facebook page for more details. If you have an idea for a program or questions about your eligibility, please contact us.

COMMENDED STUDENTS IN THE 2027 NATIONAL MERIT® SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Dr. Michael Rubin, Principal of Uxbridge High School, announced that Iain Andrews and Sarah Stark have been named Commended Students in the 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®) which conducts the program, was presented by the principal to these scholastically talented seniors.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2027 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 students who entered the 2027 competition by taking the 2025 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).

“Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success,” commented a spokesperson for NMSC. “These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success.”

“We are proud of what Iain and Sarah have accomplished, both as part of the National Merit program and in their efforts at UHS,” said Dr. Rubin. “We look forward to seeing their continued success in the coming year and as they start making decisions for their futures beyond UHS.”

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION
CALL 774-200-7308



Timothy Ryan — Courtesy

Members of the John Cardinal Wright Assembly yearly officer installation took place this Saturday in St. Peter’s Church in Whitinsville. Rev. Michael Lavallee officiated over the installation.



Timothy Ryan — Courtesy

A Massachusetts State Police Mounted Unit stops for a minute while they patrol the Blackstone Valley Bike Path in Millville.



Timothy Ryan — Courtesy

Mumford Council Knights of Columbus Whitinsville held its installation of new officers at Saint Peters Parish in Whitinsville on Saturday.



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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.

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:
NEW Tech Cafe!
2nd Monday of the month
1:30pm-3:00pm
Bring your tech questions — drop-in appointments — no need to sign up in advance
Meditation with Kelly:
Every Thursday morning at 9:30am
Book Club:
3rd Wednesday of the month at 10:30am
Please call Kelly for more information.
Brew Crew:
1st Wednesday of the month at 9:30am
Please call Amy for more information.
Dull Men’s Club:
4th Tuesday of the month at 9:30am
October 27th: David Pickart, Northbridge Conservation Commission
Please call Amy for more information.
Scrabble:
October 5th and 19th at 9:30am
Women’s Collective:
2nd Thursday of the month at 10:00am
Please call Amy for more information.
Writing Your Way:
2nd and 4th Thursdays at 2:00pm
Please call Lori for more information.

Special Programs and Events

Making Sense of Medicare:
2027 Changes and AEP Readiness
Monday, September 28th at 10:30am
This presentation will cover the important Medicare changes coming in 2027, including updates to prescription drug coverage, costs, and benefits under Medicare. You’ll also learn about the different types of Medicare plan options and get helpful tips on preparing for the Annual Enrollment Period (AEP). By the end of the session, you’ll have a better understanding of your coverage choices and how to make informed decisions about your healthcare for the year ahead. Please note, this presentation will not discuss any specific plan changes for 2027.

Aging In Place- Living Safely, Independently and Confidently in Your Own Home
Thursday, October 1st 1:00pm
Join Seraphic Springs for a lively discussion presented by a registered nurse, a physical therapist and an occupational therapist to learn about adaptive equipment, home modifications, compensatory strategies, and available community resources that can help you remain safe, happy and independent in your own home. We will talk about small changes you can make today that can make a big difference tomorrow.

Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy!

Tuesday, October 6th at 1:00pm
Back by popular demand! Please join us for an afternoon of Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune fun! Light refreshments will be provided along with chances to win prizes. Admission is \$5 cash per person, payable at the door. Grab your friends, form a team or two, and head over to Plummer Place for a great afternoon!

Carr Funeral Home Program
Tuesday, October 13th at 1:00pm
Please join Heather and Abbie from Carr Funeral Home on October 13th at 1pm for an informative and welcoming discussion on funeral planning. During this session, they will explain the benefits of preplanning a funeral, discuss why prepaying funeral expenses may be a valuable option, and clarify the differences between a traditional funeral, a celebration of life, and a memorial service. This thoughtful presentation offers an opportunity to learn about important end-of-life planning decisions in a comfortable, no-pressure setting. We invite you to join the conversation and gain valuable information that can help you and your loved ones plan with confidence.

Medicare with Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Oct 14th 1pm-2pm
Are you Ready for the Medicare Annual Election Oct 15th through Dec 7th ?
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts will be here presenting Medicare Health Plan Options—this presentation is geared towards individuals on Medicare or approaching Medicare who may have questions about their health plan or other available plan types. The presentation will focus on the differences between Medigap and Medicare Advantage plans and explain when enrollees can switch plans. All are invited to attend regardless of insurance coverage.

Sweet Stuff: New England’s Confectionery History with Susan Bregman
Thursday, October 15th at 1:00pm
A chocolate mill opened along the Neponset River in the late 1700s, setting the stage for New England’s enduring love affair with sweets. Over the following centuries, the region has become home to an extraordinary variety of baked, fried, dipped, sugared, and frozen confections. Author Susan Mara Bregman will share stories from her book New England Sweets about this sugary legacy – from Necco Wafers to Fluffernutters.

Coffee, Conversation & the November Ballot
Tuesday, September 29th 10:00am
Main Dining Room
Northbridge Senior Center
20 Highland Street
(508) 234-2002 — please RSVP so we can plan accordingly!

Join us for a relaxed and informative coffee gathering with Northbridge Town Clerk, Linda Zywiec designed to take some of the mystery out of voting in the November election! We’ll take a friendly look at the Massachusetts Information for Voters guide and a sample ballot, including the offices and questions you’ll see when you vote. Most importantly, we’ll talk about your voting options and how each one works:
Vote by Mail
Early Voting
Election Day Voting
Voter registration cards and Vote by Mail applications will also be available for anyone who needs them. Come with your questions, enjoy some coffee and treats, and leave feeling prepared for Election Day!



Timothy Ryan — Courtesy
The Blackstone Valley Veterans Association and SSGT. Joseph E. Fitzgerald commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terror attacks with a Vigil of Remembrance Sept. 18 at the Bridge Point Veterans & First Responders Center in Whitinsville.



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DAILY ACTIVITIES: All our daily activities are free of charge.
Monday: Painting class 9:45am to 11:45am, Balance & Strength Exercise 12pm, Mat yoga 2pm
Tuesday: Walking club 9am, Cribbage 9am, Lunch & Bingo 11:30am, Technology class 1pm (call to make an appt.) Line Dancing 2pm
Wednesday: Balance & strength 10am, Darts 11:30am, Mahjong 12:45pm, Dominoes 1 to 2:30pm
Thursday: Walking club 9am, Pitch 9am, Chair Yoga 9:30am, Tai Chi 10:45am, Hand and Foot card game 12:30pm
Friday: Balance & strength 10am, Zumba 11:15am

Friday Shopping Trips: Please call 48 hours in advance to schedule your ride. Grocery shopping pick up starts at 9:30.
Hannaford: 9/25
Price Chopper: 9/11
Walmart: 9/4 & 9/18

Tuesday & Thursday lunch club, please call the Friday before to sign up. Lunch is \$4.00 per person. If you would like to attend, we offer free rides to & from the center and are willing to waive the lunch fee is necessary.

September Lunch Menu: Tuesday/ Thursday lunch club please call the center the Friday before to sign up!
Tuesday 9/1: American chop suey, salad, garlic bread & Jell-O.
Tuesday 9/8: Grilled cheese, tomato soup &

cookies.
Thursday 9/10: Beef stroganoff, egg noodles, carrots and cake.
Tuesday 9/15: Baked chicken, stuffing, mashed potato, peas & pudding.
Tuesday 9/22: Ham & cheese quiche, English muffin & fruit.
Thursday 9/24: Free lunch with Amy Azza.
Tuesday 9/29: Sausage, pepper and onion sub, pasta salad & cupcakes.
Wednesday 9/30: Free pizza party for Smile Day.

September Events:
WELLNESS CLINIC DATES: Monday September 14th & Tuesday September 29th. Clinic is open from 10 am to 12 pm.
Annual Smile Day Celebration: Wednesday September 30th @

12:00. Free lunch courtesy of Unibank & surprise entertainment. Sign up by 9/23.
October Events:
Flu Shot Clinic: Wednesday October 7th from 9:00 to 11:00. We have teamed up with Hannaford’s Pharmacy for our Flu Clinic Vaccines. Like years past we will have the form you need to fill out for the tech, please bring your insurance card and driver’s license or ID. Please call the center to schedule your appointment time.

PLEASE CALL (508) 476-2283 TO SIGN UP FOR PROGRAMS & CLASSES
Check our website for events that may not be listed here
<https://www.douglas-ma.gov/202/AdultSocial-Center-Senior-Center>

Fall Clearance Sale!

We are in the process of selling out some of our current stock to make room for new 2026 models. Because of this, we are offering savings throughout the store!

0% INTEREST - FOR 1 FULL YEAR!

see store for details

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- ❖ Bedrooms
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Some items are one of a kind floor samples. *No orders will be take on these items. Floor Sample Clearance items are sold on a first come first serve basis.

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STUDENTS

continued from page A1

cess,” commented a spokesperson for NMSC. “These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success.”

“We are proud of what Iain and Sarah have accomplished, both as part of the National Merit program and in their efforts at UHS,” said Rubin. “We look forward to seeing their continued success in the coming year and as they start making decisions for their futures beyond UHS.”

PROGRAM

continued from page A1

will meet in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with additional asynchronous work on Saturdays, for a total commitment of approximately 15 hours per week. Upon successful completion of the program, students will earn: Pathmaker Certification OSHA-10 Healthcare Certification BSCI-Microcredential in Aseptic Technique

Students who successfully complete all eight weeks of training and attain the required credentials will receive a \$2,000 stipend, providing an earn-to-learn component that helps make career training more accessible to adult learners.

In partnership with MassHire Central Career Center, the program will also connect students with industry leaders and provide exposure to career opportunities within the biomanufacturing field. The Biomanufacturing Technician program at BVTi is part of BVT’s commitment to expand-

ing access to high-quality career technical education aligned with the needs of Massachusetts employers. Applications are now being accepted, with classes beginning Oct. 6.

For more information about adult education opportunities at BVTi, including the Biomanufacturing Technician program and application process, visit www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/bvti or www.bvtadulthood.org.

About Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the heart of the Blackstone Valley, BVT creates a positive learning community that prepares students for personal and professional success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of rigorous vocational, techni-

cal, and academic skills.

About the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) is a quasi-public economic development investment agency dedicated to supporting the growth and development of the life sciences in Massachusetts, home to the most verdant and productive life sciences ecosystem in the world. Through public-private funding initiatives, MLSC supports innovation, research and development, commercialization, and manufacturing activities in the fields of biopharma, medical device, diagnostics and digital health. Since 2008, MLSC has strategically deployed more than \$1.1 billion in Massachusetts, through a combination of grants, loans, capital infrastructure investments, tax incentives and workforce development programs. These investments have created thousands of jobs and propelled the development of new therapies, devices and scientific advancements that are improving patient health and well-being in Massachusetts and beyond.

Date announced for Fall Vendor Fair

UXBRIDGE — We are very excited to announce the Fall Vendor Fair which is being held on Sept. 26 in the Community House, 8 Court St., Uxbridge.

The fair, sponsored by the Prayer Shawl Group of the Uxbridge Congregational Church, which will be held indoors and will open at 10 a.m.. There will be a wide variety of vendors, including home décor, gifts, jewelry, wood crafts, water colors, pottery, knit goods and many other special items. A Coffee Café will be available as well as a Food truck.

Plan to add our event to your calendar for a fun day of shopping and browsing. For more information, contact the church at 508-244-7849.

WCS hosting Open House Oct. 7

WHITINSVILLE — Join us for an All-School Open House on Wednesday, Oct. 7, at 6:30 p.m. and discover the many ways we are Inspiring Minds and Igniting Hearts. The evening will include a school tour, as well as information regarding elementary, middle, and high school. Whitinsville Christian School is located at 279 Linwood Ave. in Whitinsville. Please RSVP at whitinsvillechristian.org.



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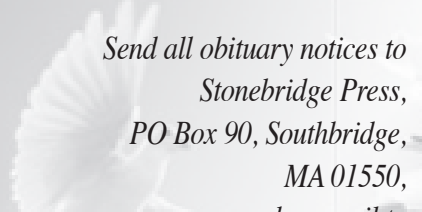
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LEGALS

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket Number: 26 SM 002928 Date Filed: 9/10/2026 ORDER OF NOTICE TO: **Joseph L. Dufresne III and Susan M. Dufresne** and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (*et seq*) **U.S. Bank Trust, National Association as Trustee for Tiki Series VI Trust** claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Whitinsville, **20 Pine Street**, given by **Joseph L. Dufresne III and Susan M. Dufresne** to Household Finance Corporation II, dated October 19, 2004 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 34879, Page 194, 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 **11/2/2026** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act. Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 9/16/2026. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder. September 25, 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. WO26P304 7EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Richard Maurice DuBois
Also known as: Richard DuBois
Date of Death: 05/21/2026
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Magdalena DuBois of Brighton CO** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: .
Magdalena DuBois of Brighton CO be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without**

Surety on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/13/2026.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 165, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
September 25, 2026

MORTGAGEE’S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Richard W. Padovano and Eleanor R. Padovano to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Advanced Financial Services, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated April 12, 2004 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 33324, Page 312, subsequently assigned to IndyMac Bank, FSB, its successors and/or assigns by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (“MERS”) as nominee for Advanced Financial Services, Inc., its successors and/or assigns by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 33639, Page 17, subsequently assigned to Deutsche Bank National Trust Company as Trustee for Residential Asset Securitization Trust Series 2004-A8, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates Series 2004-H by Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as Receiver For IndyMac

Bank, F.S.B. by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 53997, Page 350 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM on October 9, 2026 at 86 Kingsnorth Street, aka 86 Kingsnorth Road, Northbridge (Whitinsville), MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:
The land in the Town of Northbridge (Whitinsville section), Worcester County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, located in the subdivision known as “The Heights at Hill Street 2”, and shown as Lot 12 on a plan entitled “The Heights at Hill Street 2’ Subdivision of Land in Northbridge, Massachusetts (Worcester County) Scale: 1” =40’ July 17, 1987, Rev. 9/21/87, Rev. 10/15/87, Rev. 11/9/87”, Roger M. Corbin, Professional Land Surveyor, which plan is recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 588, Plan 11, and which parcel of land herein granted is more particularly bounded and described as follows:
BEGINNING at a point which is the most southwesterly corner of Lot 9, as shown on said plan, and the most southeasterly corner of said Lot 9 and the most southwesterly corner of Lot 10, as shown on said plan;
THENCE North 13°47’38” East one hundred ten (110.00) feet by said lot 9 to a point which is the most northwesterly corner of said Lot 9 to a point which is the most northwesterly corner of said Lot 10, as shown on said plan;
THENCE North 03°34’09” East two hundred seventy-seven and fifty-six one hundredths (227.56) feet by said Lot 10 and by Lot 11, as shown on said plan, to a point on the southeasterly line of Road “A”, as shown on said plan, which point is the most westerly corner of said Lot 11;
THENCE South 45°59’05” West twenty-three and eight tenths (23.80) feet by the southeasterly line of said Road “A” to a point;
THENCE running by a curve to the right, having an arc length of one hundred seventy-six and two tenths (176.20) feet, and a radius of three hundred ten (310.00) feet by the southeasterly line of said Road “A” to a point which is the most northeasterly corner of Lot 13, as shown on said plan;
THENCE South 09°50’49” West two hundred forty-eight and thirty-four one hundredths (248.34) feet by said lot 13 to land now or formerly of Daniel J. & Genevieve Puccio at a point which is the most southeasterly corner of said

Lot 13;
THENCE South 76°12’22” East one hundred seventy-five (175.00) feet by said land of Puccio to the point of beginning.
For title reference see Deed dated June 25, 1998 and recorded Book 20103, page 3 & deed prior hereto
The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney’s fees and costs.
TERMS OF SALE:
A deposit of FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$15,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer’s check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer’s check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee’s attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee’s attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption.
Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY as Trustee for RESIDENTIAL ASSET SECURITIZATION TRUST Series 2004-A8 MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES Series 2004-H
Present Holder of said Mortgage, By Its Attorneys,
ORLANDS LAW GROUP PLLC
PO Box 540540
Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800
25-007057
September 18, 2026
September 25, 2026
October 2, 2026

SNHU announces summer Dean’s List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Summer 2026 Dean’s List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Kelsey Ellison of Northbridge
Stephanie Wilga of Northbridge
Nicholas Sidman of Whitinsville

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 94-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the “Most Innovative” regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

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SNHU announces summer President’s List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Summer 2026 President’s List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Melissa Russell of Uxbridge
Heather Arrington of Uxbridge
Cristi Lowe of Whitinsville

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 94-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, New Hampshire. Recognized as one of the “Most Innovative” regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

Christian College Fair coming to Whitinsville Christian School

WHITINSVILLE — Whitinsville Christian School, located at 279 Linwood Ave. in Whitinsville, is pleased to be a host site for the 2026 Christian College Fair. Christian colleges and universities from across the United States will be represented on Tuesday, Sept. 29, from 10 a.m. - noon. For more information, please visit yourchristiancollege.com/college-fairs.

Trinity Catholic Academy partners with Harvard Forest to study seasonal change



SOUTHBIDGE — Trinity Catholic Academy is proud to partner with Harvard Forest through the Buds, Leaves, and Global Warming project, giving students the opportunity to participate in authentic, hands-on scientific research right here on our school grounds.

Students in Grades 4 and 5 are each assigned a branch on a specific tree and become its “scientists” for the school year.

Dance planned at New England Country Music Club

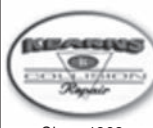
UXBRIDGE — The New England Country Music Club will hold a dance with live, classic country music on Sunday, Sept. 27 with the “Rhode Island Rednecks” at the Uxbridge Progressive Club, 18 Whitin St., Uxbridge. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., with music from 1-5 p.m. Admission charge, cash bar, snacks are allowed.



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Why Is Reverse So Important Today?

BY RUTA CONVENT

For years, the words reverse mortgage carried an unfair stigma. Many people believed it was only for seniors facing financial hardship or on the verge of losing their homes. That perception couldn't be further from the truth.

Today's reverse mortgage has evolved into a valuable retirement planning tool designed to help older homeowners achieve greater financial security.

Americans are living longer than ever before, which means retirement savings often need to last 25 to 30 years or more. At the same time, inflation continues to drive up the cost of groceries, utilities, healthcare, insurance, and other everyday expenses. While Social Security provides an important source of income, for many retirees it simply isn't enough to cover monthly living costs.

For many homeowners, their house represents their largest financial asset. A reverse mortgage allows qualified homeowners age 62 and older to convert a portion of their home's equity into tax-free proceeds while continuing to live in and own their home. There are no required monthly mortgage payments as long as the borrower lives in the home, maintains it, and stays current on property taxes and homeowners insurance.

Rather than being a loan of last resort, today's reverse mortgage is often used as part of a comprehensive retirement strategy. The funds can help supplement monthly income, cover healthcare expenses, make home improvements, create an emergency reserve, or reduce the need to withdraw money from retirement investments during market downturns.

Just as important, today's reverse mortgage is one of the most highly regulated mortgage products available. Federally insured Home Equity Conversion Mortgages (HECMs) are governed by strict federal guidelines and consumer protections. Every borrower must complete independent counseling with a HUD approved counselor before obtaining the loan, ensuring they fully understand both the benefits and responsibilities. These safeguards help homeowners make informed decisions that fit their individual financial goals.

As retirement continues to change, so must the way we think about financing it. A reverse mortgage is no longer a product to be feared or misunderstood. For many homeowners, it is simply another financial tool one that can provide additional income, greater flexibility, and peace of mind throughout retirement.

At Mutual of Omaha Mortgage, we specialize in helping homeowners explore how a reverse mortgage could fit into their overall retirement strategy. With over a century of financial strength and a commitment to service, we guide our clients every step of the way - ensuring they understand their options and make informed, confident decisions.

Your home could be the key to a more secure retirement. To learn how a reverse mortgage could work for you, contact Ruta Convent, your local Mutual of Omaha Retirement Mortgage Specialist, and schedule a free, no-obligation consultation. Ruta has over 40 years of finance and mortgage experience. She lives in Uxbridge with her husband John, and pup Coco.

Boat America Safe Boating Certificate course offered at Bay Path Oct. 13 & 15

CHARLTON — The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts will be instructing the Boat America course that meets current state mandated educational requirements offered in a two-night format developed to provide the skills and confidence needed to explore the coast and inland waters by boat. Basic knowledge and skills are needed to have safe and enjoyable boating experiences. This course is perfect for families that have just purchased any type of boat or are planning to in the future, and for the boater keeping up with changes to boating regulations and laws.

The Hanson-Milone Boater Safety Act, signed into Mass. Law, now requires all Mass. motorboat operators over

12 years of age to complete an approved Safe Boating Certificate course before April 1, 2026 for anyone born after Jan. 1, 1998, and by April 1, 2028 for boaters born before Jan. 1, 1998. Enforcement of the new law began on Sept. 1. Personal Watercraft / Jet Ski operators are required to be at least 16 years of age also included. A certificate, required to be carried onboard, will be issued by the state to resident motorboaters.

Successful completion of this BA course offered meets this requirement and inclusion into the Mass. Environmental Police Boating Safety Database, Approved by National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) it will also cover the requirements to operate a

vessel in most other states & many countries where boating safety education is mandatory including NH, RI and CT. You will receive the additional USCG Auxiliary certification and a possible discount on premiums for most boating insurance companies for successful completion of this course. Some basic marlinespike seamanship (knots etc.) will also be included as part of the course. Participants 16 years old and under must be accompanied, in person, by a registered parent/guardian. SPACE IS LIMITED so register soon.

Register online at via www.baypath.augusoft.net Personal Enrichment – Sports& Leisure – More recommendations - Class ID 43489 or by calling Sheri

Dreitlein (508) 248-5971 email sdreitlein@baypath.net You can also contact our Flotilla Commander Kyle Cimochoowski (860) 227-7274 or Marc French at (508) 318-7152 for additional information.

To locate these and other USCG Auxiliary courses go to: https://www.cgaux.org/boating/class_finder/index.php

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, please visit www.cgaux.org

Saint-Gobain invests \$300,000 in Advanced Manufacturing at QCC

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College and Saint-Gobain North America, a global leader in sustainable construction and advanced materials, today announced a \$300,000 partnership to support an advanced manufacturing learning space and cutting-edge equipment in the college's future QCC Center.

"This partnership with Saint-Gobain reflects our shared commitment to education, innovation, and hands-on learning," said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja. "By investing in our students, we are preparing the next generation of skilled professionals who will shape the future of manufacturing in Central Massachusetts and beyond while building a strong pipeline of talent for employers across the region."

"At Saint-Gobain, we know that the future of manufacturing depends on investing in people and creating pathways to rewarding careers," said Mark Rayfield, president and CEO of Saint-Gobain North America and CertainTeed. "Our partnership with Quinsigamond Community College reflects our commitment to strengthening the workforce, advancing innovation, and supporting hands-on learning experiences that prepare students for success in modern manufacturing. We are proud to support the Saint-Gobain Advanced Manufacturing Center at QCC and help equip the next



Courtesy

(From left) Jorgo Gushi, President, QCC Foundation; Sean Nelson, Interim Vice President of Finance and Administration, QCC; Lee Duerden, Professor of Manufacturing Technology, QCC; Dennis Dean, Dean of Computing & Applied Technologies, QCC; Melanie Bonsu, Community Engagement Manager, Saint-Gobain; Sean Harris, Director of Community Engagement, QCC; Pat Baliva, Vice President of Sales, Saint-Gobain; Dr. Linda Maykel, Chair, QCC Board of Trustees; Deb Spotts, Chief Advancement Officer and Executive Director of Development, QCC; and Maricelis Gonzalez, QCC Board of Trustees.

generation of talent with the skills needed to drive our industry forward."

In recognition of Saint-Gobain's three-year, \$300,000 investment, the advanced manufacturing space within the future QCC Center will be named the Saint-Gobain Advanced Manufacturing Center at QCC. The three-year sponsorship will fund lab and classroom furnishings and equipment, allowing QCC's advanced manufacturing program to expand and integrate computer science, engineering, and robotics programming that aligns with current industry standards.

"Saint-Gobain's extraor-

dinary investment in our Advanced Manufacturing Program represents a transformative opportunity for our students and our region," said Dean of the School for Computing & Applied Technologies Dennis Dean. "This support will help ensure that QCC graduates are equipped with the skills, technologies and hands-on experiences needed to succeed in today's advanced manufacturing workforce. We are deeply grateful for Saint-Gobain's confidence in our students, faculty and future."

Scheduled to open next year, the QCC Center will

be a modern, multipurpose facility featuring advanced manufacturing classrooms, student engagement spaces, a gymnasium, and dedicated space for the hospitality program. Investments from committed industry partners like Saint-Gobain are helping bring this vision to life by expanding opportunities for hands-on learning and workforce development.

"We are proud to partner with organizations like Saint-Gobain that help create opportunities for students while strengthening the workforce of tomorrow," Pedraja added.

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Timothy Ryan — Courtesy

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