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Volunteers brave the heat to transform Antos Farm Sanctuary ahead of centennial celebration

DUDLEY — Local volunteers braved high temperatures this past weekend at the first-ever stewardship day for Dudley Conservation Land Trust’s newest sanctuary, Antos Farm. A passionate team of 20 energetic volunteers gathered on Marsh Road, Dudley, to clear trails, dispose of legacy homestead items, and rescue the property’s farmhouse from overgrowth, kicking off preparations for the farm’s upcoming 100th anniversary celebration on October 3.

The productive workday resulted in a completely filled 15-yard dumpster of trash and debris removed from the property. Armed with hand tools and bolstered by some powerful equipment, the crew tackled prickles, invasive plants, and overgrown bushes that had swallowed the historic farmhouse.

“The energy today was incredible,” said Liza Moran, President of the Dudley Conservation Land Trust. “At DCLT, we believe that stewarding our land is a sacred duty and one of the most important parts of our



mission. Restoring the area around the historic farmhouse and clearing existing trails is a wonderful way to celebrate one of our newest sanctuaries, Antos Farm, as

we approach its centennial milestone this October.”

The October event is not just a commemoration of 100 years but also a celebration of the land trust’s ded-

icated efforts in acquiring and conserving this hard-won property. Thanks to the team’s hard work, preexisting trails on the sanctuary are now significantly more

accessible for future public use. Volunteers cleared low-hanging branches, removed tripping hazards, and mapped out key paths for future visitors.

“We had a massive amount of work to do today, but our stewardship volunteers jumped right in to tackle it,” said Vice President Heather Radcliffe, who organized the event and its extensive to-do list. “From the youngest participants, eager to help, to seasoned volunteers who shared their expertise, it was truly a collective effort.”

As the celebration approaches, the Dudley Conservation Land Trust is looking forward to showcasing the beauty and significance of Antos Farm in this local wildlife corridor, offering a space where people can connect with nature and appreciate the legacy of conservation.

This stewardship day marks the beginning of a long-term effort to restore the sanctuary’s natural habitats and historic features. The community is invited to visit the land trust’s website to RSVP for the Oct. 3 celebration, which will kick off with a short, pre-celebration hike along the newly cleared trails.

Dudley sets Sept. 29 special election on public safety funding, school capital improvements

DUDLEY — Dudley voters will head to the polls on Tuesday, September 29 to decide three ballot questions that will determine the future of the town’s public safety services and school capital improvements.

Two separate special elections will be held concurrently that day from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main St., with Dudley voters receiving two separate ballots.

The Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee has called a district-wide special election in both Dudley and Charlton seeking voter authorization for a borrowing associated with proposed capital improvements.

Separately, the Dudley Board of Selectmen has called a special town election for the same date,

time, and polling location. The Town ballot will seek voter approval for funding to support Police, Fire, and Highway services and will also ask voters whether to approve a Proposition 2½ Debt Exclusion to fund Dudley’s share of the borrowing sought through the district-wide special election.

Together, the two ballots will present Dudley voters with three questions:

- The Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee seeks approval to borrow \$11,183,735 for capital improvements. Dudley’s obligation would be \$5,018,583.

- The Dudley Board of Selectmen seeks voter approval to override the limits of Proposition 2 ½ to assess an additional \$717,630 in taxes to fund public safety for the current

fiscal year.

- Selectmen also seek approval for a Proposition 2½ Debt Exclusion to fund Dudley’s \$5 million share of the school district’s capital borrowing, if it’s approved by voters.

Both Proposition 2½ questions would raise taxes in Dudley: the debt exclusion would be temporary for the life of the school borrowing; the override would be permanent.

Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda said the two local ballot questions serve different purposes but are closely connected.

“The two local questions are legally separate, but they should also be considered together,” he said. “It is important that voters understand how the

Turn To ELECTION page A10

Nichols College named Presenting Sponsor of Joe Andruzzi Foundation’s Young Professionals Council

DUDLEY — Nichols College and the Joe Andruzzi Foundation (JAF) today announced that Nichols College has been named the 2026 Presenting Sponsor of JAF’s Young Professionals Council (YPC), establishing a new partnership designed to engage the next generation of philanthropic leaders in the Foundation’s mission.

Through the partnership, Nichols College students, alumni and faculty will have opportunities to connect with JAF and participate in YPC events, volunteer initiatives, advocacy efforts and community engagement activities throughout New England. The collaboration will also highlight Nichols College’s development of future leaders who understand the importance of service and giving back

to their communities.

JAF’s Young Professionals Council brings together emerging professionals who share a passion for making a difference. Members support the Foundation through fundraising, volunteerism, advocacy and community engagement while developing leadership skills and building meaningful personal and professional connections.

“Partnering with the Joe Andruzzi Foundation reflects Nichols College’s commitment to preparing students to become leaders who make a meaningful difference in their professions and communities,” said Nichols College President William C. Pieczynski. “Through the Young Professionals Council, our students and alumni will have an opportunity to build

connections, put their skills into action and support cancer patients and families throughout New England. We are proud to join JAF in advancing this important mission.”

As Presenting Sponsor, Nichols College will be recognized throughout the Young Professionals Council’s programming and communications. Representatives from Nichols College will also participate in future Council meetings and work alongside JAF to expand engagement among students, alumni and young professionals throughout the region.

“Nichols College’s investment in the next generation of philanthropic leadership will help us grow the Young Professionals Council and create even more oppor-

Turn To YPC page A10

Historic infant formula donation distributed to local nonprofits

SACRED HEART OF JESUS FOOD PANTRY AMONG BENEFICIARIES

REGION — In July, Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis, the Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff’s Association (WCRDSA), the Worcester County

Sheriff’s Office, and Ocean State Job Lot (OSJL) distributed a historic \$250,000 worth of infant formula to food pantries, women’s shelters, and nonprofit organizations serving families throughout Worcester County.

The donation was made possible through the Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation’s “Buy, Give, Get” Baby Formula Program, launched in June 2026. Through the initia-

tive, customers made a \$20 donation at checkout, Ocean State Job Lot provided premium Kabrita goat milk formula to its charitable partners, and participating customers received a \$20 Crazy Deal® Gift Card for a future purchase. Ocean State Job Lot then worked with regional partners, including the WCRDSA, to distribute the formula to local organizations serving families in need.

Turn To DONATION page A10



Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and WCRSO Staff visited Webster’s Sacred Heart of Jesus Food Pantry to drop off cases of donated infant formula.

Courtesy

Auburn resident sets out to raise awareness for Frontotemporal Degeneration

REGION — The Jim Tobin Memorial is inviting the community to support two upcoming events dedicated to raising awareness of Frontotemporal Degeneration (FTD), advancing research, and advocating for families affected by the disease.

The Third Annual Jim Tobin Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26 at Holden Hills Country Club. Registration is now open for foursomes at \$500 per team, and individuals who do not golf are welcome to attend the Italian buffet lunch for \$40 with advance registration. The event will also feature raffles, contests, and sponsorship opportunities. Net proceeds will benefit the Frontotemporal Disorders Research Center at UMass Chan Medical School and The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (AFTD).

On Sunday, Sept. 6, Auburn resident and David Prouty High School graduate Devyn Tobin will take on the “From Lab to Legislator” Walk, a 40-mile one-man journey from UMass Chan Medical School in Worcester to the Massachusetts State House

in Boston. Wearing a 40-pound weighted vest to symbolize the weight FTD places on families, he hopes to increase public awareness, support research, and encourage legislative action for those living with Frontotemporal Degeneration.

Both events honor the memory of Jim Tobin, a longtime Spencer resident, Air Force veteran, husband, father, and grandfather who lived with FTD. Many members of the Tobin family, including Jim’s wife, continue to call Spencer home and hope the community will join them in honoring Jim’s legacy and supporting efforts to improve the lives of families affected by FTD.

For golf registration, sponsorship information, or to learn more about the awareness walk, contact jimtobinmemorial@gmail.com or visit the Jim Tobin Memorial social media pages.

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.

Deserie Kamara named to Goodwin University’s President’s List

EAST HARTFORD, Conn. — Deserie Kamara has earned a spot on Goodwin University President’s List for the spring 2026 session.

Deserie, a student from Webster is one of 306 students to make the President’s List, reserved for those who demonstrate exemplary academic performance. Inclusion on the President’s List requires a student to earn a 4.0 GPA during a given academic session.

Goodwin University congratulates Deserie on making the President’s List and demonstrating such a high standard of excellence in the classroom and beyond!

Goodwin University in East Hartford, Connecticut, is an innovative learning community that empow-

ers hard-working students to become sought-after employees. We tailor our programs to address the needs of employers, and we shape them to fit the lives of students. Classes are conveniently offered year-round - days, evenings, weekends, and online. Degrees may be flexibly layered across certificate, associate, bachelor’s, and master’s programs in a variety of in-demand fields. Better still, we surround our students with the personal support and the professional guidance they need - not just to earn degrees, but to change lives for themselves, their families, and their communities. For more information, please visit www.goodwin.edu.

Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall

Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall This two-bedroom cottage near Tignish provides sweeping views of the ocean, the beach, and the North Cape lighthouse. Enjoy kayaking, bicycling, walking the beach, swimming in the warmer Gulf Stream waters, and exploring the community of Nail Pond and the many PEI attractions. Full Appliances. The cottage sleeps six comfortably. Weekly rent is only \$1,100. Contact Scott, for more information at 603-254-5032, or scottm@plymouth.edu.

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TOWN OF POMFRET

POSITION OPENING – HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Qualified self-starter wanted for Town of Pomfret Highway Department. Must hold Class B CDL license/valid medical card and have a background in operating heavy equipment. Position includes, but is not limited to, assignments on all municipal road work including road grading, snowplowing, landscaping, building maintenance, and any other duties as needed and assigned. Five years of driving/equipment operation experience is preferred. Thirty-five hour work week but must be available to work nights and weekends as needed, able to lift up to 100 pounds, possess mechanical aptitude in heavy equipment repair, pass a DOT physical and drug screen, and consent to random drug/alcohol testing as required by the DOT. Salary dependent upon qualifications and experience. Attractive benefit package. Interested persons should forward resume/application and three references to the Selectman’s Office, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret Center, CT 06259 on or before August 26, 2026. Application form available at www.pomfretct.gov/first-selectmans-office. EEO/AA

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Local students named to University of Maryland Global Campus

ADELPHI, Md. — Jordan Rodriguez of Oxford earned a Bachelor of Science in Investigative Forensics and Deirdre Rose Legasey of Auburn earned a Bachelor of Science Cum Laude in Psychology from University of Maryland Global Campus in spring 2026.

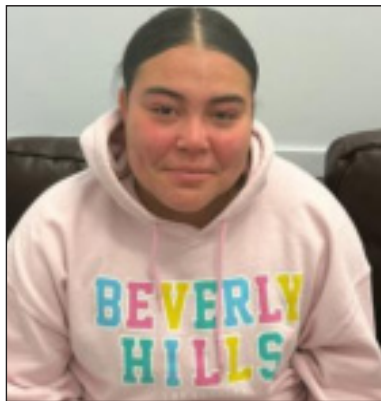
Rodriguez was one of more than 7,300 students worldwide who earned degrees from UMGC in the spring 2026 term.

University of Maryland Global Campus was founded more than 75 years ago specifically to serve the higher education needs of working adults and military servicemembers. Today, UMGC is the largest provider of postsecondary education in Maryland and continues its global tradition with online and hybrid, courses, more than 175 classroom and service locations worldwide, and more than 100 degrees and certificates backed by the reputation of a state university and the University System of Maryland. For more information, visit umgc.edu.



Friday's Child





Janelis
Age 16
Registration #9463

Janelis is a gregarious, independent, and outgoing young woman who brings a lot of energy and enthusiasm wherever she goes. She enjoys expressing herself through singing and loves spending time outside exploring and enjoying new experiences. Janelis has a strong love for reading, especially comic books, with Smile being one of her favorites. She enjoys getting lost in a good story and discovering new characters and adventures. Janelis is also a big fan of trying new foods and exploring different cuisines. Some of her favorite meals include Spanish foods and Chick-fil-A. She enjoys discovering new flavors and appreciates the experience of sharing meals with others. Janelis is excited about the future and looks forward to gaining more independence. She hopes to get her first job and earn her driver’s permit soon, taking important steps toward reaching her personal goals. With her curiosity, confidence, and positive spirit, Janelis continues to embrace new opportunities and experiences.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/54477717817>
Can I Adopt?

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

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



PEPIN

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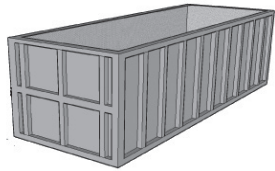
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Caring for the land that outlasts us

There is something fitting about beginning the next chapter of a century-old Dudley farm with work gloves, hand tools and a dumpster.

At Antos Farm on Marsh Road, 20 volunteers recently spent a hot summer day doing the decidedly unglamorous work that conservation requires. They cleared trails, cut back invasive plants and overgrown brush, removed debris and began reclaiming the historic farmhouse from vegetation. By the end of the day, they had filled a 15-yard dumpster.

It would be easy to look at such a workday simply as cleanup. What happened at Antos Farm, however, represents something considerably larger.

The property is one of the newest sanctuaries of the Dudley Conservation Land Trust, and this first stewardship day offered a reminder that preserving land does not end when a deed changes hands or conservation protections are secured. In many ways, that is when the responsibility begins.

Protected land needs people willing to care for it.

That means maintaining trails, addressing invasive species, protecting wildlife habitat and making thoughtful decisions about public access. At a property such as Antos Farm, it also means respecting the human history that exists alongside its natural history.

Those responsibilities can extend for generations.

That is what makes the timing especially appropriate. Antos Farm will mark its 100th anniversary with a community celebration Oct. 3, beginning with a hike along the trails volunteers have been working to reopen.

A centennial naturally encourages people to look backward, but the more important question may be what happens during the farm’s second century.

Dudley is fortunate to have landscapes that still tell something of the town’s story. Farms, forests, stone walls, wetlands and old homesteads provide connections to earlier generations while also serving very modern purposes. Conserved properties can protect wildlife corridors and habitat, preserve open space and give residents places to walk, explore and experience the natural world close to home.

Once those places disappear to development, they are extraordinarily difficult, and often impossible, to recover.

That does not mean every undeveloped acre must remain untouched. Communities need homes, businesses and economic growth. The challenge is ensuring that growth occurs without sacrificing every piece of the landscape that gave a town its character in the first place.

Local conservation organizations play an important role in maintaining that balance.

The volunteers at Antos Farm demonstrated another important part of conservation: Community ownership does not necessarily mean municipal ownership. A community can take responsibility for a place simply because residents decide it is worth protecting and are willing to contribute their time toward that goal.

There was something particularly encouraging about seeing volunteers of different ages working together. Experienced hands brought knowledge, while younger participants brought energy and the possibility that stewardship will continue long after today’s volunteers have put away their tools.

A hundred years from now, nobody is likely to remember who hauled which branch, cleared which section of trail or helped fill that dumpster.

They may, however, still have Antos Farm.

That is the value of stewardship. Much of the work is temporary. The responsibility is not.

Letter submission policy
Letters to the Editor must include the author’s name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author’s name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted. It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

Viewpoint

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

A carousel, a doll and a peacock: Auburn ice cream shops, Part 2

BY HELEN POIRIER
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

When you think of a carousel, wooden horses bouncing up and down may come to mind. In Auburn’s history Carousel also means ice cream and good food. The Carousel Dairy Bar was a popular place in town to get some good ice cream. It was located at 750 Oxford St., at the corner of Washington Street. It was originally owned by Michael Deliso and his wife, Frances, who bought land in Auburn in 1949. They originally had a house and garage, but by 1951, a store was listed on the property.

In 1956, there was a restaurant located on Washington Street next to their house, but no garage was listed on the property tax. Michael and Frances Deliso lived in a house next door to the Carousel Dairy Bar until they sold the house and it was moved to Goulding Drive. In 1957, a boat store appeared along with the restaurant, so you could buy a boat then celebrate with and ice cream cone. The 1961 tax records show that the Deliso’s bought a house on Bryn Mawr Ave and still owned the restaurant but no store. The restaurant finally disappeared in 1966 when Interstate 290 was being built in Auburn. The location is where the ramps are off Route 20. The Carousel touted the best in ice cream, fountain service of ice cream sodas, jumbo frankfurters and hamburgers, sandwiches, fried clams and French fries. A longtime resident remembers it was also a school bus

stop. Some Auburnites who worked at the Carousel Dairy Bar included George Lamb, Betty Gaines, and George & Louise Jewell Sr. in the early 1950s. In the mid-’50s, he said it was run by a very large man called “Tiny.”

There was another unique place to get ice cream that eventually wound up in a museum. According to a 1999 article, it was manufactured by the Worcester Lunch Car Company about 1940 and was in operation in Medford for ten years. It was then moved to Worcester and was found at the corner of Commercial and Foster Streets. When the Centrum was being constructed the diner was moved to a salvage yard. That’s where John P. Tighe bought the Sherwood’s Diner in the 1970s for a whopping \$500. He renamed it the Dairy Doll and it was placed between Colony Package Store and Cantwell Hardware Store. John said he bought it because he was a bricklayer and ate many meals in diners so owning one brought back many memories. The diner also served hamburgers and other food fare. The Dairy Doll was donated to The American Diner Museum of Providence in 1999 by John Tighe. It cost more to move it than it did to buy it.

The 1948 Auburn High School yearbook had an ad that said Harlow’s Dairy Bar at Drury Square was the place to sit down with books and French fries. A person could get a 5-cent vanilla coke to go with the ice cream and fries. This place was owned and run by

Leslie Harlow and his wife, Clarice. Leslie spent most of his early life working with candy and snacks. The 1900 census has him as a wrapper in a popcorn factory at the age of 18. His World War I draft card stated he was employed at the Harlow Quality Kiss Company, 269 Main St. in Worcester and so it was stated also in the 1920-1950 census. He married Clarice Farwell in 1906 and she was by his side helping at Harlow’s and carried on after he died in 1963. There were many name changes through the years with the last one being the Peacock Club. It was eventually owned by Mark Sarkisian and provided many years of entertainment on Fridays and Saturdays, so say the many ads. This aspect of the Peacock Club will be explored at a later date.

Do you have any stories about these or other places in Auburn that had ice cream when you were younger? The Auburn Historical Society and Museum would enjoy having them to put in the Holstrom Archives along with this series. Just contact them at: auburnmuseum@verizon.net or 508-832-6856, www.auburnhistoricalmuseum.org or follow us on Facebook at Auburn Historical.

This article is the second in the “Ice Cream Shops of Auburn” series and was 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.

Building your child’s education fund, one brick at a time



FINANCIAL
FOCUS

**DENNIS
ANTONOPOULOS**

Every solid house starts with a good blueprint and a strong foundation. Saving for a child’s education is very similar.

College costs can seem daunting. In addition to tuition, you’ll need to account for housing and food, books and supplies, transportation and other expenses. The average annual budget at an in-state public university runs around \$30,990 today, and a private school is \$65,470 according to the College Board. While most families won’t pay a college’s list price, you’ll still want to start saving as early as possible to be ready when your child is.

Lay the foundation early. You don’t have to wait until you have the perfect set of plans to start building. There are specific accounts designed to save for education and some do not require a minimum opening deposit. Setting up automatic recurring contributions, even modest ones, lets you build steadily over time without requiring constant attention.

As your child ages, look for ways to redirect expenses you no longer have towards the build. For example, daycare costs, which can exceed \$1,000 a month, can be shifted into a college savings account once your child enters school. Tax refunds and annual bonuses make excellent additional contributions. And others can pitch in – instead of birthday or holiday toys, ask grandparents or relatives to contribute directly to a college savings account.

Know the size of the house you’re building. Families saving for community college followed by two years at a public university might target around \$65,000. Those aiming for four years at a public school are looking at roughly \$100,000. Whatever the goal, plan for education inflation of about 4% annually, which can roughly double costs over 18 years.

You don’t have to source all the building materials yourself. Scholarships, grants, student loans and income from part-time work are all legitimate ways to help finish the structure.

Don’t let one project consume the whole budget. One risk for parents is pouring so much into the college fund that the retirement fund goes neglected. Remember, loans and grants exist for college, but not for retirement. Striking the right balance may mean targeting a more affordable school, planning to cover only a portion of costs or adjusting retirement timelines slightly.

Choose the right building materials. For many families, a 529 plan is the right foundation. Earnings grow tax-free, distributions are federally tax-free when used for qualified education expenses, and many states offer additional income tax deductions for contributions. Even better, anyone – such as grandparents or friends – can contribute.

Additionally, qualified expenses for a 529 plan go beyond tuition and cover books, computers, internet access, room and board, and more. Vocational and trade schools often qualify, too, opening the door to careers in skilled trades, healthcare and technology.

No contractor builds alone. A knowledgeable financial advisor can help you draw up a realistic blueprint and make sure the college project doesn’t crowd out the rest of your financial future. The earlier you break ground on that conversation, the stronger the structure will be.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Dennis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert Street, Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A big thank you to the Webster Highway Department

To the Editor:
I want to thank the Webster Highway Department for the great job they did this past Wednesday cleaning the overgrown brush and branches that covered the Lake Parkway sidewalk so that you do not have to walk into the street anymore to get by. They also did street sweeping as well to

clean the street. They also did the same for Juniper Lane, a street off of Lake Parkway. All the walkers thank you!
Best regards
MIKE DOSTOLER
WEBSTER

I don’t want Oxford’s Main Street to lose its uniqueness

To the Editor:
Fellow Oxford residents, do you know what is being planned for Main Street? We were promised a meeting to discuss it, and it hasn’t happened.
Our Main Street is special, and I think most of want to keep it that way. The changes that are planned are more of a change than the islands that were put in a few years ago that were unnecessary. These changes will eliminate a lot of parking

spaces and narrow the street down and will not improve the traffic flow.
If you care about this issue, please contact a town official and tell them you want an opportunity to hear the details and give your opinion before it is too late. I am the fifth generation of my family to live here, and don’t want Main Street to lose its uniqueness.

KRISTIN LOVETT MACKAY
OXFORD

It’s time for us to follow Hungary’s example

To the Editor:
A common expression for difficult topics learned over a period of time is “the learning curve.” It’s hard work sometimes, and certainly can be tumultuous. We the people who make up the electorate in America have been involved in a 10-year duration learning curve with regard to how our democracy was designed to work vs. how it is actually working.
A good example of a very public learning curve has been demonstrated by the people of Hungary. Hungary was a mature democracy, that fell prey to a slow creeping authoritarian regime over a long period of 16 years. The voters would ask themselves over election cycles if their world is still OK, until they fully recognized it was not. When over that many years people recognized their media and public information was compromised, their courts were compromised, that corruption had infiltrated their industries and public policy, and their collective voices were not being heard. They gathered the strength and fortitude to say enough. Victor Orban was removed from office by the popular vote after those

16 years of slow destruction of government this April 2026. The long recovery process is now underway. I offer my congratulations to all the citizens in Hungary that the long learning curve finally ended.
If this story sounds familiar, we all should go back and reflect on our eighth grade civics lessons this November. An honest individual evaluation is necessary... is our media compromised and divided, is our judicial system working ethically and fairly, has corruption taken the place of beneficial public policy, has everyone’s rights under the constitution of the United States been protected? I think not.
Taking note of the good people of Hungary’s playbook, the time has come to reclaim our sanity beginning in November, when our duty to vote is most warranted. The long healing period of restoring our democracy will begin when our elected representatives are once again empowered to represent us all in defiance of any authoritarian influence.

BILL MAY
DUDLEY

OXFORD SENIOR CENTER

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

Open Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
E-mail: seniorcenter@oxfordma.us
Web site: www.oxfordma.us
Facebook: Oxford, MA Senior Center
Monthly CHATTER Newsletter www.oxfordma.us

The senior center will be closing early on Thursday, August 20th for staff training.

Weekly Activities:
Mondays and Fridays @ 10:00 am – Cribbage
Tuesdays @ 9:15am – 10:00 am Strength & Balance w/ Donna Freeland – Cost \$3.00 per class
Wednesdays @ 9:15am – 10:15 am Chair Yoga w/ Heidi Gambaccini – Cost \$3.00 per class
Tuesdays @ 10:15 am - Needleworkers (Knitting, Crocheting, Needlepoint)
Bring your favorite project and come join the group for conver-

sation and laughs.
Wednesdays @ 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm Chair Volleyball – Lots of laughs and only two rules (1) stay seated (2) have fun!
Thursdays @ 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Dominoes

Monthly Activities:
Let's Talk Oxford History – 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 1pm - Sponsored by the Oxford Historical Commission
Men's Coffee Group – 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 10:30am – coffee and pastry are served.
Book Club – 1st Friday of each month @ 12:45pm – reserve your book from the Oxford Public Library
Movie Matinee – 2nd Friday of each month @12:45pm – August movie "ROOFMAN"
Senior Safety with Oxford Fire/EMS - 3rd Friday of the month @ 12:30pm
BEANO – 4th Friday of each month @ 12:45pm – arrive by 12:30pm to purchase your BEANO sheets.
NO BEANO IN AUGUST

Job Opportunity:
Culinary Supervisor- 12-16 hours per week/ Tuesday and Fridays a MUST
ServSafe Food Protection Manager, Allergen Awareness, CPR/FA a MUST
For full job description and to apply go to www.oxfordma.us

When everything started beeping

I miss appliances that knew their place. The toaster toasted. The washing machine washed. The refrigerator kept things cold. None of them had anything to say about it. Somewhere along the way, however, the appliances in our lives discovered communication. Now everything beeps.

Our washing machine beeps when it finishes. It beeps wrong button. Sometimes it beeps that remain between the e and its maker. It may be the worst offender. The microwave finished its job, it rang a bell. One ding.

By CHARLES

The modern microwave apparently believes that unless I retrieve my coffee immediately, civilization may collapse. Beep. A little while later, another beep. Then another. Yes, microwave. I know. I put the coffee in there.

There is something mildly irritating about being nagged by an appliance you purchased. It isn't only the noise. Everything now has settings. Our old washing machine had a knob. You turned it. The machine started. That was essentially the entire relationship.

Today's machines have buttons for temperature, soil level, spin speed and enough specialized cycles to make me wonder whether I've been washing clothes incorrectly for 50 years. Normal. Heavy duty. Delicate. Quick wash. Bedding. Towels. Whites. Apparently, towels have needs.

I recently stood in front of the washing machine holding a perfectly ordinary pile of clothes and realized I was being asked to make more decisions than I wanted to make before breakfast.

I selected "normal." I select "normal" for almost everything. Normal has gotten me this far.

Our television is another matter entirely. There was a time when televisions had an on-off switch and a channel knob. If the picture wasn't good, you adjusted the antenna. If that didn't work, somebody stood beside the television holding the antenna.

This was our first wireless technology. Now the television has several remotes, numerous menus and an occasional habit of announcing that it cannot find something called an "input." Neither can I.

I have learned that when the television stops working, the safest strategy is to avoid touching anything. The temptation is to start pushing buttons. This is how a minor television problem becomes an evening project.

One wrong selection and suddenly the screen is displaying a menu last seen by the engineer who designed the television. My wife will eventually ask what I did. "Nothing." This is rarely true.

Technology has improved our homes in countless ways, of course. Modern appliances are more efficient, more capable and often safer than what we grew up with. But I sometimes wonder whether every object really needs to be quite so clever.

I don't need my refrigerator to connect to the Internet. I don't need an app for my light bulbs. I certainly don't need my dishwasher sending notifications. There are already enough people and organizations trying to contact me. I don't need to hear from the dishwasher.

Maybe this is simply what getting older looks like. Every generation eventually encounters technology that makes it wonder why the old way wasn't good enough. My grandparents probably said the same thing about automatic transmissions. Still, I think there should be a market for appliances designed specifically for people like me. One button. It would be large. The instructions would read: "Push this."

And when the appliance finished doing whatever it was supposed to do, it wouldn't send a notification, connect to Wi-Fi or play a cheerful little melody. It would simply stop. If I wanted to know whether it was finished, I could walk over and look. I still remember how to do that.

Local students named to University of Maryland Global Campus

ADELPHI, Md. — Jordan Rodriguez of Oxford earned a Bachelor of Science in Investigative Forensics and Deirdre Rose Legasey of Auburn earned a Bachelor of Science Cum Laude in Psychology from University of Maryland Global Campus in spring 2026.

Rodriguez was one of more than 7,300 students worldwide who earned degrees from UMGC in the spring 2026 term.

University of Maryland Global Campus was founded more than

75 years ago specifically to serve the higher education needs of working adults and military servicemembers. Today, UMGC is the largest provider of postsecondary education in Maryland and continues its global tradition with online and hybrid, courses, more than 175 classroom and service locations worldwide, and more than 100 degrees and certificates backed by the reputation of a state university and the University System of Maryland. For more information, visit umgc.edu.

Webster First Federal Credit Union promotes Colleen Carney to Chief Risk Officer



Colleen Carney

WORCESTER — Webster First Federal Credit Union has announced the promotion of Colleen Carney to Chief Risk Officer. The appointment reflects the growing importance of risk management within the credit union and recognizes Carney's leadership in supporting Webster First's continued

success.

"Colleen brings a strong and well-rounded background in banking, operations, finance, revenue management, and risk management," said President and CEO John Thomasian, "As Webster First continues to demonstrate strong performance and sustained growth, the importance of a comprehensive and proactive risk management function has never been greater. I am confident that Colleen will excel in this important leadership role."

Before joining Webster First, she spent 10 years at Flagship Bank in Worcester. She earned a B.S. in Business Administration, magna cum

laude, from Worcester State University.

Carney joined Webster First in October 2007 as Spencer Branch Manager. During her tenure, she earned an M.S. in Management from Worcester State University and later transitioned to the Accounting Department as Assistant Vice President of Risk Management in July 2018. She was promoted to Vice President of Revenue in October 2020, and in January 2024 assumed responsibility for risk management as Vice President of Risk and Revenue. In this role, she expanded and strengthened the credit union's risk management function, enhanced the work of the Risk Committee, and helped ensure that risks across the organization are appropriately assessed, evaluated, mitigated, and managed. She is currently pursuing an M.S. in Enterprise Risk Management at Boston University.

Carney said "I am honored to step into the newly created role

of Chief Risk Officer and grateful for the opportunity to help shape this important function for the credit union. Establishing this position reflects our continued commitment to strong governance, thoughtful risk management, and long-term organizational strength. I look forward to working collaboratively across the organization to protect and support our members, employees, and community while helping guide sound decision-making and responsible growth."

About Webster First Federal Credit Union Webster First Federal Credit Union ranks among the largest credit unions operating in Massachusetts. Since its founding in 1928, Webster First has grown its operations, services, and membership to serve four counties across the state, Worcester, Essex, Middlesex, and Suffolk with branches throughout. For more information, visit websterfirst.com.

Ryan Rushford joins Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates

WORCESTER — Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates is proud to announce Ryan Rushford has joined their Worcester office. Rushford joins a dedicated team of knowledgeable agents at Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates, who bring many years of combined real estate expertise to their clients. Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates, located at 470 Park Ave., is an independently owned and operated affiliate of Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. For more information, please contact Julia Acquah-Harrison at (508) 795-3885 or jharrison@hope-homes.com.

About Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.

Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. is a top real estate franchisor established in 2001 by Jim Weichert, president, chairman and CEO of Weichert Companies, which has been in operation since 1969. The company provides a clearly defined business model for operating, managing, and marketing a real estate brokerage, along with industry-leading technology, marketing tools, and support. Its first affiliate opened in 2002, and the franchise network has since grown to over 330 offices, serving markets in over 40 states. The company has appeared on the Entrepreneur Franchise 500 list as a top residential real estate franchise and been identified by Franchise Business Review as a top franchise for owner satisfaction 11 years in a row. For more information about Weichert, visit Weichert.com. For more information about franchise opportunities, visit WeichertFranchise.com.

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TOWN OF POMFRET

PART-TIME ASSISTANT TREASURER

The Town of Pomfret seeks to hire a PT Assistant Treasurer. Responsibilities include receipt and deposit of town funds, reconciliation of accounts, processing purchase orders and invoices for disbursement, transfer of funds and entry of expenses into town's accounting system, and perform any and all duties as may be required with this position and as required under CT General Statutes. Work in cooperation with municipal officials and provides financial reports as needed. Must be able to work independently. Flexible work hours. Offices closed on Fridays. Knowledge of Tyler Infinite Vision Accounting Software preferred. Five years of related experience in accounting/bookkeeping, municipal work is a plus. Salary dependent upon qualifications and experience. Interested persons should forward resume/application and three references to the Selectman's Office, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret Center, CT 06259 or email Selectmansclerk@pomfretct.gov on or before August 31, 2026. Application and full job description is available at www.pomfretct.gov/first-selectmans-office. EEO/AA

PROGRAMS & EVENTS AT THE PEARLE L. CRAWFORD LIBRARY

40 Schofield Ave., Dudley
508-949-8021

To register for events or sign up for the newsletter, go to www.crawfordlibrary.org or call 508-949-8021.

The August featured artist is Wendy Hicks. A variety of her pieces will be on display for you to enjoy in the Fels Room whenever the Library is open.

Gentle Yoga
Every Monday
10:00-11:00

Join yoga instructor Patricia for a traditional “on the mat” yoga class with chair yoga modifications. This truly is a one-size-fits-all class. Bring your own mat. Wear layers, do not eat heavily 1.5-2 hours before class. Registration is required.

Mahjong at the Pearle
Every Wednesday
10:00-12:30 Fels Community Room

The game consists of players competing to form distinct sets or pairs of tiles, similar to gin rummy. Everyone is welcome; registration is not required.

Quilting Group
Every Wednesday
1:30- 3:30

All quilters and would-be quilters are invited to join our new group. Bring your projects!

Knit & Crochet Group
Every Thursday 5:30-7:45 and Friday 10:00-12:00.

All stitchers are welcome to this informal group. Bring your project and enjoy the company!

Yoga with Buffy
Every Friday
10:00-11:00

Join Buffy for Friday Yoga! Take time to relax, stretch, and recharge at this weekly Friday session. Registration is required: wideopenyoga@gmail.com. A co-payment is required to attend.

Missing Piece Puzzle Race
Thursday, August 13th
6:00

Teams will compete against each other, with the ultimate goal of completing a puzzle faster than their opponents. Registration is required- ONLY ONE PERSON FROM EACH TEAM SHOULD REGISTER. Teams can have up to six members. The first team to assemble the puzzle wins!

SARG-Saturday Acoustic Roots Jam
Saturday, August 15th
10:00-2:00

An acoustic only music jam. Open to all 18+. From September through May the group meets at Charlton Public Library, and from June through August at the Dudley Library. Email Rich at Cule5632@gmail.com for more information.

Decoupage Soap Dispenser
Thursday, August 20th
6:00-7:30

Create a Mason Jar Soap Dispenser with “Sincerely, Michele”

Decoupage is a popular craft technique used to decorate various objects by cutting out images from napkins and applying them with Mod Podge onto an object. This technique can be used to decorate various objects made of metal, glass, or terra cotta. It’s a fun and easy way to transform an ordinary looking object to something one of a kind! This hobby is becoming trendy with those who want to add a personal touch to their home or want to easily make a beautiful handmade gift.

Registration is required. Ages 17+

“Cook the Book” Book Club-That Sounds So Good
Monday, August 24th
6:00-7:00

“Cook The Book” Book Club will meet on the 4th Monday of every month at 6:00

You will pick one recipe from the book selected for the month-the dishes don’t have to be complicated or fancy, any recipe from

the book is fair game, except alcoholic beverages-sorry! Prepare the recipe at home and share it at the library. We cannot reheat or keep food warm, so consider this when choosing your recipe.

You are responsible for bringing serving utensils. We will provide paper goods and utensils for eating.

Crawford Library Book Group
Thursday, August 27th

The Unmaking of June Farrow by Adrienne Young
6:00-7:30

Books are available at the circulation desk for checkout one month before the discussion.

No Registration Required

National Grid Community Advocates
Friday, August 28th
1:00-4:00

National Grid has a team of Community Advocates dedicated to assisting low- to moderate-income customers in navigating their utility needs. Our Advocates provide personalized support and can help residents with services.

Dudley Board of Selectmen Office Hours
Saturday, August 29th
10:00-12:00

Have a question, concern, or idea to share? Stop by the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library during Board of Selectmen Office Hours. This is an informal opportunity to meet with members of the Board, ask questions, discuss town issues, and learn more about what’s happening in the community. No appointment is necessary—residents are welcome to drop in during the scheduled office hours. There might even be refreshments!

Mount Wachusett Hiking & History Presentation
Monday, August 31st
6:00-7:45

Join us for a presentation on Mount

Wachusett by Matt Landry, author of the new book Mount Wachusett: Hiking Guide and History. Matt will have books available for purchase and signing.

Children’s & Family Programming

Once Upon a Storytime with Kelcy
Every Monday
10:00-10:45

For ages 3-5 and their caregiver (siblings always welcome!). Join us for stories, songs, fingerplays, scarves, shaker eggs, moving our bodies to music, activities, bubbles, a craft, and free play!

Peaceful Projects with Rileigh
Wednesday, August 5th, 12th, 19th
2:00-3:00

Join Rileigh for a drop-in craft. There will be something a little different every week! Painting, slime-making, doodling, watercolor, and more! Best for ages 5-12.

Registration requested! Best for ages 5-12. This is not a drop off event.

Pokemon Trading Card Club
Thursday, August 20th
6:00-6:45

Do you love everything Pokemon? Join us for Pokemon Club where you can meet other Pokemon fans and trade cards if you want to! Best for ages 6 and up. No registration required. This is not a drop off program.

Family Yoga
Friday, August 21st
11:00-11:45

Stretch and grow this summer! Join certified Yoga instructor, Buffy, for a 45-minute yoga class for families! Caregivers and their children between the ages of 3+ are welcome to register. Please bring your own mats. Registration is required as space is limited.

Teen Programming

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
EVERY THURSDAY 6:00-7:30

Come and join other players interested in Dungeons and Dragons. This is a teen game, ages 14-19 only.

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Special Events

Summer Eats – Monday-Friday 12:00-1:00pm **August 14th is the LAST day**

This totally free-of-charge program provides free lunch to all kids and teens. Adults can also eat lunch for \$5. If weather is poor, this program will be held inside. Made possible by Project Bread, the Massachusetts Department of Education, and local school and community meal providers.

Family Capoeira Workshop Series – Thursdays, June 25th-August 20th at 3:00pm

Capoeira is an Afro-Brazilian martial art form originally developed in Brazil by enslaved peoples as a form of resistance. It incorporates elements of acrobatics, dance, and music. In this class, parents and kids will learn together – beginning with basic capoeira movements, songs and rhythms.

No experience needed, and all athletic levels are welcome! Come ready to move and wear something comfortable. The class is led by instructors from Mass Capoeira Culture Center, located right here in Webster. See you there!

Book Bedazzling for Adults – Thursday, August 13th at 6:00pm

Join Jess for a book bedazzling program for adults. Bring in your favorite paperback, or choose from our selection, and be prepared to do some tedious (but fun) sparkly work. Registration is required.

Matt York Presents: Johnny Cash & Bob Dylan: Songs & Stories – Thursday, August 13th at 6:30pm

Longtime musician/author Matt York performs songs and tells stories about these two musical icons and the important role their friendship played in the trajectory of folk and country music, creating a new lane of music that we now think of as Americana music, that merged two very different audiences. York has twice been nominated for the Boston Music Award for Best Country Artist and he recently released his second book, The Words and Wisdom of Willie Nelson. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Webster Local Cultural Council, a local

agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

How to do Business with the State of Massachusetts: A Practical Guide for Brazilian Entrepreneurs – Monday, August 17th at 6:00pm and Thursday, August 27th at 11:00am

In this workshop, you’ll learn how public contracting works in Massachusetts, what certifications and registrations are required, where to find bid opportunities, and the first steps to becoming eligible to work with state and local agencies. We’ll discuss common misconceptions, practical tips, and resources available to help small businesses compete successfully. This session is designed for Brazilian entrepreneurs who want to expand their business, diversify their clients, and better understand how to access the public sector. No previous experience with government contracts is required. **Please note, this presentation will be offered in Portuguese**

The Nest: Local Business Success Stories - Lionizing Entertainment – Monday, August 24th at 6:00pm

Luis, founder of Lionizing Entertainment will discuss challenges he’s faced, including wearing every hat in a business, overcoming setbacks, and learning to trust the process before seeing results. He will also discuss milestones such as building a recognizable local brand and creating opportunities for future growth. More importantly, he will ask attendees to reflect on their own goals and aspirations, asking “what would you attempt if you knew you couldn’t fail? And what’s stopping you from taking the first step today?”

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 and Generations in Webster

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.**Saturday Session in August will be held offsite at Generations in Webster.**

Yoga – Tuesdays at 6:30pm

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.

Adult Book Group – Wednesday, August 19th at 6:30pm

Join the adult book group for their monthly book discussion! In August we are reading The Place of Tides by James Rebanks.

Adult Education Community Advising Hour – Monday, August 24th at 10:30-11:30am

Adult education advising is available at the library! Meet one-on-one with an advisor to discuss earning your high school credential, improving English language skills, preparing for college or a career, and accessing community resources. Whether you’re just getting started or ready to enroll, we’re here to help.

Programming for All Ages

Library for All –Mondays and Fridays at 10am

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

Puzz Fest – Thursday, August 20th at 6:00pm

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

Children’s and Young Adult Programming

Sensory Bin Explorations – Mondays at 10:30am

Bring your little ones outside for sensory bin exploration! Each Monday morning will feature a new theme, offering hands-on fun for children ages 2–6.

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! August’s Theme: Friendship Bracelets! Kids will make their own bracelets to share with family and friends. All creations left behind will be displayed in the Children’s program room for the rest of the month.

Tiny Groovers – Tuesdays at 10:30am

Join Miss Paige for a 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.

Mighty Builders – Tuesdays at 4:00pm

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

Messy Art Storytime – Thursdays at 10:30am

Join Miss Paige for storytime and messy, hands-on fun! Each week, children ages 2–6 will enjoy a new art project that lets their creativity shine. Dress for a mess and get ready to create! No registration required.

Apple Country Music Together – Fridays, July 10th-August 14th at 10:30am

A music and movement program available to children from birth to age 6 and their families based upon on-going scientific research, and designed to help nurture children’s musical, cognitive, social, emotional, and physical growth. Classes include singing and dancing. The program brings families together by providing a rich musical environment in the classroom and by promoting and facilitating adult participation.

Slime Time! – Monday, August 17th at 5:00pm

Let’s celebrate summer with three slime-tastic events! Once a month we will be offering different slime projects for kids of all ages. Drop in anytime between 5:00 PM until 6:00 PM to get creative.



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LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Sydrick Speight, Angela Speight to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Caliber Home Loans, Inc., dated October 5, 2018 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59513, Page 137, as modified by a certain modification agreement recorded on February 26, 2025, and recorded with said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 71675, Page 101 and as affected by a judgment recorded with said Registry on May 5, 2026, in Book No. 73533, at Page 226, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Caliber Home Loans, Inc., its successors and assigns to Caliber Home Loans, Inc., recorded on August 19, 2019, in Book No. 60899, at Page 74

Caliber Home Loans, Inc. to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, recorded on August 16, 2024, in Book No. 70901, at Page 16 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on September 9, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 24 Perry Street, Auburn, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT: The land in Auburn, on the Southeasterly side of Perry Street, in Worcester County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the most northerly corner thereof at a stake and nail set in the southeasterly line of Perry Street and at Lot #2 on a plan hereinafter referred to:

Thence South 53° 30' East, 372.08 feet by said Lot #2 to a stake and nail at land now or formerly of Israelson; Thence South 56° 15' West 78.66 feet to a stone bound; Thence South 51° 32' West 85.7 feet to a point at land now or formerly of Holstrom; Thence North 53° 30' West 311.5 feet by said Holstrom land to the southeasterly line of Perry Street; Thence Northeasterly 66 feet by said line of Perry Street to a stone bound set in an angle in said street line; Thence North 27° 21' East 93.5 feet by said line of Perry Street to the point of beginning. Being Lots 1 and 103 as partly shown on a plan of property of Florence M. Pinsonneault, Perry Street, Auburn, Massachusetts, June l8, 1949, by F.B. Cullinan, Registered Land Surveyor, recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 204, Plan 81.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59513, Page 134.

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

TERMS OF SALE:

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

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING Present holder of said mortgage By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 28289 August 7, 2026 Auguat 14, 2026 Augsut 21, 1206

Notice is hereby given by S.H. Auto Repair, LLC., 120 Schofield Ave, Dudley, Ma 01571 pursuant to the pro-

visions of G.L. c.255, Section 39A, that on September 4. 2026 @ 5:00 PM at: S.H. Auto Repair, LLC 120 Schofield Ave Dudley, Ma 01571. The following motor vehicles will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

Vehicle: VIN# WBAYL1C53DVR87981 2013 BMW X1, Reg: 4BVV98 MA Owner: Ashley Jordan, 147 Center Rd, Dudley, MA 01571

Vehicle: VIN# 5TDDK4CC8AS032329 2010 Toyota Sienna, Reg:----- Owner: Bridgette Rocheleau, 177 North Main ST, Webster, MA 01570

Vehicle: VIN# 4T1BE46KX7U558818 2007 Toyota Camry, Reg:----- Owner: Jomarie Angeliz Garcia Casanova, 126 Centerbury ST, Worcester, MA 01571

Vehicle: VIN# 4S3BMBC67E3019207 2014 Subaru Legacy, Reg:----- Owner: Laurie Russell, 17 Central Ave APT 1, Dudley, MA 01571

This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39A August 14, 2026 August 21, 2026 August 28, 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.WO26P2438EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Susan A. Audette
Date of Death:06/07/2026**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Michele A. Dominy of Leicester MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: . **Michele A. Dominy of Leicester MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the estate in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/25/2026**.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 30, 2026
Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate
August 14, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Laurence Shuman to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Financial, Inc., dated January 15, 2015 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 53272, Page 329, as modified by a certain modification agreement recorded on September 22, 2020, and recorded with said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 63306, Page 273, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Financial, Inc., its successors and assigns to NewRez LLC f/k/a New Penn Financial, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, recorded on July 12, 2019, in Book No. 60690, at Page 364 for breach of the conditions of said

mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on September 11, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 23-8 Thayer Pond Drive, Unit 23-8, a/k/a 23 Thayer Pond Drive #8, Thayer Pond Village Condominium, Oxford, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT: Unit "23-8" Phase V in Thayer Pond Village Condominium, created by Master Deed dated September 28, 1983 and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 7930, Page 203, as amended by Amendment dated November 4, 1986 and recorded in Book 9945, Page 366, by Amendment dated December 8, 1986 and recorded in Book 10040, Page 198, by Amendment dated February 27, 1987 and recorded on March 2, 1987 in Book 10255, Page 51 in accordance with M.G.L. c. 183A. The post office address of the Unit is 23-8 Thayer Pond Drive, North Oxford, Massachusetts.

Said Unit is laid out as shown on a plan attached to Unit Deed recorded with the Worcester District Registry of deeds in Book 10291, Page 310, to which is affixed a verified statement in the form prescribed by M.G.L. c. 1 83A, Section 9, and which plan is a copy of a portion of the plans filed with an amendment to the Master Deed. Percentage interest after Phase V .6550%. Interest after all phases .5814%

The Unit is conveyed together with: (a) The above-listed Percentage Interest in the Common Areas and Facilities of the Condominium, which shall be reduced upon the annexation of each subsequent phase of the Condominium pursuant to the provisions of the Master Deed.

(b) All rights, easements, agreements, interests and provisions contained in the Master Deed, the Declaration of Trust of Thayer Pond Village Condominium recorded with said Deeds in Book 7930, Page 233, and any rules and regulations promulgated from time to time thereunder (the "Declaration of Trust"), The Unit is conveyed subject to and with the benefits of:

(a) The provisions of M.G.L. c. 183A, as amended.
(b) The provisions of the Master Deed, the Declaration of Trust, both as they may be amended.
(c) All easements, covenants, restrictions, conditions and other matters of record, insofar as now in force and applicable. The Unit is intended to be used solely for residential purposes and is subject to the further restrictions set forth in the Master Deed.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 53272, Page 326.

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

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING Present holder of said mortgage By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 29003 August 14, 2026 August 21, 2026 August 28, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jeffrey Lucewich to Mortgage Electronic Registration

Systems, Inc., as nominee for NewRez LLC, dated December 16, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 64002, Page 140, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for NewRez LLC, its successors and assigns to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, recorded on December 14, 2021, in Book No. 66743, at Page 290

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on August 31, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 64 Myrtle Avenue, Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT: The land in Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

FIRST TRACT: A certain tract or parcel of land situated in Webster, aforesaid, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a chestnut post at the northeast corner thereof on Myrtle Avenue;

THENCE West by land now or formerly of George Tracy one hundred thirty-two (132) feet to a chestnut post; THENCE Southerly by land of said Tracy sixty (60) feet to a chestnut post; THENCE Easterly by said Tracy land, one hundred thirty-two (132) feet to a drill hole in a stone on the westerly line of said Avenue;

THENCE Northerly by the line of said venue sixty (60) feet to the point of beginning.

SECOND TRAC?: Situated on the westerly side of Myrtle Avenue, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at the northeast corner thereof on the westerly line of said Myrtle Avenue;

THENCE Westerly by land formerly of George Tracy one hundred thirty-two (132) feet to a post;

THENCE Southerly sixty (60) feet to a post;

THENCE Easterly by land formerly of Lena R. Guenther, one hundred thirty-two (132) feet to post on said westerly side of said Myrtle Avenue; THENCE Northerly by said Myrtle Avenue sixty (60) feet to the point of beginning.

Subject to restrictions, if any. For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 64002, Page 136.

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

TERMS OF SALE:

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

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING Present holder of said mortgage By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 28844 July 31, 2026 August 7, 2026 August 14, 22026

UMass Memorial Medical Center has information regarding Robert Thuot, date of birth 3/3/1955, 500 Riverside Drive, Apt A5, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255 and is seeking to locate family members of this person. If you are a family member of Robert Thuot, please contact Kelli Randall, RN, at 774-441-6563 before August 26, 2026.

August 14, 2026

August 2026 Interpretive Programs at Blackstone River Greenway Visitor Center at Worcester

WORCESTER — All programs are free and open to the public. Registration is not required. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear. Meet at the Visitor Center unless otherwise stated. Programming is subject to change or cancellation. For the most up to date programming information, call (508) 373-7056. Reasonable accommodations available upon advance notice. To make a request, please contact Moneesha Dasgupta at (617) 645-0358 or moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov.

The Blackstone River Greenway Visitor Center at Worcester is located at 3 Paul Clancy Way, Worcester.

Woodlands and Waterways
Saturday, Aug. 8, 2 – 3 p.m.

Walk along the banks of the Blackstone River and learn about the life that it supports. We'll look for signs of wildlife as we discuss the ways we can keep our watershed clean! Appropriate for ages 12 and up. The walk is ~1 mile over a paved surface with slight inclines.

Meet 205 North Main Street, Millbury, MA. Bathrooms and water are not available at this site.

Bike the Blackstone
Saturday, Aug. 15, 2 – 3 p.m.

Come with us on a bike ride on the Blackstone River Greenway. Enjoy the scenery and look out for wildlife as we ride along the river. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. The ride is ~6 miles on a paved surface with slight inclines and declines. Meet at 205 North Main Street, Millbury, MA. Riders under 16 must wear a helmet. Bathrooms and water are available at the midpoint of the trip.

Mill to Meadow
Saturday, Aug. 22, 2 – 3 p.m.

The land on which the Visitor Center stands was once the largest factory complex in Worcester — and now not a single building remains! In this short walk, find out about “brownfield” reclamation on site and how it fits into the Blackstone Valley’s environmental renaissance. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. About ¼ mile over paved surfaces.

Visitor Center Exhibit

Tour
Saturdays, 11 – 11:30 a.m.

Join us on a tour of the Heritage Center’s exhibit hall! Learn how the Blackstone Canal helped transform Worcester from a sleepy county seat to a thriving industrial city and hub for immigration and innovation. Appropriate for ages 6 and up.



WEBSTER — Nancy G. (Naumann) Kruger, 77, died Sunday, August 2, 2026 in the presence of family after a long illness. Her husband of 32 years, Arthur W. Kruger, died in 2001.

She leaves a son, Christian A. Kruger and his wife Beckie, with whom she lived; a daughter, Rebecca A. Philbrook and her husband Berlin of Quinebaug, CT; 5 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; 2 brothers, Roy E. Naumann of Michigan and Kevin B. Naumann of Providence; nieces and nephews.

She was born in Southbridge on August 19, 1948 and raised in Dudley, a daughter of Roy W. and Barbara M. (Perks) Naumann and graduated from Bartlett High School in 1966.

Mrs. Kruger first worked as a home health aide and later cared for infants at Discovery House.

She enjoyed vacations to Cape Cod and the time she spent with her grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held at the convenience of the family. Arrangements are under the direction of Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main Street, Webster.

www.websterfunerals.com

Family Literacy Festival returns to Worcester with expanded programming and Children’s Business Expo

WORCESTER — The highly anticipated Family Literacy Festival 2026 is set to return bigger and better than ever on Saturday, Aug. 22 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Worcester Common Oval. This free, family-friendly event is expected to draw thousands of attendees, bringing together literacy, culture, community, and fun in one dynamic outdoor experience.

Hosted by SCENSOB Foundation, the Family Literacy Festival is designed to promote the importance of literacy while creating equitable access to educational resources for families across the region. With a mission rooted in community empowerment, FLF continues to serve as a cornerstone event for Worcester and surrounding areas.

This year’s festival will feature: More than 10 vendors and community organizations, authors, and food

trucks

Children’s Business Expo, showcasing young entrepreneurs

Live entertainment, including DJs, cultural dance performances, and a vibrant fashion show

Interactive literacy and sensory activities for children of all ages

Back-to-school giveaways, including more than 20,000 school supplies distributed to families in need

“Last year’s turnout was incredible, and this year we’ve expanded every aspect of the festival to meet the growing demand,” said event organizers. “Our goal is not just to celebrate literacy, but to make sure every child and family leaves with the tools they need to succeed.”

In addition to its educational focus, the festival serves as a powerful platform for small businesses, local authors, and community organizations

to connect directly with thousands of attendees. Vendor and sponsorship opportunities are still available, though space is limited.

The event is made possible through the support of community partners, sponsors, and dedicated volunteers who share a commitment to education, access, and community growth.

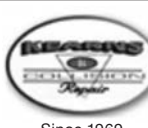
For more information, vendor registration, or sponsorship inquiries, please visit www.scensobfoundation.org.

About SCENSOB Foundation: SCENSOB Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing education, equity, and community development through impactful programming and events. Through initiatives like the Family Literacy Festival, the foundation continues to empower families and create pathways for success.



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ELECTION

continued from page A1

outcome of one question affects the financial impact of the other.”

The \$717,630 override, he said, provides the recurring revenue necessary to maintain current Police and Fire service levels, and restore cuts to the Highway Department, thereby helping to avoid future layoffs, position reductions, and corresponding cuts in public safety and essential services as operating costs continue to rise.

The debt exclusion, he said, provides separate funding for Dudley’s share of the school district’s capital borrowing. If the school district’s ballot question is approved but the debt exclusion is not, the Town would be legally obligated to pay the \$5 million from its municipal operating

budget. Those payments would compete with funding for every town department including police, fire, and highway, even if the \$717,630 public safety override were approved.

“Absorbing the school debt into the operating budget would eliminate the benefit of that additional override revenue and could require further budget reductions to maintain a balanced budget,” Ruda said.

The proposed \$717,630 override

The new proposal is significantly less than the \$1.9 million override rejected by voters in June.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Christopher Starczewski said there’s a fine balance in bringing back an override after voters rejected one in June. That balance, he said, is to respect the vote in June

while giving residents a say in determining the final budget cuts.

“The Town of Dudley is rich in identity and experience; without the support for the override, Dudley will be faced with a shift in that identity with a certain reduction of services,” he said.

Ruda noted the town is not attempting to revisit the June vote but is instead presenting a more limited request focused on preserving frontline Police, Fire/EMS, and Highway services.

Ruda said the proposed override would fund:

- Two firefighter/paramedic positions and associated benefits (\$252,487.46)
- Two police officer positions and associated salary and benefits (\$311,533.54)
- Highway Department operations, including two driver/laborers, overtime, road maintenance, tree

removal, traffic painting, snow removal, equipment, and tires (\$153,609.16)

Ruda said the proposal is intentionally limited and would not:

- Restore stabilization funds used to balance the FY2027 budget.
- Reinstate other departmental requests or eliminated positions.
- Fully fund departmental accounts that remain below requested levels.
- Resolve the Town’s broader structural financial challenges.

“The Police and Fire amounts cover the full cost of retaining these positions—not just salaries, but required health insurance, retirement and other employment costs. Those costs have been major budget drivers and including them gives voters an honest picture of what it takes

to preserve the positions,” Ruda said.

School District capital improvement borrowing The Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee is seeking voter approval to borrow \$11.18 million for capital improvements across all seven district schools.

Projects include drainage and water filtration improvements, replacement of an aging phone system, information technology upgrades, re-keying building locks, window and door improvements, carpet replacement, paving and walkway improvements, and a backup generator purchase and installation.

Dudley’s share of the borrowing is \$5 million, with Charlton voters considering the remaining share in a concurrent district-wide election.

A simple majority of the

combined ballots cast in both Dudley and Charlton will decide the question.

Proposed \$5 million debt exclusion

If the school district’s request to borrow \$11.18 million is approved by voters on September 29, the debt exclusion would temporarily raise taxes to pay Dudley’s share of the debt until it is retired.

View the Board of Selectmen discussion and vote on its two ballot questions here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNJQa-FmZE6Q&t=1509s>

View the School Committee discussion and vote on its ballot question here:

<https://vimeo.com/channels/dcrsdschoolcommittee>

YPC

continued from page A1

tunities for emerging professionals to connect, lead and give back,” said Hunter Andruzzi, Community Engagement Manager, Joe Andruzzi Foundation. “We are grateful to welcome Nichols College as our Presenting Sponsor and

look forward to engaging its students and alumni in support of New England cancer patients and their families.”

The partnership will be publicly celebrated during the Young Professionals Council’s second annual Putting for Patients fundraiser on Thursday, July 23, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Puttshack Boston –

Seaport, located at 58 Pier 4 Boulevard in Boston. The event will bring young professionals together for unlimited mini golf on Puttshack’s technology-driven courses, networking, light bites and a chance drawing featuring a variety of prize packages. Proceeds will support JAF’s efforts to provide financial assistance to New

England cancer patients and their families.

The event will also introduce Nichols College as the Council’s Presenting Sponsor and recognize students, alumni, interns, and other emerging professionals working throughout the Greater Boston area. A Nichols College representative will participate in the evening’s speaking

program.

Tickets are \$40 for guests ages 21 and older and \$30 for guests under 21. Tickets and additional information are available at <https://onecau.se/26ypc>.

About The Joe Andruzzi Foundation

The Joe Andruzzi Foundation is committed to providing help, hope, and a reason to smile, for New England cancer patients and their families by contributing financial support when it is needed most. Founded in 2008 by former New England Patriots three-time Super Bowl Champion offensive guard Joe Andruzzi and his wife Jen, the Joe Andruzzi Foundation grew out of Joe’s own successful battle with cancer. In 2007, Joe’s football career abruptly ended when he was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin’s Burkitt’s lymphoma. Disease-free less than a year later, Joe and Jen chose to dedicate their lives towards solving the financial distress a cancer diagnosis can cause in the lives

of patients and families. For more information or to make a donation, please visit: joeandruzzifoundation.org.

About Nichols College Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols College transforms today’s students into tomorrow’s leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth – combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage – equipping students to exceed their own expectations. To learn more about Nichols College, visit www.nichols.edu.

DONATION

continued from page A1

The WCRDSA and Sheriff’s Office received nearly 10,000 cans, or the equivalent of 440,000 bottles, of infant formula through the initiative, marking the largest in-kind donation ever received by the Association.

A large-scale distribution was held on Tuesday, July 28, at the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction. Participating organizations included Sacred Heart of Jesus Food Pantry in Webster, along with Worcester Housing Authority, Catholic Charities Worcester, Yes We Care, El Buen Samaritano, Friendly House, Everyday Miracles Peer Recovery Center, Pernet Family Health Service, Project New Hope, and Safe Exit Initiative.

Addressing representatives from the participating nonprofit organizations, El Buen Samaritano (EBS)

Director Mari Gonzalez emphasized the importance of a community working together, “Partnerships with the Sheriff, Ocean State Job Lot, all of us here, this is what it takes. It takes all of us coming together to make our community better. We are here for our community members, and mothers in need, and that is what it is all about.”

“We’ve got partners who are coming together to do something at the behest of this organization (WCRDSA),” said David Sarlitto, Vice President of Corporate Giving at OSJL & Executive Director of the OSJL Charitable Foundation. “These organizations are enabling us to do something, as a company and as our customers wanted to do. We needed community partners to get these into the hands of those who need the formula, and the WCRDSA brought us that.”

Additional donations were distributed directly to smaller nonprofit

organizations and community refrigerators throughout Worcester County, including Blackstone Valley Essential Needs Network, Blackstone’s Divine Mercy Food Pantry, Fitchburg Community Justice Support Center, Superior Waste’s Community Fridge, Webster Regional Reentry Center, Gardner CAC, Rutland’s Saint Patrick’s Parish, Clinton’s WHEAT Community Cupboard, Southbridge’s Bridge of Faith Youth Center, and many others.

“We’ve built a tremendous partnership with Ocean State Job Lot over the years,” said Sheriff Evangelidis. “It started with our annual winter coat drive and evolved to include a food drive, toy drive, back-to-school supply drive, and now this. Ocean State’s support enables organizations like the WCRDSA to deliver critical resources to local nonprofits that work directly with families that are most in need.”

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Outdoor summer concert returns Aug. 21 in downtown Worcester with Jazz+ Live™ featuring The Love Dogs

WORCESTER — WICN Public Radio 90.5 FM, The Hanover Theatre & Conservatory for the Performing Arts, and the Downtown Worcester Business Improvement District invite the community to celebrate summer at the 9th Annual Jazz+ Live™ concert, featuring the acclaimed jump blues and rhythm & blues band The Love Dogs. The outdoor concert will take place on Friday, Aug. 21, behind The Hanover Theatre in downtown Worcester. Gates open at 5 p.m., with the concert beginning at 6:00 p.m.

For more than two decades, The Love Dogs, fronted by the charismatic Eddie Scheer, have entertained audiences across the United States, Canada, and Europe with their irresistible blend

of jump blues, New Orleans R&B, swing, and early rock ‘n’ roll. Their powerhouse horn section, boogie-woogie piano, soulful vocals, and infectious stage presence have made them one of New

England’s premier live bands and a favorite among music lovers of all ages.

“Jazz+ Live™ has become one of Worcester’s signature summer traditions because it brings

together outstanding live music, strong community partnerships, and people who simply enjoy

spending an evening together,” said Melanie Le-Boeuf, Executive Director of WICN Public

-MORE-Radio. “At WICN, we believe music has the power

to connect people.”

Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, along with food and non-alcoholic beverages, to

enjoy during the performance. Food trucks and cash bars will be available throughout the

evening. Outside alcohol is not permitted.

General admission tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 on the day of the event. Guests should bring their own lawn chairs. VIP front-row tables for four are available for \$175 per table, offering reserved seating with the best views of the stage. Tickets are available through The

Hanover Theatre Box Office and online at TheHanoverTheatre.org.

About WICN Public Radio WICN Public Radio 90.5 FM is an independent, nonprofit public radio station serving Central

Massachusetts and beyond. Through award-winning jazz, roots, blues, world music, and locally

produced programming, WICN connects listeners with the arts, culture, education, and conversations that enrich the region. WICN’s mission is to inspire, entertain, and engage diverse

audiences while supporting the cultural vitality of the communities it serves. Broadcasting throughout Central New England and streaming worldwide, WICN brings exceptional music and

local voices to audiences wherever they are.



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WEBSTER — It’s not too late to exercise your creative muscles and join other floral artists, professional and amateur alike, in creating a display for Bites, Books and Blooms. This annual highlight of the Webster social calendar will take place at the Gladys Kelly Library on Sept. 23. In past years we have seen these representations through flowers of a favorite book or poem can range from literal to abstract and serious to silly. All have been intriguing and thought-provoking and demonstrate the talent for the visual arts that exists in our community.

For example, in 2024 Forget Me Nots Flowers &

Gifts in Dudley chose to interpret Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone with a gorgeous burgundy sorting hat, a literal object from the book, alongside a pumpkin arrangement, a more abstract nod to the festive spirit of Hogwarts’ Great Hall at Halloween. This year, Deb Horan, owner of Booklovers’ Gourmet, has chosen a poem, The Red Wheelbarrow by William Carlos Williams. She says, “I was inspired by this simple, descriptive poem of everyday objects and setting that asks us to just stop and observe our surroundings.” We can’t wait to see how she will translate this into a visual form through flowers. If you are inspired to submit your own Book in Bloom, please fill out the commitment form on

the Friends of the Gladys Kelly Library website by August 3 or get a form at the library at 2 Lake Street in Webster. Still unsure? Come to a Books in Bloom workshop on August 12, where Elaine Davies will lead a planning session, teaching you the mechanics of putting together a floral interpretation. Register for the workshop at the library or online under the library’s events calendar: August 12, 6 pm “How to Create a Book in Bloom.” Whether you will be a featured artist or not, don’t miss this evening of food, music and fun on Sept. 23, benefiting the library’s free programming for all. Tickets will go on sale beginning Aug. 22.

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