Webster Times

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

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Friday, November 20, 2026

Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation awards nearly $24,000 in grants to local schools

DUDLEY — The Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation (DCEF) Inc. awarded nearly $24,000 in grants to the Dudley-Charlton School District.

"We are humbled to have the opportunity to support our community in tangible ways that directly impact our schools and students," says Sabrina Webb, president of the DCEF. "These grants will empower our teachers and staff to go above and beyond when it comes to the student experience in and out of the classroom."

Thirteen projects will receive funding. Initiatives by school include:

Mason Road: Making Math Memorable with Manipulatives; Reading for RULER!; Outdoor Classroom: The Sequel; Tactile Enhancement to Sensory Path; and Learning in a New Light: Sensory Exploration in Preschool.

Dudley Elementary: Sensory Hall Upgrade.

Dudley Middle: Titan Treat Trolley: A Student-Run Real-World Learning Experience.

Charlton Elementary: Jumping into Hands-On Learning with ALN-Inspired Math Materials.

Heritage School: Traverse Climbing Wall for Gymnasium ($3,250); Paint the Path to Play.

Charlton Middle: Scanning for Books.

Shepherd Hill Regional High School: American Heritage Museum; Weight Room Enhancements.

"The Dudley-Charlton Regional School District extends its sincere appreciation to the Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation for their continued generosity and partnership, shares," Steven M. Lamarche, superintendent of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District. "Their grant program supports innovative ideas that fall outside our operating budget but make a meaningful, positive impact on students' experiences in every school. We are grateful for their commitment to inspire educators and enriching learning opportunities across the district."

Grants will be carried out in the 2026-27 school year.

Dudley and Webster honor veterans with annual Veterans Day Parade



WEBSTER/DUDLEY — Under picture-perfect skies and warm November weather, the towns of Dudley and Webster came together on Wednesday, Nov. 11, to honor the brave men and women who have served our nation.

The 21st annual Veterans Day Parade marked the 108th anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I, bringing together veterans, community organizations, students, and local and state officials in a heartfelt tribute to our nation's heroes.

The observance began at 11 a.m. at the Veterans' Court of Honor at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main St. Following the ceremony, participants marched to the Webster Veterans' Court of Honor for an additional ceremony.

This year's Grand Marshal was Vietnam Veteran Armand Jalbert, U.S. Army. Andrew Kozlowski, U.S. Air Force, served as Master of Ceremonies, and retired U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. William Conley, Jr. was the guest speaker.

Among the many participants were numerous veterans' organizations, members of military branches, the Dudley and Webster Police Departments, first responders, Dudley Boy Scout Troop 273, the Shepherd Hill Regional

Turn To PARADE *page* A10

Early deadlines for Thanksgiving week



With the offices of the Webster Times closing Thursday, Nov. 26 in observance of Thanksgiving, the submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication that week has been moved up to Thursday, Nov. 18 at 4 p.m.

Submissions can be e-mailed to news@stonebridgepress.news.

The staff of the Webster Times thanks our readers for their cooperation with this change in our usual schedule, and wishes one and all a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Dudley Middle School to spread holiday cheer to 500 children with annual "Marching of the Gifts"

DUDLEY — What began 25 years ago as a small act of kindness for a handful of children has grown into a heartwarming holiday tradition that will bring Christmas joy to 500 children this year.

Dudley Middle School will celebrate its annual "Marching of the Gifts" at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10, at Dudley Middle School, 70 Dudley-Oxford Rd. The event marks the culmination of the school's annual Community Service Learning project, which brings students, families, businesses and community organizations together to provide Christmas gifts for children in

need throughout Worcester County.

Led by Dudley Middle School teacher Lesa A. Patrock, the project benefits Youth Opportunities Upheld Inc. (YOU Inc.) through its "Adopt-a-Child for Christmas" program. Each year, YOU Inc. provides wish lists for children receiving the agency's services, many of whom face

difficult family circumstances or are living in foster care. Ms. Patrock and her students work with generous donors throughout the school and greater community to fulfill those wishes, providing gifts, clothing and other essentials.

The project culminates with a "Marching of the Gifts," where students carry the donated presents from the school to an awaiting delivery truck. The festive procession is a celebration of months of hard work, generosity and the true spirit of giving.

Now in its 25th year, the project began when Ms. Patrock and her students set out to brighten Christmas for just seven children. Since then, it has grown into a remarkable community-wide effort, touching the lives of hundreds of children each holiday season.

Members of the community and local media are invited to attend the December 10 celebration and witness this special holiday tradition.

All Saints Academy honors our veterans – not just one day, but all year long!

WEBSTER — Over the past few years, All Saints Academy has come to realize that Veterans Week is an especially busy time for our local veterans, who are invited to numerous activities and celebrations in their honor. In place of hosting our annual breakfast, we began changing our approach last year, and we are continuing that tradition this year.

At ASA, we believe our veterans deserve to be honored and recognized throughout the entire year, not just during one week in November. Whether it is helping with an everyday chore, offering a helping hand, or welcoming them to special ceremonies in September, January, and May, we want our students to understand that gratitude is best demonstrated through action.

This year, the All Saints Academy 8th grade students spent time volunteering at the Veterans Home in Webster, helping with



their fall cleanup. Students worked together raking leaves, filling bags, and emptying them into the disposal pile. It was a wonderful opportunity to show our appreciation through service and a helping hand.

Our Grade 4 students also enjoyed a wonderful Question & Answer session with some of our veterans and active-duty military members! Students had the opportunity to hear firsthand what inspired these men to serve, how their military experiences shaped their lives, and how their service influenced their future career paths. It was an engaging and meaningful opportunity to ask questions, learn from their experiences, and gain a deeper appreciation for those who serve our country.

Our students love finding ways to honor our veterans, and we are proud to help them understand that service, gratitude, and respect should extend far beyond a single day. To all of our veterans and active-duty military members, thank you for your service, your sacrifices, and the stories you share with the next generation. We are grateful for you today and every day and look forward to seeing you in January at our next celebration.

Pawfect Life Rescue
Enjoy the day – run, fetch, play!

PAW of the WEEK
GREERE
GOOD WITH KIDS & DOGS!



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

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

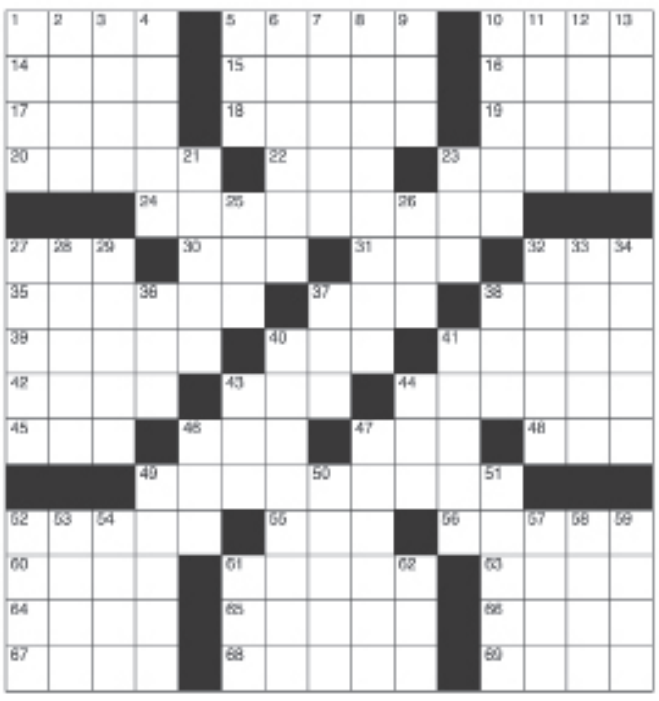
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Perceive a sound
5. Pretends to be
10. Type of guitar
14. Actor Idris
15. A citizen of Iran
16. Creative
17. Keep under control
18. Weight unit for precious stones
19. You better call him
20. Fanatical
22. Male cat
23. Jewish spiritual leader
24. One who takes risks
27. A way to nail
30. Cool!
31. Progressive policy supporter
32. "Losing My Religion" rockers
35. Step-shaped recess
37. Round globular seed
38. Somewhat
39. Butterhead lettuces
40. Color at the end of the spectrum
41. Lines where fabrics are sewn together
42. Dodgers great Hershiser
43. Floor covering
44. Traveled aimlessly
45. Rocker Stewart
46. Body art
47. Congressman (abbr.)
48. No seats available
49. Categorizes
52. Iraq-Syria border town
55. Ballplayer's tool
56. Type of sword
60. Baseball team
61. Upper bracts of grass
63. Italian seaport
64. Ancient city in Syria
65. Shoelace tube
66. U. of Miami mascot is one
67. South American nation
68. "Nebraska" director Alexander
69. Upper body part

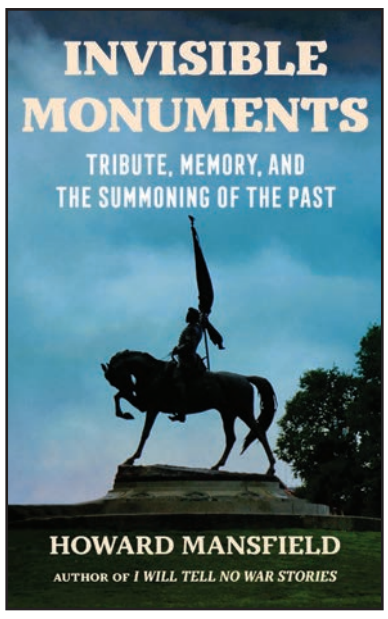
CLUES DOWN

1. German courtesy title
2. Ancient Greek City
3. Skin care manufacturer
4. A long-legged frog
5. Photo
6. Delivered a speech
7. Lute in northern Indian music
8. Decorated
9. Take a seat
10. Bottom layer
11. Type of horse
12. Ticket part
13. Defunct currency of Guinea
21. Challenges
23. Popular BBQ food
25. Subway rodent
26. By way of
27. Shady garden alcove
28. City in Egypt
29. __ and flowed
32. Large quantities of paper
33. Eurasian wheat
34. Act incorrectly
36. Layer of water right above sediment (abbr.)
37. Al Bundy's wife
38. Ocean
40. Large, round root
41. Sound units
43. Knock
44. Soak in water
46. Hot drink
47. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
49. Rumanian city
50. Come back from being down
51. Vaccine developer
52. Canadian law enforcers
53. Wings
54. "Perry Mason" actor Raymond
57. Small fry
58. __ Clapton, musician
59. Gamble
61. Semi-liquid food
62. Consumed food

PUZZLE SOLUTION

H	E	A	R	■	P	O	S	E	S	■	B	A	S	S
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P	E	R	U	■	P	A	Y	N	E	■	N	E	C	K

Booklovers' Gourmet welcomes author Howard Mansfield





WEBSTER — Booklovers' Gourmet, located at 72 East Main St. in Webster, is pleased to host award-winning author Howard Mansfield, featuring a discussion of his latest book "Invisible Monuments: Tribute, Memory, and the Summoning of the Past," on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 2-4 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Signed copies will be available for purchase. For more information or to RSVP, call 508-949-6232 or visit bookloversgourmet.com.

We live in an era of monument building, yet we don't look at most of the monuments and memorials around us. They disappear from view. Think of all the mute memorials you may pass in a week that are unseen, a blurred background to your daily commute: the green-mottled great man on his horse, hosting only pigeons; the curious obelisk looking like a stunted Washington Monument; the historical marker crowded with so many words it looks like a warning label written by a cadre of liability lawyers. So much narrative left out in the weather, so much storytelling that has lost its way. Any monument that we stand before asks something of us. Think of monuments as the first part of a call and response, as in music, as in worship. We bring our sense of history to the present, otherwise the granite/marble/limestone/bronze before us will be mute. Some monuments do elicit a strong emotional response even after many decades. Why do these work, when others don't?

Howard Mansfield sifts through the commonplace and the forgotten to discover stories that tell us about ourselves and our place in the world. He writes about history, architecture, and preservation. He is the author of a dozen books, including "The Bones of the Earth," "The Same Ax Twice," "Chasing Eden," "Dwelling in Possibility: Searching for the Soul of Shelter," and "In the Memory House," which The New York Times called "a wise and beautiful book."

In Mansfield's previous book, "I Will Tell No War Stories: What Our Fathers Left Unsaid About World War II," he "breaks through the wall of silence some war veterans maintain," said Booklist. "The result is an impeccably researched and beautifully written account of the stories his father wouldn't tell. Readers will find themselves in heated sheepskin flight suits and oxygen masks, high in the sky over enemy territory…. A vital and moving history of all that is left unsaid in the aftermath of war and how that affects the next generation."

Mansfield has been honored by the N.H. Humanities Council as "a gem in our granite landscape" and this fall he will receive the Sarah Josepha Hale Award. He has won a Gold Medal for Commentary for City and Regional Magazines, a silver medal from the Independent Publisher Book Awards, and was a City and Regional Magazine Feature Story Finalist. He received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Franklin Pierce University.

He has served as a writer and consultant for museums, written and performed a stage show with composer Ben Cosgrove that was the subject of an Emmy Award-winning film, and has co-written a forthcoming documentary film.

"Howard Mansfield has never written an uninteresting or dull sentence," said the writer and critic Guy Davenport. "All of his books are emotionally and intellectually nourishing. He is something like a cultural psychologist along with being a first-class cultural historian."

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Real Estate

AUBURN

$900,000, 602 Southbridge St, Wcm Enterprises LLC, and Martin, Phyllis E, to Cems LLC.

$415,000, 6 Oakwood Ave, Fernandez, Jose L, and Fernandez, Maria P, to Kirschner, Andrew, and Kirschner, Katherine.

DUDLEY

$465,000, 76 Airport Rd, Campbell, Joseph E, and Duffy, Lauren S, to Bush, Amanda.

$165,000, 221 Dresser Hill Rd #1, Acd Nt, and Difronzo, Julie A, to Leclair, Nicholas J.

$15,000, Grand View Ave, Valley View Rt, and Zajac, Jeffrey C, to Horne Jr, Guy E, and Horne, Kathleen E.

OXFORD

$627,500, 9 Tower Hill Rd, Hester, Linda L, to Dube, Meghan, and Dube, Jamie.

$450,000, 66 Charlton St, Bui, Hanh Bich, to Lacy, David, and Umipeg, Maimee.

$371,000, 490 Main St, Gunderman, Julia E, and Gunderman, Brian, to Vandyke, Jessica Lascom, and Vandyke, Dustin.

$225,000, 3 Thayer Pon Dr #17, Laferriere, Jessica, to Calle, Diego V.

WEBSTER

$1,600,000, 24 Laurelwood Drive Rd, Tonna Jr, Theodore A, and Tonna, Lisbeth E, to Kleinberg, Eric, and Kleinberg, Suiyin.

$700,000, Thompson Rd, Mccann, David W, to Me Realty LLC.

$510,000, 29 Cushing Rd, Pike Jr, Ronald Francis, and Pike, Jenika Renee, to Lopes, Miqueias Alcantara, and Cruz, Luana Almeida.

$510,000, 59 Racicot Ave, Silva, Kayla, and Johnson, Brandyn, to Cotnoir 2nd, Kenneth S, and Cotnoir, Sarah L.

$483,000, 39 Everett Ave, Liro, Thomas J, and Liro, Carol A, to Gitau, Grace.

$480,000, 23 Oakmont St, Neisz, Taryn, to Williams, Frederick K, and Buabeng, Sandra.

$410,000, 124 Sutton Rd, Antos, Joshua, to Masiello, Alee, and Frotten, Alyssa.

$406,000, 59 Brookside Ave, Kelly, John J, to Humfryes, Holly.

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-Sunday ..... 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

OXFORD

Oxford Town Hall (508) 987-6027
Board of Selectmen and Town Clerk Hours{

Monday, Tues., Thurs ..... 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday ..... 9 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday ..... 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Oxford Police Department (987-0156)
For emergencies, call 911

Oxford Fire Department (987-6012)
Monday-Friday ..... 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

WEBSTER

Webster Town Hall (508) 949-3850
Office Hours:
Monday ..... 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Tuesday-Thursday ..... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday ..... 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Webster Police Department (943-1212)
For emergencies, call 911

Webster Fire Department (949-3875)
Monday-Friday ..... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday ..... 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Oxford invites community to celebrate the season at Holiday Lights Parade & Tree Lighting

OXFORD — The magic of the holiday season is returning to Oxford, and residents of all ages are invited to join in a festive evening of community spirit, holiday cheer, and family fun.

The Oxford Fire Department and Oxford Community Center are excited to announce the 2026 Holiday Lights Parade and Bandstand Tree Lighting, taking place on Sunday, Dec. 6.

The holiday festivities begin with the Holiday Lights Parade, stepping off at 5 p.m. from the North Fire Station, located at 656 Main St., North Oxford. Decorated emergency and DPW vehicles, illuminated floats, community groups, and holiday characters will travel along Main Street before arriving at the Town Common Bandstand at Joslin Park, 352 Main St., for the annual tree lighting celebration.

Residents wishing to watch the parade along the route are encouraged to take advantage of public parking available at:

Oxford Middle School

DPW Offices, 450 Main St.

Prior to the parade, families are invited to gather on the Town Common to enjoy holiday music, cookies, and hot chocolate provided with support from the Oxford Police Association while awaiting a special arrival from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Guests will have the opportunity to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus, and other favorite holiday characters, and capture memorable holiday photos.

For those attending the tree lighting festivities on the Common, downtown parking will be available at:

Town Hall

Oxford Community Center (parking for parade floats and spectators)

Handicapped parking only will be available in the Paradis-Givner lot.

Community participation remains a key part of this beloved Oxford tradition. The Oxford Fire Department is still accepting Holiday Lights Parade float entries. Entry forms are available at the Community Center, Town Hall, and online at oxfordma.us. All parade applications must be submitted by Dec. 3.

In support of the Oxford Police Department's "Operation Santa," donations of unwrapped toys will be accepted at the North Fire Station, the garage at Stanley Johnson Baseball Field (adjacent to North Fire Station), and the Town Common Bandstand.

"This annual event brings neighbors, families, businesses, and community organizations together to celebrate the holiday season and showcase the wonderful community spirit that makes Oxford special," organizers said. "We encourage everyone to come out, enjoy the festivities, and help light up the season."

For additional information, parade registration forms, and event updates, visit www.oxfordma.us.

Event at a Glance

What: 2026 Holiday Lights Parade & Bandstand Tree Lighting
When: Sunday, Dec. 6
Parade Start: 5 p.m.
Parade Route: North Fire Station, 656 Main St. to Joslin Park Town Common, 352 Main St.
Highlights: Tree lighting, Santa & Mrs. Claus and other characters, holiday music, cookies, hot chocolate, and community holiday fun
Float Registration Deadline: Dec. 3

Admission is free, and all are welcome. Bring your family, your holiday spirit, and join Oxford as we kick off the season together!

Final spoken word reading for Poets at Large's Fall season set for Nov. 21

POMFRET, Conn. — Nov. 21 will be the final spoken word event of 2026 for Poets at Large. That night poet and troubador Tommy Twilite will perform, followed by author, poet, musician Scott Laudati.

This event begins at 7 p.m. at The Vanilla Bean, 450 Deerfield Rd., Pomfret. Suggested donation: $10. Contact karen.warinsky@gmail.com to be in the open mic. Recommended for age 16 and up.

Tommy Twilite is a Massachusetts troubadour who combines music, poetry, exploration and

adventure into his performances. He is the co-founder and former director of the Florence Poets

Society, former editor of Silkworm and is a Lifetime Beat Poet Laureate. He also hosts the Twilite Poetry Pub on WXOJ Valley Free Radio. His latest chapbook, Kills No Bird is a follow up to his 2021 collection, Fifty Words for Rain. Twilite is well known as someone who can transport an audience to another realm with his words and music. He was honored by the National Baseball Poetry Festival in 2024 for his poem, "The Tools of Ignorance."

Scott Laudati runs Bone Machine, a punk rock press, from his apartment in NYC with his dog, Josie. He is the author of Play The Devil (novel) and RAINBOW ROAD (poetry). His essays/poems/short stories have been published by The Columbia Journal, The Stockholm Review, Hobart, The Belfast Review, The Adirondack Review and others. Laudati has won the Jack Grapes Poetry Prize, The Riggs Gold Medal Essay Award and The Stark Award in Fiction. Follow him for his ruminations on pizza & existentialism published yearly by X-R-AY magazine at @ScottLaudati. Poets at Large is a project of Windham Arts and is sponsored in part by bankHometown, Linemaster Switch, Charter Oak FCU, WHZ Financial and The Putnam Area Foundation. The Vanilla Bean is ADA compliant.

Celebrate the magic of the holidays at the Samuel Slater

WEBSTER — The holiday season is coming to life at the Samuel Slater Experience! Visitors are invited to experience the magic of the season with a festive lineup of holiday activities, special entertainment, and shopping opportunities throughout December.

Whether you're looking for a fun family outing, a little holiday nostalgia, or a unique way to celebrate the season, the Samuel Slater Experience has something special planned for everyone.

Holiday Festivities Include:

Children's Christmas Crafts – Dec. 6
Bring the little ones for a festive day of creativity! Children can enjoy Christmas-themed crafts and make special holiday creations to take home.

Free gift wrapping every Sunday in December
Take the stress out of holiday shopping and let us handle the wrapping! Bring a friend, bring your gifts, and leave the paper, ribbons, and bows to us. Every Sunday in December leading up to Christmas, guests who purchase one adult admission can enjoy complimentary gift wrapping. It's a fun way to spend some time with us while checking one more thing off your holiday to-do list!

A Very Merry Dickens Carolers Performance – Dec. 11 at 5 p.m.
Get into the holiday spirit with a special live performance by the Very Merry Dickens Carolers! Dressed in traditional Victorian-inspired attire, these festive performers will fill the Samuel Slater Experience with the sounds and charm of Christmas past.

Admission to the December 11th event is $18 per person, and guests will also enjoy 20% off gift shop purchases, making it a wonderful opportunity to find unique holiday gifts and keepsakes.

Make the Samuel Slater Experience part of your holiday traditions this December. Bring your family, invite your friends, and enjoy a season filled with creativity, music, history, and holiday cheer!

For more information on how to register or buy tickets to any of these events visit the Samuel Slater Experience in Webster and follow along on our Web site.

Please inform Auburn Historical Society of any donations

AUBURN — The mission of the Auburn Historical Society is to preserve and share the history of our town and surrounding area. Through the collection, preservation, and exhibition of historical materials, artifacts, and stories, we strive to engage the community and promote a deeper appreciation of our local history for current and future generations.

Recently, the Auburn Historical Society and Museum received an anonymous donation of a large vintage topographical map book which was left at the museum's door in a plastic bag. The museum appreciates any and all donations that help preserve the past, especially Auburns. As the museum is only open on Tuesday and Saturday mornings, this donation may not have been discovered before the predicted rain that came later on in the week. There is a phone number on the door that donors can call and leave a message that a donation has been left at the museum, whether you wish to remain anonymous or not.

First Congregational Church of Oxford to host annual Christmas Tea and Gift Shop Dec. 5

OXFORD — The First Congregational Church of Oxford will welcome the holiday season with its annual Christmas Tea and Gift Shop on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., continuing a cherished tradition that has brought people together for more than 25 years.

The annual event offers visitors an opportunity to enjoy a traditional holiday tea, complete with fine China, a selection of premium loose-leaf teas and an assortment of homemade foods.

Organizers take pride in providing an authentic tea experience, serving selections purchased from Asiago Teas. Unlike traditional tea bags, loose-leaf tea allows guests to experience the flavors and aromas of carefully selected tea leaves.

Each serving is presented in a China teapot and poured into a China teacup, adding an elegant touch to the holiday gathering.

In addition to the tea selections, guests can enjoy a variety of homemade soups, sandwiches and desserts prepared for the occasion.

Several dining options will be available, with prices ranging from $6 for tea and dessert to $18 for a complete meal featuring soup, a sandwich, dessert and tea.

The Christmas Tea has been a longstanding holiday tradition at the church, offering an opportunity for friends, families and neighbors to gather during the busy Christmas season.

The event also includes a gift shop, providing visitors with an opportunity to browse while enjoying the festive occasion.

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Michael Jarominski
Certified Public Accountant
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jarominskicpa@spectrum.net

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

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*

EDITORIAL

Veterans Day reminds us that service deserves more than a single day of gratitude

There is something particularly meaningful about two neighboring communities coming together to honor those who have served their country. On Veterans Day, Webster and Dudley demonstrated once again that while town lines may separate municipalities, gratitude for military service knows no boundaries.

The 21st annual Veterans Day Parade, held Nov. 11, brought veterans, students, first responders, community organizations and local officials together for a tradition that has become an important part of both towns' identities.

Under unusually warm November skies, participants gathered first at the Veterans' Court of Honor in Dudley before continuing to the Veterans' Court of Honor in Webster. Along the way, the observance offered something increasingly valuable in a busy world: an opportunity to stop, reflect and remember.

This year's grand marshal, Vietnam veteran Armand Jalbert of the U.S. Army, represented a generation of Americans whose service deserves particular recognition. For many Vietnam veterans, the welcome home they received was far different from the gratitude expressed at ceremonies today. Honoring these men and women is an acknowledgment not only of their military service, but also of the respect they should have received from the beginning.

The participation of Andrew Kozlowski of the U.S. Air Force as master of ceremonies and retired Marine Corps Lt. Col. William Conley Jr. as guest speaker further emphasized the generations of military experience represented at the observance.

But perhaps one of the most encouraging aspects of the annual parade was the presence of young people. Members of Dudley Boy Scout Troop 273, the Shepherd Hill Regional High School Choir and the Bartlett High School Honor Society joined veterans and community leaders in paying tribute to those who have worn our nation's uniform.

Their participation matters. For younger generations, military service can sometimes seem like something encountered primarily in history books, documentaries or classroom discussions. Events such as this one provide an opportunity to understand that the people who served are not distant historical figures. They are neighbors, relatives, former teachers, coworkers and familiar faces in the community.

They are the people standing beside us at the grocery store, attending local sporting events and volunteering at community functions. Their military experiences may have taken them thousands of miles from home, but their lives remain closely connected to the towns where they live.

The ceremonies' prayers, rifle salutes and playing of Taps carried a solemn reminder that Veterans Day is about more than patriotic displays. It is about recognizing the sacrifices made by individuals and families, including sacrifices that may not be immediately visible.

Some veterans returned home carrying physical injuries. Others brought back experiences that continued to affect their lives long after their military service ended. Still others quietly resumed civilian life, rarely speaking about what they had witnessed or endured. Every one of those experiences deserves acknowledgment.

There is also an important distinction between expressing gratitude and demonstrating it. A parade is a meaningful tribute, but appreciation for veterans should not end when the ceremonies conclude. It should be reflected in the way communities treat their veterans throughout the year, particularly those who are aging, facing health challenges or struggling to obtain the assistance they have earned.

Sometimes that means helping someone navigate available benefits or making sure an older veteran has transportation to an appointment. Sometimes it means supporting organizations that assist military families. And sometimes it means taking the time to listen when a veteran chooses to share a story. None of these gestures requires a holiday.

The annual observance in Webster and Dudley also serves as a reminder of the importance of preserving local traditions. Twenty-one years of marching together represents a sustained commitment to honoring military service and passing that responsibility from one generation to the next.

The challenge now is to ensure that the meaning behind the tradition remains as

Turn To EDITORIAL *page* A5

Lions Club International

BY HELEN POIRIER
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In 2017, the Lions Club celebrated their 110th anniversary of service. The organization was started by Melvin Jones, a Chicago business leader. He felt that business should go beyond their businesses and "address the betterment of their communities and the world." Jones was addressing his local business group, the Business Circle of Chicago. Similar groups from around the United States were approached and an organizational meeting was held on June 7, 1917, in Chicago.

The "Association of Lions Club," was adopted and a national convention was held in Dallas, Texas in October 1917. There a constitution, by laws, objectives and a code of ethics were created and approved. In 1920, the Lions Club chartered a club in Windsor, Canada, thus becoming an international organization. At the 1925 international convention Helen Keller challenged the organization to be the "Knights of the Blind in the crusade against darkness." In 1926 Admiral Richard E. Byrd, Jr., who was a member of the Washington D.C. Lions Club, flew over both the North and South Poles and had a Lions flag with him. The white cane with a wide red band which helps the visually impaired was created by Lion member George Bonham who saw a blind man having trouble crossing a street. In 1935 honorary member of the New York City Lions Club, Amelia Earhart, completed a nonstop flight from Los Angles to Mexico during the Lions Clubs International Convention in Mexico City that broke a record. In 1939 the Detroit Uptown Lions Club took up an old farmhouse and made it into a school for training seeing eye dogs and this helped to promote guide dogs throughout the world.

Have you ever wondered why the Little League World Series is played in Williamsport, Pa.? It was Lion member Carl Edwin Stotz of Williamsport who felt that there should be an organized baseball program for children. He appealed to the Lions clubs, YMCAs and other community people to support this concept. So, on June 6, 1939, the first Little League baseball game was played at Park Point in Williamsport. In 1944, the world's first eye bank was created in New York City, in 1946 the Lions sponsored the Lions Blind Camp on Casper Mountain in Wyoming. By 1947 Lions Club International was the world's largest service club organization at the time with 324,690 members. In 1954, there was a worldwide contest to come up with an official motto. The motto was "We Serve" and was the idea of Lion D.A. Stevenson of Font Hill, Ontario, Canada. Other celebrities associated with the Lions Club through the years were Stevie Wonder who was given a drum set as a Christmas gift by the Detroit Lions Club when he was 6 years old, President Jimmy Carter was a member, Mother Teresa received the Lions Humanitarian Award in 1986.

The Auburn Lions Club was formed in May 1952 with Joseph Brule elected as president. VP was Ralph Rothera, Ralph Starr Jr. secretary; Kenneth Boland, treasurer; Joseph Benoit lion tamer: Darrell Beavais, tail twister: directors, Rep. Frank Allen, Omer Robitaille, Al Madden and Ignatius Cleary. The first thing the group did was to sponsor a Little League baseball team. It was September 9th of that year that the charter was received. The club met on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at the Standish House in West Auburn. The first fundraiser was the Light Bulb Sale in 1953. The members went door-to-door selling to raise funds for the blind. It was part of a state-wide campaign to raise $80,000. In 1954, the Auburn Lions organized a benefit bowling party for a seventeen-year-old senior at Auburn High School, and an accomplished accordionist, who had recently had her right leg amputated. All proceeds went to Gladys's medical expenses. In December 1984 the club donated a TDD to the town's police and fire department so that emergency services could have the machines available.

According to a 1981 article, the Auburn club was active until 1974. Richard Escolas of the Leicester Lions Club and the District Lions worked to reorganize the Auburn Lions, and it was rechartered in 1975. Charter members included: Raymond Granger, president, Richard Sarkisian, first vice president, Dwight Wilbeur, second vice president, Ernest H. Prescott, secretary, Fred Haskell, treasurer, Francis O'Connor and Ronald Choster. Also installed as members were Sam Alukas, Roger Hubler, Steven Hodgekins, William Clapp, Emile Cusson, Sam Zamarell, Anthony DiErino and James Goglia. The services the Auburn Lions provided to the town through the years included free glaucoma clinics, blood sugar testing and co-sponsoring the Auburn Health Fair. They supported youth organizations including a Little League team, Cub Scout Pack 101, a soccer team, and scholarship aid to students.

Turn To LIONS *page* A5

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Many thanks!

To the Editor:

The Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to the Friends of the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library for their hard work in making our book sale a success! The Friends put in so much time and effort sorting, organizing, and selling the books, and we are incredibly grateful for their dedication and support.

We also want to thank our wonderful community for the generous donations that made the sale possible. Your continued support means so much to our library.

Finally, thank-you to the staff for collecting donations, moving tables, and taking care of the heavy lifting to get everything ready.

It takes a team to make an event like this happen, and we are so fortunate to have such a supportive community. Thank you all!

NICOLE A. MESSIER
DIRECTOR
PEARLE L. CRAWFORD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

It's time to take away Giaquinto's platform

To the Editor:

For those with short attention spans, here's the topic sentence: please stop wasting space in your paper on John Giaquinto.

The long-ish version…

In another career lifetime, I worked as a reporter and editor, and our paper had a handful of regular letter writers we could depend on to crab about local, state, and federal politics. Among them was a gent who would send us, almost on a weekly basis, sprawling screeds pointing the finger of blame at Democrats for—well, basically everything going wrong. His letters would sometimes stretch over two pages, they were such epics, which we printed in full.

Finally, several of us mid-level editors asked our editor-in-chief: Why? Why are we using up so much ink on this guy? We're giving him space in the paper to become the living embodiment of the Grampa Simpson "old man yells at cloud" meme, and to what end?

The boss believed the "letters to the editor" section was a public forum, this guy was a member of the public, ergo he had a right to vent his spleen in our pages. I argued that a right to rant in our paper did not mean we had an obligation on our part to let him; we had no duty, legal or moral or otherwise, to platform a self-important blowhard with nothing of value to say.

A colleague agreed, adding, "He's not informative, he's not enlightening, he's not engaging…he's not even interesting. He's just angry."

John Giaquinto, whose letters I've read in this paper on too many occasions, is not informative, he's not enlightening, he's not engaging, and he's certainly not interesting. He's just angry—and he wants the world to know he's angry (specifically at Democrats).

To the folks running this paper: it's time to take away his platform. Let him start a blog or a podcast. Let him stand on a streetcorner and shout. He clearly feels a need to be heard, and the First Amendment ensures his right to speak out, but that same First Amendment comes with no promises that anyone is obligated to give him a venue for that self-expression.

This publication can, and should, do better than letting an old man yell at a cloud in its pages.

MICHAEL BAILEY
OXFORD

Editor's note: Our Editorial staff does not view it as our place to deny our readers a voice in their local newspaper unless the material they submit could be construed as libelous or violates our decency standards. Mr. Giaquinto will not be turned away, nor will anyone else who takes the time to write in to us. Those who disagree with his opinions, or anyone else's, are encouraged to put pen to paper and write a counterpoint letter.

Donor-advised funds: A smart way to give



FINANCIAL FOCUS

TREVOR NIELSEN

While there are many ways to make charitable gifts, a donor-advised fund (DAF) offers multiple tax benefits and an efficient platform for ongoing giving.

Once you open a DAF, you can contribute many types of assets, including cash, publicly traded stocks, bonds, CDs, or non-cash items such as closely held business interests, art or collectibles. Then decide how to invest the money, potentially following a strategy your DAF sponsor suggests. Next, choose which charities to support, how often to give and how much. You can direct the money to any IRS-approved charitable organization.

Tax deductions

The standard deduction was raised in 2025 and has now been indefinitely extended.

Taking the standard deduction: A new provision in 2026 lets you deduct up to $1,000 in charitable cash contributions ($2,000 if filing jointly) made directly to qualified charitable organizations. However, contributions to DAFs are specifically excluded. You can still receive other DAF advantages, including tax-free growth and capital gains avoidance, just not a deduction for the DAF contribution itself.

Itemizing deductions: A new 2026 rule limits what's deductible: only aggregate charitable contributions exceeding 0.5 percent of your adjusted gross income (AGI) are deductible. If you don't give enough in a single year to clear that floor, a DAF's "bunching" strategy may be effective. You combine several years of giving into one DAF contribution and distribute funds at your own pace, making the 0.5 percent AGI floor easier to clear.

In the 37 percent federal marginal tax bracket: Your itemized deduction tax benefit is now capped at 35 percent, applied after any other deduction-specific limits such as the 0.5 percent AGI floor. Factor this into your charitable giving strategy with your tax professional.

Tax-free growth of earnings

Once you contribute an asset to a DAF, any earnings growth is not taxable to you, the DAF or recipient charities. This means charitable assets can grow, potentially increasing what recipient organizations receive.

Avoidance of capital gains taxes

When you donate appreciated stocks or other investments — or virtually any appreciated asset — to a DAF, you can avoid the capital gains taxes that would be due if you sold the asset and donated the proceeds. Charities benefit because they receive the full appreciated value rather than after-tax sale proceeds. And you can still take a tax deduction for your donation.

Tradeoffs to consider

While these tax benefits can make a DAF attractive, it's worth understanding the tradeoffs. Once you contribute assets to a DAF, that gift is irrevocable. Your investment options are also limited to what's available in the DAF program you've chosen, and DAFs can incur administrative costs in addition to fees charged on the underlying investments.

A good next step

Because DAFs can have significant implications for your tax situation, consult with your tax professional before acting. Your financial advisor can also help you evaluate DAF benefits and tradeoffs and compare sponsors, since programs offer different features.

If a DAF is appropriate, it can be a meaningful and efficient way to support charitable giving for years to come.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Trevor Nielsen, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors, cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

LIONS

continued from page A4

In 1987, the Lions-Quest program, "Skills for Adolescents" was instituted by the Auburn Lions in the Auburn Middle School. It is a comprehensive life skills and drug prevention curriculum for grades 6-8 that emphasizes character development, communication, decision making and service learning.

In 2012, the Auburn Selectmen approved a proclamation recognizing the Auburn Lions Club for its 60 years of service to the community. In 2017, the Auburn Lioness published a cookbook of tried-and-true recipes with the proceeds going to the Lions Club sight programs for the blind and visually impaired and other service projects. This was the last article that could be found for an active organization in town.

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

EDITORIAL

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strong as the tradition itself.

The veterans who gathered Nov. 11 deserve appreciation for what they gave to their country. The young people who participated deserve encouragement to carry those lessons forward.

And the communities of Webster and Dudley deserve to remember that the most meaningful tribute to veterans is not measured by the size of a parade or the number of flags displayed. It is measured by how faithfully that gratitude is practiced during the other 364 days of the year.

Webster sets five focus areas for Strategic Master Plan

WEBSTER — Webster's Strategic Master Plan Committee (SMPC) has finished gathering information and community feedback and is moving into the next phase of Plan development. Over the last several months, the Committee reviewed relevant town plans and evaluated Webster's strengths and opportunities for improvement. Local businesses, government leaders, and community members expressed their views about Webster and its future through focus groups, a community survey, and interviews.

Five areas on which to focus the Plan emerged from this effort. The Committee now is developing strategic goals and objectives for them. Thanks go to all who took the time to share their ideas with the SMPC.

Information gathered provided valuable information. In general, there was a call for Webster to make better use of its resources, strengthen its economy, and help people feel more connected to the community. Business participants expressed confidence in Webster's potential for economic growth, pointing to its affordability, regional location on a major highway, the Webster lake, existing businesses, and workforce resources. They called for strengthening business support, attracting investment and jobs, and improvements to commercial areas—particularly the Downtown. They also emphasized leadership, coordination and collaboration, well maintained and safe commercial areas, streamlined business processes, and consistent follow through. Community participants expressed a strong attachment to Webster, including its lake, history, public services, and local organizations. They identified opportunities for a more vibrant and appealing Downtown, better transportation connections, and more recreation and community participation. Their feedback emphasized building on what Webster already offers while making it easier for people to take part in community life. Government participants highlighted dedicated employees who respond to residents' needs and emphasized the ability to work across departments. They also identified challenges, including financial pressures, staffing needs, maintaining town buildings and property, and changing community needs. Setting realistic priorities that can be addressed, assigning clear responsibility for work, and tracking progress are important to them.

Based on the information gathered, the Committee agreed upon the following five strategic focus areas on which to center the plan:

Economic Development and Downtown Revitalization will include steps to strengthen the local economy, support businesses, and revitalize the Downtown.

Community Assets and Webster Identity will lay out strategies for enhancing and better utilizing those places that are key to our community, such as the lake and Memorial Beach, and steps to connect people to Webster.

Communication and Civic Participation will address how the town can best share information and help people learn about and participate in town decisions, government, and community life.

Financial Stability and Municipal Assets will examine ways to keep town finances on a sound footing and maintain and improve schools, municipal buildings, parks, and recreation areas.

Municipal Capacity and Accountable Implementation will emphasize governance, resources, and clear responsibilities needed to provide services, carry out the plan, and track progress. For each of these areas the Committee is drafting goals that describe what Webster wants to achieve and objectives that make those goals more specific. The Plan is on track to be completed at the end of February.

Community members can read the strategic planning background information and reports, as well as watch videos of the SMPC meetings on webster-ma.gov. Go to the pull down Government tab and select Strategic Master Plan Committee. Residents also can take the opportunity to sign up for town updates about town meetings and committees by going to "Notify Me."

Dudley Conservation Land Trust announces hunting ban for newly acquired properties

DUDLEY — The Dudley Conservation Land Trust (DCLT) today announced that hunting, trapping, the use of bows and arrows or crossbows, and the discharge of firearms are strictly prohibited at its two newest properties: the 23-acre Antos Farm in Dudley (Marsh Road) and the 21.33-acre Kulisa-Tierney Preserve in Oxford (Whiting Road).

Volunteers are actively installing boundary signs and conducting regular patrols. Patrols were recently heightened after DCLT stewards discovered significant damage to a mature tree at the Kulisa-Tierney Preserve, where giant metal bolts had been driven into the trunk to support an unauthorized, makeshift tree stand.

"Keeping these spaces safe for visitors of all ages is our top priority," said Liza Moran, President of DCLT. "Finding human-caused damage to a mature tree on sanctuary land is heartbreaking. As we open these lands to the public, shared respect is vital for our outdoor community. We are asking the local sporting community to partner with us by respecting these new boundaries so that everyone can enjoy Central Massachusetts safely."

DCLT emphasizes that its policies are not anti-hunting; ethical hunting plays a vital role in regional conservation. While hunting is banned on these two smaller tracts, seasonal hunting is open to the public at the 142-acre Slater Woods/Hiland Park Sanctuary in accordance with state regulations.

Passive recreation remains welcome at all DCLT sites from sunrise to sunset. However, DCLT strongly reminds all outdoor enthusiasts to wear bright blaze orange when visiting local woods during autumn. Visitors can verify property boundaries and rules across all 470 acres under DCLT stewardship at dudleyclt.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The British are gone; Dudley is still fighting itself

To the Editor:

For America's 250th anniversary, I've explored published histories of Revolutionary Dudley. I expected battles, not familiar budget meetings.

In 1776, 44-year-old Dudley argued over taxes, inflation and government.

There was also an actual war taking place in Massachusetts.

Boston wanted something. Dudley said no.

In 1773, Boston's Committee of Correspondence urged Massachusetts towns to challenge British interference with colonial rights. On September 20, Dudley's Town Meeting declined to act.

Imagine that. Boston wanted something, and Dudley said no.

Now Dudley asks Boston for help. "No" sounds different from here.

But circumstances changed. So did Dudley. In September 1774, Town Meeting voted to add 100 pounds of gunpowder, 400 pounds of lead and 120 gunflints to its supplies.

I can picture the debate.

"Mr. Moderator, before spending taxpayers' money, do we know when the British intend to attack, how many are coming, and whether anyone has asked King George?"

His Majesty hadn't posted an agenda, complied with the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law or answered a public records request. I imagine the invasion plans would have arrived heavily redacted.

That December, Dudley voted to use provincial money held by its collector to buy guns and bayonets. They identified a danger and a funding source.

Today, police, fire, EMS and highway crews still protect us; we have yet to agree on how to sustain the services residents expect.

Dudley has been expected to do more with less since before there was a country to blame for it.

Inflation, beef and diesel

In 1777, state law let Dudley appoint a ten-member committee to regulate soaring prices for food, lodging, shoeing horses and even a mug of rum-based flip.

If you couldn't control the British, you could at least try controlling the tavern bill.

Today, we budget before knowing the cost of diesel, electricity or heating oil. Families understand: a furnace doesn't consult the checkbook. Neither does a February snowplow.

Perhaps Town Meeting could cap diesel prices. I'm sure the oil companies would be deeply moved. Probably to raise prices.

In May 1780, Dudley debated a proposed state constitution, voted $700 toward the army's beef quota and offered recruiting bounties in silver.

Writing a constitution didn't get anyone out of feeding the army.

I can imagine another Town Meeting.

"We need beef, the soldiers want silver, inflation is soaring, and the British are still shooting at us."

"LIVE WITHIN YOUR MEANS!"

Thunderous applause.

The Selectmen explain that fewer soldiers and less ammunition might leave Dudley vulnerable.

"SCARE TACTICS! ALWAYS THREATENING PUBLIC SAFETY!"

More applause.

Perhaps they could have negotiated a less expensive war.

The arithmetic is not a scare tactic

In 2026, rising retirement, insurance, education and public safety costs strain Dudley's roughly $31.5 million budget. We cut spending, used reserves and twice asked voters to approve additional operating revenue.

Both failed. Those decisions deserve respect. Families have budgets, too.

But the expenses didn't disappear. September's $717,630 proposal identified two firefighter/paramedics, two police officers and highway needs. One-time funds provided relief, not recurring revenue.

Question the numbers. Oppose an increase. Suggest efficiencies. That's democracy. But if the answer is "spend less," which service changes?

There's no third budget column marked "scare tactics."

Drinking-water standards matter. So does compliance: in October, Town Meeting approved $500,000 from Water Enterprise funds to replace PFAS filtration media. Clean water isn't optional. Neither is paying for it.

I suspect some anger aimed at Town Hall begins in Washington or on Beacon Hill. I understand the frustration. But try finding a congressman at the supermarket. Your Selectman is beside the eggs, wondering right along why they cost so much.

Local government is the government you can actually find. That access is our strength—and sometimes our vulnerability.

In 1776, Dudley challenged a constitution-making process over unequal representation. They questioned distant authority without surrendering responsibility for their own town.

Thanksgiving approaches. In 1621, Wampanoag people and English colonists shared a harvest meal in Plymouth despite very different interests. Their history reminds us that sharing a table is only a beginning.

We should argue fiercely about taxes and services. But the person across the aisle isn't a redcoat. When Town Meeting ends, we're still neighbors.

The British are long gone.

We really ought to stop doing their work for them.

JONATHAN RUDA
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
DUDLEY

First Congregational Church of Dudley hosting Christmas Fair

DUDLEY — Please join the First Congregational Church of Dudley (135 Center Rd.) for our annual Christmas Fair on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This year's fair will include online and in-person auctions, quilt and basket raffles, craft vendors, a café, cookie corner, live entertainment, and, of course, a visit from Santa Claus.

The online auction will open on Nov. 20 at 5 p.m. and close on Dec. 5 at 10 am.. The live auction will be held on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 1 p.m.

To register for the virtual auction, either copy/paste the link https://new.biddingowl.com/firstcongregationalchurchofdudley01571 into your Web browser or scan the QR code. Bidding Owl will ask for a private auction code. Use fccd2026 (case sensitive) to see the current items listed. Please email dudleyucc135@gmail.com with any questions.

We hope to see you there!

Girl Scout troops welcome new members

AUBURN — Girls entering grades K and 1 in the fall are invited to join Troop 65600, which meets in Auburn every other Tuesday 5:30-6:30 p.m., and Troop 655999, which meets every other Thursday in Dudley from 6-7:15 p.m. Girl membership registration fee is $111, and is active until September 30, 2027. Financial Assistance is available.

Girl Scouts is the premier organization for girls to learn about leadership, financial literacy, life skills, the outdoors, community service, science and technology.

Girl Scout programming is customizable for all types of learners!

Previous Girl Scout experience is not necessary.

You can register for a spot in the troop at https://go.gscwm.org/troop65600

Questions? Email info@gscwm.org or call 508-365-0115.

About Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts serves nearly 6,000 girls in grades K through 12 with the strong support of over 2,500 adult volunteers in 186 towns and cities in central and western Massachusetts. The Girl Scout program allows girls to discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together while building their personal leadership qualities. GSCWM supports girls by giving them extraordinary opportunities to explore, experience, and learn about their world and helps girls recognize that they are vital members of their communities.

'Memories of Christmas' handbell concert coming to Oxford Dec. 20

OXFORD — The sounds of the holiday season will fill the First Congregational Church of Oxford on Sunday, Dec. 20, when "Memories of Christmas," a holiday handbell concert directed by Cheryl Townsend, is presented at 2 and 5:30 p.m.

The concert, celebrating the memories and joys associated with Christmas, will offer audiences an opportunity to enjoy the distinctive sounds of handbell music during the final days leading up to the holiday.

Handbell performances bring a unique musical dimension to familiar holiday traditions, with musicians working together to create melodies and harmonies through carefully coordinated ringing. The resulting sound is particularly well suited to the warmth and nostalgia of the Christmas season.

"Memories of Christmas" will take place at the First Congregational Church of Oxford, located at 355 Main St.

Admission is $20 per person, $15 for seniors and $2 for children ages 9 and younger.

With two performances scheduled, the concert offers families and other music lovers a choice of afternoon or early evening entertainment as Christmas approaches.

For additional information about the concert, visit www.newenglandringers.org.

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.

Dudley Woman's Club scores a big win with Pocketbook Bingo!







DUDLEY — It was a full house as the Dudley Woman's Club (DWC) celebrated another winning Pocketbook Bingo fundraiser on Sunday, Nov. 8, at the Polish American Citizens Club (PACC) in Webster.

More than 200 enthusiastic guests gathered for a spirited afternoon of games, raffles, laughter and, of course, the chance to take home a fabulous designer handbag.

The generosity of attendees was on full display through the club's voluntary Giving Project. Guests donated socks, hats and gloves, valued at more than $1,000 to the Webster-Dudley Food Share.

The giving didn't stop there! As a special thank-you to volunteer emcees Lester Boggio and Ben Kane, who helped keep the afternoon lively and entertaining, the DWC made a $400 donation in their honor to the Webster-Dudley Food Share.

The afternoon was about more than bingo and beautiful bags, as the proceeds will support the DWC's many charitable initiatives, including college scholarships and donations to organizations serving those in need throughout our communities.

The DWC extends its heartfelt appreciation to the PACC and these local businesses whose generous sponsorships helped make this fundraiser possible:

Body by Tabitha
Central Floor Covering
Exile Vapor
Fins & Tales
Gary's Pest B Dead
Guidance Health Now
Hometown Bank
Knight-Dik Insurance Agency
LeBlanc Oil
Marzeotti Group Realty Inc.
O'Connor & Co. Insurance
P & P General Contractors, Inc.
Peek Services
Precision Auto Rebuilders Inc.
Ruben's Transportation
Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home
Simply Baking
SOL Pelvic Wellness Studio
Webster First Federal Credit Union
Webster Five

A special thanks also goes to the club members, volunteers and everyone who purchased tickets, donated items or helped make the day a success.

When a community comes together for a good cause, everybody wins!

To learn more about the Dudley Woman's Club and the many charitable causes it supports, visit www.dudleywomansclub.org.







Giving Thanks



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Big Bunny shoppers show their generosity



Courtesy

MGSTL Master Masons and family members collect food and winter coat donations outside Big Bunny Market for the Food Share Pantry and Winter Coat Closet, both located at Holy Trinity Church, 446 Hamilton Street, Southbridge.



Despite the cool, rainy weather, MGSTL members and family collected two pickup truckloads of donated food and a third truckload containing two huge boxes and four large contractor bags of winter coats all thanks to our Community Outreach Program.

BY BRO. JIMMY SCOOPS FALZONE
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE MASONIC LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Saturday, Nov. 7, Major General Salem Towne Lodge (MGSTL) held its second food drive of the year through its Community Outreach Program at Big Bunny Supermarket in Southbridge. The drive benefited Food Share Pantry, which serves several area towns.

After consulting Christine McTigue, who runs the Winter Coat Closet for those needing winter clothing, the lodge also collected winter coats. Both organizations are based at Holy Trinity Church, 446 Hamilton Street, Southbridge. Volunteers spent five hours gathering food and coats from generous shoppers despite the cool, rainy morning.

Big Bunny shoppers donated cases of cereal, peanut butter, and canned Chef Boyardee ravioli, as well as boxes of pasta and tomato sauce along with many other canned goods. MGSTL members bagged individual donations and added cans to prefilled bags, collecting 121 bags of groceries for Food Share Pantry—enough to fill two pickup trucks. Other donors brought armfuls of winter coats from their vehicles, filling two huge boxes and four large contractor bags. The community's overwhelming generosity deeply gratified the Master Masons volunteering at the drives. Special thanks go to Big Bunny owners Pete and Jon Cournoyer and their staff for supporting the community and welcoming MGSTL's Master Masons to hold both drives outside the supermarket.

Karen Engell, president of Southbridge Food Share, was delighted to see the 2 pickup trucks filled with bags of donated groceries. She told MGSTL volunteers the food we collected today would help a family of 4 feed 30-40 families in the community, as Thanksgiving nears. The Food Share Pantry and Winter Coat Closet thanked MGSTL's Master Masons for supporting both organizations through this year's Community Outreach Program. To learn about Freemasonry and find a nearby lodge, visit mass-freemasonary.org.

Saint Joseph School announces 2026–2027 Student Council

WEBSTER — Saint Joseph School has elected its student leaders for the 2026–2027 school year. Bella Kicilinski will serve as president, James Miranda as vice president, Ailis Connolly as secretary, and Giorgios Sgouritsas as treasurer.

Class representatives are Kamila Biela, Grade 4; Olivia Perry, Grade 5A; Kenny Maurer, Grade 5B; Julia Biela, Grade 6A; Kaleb Goulet, Grade 6B; Kirollos Ibrahim, Grade 7; and Grayson Dollar, Grade 8.

Elected by their peers, Student Council members represent the student body and help shape school life through outreach projects, student-led initiatives, spirit activities, buddy programs, school dances, and alumni connections. The council also gives students opportunities to practice leadership, participate in the democratic process, and serve their school community.

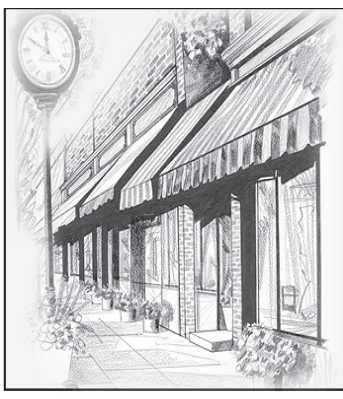
The council is guided by Principal Beth Boudreau, Teacher Moderator Mrs. Mary Ann Weaver, and Pastor and Headmaster Rev. Richard Polek. Saint Joseph School congratulates its new student leaders and looks forward to their contributions throughout the year.



Courtesy

Ready to lead, serve, and make their voices count! Saint Joseph School's 2026–2027 Student Council brings together elected officers and class representatives from Grades 4–8. Throughout the year, these student leaders will represent their classmates and help bring school spirit, service, and new ideas to life.

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OBITUARIES

John A. "Jack" Carter



John A. "Jack" Carter, 76, of Stuart, Florida, passed away Friday, November 6, 2026, at his home in Oxford, Massachusetts.

Born March 30, 1950, in Worcester, Massachusetts, he was the son of the late Marshall and Alice (Donahue) Carter.

Jack was a proud United States Marine Corps veteran who served during the Vietnam War with the legendary 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, famously known as "The Walking Dead." His pride in being a Marine remained with him throughout his life. He was a lifetime member of the Oxford VFW and the National Rifle Association.

Jack and his wife Linda owned and operated Act One Video before he went on to work as a facilities manager for several shopping plazas in Shrewsbury and Worcester. Together, they resided in Griswold, Connecticut, for 25 years before moving to Dudley, Massachusetts, to be closer to family. They later moved to Oxford, MA then finally Jack made his home in Stuart, Florida.

A true "Jack of all trades," there was seemingly nothing he couldn't fix, build, or figure out, and very little he wouldn't at least attempt. An avid outdoorsman, Jack enjoyed hunting, fishing, and traveling the country in his RV with his dog Wego.

Jack had a larger than life personality, a wonderful sense of humor, and an unwavering loyalty to his family and friends. A master storyteller, Jack had an incredible gift for turning even the simplest experience into a hilarious, unforgettable tale. His stories could fill a room with laughter, and those who heard them often found themselves retelling them for years to come. He was never one to leave you guessing where he stood, and his presence was felt wherever he went. Jack was truly one of a kind, the kind of man you could meet just once and never forget. Above all, Jack was a family man whose love and devotion to his wife, Linda, and their son, Nicholas, was the kind of love that was only found in fairy tales. His family meant the world to him, they were his greatest pride, his greatest joy, and the most important part of his life.



Jack is survived by his brother, Paul Carter of North Grosvenordale, Connecticut; several nieces, nephews, and cousins; and a host of cherished friends in Florida and Connecticut.

Jack was predeceased by his beloved wife of 45 years, Linda (Krasowsky) Carter, who passed away in 2022, and their cherished son, Nicholas Carter, who passed away in 2018. The love he held for both remained with him throughout his life.

Memorial calling hours will be held Thursday, November 19, 2026, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, Massachusetts. A memorial service will follow at 6:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

Jean A. Hennequin, 84



DUDLEY – Jean A. (Dykstra) Hennequin, 84, of Sunrise Shore East, passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by her family on Saturday, November 7, 2026. She is survived by her three children; Lynn A. Benoit and her husband Scott of Dudley, Greg A. Hennequin and his wife Allison of Dudley, and Cheri A. Van Gervan of Oxford; a sister, Karen Fekette of South Carolina; three brothers, Kenneth Dykstra and his wife Gladys of West Milford, NJ, James Dykstra of West Milford, NJ, and Kevin Dykstra and his wife Holly of West Milford, NJ; six grandchildren, Brittany, Victoria, Bryan, Hadley, Allison, and Gavin; a great-granddaughter, McKenzie; and several nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her husband of 61 years, Gerald A. Hennequin who died in 2022; her daughter, Lori A. Hennequin, who died in 2018; her son, Robert Hennequin who died in 1997; and her granddaughter, Sarah Benoit, who died in 2003.

Mrs. Hennequin was born in Paterson, New Jersey, daughter to the late Henry and Wilhemina (van Der Slys) Dykstra, and graduated from West Milford High School in 1960. She worked for the Oxford Public School System for over 20 years as a paraprofessional, a job she took great pride in.

Jean had many hobbies throughout her life, including fishing, watching horse racing, quilting, and making ceramics, which led to her opening her own business, Ceramics by Jean. She was an avid NASCAR fan, but most of all, she loved her dogs, especially Murphy.

A funeral service was held on Friday, November 13, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main Street, Oxford. Burial followed at Waldron Cemetery in Dudey. Calling hours were held on Thursday, November 12, 2026, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Notre Dame Hospice, Attn: Development Office; Notre Dame Health Care Center; 555 Plantation Street, Worcester, MA 01605

Linda Janet Albrecht, 79



WOODSTOCK VALLEY,CT-Linda Janet (Duval) Albrecht, 79, passed away peacefully, surrounded by love on Sunday, November 8, 2026, at St. Joseph's Living Center in Windham, CT. Born on September 18, 1947, in Webster, Massachusetts, she was the youngest child of Madeline (Livernoche) and Ernest Duval, and was a graduate of Bartlett High School. Linda lived a life rich in kindness, laughter, and unwavering dedication to her family and community. Linda's love for her family was boundless. Her greatest joy was having everyone together, surrounded by the love, laughter, and warmth of those who meant the most to her. She is survived by her devoted husband of 29 years, John Albrecht, her beloved son, Scott Bronczyk, and her cherished daughter, Kerry Cyronak and her husband Mark. She was an exceptionally proud grandmother to Ryan Cyronak, Lindsey Bronczyk, Mason Bronczyk, and Madeline Cyronak, each of whom held a special place in her heart and lit up her world. She also leaves her brother, Robert Duval and his wife, Louise, and the family she lovingly embraced when she married John: son, Steven Albrecht and his husband, Robert Thompson; daughter, Karen Albrecht and her fiancé, Steve Uzdarwin; and son, Kurt Albrecht. Grandchildren Laura and her partner Tim, Jason, Elizabeth and her husband Maxwell, Matthew and his wife, Morgan. Great-grandchildren Natalie, Jack, Daisy, Thumbelina, Hadley and Hudson. She also leaves many beloved nieces and nephews, whom she loved deeply and was immensely grateful for. She was predeceased by her parents, and her siblings, Elaine Duval and her companion Larry Behr, Alfred Duval and his wife, Pauline, Joanne Morgan and her husband Bernard. All are welcome to join the family for visiting hours on Sunday, November 22 from 2-5pm at Gilman Funeral Home, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT. A Funeral Mass will be held on Monday the 23rd, at 10:30am in St. Joseph's Church, 18 Main St, North Grosvenordale, CT. Interment of her ashes will follow at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Webster, MA. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Quinebaug Valley Special Olympics, ensuring her legacy of love and support for athletes continues to thrive. Checks can be made payable to SOCT-QV, with a note that it is in memory of Linda Albrecht, for Quinebaug Valley. Donations can be mailed to Special Olympics CT, 2666 State Street, Suite 1, Hamden, CT 06517-2232.

Jean Knapton DaCosta, 88



Jean Knapton DaCosta, 88, passed away peacefully on October 21, 2026, surrounded by family.

Born January 13, 1938, in Henniker, New Hampshire, Jean was the daughter of the late Roy and Etta Knapton. She graduated from Henniker High School and attended Colby Junior College.

Jean made her home in Dudley, Massachusetts, where she raised her four children with her former husband Dan DaCosta.

She had a fulfilling career with Health Awareness Services of Central Massachusetts.

Jean was predeceased by her siblings, Richard Knapton, Marilyn Buxton, and Jimmy Knapton; her youngest son, Danny DaCosta; and her grandson, Joey Velardi.

She is survived by her children, Bill DaCosta, Jan Velardi, and Suzanne Knapton and her husband, Thomas; her grandchildren, Danny Velardi, Matthew Knapton, his wife Alyssa, Benny Knapton, and Lexi Knapton; and her great-grandchildren, Emma and Ollie Knapton.

She loved gardening and transformed her property into a beautiful oasis of every color imaginable.

At Jean's request, no formal memorial service will be held. She will be laid to rest beside her son, Danny, at Henniker Cemetery.

The family extends its heartfelt gratitude to Jenn, Elizabeth, and Betty of VNA Care Hospice for their compassionate care and support.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to VNA Care Hospice, 120 Thomas Street, Worcester, MA 01608.

Paul Haley 61



Paul Haley 61, of Dudley, MA formerly of Templeton MA died Oct 31, 2026, after a short illness.

Throughout his life Paul was a long time bus driver and instructor. He also enjoyed doing small engine repairs with his brother Randy.

He is preceded by his parents William and Dorothy Haley and brother Afred Haley. He leaves Daughter Wynter Haley, brother David Haley and wife Lynn Haley, Randy Haley wife Julie Haley, sister Paula Jurkiewicz, husband Jozef and longtime companion Karen Emond. His quick wit and sense of humor will be sorely missed. A private burial is planned in the spring.

Leo E. LaBonte, 89



OXFORD –We are deeply saddened to announce that our dear "Double L" passed away on All Saints Day, Sunday, November 1, 2026, at Advinia Care in Northbridge. Leo E. LaBonte, 89, of Dana Rd. is survived by his beloved bride of 70 years, Judith A. (Hamilton) LaBonte of Oxford; three children, Michelle A. LaBonte and her husband Michael Jackson of Arlington, VA, Michael L. LaBonte and his wife Janet of Thompson, CT, and Jeffrey B. LaBonte and his wife Jean Blackwood Labonte of Oxford; two brothers, Arsene "Sam" LaBonte and Robert LaBonte, both of Florida; four grandchildren, Dane LaBonte and his wife Kayla of Sturbridge, Corey LaBonte and his wife Michelle of Auburn, Maxwell Jackson of New York City, and Marcus Jackson of Brussels, Belgium; his great-grandson, Bennett LaBonte of Sturbridge; two step-grandchildren, Kevin and Kerry; and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by two brothers, Bernard LaBonte and Richard LaBonte; and two sisters, Doris Pion and Irene Duval.

Leo was born September 8, 1937, in Putnam, CT, son of the late Philisa and Odila (Mailloux) LaBonte, and attended public schools in North Grosvenordale, Charlton, and Sturbridge before moving to Oxford in 1956.

Mr. LaBonte held a variety of positions in the construction and transportation industries, retiring in 1995 after over 20 years as a truck driver with Carolina Freight. He was a proud member of Teamsters Local 170 for more than 30 years. Leo was a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 4241 in Oxford, and a 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus John Cardinal Wright Assembly. He attended St. Roch's Church in Oxford.

Leo embraced retirement and made the most of every day. He was a fixture at many Oxford establishments where he was a friend to all, "Lucky Leo" enjoyed music, dancing, attending concerts, playing Keno, cards, and Yahtzee, trips to the casino, and traveling throughout the world. He was an avid Red Sox, Patriots, and Celtics fan who had a baseball cap collection to go with each season. An enthusiastic softball player, he assisted with the construction of Ruel Field in Oxford.

Calling hours were Saturday, November 14, 2026, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford. A funeral service was be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday at the funeral home. Burial will follow at North Cemetery in Oxford.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc. P.O. Box 96109 Washington, DC 20090 or online at www.kofc.org

Joseph Henry Champagne, 88



≈OXFORD - Joseph Henry Champagne, affectionately known as "Dad," "Big Joe," and "Pépère," was born in Auburn, Massachusetts, on July 22, 1938. He passed the way he wanted to, in his home on Cypress Street, peacefully on Thursday, November 12, 2026, at the age of 88.

He was one of seven children, to his parents Henry and Rose (Thibeault) Champagne. Joe lived a life rooted in family, faith, and the simple things that brought him happiness. He was witty, kind and generous.

Joe proudly served in the United States Army as an MP and was a disabled American veteran. His service to his country was an important part of his life. Joe worked for the United States Postal Service as a Letter Carrier for many years, he fondly spoke of his route and the customers he delivered to in the West Side of Worcester, Massachusetts.

To his children, he was "Dad" or "Big Joe". To his grandchildren, he was proudly known as "Pépère". He leaves behind his three children, Joseph R. "Ti-Joe" Champagne and his wife Patricia of Oxford, Jean "Jeannie" Abbruzzese and her husband J.P., Jr. of Zebulon, NC, and John "Jac" Champagne and his wife Cathy of Dudley; their mother Patricia E. Champagne of Auburn; four grandchildren, John "Jacson", Sean, Dean and his wife Autumn, and Hanna; two sisters, Ruth Dionne of Oxford and Ann Frederick of Auburn; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his siblings; Roland, Raymond, Daniel and Alice.



Joe was a devout Roman Catholic and a longtime parishioner and Eucharist Minister of St. Roch's Parish in Oxford. His faith remained an important part of his life.

He enjoyed the simple things like feeding the birds and squirrels, getting out for a drive, collecting coins, and visiting local family and relatives from years past. Sometimes it was those little things that made him happiest.

Joe leaves behind a lifetime of memories and a family who will always love him. He will be missed, remembered, and forever loved.

Rest easy, Dad. We love you.

A funeral service was held on Monday, November 16, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main Street, Oxford. Burial followed at Notre Dame Cemetery in Worcester.

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

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Special Events

Tiny Art Show – Starting November 2nd

Calling all art lovers! The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library is hosting a Tiny Art Show, showcasing miniature pieces of art from our community. All creators are invited to participate -- no matter their age or skill level! Starting Monday, November 2nd, pick up your 3 in. x 3 in. canvas from the main Circulation Desk or the Children's Desk. All mediums are strongly encouraged. Important Dates: Canvas Pick Up: November 2nd-21st Art Submission Deadline: Tuesday, November 24th! Please be sure to complete the submission form with your artwork. Artwork on display: All of December

Tiny Art Show Reception – Thursday December 3rd 4-6PM

Come celebrate all of our creative artists who participated in our Tiny Art Show this year! Stop by to admire the artwork and enjoy some refreshments. Did you enter a piece yourself? Find Miss Paige for a goodie bag as a thank you gift for your participation.

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. For more information, email us at info@lvscm.org.

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

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

Yoga – Saturdays at 9:15am

Join Meg 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.

Drop-in Mahjong – Mondays 1:00-3:00PM

Stop in for a weekly mahjong game at the Gladys E. Kelly Library. All skill levels welcome! Mahjong is a tile-based game for two to four players.

Digital Literacy Course: Essential Computer Skills – Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30pm, beginning September 29th

Ready to get comfortable using a computer? This six-week course is designed for adults with little or no computer skill or experience who want to build confidence using technology for everyday life, work, and education. Students will learn the essential computer skills needed to navigate today's digital world. Through hands-on instruction and guided practice, participants will gain confidence using a computer, the internet, and common online tools in a supportive, beginner-friendly environment. Classes meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, through November 10th, at 5:30-7:30PM. If you have any questions, email websterabelinkages@webster-schools.org or call (508) 949-8282 to register.

Registration through Adult Basic Education is required.

The Nest: Small Business Growth Marketing Program – November 7th, 14th, December 5th, 12th, January 9th and 16th

The Nest Small Business Growth Marketing Program is a three-month practical training program designed to help local small-business owners develop a repeatable system for attracting new customers, converting prospects, increasing repeat business, and generating referrals.

This program consists of six sessions held the first two weeks of November, December, and January.

Trivia Palooza 10 – Monday, November 23rd 6:00-7:00 PM

Join Evan and his sister Carrie for General Knowledge Trivia. Assemble your team (up to 5 people) and put your thinking caps on! Registration is required. Please only register 1 person per team; you cannot complete the registration process online if you say there are more attendees. We do not need to know how many people are on your team, but the maximum is 5. The winning team gets a prize!

Women's Circle – The Last Monday of the Month starting November 30th 6:30-8:00PM

Rooted in the practices described in The Way of Council, the Women's Circle offers a welcoming space for authentic connection, deep listening, and personal reflection. Through the simple yet powerful practices of speaking from the heart, listening without judgment, and honoring each person's experience, participants build community, cultivate self-awareness, and discover wisdom in shared stories. Whether navigating a life transition, seeking meaningful connection, or simply longing for space to be heard, Women's Circle provides an opportunity to gather in a spirit of presence, respect, and mutual support.

New England Ringer: Experience the Magic of Handbells Up Close! – Thursday, December 10th 6:30-7:30PM

New England Ringers, founded in 2000, is an advanced performing handbell ensemble made up of highly energetic musicians playing complex, dazzling literature. For this festive performance, we are proud to present the NER Chamber Ringers—a specialized, intimate subset of our larger group designed perfectly for smaller venues. This select ensemble brings you the same high-energy performance you love, but in a cozy setting that lets you see the precision and artistry up close. Ring in the season with an enchanting program of Classic Christmas Carols and beloved holiday favorites. Learn about the various techniques we use and ring a bell or chime yourself! We delight listeners of all ages and are thrilled to bring this joyful celebration to the Webster! Join us for an unforgettable evening of music and holiday cheer!

Programming for All Ages

Library for All: Crafts –Mondays and Fridays at 10am

Library for All is an inclusive program for teens and adults of all abilities and their caregivers. Please let us know if you need any special accommodations! Join us every Monday and Friday! September-February, the crafts will rotate between coloring and painting. We'll provide the space and supplies, you bring the creativity!

Puzz Fest- Thursday. November 19th at 6:00 PM

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. Please only register 1 person per team; you cannot complete the registration process online if you say there are more attendees. We do not need to know how many people are on your team, but the maximum is 5.

Children's and Young Adult Programming

NEW Toddler Storytime – Mondays, 10:30am

Join us every Monday from 10:30–11:30am for a storytime designed for toddlers and their caregivers! We'll read stories, sing songs, and enjoy fingerplays together before diving into hands-on sensory free play. Together we'll build early literacy skills, spark curiosity, and discover the joy of learning through play!

Creators Club – Mondays at 4:00pm

Come explore our Creators Club, where each month features a new theme highlighting a different art supply for kids to experiment with and turn into their own masterpieces!

Tiny Groovers –Tuesdays at 10:30am

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

Tween Game Night – Twice a month Tuesday, November 3rd and November 24th 5:30-6:30PM

Welcome to our brand-new Tween Game Night, happening twice a month for kids 7-12. Each session will offer a different type of game:

Board Game Night: Learn a new board game or bring your friends along to play some games together. Caregivers are encouraged to participate in the fun!

Video Game Night: Challenge your friends to some friendly competition! Every month will feature a different multiplayer game including Mario Kart, Nintendo Sports, Just Dance, Overcooked, Super Smash Bros and more!

Due to limited space, registration is required.

Kim the LEGO Lady – Tuesday, November 17th 4:00-5:00 PM

Do you love building, creating, and having fun with LEGO? Look no further! Kim the LEGO Lady is here and we want YOU to be part of our LEGO CLUB adventure. Join us for interactive building challenges, new skills and create fabulous imaginative builds. For ages 5 to 11. **Registration is required.**

Snack Club: Mini Banana Chocolate Chip Muffins- Tuesday, November 17th 5:30-6:30 PM

Snack Club is back! Each month, kids ages 7-12 will get to make their own tasty treats or try out fun new flavors with friends. Due to limited supplies, this program requires registration. Please only sign up your child if they fall within the required age range.



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PARADE

continued from page A1

High School Choir, Bartlett High School Honor Society and town and state officials.

The ceremonies included patriotic tributes, prayers, rifle salutes, and the playing of Taps, offering moments of reflection and gratitude for those who have served and sacrificed.

A sincere thank-you goes out to the veterans, organizers, participants, and community members who helped make this annual tradition a meaningful tribute to our nation's heroes.

Their service, sacrifice, and dedication will never be forgotten.









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BARTLETT HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

WEBSTER — Bartlett High School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2026-2027 school year.

Grade 9

High Honor: Jaidyn Corso, Xander Nieves, Mackenzie Nowak, Jeremy Nunoo

Honor: Jamal Abshir, Maryann Adil, Benjamin Boivin, Abygail Bouthillier, Hunter Claypool, Jeremy Dion, Jacob Green, Mia L'Heureux, Jetsun Lama, Kyle Ludwig, Emmanuel Medrano, Kylie Mitchell, Bryan Ortiz Quinones, Sebastian Reyes, Ariana Senovaitis, Adryanna Soto, Taylin Whiting

Grade 10

High Honor: Emma Farrar, Yaran Gonon, Mason Grzyb, Jordyn Martin Caceres, Kaitlyn Mckinstry, Jazhel Jaireh Portante, Aoife Pyke, Smira Seddiki, Devonta Vega

Honor: Elian Zion Azu, Phoenix Barrett, Raiza Colon Ramirez, Janisa Dabhi, Sophia Ferrara, Kathleen Madore, Weston Mulready, Heloise Oliveira, Patricia Paglalunan, Makayla Place, Val Joseph Portante, Jordan Reeves, Adreanna Rose, Karisa Safford, Kason Safford, Anthony Thomas, Brayden Wilcox

Grade 11

High Honor: Natalie De Leon Torres, Xenia Gauthier, Daniela Kotey, Kristie Remillard, Don Ta

Honor: Nyameri Barjolo, Tyler Brunet, Matthew Czernicki, Willow Dennis, Natalia DosSantos, Dapchar Joseph, Jacob Macomber, Elijah Mckenna, Jordan Miller, Ryan Muscara, Kaylee Podles, Isabelle Porto Pereira, Lindsey Ramsey, Angela Sarfo, Mia Sepulveda, Olivia Shelburne, Julia Urato

Grade 12

High Honor: Caden Case, Dhyey Patel, Michael Stawiecki

Honor: Zainab Abshir, Xavian Bailey, Alejandro DelRio, Michael Etpison, Cheyanne Grundel, Jean Juberline Jean, Libby Kokoszka, Madison Lyons, Megan Milligan, Morgan Minor, Teagan Napolitano, Irelyn Pottle, Jeaven Rodriguez, Carmen Ruiz Acosta, Tyler Whiting

LEGALS

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket Number: **26 SM 003601**
ORDER OF NOTICE
TO: Scott Holland and Nichole Holland
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. App.
§ 3901 *et seq.*:
JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, successor by merger with J.P. Morgan Mortgage
Acquisition Corp.,
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Webster, numbered 5 Blueberry Lane, given by Scott Holland and Nichole Holland to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Fremont Investment & Loan dated December 1, 2006, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40292, Page 1, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendants' Servicemembers status.
If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before 12/21/2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of said Court on 11/9/2026
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
November 20, 2026

TOWN OF DUDLEY
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
71 WEST MAIN STREET,
DUDLEY MA 01571
Please take notice that:Samantha Costello
Have applied to the Zoning Board of Appeals to vary the terms of the Zoning By-Laws Section: 2.04.00 Density Regulations
Location: 50 Center Road
In the following respect: A frontage variance of 24.34' (proposing 25.66' of frontage fot Lot R2, which require 50' of frontage for a retreat lot).
An area variance of 44,653.35 sq. ft. (Proposing 173,146.65 sq. t. for Lot R1 when 217,800.00 sq. ft. (5 acres) is required for a retreat lot)
The Public Hearing will be held on Thursday December 3, 2026 6:00PM at the Town Hall room 321A, at which time you may heard relative to this Public Hearing.
Please contact Amanda Holmes at 508-949-8012 or building1@dudley-ma.gov to attend the meeting.
Steve Watroba, Chairman
Zoning Board of Appeals
November 20, 2026
November 27, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO18P2191PM
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
Estate of:
Gail C Brochu
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by
Jonathan J. Davey of Quincy MA
requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account , Temp 1st, 2nd, Final & Perm 1st, 2nd, 3rd & Final and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.
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 12/08/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 12, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 20, 2026

TOWN OF DUDLEY
Board of Selectmen
The Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, November 23, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. or shortly thereafter in Room 321A at the Dudley Municipal Complex Building, located at 71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA regarding real estate tax classification. Selectmen will be asked by the Dudley Board of Assessors to select a residential factor which will determine the percentages of the tax burden to be borne by each class of properties in the town for FY2027. Written and oral comments will be accepted from the public during this meeting.
November 20, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. W024P0316PM
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT
In the matter of: Marilyn K Woodard
Of: Webster, MA
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are
hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **1st Temp** account(s) of Nicholas J Morana of Shrewsbury, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **12/01/2026.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 27, 2026
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
November 20, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. W024P0316PM
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT
In the matter of: Marilyn K Woodard
Of: Webster, MA
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are
hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **1st Perm** account(s) of Nicholas J Morana of Shrewsbury, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **12/01/2026.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 27, 2026
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
November 20, 2026

NOTICE OF MEETING
THIS NOTICE TO BE FILED IN DUPLICATE WITH THE TOWN CLERK AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING AS REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 303 OF THE ACTS OF 1975
THE Z.B.A. WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING FOR:
Jessica Prefontaine of 6 Ziemba Road
on **THURSDAY, Deember 3, 2026 @ 7:00 pm** IN **ROOM 321A** TO HEAR THE APPLICANT'S REQUEST FOR:
A special permit for chickens & goats
Amanda Holmes
ZAB Clerk
November 20, 2026
November 27, 2026



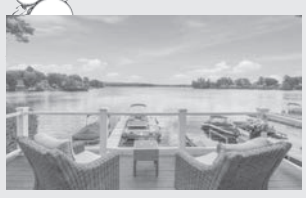




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Webster Lake ~ 93 Birch Island Rd



Expansive water views! Beautiful, completely remodeled home on scenic Webster Lake! Combines effortless modern luxury with lakefront living. It boasts a spacious, sunny open-concept layout, designed for both relaxation & entertaining! Swim off your private dock, warm up in your personal sauna, share stories around the firepit on chilly nights ~ everyday feels like a vacation!
MLS# 73589032 NEW PRICE $1,150,000

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

Webster - 106 East Main St (Rte 12) Commercial Opportunity!



Corner Lot, 275' +/- Road Frontage, Extremely High Traffic Count, 6,200 SF (75x80) Commercial Building, Currently 2 Units -> Potential for More. Economical, Efficient Natural Gas FHA Heat & Cooling. Its close proximity to Successful National Franchised Businesses generates Significant Commerce at this Location. Convenient Access. MLS #73512426 $ 615,000

Woodstock ~ 500 Route 169



Historic Woodstock Hill! Distinctive 1800 Vintage ~ 2,500+/- sq ft home blends period charm with panoramic views. Features 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, multiple living areas, and a scenic sitting porch. It includes two furnished guest suites with strong booking history near Woodstock Academy and Pomfret School. Lush grounds boast established flower gardens and a flower stand, offering potential for a studio or business (subject to approval). Own a rare piece of Woodstock history!
CT MLS# 24209434 $779,000

24 Laurelwood Dr Webster Lake Waterfront

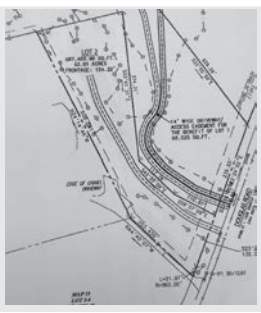


On the shores of prestigious Webster Lake! Experience ultra-luxury lakefront living with direct water access. This young modern craftsman lake home is masterly designed to maximize panoramic Western views through a two-story architectural tower. The home boasts 3,790 +/- square feet of sophisticated, three-story living space, complete with multilevel waterside decks, a radius stone faced patio, and a tiered landscape with its own waterfall. 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



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
~ A Great Value at $69,900.

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake Waterfront
22 Union Point
Snug Harbor Villa
Open House UNday 12-2
Most Luxurious & Largest on the Lake!
Presenting a distinguished condo residence that will provide an exceptional waterfront lifestyle! Offers an expansive 4600 sf+/ featuring 4BRs, 4-1/2 baths, 3 frplcs & more, all designed for relaxation & convenience! Nothing quite compares! Priced to Sell.
VIEW REALTOR MLS # 73507605 FOR MORE DETAILS $948,000

Webster Lake ~
60 Wakefield Ave ~ Corner Lot!
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!
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!
Go To MLS # 73582967 $247,500

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*Fireplace * 1st Floor Laundry
92 Worcester Road $499,000

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NEW- Great Condition
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*Country Kitchen
3 Bedrooms Garage
133 Church Street

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NEW HOME ON 1.5 ACRES
*Move Right In
*No Closing Costs * 3 Full Baths
*7 Rooms
*Family Room
95 A.F. Putnam Rd $675,000

SUTTON-
MOTIVATED SELLER!
*3 BR *1.5 Baths
*First Floor Family Room
*1.4 acres
9 Colonial Rd $530,000

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Reservations Suggested
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Jo-Ann (Nedoroscik) Szymczak
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Courtesy

On Friday, Nov. 13, the fifth grade team at Dudley Middle School hosted local veterans to show appreciation and hear their stories. Approximately 40 veterans joined the 5th graders and were treated to musical performances by the chorus and band. The veterans were also interviewed by students and enjoyed a homemade lunch with their host students. Jennifer Hegedus, 5th grade U.S. History teacher, has been running the Bring a Veteran to School program for many years, with the support of DMS administration and staff. The staff and students at DMS thank all veterans for their service.









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BEST PRICES OF THE YEAR!
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32" HDTV..... $99.99
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50" HDTV..... $199.99
55" HDTV..... $299.99
65" HDTV..... $299.99
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75" HDTV..... $599.99
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