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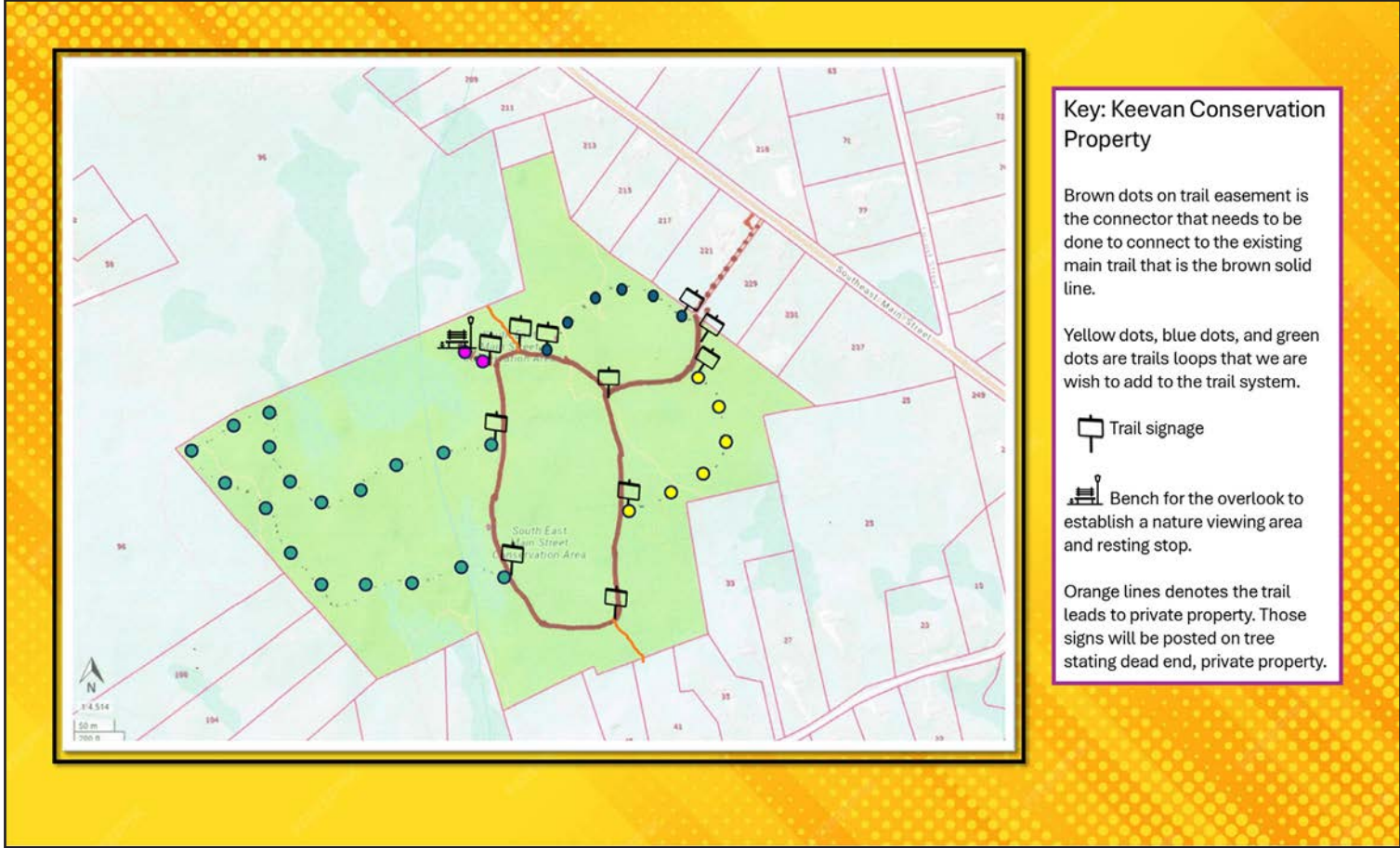


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Friday, October 9, 2026

# Douglas Open Space Committee seeks new members, community support for Keegan Conservation Project

## BVCC to host ribbon cutting for Avvio Ristorante in Millbury



DOUGLAS — The Douglas Open Space Committee is seeking one new member who cares about land conservation, trails, wildlife habitat, and the longterm character of our town. If you value open space and want to help protect the places that make Douglas special, this is a meaningful way to get involved.

The Committee works on a wide range of projects, supporting land preservation efforts, improving public access

to conservation areas, organizing volunteer trail days, mapping priority parcels, and helping residents understand the benefits of open space. We collaborate with town boards, local landowners, and community volunteers to ensure Douglas’ natural resources are protected for generations to come.

You don’t need special experience, just an interest in conservation, a willingness to learn, and a desire to contribute. The work is flexible, creative, and genuinely impactful.

Spotlight project: Keegan Conservation Property

One of our most important current initiatives is the Keegan Conservation Property, a 60acre parcel generously donated to the Town of Douglas in 2016. This land offers tremendous potential for public recreation, wildlife habitat protection, and longterm stewardship, but only if we can create safe, functional access for residents.

Over the past year, the Open Space Committee has submitted two major grant applications to fund the construction of a small parking area, access improvements along the easement, and installation of a trailhead kiosk. Although both applications were strong and wellreceived, neither grant was awarded, leaving us without the funding needed to begin construction.

To move this project forward, we are turning to the community.

MILLBURY — The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce (BVCC) is proud to host a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony celebrating the opening of Avvio Ristorante on Thursday, Oct. 8, at 10:30 a.m. The event will take place at 70 Worcester-Providence Turnpike, Suite 411, Millbury, and is free to attend!

Avvio, meaning, “to begin,” is part of Newport Restaurant Group (NRG), a 100% employee-owned collection of restaurants and hospitality venues throughout Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Inspired by midcentury Italian design, the space brings together timeless materials, bold color, and playful details, providing a fresh, stylish, and inviting backdrop for delicious food and drink. Nestled within The Shops at Blackstone Valley, Avvio offers a contemporary take on Italian-American cuisine, bringing together wood-fired dishes, house-made pastas, seasonal ingredients, Italian-inspired cocktails, and a welcoming atmosphere designed for both everyday dining and special occasions.

Newport Restaurant Group’s employee-ownership model gives team members an opportunity to share in the success of the company, fostering a culture of pride, accountability, and genuine hospitality. With Avvio’s arrival, the group brings its commitment to thoughtful food and memorable guest experiences to the Blackstone Valley.

“We’re excited to bring Avvio to Central Massachusetts,” said Anthony Doherty, General Manager. “Our approach takes

# Armenian Church of Whitinsville to host annual Fall Festival Nov. 21

WHITINSVILLE — The Armenian Church of Whitinsville, Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church, will celebrate the season with its annual Fall Festival on Saturday, Nov. 21, bringing together friends, families and members of the community for a day of Armenian food, shopping, fellowship and fun.

The festival will be held at the Christian Reformed Church Hall on Cross Street in Whitinsville. Doors open at 10:30 a.m., with food service beginning at 11 a.m.

Visitors will find something for everyone, including:

- Ladies Guild Food Table featuring homemade Armenian specialties
- Dessert Table with an assortment of sweet treats
- Armenian Vendor offering Armenian-inspired gifts and merchandise
- Craft Table featuring handmade items
- Silent Auction with a variety of items to bid on
- White Elephant Table with gently used treasures and surprises
- Post Office: purchase a shipping box filled with surprise items.

The Fall Festival offers an opportunity to experience Armenian culture and hospitality while supporting the Armenian Church of Whitinsville’s activities and programs.

“Events like our Fall Festival are about more than food and shopping,” said Susan Hebert, Fall Festival Chair and Trustee of Armenian Church of Whitinsville. “They bring people together, celebrate our Armenian heritage, and create an opportunity for the wider community to experience the warmth and traditions of our church.”

The public is warmly invited to attend. Come hungry, browse the tables, discover something special, and enjoy a day of community and Armenian hospitality.

For more information, contact Sue Hebert 508-887-3109.

# WCS celebrates a special homecoming



WHITINSVILLE — The nor’easter of September 2026 didn’t stop the Whitinsville Christian School community from celebrating Homecoming! Throughout the week, alumni, current families, and special guests attended a variety of activities.

Alumni representing graduating classes from 1964–2022 gathered at Wednesday evening’s alumni reception. On Saturday morning, the newly renovated track was dedicated and named in recognition of Christopher Vander Baan, an outstanding coach, teacher, and principal whose impact on the community continues to be felt. Families had a great time as always at the carnival games on Saturday. The Saturday events also included the Run for the Ages, an event welcoming back many to run the first race on the new track.

Turn To AVVIO page A10



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**PAW of the WEEK**  
**GRETEL**  
GOOD WITH KIDS & DOGS!  
8 MOS./37 LB./FEMALE/TERRIER MIX  
Hi! I'm Gretel – equal parts playful puppy, cuddle bug, and professional eye-contact giver. Seriously... have you seen these eyes? I've already mastered the "look up at you like you're my whole world" move, and it works every time. I'm a happy-go-lucky girl who loves being near my people, exploring new things, and bouncing through life with puppy enthusiasm. I'm curious, affectionate, and always ready to join whatever you're doing – whether it's a walk around the neighborhood, a backyard zoomie session, or curling up nearby after a long day. I'm still young, so I'm learning all the important puppy stuff, but I'm smart, eager to please, and excited to grow up with a family of my very own.



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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 demon-

strations.

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!

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Small Eurasian deer
- 4. Province in Northern Ireland
- 10. A major division of geological time
- 11. Broadway actor Lane
- 12. Canadian province (abbr.)
- 14. Human gene
- 15. Two
- 16. A notable one was "blue"
- 18. Utter repeatedly
- 22. Ring-shaped objects
- 23. Sullies
- 24. Occurs
- 26. Commercial
- 27. Near
- 28. Tools you may need
- 30. A pledge
- 31. They start the alphabet
- 34. Silk garments
- 36. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 37. Longtime mayor of Rio
- 39. Hot meal
- 40. A type of gin
- 41. Atomic #84
- 42. \$10 bill
- 48. About ground
- 50. Medicine man
- 51. Seedless raisin
- 52. National capital of Albania
- 53. Appendage
- 54. OJ trial judge
- 55. European government entity (abbr.)
- 56. Bike parts
- 58. Friend to "Barbie"
- 59. Stretched to see or hear
- 60. Commercials

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Make up for
- 2. Baltimore ballplayer
- 3. Wages
- 4. International organization of countries
- 5. Engravers of gems
- 6. Declared as fact
- 7. One who steals
- 8. Jewelry
- 9. Hospital worker
- 12. Nonsense (slang)
- 13. Town in Galilee
- 17. Value
- 19. Alternative identity
- 20. Sheep in their second year
- 21. Town in Surrey, England
- 25. Appropriate to a time of year
- 29. Creative work
- 31. Recesses
- 32. Largely forested municipality in Germany
- 33. Rider of Rohan
- 35. Ancient symbol co-opted by Nazis
- 38. Pioneer
- 41. Scribe
- 43. Painted a bright color
- 44. Member of British nobility
- 45. "Pulp Fiction" actress Thurman
- 46. Helps people walk
- 47. Crest of a hill
- 49. People of southeastern Alaska
- 56. One's own device
- 57. The Mount Rushmore State

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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|   |   | N | E | K |   | S | T | V | D | E | P |   |   |   |
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| V | N | V | A | I | T | V | N | V | L | T | U | S |   |   |
| N | V | W | V | H | S |   | N | E | H | L | R | V | E |   |
| K | C | U | B | M | V | S |   | O | d |   | E | O | T | S |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | M | E | L | S |   | S | E | V | d |
| H | S | S |   |   |   | S | I | H | V | S |   | C | B | V |
| E | G | V | G |   |   | H | V | E | G |   |   |   |   |   |
| H | G | I | N |   | D | V |   | S | N | E | d | d | V | H |
| S | E | T | I | J | E | D |   |   | I | T | U | N | N | V |
| E | L | V | H | E | L | I |   |   | N | O | O | G | V | T |
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**BLACKSTONE VALLEY TRIBUNE**  
PUBLISHED BY  
**STONEBRIDGE PRESS**

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The Blackstone Valley Tribune (USPS 024-873) (ISSN 0745-8673) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical postage paid at Southbridge, MA and additional mailing office(s). POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Blackstone Valley Tribune, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

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\$375,000, 134 Chestnut St, Herman Geraldine Est, and Herman, Thomas M, to Dickinson, Joel, and Dickinson, Juvy.

**NORTHBRIDGE**  
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\$750,000, 91 Pleasant St, Da Silva, Joao Gabriel P, to Singh, Inderpreet, and Kaur, Avneet.  
\$610,000, 7 Mill St, Shamrock Ret, and Shea-Hays, Patricia, to Cowdrey, James, and Cowdrey-Vautier, Allison.  
\$605,000, 12 Brody Way #12, Somaroutu, Rohini Loukya, to Schein, Rachel Beth.  
\$385,000, 192 W Main St #192, Amoesi-Ansah, Anthony, to Mclean, Kathryn, and Roblero, Santiago Lopez.  
\$225,000, 12 West St, Johnson, Karen J, and Johnson, Peter J, to Johnson, Karen J.  
\$460,000, 100 Stone Bridge Rd, Schuerman T, and Schuerman, Ebony, to Ferrin-Araujo, Marcos J.  
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**UXBRIDGE**  
\$805,000, 101 Hunter Rd, Smith Lt, and Smith, James F, to Hodde, Trevor R, and Hodde, Kelsey E.  
\$791,900, 131 Turner Farm Rd, Tf Rt, and Frateschi, Edward A, to Spodek, Keith, and Spodek, Lisa.  
\$595,000, 85 Old Elmdale Rd, Hodde, Trevor R, and Hodde, Kelsey E, to Lydon, Patrick John, and Lydon, Heather Marie.  
\$425,000, 19 Granite St, Marsden, Roberta A, to Daniels, Jonathan E.  
\$390,000, 10 Rice St, Matthews, Scott, to Greaves, Robert P.  
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# October programs offer hikes, geology and wildlife exploration at Purgatory Chasm

SUTTON — Visitors to Purgatory Chasm State Reservation can explore the park’s geology, wildlife and history through a full schedule of free interpretive programs offered throughout October.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation will offer programs on Mondays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at the reservation, located at 198 Purgatory Rd. in Sutton. Activities range from guided hikes through the chasm to shorter programs examining rocks, animal skulls and the forces that shaped the landscape.

The popular Chasm Hike will be offered Fridays from 11 a.m. to noon and Saturdays and Sundays from 2 to 3 p.m. Participants will scramble around the chasm’s boulders while learning about the park’s history, cultural influence, rock formations and wildlife. The approximately half-mile hike covers moderate terrain and is recommended for ages 10 and older. Participants should meet at the pavilion at the mouth of the chasm.

Visitors looking for a shorter introduction can attend the Chasm Primer, a 15-minute overview of the chasm’s histo-

ry. Programs begin at 10:30 a.m. Fridays and at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Participants meet at the entrance to the chasm, and the program is recommended for ages 10 and older.

The park’s glacial history will be the focus of the Glacial Geology Hike, offered Mondays from 3 to 4:30 p.m. The one-mile guided hike to Little Purgatory examines evidence left behind by the ice that covered the area more than 10,000 years ago. The hike covers moderate terrain and is recommended for ages 10 and older. Participants meet at the Visitor Center.

Younger visitors can get a closer look at geology during Rock Detectives, held Saturdays from 11 a.m. to noon. Participants will examine different types of rocks while learning where they came from and how geological processes continue to affect them. Visitors may stay for five minutes or the entire hour. The program, recommended for ages 4 and older, meets in the pavilion near the entrance to the chasm. It will move inside the Visitor Center during inclement weather.

Wildlife takes center stage Sundays from 11 a.m. to noon during Secrets of the

Skull. Participants will examine animal skulls for clues about how different species live and survive. The drop-in program is suitable for ages 4 and older and will also move to the Visitor Center in poor weather.

The Time Traveler Tour will be offered Mondays from 11 a.m. to noon and Fridays from 3 to 4 p.m. The approximately one-mile walk introduces visitors to historic structures, geological features and different chapters in the park’s history. The tour follows easy terrain, begins at the Visitor Center and is recommended for ages 10 and older.

All programs are free and open to the public. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Visitors should bring water, use sunscreen and insect repellent, dress for outdoor conditions and wear sturdy footwear for hiking programs. Hiking programs will be canceled during inclement weather.

Reasonable accommodations

are available with advance notice. For additional information, call Purgatory Chasm State Reservation at 508-234-9610 or visit the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Purgatory Chasm State Reservation Web page.



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## Audrey Tanner named to Flagler College President’s List

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. — Audrey Tanner of Uxbridge was among a distinguished group of Flagler College students recognized for academic excellence during an award ceremony held Friday, Sept. 25, as part of the College’s Friends and Family Weekend.

The President’s List, compiled by the Office of Academic Affairs, recognizes students who have demonstrated an exceptional standard of academic achievement. To qualify, students must earn a 4.0 GPA while completing at least 12 semester hours of graded credit. This past semester, 160 students, representing both traditional and Public Administration (PAD) programs, earned a place on the President’s List out of 2,086 students.

President John Delaney acknowledged the rigor required to earn a place on the President’s List, noting that maintaining a perfect GPA reflects a high level of academic discipline, consistency, and sustained effort.

“To get a 4.0, you must earn it, and they’re not just handed out like candy,” Delaney said. “Only about 160 students out of 2,100 were able to pull it off, so as a percentage, that’s just simply not very high. And that’s the way we like to do it.”

Dr. Arthur Vanden Houten, vice president of Academic Affairs, emphasized that earning a 4.0 GPA is particularly meaningful because it represents achievement through the inevitable challenges of a college semester.

“We are here, of course, recognizing remarkable individual achievement, where students attain a 4.0 during what for everyone inevitably is a semester with ups and downs, and taxing and trying moments,” Vanden Houten said.

Vanden Houten also recognized the many people who contribute to a student’s success, including parents, partners, friends, professors and tutors.

“All the students in this room know that their success depends on many people,” he said. “Parents, partners, friends, professors, tutors who have supported them, who have helped them, who have challenged them, who have really been a part of the success that is recognized here today.”

Following the ceremony, President’s List honorees and their guests were invited to attend the Family & Friends Welcome Reception at Markland House.

About Flagler College  
Flagler College is a private, non-profit, accredited institution located

in the heart of St. Augustine, Florida—the nation’s oldest city. With 44 majors, 47 minors, and two master’s degree programs, Flagler offers students a dynamic and personalized academic experience shaped by small class sizes and world-class faculty who are dedicated to teaching, connecting, and supporting students.

Home to approximately 2,200 students, Flagler fosters a close-knit community where curiosity is encouraged, leadership is cultivated, and purpose is pursued. The College is consistently ranked among the top regional institutions by U.S. News & World Report and is nationally recognized for its distinctive historic campus, which has earned recognition as one of the “10 Most Beautiful Universities in the World” and one of the “12 Most Beautiful College Campuses Around the World.”

At Flagler, students are inspired to think boldly, turn ideas into reality, and make history. For more information about Flagler College, visit [www.flagler.edu](http://www.flagler.edu).

## Uxbridge Youth Soccer League hosts Fifth Annual RC Air Show

UXBRIDGE — The Uxbridge Youth Soccer League will host its 5th Annual RC Airshow on Sunday, Oct. 18, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Sutton Street Fields (285 Sutton St., Uxbridge). The popular, family-friendly event brings together some of the region’s top award-winning RC pilots for an afternoon of spectacular stunts and a few surprises.

This year’s event features several famous area food trucks, including Anzios Brick Oven Pizza, Big Daddy’s Bites, Big T’s BBQ, Twisted Beveragez, and Wickid Weiners. The show also includes more than a dozen sought-after vendors selling crafts, food items, and other gifts.

The RC Air Show offers fun for the whole family, including yard games, kids’ activities, crafts, Touch-a-Truck, and more. You’ll also have a chance to press

your luck with a variety of raffle prizes. Celebrity guests will be announced soon.

All proceeds from the RC Air Show go to fund programs, equipment, and opportunities for local youth athletes. Last year’s Air Show raised enough funds to aerate the Sutton Street fields, allowing the league to use them all season long. This year, the league is looking to raise enough funds to install an irrigation system.

Bring the whole family for an afternoon of thrills. Entry is \$3 per person or \$10 per family. Visit the “5th Annual UYSL RC Air Show” Facebook page for the latest updates and for a list of this year’s generous sponsors. For questions or to sponsor the show, email [info@uxbridgeyouthsoccer.com](mailto:info@uxbridgeyouthsoccer.com).



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





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EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Protecting Douglas takes more than setting land aside

There is an important distinction between preserving open space and making sure that preserved land becomes a meaningful part of a community.

Douglas has already taken the first step with the Keevan Conservation Property. The 60-acre parcel, donated to the town in 2016, represents something increasingly valuable in a growing community: land permanently available for conservation, wildlife habitat and, potentially, public recreation.

Now comes the harder part.

The Douglas Open Space Committee is trying to create safe public access to the property, but two grant applications submitted to pay for the necessary improvements were unsuccessful. That leaves the town with conserved land possessing considerable potential, but without the relatively modest infrastructure needed for residents to properly reach and enjoy it.

The committee estimates that \$16,000 is needed for improvements to the existing easement and construction of a small gravel parking area. Another \$5,200 would pay for a professionally designed and installed trailhead kiosk and sign.

In the world of municipal projects, \$21,200 is not an enormous sum. Yet finding that money can be difficult, particularly when towns are balancing demands involving schools, roads, public safety and other essential services. That is where community involvement becomes particularly important.

The proposed work would create a compacted gravel access corridor within the existing easement, along with a small parking area. These are not elaborate amenities. They are practical improvements intended to turn inaccessible potential into a conservation property residents can actually experience.

There is also a larger lesson in the committee’s current situation. Grants are enormously valuable to small communities, but competition for them is significant. A worthy project can be carefully planned, supported by local officials and still fail to receive funding. When that happens, a community has a choice between allowing the project to stall or finding another path forward.

The Open Space Committee is choosing the latter by asking residents for help. Contributions do not need to be large to matter. Small donations multiplied across a community can help close a funding gap while demonstrating that residents value public access to conservation land. The town has made a donation option available through the Open Space Committee’s page on the municipal Web site.

There is another opportunity to contribute that costs nothing but time. The committee is seeking a new member. No specialized conservation background is required. What is needed is an interest in Douglas, a willingness to learn and a desire to help protect its natural resources. That invitation deserves attention.

Town government depends heavily on residents willing to serve on committees and boards, often without much public recognition. Decisions about trails, conservation priorities, development, recreation and land preservation do not happen automatically. Someone has to study the issues, attend meetings, work with landowners, pursue grants and organize volunteers.

Douglas is fortunate to possess forests, trails, wetlands and undeveloped landscapes that remain an important part of its identity. Preserving that character while accommodating the needs of a changing community will require deliberate choices.

The Keevan Conservation Property offers residents a tangible opportunity to make one of those choices. A donation can help build a trailhead. A volunteer can help maintain a trail. A new committee member can help shape conservation priorities for years to come.

Preserving Douglas’ natural heritage is not accomplished by a single land donation, grant application or town committee. It is accomplished when residents decide that these places are worth protecting, and then participate in the work required to protect them.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The evolving definition of “affordability”

To the Editor:

Circa 1910, a well-known Ford ability was its versatility. A second Ford ability was its adaptability. Meanwhile among the Ford Model T’s additional abilities were its durability and maintenance predictability as such were so often compared to the early horseless carriage days. That themselves unfolded amid the precipitous decline of the old horse and buggy and days. With all of that accompanying the declining employment opportunities thereof and therein.

Such was the multitude of directly stated and implied meanings of those Overland Automobile ads in which the word “affordability” was first entered into the automotive world’s state of public consciousness. Doing so within the printed pages of the Indianapolis Star on November the 27th, 1910.

That magical word then later appeared in clothing and coat ads, sometimes in quotes, just as the word “woke” so often does in our time.

There were two notable precursor events to that exceedingly clever, back-handed, bended knee-slapping, advertising tribute to Henry Ford and his Model T.

The original 1880 Irish peasantry shunning of that fool of British Captain and land agent. Who just so happened to be cursed by his family’s oh, so brilliant name change in 1841. Where they swapped out the “a” of Boycott, replacing it with the “o” of Boycott. Which just so happened to phonetically align with the Gaelic word for boy that was pronounced boo-ia. Along with “cott” for cottage. Those boo-ia cottages were, of course, the very same places of habitation that the poor Irish folk were trying to defend without resorting to violence according to church doctrine. Talk about divine intervention... how weird is that?

Meanwhile, the panic of 1907, once again set the stage for a similar worker action event... but alas. By request of the

socialists in the textile mill workforce the Massachusetts Government swooped in faster than they could say “Joe Biden will someday be our greatest dimwitted leader on this sort of stupidity!”

Those heavy-handed bureaucrats slashed the workweek by two measly hours. The mill owners then equally and equitably reduced the worker’s paychecks by a mere 32 cents. The fairest thing for them to do since it only amounted to the average cost of three loaves of stale bread that none of the workers were fans of eating anyway. Unless of course some overbearing government by some legal means tried to force them to.

Some among the more intelligent and hardworking individuals then capitalized on their newfound opportunities for their freed-up time.

Baking their own bread for a profit while similarly bartering work-per-hour deals to reassign their spare time for their own greater benefit and that of their children.

Which of course totally offended the deadbeat socialists who then demanded a pay raise just for showing up and doing even less than they did before. Like somehow their self-chosen occupations were under the influence of some ridiculously “woke” governmental influence from the then distant future.

That narrative then takes us to the here and now, in the very same state that is presently overrun with Dr. Fauci-adoring extremists. Where their use of the word “affordable” quite accurately translates to mean: “We socialists intend to keep stealing as much as we can, as often as we can, from whoever we can. Aided and abetted by our fiendishly evil friends in the ‘Woke’ government... right up until the time that the feds come swooping in to shut it all down.”

STEPHEN GAMBONE  
NORTHBRIDGE

Vote no on Article 23

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, Oct. 27, Uxbridge voters will consider Article 23 at Fall Town Meeting. While framed as a routine land conveyance, this citizen petition bypasses municipal procedure, state law, and taxpayer interests.

Article 23 asks the Town to authorize selling “Parcel A,” a town-owned strip abutting the Acorn Drive cul-de-sac, to provide access for a private subdivision off Chestnut Street.

Voters should know the documented facts: First, the developer holds no deeded rights to Parcel A. Town Counsel confirmed in writing that the applicant has no legal claim to this municipal parcel. Yet without title, the developer has already clear-cut, regraded, and placed fill on this public land without lawful town authorization or mandatory Tree Warden approval. Selling dedicated public land to retroactively cure unauthorized disturbance rewards unlawful activity and sidesteps statutory safeguards under M.G.L. c. 82.

Second, the developer’s yield plan reveals this access is sought solely to harvest lots cut off by natural wetlands. The project does not create a connected municipal road;

it punches through town property to build an isolated dead-end turnaround behind an existing cul-de-sac.

Third, our taxpayers must be protected. The applicant has sought waivers from town standards, including requests to bypass full granite curbing along steep grades and to leave large, deep stormwater basins unfenced next to proposed family homes. These design compromises shift long-term maintenance costs and safety liabilities onto Uxbridge taxpayers once streets are accepted.

When private land has physical constraints, our bylaws require developers to reduce density to what the site supports— not demand the disposal of public property.

The integrity of our bylaws and public land protections requires consistent enforcement, not warrant petitions designed to cure unpermitted work.

I urge Uxbridge residents to protect our public land and vote no (or vote to Indefinitely Postpone) on Article 23 on Oct. 27.

Respectfully,

DANIEL SOUCY  
UXBRIDGE

What we need from our politicians

To the Editor:

In this 250th anniversary year of the Declaration of Independence, let’s declare what we need from our state politicians.

Cheap electricity, no solar taxes and fees on electricity, no state gas tax, and affordable housing! Can politicians do it? You know the answer.

We need new electric power plants, plain and simple. Nuclear or gas-fired. In our state, we produce only 50 percent of needed electricity. We import the rest from states that actually have nuclear power and extra electricity to sell. Our politicians are happy with being parasites. After all, they live off us.

We need to end the one-third of our electric bills going to fantasy Mass Save, EV vehicles and solar purple ponies. We must demand that this be cut from our bills. Shame the politicians on Beacon Hill. It is not the utilities! Shame on Beacon Hill.

We need a three-month suspension of the state gas tax: 30 cents per gallon!

Are the state politicians going to pass laws revoking these stupid ideas and give us our money back? No. The politicians will not vote to give you your own money back when you need it. Which is right now.

It’s up to private business and smart people to solve this. First, we must make the politicians reduce these taxes. Then, smart people who have actually built a business and know how to make something or fix something

need to act. That eliminates most politicians who have never had a real job.

No politically-connected grifters need apply. For example, U.S. Representative from Massachusetts, Ayana Pressley. Magically, her ex-convict husband won the contract to build the new Springfield court house for \$600 million with a \$2 billion 40-year lease for her hubby. With no parking! Guess cops and criminals will take the bus.

Here is the cute part. Once finished, according to SI [Super intelligence], “the state will lease the building back to taxpayers for 40 years, with options to extend the lease to 60 years, for a total lease value of \$2 billion.” Pressley and her family will be rich forever! On your taxes. Reparations or corruption?

Here is the best part: “Taxpayers will never own the building. The private developer [Pressley’s hubby in partnership with the head of the Mass Convention Center] will retain ownership at the lease’s end.” What a deal? What a fraud!

We must demand that know-nothing politicians stop mowing down forests and plowing up agricultural land for solar farms and battery storage for the most expensive electricity on earth. Politicians love the contracts with Communist China to install Chinese-made solar panels and Chinese-made battery storage containers to save the planet! Slave labor, rare earth, and tons of fossil fuel to ship these

Turn To LETTER page A5

The great October thermostat standoff

There comes a morning every October when a man wakes up and realizes that his house has become an experiment in refrigeration.

You know the morning. You get out of bed, put your feet on the floor and immediately reconsider every decision that brought you to this point in life. The floor is cold. The bathroom is colder. And somewhere downstairs, your wife is wearing a sweatshirt and giving you the kind of look that says the heating season has officially begun, whether you have accepted it or not.

I have always believed there should be rules about turning on the heat. Not actual rules, mind you. Nothing involving town meeting or the Legislature. We have enough regulations already. I mean personal rules.

Mine is that the furnace should remain off until sometime in October when it becomes absolutely necessary. The trouble is defining “absolutely necessary.” My wife and I have different standards. To her, the appearance of frost on the lawn is compelling evidence. To me, frost is merely nature making a suggestion. She will walk past the thermostat and glance at it. I will notice her glancing at it. Neither of us will say anything. This is marriage after 30 years. You don’t need words for the important negotiations. The thermostat sits there quietly between us, waiting to see who cracks first.

I usually attempt several delaying tactics. First comes the sweatshirt. Then the heavier socks. Then I begin making helpful observations such as, “It’s supposed to warm up this afternoon.” This is technically true, although warming from 43 degrees to 58 degrees isn’t quite the argument I think it is. Eventually, my wife asks the obvious question: “Why don’t we turn the heat on?” I never have a particularly good answer.

There is something psychological about that first firing of the furnace. Once you hear it rumble to life, summer is officially over. There is no going back. Windows that were open every evening suddenly get locked. The ceiling fans stop spinning. The extra blanket returns to the bed. Somewhere in the garage, the snow shovel begins plotting its comeback. Turning on the heat feels like signing paperwork acknowledging that another New England winter is on its way.

And winter never arrives alone. It brings heating bills, icy windshields, frozen door locks, driveway shoveling and the annual mystery of where I put the good gloves. So I resist. Not effectively, but symbolically. I suspect generations of New Englanders have done the same thing.

We live in a part of the country where stubbornness is sometimes confused with thrift, and thrift is occasionally confused with sitting in your own living room wearing a winter coat. Eventually, of course, common sense wins.

One evening the temperature drops, the house gets genuinely chilly and somebody finally walks over to the thermostat. Click. A few seconds later comes the familiar sound of the furnace starting. Warm air begins moving through the house. And almost immediately, I wonder why I spent three days pretending I wasn’t cold.

That is another October tradition around here. The leaves change. The days shorten. The pumpkins appear on front steps. And grown adults engage in silent contests with their thermostats.

I know how ours will end. The heat will go on. My wife will be comfortable. And I will stand near the vent enjoying the warm air while maintaining, purely for the historical record, that I could have held out another week.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

History lessons we seem to have forgotten, Chapter 3: The Powell letter

To the Editor:

The rich didn’t give up after the coup attempt of 1933....no one had been punished; no headlines ripped through the country; no one paid the price for treason. Fast forward to 1971, and an 8-page memo written by a corporate lawyer living in Virginia, named Louis Powell. Powell was a member of 11 corporate boards, and former president of the American Bar Association. He was now the corporate lawyer for Philip Morris, and had fought efforts to warn the public of the dangers of cigarette smoking. His memo was titled ‘Attack on America’s free enterprise system’ - a less compromising way of saying an ‘attack on unfettered capitalism’.

The memo opened with these words: “No thoughtful person can question that the American economic system is under broad attack: on American college campuses, by American consumers, American environmentalists, and American regulators. Powell believed that corporations were losing the war for public opinion – an impediment to the pursuit of corporate profits. He had a plan to fight back.

Powell had four targets:

1: Universities - Powell thought universities were the single most dynamic source of the attack on free enterprise. He believed that corporations should fund their own scholars, place them on campuses, review textbooks, challenge professors, demand equal time on the speaking circuit. In 1982, Young Republican students at Yale and Harvard Universities formed the Federalist Society. It’s stated mission was to reform the American legal order by promoting conservative and libertarian legal principles, judicial restraint, and originalist constitutional interpretation. Today, the Federalist Society has chapters in almost every major law school in America. It has over 70,000 members. Charley Kirk was doing Powell’s work – he bullied young college students into doubting the things they were being taught, especially about human rights.

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.

2: the media – Powell said television and the press were hostile to business. His solution was to monitor every news program, evaluate every editorial, pressure networks for balance, and fund ‘think tanks’ to produce pro-business content that appeared to be independent journalism. The think tanks would not just produce academic papers, they would produce op-eds placed in major newspapers, they would train spokespeople to appear on television, they would provide ready-made ‘experts’ for journalists to quote. In 1971, corporations spent around \$300 million on lobbying and public affairs. By 1978, that number had more than doubled. Today, corporations spend over \$5 billion dollars a year influencing the information environment – TV, print media, radio, internet, and everywhere else that people get their information.

In 1987, the FCC, under Republican Ronald Reagan, eliminated the Fairness Doctrine, which required broadcast news to present contrasting viewpoints on controversial issues. That opened the door to one-sided political broadcasting. Three years later, Rush Limbaugh went national. Seventeen years later, Fox News launched, followed by OAN, Newsmax, Breitbart, the Daily Wire, Epoch Times, etc.,. Powell said corporations should pressure networks for balance and ‘fun content’ that looks like journalism. When pressed, Fox talking heads admit they are simply ‘opinionists,’ not journalists, and admitted in court that no one should take anything they say seriously.

3: The courts - Powell said that the judiciary had been neglected by business. He believed that corporations should build a legal infrastructure, a highly competent staff of lawyers, to bring cases, shape precedent, and shift the courts in a pro-business direction. The Federalist Society would use the courts to reorder priorities in the legal system - to be more business oriented. It now vets judicial nominees for Republican presidents. Six of the nine current Supreme Court Justices are current of former Federalist Society members. (Which is how Trump received king-like immunity from prosecution, and women’s abortion rights have ended.)

4: Congress – Powell believed that polit-

ical power was necessary, and should be cultivated assiduously, and used aggressively. In 1971, there were 89 corporate PAC’s (political action committees) registered in the U.S. By 1980, there were over 1200. Today, corporations spend between \$3.7 and 5.3 billion a year lobbying the U.S. government. A recent Princeton study found that average Americans have near zero influence on government policy. The economic elites – corporations - have all the power.

Two months after writing his memo, Powell was nominated for the Supreme Court by Republican President Nixon. His memo was marked confidential, and never came to light during his confirmation hearing, despite Powell’s vetting by the FBI. He was confirmed 89 to 1. The memo became public in 1972, when leaked to a journalist who called it ‘a blueprint for an assault by big business on its critics’.

In 1978, Justice Powell wrote the major opinion in a case called The First National Bank of Boston v. Bellotti. That ruling established that a corporation was a ‘citizen’, with all the ‘free speech’ rights - including the right to donate to a political campaign - which ordinary U.S. citizens had. (If a corporation is a ‘citizen’, what does that make the citizens who work for the corporation? Do these ‘citizens’ have any say in how a “citizen” corporation’s donation money is allocated?)

In 2010, the Supreme Court decided Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, building on Powell’s Bellotti decision. This ruling eliminated limits on corporate political spending. Corporations could now spend unlimited amounts of money to influence elections. Powell wrote in his memo that corporations needed to use political power aggressively, then sat on the Supreme Court and gave corporations the constitutional authority to do exactly that.

Within five years of the memo, the Business Roundtable was funded. A coalition of the CEO’s of America’s largest corporations created specifically to coordinate political and academic influence. The Heritage Foundation launched in 1973, produced policy papers that shifted the intellectual environment in Washington.

The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) was founded in 1973, within which corporations and state legislators wrote model legislation together behind closed doors. That legislation was then introduced into state houses around the country, as if it had originated solely from elected officials.

The Cato Institute, 1977, the Manhattan Institute, 1977, the Federalist Society, 1982 - the same network of corporate donors funded all these organizations. All of them were building exactly what Powell had described – a parallel intellectual infrastructure that corporations controlled. Today, there are over 1500 right-leaning think tanks in America, producing policy papers, op-eds, television commentary and academic research, all funded by corporate money, to produce corporate influence, which these days serve to remove regulations and controls on the environment, food, air quality, water safety, and other ‘restraints’ on their euphemistically termed ‘free enterprise system’.

The Powell memo is the documented blueprint for what we are seeing today – the complete takeover of our government by corporate interests, represented by the Republican Party. This is why, on a daily basis, you read of Trump meeting with the heads of Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, NVIDIA, Boeing etc. They give him huge donations, and he ensures that the Republican controlled Congress passes favorable legislation. Written in 1971, implemented over 50 years, and still operating today, the Powell memo is the blueprint by which American corporations took control of our government - it is no longer “of, by and for the people.” It is “of, by and for rich business interests”. We have one last chance to reverse this. Vote blue in the mid-terms.

One of the best books I’ve read on the source and influence of corporate money on our politics is “Dark Money” by NY Times journalist Jane Mayer. Read it if you want to understand the real ‘deep state.’

Cheers to humanitarian Lorraine Burnat for saving all Bev’s letters “from posterity.”

RICK BEVILACQUA  
WHITINSVILLE

LETTER

continued from page A4

monsters across the Pacific to California, then to our state. So green!

Which states have the most solar panels, battery storage and most aggressive climate goals? California, New York and Massachusetts. Which states have the most expensive electricity? The same. Which states have the least affordable housing? The same.

Their idea of affordable housing is being homeless and

living in a tent on the sidewalk. Their idea of affordable housing is killing local zoning and allowing every home owner “by right” to build a tiny home on their property. You solve the problem of affordable housing, with your own money, time, and sweat. Not them.

They want to lower carbon emissions. We emit barely 0.03 percent of global carbon emissions. Not even 1 percent. Our state policy is like spitting in the wind to make rain. Harvard Forest and Mass

Audubon said in 2023 that the state could reach its “net zero by 2050” target if it shifts from large solar farms on forested land to rooftop, parking lot and already developed sites. SI reports: “Massachusetts is not moving away from forest clearing for solar or battery storage.”

Shutesbury is facing a 360 acre clear-cut of forests for a monster 45 MW solar farm. Seabrook Nuclear produces 1,244 MW of electricity on 1,000 acres. Thirty times as much electricity on

just 3 times the land.

Honestly, how much can you take? As one wit said recently, politicians cannot be trusted to run a MacDonalds! They promise that the new Cape Cod bridges will be done by 2037! Do you believe it? Me neither.

Vote conservative for a change. Vote for people who have know-how and know how to use it. Common sense or crazy? You decide.

BEV GUDANOWSKI  
UXBRIDGE



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Timothy Ryan — Courtesy

Members of the Northbridge Fire Department and the local community gathered last week to bid a fond farewell to retiring District Fire Chief Bob Lachapelle and celebrate his 46-year career.



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Timothy Ryan — Courtesy

State Rep. Joseph McKenna left, and State Rep. John Marsi, right, present former State Senator Richard T. Moore with a citation in honor of being named the Richard T. Moore room at the Gladys E. Kelly Library in Webster.



Timothy Ryan — Courtesy

First responders are pictured at the scene where a school bus veered off the road on Quaker Street Extension in Northbridge last week, managing to retain just enough purchase on the bridge to avoid going into the Blackstone River. Emergency crews stabilized and secured the bus with chains, jacks, and heavy equipment before using two large tow trucks (including one with a crane) to hoist it back onto the roadway after a multi-hour operation. The accident occurred at around 1:30 p.m. last Monday (Sept. 28), and there were no students on board. The driver sustained only minor injuries.

# Fall Clean Up at Manchaug Pond set for Oct. 24



**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](http://manchaugpond.org).

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LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES  
BROOKFIELD

Brookfield Ecumenical Food Pantry  
St. Mary’s Church  
4 Howard Street, Brookfield, MA 01506  
Distribution: Wednesday 9:30 AM-11 AM:  
Saturday 9:30 AM-11AM

CHARLTON

Chip - In Food Pantry  
McKinstry Building  
37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507  
Distribution: 3rd Saturday 9 AM-12 Noon

St. Joseph’s Church, Charlton  
Tuesday 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday 9-11 a.m.  
Everyone is welcome.

DOUGLAS

St. Denis Food Pantry  
23 Manchaug Road  
Douglas, MA 01516  
Distribution: Saturday 8am to 10am

LEICESTER

Leicester Food Pantry  
St. Joseph-St. Pius X Parish  
759 Main Street, Leicester, MA 01524  
Distribution: Tuesday 5 PM-7 PM

NORTH BROOKFIELD

St. Joseph’s Food Pantry  
Located in the church hall at 296 North  
Main St. North Brookfield  
Distribution is the 1st Thursday of the  
month from 5:00-6:30PM  
the 3rd Thursday of the month from 12  
Noon-1:15PM  
Any questions should be directed to the  
Rector’s office 508 867-6469.  
St. Joseph’s Food Pantry is a community  
partner affiliated with the Worcester County  
Food Bank.

North Brookfield Food Collaborative  
70 Bates Street,North Brookfield,Ma 01535  
Main food distribution day is every Thurs-  
day at noon. By calling 774-289-9832 we  
can make accommodations for anyone  
unable to make it on Thursdays.  
Open 7 days a week by appointment.  
We are operational through food rescue and  
donations. Please consider donating so we  
can continue the fight against food insecur-  
ity. Checks made payable to:NBFC@70  
Bates Street,North Brookfield Ma 01535.

OXFORD

Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf  
Oxford Community Center  
4 Maple Road  
Oxford, MA 01540  
Distribution: Thursday 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

ROCHDALE

The Lord’s Cupboard Food Pantry  
Greenville Baptist Church  
674 Pleasant St.  
Rochdale, MA  
Distribution: Every Monday from 12:00 -  
2:00 p.m. Open to everyone.

SOUTHBRIDGE

St. John Paul II Parish Food Pantry  
279 Hamilton St., Southbridge  
Tuesday 3-5 p.m., Wednesday 9-11 a.m.  
(508) 765-0245

Southbridge Food Share  
Located at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church,  
lower level  
446 Hamilton St,  
Southbridge, MA 01550  
Email:  
Southbridgefoodshare.org@gmail.com  
Phone: 508-764-6583  
Open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday,  
from 10:00 am to 11:15 am.

SPENCER- EAST BROOKFIELD -  
RESIDENTS ONLY  
Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry  
60 Maple St, Spencer, MA 01562  
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STURBRIDGE

Saint Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry.  
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16 Church Street, Fiskdale, MA 01518  
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Contact: 508-347-6398

WEBSTER

Webster-Dudley Food Share  
4 Church St #2  
Webster, MA 01570  
Distribution: Tuesday and Thursday from  
8:30 -11:00 am. Open to Webster and  
Dudley residents.  
Please call ahead: 508-943-9171

WEST BROOKFIELD

Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry  
First Congregational Church  
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Distribution: Wednesday 10 AM-11:30 AM  
Thursday 7 PM- 8 PM

DOUGLAS ADULT  
SOCIAL CENTER

331 Main St.  
(508) 476-2283  
Hours of operation: Monday through  
Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m. to  
noon

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: 10/30  
Price Chopper: 10/9  
Walmart: 10/2 & 10/16  
Rider’s choice: 10/23

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.

October Lunch Menu: Tuesday/  
Thursday lunch club please call the center  
the Friday before to sign up!

Tuesday 10/6: Pasta primavera, garden  
salad, garlic bread & ice cream

Tuesday 10/13: Stuffed peppers, can-  
died carrots & brownies

Tuesday 10/20: BBQ pork chops, sea-  
soned potatoes, fiesta corn & corn

Thursday 10/22: Butternut bisque, ham  
salad sandwich & cheesecake pudding w/

strawberries  
Tuesday 10/27: Chicken fajitas, tater  
tots & pudding

October Events: The center will be  
closed on Monday October 12th in obser-  
vance of Columbus Day.

WELLNESS CLINIC DATES: Monday  
October 5th & Tuesday October 20th.  
Clinic is open from 10 am to 12 pm.

Wednesday October 7 from 9 to 11: Flu  
vaccine clinic: Call the center to sched-  
ule your appointment. If transportation is  
needed request a ride when you call for  
your appointment.

Thursday October 8 @ 1:00: Hip Hop  
Square Dance This is a one-hour class &  
is free of charge. We had so much fun with  
Rondae the last time she was here! Sign  
up by 10/8.

Monday October 12 from 10 to 2: The  
Sunshine Club will be holding a plant  
swap. Bring your seeds, plants, perennials,  
etc. & take something new home.

Thursday October 15 @ 12:00: Bemis  
Nursery will be here to make an Everlasting  
Flower Box. This craft is \$25.00 and must  
be paid for when you sign up. You get a  
pretty wooden box, to arrange dried flow-  
ers in. Sign up by 10/8.

Thursday October 22 @ 11:30: Lunch  
& a movie, Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris.  
Lunch is \$4.00 per person, soup, sandwich  
& dessert. Sign up by 10/16.

Friday October 30 @ 12:30:  
Sunshine Club Annual Halloween Party.  
Refreshments, friends, fun & laughs.  
Prizes will be awarded for costumes. Sign  
up by 10/23.

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](https://www.douglas-ma.gov/202/AdultSocial-Center-Senior-Center)

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 St. 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 Agent  
Please call Amy for more information.

Scrabble:  
Mondays 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

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 pre-  
paying 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 deci-  
sions 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 fol-  
lowing centuries, the region has become  
home to an extraordinary variety of baked,  
fried, dipped, sugared, and frozen confec-  
tions. Author Susan Mara Bregman will  
share stories from her book New England  
Sweets about this sugary legacy – from  
Necco Wafers to Fluffernutters.

A Spooktacular Afternoon with the  
Muleskinners

Wednesday, October 28th  
12:30pm-2:00pm

Put on your favorite costume and join  
us for a fun-filled afternoon of Halloween  
entertainment! Enjoy live music by The  
Muleskinners, featuring toe-tapping blue-  
grass favorites that are sure to keep you  
dancing. Gather with friends for a festive  
celebration filled with music, laughter, and  
Halloween spirit. Costumes are encour-  
aged, so come dressed in your Halloween  
best and get ready for a hauntingly good  
time! Menu: turkey/roast beef wraps,  
antipasto pasta salad, baby spinach salad,  
chips, and hot apple crisp with vanilla ice  
cream & caramel sauce for dessert. Tickets  
are \$10 each and cover the cost of the lun-  
cheon and the entertainment. Tickets are  
available in the Main Office. Limit of 2  
tickets per person. Northbridge residents  
receive ticket priority. Tickets must be  
purchased in person, and everyone must  
have a ticket to attend.



## Coffee Break women’s Bible study begins new series Oct. 22

WHITINSVILLE — Coffee Break, a non-denominational community Bible study for women, will begin a new study, “Discover James: Faith in Action,” on Thursday, Oct. 22, at Fairlawn Church.

The weekly program will explore the biblical book of James, focusing on themes including faith, perseverance, wisdom, justice and navigating difficult circumstances. Organizers describe the study as an opportunity for participants to examine what the Bible says and means through discussion and personal application.

The study materials address the challenges faced by James and his original readers, including suffering, trials, distractions, injustice and doubt, while examining the book’s teachings about responding to those difficulties through faith.

Participants will meet in small groups, with questions designed to encourage conversation and discussion of the text. No previous Bible knowledge is required, and there is no homework.

Coffee Break is free and open to women throughout the community. Meetings are held Thursdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Fairlawn Church, 305 Goldthwaite Rd., off Hill Street in Whitinsville.

Organizers said each lesson is designed to stand on its own, allowing participants to attend when their schedules permit without falling behind in the study. Study guides and Bibles are provided free of charge.

Refreshments will also be provided during the weekly meetings. Child care is available for infants through preschool-age children.

Coffee Break offers women from throughout the Blackstone Valley an opportunity to read and discuss the Bible, ask questions and develop friendships in a small-group setting.

The “Discover James: Faith in Action” series begins Thursday, Oct. 22, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Fairlawn Church. Participation is free.

For additional information or directions, call Ginette at 508-234-4806.

# Blackstone residents to participate in 38th Annual Jimmy Fund Walk for Dana-Farber presented by Hyundai

BLACKSTONE — Nine residents from Blackstone will participate in the 2026 Jimmy Fund Walk for Dana-Farber presented by Hyundai on Sunday, Oct. 4.

Adrienne Myerson-Raymond, Mary Benjamin, and Jeanne Lunny, along with several other Blackstone residents and thousands of other walkers, will participate in the annual event that will unite the community to raise funds to support all forms of adult and pediatric care and research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Last year marked a historic milestone, with the Walk raising more than \$11.2 million for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and setting the stage for an even greater impact in 2026.

“Each year, the Walk brings our community together in a powerful way, with people of all ages supporting Dana-Farber’s groundbreaking research and patient care,” said Jessica Abbott, assistant vice president of the Jimmy Fund. “For more than three decades, this event has been a celebration of hope, where every step helps fuel breakthroughs, support patients, and inspire progress.”

Together Against Cancer

The Jimmy Fund Walk

for Dana-Farber takes place along the famed Boston Marathon® course. Participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options ranging from a 5K to a full marathon. Walkers can also participate virtually at a time and location that works for them.

Whatever route participants choose, they will be supported by hundreds of volunteers and treated to refueling stations with refreshments throughout the course. Walkers will be motivated by posters of Heroes, the Walk’s adult and pediatric patient partners, that appear along the course as inspiration. All routes will conclude at the Jimmy Fund Walk for Dana-Farber Finish Line sponsored by Schneider Electric at Boston Common, by the corner of Charles and Beacon Street. Finish line activities will include a celebration with food, entertainment, and more.

To register for the Walk or to support a walker, visit [JimmyFund.org/Walk](http://JimmyFund.org/Walk) or call 866-531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Walk T-shirt. You can also sign up to volunteer on Walk Day.

## Practical Nursing Open House at BVT Oct. 26

UPTON — The adult education program in Practical Nursing at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) prepares students for personal and professional success as practical nurses. Those 18 and older who are interested in pursuing a career in health care are invited to attend an Open House from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 26.

The evening will provide an opportunity to tour the practical nursing classrooms at 65 Pleasant St. in Upton, speak with faculty, staff and students, observe state-of-the-art

equipment and participate in a question-and-answer session. Attendees will learn more about the part-time, 60-week evening program, including admission requirements, the application process and enrollment.

All interested applicants must take the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS), which is required for admission to the Practical Nursing program. The program administers the TEAS entrance exam to applicants and accepts TEAS results from other testing locations.

“It is a great time to enter the nursing field because there’s such a need for skilled nurses,” said Practical Nursing Coordinator Joann L. Monks, MBA, MSc, RN-BC, RMA.

The affordable program offers small class sizes and accepts in-district, out-of-district and out-of-state applicants. For more information about the program and to register for the Open House, visit [www.valley-tech.k12.ma.us/pnopenhouse](http://www.valley-tech.k12.ma.us/pnopenhouse).

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, technical, and academic skills.



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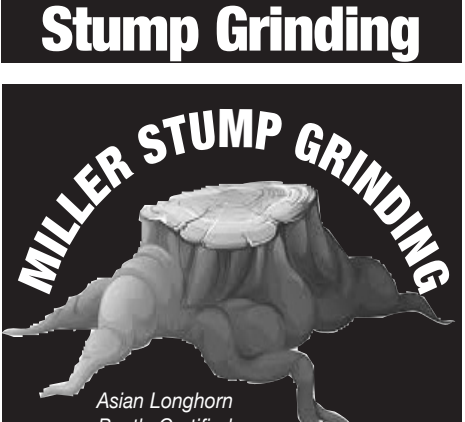
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PROJECT

continued from page A1

Funding needed to build public access  
\$16,000 for easement improvements and a small gravel parking area  
\$5,200 for a professionally designed and installed trailhead kiosk and sign  
The project will open access to the property by creating a 14 foot wide, 451 foot long compacted gravel corridor within the existing easement, starting at a small parking area (24 feet wide by 25 feet deep).  
These improvements will finally allow residents to enjoy this beautiful conservation land and connecting with nature right here in Douglas.  
How residents can help  
If you believe in protecting open space and expanding public access to nature, please consider making a contribution. Even small donations help us close the funding gap and demonstrate strong community support.  
A donation button is available on our page (Open Space Committee) on the town website, and every dollar goes directly toward building access and amenities at the Keewan Conservation Property.  
  
Join us in protecting Douglas’ natural heritage  
Whether you choose to volunteer your time as a committee member or support our work through a donation, you play a vital role in preserving the landscapes, trails, and habitats that make Douglas unique.  
If you are interested in joining the Open Space Committee or would like more information, please contact us at: [openspace@douglas-ma.gov](mailto:openspace@douglas-ma.gov).

AVVIO

continued from page A1

familiar Italian-American traditions and gives them a fresh perspective, with seasonal ingredients, thoughtful cooking, and warm hospitality. We’re looking forward to welcoming the Millbury community and giving guests a place to gather and enjoy all of life’s occasions.”  
Ribbon cutting ceremonies are free and open to the community, and local business owners, community members, Chamber members, and future members are encouraged to attend and help celebrate this exciting new addition to the Blackstone Valley! To learn more, please visit [www.blackstonevalley.org/events](http://www.blackstonevalley.org/events).  
  
The Mission of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce is to preserve and enhance the economic vitality of the Blackstone Valley by addressing the needs and concerns of businesses and providing leadership, support and resources in connection with issues which impact commerce and the quality of life in the Valley.

Webster Five Foundation  
awards nearly \$186,000 to 54 non-profits in first half of 2026

AUBURN — The Webster Five Foundation has awarded 54 grants totaling \$185,917 during the first half of 2026, continuing its long-standing commitment to strengthening the communities it serves. (To view the complete list of grant recipients, visit [web5.com/bank-news](http://web5.com/bank-news).)  
Through its grant program, the Foundation supports nonprofit organizations that expand access to education, arts and culture, social services, community development and other charitable initiatives.  
The Foundation’s largest grants awarded during the first half of 2026 include:  
Open Sky Community Services, Inc. — \$15,000.00 toward the organization’s Aurora Staff-Supported Activities which offers long term rental assistance and supportive services for young adults who need support in accessing behavioral health services, income and employment supports and tenancy stabilization skills.  
CASA Project Worcester County, Inc. — \$10,000.00 to support the CASA Child Court Advocacy Program. As the only agency in Worcester reporting to the courts on the best interest of thousands of at-risk children, the priority of the program is to support abused and neglected children from across the 60 cities and towns that comprise Worcester County.  
YMCA of Central Massachusetts — \$10,000.00 for the Achievers Program towards the organization’s Achievers Program which provides workforce development, leadership skill-building and college and career readiness to 150 teens.  
“Supporting dozens of nonprofit organizations during the first six months of the year speaks to both the depth of need across our region and the incredible work being done to meet it,” said Brian Westerlind, President and CEO of Webster Five. “Each organization has its own mission, but together they’re helping create healthier, more connected and more resilient communities. It’s a privilege for Webster Five to support their work.”  
Since its inception in 1996, the Foundation has awarded \$4,633,321 to 321 organizations.

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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 Kitchens 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](mailto:USABC19@gmail.com).

Blackstone Valley  
Crop Hunger Walk  
set for Oct. 24

DOUGLAS — The Blackstone Valley Crop Hunger Walk will be held on Saturday, Oct. 24. The walk will start at 9 am at the Village Congregational Church in Whitinsville with registration at 8:30 a.m.  
For more information, contact Barbara Fortin at 508-234-2137.

Massasoit Art Guild to hold 23rd  
annual Art Show and Sale

SPENCER — The Massasoit Art Guild will showcase the work of area artists when its 23rd annual Art Show and Sale returns to Spencer Town Hall in October.  
The show will be held Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 10 and 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Spencer Town Hall, 157 Main St. Admission is open to the public.  
In addition to giving visitors an opportunity to view original artwork, the event will feature works available for purchase, including original pieces, fine art prints and cards.  
A public reception and awards ceremony will be held Saturday, Oct. 10, from 1 to 3 p.m. Cash prizes will be presented in each category.  
This year’s special challenge category is “Fantasy,” with organizers specifying that entries in the category must be family friendly.  
Massasoit Art Guild members interested in participating may submit up to three pieces of original artwork. The entry fee is \$8 per piece, and the deadline to submit entries is Sunday, Sept. 27.  
Artwork entered in the show should be dropped off at Spencer Town Hall on Friday, Oct. 9, from 5 to 7 p.m. Following the conclusion of the show, artwork may be picked up Sunday, Oct. 11, from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m.

Holiday  
Market returns  
to Douglas  
Thanksgiving  
weekend

DOUGLAS — Shoppers looking for locally made holiday gifts will have three days to browse a selection of homemade items when the Holiday Market returns to the Olive Branch Lodge over Thanksgiving weekend.  
  
The market will be held Friday, Nov. 27, through Sunday, Nov. 29, at Olive Branch Lodge, 7 Depot St. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.  
Organizers plan to transform the lodge into a country store setting featuring a large selection of homemade items for holiday shoppers. Rather than making separate purchases from individual sellers, shoppers will be able to bring their selections to one central checkout. Most major credit cards will be accepted.  
  
sAdmission to the Holiday Market is free, and complimentary refreshments will be available to shoppers throughout the event.  
The three-day market provides an opportunity for residents to begin or continue their holiday shopping while supporting a local cause. Proceeds from the event will benefit Scout Hall on Church Street in Douglas.  
The Holiday Market will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 27; Saturday, Nov. 28; and Sunday, Nov. 29, at Olive Branch Lodge, 7 Depot St., Douglas. Admission is free.

Boat America - Safe Boating  
Certificate course offered at Bay  
Path in Charlton 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 Massachusetts 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 will begin on Sept. 1, 2026. 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 [www.baypath.augusoft.net](http://www.baypath.augusoft.net) via Personal Enrichment – Sports& Leisure – More recommendations - Class ID 43489 or by calling Sheri Dreitlein (508) 248-5971 email [sdreitlein@baypath.net](mailto:sdreitlein@baypath.net) You can also contact our Flotilla Commander Kyle Cimochofski (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/boat-inged/class\\_finder/index.php](https://www.cgaux.org/boat-inged/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](http://www.cgaux.org)

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**Webster - 106 East Main St (Rte 12)  
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MLS #73512426 **\$ 615,000**

**Webster - 3 Oakwood Dr**



**SORRY, SOLD!**

Presenting a meticulously maintained Colonial! This inviting home, spans 2,042 sf +/-, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths. Offers a refined living experience designed for comfort & convenience. The living room offers a sophisticated ambiance, enhanced by hardwood floors, crown moldings & custom built in shelves. For special occasions enjoy the formal dining rm & a cozy everyday fireplaced family rm w/sliders to a very private deck. Also provides a 2 car att'd garage for secure parking & storage. Discover the exceptional lifestyle afforded by this distinguished residence! **MLS#73523347 \$589,900**

**Featured New Listing!**  
**Webster Lake Waterfront - 86 Bates Point Rd**



This Beautifully Maintained Two-Level Waterfront Panoramic WATER VIEWS from almost every Single Window!! 50 Ft of Sandy Shoreline!! Front-row Northwest-facing Sunsets!! The House Layout is Designed for a Seamless Indoor-Outdoor Lifestyle, Weather-Protected Patio! The Gem of the House is the Living/Dining room Combination!! Offering a sweeping Wall of Windows to enjoy watching Mother Nature at her Finest!! Granite Countertops, Stainless-steel Appliances, White "Soft-close" Cabinets and Solid Wood Flooring!!...This Main Level has an Effortless Layout adding a Roomy Convenient Bedroom & Large Closet, Full bath, 1/2 Bath & Laundry!!...Downstairs, the Walk-out Lower Level Transitions into a phenomenal Guest Retreat with 2 Bedrooms, Living space, and Full Bath!! 2 Car Garage! **MLS#7356983 \$1,050,000.**

**Featured New Listing!**  
**24 Laurelwood Dr  
Webster Lake Waterfront**



**ON DEPOSIT**

On the shores of prestigious Webster Lake! Experience ultra-luxury lakefront living with direct water access. This young modern craftsman lake home is masterfully designed to maximize panoramic Western views through a two-story architectural tower. The home boasts 3,790 +/- square feet of sophisticated, three-story living space, complete with multilevel waterside decks, a radius stone faced patio, and a tiered landscape with its own waterfall. From morning coffee to sunset gatherings, you will enjoy every minute overlooking your waterfront. The 1,735 +/- square feet main level features a spacious open floor plan, welcoming you into a kitchen, dining, and living area tailored for intimate social hosting. The living room flows seamlessly onto an expansive open deck and into an exquisite sun-drenched sitting room. A magnificent primary bedroom suite offers a private full bath, double sink vanity, walk-in closet and dressing room. The purposely designed lower level delivers effortless, large-volume entertainment, featuring a full second kitchen and a sprawling recreation room that opens to a substantial lakeside patio. With 2 additional bedrooms and bath, this level easily serves as a private guest floor. This Lake property is designed to create long-lasting memories! **MLS#73563787 \$1,750,000**

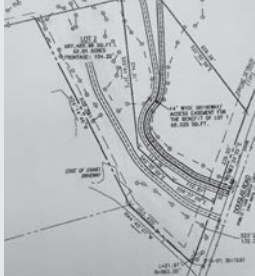
**Webster ~ 33 Slater Street**



**ON DEPOSIT**

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

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



Building Lot, 2.01 +/- acres, 154' road frontage, Surveyed and portioned out of a larger tract of land, Zoned ASFR (Agricultural Single Family Residential) Located near State Land  
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Go To **MLS # 73582966 \$277,500.**

**Webster Lake ~ 0 Wakefield Ave**



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

Sondra Murphy, Director of the Gladys E. Kelly Library in Webster, and Thomas Klebart, Chairman of the Webster Board of Selectmen, present former State Senator Richard T. Moore (D-Uxbridge) with a wall plaque naming a room after him in the library.

# Greater Worcester Community Foundation awards \$1.47 million in new scholarships to area students

WORCESTER — Greater Worcester Community Foundation has awarded \$1.47 million in new scholarships to Worcester County students pursuing post-secondary education.

An additional \$494,000 was distributed through existing renewable scholarships.

This year’s scholarship awards include 247 new scholarships for high school seniors beginning college this fall: 145 one-time awards and 102 renewable awards that will support students throughout their college careers. In addition, the Foundation made renewable scholarship payments to 241 students already enrolled in college.

The Foundation’s scholarship program has grown since its founding in 1978 and now includes 150 scholarship funds, the largest of which include the Sumner B. Tilton Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Mary T. Cocaine Scholarship Fund, and the recently established Becker Scholarship Fund.

Thanks to generous donors who have invested in educational opportunities, the Foundation’s average awards have increased to \$2,000 for one-time scholarships and \$12,000 for renewable scholarships, providing meaningful support as students pursue higher education.

The largest scholarship award in the Foundation’s history was made this year through the Becker Scholarship Fund: \$104,000 for Michael Sobolewski to attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Other Becker Scholarship recipients that chose to attend Assumption University will benefit from the institution’s matching partnership with the Foundation. Assumption will match Aedan Gonzalez’s \$68,000 Becker Scholarship with up to \$5,000 per year, bringing his total award to \$88,000. Vanessa Biddy received a \$32,550 Grace S. Hampel Becker Scholarship, designated for a Hoosac Valley High School student attending college in Worcester County. Through the same partnership, her total award will increase to \$52,550.

“These scholarships represent the hopes and aspirations of generations of donors who believe deeply in the potential of local students,” says Pete Dunn, President & CEO of Greater Worcester Community Foundation.

As the cost of higher education continues to rise, scholarship support can make the difference between a student pursuing their goals with confidence or facing significant financial barriers. We are proud to help connect donor generosity with students whose talent, determination, and leadership will shape the future of our communities.

- Pete Dunn, President & CEO of Greater Worcester Community Foundation

Another of Greater Worcester Community Foundation’s largest scholarship funds, the Harold R. Jensen Memorial Scholarship, supported more than a dozen students this year, including Nathan Lopez of Worcester. Inspired by his younger sister’s experience with a heart condition and multiple surgeries, Nathan plans to study biology at Boston University and pursue a career in cardiology, with the goal of providing other families with the care and support his family received.

“This money has allowed me to fully commit to chasing the dreams I have obsessed over for years. This scholarship has allowed me to proudly remark that I am the first in my immediate family to attend university,” said Lopez.

New scholarship awards were distributed to students from 66 cities and towns in Worcester County and beyond. More than two-thirds of incoming college students will attend school in Massachusetts, includ-

ing 44 who will enroll at institutions in Worcester County. Popular destinations include UMass Amherst, Worcester State University, UMass Lowell, Assumption University and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Earlier this year, Greater Worcester Community Foundation announced the creation of a Scholarship Emergency Fund for scholarship recipients. Even with scholarships in place, unexpected financial challenges can disrupt a student’s education. The fund will help recipients address those barriers and stay on track toward their degree. The Foundation is partnering with Scholarship America to administer the program and expects the fund to become available by the end of the year.

Complete details about scholarship opportunities are available at <https://greaterworcester.org/for-students/scholarships-overview>. The 2026 Scholarship Yearbook, featuring all 488 recipients, is now available for download.

# October programs at Blackstone River Greenway Visitor Center

WORCESTER — The Blackstone River Greenway Visitor Center at Worcester will offer a series of free interpretive programs throughout October, giving visitors opportunities to explore the region’s industrial history, wildlife, waterways and environmental recovery.

Programs are free and open to the public, and registration is not required. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Every Saturday, the Visitor Center will offer an Exhibit Tour from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Participants will explore the Heritage Center’s exhibit hall and learn how the Blackstone Canal helped transform Worcester from a county seat into a major industrial center and destination for immigrants.

The tour examines the canal’s role in Worcester’s growth and the innovation that accompanied the region’s industrial development. The program is recommended for ages 6 and older.

The natural environment takes center stage during Woodlands and Waterways, scheduled for Saturdays, Oct. 10 and 31, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Participants will walk along the banks of the Blackstone River while looking for signs of wildlife and learning about the plants and animals supported by the river and its surrounding habitat. The program will also examine ways residents can help protect the watershed and keep local waterways clean.

The approximately one-mile walk will take place over a paved surface with slight inclines. Participants should meet at 205 North Main St. in Millbury rather than the Worcester Visitor Center. Bathrooms and drinking water are not available at the site. The program is recommended for ages 12 and older.

Those who prefer exploring on two wheels can participate in Bike the Blackstone on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 2 to 3 p.m.

The approximately six-mile ride will follow the Blackstone River Greenway, combining recreation with opportunities to observe wildlife and scenery along the river. The route is paved and includes slight inclines and declines.

The ride will also begin at 205 North Main St. in Millbury. Riders younger than 16 are required to wear helmets. Bathrooms and drinking water will be available at the midpoint of the trip. The program is recommended for ages 12 and older.

The month’s programs will also examine how a former industrial property has been reclaimed for a new generation.

Mill to Meadow will be held Saturday, Oct. 24, from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Worcester Visitor Center. The land surrounding the center was once home to the largest factory complex in Worcester, although none of its buildings remain today.

During a short walk, visitors will learn about the site’s transformation through brownfield reclamation and how the project fits into the broader environmental recovery of the Blackstone Valley. The approximately quarter-mile walk will take place over paved surfaces and is recommended for ages 12 and older.

Unless otherwise noted, programs begin at the Blackstone River Greenway Visitor Center at Worcester, 3 Paul Clancy Way. Participants should dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear.

Programs are subject to change or cancellation. For updated information, call 508-373-7056. Reasonable accommodations are available with advance notice. Accommodation requests may be made by contacting Moneesha Dasgupta at 617-645-0358 or [moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov](mailto:moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov).



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