

Free by request to residents of Webster, Dudley and the Oxfords

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©2025, Issue #48

Friday, November 28, 2025



Courtesy

Gabriel Rudnicki of Webster, a 15-year-old aspiring boxer who trains at Worcester's Camp Get Right Box Gym, earned a USA Boxing New England Silver Gloves Championship title on Nov. 15, and will be representing New England in the regional championship in New York on Jan. 10, 2026. Rudnicki is a freshman at Marianapolis Preparatory School.

DCLT launches GoFundMe page to raise funds for land acquisition and preservation projects

Conservation Land Trust (DCLT) is seeking to raise \$100,000 towards land acquisition and preservation projects. A GoFundMe page has been set up to raise funds which will allow DCLT to preserve and protect land and open space in Dudley, Oxford and Charlton. DCLT is an all-volunteer 501(c)3 land trust responsible for stewarding more than 400 acres of conservation land in Dudley and Oxford. DCLT is actively working to protect and preserve open space and land for our enjoyment today and for future generations

DCLT recently purchased the Antos Farm on Marsh Road. Through this purchase they were able to preserve and protect this pristine land from development and its protection continues to preserve the rural character of our town. DCLT is currently working to raise funds to purchase Tierney land, which is also located along Marsh Road. The Massachusetts Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs recently awarded DCLT \$271,500 towards purchasing the rural and scenic Tierney land. This property, a critical component of Dudley's northeast wildlife corridor. The property

includes an old farm field and a tri-town marker at the northern end of a 1.5-milelong farm landscape that lies within BioMap Critical Natural Landscape and abuts National Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) designated Forest Core. To complete this land purchase, DCLT will continue to pursue other grant opportunities and seek community support through fundraising activities such as our GoFundMe page.

Dec. 2 is Giving Tuesday; it has become a yearly tradition that has inspired millions of people around the world to do an act of good and celebrate generosity on this one day. In this season of giving, please consider a tax-deductible donation to DCLT's GoFundMe to help us accomplish our mission to preserve and protect land and open spaces for education, passive recreation, wildlife habitat and to preserve the rural natural and scenic character of Dudley for current and future generations. To donate, go to GoFundMe. com and in the search field add, Dudley Conservation Land Trust. Tax-deductible donations may also be made by check payable to "Dudley Conservation Land Trust" and mailed to DCLT, PO Box 14, Dudley, MA 01571.

Celebrate the spirit of the season at Oxford's Holiday Lights Parade and Tree Lighting

OXFORD — Join us to witness Oxford come alive with holiday spirit! The Oxford Fire Department and Community Center are excited to announce the 2025 Holiday Lights Parade and Bandstand Tree Lighting will be held Saturday, Dec. 6.

The Parade kicks off at 5 p.m. from Oxford's North Fire Station, 656 Main St., North Oxford, and travels to the Town Common Bandstand at Joslin Park, 352 Main St. If you'd like to watch the parade along the route, parking will be available at Oxford Middle School, R&M leasing, and DPW offices at 450 Main St. If you'd like the opportunity to take a picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus join us on the Common and enjoy music, Jess' Sweets & Treats

Turn To OXFORD page A10

Dudley church offers guided tours of Tiffany windows during Christmas Fair

DUDLEY — Step into history and beauty at the First Congregational Church - United Church of Christ (135 Center Rd.) during the Annual Christmas Craft Fair (Dec. 6)! Join us for exclusive guided tours of the stunning Tiffany windows.

The tours will be led by educator and church member Tom Boyd, Church Historian, and his team of specially trained docents, these 20-minute tours will reveal the fascinating story behind the windows' creation

and the remarkable connection between famed inventor
 Hezekiah Conant and the legendary Louis Comfort Tiffany

Come celebrate the rich history of Dudley, be inspired by the breathtaking stained-glass windows, and join a meaningful effort to preserve these irreplaceable treasures as we look ahead to the Church's 300th anniversary in 2032!

During the Christmas Fair (10 a.m.–2 p.m.), enjoy delicious food such as clam chowder, chili, pulled chicken sand-

wiches, and hot dogs. Take in the festive entertainment, visit the famous Cookie Corner, try your luck at the basket and quilt raffles, and browse the work of talented local crafters.

Be sure to stop by the Tiffany 300 Gift Table, where Scott Donovan's stunning handcrafted jewelry captures the beauty of the windows—offering a one-of-a-kind holiday gift that lets you take a piece of this cherished heritage home (see photos below).

The day concludes with a live auction at 1:30 p.m.—a

fun and exciting way to wrap up the celebration!

Tours begin at 10 a.m., and depart every half hour until noon. No reservations needed — just bring your curiosity and sense of wonder!

Don't miss this rare opportunity to see, learn, and fall in love with a piece of living history!

And don't forget to stop at the gift shop.

Master Masons receive recognition

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE MASONIC LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Monday, Nov. 17, the Major General Salem Towne Masonic Lodge (MGST) of Southbridge held its monthly meeting. This meeting was also a Fraternal visit from the 24th District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) Brother Gordon Forsberg.

This evening, the lodge

was packed to witness two local men receive their recognition. DDGM Brother Gorden Forsberg presented to Brother Paul Davidson of East Brookfield a Letter of Commendation from the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts of Boston, Brother George Forest Hamilton. This commendation was for faithfully serving as Master of Webster Lodge for two consecutive years. Brother Damian Tavernier of Webster received his Masonic Diploma from the Grand Lodge of

Masons of Massachusetts, located in Boston, after being raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on June 28. This diploma signified his journey was worth the wait to be a fellow Master Mason who values honor and integrity.

Major General Salem Towne Masonic Lodge (MGST) was chartered on Sept. 6, 1859. What we do know is that this Masonic Lodge has been going strong for 166 years and we continue to make good men even better. If you would like more information about Freemasonry and to find a lodge nearest you, visit our Web site at www.massfreemasonry.org.

Courtesy

Left to right: Brother Paul Davidson smiles holding his Letter of Commendation and Brother Damian Tavernier very happy to receive his Diploma, from the Grand lodge of Masons in Massachusetts of Boston.



Dudley Middle School announces honor roll

High Honors: Jayden Agosto,

DUDLEY - Dudley Middle School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

Grade 5

19

53

CLUES ACROSS

Coarsely ground corn

9. There's one for the "world"

16. An informal debt instrument

17. Cannot be repaired surgically

21. Related on the mother's side

__ Sagan, astronomer

26. A disappointing effort

CLUES DOWN

2. Act of awakening

5. Chapter of the Koran

9. One who earns by disreputable

10. Monetary unit of Samoa

11. Long, mournful lamentation

20. Worn by exposure to the weather

6. Dismounted

dealings

12. Weight unit

14. Alone, single

18. Indicates beside

24. A body of traditions

15. Decreases

7. Small vehicle

3. Jest at 4. Sandwich store

8. Irked

31. Hair salon service

27. Steal goods during a riot

19. A device attached to a workbench

1. Difficult

11. Loved Romeo

15. Pelvic areas

22. Sound unit

25. Utah city

29. Wakes up

13. Sticky situation

High Honors: Xzavier Agosto, Gunnar Anderson, Adelynn Ashford, Madeline Avakian, Reid Bachand, Calleigh Barney, Jacob Belanger, Emily Bell, Emma Bennett, Estelle Brackett, Brendan Clark, Layla D'Andrea, Benjamin Drewry, Isabelle England, Jonathan Fawzy, Ashlyn Goetz, Maurice Hammiel, Makenna Karle, Mason Karle, Logan Keefe, Abigail Lamusta, Phoenix LeBlanc, Hunter Leverone, Roaslie Lundy, Nathan MacCormack, Ivan Mayombew, Alexandra McAvery, Christopher Mello, Bella Menzone, Penny Myler, Gregory Panu, Anderson Paradise, Gabriella Powaza, Logan Rim, Avery Ruderman, Ethan Rusack, Norah Scott, Mackenzie Smart, Hazel St. Laurent, Gregory Standring,

Serving Worcester County for

almost 60 years!

Kaiden Swift, Cedric Synal, Jovahnni Vallejo, Emma Wierbik

Honors: Joicey Agin, Elaira Ayad, Jadiel Berrios, Aleah Blackburn, Mitchell Blodgett, Connor Campbell, John Campbell, Noah Chestna, Aidyn Choummanivong, Maliyah Cooley, Levon Coutu, Landen Cruz, Anthony Cunkovski, Dean Curtis, Emmeline Dirodi, Charlie Durgin, Lois Dzanka, Nevaeh Fraticelli, Stella Fuentes, Adelynne Greamo, Reagen Hansen, Audrina Harrington, Averi Hortance, Dylan Jalbert, Maaray Kostandy, Savannah Lepage, Jensen Linares Calderon, Aayden Maina, Mackenzie Mettel, Mina Morgan, Eva Padgett, Gavin Page, Lillian Paradis, Bayleigh Podles, Ann-Heavenly Pommier, Rafael Rabski, Quinn Remillard, Gabriella Santos, Oriah Sherburne, Nicholas Spahl, Alice St. George, Ayla Thurber, Alexis White, Cameron Wilson

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most major

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Grade 6

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33. Serenaded

34. Looked intensely

41. Where golfers begin

38. A type of cast 39. One's duty

43. Make a mistake

44. Semitic sun god

52. A place to stay

54. Most unnatural

58. Students' exam

59. Leaked blood

28. Amino acid

30. Nasal mucus

38. Put in advance

34. Swinish

40. Satisfy

balls

45. Witnesses

51. Cheerless

47. Picnic invaders

42. Felt

32. US government entity

37. Grant an exemption to

35. Legislative body in Russia

43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in

49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two

50. Ancient person of Scotland

56. Dennis is a notable one

26. College students' ultimate goal

53. Unwise

57. Ointments

46. Ancient Greek City

48. Having had the head cut off

36. U.S. Air Force expert Robert F.

Natalia Androlewicz, Charlie Audet, Colin Barnes, Riley Bell, Nina Browning, Gabriela Cabrera, Mary Carmignani, Maya Caron, Nestor Castaneda Garland, Austin Cazeault, Abigail Craver, Seth Cregg, Luca DiDonato, Amelia Gago, Connor Hains, Lucas Henderson Mendoza, Elianna Ibrahim, Carter Lebeau, Bryce MacCormack, Riley Mackowiak, Samuel Majka, Zachary Marrier, Liam Mason, Maxwell Mathews, Amora Mello, Jameson Metzler, Maddox Millette, Zachary Moisan, Iyla Navin, Irvin Nyatuka, Taylor Pace, Alexa Racine, Kalisia Roldan, Alayah Ruskin, Xander Sanchez, Hailey Shaw, Aniela Slanda, Camellia Sobinska-Colon, Hannah Strauk, Bentley Toto, Alexander Vivienzio, Theodore Weimbs-Tsvid, Charlotte Young Honors: Julianna Androlewicz,

Meadow Arena, Noah Aubin, Hunter Baldwin, Nicholas Bandelean, Audrey Barcelo, Raegan Barrile, Biman Basalious, Kaelianys Boulos, Abigail Brangiforte, Mason Cahill, Juliet Carter, Sadie Cerand, Anthony Coccia, Kaiden Coulson, Rebecca Czernicki Ramsey, Eleanor Daniel, Eva Diaz, Rocco DiDonato, Robin Donais, Audrey Dos Santos, Rowan Doyle, Tristan Ducharme, Mia Fifield, Madison Fortin, Geomara Gonzalez, Keilani Gonzalez, Autumn Griffin, Maddox Harden, Julianne Hartland, London Hogan, Aislyn Knorr, Owen Laro, Sid Lindsay, Alexus McGinty, Cody Mitchell, Liam Nelson, Leo Piotti, Gabriela Prusinski, Ivy Rodrigues, Bryce Rousseau, Grace-Ann Smith, Andrew Szpakowski, Hunter Tomlinson, Geovanny Vazquez, Leah Walski, Carter White, Rachel Zawalich

Grade 7

High Honors: Ivory Agin, Miah Amorelli, Addelin Anderson, Jasmine Arboleda, Grayson Belley, Rihnaya Bembridge, Caleb Coddington, Logan Connor, Lana Denson, Kylie Ebbeling, Nadia Gawrych, Penelope Habib, Elliott Harnois, Ava Hortance, Michael Kaloyanides, Whitney Kungu, Charlotte Langlois, Anthony LeBlanc, Alexandria Lundy, Olivia Macek, Giada Manzi, Marcus

Reid, Skylie Rivera, Amarie Rosario, Jenna Rousseau, Isabella Soto, Zachary Standring, Claire Synal, Braden Traverso

Honors: Connor Ares, Avery Battista, Ava Baxter, Lily Blessington, Jason Broadmeadow, Brynlee Chickering, Abigail Chojnacki, Silas Ciuchta, Daxton Colella, Ronan Coulson, Liv Cushing, James D'Andrea, McKenna Devine, Arianna Dos Santos, Logan Dunn, Dario Falcone, Arianna Fitzherbert, Avla Flores, Caleb Gaumond, Kailev Gendron-Montville, Afram Geres, Julia Gorski, Keo Guardiani, Henri Hokanson, Jordan Keophaymany, Cynthia Kerry, Lukasz Krawczyk, Abigail Larrabee, Angelina LeBlanc, Makayla Madee, Isabella Mathieu, Sebastian Milewski, Rhys Myler, Andreas Niforos-Ortiz, Evangelina Ouellette, Ella Padgett, Adriana Panu, Gavin Patenaude, Aralynn Patraw, Peter Penesis, Sara Rabski, Logan Rodrigues, Ava Rosario, Maya Rousey, Sabella Rust, William Shorten, Santic, Colin Jackson Smith, Ivy St. Laurent, Natalie Stinehart, Charlotte Tipple, Liam Torres, Lorenzo Trifone, Hunter Trybulski, Aiden Walker, Jacob Wilson, Ishak

Youssef

High Honors: Abigail run. Barcelo, Oltina Bektashi, Gwyneth Richard Tiffany DePaula, Olivia cheer. Greene, Jasmine Hansen, sparkle and shine, Eliora Ibrahim, Camden Street's line. Karle, David Kruzewski, Sunday, Nov. 30 Laskowski, Calista Lawless, holiday light, Alexander Lewandowski, At their Christmas Craft Market, 10 to 2, a Maria Mankarios, William delight. Arianna Norton, Carter wrapped in a bow-Valentina Sedyhk-Gil, Maddex Anastasia Towadros, Lucas at nine, White

Jordan Ashton, Alexandria Brooks, Sofia Cabrera, Kellen Caines, Kolby Campbell, Paul Chabot, Celeina Collins, Isabella Congdon, Josephine Conrad, Matilda Cronauer, Evan D'Ambra, Olivia DeLisle, Jason Donais, Dylan Dufresne, Benjamin Durgin, Addison Duval, Chase Dzivasen, Kamden Frates, Milani Hammiel, Shawn Hastings, Karolina Janusz, Cooper LeVierge-Mallet, Macy MacDonald, Chidimma Madu, Julia Mahadeo, Josiah Mangual, Eleanor McCool, Camden Melendez, Michael Menard, Jolene Ndegwa, Natalia Osowska, Autumn Palmer, Mia Piotti, Alayna Pontbriand, Jolena Renaud, Arian Rodriguez, Damien Rodrigeuz, Nathan Shay, Gabriella Smith, Evan Steriti, Jacob Strafer, Aiden Sulsona, Malik Thomas, Ayla Tombeno, Ryder Trajanowski, Avianna Vega, Devante Whitcomb, John Whiteraft

COMMUNITY CALENDAR November 28 to **December 5**

Friday, Nov. 28

Leftovers reheated, the long weekend begun, Head to Webster Town Beach for a late-fall

Avakian, Griffin Bachand, No formal event—just neighbors who say, Yosneiry Baez Pena, Sohie A brisk holiday stroll is the best kind of day. Saturday, Nov. 29

Jackson Bell, Jason Bianchi, At Gladys E. Kelly Library, the morning's Boudreau, bright and clear,

Carmignani, "Stories for Littles" at 10, bringing giggles and Dubreuil, Jaxon Flagg, Taya Then pop to downtown Webster, where shops

Phoebe Houatchanthara, With small-business specials along Main

Olivia Laskowski, Taylor The St. Louis Church Hall fills with warm

Martel, Victor Menash, Homemade goods, knitted caps, cookies

Paquin, Alondra Ramriez, A cozy place to wander as the cold winds blow.

Monday, Dec. 1 St. George, In Oxford, the **Senior Center** hosts chair yoga

A calm start to Monday—slow breathing, steady

Then at **5:30**, the library calls, With "Creators Club" fun in the children's halls.

Tuesday, Dec. 2 Toddler Playtime in Dudley at 10-Soft mats, small laughs, and slides again. Later at Webster Library, 6 p.m. sharp, It's Mini Block Party—build towers, show

heart. Wednesday, Dec. 3

Across our three towns, midweek stays sweet With the **Kelly Library's** yoga nidra retreat. At 8:15 a.m., unwind and renew— A peaceful reset for the week you're walking

Thursday, Dec. 4

Dudley's Board of Selectmen meets

at 6:30 tonight. At Town Hall, where budgets and updates take

flight.

Civic notes and planning as winter draws near-

Local decisions shaped by those who appear. Friday, Dec. 5

Oxford's Holiday Tree Lighting at 6 on the

Carols rising gently as the festive glow comes

Cookies, warm cocoa, and neighbors all around-

A December tradition where our towns gather

sound.

ALMANAC

OPEN TO CLOSE

DUDLEY

DUDLEY TOWN HALL (508) 949-8000 Monday: 8:00 AM-6:30 PM (second floor offices), Tuesday-Thursday: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, Friday: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM.

DUDLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-4411) Staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week DUDLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-8040)

Monday-Sunday6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

OXFORD

OXFORD TOWN HALL (508) 987-6027 Board of Selectmen and Town Clerk Hours{

Monday, Tues., Thurs9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

> OXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT (987-0156) For emergencies, call 911 OXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT (987-6012)

Monday-Friday8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

WEBSTER

Webster Town Hall (508) 949-3850

Office Hours: Monday8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday.....8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

> WEBSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-1212) For emergencies, call 911 WEBSTER FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-3875)

Monday-Friday8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday.....8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Meschke, Lauren Mitchell, Benjamin Moisan, Delaney O'Grady, D'Andre Parra-Olivera, Layla Perez, Hunter Honors: Erik Anderson, spine. **FCC Oxford** hosting Christmas

Tea Dec. 6 OXFORD — The First Congregational Church of Oxford invites the community to its annual Christmas Tea Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9:30 a.m.-2

The luncheon begins at 10:30 a.m., featuring a menu that includes cream of broccoli soup, Autumn bisque, baked apple French toast with syrup (lactose free), French meat pie with gravy, chicken salad sandwiches with chips and pickles, and roasted vegetable Quinoa with feta cheese (gluten free), along with assorted teas and desserts served all day.

The church is located at 355 Main St., Oxford.

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A M E N A SOLUTION N I N E DECAPITED S A M A S ООВ S N N O я о а P E E B E D S Y A a T O O A R I S E O B E M R A D a n a S E E N A T 3 I T A A B B G N I b E B I N E ΕМ 1 8 0 8 4 1 N L I S 3 I H B S 4 M S Q A A

Sheriff's Office receives national award for reentry efforts in Worcester County



Courtesy

Sheriff Evangelidis, the WCSO RRC team, and Worcester City Officials pose for a photo with the NOHS award, a Proclamation from the city, and a citation from the Massachusetts State Senate.

WORCESTER — The Worcester County Sheriff's Office Regional Reentry Center received Community Activism Award from the National Organization for Human Services at the organization's national conference on Nov. 8. The Regional Reentry Center was recognized for its holistic, person-centered approach to supporting successful reentry and long-term stability for individuals involved in the criminal justice system and returning to Worcester County communities.

Worcester Mayor Joseph Petty and the Worcester City Council formally recognized

the Worcester County Sheriff's Office Regional Reentry Center (RRC) during the Worcester City Council meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 18, at Worcester City Hall. The ceremony highlighted the Center's selection as the recipient of the Community Activism Award from the National Organization for Human Services (NOHS), a national nonprofit dedicated to enhancing human services, supporting professionals, and promoting excellence through advocacy, professional development, and collaboration.

The NOHS Community Activism Award honors individuals, groups, and organizations that demonstrate exceptional commitment to the communities they serve, equitable access to services, and community transformation. In its notification, NOHS highlighted the Reentry Center's leadership, collaboration, and model of systemic advocacy, noting the program's lasting impact on individuals and families throughout Central Massachusetts.

Sheriff Lew Evangelidis expressed deep gratitude for the recognition, noting that it reflected the dedication of the Regional Reentry Center team and the broader mission of the Worcester County Sheriff's

"This award is particularly gratifying because the concept of a reentry center originated with one employee through a grant and donated space,'

explained Evangelidis. "Over the past 15 years, the reentry center has evolved into an extraordinary service organization that serves as a national model. It was incredibly humbling for our Regional Reentry Center to receive this national award, especially among so many outstanding initiatives and dedicated professionals across the country."

The Regional Reentry

Center, located at 365 Main St., Worcester, provides a comprehensive continuum of services to those involved in the criminal justice system, including:

Transitional and permanent housing assistance

Mental health and substance use treatment

Workforce development and employment opportunities Peer recovery coaching

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These programs help individuals rebuild their lives, reduce recidivism, and strengthen the Worcester County community. To learn more about the center, visit the main street location, or call 508-752-1212.

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LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family
Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)831-2200

Docket No. WO25C0496CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME

In the matter of: Katy Bryan Sanosi

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by

Katy Bryan Sanosi of Douglas MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Katy Lee Bryan
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10 a.m. on the return day of 12/16/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding. WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First

Justice of this Court.
Date: November 12, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 28, 2025

SEAL

COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND
COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
COURT
Docket No. 25 SM 003488
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: Linda J. Leo

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (*et seq*): **PHH Mortgage Corporation**

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Webster, numbered 17 Community Road, given by Emanuel J. Leo and Linda J. Leo to Bank of America, N.A., dated April 22, 2009, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 44149, Page 233, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the <u>active</u> military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property <u>on that basis</u>, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 12/29/2025

or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of

noncompliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on . Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson Recorder November 28, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court

Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P3936EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:

Beverly A. Marmorstein
Date of Death:08/27/2025

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of
Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed

by Kenneth J. Yerike of Las Vegas NV requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

Kenneth J. Yerike of Las Vegas NVbe appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/16/2025.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS

UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 14, 2025

Date: November 14, Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate November 28, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P3874EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Eva May Mowry

Date of Death:09/11/2025
To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Sara Spooner of Auburn MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

Sara Spooner of Auburn MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/09/2025.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 06, 2025 Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate November 28, 2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jeffrey A. Patterson, Melissa A. Patterson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for First Horizon Home Loans, a division of First Tennessee Bank, N.A., dated November 12, 2007 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 42107, Page 356, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for First Horizon Home Loans, a division of First Tennessee Bank N.A., its successors and assigns to Nationstar Mortgage LLC, recorded on February 24, 2023, in Book No. 68857, at Page 395

Nationstar Mortgage LLC to US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST, recorded on December 18, 2024, in Book No. 71432, at Page 39

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of fore-closing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 3:00 PM on December 26, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 8 1/2 Sutton Avenue a/k/a 8.5 Sutton Avenue, Oxford, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:
JEFFREY A. PATTERSON AND
MELISSA A. PATTERSON, HUSBAND
AND WIFE, AS TENANTS BY THE
ENTIRETY

A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND WITH THE BUILDINGS SITUATED THEREON OFF THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SUTTON AVE., OXFORD, WORCESTER COUNTY, BEING SHOWN ON PLAT OF LAND OXFORD PREPARED FOR STANFORD SEED COMPANY, DATED JANUARY 30, 1991 AND RECORDED N PLAN BOOK 647, PLAN 121 BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT A POINT ALONG THE DIRT DRIVE AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAN, WHICH POINT IS THE NORTHEASTERLY CORNER OF THE 15,183 SQUARE FOOT PARCEL OF LAND SHOWN ON SAID PLAN;

THENCE N. 83 DEGREES 27
MINUTES 41 SECONDS W. 71.35
FEET BY SAID PARCEL OF LAND
IDENTIFIED ON SAID PLAN
CONTAINING 15,183 SQUARE FEET;
THENCE N. 6 DEGREES 10 MINUTES
05 SECONDS E. 62.30 FEET BY
LAND OF PROVIDENCE AND
WORCESTER RAILROAD TO THE
MOST NORTHWESTERLY CORNER;
THENCE S. 82 DEGREES 59
MINUTES 56 SECONDS E. 131.34
FEET BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY
OWNED BY BARRE;

THENCE S. 8 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 00 SECONDS W. 139.26 FEET BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OWNED BY MILLER;

THENCE N. 82 DEGREES 59 MINUTES 56 SECONDS W. 57.75 FEET BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OWNED BY C. PARISEAU AND SAID DIRT DRIVE;

THENCE N. 8 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 00 SECONDS E. 77.52 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

SAID PARCEL CONTAINING 12,533 SQUARE FEET, MORE OR LESS.

BEING THE SAME PREMISES CONVEYED TO THE GRANTORS BY DEED OF HERITAGE EQUITY RESOURCES, INC. DATED APRIL 7, 1993 AND RECORDED WITH THE WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS BOOK 15077, PAGE 389. SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS, RESERVATIONS, EASEMENTS, COVENANTS, OIL, GAS OR MINERAL RIGHTS OF RECORD, IF ANY. MAP: 34C; LOT: E28

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 19484, Page 253.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. TERMS OF SALE:

Adeposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST

Present holder of said mortgage By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 23228

November 28, 2025 December 5, 2025 December 12, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family

Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)831-2200
Docket No. WO25C0559CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME

In the matter of:

Ingsel Ghyume Lama
A Petition to Change Name of Minor
has been filed by

Ingsel Ghyume Lama of Webster MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Pasang Choeki Lama

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10 a.m. on the return day of 12/09/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding. WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First

Justice of this Court.
Date: November 06, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate November 28, 2025

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Cornerstone Bank named one of nation's Best Banks to Work For

been recognized as one of the 2025 Best Banks to Work For, ranking #15 nationwide on the annual listpublished by American Banker. It's the second year in a row Cornerstone has earned this honor celebrating banks that excel at creating supportive, engaging workplaces where employees feel valued and empowered to suc-

The Best Banks to Work For program, now in its 12th year, is conducted by American Banker in partnership with Best Companies Group. This year, 90 banks across the country earned a place on the list following an in-depth evaluation of workplace policies and anonymous employee surveys assessing engagement and satisfaction.

"We're incredibly proud to be recognized among the best banks to work for in the nation," said President and CEO Todd Tallman. "Our employees are the heart of Cornerstone Bank, and this recognition reflects their dedication, teamwork and commitment to our customers and communities."

According to American Banker Editor-in-Chief Chana Schoenberger, "The banks recognized as Best Banks to Work For are institutions employees want to join and stay. They understand how to give workers reasons to find purpose in their jobs."

To determine the rankings, each participating bank was evaluated through a two-part process: a review of workplace practices, policies and benefits (25 percent of the total score) and an anonymous employee survey (75 percent). The combined results determined the final ranking.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone, which is a subsidiary of PeoplesBankCorp, MHC, operating independently under its own name and brand, provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities through a broad range of deposit and loan products and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank. com or call 800-939-9103.

About American Banker American Banker empowers banking professionals with insight into the ideas transforming their industry. Through journalism, events, and research, it connects more than 850,000 industry leaders online, in person, and in print every day.

About Best Companies Since 2004, Best Companies Group has identified and recognized great employers through independent research and employee surveys designed to measure workplace satisfaction and culture.

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Bartlett High School announces Quarter 1 Honor Roll

WEBSTER — Congratulations to the following students who made the honor roll for quarter 1 at Bartlett High School.

Grade 12

High Honors - Chloe Drisco, Annalissa Krasnecky, Travis Russell

Honors - Izaiah Barjolo, Jayden Blaisdell, Nathan Cole, Marievelise Collazo, Niel Duszlak, Ethan Gomes, Georgia LaPierre, Josephine Medina, Eryk Piwowarczyk, Aubrie Regan Rosado, Lawrence Smith, Luis Villa Jeres, Luigi Villegas, Lilliana Wirf

High Honors - Oluwatose Edebiri, Michael Stawiecki

Honors - Caden Case, Nathan Casper, MaKayla Chauvin, Daysha Collins, Cameren Forsythe, Brayden Greene, Omar Medina Perez, Megan Milligan, Morgan Minor, Teagan Napolitano, Kathryn Nascimento, Dhyey Patel, Irelyn Pottle, Gabriela Ramos Rivera, Tyler Whiting

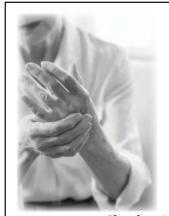
Grade 10 High Honors Alexander Baker, Natalia DosSantos, Jordan Miller, Angela Sarfo

Honors - Matthew Czernicki, Allan De Belli, Willow Dennis, Calee Gardner, Gioana Louis Jean, Elijah Mckenna, Kaylee Podles, Joey Ramirez, Ramsey, Lindsey Kristie Remillard, Don Ta, Julia Urato

Grade 9

High Honors Emma Ferrar, Yaran Gonon, Mason Grzyb, Jordyn Marin Caceres, Makayla Place, Liana Porto De Luca, Amira Seddiki

Honors Erica Amakpa, Tyler Riley Brunnet. Chambers, Raiza Ramirez, Colon Joshua Drew, Norma Elmaola, Lamar Kaifa, Aydin Lassiter, Mya Leatham, Weston Mulready, Patricia Paglalunan, Jazhel Jaireh Portante, Aoife Pyke, Joran Reeves, Rose, Adreanna Anthony Thomas, Devontay Vega



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- Roll the account over to an individual retirement account (IRA). • Cash it out, which is subject to potential tax consequences.
- We can talk through your financial goals and find the option that works best for you.



Dennis Antonopoulos Financial Advisor

5 Albert St Auburn, MA 01501 508-832-5385

IRT-1948M-A AECSPAD 2698892



PAW of the WEEK

AVAILABLE FOSTER2ADOPT

9 mos/45 lb/Male/Lab/Hound/Terrier Mix Meet Tuffy! He's a 9 month old, 45 lb.,

Male, Lab/Hound/Terrier mix. This sweet boy takes a while to warm up to people, but he does great in the companionship of other dogs. We think Tuffy will do best in a calm household, as he will need time to build-up his confidence and trust. Tuffy is available foster2adopt to ensure he's given the time and patience he needs to find his happy forever! Could Tuffy be a Pawfect match for you?

*This dog is currently in foster care. If you're interested in meeting Tuffy, please email info.pawfectlife@gmail.com **



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

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI

BRENDAN BERUBE EDITOR

EDITORIAL

A holiday made strong by the hands that hold it together

Thanksgiving arrives each year with the familiar comfort of tradition—recipes long memorized, routes to relatives' homes well worn, and the easy rhythm of people gathering because they always have. Yet for many across Webster, Dudley, and Oxford, this autumn feels a little heavier. It has been a demanding year in ways large and small: families navigating rising household costs, volunteers stretched thinner than they would ever admit, and local organizations working tirelessly to meet growing needs.

And still, the tables across our towns will be set once more

What makes Thanksgiving endure is not the meal but the human effort that brings it into being. While the holiday is rooted in gratitude, it is also built through the steady, everyday work of neighbors who make a community stronger long before the turkey is carved.

You see it in the food pantry volunteers who sort donations late into the evening. You see it in first responders who trade a holiday at home for a shift that keeps others safe. You see it in teachers, bus drivers, and school staff who send students into the break with a smile and a sense of belonging. You see it in churches preparing free meals for those who need them, and in the countless quiet kindnesses exchanged in checkout lines, classrooms, and apartment hallways.

In a year that has asked a great deal from people, it is these small acts that have carried our communities forward.

Thanksgiving is a reminder that gathering after such a year is not a luxury—it is a moment of repair. When families and friends sit down together, when neighbors check in on one another, when someone extends an invitation to someone who might otherwise spend the afternoon alone, we practice the very things that sustain local life: generosity, patience, and connection.

This season, let us pause not only to appreciate what we have, but to recognize the people who keep our towns moving. The ones who shovel out the fire hydrants after the first snow, who coach youth sports even when the schedule is chaotic, who show up to town meetings, who staff community meals, who put care into their corner of the world. Their efforts, visible or not, are what allow others to gather in warmth.

May this Thanksgiving be one of gratitude, yes—but also one of belonging. May it remind us that even in complicated years, our communities remain places where people look out for one another. And may we carry that spirit into the colder months ahead, strengthening the ties that help us through each season.

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.

VIEWPOINT

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

Auburn history trivia questions

BY HELEN POIRIER
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This week's article from the Auburn Historical Society & Museum offers "topics of discussion" around the Thanksgiving table especially for long time Auburn residents. How many can you answer?

- 1. This son of the Auburn's first pastor made improvements to the microscope. He graduated from West Point in1838, and has an Auburn street name after him.
- 2. He was a distinguished soldier in the Continental Army and was born in 1739 in an area that would become Auburn in 1835.
- 3. This person is the founder of the American Steel and Wire Company but was an apprentice in Auburn from 1816 1818.
- 4. In April of 1775, a company of 26 Minutemen from South Parish of Worcester served under this man until he was succeeded by Gen. George Washington.
- 5. 175 Auburn residents served in WWI; this person was one of only two people that didn't return home. He died in France and now has a building in town named for him.
- 6. On Nov. 7, 1808, a committee consisting of the Rev. Carr, John Rice and Samuel Wesson was established to see that the windows of the meeting house were not broken by people doing this.

7. The last game of this "sport" was played between the Stoneville and Pondville mill workers in 1840.

- 8. He was a captain in the Revolutionary War and died on the 4th of July. There's a body of water named after his family in town.
- 9. Where in town can you see this history and more every Tuesday and Saturday morning?

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

Answers to Auburn Trivia Questions

Answers to Nov. 20, 2025, trivia news article.

- Whitman Bailey.
- Timothy Bigelow
- Icabod Washburn
 General Arteman Ward
- General Arteman War
 Chester P. Tuttle
- Playing ball on the town common.
- 7. Bowling
 8. Capt Samuel Eddy
- Capt. Samuel Eddy
 Auburn Historical Museum

A window into Webster's past

THE STORY OF THE SLATER MILLS

AND A TOWN BUILT ON CLOTH

When people speak about Webster's industrial roots, they often mention the lake with the famously long name or the granite quarries that once dotted the landscape. Yet the force that most profoundly shaped the town's identity arrived in the form of cotton—spun, woven, and shipped from a complex of mills whose influence still echoes more than 200 years later.

The origins trace back to 1812, when Samuel Slater—already known as the "Father of the American Industrial Revolution" for helping establish the nation's first successful water-powered textile mill—purchased land along the French River. With his brother John Slater and son Horatio Nelson Slater, the family developed what would become the Slater Mills of Webster, a sprawling industrial presence that eventually anchored the town's economy.

By the 1830s, the Slaters were constructing brick mills large enough to draw workers from across New England and newly arrived immigrants from Ireland, Poland, Quebec, and Lithuania. The mills wove not only cloth but also a unique social fabric: entire neighborhoods took shape around shift schedules, boarding houses, churches, and the unmistakable rhythm of the mill whistle.

The Slaters' influence extended beyond industry. In 1832, they offered to fund a large portion of Webster's first meetinghouse and donated the land for what would become the First Congregational Church. That same year, they pressed for the creation of a new town carved from parts of Dudley and Oxford—one whose very name, Webster, honored New England statesman Daniel Webster, then a political ally of the mill-owning family.

As the decades rolled on, the Slater Mills grew into a commanding complex of brick, granite, and timber along the river and Canal Street. At their peak, the mills employed several hundred people and produced a wide range of cotton textiles shipped to markets across the country. The mills also generated much of the early tax base that funded schools, roads, and

town services, leaving an imprint on local governance that lasted generations.

The arrival of the railroad in the mid-19th century further expanded the mills' reach. Cotton bales came north from southern ports, and finished textiles headed out to Boston, Providence, and beyond. Millwork became a defining part of life—not only economically but culturally. Workers' picnics were held along the French River, and the Slaters sponsored holiday celebrations, sporting clubs, and educational programs.

But by the early 20th century, the industry that built Webster began to feel the pressures of shifting markets, rising labor disputes, and increasing competition from southern textile factories. One by one, the Webster mills downsized, consolidated, or closed. The Slater Mills continued in various forms until the mid-20th century, though their footprint gradually diminished.

Today, many of the original structures still stand—converted to commercial space, adapted for new uses, or awaiting restoration. The tall brick walls along the river remain a reminder of the era when mill whistles marked the hours and when the town's fortunes rose and fell with cotton production.

The Slater legacy lives on most visibly in local names and landmarks—Slater Street, the Slater District, the former mill ponds and canals—but it also endures in the cultural tapestry of Webster itself. The immigrant communities that first came seeking mill work laid the foundation for many of the town's present-day families, churches, and social organizations.

To walk past the old mill buildings today is to glimpse the outlines of a Webster powered by water, ambition, and the promise of industrial growth. Their presence stands as a testament to a period of transformation—one that reshaped not only the land along the French River but also the identity of a town that grew up beside it.

Lanterns Along Main Street

There is a particular kind of quiet that settles over small towns in Massachusetts at this time of year. It's not the deep winter hush, when the world seems padded in wool and the sidewalks squeak under snow boots. It's a gentler quiet, the kind that comes after the leaves finish their performance and before the holiday rush starts tapping on the windows. It's a space in the calendar where nothing much demands attention, and yet

ALONG
MAIN

Everything feels like it's gathering itself for something important.

I've always liked this pause. It's the sort of

STREET

By CHIPPY

pause. It's the sort of stillness that lets you hear things you forget to notice: a screen door catching in the wind, a car starting reluctant-

ly in the driveway next door, or the muffled laughter of kids playing a last game outside before the cold becomes a convincing reason to stay in. These ordinary sounds remind me that most of life is built out of moments no one photographs.

At this time of year, people start fussing around their homes with a mix of anticipation and mild dread. A friend of mine was out on her porch last week, shaking a stubborn string of bulbs as if she could rattle some life back into them. "I swear these worked last year," she said. I told her that holiday lights have their own personalities. Some are dependable. Some give up early. And some begin flickering with a sort of theatrical exhaustion, as though they've seen too many Decembers and would like a vacation.

It's amusing what a person notices when not rushing. The shorter days pull more of life indoors, and the world seems to contract around kitchens and living rooms. People talk about "getting ready" for the holidays, but it's rarely the big things that occupy them. It's whether the good tablecloth is clean. Whether they remembered where they stored the roasting pan. Whether the dog will behave when company arrives—a concern that has caused more tension in households than any political conversation ever could.

One of the quiet joys of living in a small town is seeing how people approach the holidays in different ways but still end up making the season feel shared. Some neighbors decorate their homes early, glowing like beacons long before most of us have untangled our extension cords. Others keep things modest: a candle in each window, a wreath that's been hanging on the same nail for twenty years, and maybe a single lighted star that looks as though it's been guiding the same wise men around since the early '90s.

What I've always appreciated, though, is the feeling that no matter how people get ready—enthusiastically, reluctantly, or somewhere in between—there is an underlying sense of kindness in the air. You see it in the way people hold doors for each other without needing to think about it. Or how someone lets another driver pull out first on a busy road, even if they themselves are late. These aren't sweeping gestures, but they carry the same weight as any grand holiday message.

Most of us don't need reminders about the importance of slowing down, but we take them anyway. Something about this season taps us on the shoulder and says, "Look, there is still warmth here. There is still softness." It might be in the first smell of cookies baking, even if they come from a store-bought tube. Or in the way a grandparent leans in to listen to a story they've heard fifteen times but still pretend is new. Or in the laugh of a child who doesn't yet understand what it means to worry about time.

And maybe that's the purpose of this in-between season—the weeks when daylight shrinks and streetlights flicker on a little earlier each afternoon. It gives everybody permission to notice the lanterns along their own main street, whether actual lights or the people who brighten things simply by being there.

Winter will arrive soon enough, with all its demands and routines. But right now, in this softer stretch of the year, the world feels like it's whispering instead of shouting. And if you're willing to listen closely, you might hear something reassuring in that whisper: we're all doing our best, we're all moving at our own pace, and we're all trying to bring a

little light with us into the dark. Sometimes, that's enough.

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news@ stonebridgepress.news

Bring a bit of spring indoors this winter



A container of forced grape hyacinth, daffodil and tulip bulbs.

Pot them up, give them a chill and enjoy spring flowering bulbs indoors or outside on a patio, deck or porch. Forcing spring-flowering bulbs like tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, grape hyacinths and crocus is a great way to use those bulbs that didn't get planted in the garden or were on sale late in the season.

All you need is a suitable container, some well-drained potting mix, the bulbs and a place to give the bulbs the chill necessary to force them to bloom. Gather all your



GARDEN MOMENTS **MELINDA MYERS**

supplies and clear a space to assemble your bulb planter.

Select a container with drainage holes that is deep enough to accommodate the largest bulbs. Shorter varieties are less likely to flop but taller ones can be held upright with

stakes, twigs and other decorative supports. Cover the bottom of the container with two inches of a well-drained potting mix. Place the bulbs close together about one half the bulb width apart with the neck of larger bulbs at or just below the soil surface. Set tulips with the flat side of the bulb facing the pot for a better display.

Create a spring garden in a larger container by using a deep container and planting the bulbs in layers. Select a variety of bulbs that bloom at the same time for greater

impact or use a combination of early-, mid- and late-blooming spring-flowering bulbs to extend the bloom time and your enjoyment. The package usually lists the color, height and bloom time of the bulbs.

Place an inch or two of soil in the bottom and set the largest bulbs in place. Cover these bulbs with soil and add the smaller bulbs, like grape hyacinths and crocus, on the next level. Plant these bulbs close together for greater impact. Cover this layer with at least an inch of soil. Water thoroughly until the excess water drains out the bottom of the

Move your bulb-filled containers to a cool location where temperatures remain above freezing and between 35 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit for 12 to 15 weeks. A spare refrigerator works well for this. Just avoid storing the bulbs with fruit, like apples and pears, that emit ethylene gas that can negative-

ly impact flowering. If refrigerator space is limited, you can store the unplanted bulbs in a paper bag, so they take up less space in the fridge for the needed chill before plant-

Those gardening in colder climates can also store the pots in an unheated garage. Just water the containers whenever the soil

is thawed and dry. Or sink the container into a vacant garden space in your landscape. Mulch the soil once the ground starts to freeze with evergreen boughs. The winter mulch makes retrieving the container easier in winter or early spring.

Begin moving the containers out of cold storage once the 12- to 15-week chilling period is complete. Extend your enjoyment and the bloom time by removing one or just a few pots every week. Place the pot in a cool, bright location to encourage more compact growth. Water thoroughly when the top few inches of soil begin to dry. Soon the leaves will begin to sprout, and flowers will appear in about three to four weeks.

Provide ongoing care if you plan on moving the bulbs into the garden. Remove the faded flowers, place the leafy plants in a sunny window and water thoroughly whenever the top inch of soil is dry. Fertilize

with a dilute solution of any flowering houseplant fertilizer. Move them into the garden once the danger of frost has passed. Be patient because it may be a year or two before they bloom again.

Plant plenty for you to enjoy and share with others. Everyone will appreciate the extra spring color the forced bulbs provide.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" streaming courses and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.

United Church of Christ Federated invites community to free Thanksgiving dinner

WEBSTER - The United Church of Christ Federated is pleased to announce its annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner, a tradition that provides a warm meal and fellowship to all members of the community. Everyone is invited to join Pastor Sabina and her family, especially those who might otherwise spend the holiday alone or who cannot afford to spend much money.

The dinner will be held on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27, at 3 p.m. Reservations are recommended for planning purposes (508-943-0061 or office@uccfedwebster.org). Guests will enjoy a large buffet of turkey with all the (homemade) trimmings: mashed potatoes with gravy, stuffing, green bean casserole, roasted butternut squash, corn, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls and an assortment of pies.

The dinner is made possible through the generosity of volunteers and donations. In these difficult times, donations are increasingly appreciated. Volunteers are always welcome to assist with meal preparation.

The United Church of Christ Federated is located at 4 Church St. in Webster, and can be reached at 508-943-0061 or uccfedwebster.org, facebook.com/websterfederated. The church is committed to serving the needs of

our community. This dinner is just one of our many outreach programs that aim to build connections

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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.

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 Rectory office 508 867-6469.

St. Joseph's Food Pantry is a community partner affiliated with the Worcester County Food Bank.

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 Distribution: Thursday 10 AM-12 Noon

STURBRIDGE

Saint Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry,

Located in the St. Anne Church basement,

16 Church Street, Fiskdale, MA 01518 Stocked by donations Contact: 508-347-6398

WEBSTER

Webster-Dudley Food Share 4 Church St #2 Webster, MA 0570 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 36 North Main Street, W.Bookfield, MA 01585 Distribution: Wednesday 10 AM-11:30



Unique holiday traditions across the globe

The holiday season is a special time of year. Regardless of which holiday people celebrate in December, billions of people across the globe embrace chances to be a little more festive and spend additional time with family and friends over the final month of the year.

Tradition contributes to the special feeling felt in many communities each December. Holiday celebrants who can't get enough seasonal magic can take note of some of the many unique traditions across the globe that help make the month of December such a special time of year.

The Yule Lads, Iceland

In a tradition that might call to mind the seven dwarves who welcomed Snow White into their home in the classic fairy tale, the

Yule Lads of Iceland are said to leave a small gift for children who leave a shoe on their windowsills before going to bed beginning on the night of December 11. The tradition continues through Christmas Day, with each night featuring a visit from a different Yule

Hiding Brooms, Norway Norwegian folklore suggested evil spirits and witches awoke on Christmas Eve, and this unique tradition is rooted in efforts to keep those unwelcome holiday guests grounded and avoid lost brooms. On the night of Julaften (Christmas Eve), Norwegians hide their brooms in closets inside their homes to keep them from being stolen by ill-intentioned witches.

Held annually on December 23, the Night of the Radishes is a local celebration in Oaxaca, Mexico. This unique event celebrates oversized radishes, which certainly merits the celebration's inclusion on any list of unusual holiday season celebrations. The event involves the carving of large radishes into figures, a tradition that began as a way to attract more customers to Oaxaca's Christmas market. A formal radish-carving competition was instituted in the late nineteenth century, and the Night of the Radishes continues to draw visitors today.

Krampus Parades, Austria (various sites)

The holiday season might be a heartwarming time of year in many locales, but the Night of the Radishes, various Krampus parades

throughout Austria turn that notion on its head. Krampus is a horned anthropomorphic figure in central and eastern Alpine folklore. Krampus is something akin to Santa Claus's alter ego who's said to punish bad children rather than reward good ones with gifts. Legend says Krampus and his band of less-thanjovial elves roamed an area of the Alps and delighted in causing mayhem. Austrian Krampus parades take place at night and feature revelers dressed in scary costumes, making this a unique if not exactly lighthearted holiday season tradition.

Tradition figures prominently during the holiday season, and some customs stand out for their uniqueness.





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Adult Programming

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

The Literacy Cafe is a free weekly English conversation class offered by Literacy Volunteers of South Central Massachusetts (LVSCM). This class is free to attend and is open to all adults. No pre-registration is required. For more information, email us at info@lvscm.org.

Library for All – First Two Mondays; Last Two Fridays 10AM (Chair Yoga or Craft)

This program includes one chair yoga class and one craft project that will be held on first two Mondays and the last two Fridays of the month. Either join Jess and Ompractice for a 45 minute relaxing Chair Yoga class or join us for our craft program. Check the online calendar to see which event is scheduled. No experience necessary. This program is for teens and adults of all abilities and their caregivers. Please call ahead if special accommodations or requirements are needed.

Yoga – Saturdays at 9:30am (special class with Jess on 11/29; no class on 12/13)

Join Julie or Lauren at the Gladys E. Kelly

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

Wreath Design with Sam Callery – Monday, December 1st at 6:30pm

Join Samantha Callery for a simple and beautiful wreath design workshop. She'll provide everything you need to create a seasonal wreath for the winter. No experience necessary; registration is required.

The Midnight Society – Wednesday, December 3rd at 6:30pm

Love to read spooky books all year round? Join us for a horror book club where we will meet and discuss a book every month! We will try out classic horror as well as newer releases, and scary horror as well as cozy. Prepare to have fun being scared! Copies of this month's book are available at the circulation desk. To be added to the group, email Janessa at jbarrette@cwmars.org

Computer Basics: EBooks and Audiobooks through Libby – Thursday, December 4th at 3:00pm

Interested in learning how to borrow eBooks and Audiobooks through Libby? Join Assistant Director, Evan Hale, and Adult Services Librarian, Jess Fontaine, to learn how to use the apps with your Gladys E. Kelly Library Card. Bring your phone or tablet!

Programming for All Ages

A Gathering of Celtic and Christmas Concert

– Thursday, December 4th at 6:30pm

A Gathering of Celtic and Christmas is a combination of Celtic Songs and Stories combined with some familiar, and perhaps not

so familiar, Christmas songs and tunes. You have heard Celtic Music on the Autoharp, the music of Christmas on the 'harp is somewhat magical.

Puzz Fest: Cozy Edition – Thursday, December 11th at 6:00pm

Assemble your team (up to 5 people!) and join us to see which team can complete their puzzle first. We'll have snacks to keep you fueled as you tackle your 500 piece jigsaw. All teams will get to keep their puzzle. Registration is required.

Little Songbook Opera Winter Solstice – Saturday, December 13th at 11:30am

Let's celebrate the winter season together! Little Songbook Opera is coming to Gladys E. Kelly Public Library with a heartwarming event that brings together music, creativity and community support. We will share winter-themed songs from a wide variety of genres that all ages can enjoy while participating in one of our winter craft stations! We hope to see you there! Little Songbook Opera is a Boston-based organization dedicated to making music fun, accessible, and meaningful. Founded by musicians, we specialize in bringing small-scale musical productions to communities like yours! Visit https://www.littlesongbookopera.com/ to learn more about the organization and

Children's and Young Adult Programming Creators Club – Mondays from 4:00-5:30 PM

We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test! Come explore our newly rebranded Monday night program: Creators Club! December's theme is Popsicle Sticks! Kids will use popsicles sticks to create fun and imaginative artwork. All creations left behind will be displayed in the Children's program room for the rest of the month

Tiny Groovers – Tuesdays at 10:30am

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

Toddler Playtime – Thursdays at 10:00am Young kids are invited to get their wiggles out with various toys and new friends!

Craft Adventures: Cookie Decorating Party – Tuesday, December 2nd at 4pm and 5pm

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

Mini Chefs Club: Panini Sandwiches – Wednesday, December 3rd 10th and 17th at 5:30pm

Welcome to Mini Chefs Club! This new food focused series offers kids 7-12 the opportunity to learn how to create easy, tasty meals right at home using simple ingredients and step-by-step guidance. Each class will require kids to use different kitchen tools. Due to limited supplies, registration is required. We'll be making Panini Sandwiches, Mug Cakes, and Pancakes in December!

Stuffed Animal Creations: Groundhog – Saturday, December 6th at 12:00pm AND Spotted Piglet at 1:00pm

Come enjoy a story and make your very own stuffed animal to take home! This program is for children under 12. Please register for only one session.

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OXFORD

continued from page $\,A1\,$

cookies, hot chocolate (with the Oxford Police Assn) and N&J Donut holes while you await their arrival upon the OFD tower truck. Downtown parking is available in St. Roch's lot, Town Hall, and there will be limited parking available in the Community Center lot. Handicapped parking only will be available in the ParadisGivner lot.

The Fire Department is still accepting parade float entries – forms are available at the

Community Center and Town Hall, and on the Oxford website, oxfordma.us. All entries must be received by Dec. 4.

After festivities on the Common are completed, all are invited to walk over to 4 Sigourney St. to enjoy Mr. Biando's holiday display.

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ing little girl who adores music—especially Cocomelon! She loves being held and comforted by her caregivers, and nothing makes her giggle more than when they whisper softly to her. Alanis enjoys making sounds and listening to herself, delighting in the way she can express happiness and contentment. She feels especially at ease when her basic needs are met—after being fed, bathed, and having her diaper changed. Alanis currently receives early intervention services, which focus on oral

Alanis is a beautiful, sweet, and lov-

stimulation, mirror play, sensory engagement with toys, and plenty of nurturing physical contact to support her growth and development. https://www.mareinc.org/child/21177206691

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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 . 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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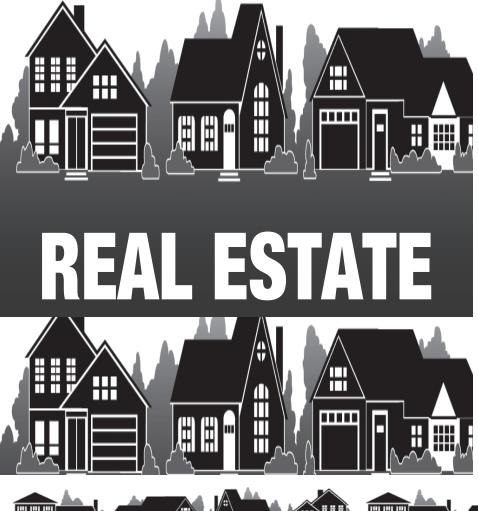
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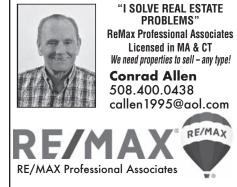
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United Church of Christ announces free Christmas party



WEBSTER — The United Church of Christ Federated is pleased to invite all community members to its annual free, fun-filled Christmas Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 1 to 3 p.m. The event aims to bring together families and friends to celebrate the joy of the holiday season.

This year's festivities will feature a variety of activities for all ages, including activities such as cookie decorating, crafts, face painting, games with free prizes (everybody is a winner!), a scavenger hunt, Christmas pinatas, and more! Refreshments will be available. Santa Claus and his elves will be attending and will give gifts to all the children present! "We look forward to opening our doors and hearts to our neighbors, sharing the warmth of the season, and remembering the hope that is at the heart of Christmas", said Pastor Sabina Terrades.

The United Church of Christ is located at 4 Church St., across from Town Hall, 508-943-0061.



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