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Friday, October 3, 2025

## Construction begins at Stevens Linen Mill



Courtesy

From left are Deane Laparle of Camden Management Partners, Spencer Christensen of Haynes Construction, Andrew Weddle of Weddle Real Estate Investments, Selectperson Steven P. Sullivan, Selectperson Christopher Starczewski, state Rep. John Marsi, state Rep. Joseph D. McKenna, Amanda Hellyar of state Sen. Ryan Fattman's office, Benjamin Johnson of Weddle Real Estate Investments, Assistant Town Administrator Olivia Antonson, Selectperson Jana Deschenes, Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda.

DUDLEY — A significant step forward in the preservation of the town's foremost historical landmark, Stevens Linen Mill, has begun with reclaimed tongue-and-groove timber from Alabama.

Representatives of Mill developer Camden Management Partners joined town and state dignitaries for a groundbreaking of sorts at the Mill on Sept. 23. Rather than shovels and soil,

this construction kickoff was more about eyes to the sky.

"This important project—made possible through a grant from MassDevelopment—marks a critical step in preserving the historic Stevens Linen Mill with a roof replacement," Benjamin Johnson of Weddle Real Estate Investments said, adding, "By protecting the interior from the elements, future ren-

ovation may proceed unhindered."

It began in August 2020, when Stevens Mill Owner LLC of Columbia, SC, bought the 6.95-acre property and its 267,000-square-foot historic mill at 8 Mill St.

Camden Management Partners and A.L. Saad & Companies, who hold Stevens Mill Owner LLC, received Dudley Planning Board approval in May 2022. The plan

calls for a mixed-use development with 159 market-rate apartments of predominantly one- and two-bedroom units. The plan also includes flexible event space and a public walk along the French River.

Camden principal John Gumpert has referred to the Mill as a "gem" and has said the renovation will spur growth in both Dudley and Webster.

Mr. Johnson and

Andrew Weddle, both of Weddle Real Estate Investments, were on-site with Deane Laparle of Camden Management Partners and Spencer Christensen of Haynes Construction to kick off the roof raising.

One element of the roof replacement is the historical timber from Alabama.

"Bringing the beautiful Stevens Linen Mill back to life is so rewarding and quite challenging," Mr. Weddle said. "Our development team is working meticulously to design and source construction materials to preserve the Mill's architectural features such as the reclaimed tongue-in-groove bead-board and beams being installed to replace some deteriorated wood."

Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda said commended the work toward ensuring historic integrity.

"By placing a new roof of reclaimed, historic wood on the mill, the developers are showing their com-

Turn To **MILL** page **A12**

## Webster man indicted for arson in Southbridge fire that displaced 12 families

SOUTHBRIDGE — Southbridge Police arrested a Webster man last Thursday following his indictment by a Worcester County grand jury for allegedly setting a fire that ripped through two multi-family homes, said Southbridge Police Chief Shane Woodson, Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr., Southbridge Fire Chief Paul Normandin, and State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine.

Gerardo Cruz-Rivera, 34, is charged with two counts each of arson of a dwelling and malicious damage to a motor vehicle for the Nov. 13, 2024 fire that started at 7-9 Union St. in Southbridge and quickly spread to the neighboring building at 11-13 Union St. He was arraigned yesterday in Worcester Superior Court. At the request of District Attorney Early's office, Cruz-Rivera was held without bail pending a dangerousness hearing on Oct. 1.

The origin and cause of the fire were investigated by the Southbridge Fire Department, Southbridge Police Department, and State Police fire investigators assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office. Collectively, they determined that the fire began at the rear of 5-7 Union St. at ground level and spread from that area. They further determined that the fire had been intentionally set and continued to gather evidence.

As that investigation continued, Worcester County prosecutors presented evidence to a grand jury, which returned indictments charging Cruz-Rivera on Monday. Southbridge Police detectives located and apprehended him Thursday night.

A dozen families were displaced by the early morning fire, which was reported at about 3:25 a.m. Firefighters and apparatus from more than a dozen regional departments responded to the seven-alarm fire and one Southbridge firefighter was transported for an injury he suffered during the seven-alarm response. Working smoke alarms roused the buildings' occupants, who all escaped safely but lost their homes and possessions.

## Local 4 Life's comedy fundraiser supports educational outreach

DUDLEY — Local 4 Life, an educational nonprofit organization located in the Webster/Dudley area, is partnering with Funny 4 Funds for a Comedy Fundraiser at The Mill at French River (9 Frederick St., Webster) on Saturday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. Proceeds from the event will benefit Local 4 Life's educational outreach efforts in the area, which include community events, children's workshops, and family programs.

Local 4 Life would like to thank our generous sponsors for this show: JV Mechanical Contractors of Webster, D. Mason Paving of Webster, and Red Tail Valley Farm of Pomfret, CT. The night will include incredible raffle prizes from Wormtown Brewing Company, Tree House Brewing Company, Taylor Brooke Winery, Prestige Salon & Day Spa, Generations Gift Shop, Ruby Wines, Sturbridge Coffee Roasters, Hank's Liquors, Cuttin' Loose Hair Salon, PT Pet Supply, Booklover's Gourmet, Ultimate Touch Salon, Ascent Mechanical Solutions and Ascent Elite Cleaning Solutions, and more.

In 2025, Local 4 Life held several educational events, including five science-based children's programs, featuring local farmer guest speakers, at the Pearle Crawford Memorial Library. Local 4 Life has also donated CSA gift cards to local families in the Dudley area, provided hands-on lessons and a field trip to Walnut Lane Farm with Mason Road Elementary

Turn To **OUTREACH** page **A12**



## Walk to support Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf

OXFORD — Join Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf volunteers and others on Sunday, Oct. 19, for the annual Crop Hunger Walk. Everyone is welcome!

The walk begins at the First Congregational Church, 355 Main St., Oxford, at 1 p.m. Please arrive at 12:30 p.m. to sign in and gather to walk an easy three and a half miles through Oxford together. A small monetary donation is suggested.

We're looking to raise \$2500 this year, which will help stock the shelves of the Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf, Oxford's community food pantry, in the weeks ahead.

To participate, go to <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/event/oxfordma> and follow the steps from there, or just show up on the 19th. Volunteers will be at the church to help you get started.

For more information, check the Oxford Food Shelf page on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/OxfordMAFoodShelf>) or call 508-987-1062.

The Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf is a free non-profit food pantry in Oxford. We are available to every resident in Oxford MA who needs groceries to help feed themselves or their family.

Thank you for your continued support of the Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf.



Courtesy

Arthur and Theresa Graves are pictured celebrating their 95th birthdays with family at Teddy G's in Sturbridge Sept. 20.

# PET of the WEEK



Meer Cleo

This affectionate, goofy girl is a total gem who keeps getting overlooked—but once you meet her, you'll wonder how! Cleo is the perfect mix of playful and sweet, and she absolutely loves people of all ages. Whether it's kids, teens, or adults, she's all in for making new human friends. Cleo greets the world with confidence, kindness, and a wagging tail—she's smart, loving, and ready to be someone's best friend. Cleo is always up for an adventure—whether it's hitting the trails, hopping in the car, playing tug, or just curling up at your feet. She rolls over for belly rubs, leans in for snuggles, and is happy to be your personal office buddy. She even made her TV debut on Boston 25's *Furever Friday*, charming everyone with her cow-like spots and sunny smile! What makes Cleo extra special? • Sweet, social, and goofy – loves people and her best friend Horton! Super smart – knows sit, down, touch, come, and more • Well-mannered and house-trained • Road trip ready – rides like a dream in the car • Toy lover – enjoys tug, squeaky toys, and soccer balls • Water queen – rocked her pool day at Canine New England and never misses a chance to swim, whether it's a lake or a pool! • Adventure buddy – loves trail walks and stream wading • Volunteer favorite – everyone loves Cleo!

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# Bay Path represented at critical conference on point-of-care hypoglycemia detection



BOSTON — On Sept. 24, Dr. Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, of Athol, participated and represented Bay Path in the conference titled “Undetected Point-of-Care Hypoglycemia Can Be Life-Threatening to the Patient” at The Westin Waltham-Boston. The event focused on the critical issue of glucose meter accuracy and its impact on patient safety in hospital settings. Dr. Bolandrina was invited to attend by Kelli-Anne Coombs-Cink, BSMT(ASCP), Account Executive, Point of Care NE at Nova Biomedical.

The conference was preceded by a casual welcome reception on the evening of Sept. 23 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the same hotel, where registered attendees enjoyed light snacks, drinks, and engaging conversations. The reception provided a valuable opportunity to network, exchange ideas, and prepare for the educational sessions to follow. The program was approved by the American

Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) for 2.5 Continuing Education Recognition Points (CERPs), Synergy CERP Category A, File Number 25635. It also offered 2.5 hours of P.A.C.E. continuing education credits. It's important to note that AACN's approval relates only to the continuing education provided and does not imply endorsement of the content or products discussed. Glucose testing at the bedside is among the most commonly performed procedures in hospitals. Despite its routine nature, the accuracy of glucose meter results is often overlooked. Recent studies highlighted that interference from medications and other endogenous factors can cause inaccurate readings, leading to improper treatment decisions. Alarmingly, such errors have occasionally resulted in catastrophic outcomes, including insulin administration to hypoglycemic patients, prolonged hospital stays, and increased healthcare costs. The conference addressed these challenges by exploring how improved glucose meter accuracy can enhance patient outcomes. Topics covered included methods for evaluating glucose meter systems, the impact of interfering substances like hematocrit, acetaminophen, and ascorbic acid, and strategies to prevent adverse events caused by

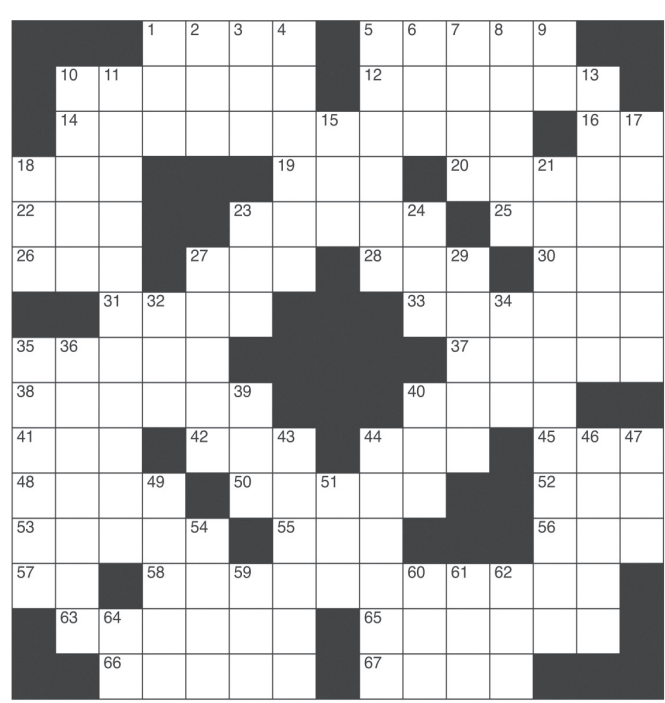
inaccurate glucose readings. Additionally, the program discussed the implementation of interference-free point-of-care glucose testing systems in hospitals, with special attention to critically ill patients, as well as relevant FDA and CMS regulations. The expert panel of speakers featured:

Nam Tran, Ph.D., M.S., HCLD (ABB), CLS, MLS (ASCP)cm, FAACC — Associate Dean and Vice Chair for Biobanking, University of Pittsburgh and UPMC Pathology

Dennis Begos, MD, FACS, FACRS — Senior Medical Director, Medical and Scientific Affairs, Nova Biomedical; former Surgeon and Chair of Surgery at Winchester Hospital, MA; Assistant Professor, Tufts University School of Medicine

Jorge A. Gomez, MHA, BS, MT(ASCP) — System Point of Care Manager, Banner Hospitals/Laboratory Sciences of Arizona

Dr. Bolandrina's attendance and participation underscore her commitment to advancing patient safety through evidence-based practices and continual professional development in critical care nursing.

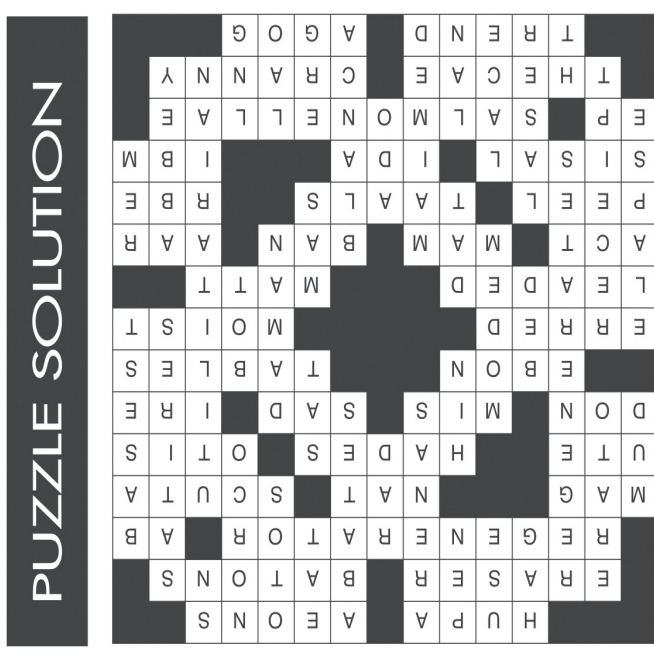


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Native American people of CA
- 5. Long periods of time (Brit.)
- 10. Classroom tool
- 12. Rods
- 14. One who renews
- 16. They start the alphabet
- 18. Periodical (slang)
- 19. Smooth singer Cole
- 20. Dorsal sclerites in insects
- 22. One from Utah
- 23. The world of the dead
- 25. Singer Redding
- 26. Mafia head
- 27. Wrongly
- 28. Unhappy
- 30. Anger
- 31. Dark olive black
- 33. Places to sit and eat
- 35. Made a mistake
- 37. Damp
- 38. Banned fuel type
- 40. Actor Damon
- 41. What thespians do
- 42. A polite address for a woman
- 44. Disallow
- 45. Swiss river
- 48. A banana has one
- 50. Afrikaans
- 52. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 53. Agave
- 55. Journalist Tarbell
- 56. One-time tech leader
- 57. Incidentally (abbr.)
- 58. Intestinal bacterium
- 63. Loose sheats around the spinal cord
- 65. Accompanies nook
- 66. Vogue
- 67. Highly excited

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Witch
- 2. Utilize
- 3. Writing utensil
- 4. Where rockers work
- 5. Becomes less intense
- 6. Consume
- 7. Type of catfish
- 8. "Horsetown, U.S.A."
- 9. Atomic #50
- 10. The Muse of lyric poetry
- 11. Brings back to life
- 13. Humorous critiques
- 15. Cool!
- 17. Worst
- 18. Wet dirt
- 21. Useful
- 23. Hebrew unit of liquid capacity
- 24. High schoolers' test
- 27. Internet device
- 29. City in India
- 32. A place to rest
- 34. Chat responder
- 35. A way to move on
- 36. What consumers are given
- 39. Digital audiotape
- 40. More (Spanish)
- 43. Disfigured
- 44. White (Spanish)
- 46. Church building
- 47. Georgia rockers
- 49. Surgeon's tool
- 51. "Much \_\_\_ about nothing"
- 54. Make by braiding
- 59. Local area network
- 60. Unit of work
- 61. Indigenous person of Thailand
- 62. Liquefied natural gas
- 64. Distance to top



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## REAL ESTATE

### AUBURN

\$509,000, 31 Rydberg Ter, Jatagani, Anesti, and Jatagani, Eleni, to Sturtevant, Bryan, and Bizzozero, Nicole.

\$440,000, 10 Marilyn Dr, Cunningham, Kristina M, and Cunningham, Matthew J, to Moore, Gregory, and Moore, Ivonne.

\$425,000, 105 Rochdale St, Bradshaw, Laurel, to Julu, Marie, and Pamo, Kwity.

\$200,000, 166 Leicester St, Scott Edward C Est, and Scott, Eric C, to Blaise Prime Inv LLC.

### DUDLEY

\$1,350,000, 26 Central Ave, Dintino 253 Realty LLC, to She Closes Deals LLC.

\$534,000, 7 Kennedy Dr, Heavenly Hm Solutions LLC, to Garraway, Gaylord, and Blair-Garraway, Myrona.

\$350,000, 9 New Boston Rd, Brown Mary C Est, and Brown, Alexander, to Basha, Sarwat, and Morgan, Talaat.

### OXFORD

\$420,000, 31 West St, Steve Dale Crankshaw Lt, and Crankshaw, Steve D, to Boelke, Devon, and Boelke, Christopher.

\$410,000, 166 Sutton Ave, 166 Sutton Avenue Rt, and Allain, Daniel G, to Allain, David G, and Allain, Denise S.

\$240,000, 8 Thayer Pond Dr #6, Mcdonald, Laurent R, and Mcdonald, Celeste, to Keane, Anne E.

### WEBSTER

\$487,050, 39 Park Ave, Jette, Joseph A, to Fonseca, Naseam.

\$465,000, 53 Cudworth Rd, Bernstein, Nicholas G, to Mayer, Katherine.

\$195,649, 6 Henry Rd, Nealley, Paige F, to Heavenly Hm Solutions LLC.

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# Cornerstone Bank helps tackle local hunger with \$3,000 donation to Community Harvest Project



Courtesy

Cornerstone Bank employees and interns volunteered with Community Harvest Project.

said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. “Food insecurity continues to impact thousands of our neighbors, and CHP’s work ensures that families have access not only to food, but to fresh, healthy produce. We’re honored to support their mission both financially and through the volunteer efforts of our team.”

Community Harvest Project is the largest community farm in Central Massachusetts, with locations in Grafton and Harvard. In 2024 alone, the organization hosted more than 6,300 volunteers who grew and donated 188,501 pounds of fruits and vegetables to 26 partner agencies serving more than 60,800 food-insecure individuals. With food insecurity rates in Worcester County still more than double pre-pandemic levels, CHP remains a vital source of fresh, healthy produce for families who might otherwise go without.

ence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone, which is a subsidiary of PeoplesBankCorp, MHC, operating independently under its own name and brand, provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities through a broad range of deposit and loan products and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit [cornerstonebank.com](http://cornerstonebank.com) or call 800-939-9103.

## Dudley to explore earlier Town Meeting times

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — At least one selectman in Dudley would like to see the town reassess the start times for its town meetings in the hopes that it will increase citizen participation and reduce stress of schedules.

Chris Starczewski, who serves as Town Moderator and was elected to the Board of Selectmen earlier this year, recommended to his board on Sept. 8 that they consider starting town meetings earlier to better accommodate the limitations of parents and seniors and allow more time in case of any lengthy debates. He didn’t make a formal motion but asked that the selectmen explore their options.

“I was wondering if down the line we could entertain a conversation about potentially shifting the time of town meeting to an earlier time slot that would allow for robust discussion, allow for all members of the community easier access, and allow us to end the meeting earlier for ease and maybe adjust to family schedules a little bit more,” Starczewski stated during the selectmen comments portion of the meeting.

Typically, Dudley town meetings start at 7 p.m. on their designated night, and often occur on a Monday or Tuesday, which are school nights. Rarely do meetings happen on a weekend or a Friday.

There are times, however, when these meetings contain lengthy discussions regarding topics placed in the middle of the warrant or citizen petitions which are often placed at the end of the meeting. Starczewski believes that an earlier start time will allow parents to attend the meetings without interrupting their children’s school preparation and, in effect, also increase public participation especially if people avoid meetings due to the perception that they will draw into the late-night hours.

No official decision or discussion was held at the Sept. 8 meeting, but Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda said he would consult with the town attorney to determine what course of action would be required to change the start time for selectmen to consider at a future meeting

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, has continued its commitment to fighting food insecurity with a \$3,000 donation to Community Harvest Project, a non-profit farm that engages volunteers to grow fresh fruits and vegetables for hunger relief across Central and Eastern Massachusetts. The donation builds on the bank’s \$3,000 gift in 2024 and \$2,000 gift in 2023, and is part of a broader relationship that includes regular volunteer efforts by Cornerstone Bank employees at Community Harvest Project’s farms.

“Cornerstone Bank is proud to partner with Community Harvest Project,”

## Dudley prepares for a Spooktakular Halloween

DUDLEY — Those who haunt Town Hall and the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library have been scurrying about to transform parking lots and lawns into a free Halloween family event for ghosts and goblins of all ages.

Dudley’s annual Spooktakular returns on Thursday, Oct. 23. This event, hosted by the Dudley Recreation Commission with spirited participation from the library crew, is set to thrill during the daylight hours of 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Festivities begin at 4:30 p.m. when families are invited to gather in costume at the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library, 40 Schofield Ave., for fun family activities. At 5 p.m., the gaggle of ghosts and goblins will receive a police escort as they parade up Brandon Road to Town Hall.

There, families will be greeted with lots of frightfully free fun. Highlights include games, live music, a balloon artist, a Cauldron of S’mores, hot dogs and drinks.

No Halloween party would be complete without a costume contest, and this one will award prizes for the scariest, funniest, and most unique costumes.

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Dudley Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the state MassCultural Council.

[www.StonebridgePress.com](http://www.StonebridgePress.com)

Cornerstone Bank employees have volunteered more than 300 hours at CHP farms since 2022, joining community members in planting, harvesting and packaging produce that directly benefits local families.

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# Families embrace Saint Joseph School's Holy Family Traveling Statue Program



Courtesy

Rev. Richard Polek presents the Holy Family Traveling Statue to seventh-grade student Evelyn Macko, the first recipient of the 2025–2026 school year, following the weekly Divine Mercy devotion at Saint Joseph School.

WEBSTER — Saint Joseph School in Webster is continuing its Holy Family Traveling Statue Program this year after receiving an overwhelmingly positive response from students and their families. The program allows families to host a statue of the Holy Family in their homes for one week, offering an opportunity to deepen their faith through prayer and reflection.

The statue, representing Mary, Joseph, and the Child Jesus, is accompanied by devotional materials that guide families in prayer and conversation. Each family receives a Family Prayer Card, a Holy Family Prayer Pocket Book, and the option of devotional books such as “Pope Francis Family Devotional: 365 Reflections to Share with Your Kids and One Year of Dinner Table Devotions and Discussion Starters” by Nancy Guthrie. These resources encourage families to set aside time for prayer, share meaningful discussions, and look to the Holy Family as a model of love and unity.

Families are also invited to reflect on their week with the statue by sharing stories, photos, and experiences with the school community. These reflections, which describe how the statue was displayed, which prayers were used, and how the experience shaped family life, are then displayed at the school for others to read and be inspired.

This year’s program began with Grade 7 student Evelyn Macko, who was the first to bring the statue home. Following the school’s weekly Divine Mercy devotion, Pastor Fr. Richard Polek presented the Holy Family Statue to Evelyn, who will host the statue for one week before it is passed along to another student family.

Principal Beth Boudreau said the school is grateful to see how deeply the program has resonated with families. “We want our students and their families to experience the presence of God in their daily lives. By welcoming the Holy Family into their homes, families are reminded that prayer, forgiveness, and love are meant to be lived out every day,” she explained.

The Holy Family Traveling Statue Program remains a vital part of Saint Joseph School’s mission to nurture both academic excellence and spiritual growth. By bridging classroom lessons with family life, the program reinforces the belief that faith is most powerful when it is lived at home.

# From plant biology to patient care — LPN’s journey of resilience and dedication

CHARLTON — For Emmanuel Nyah of Leicester, the path to becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse was not a straight line, but a challenging, transcontinental journey fueled by an unwavering commitment to his family and an unbreakable spirit. Now, a new LPN at Vibra Hospital in Rochdale, Nyah’s story is a powerful testament to perseverance against formidable odds.

“I had one goal in my mind, which was to set myself up to take good care of my family,” Nyah shared. “I faced obstacles I never envisioned or envisaged, but I always believed in my mantra: ‘Every sea that has people on the other side of the shore is crossable, and when we get to the bridge, we will cross it.’”

Nyah’s journey into healthcare began at the foundational level, working as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) at Jewish Healthcare in Worcester and later at Brookside Rehabilitation in Webster. There, he built a solid base in bedside care, assisting with vitals, supporting patients with their activities of daily living (ADLs), and serving as a crucial link to the nursing team.

This hands-on experience cemented his desire to advance his skills. He enrolled in the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy initially, where he was elected as the Student Representative, and then the Practical Nursing program at Assabet Valley Technical High School, where his natural leadership abilities shone further. His peers elect-

ed him Class President for the 2024-2025 academic year, a role in which he demonstrated exceptional teamwork and communication skills. Nyah’s professional qualifications are extensive: he is certified in Health Care Provider/Basic Life Support CPR, Dementia Care, and Mental Health First Aid.

His transition into nursing is even more remarkable given his extensive academic background in a different scientific field. Nyah holds a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from the University of Calabar in Nigeria and a Master of Science in Plant Biology from Tel Aviv University in Israel. This unique perspective gives him a deep-rooted appreciation for the complexities of biological systems, both in plants and now, in people.

Nyah credits his success to his profound faith and a robust support system.

“My inspiration and motivation come from within,” he said. “I’m poised to show people like me—who come from my situation or environment—that anything is possible with the right attitude and mindset.”

He expressed deep gratitude for those who stood by him, including God, the Burlingame family, and especially his fiancée, Len.

“They never judged, never questioned, and always supported me,” he remarked.

His daughter, Imaobong, remains his greatest inspiration.

“If I didn’t have her, I would have given up when the storms



Emmanuel Nyah

raged,” Nyah said, also expressing appreciation for Dr. Gretheline Bolandrina of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy.

“You’re a big part of it, and I’m grateful for your mentorship,” he said.

Upon completing his certificate in June 2025, Nyah tackled the NCLEX-PN exam, passing on his first attempt—a significant achievement that speaks to his diligence and competence. He has now begun his career as an LPN at

Vibra Hospital, where he works with a complex patient population, including individuals with tracheostomies, ventilators, G-tubes, and traumatic brain injuries.

Emmanuel Nyah’s story is not just one of career changes but of profound personal growth and determination. It is a hopeful reminder that with faith, a strong support network, and an unyielding will to succeed, any obstacle can be overcome.

# Arthritis Foundation’s Jingle Bell Run® brings Worcester together to raise funds and awareness for research

WORCESTER —

Jingle Bell Run returns to bring holiday cheer to Worcester on Dec. 7, with the goal of raising \$95,000 this year. This family-friendly, holiday-themed 5K run at Bay State Brewing Company encourages participants to dress in festive costumes and get moving to raise awareness and funds to

conquer America’s #1 cause of disability.

Taking place in more than 60 cities nationwide, the Arthritis Foundation’s Jingle Bell Run benefits the nearly 60 million adults and hundreds of thousands of children in the U.S. who are living with arthritis every day. From funding cutting-edge

research for new treatments, and ultimately a cure, to advocating for health care access, the Arthritis Foundation helps people with arthritis score everyday victories, one step at a time.

“Jingle Bell Run has found it home in Worcester over the last five years and we’re looking forward to bringing extra holiday cheer to town this year,” said Erica D’Agostino, Senior Executive Director. “Our honorees and volunteers are the ones who make Jingle Bell Run successful and memorable every year, and this year we’re humbled to honor Dr. Minjin Fromm who is a true arthritis champion and her commitment to her patients.”

Dr. Fromm has a passion for improving the quality of life of patients who suffer from painful arthritic conditions in the spine and joints through injection-based treatment. She finds joy in connecting with patients to help understand their problems and offers the best treatment options to reduce their pain and return to an

active lifestyle.

In addition to Dr. Fromm, the following people and partners will be honored.

Dr. Esra Meidan, Jingle Bell Run Medical Honoree, Boston Children’s Hospital  
Sarine, Jingle Bell Run Teen Honoree  
Charlotte, Jingle Bell Run Youth Honoree

Jingle Bell Run is nationally sponsored by Novartis and Zoetis. Local sponsors include Intex Solutions and Country Bank. To learn more and register for Jingle Bell Run in Worcester, visit [www.jbr.org/centralma](http://www.jbr.org/centralma).

### About the Arthritis Foundation

The Arthritis Foundation is fighting for all people who live with arthritis. The Foundation’s mission is to turn the obstacles arthritis causes into opportunities. The Arthritis Foundation champions life-changing solutions and medical advancements, and it also provides ways for people to connect, break down barriers in health care and join the fight for a cure — uniting hearts, minds and resources to change the future of arthritis. To join the fight to conquer arthritis, visit [arthritis.org](http://arthritis.org).

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**Bartlett High School hosting Trunk or Treat fundraiser**

WEBSTER — Bartlett High School’s PBIS presents a Trunk or Treat fundraiser Sunday, Oct. 19 from 5-7 p.m. in the parking lot next to the tennis courts, 52 Lake Parkway in Webster.

For a \$5 entry fee per ‘Treater,’ enjoy pizza, popcorn, raffles for great prizes, and receive a Trunk or Treat bag (while supplies last).

If you are interested in being a ‘Trunker,’ please sign up at <https://forms.gle/f9ztvut0asgbydnq7>.

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# Park Avenue Faculty Spotlight

**WEBSTER** — Each year, Park Avenue is filled with remarkable student learning—made possible by the dedication, creativity, support, and, most importantly, the hope carried by the extraordinary staff here in our town. This week, we would like to highlight three exceptional educators at PAE: Stephanie Lit (1st Grade Teacher), Kirsten Lundstrom (Learning Center Instructional Assistant), and Rebecca Beaupre (4th Grade Teacher).

Stephanie Lit creates a welcoming community like no other.

“If you visit one of her morning meetings, it’s amazing how students want to share,” exclaimed Matthew Aronian, Dean of Students at PAE. By setting clear expectations, encouraging collaboration, and celebrating individual strengths, Ms. Lit turns the classroom into a place where students not only learn, but also belong. Thank you for your dedication.

**Kristen Lundstrom** cares deeply for the students she works with. She goes above and beyond, both in and out of the classroom, to make sure each student feels cared for and supported. The faculty at Park Avenue Elementary can’t say enough wonderful things



**Kristen Lundstrom (Learning Center Instructional Assistant) poses for a picture.**

about her. According to Ms. Ochocki, Assistant Principal at PAE, she hears positive feedback all the time. Thank you

for your dedication. “She makes math so much fun—she talks about famous numbers in history,” said one



**Rebecca Beaupre (fourth grade teacher) and Stephanie Lit (first grade teacher) are all smiles as they look at the camera.**

of Rebecca Beaupre’s students at recess.

Ms. Beaupre is an excellent teacher who carefully plans each lesson to

ensure her students are engaged and having fun. She also holds high expectations for her students, and it shows. If you ever

get the chance to visit her classroom, you’ll see lots of great work getting done! Thanks for your dedication.

## QCC Foundation board welcomes five new members

**WORCESTER** — The Quinsigamond Community College Foundation has gained five new members on its board of directors. Elected in August and September 2025, the new directors are dedicated to advancing the college’s mission of providing accessible, high-quality education and supporting student success through scholarships, programs and community partnerships.

“This isn’t just about adding new names to our board; it’s about strengthening the heart of the Quinsigamond Community College Foundation. With the new directors, our capacity to change lives grows,” said Foundation President Jorgo Gushi.

These new members bring a wealth of experience across multiple industries and a shared commitment to advancing educational opportunities and community development.

“Having dedicated, community-oriented leaders on our Foundation board is essential. Their deep understanding of the college, our students and the broader community provides invaluable insight, helping guide informed decisions that create meaningful and lasting impact for our students,” said QCC President Luis Pedraja, Ph.D.

The new 2025 Foundation directors include:

Alyssa Benefit, a digital marketing executive with more than 18 years of experience, who currently serves as director of CRM at The Aspen Group. Her leadership spans healthcare, financial services, retail and technology sectors, with a proven track record at organizations including Bond Veterinary, Zeta Global, Monster Worldwide, and Staples Inc. A Suffolk University graduate and 2023 Visionary of the Year recipient of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of New England, she brings strategic vision and philanthropic leadership to the Foundation.

Jessica Favreau, vice president and commercial lending officer at Dean Bank, manages a commercial loan portfolio exceeding \$120 million. President of the QCC Alumni Association (QCC class of ’02), Favreau also holds degrees from Worcester State College and New England College of Business. She serves on the boards of Girls on the Run, the Wachusett Area Chamber of Commerce and CASA’s Champions for Children Committee, along with completing Leadership Worcester (Class of ’24).

Jennifer Hernandez, CEO and director of strategic marketing at GEM Marketing Solutions, has dedicated over 15 years

to empowering entrepreneurs, small businesses and nonprofit organizations. A QCC alumna who earned an Associate of Arts in Human Services in 2014, Hernandez has been recognized with the Worcester Business Journal’s Outstanding Women in Business Award and the Worcester Chamber of Commerce’s Small Business of the Year Award in 2023. She currently chairs the City of Worcester’s Status of Women board and mentors through EforAll, a nationwide support network for aspiring entrepreneurs.

Jacob Rucker, private equity analyst at Rucker Investments, brings expertise in financial analysis, market research and strategic investment decisions. A Northeastern University D’Amore-McKim School of Business graduate with a finance concentration, Rucker has experience at Goldman Sachs, Bain Capital and SCS Financial. In 2024, he co-founded Auxilium, an innovation accelerator in Worcester dedicated to supporting early-stage startups through workspace, mentorship and funding.

Jetari Veal, assistant vice president of community and business development at Workers

Federal Credit Union, leads strategic initiatives to grow membership and community engagement. With over a decade in financial services and educational credentials, including a bachelor’s degree from Mississippi Valley State University and an MBA from Grand Canyon University, Veal serves on advisory boards for the Center for Women & Enterprise, Worcester Historical Museum and LUK Inc.

Continuing QCC Foundation Board members include James M. Griffin, vice president; Linda Cavaioli, treasurer; Kola Akindele, Linda Cammuso, Jack Cutone, Diane Giampa, Timothy Hally, Dr. Jean King, Dr. Linda S. Larrivee, Jared Madison, Esq., Dr. Mary

Meade-Montaque and Matthew Wally.

The QCC Foundation continues to advance transformative projects that directly support student achievement and community impact. The Foundation’s current priorities can be found at QCC.edu/thrive.

“Our mission is simple but profound: to open doors for students who carry big dreams but also big burdens. Many of our students are first-generation, working parents, or immigrants trying to balance school, work, and family. Too often, they quietly wonder if they belong. And through this Foundation, our answer to them is yes,” Gushi added.

## Nichols College donates iPads to Dudley Fire Department

**DUDLEY** — Nichols College donated 10 iPads to the Dudley Fire Department today during a brief ceremony held at the town’s fire station. At the event, Nichols President Bill Pieczynski presented the new technology to Dudley Fire Department (DFD) Chief Dean Kochanowski and Deputy Chief Erik Spahl.

The iPads will support the fire department’s new cloud-based software program for fire and emergency medical services reporting, an application that is designed to be used in the field on iPads.

“Nichols has been part of the fabric of Dudley since 1815, and we are proud to support the Dudley Fire Department, who help keep our campus and community safe,” said Pieczynski of the donation. “The Dudley Fire Department is a trusted partner to our College, and these iPads will enhance their ability to respond to incidents quickly, manage resources effectively and conduct inspections more efficiently. We are pleased that this gift of technology can help modernize their operations and further strengthen the services they provide to Dudley and beyond.”

The College selected the DFD for the donation due to their frequent collaborations. The DFD is one of the town departments the College interacts with the most, said College leadership. The DFD and the College work closely together on regulatory and emergency response, as well as ensuring inspections of all campus buildings. The DFD also interacts with the College’s public safety, residence life and athletics offices.

The iPads will also assist the DFD with: onsite inspections; apparatus checks; previews of building preplans while enroute (complete with shutoffs, access points and hydrant locations); and response unit tracking during an incident.

About Nichols

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. www.nichols.edu

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## WEBSTER POLICE LOG

**WEBSTER** — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Sept. 21-27.

Carlos Gonzalez, Jr., age 47, of Webster was arrested on Sept. 24 in connection with a warrant.

Jeremy Jamar Jack, age 35, of Worcester was arrested on Sept. 25 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license (subsequent offense).

Michal Biela, age 38, of Webster was arrested on Sept. 26 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor) and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

A male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Sept. 27 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

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EDITOR

**EDITORIAL**

# Balancing renewable energy and local voices

Across Massachusetts, new laws are reshaping how solar fields and battery storage projects are sited. For towns like the communities we inhabit, that means more developers looking at open land and more questions about how these projects fit into our communities.

The promise of renewable energy is clear. Solar and battery storage help reduce carbon emissions, stabilize the grid, and move us closer to meeting statewide climate goals. But the tradeoffs are real, too. Large arrays often mean clearing forests, altering wetlands, and placing new burdens on fire departments and boards of health.

Recent forums have highlighted something important: local boards of health and planning commissions have more authority than many realize. State officials may set broad goals, but communities have the power to insist on safeguards that protect water supplies, preserve critical habitats, and keep neighborhoods safe. Courts have long upheld the ability of local health boards to treat poorly designed projects as public nuisances when they threaten residents' wellbeing.

That doesn't mean turning our backs on clean energy. It means insisting on balance. Protecting critical forests while still welcoming projects on already disturbed land. Supporting renewable power while demanding transparency from developers. Embracing innovation while safeguarding the very character of our towns.

Residents, too, play a role. Public hearings are not paperwork formalities—they are opportunities to raise concerns, ask hard questions, and make sure decisions reflect the will of the community. Skipping those meetings leaves the future to others.

Our local communities are not unique in facing these choices, but the stakes feel close to home. How much of our landscape will be fields of panels? What risks do massive battery facilities pose to air and water? And perhaps most importantly: who gets to decide?

The answer, at least in part, is us. Thoughtful planning and active participation can ensure renewable energy strengthens our region without sacrificing what makes it worth living here in the first place.

## 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](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news) — [news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news)

## Now is the time of salvation

For every person who has been baptized as a Christian, we need to take care "not to accept the grace of God in vain," as Saint Paul tells us. We have been blessed with the greatest treasure of life. Through the Mystery of our Baptism we have become a new creation, where we have put off the old man and all the power and influence of this fallen world. We have been made new by being "born from on high" or "born again," as some call it.

We have been given the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven within the Church and shown the path that leads into His eternal Kingdom of Divine Love. This treasure of faith gives life its ultimate purpose and deepest meaning, because we now know that we are beloved children of the Lord Most High, His heirs tasked with a grave responsibility—not only to live under His reign of love, mercy, and grace, but to act as His ambassadors in sharing this Good News with the world and inviting all people to discover this priceless treasure.

If we understand and believe this treasure we have received, then Saint Paul bluntly warns us: "Take care not to accept the grace of God in vain!" Don't be careless or indifferent to the gift that has been given to you. Act today and fulfill your calling. "Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

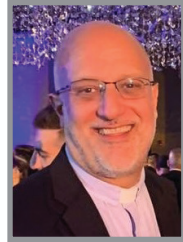
The Apostle Paul tells us not to wait until tomorrow. Don't delay your response to God. A beautiful illustration of this is seen in the Gospel story where Jesus calls Peter to follow Him.

Peter and his companions had fished all night, tired and frustrated from catching nothing. Then Christ enters their weariness and says, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." It makes no sense, but Peter obeys: "At Your word, Lord, I will let down the nets." Suddenly, their nets are overflowing. In awe, Peter falls to his knees and says, "Depart from me for I am a sinful man." Yet, instead of turning him away, Christ gives him a mission: "Do not be afraid. From now on you will be fishing for men."

And then we hear the most striking line: "When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him."

Think about that. Peter, James and John left behind their boats—their source of income, their security, their way of life. They left their families and all they were familiar with. They left behind their nets—their tools of survival, their identity as fishermen. They even left behind the greatest catch of their lives. Why? Because they recognized that this was the moment. Now was the day of salvation.

And this is where the Gospel challenges us. What are the "nets" that we hold on to today, the things that keep us



## BEYOND THE PEWS

BY FR. LUKE A. VERONIS, SACS  
CONSTANTINE AND HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, WEBSTER

from following Christ wholeheartedly?

The net of busyness. Many of us live over-scheduled, frantic lives. Work, school, sports, activities—our calendars are so full that prayer and worship become optional, our relationship with God is squeezed in only if there's time left. How many times do we hear Christ calling us deeper, yet we answer, "Lord, I'm too busy right now?"

The net of comfort and complacency. We like things the way they are. We are comfortable. We don't want to be challenged. We don't want to go "into the deep" because it feels risky. Following Christ always involves stepping beyond what feels safe and easy.

The net of materialism. In a consumer-driven culture, it is easy to think that happiness comes from having more — more money, more possessions, more security. But if we cling too tightly to these things, our hands aren't free to grasp the life Christ offers us.

The net of grudges and unforgiveness. Sometimes what holds us back most is the hurt we carry. We say we follow Christ, but we refuse to forgive. Those knots of bad memories in our nets weigh us down and keep us from moving forward.

The net of distraction. We live in an age of constant noise—phones, news, social media, entertainment. These things are not evil in themselves, but they can so fill our minds and hearts that we have no silence or time left to hear the voice of God.

These are just some of the nets that entangle us today. And the Gospel asks us: are we willing to let them go? Are we willing to hear Christ's voice and respond—not later, not someday, but now?

Because as Saint Paul reminds us, "Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation."

Every Sunday Jesus Christ comes to us in our worship in the Divine Liturgy. He speaks His Word to us. He fills our emptiness with His Presence. He blesses us by giving us His Body and Blood. He calls us to follow Him more deeply, to live as His ambassadors in the world, to invite others into this treasure of faith.

The question, however, is whether we respond like Peter, James, and John—leaving behind our nets to follow Him? Or will we hold back, clinging to the things that ultimately cannot save us?

Will we have the courage today to say, like Peter, "At Your word, Lord, I will let down the nets." I want to discover the abundant life that only Christ can give. Yet, be careful. "Do not to accept the grace of God in vain!" We have been given a gift, a priceless treasure. Let us make a decision today. Now is the acceptable time; now is our day of salvation!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### I want to make your Post Office a place of trust

To the Editor:

I'm honored to introduce myself to the community as your new Postmaster. My name is Eric Senkavitch, and I'm excited to begin this journey serving the residents and businesses of Webster and Dudley.

The U.S. Postal Service has a long-standing tradition of connecting people—through letters, packages, and reliable service. Under our ambitious Delivering for America plan, I'm committed to upholding that tradition while working to enhance customer experience in every way possible. Whether it's ensuring timely deliveries, improving our retail services, or listening to your feedback, my goal is to make our post office a place of trust and support for

everyone.

To this role, I bring 23 years of Postal Service experience, including the last eight years serving in a management role for the organization.

I encourage you to stop by the Post Office, say hello, and share any questions or ideas you may have. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I'm proud to be here and look forward to working together to keep our community connected.

Sincerely,

Eric Senkavitch  
Postmaster  
Webster Post Office  
Dudley branch

### Dudley Historical Commission grateful for support of Janet Malser Humanities Trust

To the Editor:

The Dudley Historical Commission would like to thank the Janet Malser Humanities Trust for its continuing generous support of our "Tradesmen on the Common" program.

On Saturday, Oct. 4, in conjunction with the Dudley Grange Apple Festival and the Black Tavern craft fair, we will have five costumed historical tradesmen working on the Dudley Common directly in front of the Congregational Church. This year there will be a black-

smith, a tinsmith, a seamstress, a shoemaker and a cooper. Come enjoy watching these tradesmen work and bring all of your questions.

Again, thank you to the Janet Malser Humanities Trust for their support, without which this program would not be possible.

David Proulx

SECRETARY  
DUDLEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

# Making the most of Medicare open enrollment



FINANCIAL FOCUS  
DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

When you turn 65, Medicare becomes a vital part of your health care coverage. But signing up is just the beginning. Many people don't realize that Medicare isn't a "set it and forget it" program. In fact, you have the opportunity — and often the need — to review and adjust your coverage every single year.

The annual Medicare Open Enrollment period, which runs from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7 each year, is your chance to take a fresh look at your health care needs and make sure your Medicare plan still fits your life. Then you can determine whether your medical and prescription plans need to be switched or dropped.

Just like your health can change from year to year, so can Medicare plans. Insurance companies may adjust their coverage and costs or even discontinue certain plans entirely. By taking time during the open enrollment period to compare your options, you might discover a plan that saves money, offers better coverage or both.

As a reminder, you have several options when it comes to your Medicare coverage.

Original Medicare (Parts A and B) covers hospital stays and medical services such as doctor visits. Part A typically comes with no monthly premium if you've worked for at least 10 years. Part B requires monthly premiums — \$206.50 or more in 2026, depending on your income. They may also be copays and deductibles.

Medicare Advantage (Part C) offers an all-in-one alternative to Original Medicare. These plans are offered by private insurance companies. They often bundle together hospital, medical and prescription drug coverage. They may also include extra benefits like vision, dental and wellness programs that Original Medicare doesn't cover.

Medicare Part D provides standalone prescription drug coverage for those who stick with Original Medicare.

Medicare Supplement (Medigap) policies help cover the out-of-pocket costs that Original Medicare doesn't pay, such as copayments and deductibles.

When shopping for Medicare plans, there are several important areas you should consider to determine which options are right for you:

Out-of-pocket costs such as monthly premiums, deductibles, copayments and any other expenses Medicare doesn't cover. Sometimes a plan with a higher premium saves you money overall because of lower copays.

Prescription drug coverage deserves special attention. All Medicare plans for 2026 will include a \$2,100 cap on what you pay out of pocket for covered prescription drugs, up from \$2,000 in 2025. However, this cap only applies to drugs that your plan covers, making it crucial to verify your medications are included.

Your health care needs for the coming year matter too. Do you have surgeries planned? New health conditions to manage? You'll want to make sure your potential plan covers the care you expect to need.

Travel plans can also influence your choice. Original Medicare typically doesn't cover services overseas, so frequent travelers might want supplemental coverage for emergencies abroad.

If you don't make any changes during open enrollment, you'll likely be automatically reenrolled in your current plan for the following year, as long as it's still available and you continue paying required premiums.

*Don't let your Medicare plan run on autopilot. Take advantage of the annual open enrollment period — between Oct. 15 and Dec. 7 — to ensure your coverage continues to serve you well in the year ahead.*

# Psychic driving!

In the late 1950s, patients walked into Montreal's Allan Memorial Institute expecting treatment for anxiety, depression, or everyday struggles of the mind. What many of them encountered instead was the work of Dr. Ewen Cameron, a psychiatrist with an outsized reputation and a dangerous obsession with "reprogramming" the human brain. Cameron believed he could break down a person's mind and rebuild it from scratch. His methods were as crude as they were cruel.

He called it "Psychic Driving." Patients were put under heavy sedation, often for weeks at a time, and then forced to listen to negative phrases looped again and again through speakers or headphones. Sometimes the messages ran for 16 hours a day.

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The results were devastating. Patients developed crippling fear, confusion, and dependency. Families reported that their loved ones came home like strangers—haunted not by their original illnesses, but by the relentless flood of negative suggestions that had hollowed them out.

One former patient described her experience years later. She recalled being placed in a hospital room, sedated, and wired to a tape recorder that played commands, accusations, or statements of worthlessness, repeated until they carved themselves into her mind like grooves in a record. "You are weak. You will never get better. You're worthless!" Hour after hour, day after day, the messages ran until they became the background noise of her mind.

While most of us were never subjected to cruel experiments, many of us know what it's like to live with words that cut deep. Some of those words didn't come from strangers in a lab coat, but from the people closest to us.

The child who was told "you'll never amount to anything" grows into an adult who whispers the same phrase to themselves before every job interview.

The athlete who was told, "you always choke under pressure," starts to believe it, replaying the line before every big game until it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

The student who constantly hears "you're not smart enough" can carry that soundtrack into adulthood, replaying it in moments of stress until it feels like the truth.

I recall a history teach-

er in high school who would stand in front of the class and call us "a bunch of losers." He didn't just say it once—he said it often, as if repeating it might make it accurate. Thankfully, I'd been raised to believe otherwise.

For years, psychologists have documented what happens when people are repeatedly exposed to harsh or abusive words. Over time, those external voices get internalized, turning into the person's own inner critic.

Researchers at UCLA found that repeated negative self-talk actually reshapes the brain. The brain begins to treat your own words like weapons. A single negative phrase repeated often enough rewires your entire system of motivation, and the only way to cope is to shut down and detach.

But here's the good news—those stories aren't permanent. Psychic driving can work both ways. As hard as it feels at the moment, you can interrupt them.

The next time you catch yourself repeating the same old phrases, flip the script. Tell yourself: "I'm a winner I'm strong. I'm healthy. I am loved. I'm rising higher. I have what it takes."

You won't believe it at first; it will feel fake, as if you're lying to yourself. But keep saying it—because the more you speak life over yourself, the more your mind and spirit will begin to believe it. You'll feel empowered; you'll see opportunities where you once only saw dead ends.

Repetition works both ways. If negative words can burrow deep and take root, then positive ones can heal, strength-

en, and grow.

While we can't all be star athletes or famous actors, every one of us carries strengths that no one else can duplicate. It may be your creativity, kindness, or ability to solve problems in ways others can't.

When you begin to recognize and honor those gifts, you stop measuring yourself against someone else's spotlight and start shining on your own. That's when success becomes inevitable—not because you copied anyone else's path, but because you walked on your own with confidence. I believe in you. Now it's your turn to think the same.

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of Emmy - Nominated A Separate Peace, and the CEO of Cubestream Inc.

## Improve your garden soil with fall leaves and landscape trimmings

Fall is a great time to improve your soil for next year's garden. Many of the resources needed are readily available and many are free at this time of the year.

Start by putting fall leaves to work in the garden. Use your mower with the bag attached to shred and collect fall leaves. Work them into the top eight to 12 inches of soil. They break down over winter, adding organic matter and nutrients to the soil before you begin planting in the spring.

Fall leaves are also a great resource for those of you minimizing soil disruption with no till, also known as no dig, soil care. Spread several inches of the leaves over the soil surface. The leaf mulch protects the soil in new and vacant gardens from erosion and compaction over the winter. They keep the soil a bit cooler in the spring so you may need to adjust your planting times.

Cover bare soil in perennial gardens and mixed borders with fall leaves. They are a great mulch, suppressing weeds, conserving moisture and improving the soil as they decompose. A layer of leaves insulates the soil, helping insects and other wildlife that overwinter underground. Plus, they are free.

Incorporating two to four inches of compost or other organic matter into the top eight to 12 inches of soil is another option. Organic matter



Melinda Myers

**Hugelkultur gardening, or mound gardens, takes the lasagna gardening method one step further with a bottom layer of logs, branches and fall leaves that decompose, adding organic matter and nutrients to the soil.**

adds nutrients but also improves drainage and aeration in heavy soil and increases water- and nutrient-holding capacity in fast draining soils.

Adding compost also builds the soil ecosystem. It increases the number and activity of beneficial soil organisms such as good bacteria, fungi, microorganisms and insects. Healthy soil grows healthier plants more resistant to pests and environmental stresses.

Another no till method

uses a five-inch layer of compost on top of non-shiny cardboard, covering the soil surface. The cardboard helps suppress the weeds and the compost provides the growing medium for seeds and transplants. The compost is replenished yearly, and the cardboard eventually breaks down, adding organic matter to the soil.

Convert landscape and garden trimmings, fall leaves and compost into a rich planting medium with lasagna gardening. This system employs

composting methodology to build soil in free-standing or contained raised beds.



GARDEN  
MOMENTS

MELINDA  
MYERS

Start your lasagna garden by measuring and marking the layout of your garden bed. Cut any

grass and weeds in this area very short and cover with moist newspaper or cardboard. This smothers any existing grass and weeds.

Next, add a two- to three-inch layer of peat moss or compost. Top this with four to eight inches of plant debris such as leaves, plant-based kitchen scraps, herbicide-free grass clippings, straw or similar materials. Sprinkle a bit of low nitrogen fertilizer over this layer. Cover with an inch of compost. Repeat the layers, just like mak-

ing lasagna, until your garden is 18 to 24 inches high.

Hugelkultur, or mound gardens take this one step further. The bottom layer is made of logs, branches and fall leaves. Do not include black walnut tree trimmings that are toxic to many plants or those of cedar and black locust that are very slow to decompose. The rotting logs and branches absorb water, making it available to the plants in the garden. As the tree trimmings decompose, they add organic matter and nutrients to the soil. Then top this with a lasagna garden.

The lasagna and Hugelkultur beds gradually settle but the benefits remain. Continue to build additional lasagna layers every few years on top of established beds as needed.

Select a method that best fits your gardening style. Investing time in building healthy soil reaps years of benefits.

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

## School Committee finalizing CTE policy

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — The Dudley Charlton Regional School District is seeking to implement a new policy to solidify its transparency

with middle school students regarding Career Technical Education (CTE) programs as they approach their high school years.

The policy is designed to meet requirements set by the state which

the district must implement before the start of November, although Superintendent Steven Lamarche has confirmed he sought an extension in case the district doesn't meet that deadline. The policy was introduced for

public feedback during a School Committee meeting on Sept. 24 where the Superintendent assured the committee that the district already employs these practices, but the policy codifies it in accordance with requirements by the state.

"This is to ensure that we provide opportunities for our students to attend a continuing technical education program. We already do these things, but this is still a requirement for us to put in place," Lamarche said.

The policy meets guidance put forth by state agencies, although Lamarche said he did his added due diligence of communicating their policy with the Massachusetts Association of School

Committee (MASC), an organization that provides models for districts to follow. The Superintendent implied that the district's policy is in line with expectations. Lamarche also noted that the policy includes local agricultural schools and the Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational Technical High School district which oversees Bay Path.

The School Committee did not act on the policy in September as the Superintendent made it clear that he was introducing it for public feedback before the committee would potentially vote on the document in October.

While a final decision wasn't made, it did open the discussion for the

need for increased awareness and communication regarding CTE programs. School Committee Vice Chair Cathleen Carmignani said she would like to see this process expedited.

"I think more information needs to come out to middle school kids and families earlier. I don't necessarily think it has to be within this policy, but I think as a goal that would be a good thing," she said.

A copy of the policy has been made available for public review on the Dudley Charlton Regional School District website. A copy is also available with the agenda for the School Committee's Sept. 24 meeting.

## Dudley Women's Club meets Oct. 9

DUDLEY — Join us for the Dudley Women's Club (DWC) meeting on Thursday, Oct. 9, at the Dudley Municipal Complex. Social time kicks off at 6:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 7 p.m.

This month, we are excited to welcome Debbie Kennedy from Psychic Fair with a Touch of Magick. Ms. Kennedy will share insights into the history of the psychic community and offer a few readings.

As part of our commitment to community support, this month's voluntary giving project will focus on collecting supplies for Together We Blossom. These items include: diapers, baby wipes, diaper cream, laundry supplies and dish soap.

In the spirit of the season, we encourage attendees to wear festive Halloween attire!

DWC is open to all women in Dudley and surrounding towns, and we would love to see you there! For more information, please visit our Web site at [www.dudley-womansclub.org](http://www.dudley-womansclub.org).

# Dudley celebrates “refreshed” Senior Center with open house



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DUDLEY — The Town of Dudley celebrated its newly refreshed Senior Center with an Open House on Sept. 18.

Dudley Council on Aging volunteers served refreshments to more than 60 guests in the renovated space that recently received fresh paint, new ceiling tiles, wheelchair friendly flooring and countertop.

“The refreshed Senior Center is a true gift to our community,” Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda said. “Thanks to the generosity of the Dudley Woman’s Club, the leadership of Mrs. Johnson, and the dedication of our volunteers, we now have a space that honors our seniors and strengthens the heart of our town.”

The celebration attendees included lots of seniors, State Representative John Marsi, Amanda Galonek Hellyar of State Sen. Ryan Fattman’s office, Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda, Selectman Steven Sullivan, town staff and members of the Dudley Woman’s Club.

Council on Aging Director Deborah Johnson spoke of the Senior Center revitalization and the many benefits the refreshed space will bring to the seniors and community.

“I, along with the men and women who frequent the center, want to thank the DWC, and especially Nancy for making this refresh happen,” Ms. Johnson said. “We are all so happy with the new floor, the walls, the ceiling tiles, everything that was done to update and brighten our area. The DWC always supports our senior community through many programs and donations, for which we are very grateful. We cannot thank them enough for this beautiful gift.”

The Dudley Woman’s Club donated \$30,000 to modernize the 71 West Main St. space that provides meals and enrichment programs to our seniors as well as activities and event space to our community. This donation was made in memory of the DWC’s founding member Nancy J. Vajcovec, who dedicated countless volunteer hours to the town and local non-profits by serving on several committees and commissions.

Nancy Jane A. Vajcovec, (Feb. 18, 1947 – Nov. 26, 2022) of Dudley was one of five women who founded the Dudley Woman’s Club in 2008.

## DUDLEY SENIOR CENTER ANNOUNCES OCTOBER EVENTS

DUDLEY — On Thursday, Oct. 2, the Dudley Senior Center will be celebrating October birthdays with cake and ice cream after the Tri Valley lunch.

Wednesday, Oct. 8: Brown Bag Lunch at noon offers choice of turkey sandwich or ham or cheese Panini. The cost \$4 per person. We need to know the sandwich and condiments you want. Please call 508-949-8015 to RSVP or sign up in the Dudley senior center.

Thursday, Oct. 16: Memory Café from noon to 2 p.m. Come join us for a Halloween Karaoke. We will be serving meatloaf, mashed potatoes, a veggie and dessert. The cost for this event is \$5 per person. Please call 508-949-8015 to RSVP or sign up at the Dudley senior center.

Wednesday, Oct. 22: Potluck Lunch at noon. We will have a Turkey Dinner with fixings and dessert. The cost for this event is \$5 per person. Please call 508-949-8015 to RSVP or sign up in the Dudley senior center.

Activities at Dudley Senior Center: Tuesdays at 1 p.m. – Pitch League; Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. The Dudley Senior Center Knitting group. Tri Valley lunches served Monday and Thursday. Ask about Book Club!

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## WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

5 Church St.  
(508) 949-3845  
Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov

Senior Center hours are Monday-Friday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., with one Thursday a month 9 a.m.- 7 p.m.

Like the Webster Senior Center Facebook page to view our photographs, news and announcements. Please stop by to pick up our monthly newsletter for a complete list of activities, upcoming events, and our monthly lunch menu. You may also join our email list to view our newsletter online. You do not have to be a resident of Webster to participate in our activities and programs. ALL Seniors are welcome!

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least two business days in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation for 65 and up, and \$5 for 55- 64 is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and fruit or dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, 10/7: Meatballs with onion gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, peaches. Wednesday, 10/8: Marinated pork loin, herbed stuffing, cabbage and carrots, chocolate pudding. Thursday, 10/9: Chicken with BBQ sauce, potatoes au gratin, country blend vegetables, apple crisp. Friday, 10/10: Soup du Jour, ham salad sandwiches, pasta salad, tomato and onion salad, fresh fruits.

Need Transportation? Contact SCM Elderbus at 1-800-321-0243 at least two business days in advance to schedule transportation. Elderbus is available Mondays- Fridays 8:30 am- 3:00 pm.

Come on down to the Bomba Beauty Salon at the Webster Senior Center! Call 508-341-8724 for an appointment. Bomba Beauty Salon is open for walk in appointments on Wednesdays from 10:00 am- 1:00 pm, and Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays by appointment only from 10:00 am- 3:00 pm. Please call (508) 341-8724 to schedule an appointment.

We are now offering MOVIE MATINEES every Wednesday at 1:00 pm! Popcorn is provided, no registration is needed. Our October movies include- "The Addams Family" on 10/8, "The Curse of Bridge Hollow" on 10/15, "The Craft" on 10/22, and "The Conjuring" on 10/29. PLEASE NOTE that some of these movies contain graphic content. Please be mindful of this while you watch!

Looking for a creative way to spend Columbus Day? Join us for our Columbus Day Craft Fair! Browse a selection of handcrafted gifts, and maybe get some holiday shopping in too! Crafter applications are open as well! Please email hackensonc@aol.com for more information.

Are you ready for Halloween? The Friends of the Webster Senior Center will be hosting their Halloween Party on October 31st! Come and enjoy some snacks and music by Dave Mindell from 1-2:30 PM! Come dressed in your best costume for a chance to win a prize!

Chair Dancing Exercise classes with Forty Arroyo are the perfect workout for any fitness ability! The cost is a recommended \$3.00 donation per class. A new video class will be offered Thursday and Friday mornings, free of charge.

Knitting/Crochet group meets on Mondays from 10:00 am- 12:00 pm.

Bingo is every Tuesday and starts promptly at 1:00 pm. Please plan to arrive by 12:30 pm to allow time to buy your bingo sheets. Bingo sheets are not sold after 12:45 pm.

Do you like to play Cribbage? Our weekly Cribbage group meets every Thursday at 1:00 pm. Feel free to join us!

Calling card players or interested persons to the Webster Senior Center! Come join us for six-card or thirteen-card pitch! Six-card pitch meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. Thirteen-card pitch meets on Thursdays at 1:00 pm.

Mahjongg group meets every Friday at 1:00 pm. Beginners welcome!

Calling all bridge players! Are you looking to spend an afternoon playing Bridge? We're looking to get a group together! If you're interested, please leave your name and number with the front desk. Once we have enough sign-ups, we'll see what day works best for everyone!

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office House Numbering Program will create a custom wooden sign with your house number free of charge. One sign per senior household. Please contact the Webster Senior Center at (508) 949-3845, if you are interested in having a house number sign made for you.

Senior SAFE is a program that supports fire and life safety education for seniors. The Webster Fire Dept. will do a home visit to ensure that you have the correct smoke and CO2 alarms, and that they are working properly. This is at no cost to you! All you have to do is give them a call at (508) 949-3875.

Courtesy

On Saturday, Oct. 4 at 2 p.m., members of Zion Lutheran Church and Church of the Reconciliation invite you and your pets for a blessing in Zion's outdoor chapel. All animal lovers from the community are welcome to join us at 70 Main Street, Oxford. Children may bring a favorite stuffed animal for a blessing as well. If your pet does not play well with barking dogs, meowing cats and squawking birds, bring along a photo. Please consider bringing pet food or litter with you to be shared with local animal rescue organizations. All dogs must be leashed and cats should be in their carriers. Every animal will be given a certificate of blessing by Louisa Klaven, Associate in Ministry, as we celebrate the bond between humans and animals as part of God's creation.



## Captain Job Knapp DAR celebrates Constitution Week

DUDLEY — The Captain Job Knapp Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution recognized and honored Constitution Week on the 238th anniversary of the signing of the US Constitution with a display at the Pearl L. Crawford Memorial Library.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution urges Americans to reflect on the United States Constitution during this month's annual observance in honor this foundational document of national governance.

The DAR initiated the observance in 1955, when the service organization petitioned the U.S. Congress to dedicate Sept. 17-23 of each year to the commemoration of Constitution Week. Congress adopted the resolution, and on Aug. 2, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed it into Public Law #915. The celebration's goals are three-fold: to encourage the study of the historical events that led to the framing of the Constitution in September 1787; to remind the public that the Constitution is the basis of America's great heritage and the foundation for its way of life; and to emphasize U.S. citizens' responsibility to protect, defend and preserve the U.S. Constitution.

"DAR made history when we led the way in making Constitution Week an official commemoration and today our members enthusiastically promote the celebration annually in communities across the country by erecting community displays, sponsoring municipal proclamations, ringing bells and staging programs to raise awareness of the Constitution's protections and importance," said DAR President General Ginnie Sebastian Storage. "As we embark on America's 250th anniversary, we encourage all citizens to join us in celebrating this powerful document that is so important to American history and to reflect on the impact the Constitution has had on the lives of American citizens past, present and future."

DAR has been the foremost advocate for the awareness, promotion and celebration of Constitution Week. The annual observance provides innumerable opportunities for educational initiatives and community outreach, two mission areas of crucial importance to the National Society. By fostering knowledge of, and appreciation for, the Constitution and the inalienable rights it affords to all Americans, DAR helps to keep alive the memory of the men and women who secured our nation's foundational liberties.

One of the largest patriotic women's organizations in the world, DAR has 190,000 members in approximately 3,000 chapters across the country and several foreign countries. DAR members promote historic preservation, education and patriotism via commemorative events, scholarships and educational initiatives, citizenship programs, service to veterans, meaningful community service and more. For additional information about DAR and its relevant mission, visit [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org).

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) was founded in 1890 to preserve the memory and spirit of those who contributed to securing American independence. As one of the largest patriotic women's service organizations in the world, DAR has nearly 190,000 members in approximately 3,000 chapters around the world. DAR members promote the three pillars of historic preservation, education and patriotism via commemorative events, scholarships and educational initiatives, citizenship programs, service to veterans, meaningful community service and more. The DAR is also a renowned genealogical repository which includes the DAR Library, one of the largest genealogical research centers in the United States, and the DAR Genealogical Research System (GRS), a free online database of information amassed by the DAR. For additional information about DAR and its relevant mission, visit [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org).



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# LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate**  
**and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508) 831-2200**  
**Docket No. WO25P3298EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR**  
**FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
 Estate Of:  
**Richard Arthur Jerome Jr**  
**Date of Death: 12/21/2022**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Meghann Jerome of Douglas 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: **Meghann Jerome of Douglas MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/21/2025**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

## UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: September 19, 2025

Stephanie Fattman,  
 Register of Probate  
 October 3, 2025

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**LAND COURT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT**  
**DOCKET NO. 25 SM 002886**  
**ORDER OF NOTICE**  
 TO: **Brandi A. Reddick, as Proposed Personal Representative of the Estate of Richard M. Reddick a/k/a Richard Reddick; Brandi A. Reddick; Jesslyn Elizabeth Reddick a/k/a Valentine Eliza Reddick; The Heirs, Devisees and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Richard M. Reddick a/k/a Richard Reddick**

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. C. 50 §3901 (et seq): **Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.**

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Dudley, numbered 192 Southbridge Road, given by Richard M. Reddick w/s/a Richard Reddick to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Norwich Commercial Group, Inc. D/B/A Norcom Mortgage, its successors and assigns, dated November 6, 2012, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 49917, Page 312, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated May 25, 2021, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 65688, Page 27, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 11/10/2025 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 9/25/2025. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder October 3, 2025

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

## Docket No. WO25P3299EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:

**Paul M Donais**

**Date of Death: 07/01/2025**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **David J DuPont of Webster 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:

**David J DuPont of Webster MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Corporate Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/21/2025**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

## UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: September 23, 2025

Stephanie Fattman,  
 Register of Probate  
 October 3, 2025

(SEAL)

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 25 SM 002895 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:

Michael Salvaggio; Mara Salvaggio and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq): Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Webster, numbered 55 Ash Street, given by Michael Salvaggio and Mara Salvaggio to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Nations Lending Corporation, dated January 13, 2022, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66944, Page 331, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated September 12, 2024 and recorded at said Registry in Book 71266, Page 304 and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **November 10, 2025** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on September 25, 2025.

Attest:  
 Deborah J. Patterson  
 Recorder  
 October 3, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508)831-2200**  
**Docket No. WO25C0473CA**

**CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of:

**Valentino Leborn Spivey**  
**A Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Valentino Leborn Spivey** of **North Oxford MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Valentino Leborn Punch**

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an

appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10 a.m. on the return day of 10/07/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding. WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: September 08, 2025

Stephanie Fattman,  
 Register of Probate  
 October 3, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate**  
**and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508) 831-2200**  
**Docket No. WO17P0411EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION**  
**FOR ORDER OF**  
**COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**

Estate Of:

**Marie R Martin**

**Date of Death: 11/05/2015**

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Matthew Buiso of Worcester MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account , and first account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/21/2025** . This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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

Date: September 25, 2025

Stephanie Fattman,  
 Register of Probate  
 October 3, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate**  
**and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508) 831-2200**  
**Docket No. WO25P3215EA**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE**  
**PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Estate Of: **George B McKay**

**Also Known As: George McKay**

**Date of Death: 08/17/2024**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner

**Carleen A. Lewis of Thompson CT**

**Paula L. McKay of Webster MA**

**Carleen A. Lewis of Thompson CT**

**Paula L. McKay of Webster MA**

has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. October 3, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate**  
**and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508) 831-2200**  
**Docket No. WO25P3311EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR**  
**FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

**Christine Pearl Turner**

**Also known as: Christine P Turner**

**Date of Death: 11/26/2023**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **John R Turner of Oxford 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:

**John R Turner of Oxford MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/21/2025**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

## UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: September 22, 2025

Stephanie Fattman,  
 Register of Probate  
 October 3, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate**  
**and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508) 831-2200**  
**Docket No. WO25P3245EA**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE**  
**PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Estate Of:

**GERTRUDE MARIE CEMINSKI**

**Date of Death: 03/20/2025**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Donald Ceminski of Webster MA**

Petitioner **Janice Alvarez-Taylor of Ponte Verde FL**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**Donald Ceminski of Webster MA** **Janice Alvarez-Taylor of Ponte Verde FL** has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. October 3, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate**  
**and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508) 831-2200**  
**Docket No. W025P3265EA**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE**  
**PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Estate Of: **Jack Grill**

**Also Known As: Jack Lee Grill**

**Date of Death: July 3, 2024**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner

**Lexis Grill of Oxford MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**Lexis Grill of Oxford MA** has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. October 3, 2025

### Artwork of historic Webster on display at Gladys E. Kelly Public Library through Oct. 31

WEBSTER — Beautiful paintings of Historic Webster, by local artist Francis N. Sczepanski (1914-2005), are on view at Gladys E. Kelly Public Library through Oct. 31. "Remember When" is a selection of eleven paintings made by the artist in the 1980's and 1990's, comprised of vintage, colorful scenes capturing everyday life in Webster.

Francis N. Sczepanski attended Bartlett High School and graduated with the class of 1933. He was an art teacher for 38 years in the Dudley Public School system, retiring in 1980. His paintings were first exhibited in July 1986 at the Black Tavern Historical Society in Dudley, and his family has now kindly lent them to the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library for this exhibit.

Join us on Oct. 2 at 6 p.m. to hear local speakers give a discussion about these

paintings and different topics concerning Webster history.

The library is also working on an oral history project showcasing Webster as a booming industrial town. They are looking to showcase the 1950's through the mid-'70's and would love to hear stories and memories of mill workers, mill life, and downtown Webster nightlife.

These interviews will be recorded through audio and video in participation with Nichols College and will eventually be featured at the Samuel Slater Experience.

If you are interested in sharing your story for this exciting oral history and video project, please contact Evan Hale at 508-949-3880, ext. 1056 to register for a 30 minute time slot. Interviews are set to take place in early November at the Senior Center.

### Take "A Journey into Hell" with Black Tavern Historical Society

DUDLEY — On Thursday evening, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m., local Civil War researcher Robert Ducharme will present "A Journey into Hell" The story of company E of the 15th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment in the War of the Rebellion 1861 – 1865.

The 15th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment was an infantry regiment that served from the State of Massachusetts during the American Civil War from 1861 to 1864. A part of the II Corps of the Army of the Potomac, the regiment was engaged in many battles from Ball's Bluff to Petersburg, and suffered the tenth highest fatality rate amongst Federal regiments. The regiment was composed almost entirely of men from Worcester County, and was mustered in on July 12, 1861. Many men from Webster, Dudley, and Oxford enlisted in this regiment.

The program, which is part of the Black Tavern Historical Society's Nancy J. Vajcovec Memorial Lecture Series, will take place at the Black Tavern 138 Center Rd. in Dudley.

The program is free and open to all.

### Jason Stien competes in NCAA Fall Athletics at Muhlenberg College

ALLENTOWN, Pa. — A graduate of Worcester Academy, Jason Stien of Webster has been named a tight end on the NCAA Division III football team at Muhlenberg College for fall 2025, while studying at the college.

More than a third of Muhlenberg students participate in the college's 23-sport intercollegiate athletics program. The red and grey Muhls are part of the NCAA Division III, Centennial Conference. The college's athletic programs are designed to motivate and empower students to develop leadership, well-being, sportsmanship and interpersonal skills while nurturing a sense of civic responsibility.

Founded in 1848, Muhlenberg is a highly selective, four-year residential, liberal arts college in the city of Allentown, Pa., with nearly 2,000 bachelors and masters degree-seeking students. The colleges curriculum and experiences are designed to open doors to new ideas, discoveries, friendships and a lifetime of personal and intellectual growth.

# Community Connection

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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 dated July 14, 2023 given by Calderia, LLC to Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Two Trust u/d/t dated May 2, 2022 (recorded in Book 67529, Page 292), said mortgage recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69396, Page 389, and which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 a.m. on 21st day of October, 2025** on the premises at 791 School Street, Webster, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage. To wit:

Property Address: **791 School Street, Webster, Massachusetts**

The land with all the buildings and structures, now or hereafter standing or placed thereon, and all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated in said Webster, on the easterly side of School Street, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pipe driven into the ground on the easterly line of said School Street and being the most northwesterly angle of the tract hereby conveyed;

THENCE easterly two hundred twenty-nine and one-tenth (229.1) feet partly along a stone wall to a stake;

THENCE S. 87 degrees 50' E. deflecting to the right 6 degrees 36', four hundred forty-three and seven tenths (443.7) feet to a stake;

THENCE southerly one hundred forty-eight and five tenths (248.5) feet to an iron pipe in the ground on the northerly line of a private way known as Phillips Avenue;

THENCE N. 87 degrees 50' W. four hundred eighty-two and two tenths (482.2) feet by said Philips Avenue to a stake at land of Ethel F. Putnam;

THENCE northerly sixty and seven tenths (60.7) feet by land of said Putnam to a stake at the northeast corner of said Putnam's lot;

THENCE westerly one hundred thirty-six and five tenths (136.5) feet by land of said Putnam to a stake on the easterly side of said school street;

THENCE northerly sixty-six (66) feet by said School Street to the point of beginning,

Along with a right of way over Phillips Avenue, so called, from the southeast corner of the above tract westerly to said School Street.

PARCEL II  
BEGINNING at the southeast corner thereof on the northerly line of Phillips Avenue, at a point forty (40) feet northerly of northwest corner of land now or formerly of Otto M. Piehler et ex;

THENCE northerly sixty-five (65) feet by

the easterly line of School Street to an iron pipe in the ground at land now or formerly of one Phillips;

THENCE easterly one hundred thirty-six and one-half (136 1/2) feet by said land now or formerly of one Phillips to a stake at land now or formerly of one Phillips;

THENCE southerly sixty and seven tenths (60. 7) feet by said land now or formerly of one Phillips to a stake on the northerly line of said Phillips Avenue;

THENCE westerly one hundred twenty (120) feet by said Avenue to an iron pin at point of beginning.

For title reference, see deed recorded with the Worcester County Registry of Deeds herewith. [Book 69396, Page 384].

Premises to 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 and rights of any tenants and parties in possession, if there be any, 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. The successful bidder will pay all costs of recording the foreclosure deed and any other foreclosure documents including, without limitation, all state and county excise stamp fees, and shall also be responsible for any Title V inspection and repair requirements.

Terms of sale: A deposit of Twenty-Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$25,000.00) 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 to Mirrione, Shaughnessy & Uitti, LLC, 2 Batterymarch Park, Suite 202, Quincy, MA 02169 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. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Two Trust u/d/t dated May 2, 2022 Present holder of said mortgage By his Attorneys, Mirrione, Shaughnessy & Uitti, LLC 2 Batterymarch Park, Suite 202 Quincy, MA 02169

September 26, 2025  
October 3, 2025  
October 10, 2025

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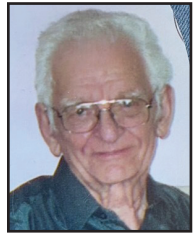
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# OBITUARIES

## Joseph T. Sterczala, 100



WEBSTER – Joseph T. Sterczala, 100, died Thursday, September 25, 2025 at home after a period of declining health. His wife of 54 years, Bertha M. (Petka) Sterczala, died in 2008.

He leaves a daughter, Diane M. Cowes of Shrewsbury; a son, Joseph R. Sterczala and his wife Jeannine of Methuen; and a granddaughter, Tiffany E. Cowes of West Boylston. He was preceded in death by his son-in-law, Kendall Cowes, by his brother Chester Sterczala and by his two sisters, Irene Cournoyer and Theresa Bishop.

He was born at home on Nelson Street in Webster on February 14, 1925, the first child of Thomas J. and Michalina (Tokarz) Sterczala and lived here all his life. He attended Bartlett High School.

He was an Army Veteran of World War II, serving in the Rhineland.

Mr. Sterczala was an electrician. He worked at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester and then at Westboro State Hospital, retiring as the supervisor of the maintenance department in 1990.

He was a member of Saint Joseph Basilica. He was a man of many talents: he built his own home and maintained his property, paying special attention to the outdoors and his flower beds. He was a devoted fan of the Boston Red Sox and the New England Patriots.

Private graveside services will be held at the convenience of the family, with military honors provided by the Webster-Dudley Veterans Council. There are no calling hours. Arrangements are under the direction of Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main Street.

www.websterfunerals.com



### MILL

continued from page A1

mitment to protecting this asset and moving it forward step by step,” he said.

State Rep. John Marsi was joined by state Rep. Joseph D. McKenna and Amanda Hellyar of state Sen. Ryan Fattman’s office, who presented an official Statehouse citation in recognition of the project start to the developer and team.

“I’m very excited that the Stevens Linen Mill project is finally about to begin,” Marsi said. “It has been a long road to get to this point, with many stops and starts, but Dudley will have a restored historical building that provides high-quality housing that we can be proud of. Congratulations to all!”

That long road was replete with obstacles; some financial.

A groundbreaking was set for spring 2024, but high interest rates coupled with the increasingly high costs of construction nationwide created a multimillion-dollar shortfall in the developer’s budget. The original \$43 million project cost is now reported to be more than \$60 million.

“The winds are behind us now,” Mr. Weddle told the group assembled at the mill for the kickoff. “Our development team is very grateful for the support and help of local and state leaders who are

instrumental to the successful rehabilitation of the Mill.”

To date, \$3.5 million has been spent on preliminary work, he said. The roof replacement, he noted, was funded by MassDevelopment, which is the state’s development finance agency and land bank.

MassDevelopment awarded a \$900,000 grant from the Commonwealth’s Underutilized Properties Program to Stevens Mill Owner LLC to fund interior demolition, carpentry, and roof work.

Following the roof replacement comes approximately 18 months of construction, which Mr. Weddle said will start in the “very near future.” Apartment preleasing is expected to commence in 20-24 months.

“Massachusetts faces a severe housing shortage, with strong demand but high construction costs, zoning hurdles, and a shortage of skilled workers slowing progress across the state. Here in Dudley, we’ve faced those same challenges, yet with the help of our legislators, local boards, Town Meeting, our partners in Webster, and grant funding that improved neighborhood infrastructure, we’ve kept this project alive,” Ruda said. “It’s a clear sign that even in a tough housing market, Dudley is seizing opportunities to turn obstacles into progress and move on the projects that will create the future our com-

munity needs.”

The historic granite building was completed in 1864 and is widely recognized for its twin towers on the Dudley and Webster horizons.

It has earned a spot on the National Register of Historic Places and as such, its renovation is overseen by the National Park Service and the state Historical Commission.

Stevens Linen Association, Inc. dominated one of the region’s oldest industries from 1850 to 1950.

Incorporated by Henry Hale Stevens in 1846, Stevens Linens began production in a mill built in 1812 at the corner of Ardlock Place and Mill Street. The mill’s foremost structure, known as “The Main Mill,” was constructed of locally quarried granite block between 1861 and 1864.

In time, its two seven-story towers stood over what became the largest of five mill villages in Dudley.

The now-historic mill on the east side of town ceased operations in the mid-20th century and, with the exception of a short-lived flea market, has been vacant since.

Dudley voters made history in 2010 by establishing the town’s first historic district with the mill as its centerpiece.

Today, it is said to be the only remaining example of a linen manufacturing plant in the United States.

## Robert K. West June 18, 1959 – September 22, 2025



Robert K. West, 66, of Oxford, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully at St. Vincent’s Hospital in Worcester, MA, on September 22, 2025, after a courageous battle with cancer. Born on June 18,

1959, in Leominster, MA, Bob was the beloved son of the late Mary A. West and Daniel M. West.

Bob graduated from Leominster High School, Class of 1977, and went on to attend Florida Institute of Technology, where he majored in Oceanography. At FIT, Bob was well known around campus for his likeability and as the judge on the student government. Bob had a long career in safety and compliance, environmental matters, and even working on an offshore oil research boat in the Gulf of Mexico. After settling back in Massachusetts, Bob devoted 25 years to Dav-Tech Plating, where he was not only a dedicated employee but a cherished member of the workplace community. Bob’s colleagues at Dav-Tech could always rely on him for a helping hand, a listening ear, or a lighthearted joke.

Bob made his home in Oxford for

the past 22 years, a town he chose to be closer to his daughter Alison while she attended Holy Cross. He will always be remembered for his gentle disposition, sense of humor, strong work ethic, and the extraordinary capacity he had to love deeply and unconditionally.

Bob was predeceased by his parents and his brother, Harlan West. He is survived by his devoted daughter and best friend, Alison West of Wareham, MA. He leaves behind his brother, Daniel L. West and his wife, Alice Green, of Charlotte, NC and their children, Sterling and Jaclyn. He will be missed by Harlan’s children, David, Lisa, Diane and Michael, and their families. Bob also leaves behind many cherished cousins and friends. Lastly, Bob will be sadly missed by his “grand-cats” Mickey and Gypsy, who brought him joy.

A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 11, 2025 at Chapman Funerals & Cremations – WAREHAM, 2599 Cranberry Hwy, Wareham. All friends and family are welcome.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, <https://www.cancer.org/>

## William L. Chapdelaine, Sr., 85



WEBSTER – William L. Chapdelaine, Sr., 85, of Snow Street, died peacefully on Sunday, September 21, 2025, at UMass Memorial Medical Center – University Campus in Worcester, surrounded by his family.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Sandra E. (Stevens) Chapdelaine of Webster; five sons, William L. Chapdelaine Jr. and his wife Lisa of Auburn, Michael A. Chapdelaine and his companion Rachel Wells of Webster; David C. Chapdelaine and his wife Tammy of Thompson, CT; Daniel R. Chapdelaine of Akron, OH, and Paul A. Chapdelaine of Painesville, OH; two sisters, Kathy Sanchas and her husband Albert of Killingly, CT, and Dorothy Morell of Webster; and several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. He was predeceased by a brother, Ernest Chapdelaine.

Mr. Chapdelaine was born in Webster,

son of the late Leo and Florence (Newman) Chapdelaine, and was a lifelong resident of Webster. He graduated from Bartlett High School in 1957, and proudly served in the U.S. Navy.

Mr. Chapdelaine worked for Gibbs Brothers Inc. in Webster for many years, retiring as regional manager. He was a member of St. Roch’s Church in Oxford. He loved classic cars, and especially enjoyed driving his 1964 Ford Galaxy on car cruises. He collected comic books and antiques, and enjoyed strumming the guitar. He was a wonderful family man and loved his wife more than anything.

A graveside service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 27, 2025, at North Cemetery in Oxford. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Veteran’s Inc., 69 Grove St., Worcester, MA 01605.

Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.



### OUTREACH

continued from page A1

School kindergarteners. Since 2019, the non-profit has also offered children’s educational workshops at local farms and businesses, and sponsored Earth Day community events and family-friendly events at local farms. All of these programs are exclusively supported

through generous donations, sponsorships, and grants.

Tickets for the Comedy Fundraiser are \$35 each and should be reserved online before the event on October 18. Please visit the Funny 4 Funds Web site, [funny4funds.com/events](http://funny4funds.com/events), scroll down and choose the Local 4 Life Fundraiser Night. You can also purchase

tickets by visiting Local 4 Life on Facebook or by contacting Erin Anderson at (508) 341-5347 or by email at [local4life-ma@gmail.com](mailto:local4life-ma@gmail.com).

The non-profit Local 4 Life aims to cultivate local connections through agricultural and business partnerships that provide educational outreach, promote conservation, and foster community.

**25 ELM STREET | SOUTHBRIDGE, MA**

**9,536-SF HISTORIC OFFICE BUILDING FOR SALE**

- Historical building, also known as Tiffany-Leonard House, built in 1832
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- Large Open Concept Cubicle Areas

- Listing price: \$550,000
- Building size: 9,536 SF
- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished

MORE INFO:

Send all obituary notices to  
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# Friends of the Oxford Free Public Library hosting book sale Oct. 16-18

OXFORD — The Friends of the Oxford Free Public Library Fall Book/Bake Sale is scheduled for Oct. 16-18. The sale will be held on Thursday, Oct. 16 from noon to 7pm, Friday, Oct. 17 from noon to 6 pm, and Saturday, Oct. 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Oxford Free Public Library, 339 Main St., Oxford, in the downstairs meeting room. We accept cash or check only.

Wonderful books at bargain prices. Thousands to choose from, and all are in good to excellent condition. Hardcover and trade size paperbacks are \$1, regular size paperbacks are 50¢ and children's books range from 25¢ to \$1.00. There is also a selection of "Special books at special prices." We offer a great "half price" deal on classroom books for teachers on Thursday and Friday. The last hour of the book sale on Saturday, from 1 to 2 p.m., you have the option of buying a provided bag and filling it for only \$10. Dealers are welcome on Saturday only.

The Friends of the Oxford Free Public Library was formed and incorporated in 1992. As a non-profit, our purpose is to maintain a membership of people who are supportive of the library and its ongoing programs. All money donated through dues or fundraisers goes directly back to the library to support children's programs, reading programs, museum passes, and other services. We are always looking for new members, supporters, and volunteers. Membership dues for the current year can be paid at any time. The membership year runs from Jan. 1 – Dec. 31. If you have already renewed your membership or are a new member, thank you. Membership forms are available at the library adult circulation desk and also at the book sale. Please include your email address. Renewals or new memberships can also be done online at <https://oxfordmapubliclibrary.org/> by choosing the Library Info tab, then the Friends of the Library tab.

This is a wonderful opportunity to stock up on books for your winter reading. Come on by and check it out.

# OXFORD SENIOR CENTER

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

Open Monday – Friday  
8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Email: [seniorcenter@oxfordma.us](mailto:seniorcenter@oxfordma.us)  
Website: [www.oxfordma.us](http://www.oxfordma.us)  
Facebook: Oxford, MA Senior Center

The senior center will be CLOSED on Monday, October 13th in observance of Columbus Day

Lunches are served on Tuesdays and Fridays @ 11:45 am. Meals are prepared by our in-house cook. Please call at least 48 hours in advance to reserve a lunch or come in and sign up. DINE IN for \$5.00 and TAKE OUT for \$6.00. (suggested donation)

**Weekly Activities:**  
Mondays and Fridays @ 10:00 am – Cribbage  
Tuesdays @ 9:15am – Strength & Balance w/ Donna Freeland – Cost

\$3.00 per class  
Wednesdays @ 9:15am – Chair Yoga w/ Heidi Gambaccini – Cost \$3.00 per class

Tuesdays and Wednesday @ 10:15 am - Needleworkers (Knitting, Crocheting, Needlepoint)  
Bring your favorite project and come join the group for conversation and laughs.

Wednesdays @ 1:00 pm – Chair Volleyball – Lots of laughs and only two rules (1) stay seated (2) have fun!

Thursdays @ 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Dominoes  
Fridays @ 9:00 am – Walking Club (weather permitting) Wear your comfy shoes and meet at the senior center.

**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.  
Tri-Valley Inc. Options

Counseling - 3rd Tuesday of each month from 12:30pm – 2:00pm. By appointment.

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 – October movie "Young Frankenstein"

BEANO – 4th Friday of each month @ 12:45pm – arrive by 12:30pm to purchase your BEANO sheets.

**Information Presentations:**

Medicare Open Enrollment Presentation with Kaye of North Star Medicare Advisors on Tuesday, October 21st @ 12:30pm and November 6th @ 10:00AM

Registry of Motor Vehicles Presentation ~ Disability Placards & Plates. Information will be provided on how to obtain either one. Tuesday, October 28th @ 12:30pm

# GLADYS E. KELLY PUBLIC LIBRARY

2 Lake St., Webster  
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Library Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Wednesday 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

**JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!**  
Want to receive updates about our upcoming events? Sign up for email alerts by visiting our website or contacting our Adult Services Librarian Jessica Fontaine at [jfontaine@cwmar.org](mailto:jfontaine@cwmar.org)

**Adult Programming**

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

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

**Yoga Nidr – Wednesday Mornings at 8:15am**

Join Adult Services Librarian Jess for a relaxing yoga nidr practice to start your day on Wednesdays. Jess will guide participants through a few simple yoga asanas to release physical tension. Participants will then settle into a reclined position for a guided relaxation (yoga nidr). If you have your

own yoga mat, please bring it and be sure to dress in comfortable clothing. This program takes place before the library officially opens. Registration is required and Jess will meet you at the program door.

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

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

**Yoga – Saturdays at 9:30am**  
Join Julie or Lauren at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. A typical class involves centering the mind with the breath, aromatherapy, movement of the body to release energetic blockages, and, finally, rest and relaxation. Classes are free. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

**Art Exhibit Reception and Historical Talk – Thursday, Oct. 2nd at 6:00pm**  
Join us for a talk about Francis

N. Sczepanski's paintings and the historic sites of Webster. This event will feature notes from the artist's daughter, Margaret Sczepanski Macuga, and local Webster historians, Elaine Davies, Richard Cazeault, John Mrazik, and Jeff Stefanik. Light refreshments will be served.

**Banned Books Read-In – Tuesday, Oct. 7th at 6:00pm**

We've teamed up with @librofm and @silentbookclub to host a #BannedBooksWeek Read-In on October 7th at 6:00PM in protest of censorship. Join us as we read and take action to fight book bans! Attendees will receive a free audiobook copy of Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books. Registration is required.

**Fall Concert Series: Dan Cloutier – Thursday, Oct. 9th at 6:30pm**

Dan Cloutier is a New England based singer-songwriter with a new album called, The Iceberg, which was released in early summer of 2025. The project was an album and an adventure, as Dan spent the last year traveling to both Greenland and Newfoundland to find icebergs, record music, and make videos. The album is all about finding hope during dark seasons of life. Like an iceberg, you cannot see what is underneath. At his concert he will be sharing his iceberg songs, the meanings behind each, and stories of his adventures in the great north. The music has been featured throughout New England and beyond.

**Afternoon Tea: Chamomile Tea Party for Adults – Friday, Oct. 10th 3:00pm**

Adults: Join us in celebrating the chamomile we grew in our garden! One of our garden committee volunteers lovingly dried our chamomile so we could enjoy it together as tea. We'll have biscuits and maybe even do a taste test comparing our own chamomile to the store-bought tea. Tea party attire is recommended for fun, but certainly not required! Registration is required.

**Children's and Young Adult Programming**

**Creators Club – Mondays from 4:00-5:30 PM**

We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test! Come explore our newly rebranded Monday night program: Creators Club! Each month features a new theme highlighting a different art supply for kids to experiment with and turn into their own masterpieces. October's theme is Watercolors. Kids can experiment with blending, textures, and colors to make unique works of art. Artwork left behind will be displayed in the children's program room for the

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

**Mini Block Party – Tuesdays at 3:30pm**

Play with magnets, marble mazes, and LEGO.

**Busy Baby Storytime – Fridays at 10:00am**

Join Miss Paige for Busy Baby Storytime! Babies and caregivers will enjoy songs, movement, and simple stories that build early literacy skills in a fun and playful way.

**STEM Beginnings: Young Scientists at 10:00am**

Children, ages 3-6, with a parent/caregiver will learn STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) concepts through hands-on activities, story time, challenges and simple experiments in this weekly STEM series. Caregivers please register as a registrant only and not as attendees. Please add as attendees only children between ages 3 and 6. Please answer all questions to receive approval. "Young Scientists" is sponsored by the YMCA Family & Community Partnership (YFCP), a Massachusetts Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) Grant program funded by the Department of Early Education & Care and awarded to the YMCA of Central Massachusetts.

**Me and My Mini – October 2nd, 16, and 30th (special Halloween edition on the 30th)**

Me and My Mini: A 45 minute creative movement group for ages 0 through 2.5 with a grown-up. Group is focused on adult and baby spending quality time together; fostering attachment, and baby interacting with others their age. Get groovy to upbeat music with fun props, instruments, and a story. Adult participation is required and 1-2 children per adult is recommended.

**Craft Adventures: Spooky Slime – Thursday, Oct. 2nd and 9th at 4:00pm**

Join us for our new Thursday craft series, Craft Adventures, tailored for elementary kids! Each month features a different hands-on project, and this month participants will create their own spooky slime to bring home. A great way for kids to get creative and try something new each month!

**Storytime at Lapsley Orchard – Friday, October 3rd at 4:00pm**

It's apple picking season! Join us for a special storytime at the Lapsley Orchard in Pomfret, CT as families join in for an interactive storytime and then pick some apples to bring home. Families who register should meet Miss Paige and Jess at Lapsley Orchard 10 minutes prior to the program to check in. Free parking is available on premise. Registration is required. Rain Date: October 4th at 2:00 PM

**Kim the LEGO Lady – Oct. 7th and 21st at 4:00pm**

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

**Clay Animals – Friday, Oct. 10th at 2:00pm**

A half day is a perfect reason to come to the library and make your own clay animal! Tweens (ages 7-12) are invited to hang out in the Community Room, make some cute clay creations, and enjoy some snacks with friends. Registration is required.

## Friday's Child



Kamren is a resilient and fun-loving boy with a bright, inquisitive nature. He has a wonderful ability to advocate for himself and share his needs, which speaks to his strength and self-awareness. Affectionate and engaging, Kamren's genuine happiness and warmth make him a joy to be around. He might even describe himself as "super fun and always ready to play!"

Kamren loves spending time outside, especially swinging and playing active games with others. He also enjoys building with Legos and exploring activities that engage his senses, such as sand, water, and playdough. These experiences allow him to be creative and adventurous in his own way.

When it comes to food, Kamren's favorites include waffles, pasta, and ice cream—and he'll never turn down a Sprite!

**Kamren**  
**Age 8**  
**Registration #9052**

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22660622673>  
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The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with. To learn more about adoption from foster care visit [www.mareinc.org](http://www.mareinc.org). Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.



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Courtesy Bay Path's JV football team beat the visiting Northeast Metro Golden Knights 48-6. The Minuteman offense was led by Ethan Rodriguez along with Jahzian Toress, Dane Potenti, Cole Adams and Jayden Warren who all scored for the host Minuteman. Defensive standouts were Jackson Coughlin, Symeon Downie, Juliano Lopez. Matt Graves and Brian Finnegan each recorded an interception for the Minuteman defense.

It's That Time of Year Again!

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### Creativity reigns supreme at Bites Books and Blooms fundraiser



WEBSTER — Creativity reigned supreme at the Kelly Library's Bites Books and Blooms fundraiser on Thursday, Sept. 25.

Twenty-six literary works were translated into books in blooms—floral arrangements that capture a literal scene or the ambience of a work in flowers. There were interpretations of classics, like "Anne of Green Gables" and "Emma"; children's books, including "Ten Magic Butterflies" by an eight year old floral designer, and Granite the Bullmastiff—whose author created him in flowers.

Three of the Webster librarians entered books in blooms—giving the community a whole new world of reading choices. Several entries were based on inspiring works like Inciting Joy. There even was a history about fabric caught in blooms—just what you would expect from the town founded by Samuel Slater and a museum in his name. Last year's floral wheel depicting management principles was complemented this year by a piece on money management— focusing on inflation, debt, savings, and investing. While each arrangement included a description by the creator, patrons were invited to wander around the books in bloom and complete them with their own interpretations and "aha" moments.

The Friends of the Gladys Kelly Library held the fundraiser to continue to keep library programs free for all. Thanks go to the many volunteers who planned and executed the effort, the library staff, the floral designers, the local town people and businesses who donated baskets and gift certificates, Eighty Ates, and the Carlos Odria Trio for making the evening so delightful and fruitful. Special thanks go to all who attended the event and gave so generously.