



Courtesy

District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. provided funding for safe post-prom and post-graduation events at local high schools, including Bartlett High School and Auburn High School.

DA provides funding for safe post-prom and graduation celebrations

WORCESTER — For the seventh year, District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. provided funding for safe post-prom and post-graduation events at local high schools, including Uxbridge High School, Northbridge High School, Auburn High School, Douglas High School, Blackstone-Millville Regional High School, North Brookfield Junior Senior High School and Bartlett High School, thanks to his annual grant program, which is designed to keep students from driving impaired.

“We know that life can change in the blink of an eye, and we want to do everything we can to prevent a tragedy before it occurs,” DA Early said. “We’ve been proud to help fund post-prom and post-graduation programs year after year. Prom and graduation are major milestones that deserve to be celebrated, but too often we

see young people engaging in risky behavior following these events.”

This year, the District Attorney’s office awarded a total of \$23,100 in grants to 20 different schools across Worcester County to fund events organized and overseen by adults, which offer safe drug- and alcohol-free alternatives to the high-risk activities that often follow end of the year celebrations for high school students.

The office has been providing these funds to schools for seven years. District Attorney Early felt it was vital to continue supporting these prevention programs and is utilizing his Drug Forfeiture Reinvestment Program this year. Funding to support these grants was previously provided by the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance Drunk Driving Trust Fund.



Webster School Committee honors retiring teacher

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — The July 22 School Committee meeting kicked off by honoring the retirement of Grade 3 teacher Leslie Kwasniewski after 35 years of teaching, all of them in Webster.

Superintendent Monique Pierangeli summarized her career by saying she’d started as a Webster student, went to Worcester State, then returned to teach at \$21,000 a year. Over the years, she was a mentor, MCAS teacher, led afterschool programs, and one of those teachers she’d advise newcomers to learn from.

Kwasniewski’s classroom was a place “where kids felt like they belong ... but they’re there to learn as well,” she said, noting it was “organized,” “well-structured,” and she “always, always put the students first.”

“It’s really something special to be part of a community as a learner, as a student, then to come back give back to that community” as a teacher, Chair Kelly Seddiki said.

She noted Kwasniewski was her daughter’s teacher, and “appreciated the rigor in your classroom and the sense of belonging” she provided, especially during Covid. Among other things, Seddiki recalled Kwasniewski visiting her daughter then.

Former teacher Linda Millet recalled working with Kwasniewski, saying “it was a lot of fun; we went through a lot,” including the fact that Sitkowski School, which is now housing, “was falling down around us at the time.”

Kwasniewski was present to receive gifts afterward, but didn’t talk.

Afterward, Pierangeli announced several new hires across the district, including a psychologist after three years without one. She noted she’s still seeking to fill “a couple difficult,” more speciality teaching slots, but pledged to do so before school starts again. She noted “The (candidate) pool has been pretty good so far.”

For a while, Pierangeli and the board expressed concerns about federal funding, which at that time was still in limbo. (NPR, CNN and other news outlets announced the government was releasing about \$6 billion in such funding on Friday, July 25.)

Federal school aid comes in several forms, with Webster receiving \$400,000 from Title II, III and IV plus a separate 21st Century grant (\$200,000 which goes for afterschool programs). Pierangeli said Webster uses II for various stipends, III for “Flashlight” ELL mentoring, and IV for most of its PBIS work, and losing them would be “devastating.”

She noted the district wouldn’t be able to fund afterschool programs within the budget.

Business Manager Lisa Kontoes said the district is already being very careful with expenditures in light of this year’s budget process, and Pierangeli observed “we don’t have the flexibility we had in the past.” Among other things, they’re keeping close eye on special education costs; they haven’t yet seen a spike in new move-ins, but that can happen at any time.

Kontoes summarized the status of the Bartlett project, which has begun Phase 2 after discovering two issues. One, in the auditorium, involved the contractor welding certain steel elements of that space rather than bolting them;

Dudley officials seek meeting with Nichols College to discuss PILOT agreement

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The Dudley Board of Selectmen will seek a public conversation with Nichols College regarding the potential of engaging in a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement that could see the not-for-private school pay at least a portion of the taxable income on its properties.

In June, Dudley Selectman Kerry Cyganiewicz sought board support to approach Nichols College to pursue serious discussions towards a PILOT agreement initially proposing that the town determine the taxable value of the college’s properties and present an agreement for the school to pay 25 percent of the annual value to the town. On July 14,

St. Joseph faculty renew pilgrimage to Felician Convent



Courtesy

St. Joseph School students stand reverently before the tapestry of Blessed Mother Angela at Our Lady of Angels Chapel in Enfield, Conn.—a powerful moment of connection to the Felician Sisters’ legacy and the sacred roots of their school’s mission.

WEBSTER — On Thursday, June 12, the faculty and staff at St. Joseph School in Webster renewed its former annual practice of making a pilgrimage to the Felician Convent in Enfield, Conn. With great joy and anticipation, two buses were hired to transport students from grades four through seven from Massachusetts to Connecticut. The journey of faith, for-

mation, and fellowship will now be an annual visit for the students—a treasured tradition that connects St. Joseph students to the heart of the Felician heritage.

Upon arrival at the Our Lady of Angels Convent, the students and adults were guided to the first floor. The visit began reverently in the chapel, where St. Joseph School fourth grade instructor Sr.

Jeanne Marie Akalski led the students in a reflection on vocations. In the sacred silence, students were invited to calm their bodies and minds to truly listen. They were reminded that their first and most important vocation began at baptism—a call to be Catholic, to serve others with joy, love, and purpose. Sr. Jeanne Marie emphasized two essential practices: 1) To spend time each

day in prayer, just as one would practice a sport or musical instrument, and 2) To speak with a trusted adult when sensing God’s call. Sister’s heartfelt words encouraged the children to open their hearts to God’s invitation and trust in His guidance.

In this Jubilee year, celebrating both the
Turn To **PILGRIMAGE**
page **A14**

Cornerstone Bank announces merger with Athol Savings Bank, expanding footprint in Worcester County and North Central MA

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a subsidiary of PeoplesBancorp, MHC, and Athol Savings Bank announced today the execution of a merger agreement, pursuant to which Athol Savings Bank (“ASB”) will merge with and into Cornerstone Bank, which will expand Cornerstone into a new and vibrant region in north central Massachusetts. As part of the merger, ASB will operate as a division of Cornerstone Bank, maintaining its name and five branch locations. This strategic move allows Cornerstone Bank to bring its full suite of digital banking services and customer-focused innovations to an expanded clientele, while preserving the trusted local brand that ASB has built.

“This is an incredibly

exciting time for us,” said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. “We are growing. Athol Savings Bank has a great team, and its mission, values and commitment to mutuality align seamlessly with ours. This move will strengthen our ability to serve our communities while preserving our focus on customer service. Our combined scale will make us more efficient, expand product offerings and improve customer service through shared resources and technology. In today’s industry, scale matters.”

ASB’s strong financial performance and customer-first approach align well with Cornerstone’s commitment to growth and innovation. Customers can expect the same seamless, local service with even better technology and improved access to financial planning tools on a robust digital platform, elevating their overall banking experience. Further, as a combined organization, it will allow

for enhanced commitment to charitable giving, community involvement and volunteerism in the North Quabbin region.

ASB staff will be retained and fully supported throughout the transition, with significant focus made to ensure continuity in roles by offering the same or similar positions. This collaboration is rooted in growth, not reduction.

In a key leadership transition, Daniel J. Zona, the current President and Chief Executive Officer of ASB, will assume the role of President of Cornerstone Bank, succeeding Randal Webber, who announced in March he will be retiring. The Cornerstone Bank Board of Directors will also expand to welcome four new members, including Mr. Zona, helping to round out leadership representation across the newly expanded region the bank will now serve.

“I’m honored to lead Cornerstone Bank into this next chapter,” said Zona. “Both banks share a commitment to our community, employees and customers. Together, we can achieve strategic growth while maintaining a community-first approach rooted in mutual values.”

Completion of the transaction remains subject to approval by the corporators of ASB, as well as regulatory approval. The closing is expected to be final in the first quarter of 2026.

Luse Gorman, P.C. served as legal counsel for Cornerstone Bank while Piper, Sandler & Co. served as Financial Advisor. Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C. served as legal counsel for ASB.

About Cornerstone Bank
Cornerstone Bank (\$1.65 billion institution) was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Cornerstone Bank’s local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone 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 cornerstone-bank.com or call 800-939-9103.

About Athol Savings Bank
Founded in 1867 in Athol, Athol Savings Bank (\$650 million institution) has built a legacy of local service, integrity and trust for over 150 years. As a mutual savings bank, we answer to our customers, not shareholders, offering personalized financial solutions with a focus on community values. We are committed to continuous improvement, planned growth and delivering strength, stability and security to those we serve. As “A Solutions Bank,” we strive to meet the evolving needs of our customers and communities every day. To learn more about Athol Savings Bank, A Solutions Bank, please visit ibankasb.com or call 888-249-3200.

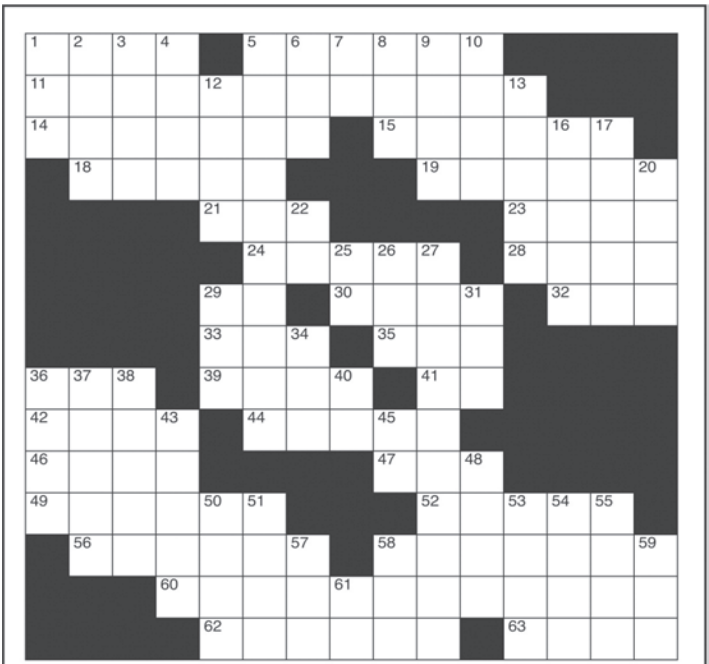


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CLUES ACROSS

1. Popular potato snack
5. Guards the Pyramids
11. Furnish anew
14. Herb
15. Preoccupy the mind continually
18. The lowest adult male singing voice
19. NATO commander (abbr.)
21. A major division of geological time
23. New Zealand parrot
24. Notions
28. Lump in yarn
29. Indicates position
30. Lose hold of
32. Hindu honorific
33. Former OSS
35. Electronic data processing
36. Cost per mile
39. Snake-like fish
41. They start the alphabet
42. Taylor Swift’s tour
44. Intermediate ecological stage
46. Scarlet’s home
47. Of he
49. Ohio city
52. Breakfast item
56. An evening party
58. ___ Falls
60. Linked together
62. Mythological spirits
63. Small Eurasian deer

CLUES DOWN

1. Earliest human form: ___ -Magnon man
2. Flavoring
3. Notion
4. Bundy and Fenwick are two
5. Qualities of sound
6. One who gets paid
7. Expresses surprise
8. O.J. trial judge
9. Pointed ends of pens
10. Shield bugs genus
12. Container for shipping
13. Upper body parts
16. Closes tightly
17. Nigerian World Heritage Site
20. Volcanic island in Fiji
22. Commercial
25. - : denotes past
26. They ___
27. Confraternities
29. A way to gain a point
31. Parts per billion (abbr.)
34. Brew
36. Badgers group
37. Sailing boat
38. ___ Polo, explorer
40. Elder citizen (abbr.)
43. Frankish law code
45. Exclamation of surprise
48. Groan
50. It presses clothing
51. Do not allow
53. Gelatinous substance
54. Common Japanese surname
55. Present in nature
57. Electronic countermeasures
58. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
59. Commercials
61. News agency

PUZZLE SOLUTION

S	E	O	R		S	H	d	W	A	N										
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A look at the bookmark

BY HELEN POIRIER
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This summer the children’s program at the Auburn Historical Society & Museum revolves somewhat around the library and books. It was inspired by the series detailing the history of the Auburn Public Library that was done recently. During the first week of the summer program the children were making bookmarks either from cardboard or weaving them. The weave goes along with the mills that were part of Auburn’s history, and there is an exhibit on the mills. But what is the history of the bookmark?

The shape of a book changed from the rolled-up scrolls in ancient times to codex, which is the way a book is made today. The pages are folded and written on both sides then bound together. The first books were made of prepared skin of sheep or goats. There was also papyrus made of reeds available. These books didn’t have page numbers, so a place marker was needed. Numbering pages showed up in the late 1500s. The earliest known bookmark is from 6th century AD. It was found in Egypt in 1925 in what was left of a monastery.

As one would expect, early bookmarks were made of strips of parchment paper. The parchment paper was attached to the binding and did not move; it was more for marking passages for referencing later. Then came the silk ribbon or a cord that was attached to the binding and allowed the reader to move it to different pages.

As books became more accessible to the public, the bookmark wasn’t always the way to mark one’s place in the book, odd scrapes of paper or “dog-earing” the page [folding over the corner] was done. The dog-earing did damage the page and lessen the value of the book. The detached type of bookmark started in the middle of the 1800s.

In today’s world, the printed bookmark can have dual purpose, it can also be used to advertise and give information. The markers made by the children in the summer program were very decorative. To put them to use kids can get a book to take home. Every kid that comes to the museum, no matter when, can pick out a book to have. They are encouraged to pass the book along to someone else who might enjoy it when they are done with it.

The next article in this series will look at the history of the hornbook.

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

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Fall River tragedy prompts demands for improved fire safety

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — In response to last month’s deadly fire at a Fall River assisted living residence, state leaders have announced steps to enhance the safety of residents living in facilities across the Commonwealth.

A July 13 fire at Gabriel House, an assisted living residence (ALR) in Fall River, left 10 residents dead and dozens injured. Firefighters and residents were among the injured, according to State Fire Marshal Jon Davine.

“What happened in Fall River is a horrible tragedy. Our hearts are with the families who lost loved ones and the first responders who saved so many others,” said Gov. Maura Healey. “This is a moment to make sure that every assisted living residence is prepared to respond to emergencies

and to protect the safety of their residents.”

On July 21, the state’s Executive Office of Aging and Independence – the agency tasked with ensuring that ALRs are in compliance with state regulations – launched a statewide initiative to ensure that all 273 ALRs across Massachusetts are prepared to protect residents during emergencies.

As part of the initiative, all ALRs must issue a letter to residents and families outlining fire safety protocols, evacuation procedures, and key points of contact for questions or concerns following an emergency.

Additionally, ALRs have been directed to ensure that evacuation instructions and exit routes are posted inside each resident’s unit, as well as in common areas.

Furthermore, state officials will distribute a fire safety assessment survey that all ALRs

must complete, reaffirming compliance with fire safety requirements such as sprinkler systems, fire drills, evacuation protocols, and maintenance of fire-rated doors and walls.

Providers will also report information on key systems within their buildings to help prioritize oversight.

Additionally, ALRs must submit a site-specific emergency preparedness plan to state officials.

“We are engaging every assisted living provider in this process. By requiring clear communication with residents and detailed reporting to the state, we are making sure resident safety is front and center – today and every day,” said Office of Aging and Independence Secretary Robin Lipson. “Our entire team is committed to strengthening emergency readiness and improving standards across the assisted living sector in Massachusetts.”

While state leaders

commend providers for steps already taken to ensure safety, they insist that more can be done statewide.

“These immediate actions underscore our administration’s commitment to protecting our vulnerable populations. We are working closely with providers, local officials, and families to put safety first and provide the peace of mind that residents deserve,” said Massachusetts Health and Human Services Secretary Kiame Mahaniah.

The Office of Aging and Independence is also in the process of finalizing proposed amendments to strengthen regulatory requirements for ALRs.

The investigation into the cause of the Gabriel House fire is

being conducted by the Bristol County District Attorney’s Office, State Police detectives, the Fall River Fire Department, Fall River Police Department, and the State Police Fire Investigation Unit assigned to the State Fire Marshal’s office.

“Investigators identified an oxygen concentrator and numerous smoking materials in the room of origin,” read a statement released by the state’s Department

of Fire Services. “They developed hypotheses by which either of these could have ignited a fire, but were unable to test them. Tragically, the occupant of this room was among those who lost their lives on July 13, and investigators could not obtain an account of the fire in its beginning stages.”

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Horton is social and sweet, but in true husky fashion, everything is on his terms. He absolutely knows what he wants—and isn't shy about convincing you to make it happen (with dramatic husky flair, of course). His goofy, slightly clueless charm makes him completely irresistible, and everyone who meets him falls for his quirky personality. He gets along great with other dogs, loves toys, and is always down for a good play session. Whether he's zooming around with a squeaky toy or making you laugh with his latest antics, Horton is endlessly entertaining and totally unforgettable.

He may not be the kind of dog who sticks to your side every second—but he'll want you in his world, and will make you laugh every step of the way.

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AUBURN

\$685,000, 82 Hampton St, Phelan, Alannah, and Dibenedetto, Michael, to Chen, Xi, and Zheng, Meizhen.
\$653,000, 20 Briarcliff Dr, Nilsen, Thomas A, and Nilsen, Gina, to Ishii, Ryoma, and Bachrach, Ryan J.
\$640,000, 4 Marie St, Best, Cynthia, to Macphee, Jade S.
\$507,000, 11 Oakland Dr, Oshea, Leo F, and Oshea, Bonnie M, to Iqbal, Amir, and Ain, Kanwal.
\$476,000, 406 Pakachoag St, Brown, Holly, to Interiano, Jesus.
\$460,000, 19 Paul St, St Denis, Rita I, to Bendaravicius, Tadas.
\$435,000, 39 Prospect St, Robbie Rt, and Robbie, Wayne A, to Robbie, Benjamin.
\$375,000, 11 Garden St, Robert C Krikorian Ft, and Krikorian, Kevin R, to Smith, Ryan, and Luong, Minh-Thi.
\$320,000, 328 Oxford St N, Johnson, Stephen H, to Ml Realty Group LLC.
\$50,000, 43 Warren Rd, Murphy, Ryan J, and Davis, Danielle M, to Murphy, Ryan J.

DUDLEY

\$965,000, 247 Dudley Southbridge Rd, T Reardon Builders Inc, to Tavares, Virginia, and Tavares, Anthony.
\$612,000, 25 Piasta Rd, Ghandour, Abdulraouf, to Murphy, Blake S, and Murphy,

REAL ESTATE

Alyssa.

\$600,000, 32 Mill Rd, Chen, Lili, to Cutler, Thomas W, and Cutler, Leah F.
\$475,000, 10 Delaney Ave, Serifovski, Zenepe, to Dunn, Sean, and Boucher, Samantha.
\$375,000, 7 Prospect Ave, Coraccio Jr, Vincent C, and Coraccio, Tatumn, to Vargas, Soel Q.
\$225,000, 11 Williams St, Lashua, Kerrie, and Lashua, Phillip, to MslProperties LLC.
\$110,000, 31 Piasta Rd, Ferschke, Jason, and Ferschke, Jillian, to Ferschke, Jillian.

OXFORD

\$7,080,000, 125 Federal Hill Rd, Eagle Leasing Co LLC, to Tkb Land Hldg Oxford LLC.
\$7,080,000, 127 Federal Hill Rd, Eagle Leasing Co LLC, to Tkb Land Hldg Oxford LLC.
\$860,000, 18 Rhonda Rheault Dr, Wright, Norma J, to Ward, Mark P, and Ward, Mary T.
\$480,000, 159 Sutton Ave, Nguyen, Jimmy Q, to McClure, Robert.
\$470,000, 30 Bailey Rd, Racicot Ft, and Racicot, Robert J, to Mastrapasqua, Corey, and Mastrapasqua, Carleigh.
\$465,000, 395 Main St, Belmore, Jeffrey, to Smith, Daniel A.
\$450,000, 35 Ennis Rd, Blash, Edward A, and Blash, Kathleen M, to Flamand, Daniel S.
\$330,000, 6 Thayer Pond Dr

#11, Dimopoulos, Theodore, to Pierce, Robin.
\$262,000, 14 Thayer Pond Dr #17, Chalker, Sarah A, and Chalker, Patrick, to Jette, Brendan S, and Jette, Joseph.

WEBSTER

\$580,000, 503 Treasure Island Rd #503, Susan L Reddington RET, and Reddington, Susan L, to Hollenbeck, Marie M, and Hollenbeck, Gregg W.
\$517,900, 504 Treasure Island Rd #504, Corrigan, Terence M, and Corrigan, Amy M, to Mcwilliam, John F, and Mcwilliam, Linda S.
\$495,000, 28 E Main St, Kamath, Prashant, and Thakkar, Kruti, to Correa, Cesar J, and Brito, Jennifer A.
\$444,600, 12 Crosby St, Dumas, Francis X, and Dumas, Viviane M, to Santiago, Samantha, and Butler, Samuel.
\$400,000, 149 S Shore Rd, Winship 3rd Arthur L Est, and Winship, Jennifer, to Winship, Arthur S.
\$370,000, 8 Victory Dr, Masley, Barbara, to Delphos, Emily, and Langevin, Nicholas.
\$280,000, 34 Eastern Ave #I, Aldrich, Ronald C, to Macneil, Caitlin.
\$91,900, 9 Humes St, Partington David J Est, and Proctor, Charles F, to Sudyka, Jan, and Sudyka, Malgorzata.
\$85,000, Lower Gore Rd, Susan C Kelce RET, and Kelce, Susan C, to Lagasse, Roger.



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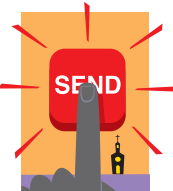
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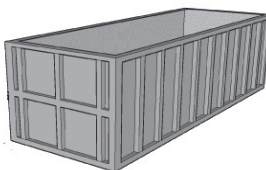


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PEARLE L. CRAWFORD LIBRARY

40 Schofield Ave., Dudley
508-949-8021
Summer Reading ends Aug. 15. There is still plenty of time to sign up and earn tickets to be used towards prizes!
Please join us to celebrate the incredible photography by Gail Alexander. There are over 40 pieces displayed for viewing in the Fels Room whenever the Library is open!
To register for events, or sign up for the newsletter go to www.crawfordlibrary.org or call 508-949-8021.
Gentle Yoga
Mondays in August
10:00-11:00 AM
Join yoga instructor Patricia, for a traditional “on the mat” yoga class with chair yoga modifications. This truly is a one size fits all class.
Bring your own mat. Wear layers, do not eat heavily 1.5-2 hours before class. Registration is Required.

Mahjong at the Pearle
Every Wednesday in August
10:00-12:30 Fels Community Room
The game consists of players competing to form distinct sets or pairs of tiles, similar to gin rummy.
Everyone welcome, registration not required.

Quilting Group
Every Wednesday 1:30- 3:30
All quilters and would-be quilters are invited to join our new group. Bring your projects!

Knit & Crochet Group
Every Thursday 5:30-7:45 and Friday 10:00-12:00
All stitchers are welcome for this informal group.
Bring your project, enjoy the company

Council on Aging Senior Lunch
Thursday August 7, 14, 21
11:30- 1:00
For more information contact Deborah Johnson
coadirector@dudleyma.gov 508-949-8015

Once Upon A Crime Book Club
Sociopath
by: Patric Gagne, PhD
Friday, August 1
11:00-12:00
Adult Reading Area
Do you have a passion for true crime and examining the details of each case? This book club is for you!
The “Once Upon A Crime Book Club” meets the first Friday of every month in the adult reading area.
All books will be pre-ordered and available for pick up at the circulation desk.

Picking Parlor Jam a “mostly” Bluegrass Focused Jam Session
1st Saturday of every month
Saturday, August 2
10:00-12:00 in the Fels Community Room
This is the group that played at our 15 Year Celebration!
This is an unplugged acoustic jam. All talent levels welcome...beginners on up!
Don't want to play? No problem, listeners are welcome too!

SARJ
Saturday Acoustic Roots Jam
Saturday, August 16
11:00-1:00 in the Fels Community Room
This is an unplugged acoustic jam. All talent levels welcome...beginners on up!

CrafterNIGHT at the Library
Seashell Trinket Dish
Monday, August 4
6:00-7:00
You'll leave with a one-of-a-kind creation to enjoy! Ages 17+
Registration is Required.

Crafternoons at the Library
Seashell Trinket Dish
Tuesday, August 5
1:00-2:00
You'll leave with a one-of-a-kind creation to enjoy! Ages 17+
Registration is Required.

Let's Talk African American Genealogy
Thursday, August 7
6:00-7:45
Unlock the secrets of your family history! Join us for five enlightening sessions on exploring your roots. Our expert genealogist will share tips, resources and stories to inspire your research. Patricia M. St. Marie, Professional Genealogist www.progenofne.com. Registration Required.
GED & HiSET Informational
Tuesday, August 12
10:00-12:00
Contact alandry@webster-schools.org to register.

“Cook the Book” Book Club
Monday, August 25
6:00-7:00
Book: Barefoot Contessa: Back to the Basics
Pick one recipe from the book selected for the month, the dishes don't have

to be complicated or fancy. Any recipe from the book is fair game, except alcoholic beverages-sorry! Prepare the recipe at home and share it at the library. We cannot reheat or keep food warm, so consider this when choosing your recipe.
You are responsible for bringing serving utensils. We will provide paper goods and utensils for eating.
There will be a place to include your recipe selection in the reservation form. Registration Required.

Crawford Library Book Group
Thursday, August 28
6:00-7:30
Book: The Couples Trip
Author: Ulf Kvensler
Books are available at the circulation desk for checkout one month prior to discussion.
No Registration Required.
Fused Glass Sun Catcher with Deenie!
Thursday, August 28
6:00-7:30
Create your own Dichroic fused glass sun catcher with colorful pre-cut glass in this easy, fun class. Ages 16+ Please note: This is an adult program. No exceptions as this is a safety issue.
This program is facilitated by Massachusetts artist Deenie Pacik Giuliano, MFA. For more information about Deenie, please visit: www.deenie-pacik.net Space Limited. Registration Required.

Baby Open Play
Fridays in August
10:00- 12:00
Open play for babies! Parents and caregivers can let babies play while getting to know others in the community. Come anytime between 10-12 or stay the whole time! No Registration Required

Storytime with Local Teen Author Clara Dowdle!
Wednesday, August 6
11:00 - 11:45
Join local teen author, Clara Dowdle, for a fun storytime as she reads “Dragonfly Hope - A Story About Children and the PMC”. This delightful story with dragonflies is about kindness, helping others, and the Pan Mass Challenge. There will be bingo (with prizes!), a craft and coloring pages. Clara has raised over \$50,000 for Dana-Farber with her philanthropy group, “The Daughters of Anarchy.” Best for ages 5-10.
No Registration needed.

Family Movie Night: A Minecraft Movie
Monday, August 11
6:00-7:45
Join us for a family movie night.
The August movie is “A Minecraft Movie”. Four misfits are suddenly pulled through a mysterious portal into a bizarre cubic wonderland that thrives on imagination. To get back home they'll have to master this world while embarking on a quest with an unexpected expert crafter. Registration is required to ensure we have enough pizza for everyone to enjoy! **Please bring your own drink.**

Graphic Novel Book Club: “The Last Comics on Earth” by Max Brallier.
Thursday, August 14
6:00- 6:45
Do you love graphic novels? Join us for Graphic Novel Book Club! Each month we will meet to discuss the graphic novel of the month. Copies of the book will be located at the circulation desk in the Children's Room. Best for ages 8 and up. Registration not required. This is not a drop off program.

Get Moving with Mason Rd. Physical Education Teacher Mr. Davis
Wednesday, August 20
1:00- 2:00
Fun outdoor activities for everyone! Something a little different each month. This program is best for ages 5-12.
No Registration Required. This is not a drop off event.

Pokemon Club
Thursday, August 21
6:00-6:45
Do you love everything Pokemon? Join us for Pokemon club! Each month we will have exciting crafts and activities! Best for ages 6 and up. No Registration Required. This is not a drop off program.

Conquer Your Summer Reading Assignment with Mrs. Kobel
Thursday, August 28
3:00-5:00
Grades 5-12
Summer is over and summer reading assignments are almost due. Need a little support? Join Mrs. Kobel for some one-on-one help. Grades 5-12 welcome.

Dungeons & Dragons Game
Every Thursday, 6:00-7:30
Ages 14-19
Are you looking to play a game that contains action, adventure, and drama? Come play the world's number one role playing game.

**GLADYS E. KELLY
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

2 Lake St., Webster
508-949-3880
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.
The Library is closed on Saturdays through the summer

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@cwmars.org

Adult Programming
Yoga – Tuesdays at 6:00pm
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.

Yoga Nidra– Wednesday Mornings at 8:15am
Join Adult Services Librarian Jess for a relaxing yoga nidrapractice 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 nidra). 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.

Crafts with Kate: Creative Correspondence – Thursday, July 31st at 6:30pm
In this class from Creative Bug, Kate and your video instructor will guide you through making unique postcards, addressing envelopes decoratively, and trying out wax seals. Kate's enthusiasm for written correspondence will leave you inspired and you'll go home with at least one unique piece of mail. This program is for adults and teens. Registration is required.

Paint Night for Adults with Julie Harrold: Moonlight Landscape – Monday, August 4th at 6pm
Join Julie Harrold for an adult painting class. In this class Julie will be leading each participant through creating a beautiful moon over the mountains painting that they'll get to take home with them. No painting experience necessary. Registration is required.

Intro to Mindfulness – Mondays in August, 6:30-7:45pm
Introduction to Mindfulness is an evidence-based mindfulness curriculum designed for adults by the Mindfulness Institute for Emerging Adults (MIEA). During this course, you will learn useful, practical tools to help manage your stress and increase self-compassion. Diana Fiorentino will be facilitating this 4-week long program. Registration is required.

Mass SAVE Information Session – Tuesday, August 5th at 6:00pm
Come for an information session about the benefits of using the Mass SAVE program. Attendees will also be able to ask questions about Mass SAVE benefits. Registration is required.

Crafts with Kate: Natural Dyeing Workshop – Thursday, August 7th at 6:30pm
Join Jess and Kate in creating your own flower-dyed tea towel. We will provide all the materials you need: flowers, hammers, and towels. Have fun hammering flowers onto the towels and revealing your beautiful design!

Programming for All Ages
Melodious Zach: Music of the Beach Boys – Thursday, August 7th at 6:30pm
Melodious Zach will perform

Beach Boys favorites, and entertain you with trivia. Melodious Zach has been performing music professionally since 2004. In 2015, he received the ASCAP Plus award for songwriters and independent recording artists. His music video “Hum It” was featured on NH Chronicle, followed up by NH Magazine's featuring his “20 Greatest Hits!” which was a #1 album on Amazon's new Bubblegum CD chart. This program is funded in part by a grant from the Webster Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.
Children's and Young Adult Programming
Summer Eats – Mondays – Thursdays, July 9th-August 14th from 12:00-1:00pm
A totally free-of-charge program that provides free meals to all kids and teens, ages 18 and under, at locations all across Massachusetts during the summer months. Held on the Library Lawn. All kids and teens eat for free.

Maker Mondays – Mondays from 3:30-4:30 PM
Feeling artistic? We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test!

Toddler Playtime--- Tuesdays at 10:00 AM
Kids 0 to 6 are invited to get their wiggles out with weekly obstacle course and fun.

Mini Block Party – Tuesdays from 6:00pm
Play with magnets, wooden blocks, and Legos.

Friendship Bracelets – Wednesdays at 11AM
Grab your bestie and come make beaded bracelets in the children's program room. This is a self-guided program, all materials are provided. Ages 8 and up.

Nintendo Switch for Tweens and Teens – Thursdays, 2-4pm
Teens and tweens are invited to play games on our Nintendo Switch.

Outdoor Messy Play – Thursdays, 3:30-4:30pm
Outdoor Messy Play is back! We supply the messy materials for your children to play with, along with a hose for washing off outside afterwards! This program is extremely messy, please dress in something you don't mind getting dirty or stained.

Play-doh Storytime – Fridays at 10AM
Join Youth Services Librarian Andrew for stories, play-doh, and fun! This storytime is geared toward ages 2 to 5, but siblings are welcome.

Beginner Origami-Fridays at 3:45PM
Are you interested in making origami, but you don't know where to start? You can start here. And if you do know how to make some origami, feel free to come make some as well. For kids of all ages.

Paint Night for Teens and Tweens with Julie Harrold: Jellyfish – Monday, August 4th at 4:00pm
Join Julie Harrold for a tween and teen painting class. In this class Julie will be leading each participant through creating a jellyfish painting that they'll get to take home with them. No painting experience necessary. Registration is required.

Indoor/Outdoor Fun – Tuesday, August 5th at 2:00pm
Come play with the bouncy castle, slide, and dunk tank by the Library Lawn. Enjoy other activities in Community Room, including a self-inflating balloon project.

Storytime for Littles – Wednesday, August 6th at 10:00am
Join Andrew the Children's Librarian for a few of his favorite stories, felt story fun, and some free play. This storytime is geared toward ages 0 to 3, but siblings are welcome.

Me and My Mini – Thursday, August 7th and 14th at 10:00am
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.

Got Space?

we do.

Contact Mikaela Today

774-200-7308

mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

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
Website: www.oxfordma.us
Facebook: Oxford, MA Senior Center

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) All meals come with a beverage and dessert.

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 @ 10:15am - 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 – Dominoes
Fridays @ 9:00 am – Walking Club (weather permitting) Wear your comfy shoes and meet at the senior center.
Thursdays @ 12:30pm- Tap Dance w/ Amanda G. – Cost \$5.00 for one hour drop in class

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 – 2:30pm. By appointment.
SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) – 3rd Wednesday of each month. 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 @ 12:45 - August movie "About My Father" starring Robert DeNiro
BEANO – 4th Friday of each month @ 12:45pm – arrive by 12:30pm to purchase your BEANO sheets.

BUS TRIP:
Red Apple Farm, Smith's Country Cheese, and lunch @ The Inn at East Hill Farm – September 11th \$129 pp. Spots are still available for this taste of New England day trip at a great price! Call 508-987-6000 or stop at the senior center to get more information and to sign up.

Webster Police LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests from July 13-26

Hector Joseph Champagne IV, age 29, of Webster was arrested on July 14 for Shoplifting By Asportation, Trespassing, and in connection with multiple warrants.

Justin David Bett, age 34, of Webster was arrested on July 16 in connection with a warrant.

A 32-year-old male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on July 16 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member, Disorderly Conduct, Disturbing the Peace, and Resisting Arrest.

Michal Biela, age 38, of Webster was arrested on July 17 in connection with a warrant of apprehension.

Richard Andrew Collins, age 55, of Webster was arrested on July 17 in connection with a warrant.

Krysta L. Soldi, age 37, of Webster was arrested on July 20 for Reckless Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Failure to Stop for Police, driving at a rate of speed greater than was reasonable or proper, a Marked Lanes Violation, and Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license (subsequent offense).

Christopher T. Mullins, age 29, of Webster was arrested on July 21 in connection with a warrant of apprehension.

A 24-year-old male from Oxford received a summons in lieu of arrest on July 21 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

A 50-year-old male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on July 21 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Steven M. Smith, age 57, of Webster was arrested on July 24 in connection with a warrant.

Edwin Rivera, age 48, of Webster was arrested on July 25 in connection with a warrant.

A juvenile, age 17, was arrested on July 26 for operating a motor vehicle without a parent, Possession of a Class C Drug, Possession of Liquor by a Person Under 21, and driving at a rate of speed exceeding the posted limit.

William Paul Calden, Jr., age 45, of Waltham was arrested on July 26 for Trespassing.

Luis Angel Rivera Rodriguez, age 33, of Fitchburg was arrested on July 26 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license, operating a vehicle with No Inspection Sticker, and in connection with a warrant.

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, 8/5: Chicken fajitas, Spanish rice, black beans and corn, pineapples. Wednesday, 8/6: Beef with onions and peppers, seasoned potatoes, capri blend vegetables, vanilla

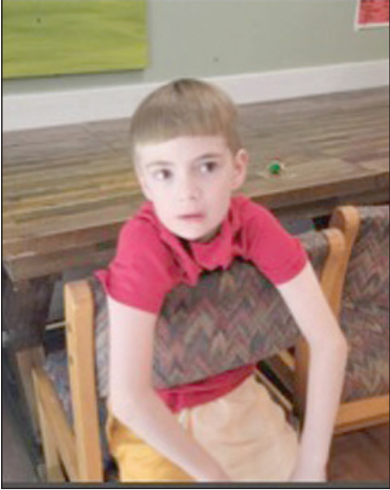
mousse. Thursday, 8/7: Roast pork with gravy, herbed stuffing, roasted brussels sprouts, apple crisp. Friday, 8/8: Soup du Jour, ham salad sandwiches, tomato and onion salad, pasta salad, fresh fruits.
Need Transportation? Contact SCM Elderbus at 1-800-321-0243 at least two business days in advance to 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.
Are you looking for a fun way to spend a Thursday night? Ventriloquist Kevin Driscoll will have you laughing your socks off all night long! Come and join us on Thursday, August 7th from 5:45 pm – 7:00 pm! Make sure to bring your friends!
We are now offering MOVIE MATINEES

every Wednesday at 1:00 pm! Popcorn is provided, no registration is needed. August movies include "Straw" on August 6th, "Rear Window" on August 13th, "My Friend Irma" on August 20th, and "Love Me Tender" on August 27th.
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.



Community Connection



Friday's Child

Garrett is a fun and lively boy with a big personality who loves bouncing on the trampoline and playing outdoors. He enjoys expressing his creativity through coloring and drawing letters and numbers on his whiteboard. Garrett shows impressive patience as he sorts through items in a large container, carefully inspecting each one before placing it behind the container—a favorite activity he enjoys with many different toys. During his downtime, Garrett likes watching TV and relaxing. In the classroom, he uses a communication device and has been making great progress in using it effectively to express his needs and participate.

Garrett
Age 10
Registration #8406

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21182817133>

Can I Adopt?

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

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



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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

The soundtrack of our lives

You’re driving home late one night, tired but wired, and then it happens. That one song — your song — comes on the radio. Maybe it’s Whitney, or Nirvana, or A Tribe Called Quest, or that one-hit wonder from your senior year. Suddenly, you’re not in traffic anymore. You’re back in your first car, windows down, summer air thick with possibility. You’re 16, or 18, or 21, and for a moment, you feel it all again. That moment is science.

According to neuroscience research, the music we listened to in our adolescence and early adulthood (roughly ages 12 to 25) gets deeply embedded in our emotional memory, thanks to the way our brains are wired during those formative years. It’s a phenomenon sometimes referred to as the “reminiscence bump” a window of time where memories are more vivid, and experiences (especially those connected to emotion and identity) leave a lasting imprint.

When music enters the scene during that stretch of life, when you’re first falling in love, figuring out who you are, and building your independence it becomes more than just background noise. It becomes part of your personal identity. So, decades later, when you hear that track again, it doesn’t just spark a memory, it lights up the emotional centers of your brain, releasing dopamine, triggering nostalgia, and often bringing comfort and joy.

Nostalgia gets a bad rap, like it’s some kind of wistful indulgence. But it’s actually good for you. Studies show that nostalgic experiences (including music-based ones) can increase feelings of connection, meaning, and optimism. They act as a psychological time machine, reminding you of who you’ve been and helping you reconnect to the parts of yourself that still matter.

Your favorite music from your youth isn’t just “old school.” It’s a form of self-preservation. A reminder of your wildness. Your hope.

So, when you hit play on that mixtape in your mind, know this: you are not stuck in the past. You are drawing strength from it.

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

Accepted

You and I... we’re not the same.
We don’t agree, so we start to blame.
Maybe I’m right, or maybe I’m wrong.
Don’t want to be proud, or come on too strong.

Time is of the essence, it’s starting to unwind.
No more screaming or yelling, it’s time to be kind.
There are some things – that really matter a lot.
That’s why there are wars, that begin to be fought.

I may be wrong, and you may be too.
I may be right, and the same goes for you.
It’s so hard to conceive, we can still get along.
Our opinions are different, they really are strong.

It’s never like it seems – it goes much deeper than that.
The hurts are real – causing some to drink, or some to look fat.
Learning how to love, despite how we feel.
One day, our Father, will ask us to kneel.

Being louder than the other, won’t change a thing.
Don’t shout back and forth, it’s time that we sing.
God loves us the same, no one’s better than the other.
We need to respect, how we treat our ‘sister or brother.’

‘Accepted,’ is the word, I am trying to convey.
None of us is perfect... only God can be that way.

Romans 15:7 says...
“Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.”

SJ SHEPERD
AUBURN

Readers Share Tips and Tricks

Summer is heating up and so are the great ideas from readers! Read on for an array of helpful hacks to make life a little easier:

This Whitinsville reader offers clever hints to keep your backyard birdbath in tip top shape!

My hint for your readers is about back yard birdbaths. Birdbaths not only provide a spot for birds, and small animals to cool off, clean up, and get a drink, but offer us a little entertainment with their antics in the water.

A couple of tips include the following.

Placement is important. Try to find a spot that has shade. The birds won’t be interested in hot water if it is in the hot sun. By placing it near bushes or trees, it offers birds some safety.

Use Mosquito dunks, available online and at hardware stores. Placing one in the water prevents your birdbaths from becoming a breeding pond for mosquitoes.

The third tip will keep the water algae free. After filling the birdbath, place some copper in it. No, pennies won’t work, as they don’t contain enough copper. Instead, go to a hardware store or home repair center and pick up a couple of copper plumbing fittings. Just throw them into the bottom and the water will remain crystal clear.

Tom Griffin
Whitinsville MA

Recycling is “in the bag” with this reader’s reusable tip:

When you are finished with your cereal, save the bag inside. You can heat ay food to warm it up in the microwave and it’s safe – plus no dish to wash.

Sandra Ware, MA

Who knew? A favorite summertime fruit cools you off both inside and out!

Did you know bananas, like watermelons, have cooling properties that cooling properties? They cool the intestinal heat in your body, making it one of the best cooling foods to eat during the hot weather.

Terry Kolesnik
Charlton, MA

Cherry tomatoes are plentiful right now, but slicing each little tomato individually and corralling them on the cutting board can be a challenge. This reader’s tip cuts the chore down to size!



TAKE THE HINT

KAREN TRAINOR

This reader shares a recipe from her childhood – and best of all, it uses no eggs!

My favorite cake, called “big wacky cake,” is one that I’ve been making since I was a child:

Ingredients: ¾ cup butter (1 ½ sticks) or oil; 2 cups granulated sugar; 3 cups all purpose flour; 6 tablespoons cocoa powder; 2 teaspoons baking soda; 1 teaspoon salt; 2 tablespoons vinegar (plain white); 2 cups warm water.

Directions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray (or grease with butter) a 13’ x 9” pan. Combine butter and sugar; blend well. Sift dry ingredients together; and add to butter mixture.

Mix vinegar and water together and add to above. Mix until well blended, but do not overbeat. Bake for 45-60 minutes. Frost as desired, then enjoy!

Cecile Collier
Leicester, MA

Prize Winner

Congratulations to Cecile Collier, whose name was drawn for Dinner for Two at the Publick House. She shared the cake recipe above.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (or whenever enough submissions are received) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I’m in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I’m counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or email KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

Gathering ideas for next year’s garden



Melinda Myers

An AAS trial garden at Boerner Botanical Gardens.

Summer is a time when many gardeners begin making plans for new additions to next year’s gardens. You may already be doing ongoing evaluations of your own plantings and may want to include tours of others’ gardens.

A walk around your neighborhood can provide inspiration and a chance to observe plants thriving in the same or similar conditions that exist in your landscape. Local garden tours allow you to take a closer look at both front and backyard gardens filled with plants, garden art and more.

Whether you tour alone or with a group of friends, it is a great opportunity to meet the gardener, gather ideas, exchange gardening secrets, and get inspired. Many of the garden tours are sponsored by garden clubs, libraries, beautification groups and other similar organizations. The proceeds from the event usually support a worthy cause in the community. You’ll find local garden tours promoted online, in local publications, garden centers, botanical gardens and other similar venues.

The Garden Conservancy’s Open Days program is a one-of-a-kind private garden tour. Participating gardens are located around the country in small and large lots that feature a variety of styles, plants and features. All you need is a little time and a ticket to participate in the self-guided garden tours. A listing of the Open Days gardens, their location and dates for each garden is listed on their website.

Visit your local or nearby public botanic gardens and arboreta. They feature plants in gardens and natural settings with similar growing conditions to nearby home gardens. They often feature new and unique varieties, traditional favorites and garden designs, providing inspiration to all who visit.

All-America Selections’ (AAS) Display Gardens are another valuable resource for gardeners. AAS is a non-profit organization that trials and evaluates plants for outstanding qualities suitable for the home garden. They have been helping gardeners grow award-winning flowers and vegetables since 1932.

New never-before-sold plant varieties bred for home gardens are planted, observed and evaluated at various trial gardens throughout North America. Trial gardens are located at public gardens, seed companies, or universities. The potential plant introduction is observed and its performance evaluated throughout the growing season. Volunteer judges rate the plants on improvements in characteristics such as aesthetics, performance and productivity as well as pest and disease tolerance. A plant must have significantly improved qualities to be considered for an AAS award.

Display gardens feature the newest AAS winners in a well-maintained setting where you can view the winners. There are nearly 200 display gardens in the United States and Canada located in public botanic gardens and arboreta, municipality gardens, garden retailers, university gardens and more. Some locations also offer related educational opportunities, open houses or field days during the growing season.

Take some time to enjoy and evaluate your gardens. Then set aside some time to visit local gardens for ideas and inspiration.

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” instant video series 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.

Human psychology

Sometimes there comes a moment when you realize life isn't just happening to you. You're interpreting it and reacting to it. You've been living inside a story your past wrote for you—before you knew you were the one telling it.

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

That's not your fault. It's your default. But the moment you see it—you can change everything.

Modern psychology has shown us that the brain is less a camera and more a courtroom—building stories, assigning blame, rewriting memory, all in service of keeping your ego comfortable or your fear pacified.

Psychologists like Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky spent decades studying how we form judgments, and their research uncovered a gallery of mental shortcuts—cognitive biases, emotional filters, and distorted beliefs that make us feel right, even when we're not. But often, what feels true is just what feels familiar:

And once you begin to see the stories you're telling yourself, something else becomes clear: there are parts of your life you won't even narrate. Things you won't face. Conversations you won't have. Feelings you won't feel. You tell yourself it's not the right time, that it's not a big deal, that you'll deal with it later. But in truth—what you avoid ends up shaping you more than what you confront.

Avoidance feels like relief. At first. You push something away—pain, responsibility, vulnerability—and for a moment, your body thanks you. The pressure drops. But behind that false peace, something dangerous grows. Each time you dodge discomfort, you quietly teach your nervous system that the discomfort was too much—that the fear must be obeyed.

Psychological studies on exposure therapy conducted by Joseph Wolpe and later David Barlow show again and again: the only way to reduce fear is to face it. The only way to weaken shame is to bring it into the light.

Healing doesn't come from feeling safe all the time. Success doesn't come from playing small. Growth begins when you learn to walk toward what makes you uncomfortable—on purpose.

And what we avoid doesn't just shape our behavior—it quietly shapes who we become. Because here's the deeper truth: you are not who you think you are. You are who you practice being.

Identity isn't fixed. It's not a core you discover—it's a pattern you reinforce. You are a feedback loop of habits, emotional reactions, routines, roles, and stories you tell yourself. What you repeat becomes familiar. What becomes familiar becomes comfortable. And what becomes comfortable becomes “me.”

Psychologists and behavioral scientists have long known that we don't rise to our highest beliefs—we fall to our most repeated actions. You may wish to be bold, steady, at peace—but wishing doesn't shape you. Repetition does.

The research on neuroplasticity, from pioneers like Donald Hebb and Carol Dweck, confirms: your brain reshapes itself based on what you do consistently, not what you hope is true.

So if you want to change your life, stop asking, “Who am I?” Start asking, “What do I repeat?” The real “you” isn't found in your reflection. It's built in your rituals.

Even the strongest habits can fall apart when emotions hit. You might know what to do—but then emotion clouds your thinking. Emotions don't care how much you've practiced—they test whether you can stay present when it counts.

To see yourself clearly—not as a fixed identity, but as a living pattern. Not as a passenger, but as the narrator holding the script. Yes, your brain plays tricks. Yes, fear wants the wheel. But you are not at the mercy of old wiring. You are the architect of what comes next.

Take the pause. Challenge the thought. Face the thing. Move, even when you tremble. Speak the better story, even if your voice shakes at first.

You don't need to be perfect. You need to be present. You don't need to know who you are. You need to start becoming who you were meant to be—on purpose.

Life isn't asking you to get it all right. It's asking you to participate, to show up, to choose the next true step. And repeat it, until it becomes you.



DICK MCGRATH

HALL OF FAMERS

The National Baseball Hall of Fame's Class of 2025 was inducted over the weekend in Cooperstown, N.Y. The inductees included (group photo, l to r), Billy Wagner, Ichiro Suzuki, CC Sabathia, the late Dick Allen (represented by his wife, Willa) and the late Dave Parker (represented by his son, Dave Parker Jr.).

QCC SUCCESS Scholar proves there's no one way to learn

WORCESTER — Local student Matthew Cronin is redefining success by turning personal obstacles into opportunities, thanks in part to the SUCCESS Scholars program at Quinsigamond Community College.

Cronin is part of QCC's SUCCESS Scholars program, a state-funded initiative that provides support for students facing systemic barriers. Since starting at QCC in the fall of 2023, Cronin has made the Dean's List and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Cronin cited the SUCCESS program as a factor in his impressive academic performance.

"I used to struggle in school and people in my life told me I couldn't do it," Cronin shared. "Now, I'm using my disabilities as a superpower."

Growing up, Cronin's learning disabilities, including ADHD and auditory processing disorder, weren't properly addressed, which led to academic difficulties. After high school, he completed a small amount of training and worked in medical billing but desired a more fulfilling career.

Encouraged by staff at Genesis

Clubhouse, a vocational and rehabilitation program for individuals who live with mental illness, Cronin applied to QCC. What might have previously been out of financial reach became affordable to Cronin thanks to the implementation of MassReconnect, the state-funded program covering community college tuition and fees for students over 25 who haven't received a bachelor's degree.

Once enrolled at QCC, Cronin began meeting with a SUCCESS advisor. The program utilizes a case management approach focused on building relationships with students. The SUCCESS advisor serves as a main contact to guide students through college processes and expectations, navigate challenges and connect them with key supports.

"Matthew's journey is a powerful reminder of the transformative impact of access, support and belonging. Programs like SUCCESS Scholars and MassReconnect are not just helping students stay in college — they're empowering students like Matthew to thrive, lead and inspire others along the way," said Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs Kevin Li.

In this newfound supportive environment, Cronin was able to explore his passions and joined the human services and deaf studies programs. Currently, Cronin is pursuing the path to become a social worker and an advocate, translating personal experiences into meaningful change. He is also interested in entrepreneurship and inspirational speaking.

"Matthew is such a good example of how to advocate for yourself and effectively utilize resources," said SUCCESS Scholars Academic Advisor Mallory Dutton. "Once he got his feet firmly on the ground in college, his first instinct was to help other people see that this is possible for them too."

Cronin also recognized other QCC supports, such as the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) department, which has been instrumental to his achievements. SAS academic coaches have helped Cronin develop personalized strategies addressing time management and learning techniques. This, combined with his work in the SUCCESS Scholars program, has transformed his approach to education.

Dudley IMA reentry rejected

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The Dudley Board of Health is seeking a new partnership after being rejected for reentry into an intermunicipal agreement (IMA) the town opted out of last year.

Dudley had previously relinquished its membership in an IMA that includes the towns of Auburn, Brimfield and Oxford with Webster as the lead community. Dudley's reentry required approval from every member town, but Webster voted against the request leaving Dudley seeking new partnership opportunities. The town has inquired with neighboring Charlton to seek support for entering into a new agree-

ment.

The IMA between Webster and partner towns is one of many in the commonwealth coordinated by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) that make funds available to be shared among the member communities. In 2024 Dudley chose to vacate its membership after determining the group wasn't meeting their needs. However, the Board of Health reassessed the benefits of the agreement and cast a unanimous vote in January to reenter the IMA, which requires the approval of all member towns. With Webster's reluctance to accept Dudley's request, the town's membership has officially been denied.

Dudley Board of Health Chair Roberta Johnson informed the board at-large of the news on July 15.

"There was a huge process. All the towns that are in this group had to bring it before their Board of Selectmen to get approved to let us back in. The host town of this is Webster, so they were the last ones. They had their meeting in June, and we have not been accepted back in. With that, we are not in this intermunicipal group anymore," Johnson confirmed.

Part of the benefits of the agreement was funding for software which the Board of Health did not include in their current budget, approved in May, with the anticipation that they would be accepted into the IMA. Johnson said

Dudley is eagerly seeking a new partnership opportunity recently reaching out to Charlton Health Director Jim Philbrook about joining an agreement with their neighbor community.

"I'm hopeful there will be room for them to take us into their group, but right now there's not," Johnson said. "It's unfortunate that we weren't let back in. I feel really badly about that because I really wanted us to get back in, but we'll try again, and we'll see if Charlton has room for us."

Dudley has given Charlton permission to speak on their behalf to promote their membership. For now, Dudley will be left without an IMA unless a new opportunity presents itself.

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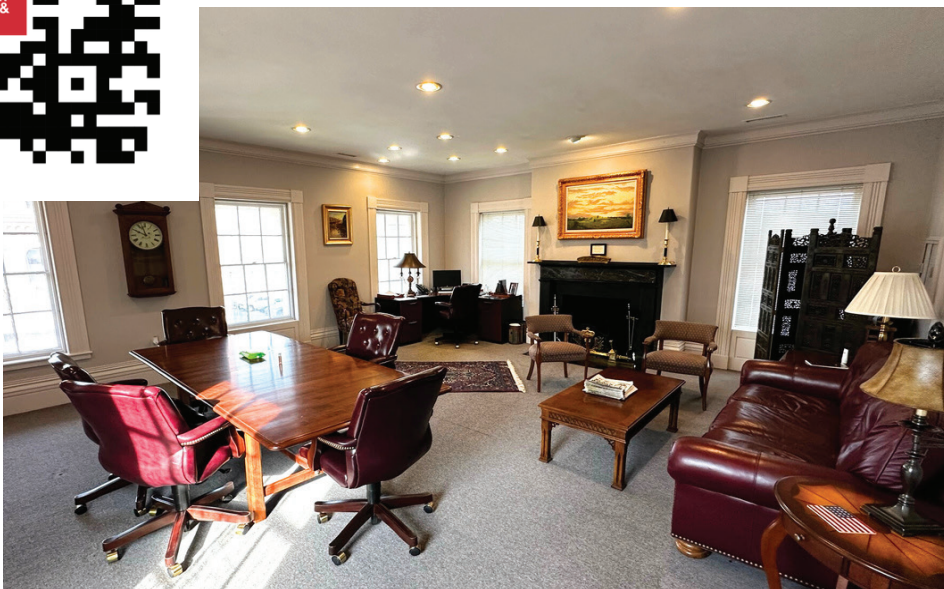
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JONAH D. GLICKMAN
Vice President

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Bay Path graduate, mother of four triumphs in nursing journey



Gorret Rusoke and Dr. Adelina Healy

SPRINGFIELD — Against all odds, Gorret Rusoke has accomplished what many would consider impossible. A mother of four, wife, and full-time health-care worker, Rusoke has officially completed her Practical Nursing certificate from Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School's Practical Nursing Academy – an achievement fueled by grit, sacrifice, and unwavering purpose.

"I never thought I would find myself going back to school in my 30s," said Rusoke, reflecting on her journey. "But deep inside, I knew I had more to give to my community, my family, and myself."

Originally from Uganda, Rusoke came to the U.S. with a background in education and

a passion for service. Her decision to pursue nursing solidified during the COVID-19 pandemic, watching nurses across the globe serve tirelessly with courage and compassion. That inspiration sparked a calling she could no longer ignore.

What followed was a grueling yet rewarding road filled with sleepless nights, long commutes, and juggling family responsibilities with academic rigor. She often drove more than two hours round-trip for classes, sometimes arriving home just as her husband left for his night shift. Despite exhaustion, she would press on—studying into the early hours, preparing lunches, helping with homework, and then waking up to do it all over again.

"There were moments

I felt selfish for skipping family events so I could rest or study," Rusoke shared. "But clinical days reminded me why I started—to serve and care for people. That purpose carried me through."

Rusoke's clinical placements included Vibra Hospital, UMass Memorial Health, and several rehabilitation centers, where she quickly gained praise for her compassionate care and natural leadership. She excelled in areas like wound care, medication administration, and patient assessments—all while speaking four languages: English, Luganda, Kiswahili, and Rutooro.

Her efforts didn't go unnoticed. At graduation, she received both the Academic Excellence Award and the Clinical

Excellence Award, alongside her induction into the National Technical Honor Society and participation in the school's Mock Code Team.

In her words, the journey would not have been possible without the strong support around her. She expressed heartfelt thanks to the faculty and staff of Bay Path Nursing Academy—particularly Director Dr. Bolandrina Gretheline and Executive Assistant Donna—as well as her close-knit group of

nursing school friends: Louise, Delene, Elizabeth, Flory, and Chali.

"They were my study partners and second family," she said. "We built lifelong friendships that withstood every challenge."

Rusoke is currently serving as a Direct Care Professional at the Mental Health Association in Chicopee, and previously worked at The Reserve in East Longmeadow and the Cooperative for Human Services in Lexington.

Her next goal? To continue making a difference in patients' lives with empathy, integrity, and love.

"I aspire to be the kind of nurse who makes an impact—who patients remember not just for their skill, but for how they made them feel. This is only the beginning," Rusoke said.

As Gorret Rusoke steps into the next chapter of her career, she embodies the heart of modern nursing: resilient, compassionate, and deeply human.

Local residents named to Simmons University Dean's List

BOSTON — Zelma Abshir of Webster and Ella Staltare of Oxford were named to the 2025 spring semester dean's list at Simmons University in Boston.

To qualify for dean's list status, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.

About Simmons University Located in the heart of Boston, Simmons is a respected private university offering nearly 50 majors and programs for undergraduate women and graduate programs open to all on campus, in blended formats, or entirely online in nursing and health sciences, liberal arts, business, communications, social work, public health, and library and information science. Founded in 1899, Simmons has established a model of higher education that other colleges and universities are only recently beginning to adapt: the combination of education for leadership in high-demand professional fields with the intellectual foundation of the liberal arts. The result is a Simmons graduate prepared not only to work, but to lead in professional, civic, and personal life - a vision of empowerment that Simmons calls preparation for life's work. Follow Simmons on Twitter at @SimmonsUniv, and on LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/school/simmons-university/>.

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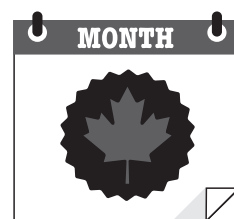


Maze Craze

Find your way through the center of the maze.



CANADA



HISTORY

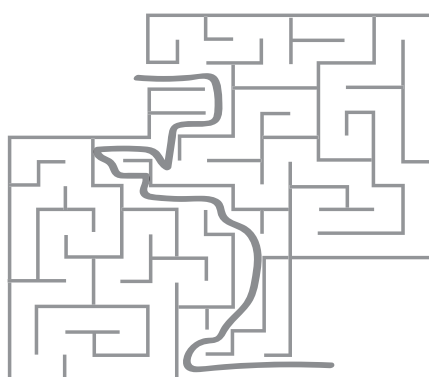
2009

The Olympic torch
arrives at
Parliament Hill and
is carried into the
House by Barbara
Ann Scott.

World FACT:

This beach in the U.S. Virgin Islands was ranked #1 on the list of the "World's 50 Best Beaches."

Answer: Trunk Bay



KELP

large brown algae
or seaweeds

How they say that in...

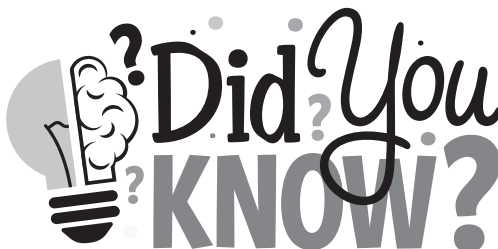
English: Dolphin

Spanish: Delfín

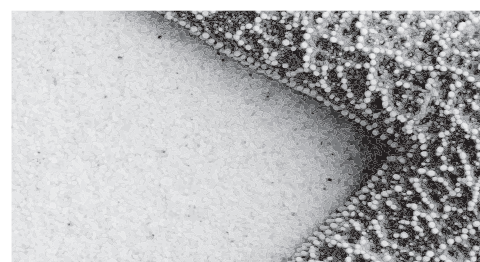
Italian: Delfino

French: Dauphin

German: Delfin



Beach umbrellas are handy to have while enjoying the beach. They provide shade that can protect people from the harsh rays of the sun.



Answer: Startish



Solve the code to discover words related to dessert.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 7 = A)

A. 23 7 18 4 2 1

Clue: Cooking food by dry heat

B. 17 14 1 7 12

Clue: Sweetener

C. 11 12 26 7 11

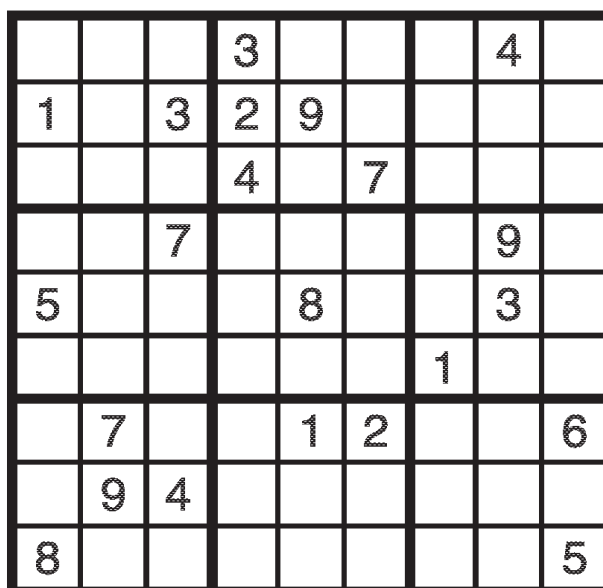
Clue: Special food

D. 5 24 24 18 4 26

Clue: Portable dessert

Answers: A. baking B. sugar C. treat D. cookie

SUDOKU



Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

7	8	6	3	5	1	2	4	9
1	4	3	2	9	8	5	6	7
2	5	9	4	6	7	8	1	3
4	1	7	5	2	3	6	9	8
5	6	2	1	8	9	7	3	4
9	3	8	7	4	6	1	5	2
3	7	5	9	1	2	4	8	6
6	9	4	8	7	5	3	2	1
8	2	1	6	3	4	9	7	5

ANSWER:

Officials brace for peak mosquito-borne illness season

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — As we approach the peak season for West Nile virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), area residents are urged to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites. Last month, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced the first confirmed animal case of WNV in 2025. A goat was exposed to WNV in Lunenburg in Worcester County, officials said.

“With this evidence of

an animal infected with West Nile virus, we know that there are the right conditions and enough disease circulating to result in a human infection,” said Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein. “The elevated temperatures, combined with high humidity, increase mosquito activity.”

WNV and EEE are both spread to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. Last year, due to excessive rainfall, saw several local communities placed at elevated risk for human infections.

While EEE can infect people of all ages, individuals under 15 years of age or over 50 are at greatest risk for serious illness. Symptoms of EEE include high fever, muscle pain, headaches, and seizures. Symptoms can occur up to two weeks after a person is bitten by an infected mosquito.

WNV can cause fever, headaches, and rashes. The illness can sometimes be serious or fatal.

Thus far, there have been no human cases of WNV detected in Massachusetts. There were 19 human cases of WNV recorded in 2024.

One of the best ways to protect your family against mosquitoes is to avoid outdoor activities during peak mosquito hours from dusk to dawn. If you must be outside during these hours, be sure to apply insect repellent and maximize clothing coverage of exposed skin.

Residents can also reduce the number of mosquitoes around their homes by draining sources of standing water. Mosquitoes often lay their eggs in small pools, wheelbarrows, rain gutters, and drains. Residents are advised to

frequently empty flowerpots and wading pools, in addition to changing the water in birdbaths daily.

It is also important to make sure that window and door screens fit tightly. Screens with holes or openings should be replaced, officials said.

Local officials will post additional resources and updates on conditions within respective communities throughout the late summer and fall months.

Residents are also urged to take steps to protect their pets from mosquitoes.

“Animals that live out-

doors are at somewhat higher risk from arboviruses than humans who spend more time indoors,” said State Epidemiologist Dr. Catherine Brown. “But the weather this summer is creating the opportunity for it to be a busy WNV season, and it is important to take steps to prevent mosquito bites.”

Additional information about EEE and WNV, as well as reports of current and historical virus activity in Massachusetts, can be found by visiting www.mass.gov.



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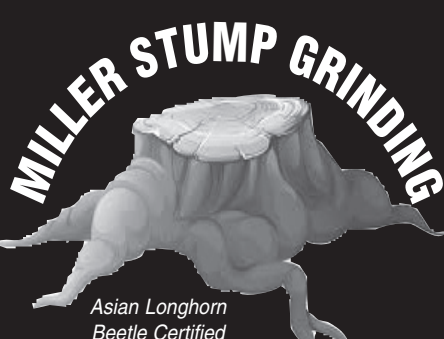


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OBITUARIES

Mary O. Liro, 99



Southbridge- Mary O. (Ottak) Liro, 99, passed away on Thursday, July 24th, in the UMass Memorial Medical Center, Memorial Campus, Worcester, after a short illness.

She was predeceased by her husband, Stephen F. Liro. She leaves her son, Thomas Liro and his wife Carol of Webster; her daughter, Janis Liro of Longwood, FL; her three grandchildren, Jacob Liro and his wife Amy, Barton Liro and his wife Kimberly and Marlie Willer and her husband Brian; her six great grandchildren, Rowan, Bodhi, Wren, Quintin, William and Melia; and many nieces and nephews. She also leaves several cousins in Poland. She was predeceased by her two brothers, Chester Ottak and Frank Ottak. Mary was born in Southbridge the daughter of Joseph and Mary (Zajac) Ottak.

Mary was the executive assistant for the president of Southbridge Co-Operative Bank (Now Savers Bank) for several years before becoming a full time homemaker for her family. She later received her real estate license. Mary was a devoted Catholic and a life long member of St. Hedwig's Church in Southbridge. She served the church as a CCD Teacher, a Eucharistic Minister, a lector and sang in the church choir. She was also a long time devoted member of St. Hedwig's Holy Rosary Sodality. She was a member of the Polish Women's Club of the Pilsudski Polish American Citizen's Club in Southbridge. Mary was a longtime active member of the Southbridge Women's Club, serving

as it's President and Treasure. She served on the Town of Southbridge Conservation Commission for 16 years. As the Executrix of the Estate of Claire Birtz she was instrumental in helping to establish the Claire Birtz Wildlife Sanctuary in Southbridge.

Mary was an outstanding cook, especially Polish foods. She could be often found working in the kitchens of St. Hedwig's Church and the Polish Club for their events. Mary was an avid golfer and a longtime member at Heritage Country Club in Charlton and belonged to it's women's league. She was also an avid college football fan, especially the Florida Gators and University of Notre Dame. Mary loved her Camp on Big Alum Lake in Sturbridge. Mary was a great lover of animals and had many beloved cats and dogs through the years.

The family would like to thank Laura's Guardian Angels for all the care and compassion they gave to Mary which gave her the ability to stay in her own home until her passing.

Her funeral will be held on Saturday, August 2nd, from the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a Mass at 10:00am in St. Mary's Church of the St. John Paul II Parish, 263 Hamilton St., Southbridge. Burial will follow in St. Hedwig's Cemetery, Southbridge. Calling hours in the funeral home will be held on Friday, August 1st, from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Second Chance Animal Shelter, 111 Young Rd., East Brookfield, MA 01515.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Sandra Lee Corriveau, 64



Sandra Lee Corriveau, 64, of Webster died Friday, July 18, 2025, at UMass Memorial-University Campus with her loving family at her side after a long illness. Sandra was born on May 21, 1961 in Webster, MA, the daughter of the late Earl George Adams, Jr. and the late Alice (Lubecki) Adams. Paternal grandparents were the late Earl, Sr. and Matilda (Dubrawa) Adams. Maternal grandparents were the late August and Nellie (Andrzejewski) Lubecki. Her husband of thirty-five years, Richard "Dicky" Corriveau, preceded her in death in 2016. Sandra is survived by her children, son Curtis Adams of Webster and partner Amber, daughter Rebecca Boutillette and husband Scott, and step-daughter Robbin (Corriveau) Luberto of North Brookfield, grandchildren Corey Adams and his fiance Ashley, Katelyn Chickering and partner Kody, Kasey Ross and husband Tyler. Great grandchildren include Maisy, Braxton, Kolby, Gage, Bella, Taylor, T.J. She was one of seven children: brothers Ken, Dana, and the late John Adams of Webster; sisters Gloria Bannister of Webster, Donna Santerre and husband Paul of Danielson, CT, and the late Christine Adams and her late partner Ray Belanger of Webster. Nieces/neph-

ews include Gayle, Jane, Peter, Craig, Amanda, Derek, Monica, John Jr; Shannon, Jason, Jena, Jesse, and her beloved Jessica and their families. She also leaves her aunt Patricia Merritt of Webster and her family, James Joseph Orłowski of South Carolina, and Joanne Maas of Washington state. In the 1980s, Sandra owned "Sandra's Donut Chateau" in Dudley, which boasted varieties of square donuts. However, she spent most years working at the USPS distribution center in Shrewsbury, where she was close friends with Steve, Lynniece, and Pat, retiring for health reasons in 2021. Sandra enjoyed Bingo, Keno, Dunkins, playing games on her tablet, jigsaw puzzles, oldies and country music, her monkey collection, Shirley Temple dolls, and shopping. Most of all, she loved spending time with family and friends, especially her daughter and late mom, Alice. She constantly baked yummy cookies and breads for her friends and family. Sandra was always loving and generous, and a good friend to those who knew her. Her smile and laughter will always be remembered. Memorial calling hours will be Saturday, August 2, from 1 to 4 PM at Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, MA. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to a children's or animal charity. Sandra's condolence book is at www.bartelfuneralhome.com.

Michael F. Kreft, 79



Michael F. Kreft, 79, of Dudley MA., formerly of Webster, died June 7, 2025 at UMass Harrington after a battle with bone cancer and advanced dementia. He was born to Francis and Gladys Kreft on September 14, 1945. He leaves his devoted wife and best friend of 57 years, Linda (Holmes) Kreft, and his devoted sons Fran and his wife Cara, Steve and his wife Kim, and Paul Kreft. He also leaves three grandchildren, Tanner, Mia, and Kristina, a sister Carolyn Kreft of South Carolina, his sisters- and brothers-in-law, a niece and nephews. His brother Francis "Chuck" Kreft predeceased him.

After graduating from Barlett High school in 1968, Mike attended Worcester Industrial Technical Institute, and later joined the Navy where he served on the SS Bushnell during the Vietnam era. He was elected Honorman by his company and received recognition for his outstanding performance of duty

as Yeoman, 2nd Class. He later worked as assistant supervisor at Heald Machine in Worcester, Cranston Print in Webster and Polyfoam Corporation in Northbridge.

Mike enjoyed boating and water skiing on Webster Lake where he and his wife and sons resided for many years. He was also an avid car enthusiast, having owned several classic cars, often to his wife's chagrin. He was known for his willingness to help others and for being a hard worker. He was a loving husband and father and will live in the hearts of his family forever.

Alzheimer's is a terrible disease that robs the mind of precious memories of those afflicted and leaves the loved ones mourning their loss as they slip away. Donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association at ALZ.org or at P.O. Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090-6011.



Webster – James R. Sullivan, 79, formerly of Worcester and Millbury, passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 26, 2025, at Brookside Health Care Center in Webster. He was a United States Army Veteran.

Jimmie is predeceased by his parents, Helen (Buttrick) Sullivan Trzcinski and her husband Bennie. He is survived by his brother, John "Jay" Sullivan and his wife Diann of Oxford, MA, his nephew, Brian Sullivan and his wife Andrea and their children Trevor and Connor of Whitinsville, MA.

Jimmie lived his life his way, loving and carefree. His home were the streets at anywhere and everywhere. He had a zest for travel and that he did. He traveled to any destination via hopping

freight trains, planes, boats, buses, or walking throughout the country including the beaches of Hawaii and the fishing boats of Alaska.

He lived and saw the good, the bad, and the ugly and survived it all, never to complain. If Jimmie kept a diary of his life and travels and published, it would have been on the "New York Times Best Sellers List." He will be deeply missed and forever loved.

"Hasta La Vista, Sully"

Funeral arrangements are private and have been entrusted to the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA 01570. For memorial guestbook please visit www.shaw-majercik.com



James R. Sullivan 1946 - 2025

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



Donna (Russell) Hart, 71, of Cumberland, passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 19, 2025. Born in Webster, MA, she was the daughter of the late Leo "Joe" and Irene (Bulejcik) Russell and the sister of Peter Russell and the late Linda Shockett and Dr. Jay Russell. Donna graduated from St. Louis Catholic Grammar School in 1967, Barlett Highschool in 1971, and Worcester State in 1975.

Donna leaves her longtime companion, Charles Gauvin, and her four children: Dr. Jesse Hart and his wife Taylor; Commander Kelly Hart, U.S. Navy, and her husband Chance Pinkerton; Lieutenant Dr. Amy Hart, U.S. Navy, and her partner Cristian Barerra; and Dr. Zachary Hart and his

fiancé, Morgan Spatafore. She was a loving nana to her three grandchildren, Madison Hart, Dani Hart, and Cassius Pinkerton.

Donna proudly raised her four children and said there was "always room at the table" for their many friends. Donna taught in the Cumberland school department, volunteered as a docent at the Roger Williams Park Zoo, and served as a Girl Scout troop leader. She loved nature, animals, and watching the seasons change from her porch overlooking Miscoe Lake. Her motto was "be kind."

Family and friends are kindly invited to a Funeral Service Thursday, July 24th at 11:30 AM in the O'Neill Funeral Home, 3102 Mendon Road, Cumberland. Burial followed in Resurrection Cemetery, Cumberland. Visiting hours were held Thursday, July 24th from 9:30-11:30 AM, prior to the Service in the O'Neill Funeral Home.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Joanne M. Nealley a/k/a Joanne Nealley, Mark R. Nealley to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., dated April 11, 2013 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 52388, Page 238, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. to Nationstar Mortgage, LLC, recorded on March 30, 2015, in Book No. 53528, at Page 123

Nationstar Mortgage, LLC to Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc., recorded on August 5, 2024, in Book No. 70853, at Page 139

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on August 25, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 6 Henry Road, Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in

said mortgage,

TO WIT:

Real property in the City of WEBSTER, County of WORCESTER, State of Massachusetts, described as follows: The land with the buildings thereon situated on the easterly side of Henry Road, Webster, MA and shown as Parcel B on Plan recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 515, Plan 6 and further bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the southerly side of tract herein conveyed on the easterly side of Henry Road; THENCE N. 9° 10' 40" W. by Henry Road, a distance of 125.60 feet; THENCE by Henry Road, on a curve having a radius of 40.00 a distance of 27.59 feet; THENCE N. 47° 08' 20" E. a distance of 51.65 feet; THENCE S. 43° 30' 40" E. by Parcel A a distance of 102.78 feet; THENCE S. 46° 28' 20" W. a distance of 149.53 fed to the point of beginning. The above described premises are subject to a twelve (12) foot right of way as shown on said Plan. Being shown as Parcel B on Plan entitled "Plan of Land in Webster, Mass.

Surveyed for Edward J. Horniak et ux, dated June 21, 1982, Robert F. Para, Land Surveyor."

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 22019, Page 189.

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

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices,

P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

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

SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC.

Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
27046
July 25, 2025
August 1, 2025
August 8, 2025

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 177 Gore Road, Webster, MA 01570
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by John B. Oliveira and Lillian Oliveira to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Envoy Mortgage, LTD, and now held by **Nationstar Mortgage LLC**, said mortgage dated March 6, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 62003, Page 233, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Envoy Mortgage, LTD, its successors and assigns to Flagstar Bank, N.A. by assignment dated September 20, 2024 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 71061, Page 177; said mortgage was assigned from Flagstar Bank, N.A. to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by assignment dated March 13, 2025 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 71773, Page 151; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on August 21, 2025 at 3:00 PM** Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:
The land in Webster, situated on Gore Road, Webster, MA shown as Lot 2, on a “Plan of land in Webster owned by John D. Casey Date: September 3, 1996, Scale 1”=50’ , B.C. Survey & Engineering, which plan is recorded with the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 709 Plan 2, and to which plan reference may be made for a more particular description of said lot.
The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.
For Mortgagor’s Title see deed dated March 2, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 62003, Page 230.
TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.
FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00)
Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.
Other terms to be announced at the sale.
Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Nationstar Mortgage LLC Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
July 18, 2025
July 25, 2025
August 1, 2025

**MORTGAGEE’S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE**
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by American Painting and Improvement LLC to Crowd Lending Fund One, LLC, dated December 29, 2023 and recorded at Worcester County Registry of Deeds on December 29, 2023, in Book No. 70055, at Page 1, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder Crowd Lending Fund One, LLC, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at public auction at 10:00 AM, on August 26, 2025 on the mortgaged premises being known as 27 Dresser Street, Webster, MA, being all and singular the premises described in said mortgage to wit:
The Land referred to herein below is situated in the County of Worcester, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and is described as follows:
That certain lot or parcel of land situated in the Town of Webster, County of Worcester, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being Lot No. 38 on a Plan of Lots recorded in the Worcester County Registry of Deeds entitled “Dresser Land” in Book 1348 page 653 is bounded and described as follows:
Said lot boWlds northerly by land now or formerly of Theophil Koeller and measures 63 feet in width and 165 feet in depth.
Being the same premises as described in Book 1653 at page 200.
Being the same premises as conveyed to the mortgagor by deed of U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, as Trustee for LEHMAN XS TRUST MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-ION, dated December 7, 2023, recorded on De-

ember 29, 2023 at Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book No. 70054, at Page 393.
The above described premises will be sold **SUBJECT TO** and with the benefit of all restrictions, easements, covenants, conditions, building and zoning laws, to any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, water and sewer charges, municipal or other public taxes, assessments or liens, rights of tenants and parties in possession, if any.
TERMS OF SALE:
A deposit of \$7,500.00 DOLLARS shall be required to be made to the mortgagee in cash, by certified or by cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale as a deposit. The successful bidder will be required to execute an Auction Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, by certified check, by cashier’s check, or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee’s attorney within thirty (30) days thereafter at the offices of BARSH AND COHEN, P.C., Attorneys for the Mortgagee, 500 Turnpike Street Suite 201, Canton, MA 02021, in exchange for which and at such time and place, the deed shall be delivered to the purchaser for recording.
The Mortgagee reserves the right to amend the foregoing terms of sale by written or oral announcement made before the auction sale, during the sale thereof or at the commencement of or during any postponed sale, the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, and to postpone the sale up until the time the property is declared sold by the auctioneer.
The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in the Notice of Mortgagee’s Sale or its publication.
OTHER TERMS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE SALE.
Dated: July 24, 2025
(signed:) Crowd Lending Fund One, LLC Present Holder of said Mortgage By its Attorneys, Barsh and Cohen, P.C. Neil Cohen, Esquire Attorney for the Mortgagee 500 Turnpike Street Suite 201, Canton, MA 02021
(617) 332-4700
August 1, 2025
August 8, 2025
August 15, 2025

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET NO. 25 SM 002139
ORDER OF NOTICE
TO: Tracy Lemanski
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. C. 50 §3901 (et seq): Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee, in trust for registered Holders of Long Beach Mortgage Loan Trust 2005-1, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-1 claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Dudley, numbered 3 Conant Avenue, given by Tracy Lemanski to Long Beach Mortgage Company, dated October 12, 2004, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 34824, Page 208, 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 9/1/2025 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 7/16/2025. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder August 1, 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. WO25C0350CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME**
In the matter of:
Damian Luis Maldonado Tavernier
A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by
Damian Luis Maldonado Tavernier of **Webster MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Damian Luis Tavernier

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 08/19/2025. 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: July 17, 2025
Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate August 1, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO25P2286GD
NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment
of Guardian of a Minor**
In the interests of
Erick Balmore Ramos Mendez of **Webster, MA**
Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 06/09/2025 by Erick B Ramos Mendez of Webster, MA will be held **08/13/2025 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located **Worcester Probate & Family Court**
2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.
3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.
4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.
5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor’s best interests.
ORDER TO PETITIONER(S)
IT IS ORDERED THAT copies of this Notice and the Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served in hand on the minor, (if 14 or more years of age and not the petitioner), the guardian, the parents of the minor, and any other person if ordered by the Court, at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the hearing date listed above. **Service must be made by the sheriff, constable, or other person approved by the Court.**
If service in hand cannot be accomplished on any interested party. **IT IS ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and the Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served on the interested party by leaving at and mailing by regular first class mail to last and usual place of residence of the interested party at least **fourteen (14) days** prior to the date of hearing listed above.
If the identity of whereabouts of an interested party is **not known, IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served on all interested persons at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the hearing date by mailing first class mail and by publishing a copy of the Order and Notice once in **Webster Times, Webster** publication to be at least **Seven (7)** days prior to the hearing date.
If required, service on the United States Veteran Administration and the Department of Children and Families may be accomplished by regular first class mail at least **Seven (7)** days prior to the hearing.
THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.
Date: July 11, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman Register of Probate August 1, 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. WO25C0379CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME**
In the matter of:
Megan Kate Carandang Silo
A **Petition to Change Name of Minor** has been filed by
Megan Kate Carandang Silo of **Webster MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Megan Kate Carandang
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 08/12/2025. 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: July 14, 2025
Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate August 1, 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. WO25P2542EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
Cecile H Costa
Also known as:
Cecile Harpin Costa
Date of Death: 01/21/2022
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by
Joseph B Costa 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:
Joseph B Costa of Webster MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve 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 08/19/2025.**
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: July 21, 2025
Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate August 1, 2025

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LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOUTHBRIDGE
Saint Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry,
Located in the St. Anne Church basement,
16 Church Street, Fiskdale, MA 01518
Stocked by donations
Contact: 508-347-6398

**SPENCER- EAST BROOKFIELD -
RESIDENTS ONLY**
Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry
60 Maple St, Spencer, MA 01562
Distribution: Thursday 10 AM-12 Noon

STURBRIDGE
Saint Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry,
Located in the St. Anne Church basement,
16 Church Street, Fiskdale, MA 01518
Stocked by donations
Contact: 508-347-6398

WEBSTER
Webster-Dudley Food Share
4 Church St #2
Webster, MA 0570
Distribution: Tuesday and Thursday from
8:30 -11:00 am. Open to Webster and
Dudley residents.
Please call ahead: 508-943-9171

WEST BROOKFIELD
Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry
First Congregational Church
36 North Main Street,
W.Bookfield, MA 01585
Distribution: Wednesday 10 AM-11:30 AM
Thursday 7 PM- 8 PM

WEBSTER
continued from page A1

she said those were test-
ed and only four needed
remediation. The other
involved existing win-
dows all over the building,
but not new ones. There,
they discovered “what
was implemented in the
field (in the 1970s) was not
what was on the as-built
drawings we have,” and
needed repairs to ensure
water sealing and drain-
age worked properly.

On the positive side,
Kontoes also said the dis-
trict will not need the next
transportation funding
Town Meeting approved.
In January, she project-
ed a \$900,000 deficit, but
it turned out to be only
\$577,000, which the dis-
trict can meet within the
budget.

The committee also
approved this year’s
Bartlett Program of
Studies, which includes
increasing the number of
credits to graduate to 160
starting with the Class of
2029, a new dual enroll-
ment early childhood pro-
gram that’s still in design,
a ninth-grade seminar on
study skills and expecta-
tions, and a new personal
finance class.

Gus Steeves can be
reached at gus.steeves2@
gmail.com.

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PILGRIMAGE
continued from page A1

150th anniversary of the Felician Sisters in North
America and the legacy of their foundress, Blessed
Mary Angela, St. Joseph School Religious Instructor
Sr. Mary Ann Papiez delivered an inspiring talk on
Mother Angela’s life and mission. With themes such
as From Nobility to Humility, She Didn’t Take “No” for
an Answer, A Pioneer for Woman’s Education, and Her
Vision Reached Across the Ocean, students gained
insight into the strength and vision of Blessed Mary
Angela.

Sr. Laureann Alexandrowicz followed with a moving
presentation on the pioneer sisters and shared the
story behind the Blessed Mary Angela tapestry that
once hung in St. Peter’s Square during her beatifica-
tion—now displayed at the Enfield convent chapel. She
also explained the meaning of an area on the public
side of the chapel decorated with an American flag,
poster of Mother Angela and the five pioneer sisters.
This brought the school’s history to life, as students
reflected on the sacred ties to the very sisters who
founded St. Joseph School in 1892.

A special moment of the day was a session held
in the community room led by Mrs. Beth Boudreau,
principal, Sr. Anita Marie Taddonio, Sr. Carol Marie
Saladin, and St. Joseph teachers, Mrs. Mary Ann
Weaver and Mrs. Karen Lefebvre. They gathered to
speak directly with the soon-to-be eighth graders. They
reminded the students that “Next year, you’re not just
eighth graders—you are the role models, the future
apostles of the school, the 2025-2026 edition!” They
were encouraged to be “Christ’s and Marys in training,
bringing love, guidance, and joy into every classroom
and hallway with a twinkle in their eyes and a helping
hand always ready.” They were challenged to lead with
laughter, love, and grace.

The fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students enjoyed
viewing parts of the chapel and singing a few favor-
ite songs until the seventh-grade class returned. The
pilgrimage ended with a prayer service entitled Being
Christ-like Role Models for the Rising Eighth
Graders led by Mrs. Boudreau. Mrs. Weaver read the
Gospel passage from Matthew: “You are the light of the
world, a city set on a hill cannot be hidden.” Sr. Carol
Marie and Sr. Anita Marie read a touching reflection,
urging the students to be a light of hope, kindness, and
Christ’s love. Mrs. Lefebvre prayerfully conducted the
Prayer of the Faithful, and Sr. Jeanne Marie led the
closing prayer.

Following the spiritual portion of the day, the stu-
dents enjoyed a short convent tour and then traveled
to Sonny’s Place in Somers, Conn. This family-friendly
entertainment center provided an afternoon of fun
with mini golf, go-karts, zipline rides, a carousel, and
more. The students were treated to a buffet-style lunch
including hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, chips,
and unlimited soda during their four-hour visit.

The field trip to Our Lady of Angels Convent offered
the students a meaningful way to encounter the mis-
sion and ministry of the Felician Sisters firsthand. By
touring the chapel and viewing the beautiful tapestry
for Mother Angela’s beatification in St. Peter’s Square,
the students connected deeply with the roots of the
school’s rich spiritual and educational heritage.

DUDLEY
continued from page A1

the Dudley Board of Selectmen were presented with a
letter that would have been sent to the college propos-
ing the PILOT agreement that would be known as the
Nichols College Community Initiative, but rather than
officially sending the letter the selectmen decided to
send an invitation to the college giving them a chance
to address the request in a public forum.

The concept of a PILOT agreement has been years
in the making although conversations between Dudley
and Nichols College have stalled numerous times.
Selectman Cyganiewicz sought to bring the topic
to the forefront leading the Board of Selectmen to
request the Assessor’s Office calculate the taxable
value of Nichols’s properties. That data concluded
that while the school does pay taxes on several parcels,
Nichols currently owns 15 tax-exempt properties in
Dudley with a combined assessed value of \$40,954,500.

A letter read into the July 14 Board of Selectmen
meeting minutes officially proposes a PILOT agree-
ment arguing that not only is it necessary to help
offset the burden on taxpayers but would also be
proactive as state lawmakers pursue a bill that would
require any tax-exempt organization owning property
valued at \$15 million or more to make payments of at
least 25 percent of the taxable value to their town. If
agreed upon in its current state, the agreement would
provide an initial PILOT payment of \$108,222.25 with
that number changing based on assessed property
values each budget year. The letter also acknowledges
that Nichols benefits from town-funded services which
have incurred increased costs of their own over the
years.

“This payment is not symbolic, it is
necessary,” the letter states, as read
by Selectman Chris Starczewski. “The
requested amount reflects only a por-
tion of the financial burden the town
assumes annually to support services
that benefit both Dudley residents and
the Nichols College community alike.”

Selectmen debated officially sending
the letter to the college, but Selectman
Steve Sullivan argued they should
change their approach and instead issue
an invitation to the school to appear
before the board for a discussion in open
forum. The board voted to hold the letter
until they determine if the college is
interested in having a public meeting on
the matter. As of this writing, the town
of Dudley could not confirm an official
meeting date between the two parties.
While the college had several items of
discussion on the Board of Selectmen’s
July 28 agenda, none were pertaining to
the PILOT agreement.

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WEBSTER - 24 COOPER RD
NEW CONSTRUCTION Craftsman Style Home! Tucked away on Cooper Rd. Webster Lake w/Access at Lakeside Beach/Boat Ramp. 3rd of 4 Homes being built at this Site. Offers 2,155 SF +/- of Living Area, 7 Rms, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 9' Ceilings. Open Concept Plan. Wood Flooring Throughout w/Ceramic Tile Floors in the Baths. Spacious Main BR Suite w/Walk-in Closet & Private Full Bath, Double-Sink Vanity! Lower level walkout w/Slider. Basement-rough plumbed for future expansion. FHA Heat & Central AC! Garage **\$649,900.**

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



THOMPSON - 34 BONNETTE AVE
In Beautiful Bonnette Acres! Handsome & well-maintained 3-bedroom, 2-bath Split entry home! Cathedral Ceiling living room & Sunroom! Generator, Extensive irrigation system. 2 Car Garage.
assisted sale **\$449,900**



WEBSTER - 18 GRAYSTONE AVE
Welcome to this "CLASSIC CAPE" offering the perfect blend of modern amenities. Recently remodeled open concept kitchen living room & dining area featuring granite countertops, new flooring & recent appliances. Updates include roof, windows, doors, Roth oil tank & Hot Water Heater (2021). New heating system in 2023. This is a "GEM" Possibility of a 4th bedroom/home office. 1 car under **\$405,000**



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WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT LIVING AT IT'S FINEST! ** THE VILLA'S at SNUG HARBOR! ** END UNIT** IS TRULY A RARE FIND! ONE of ONLY 6 UNITS > Custom Built THIS 4000+/- SF w/Special Features & Upgrades. Offers 4 BRs - 3 are Primary BR Suites w/private baths, 4-1/2 Baths Total!! The Outstanding direct lakefront location provides exceptional Southern panoramic views across Middle Pond, a boat dock, & full recreation activities like swimming, fishing, kayaking, paddle boarding -- whatever Floats Your Boat :-) ! Perfect setup for entertaining family, friends & guests! Enjoy All 4 Spectacular Seasons! It's more than a home - it's a Life Style!
NEW PRICE \$1,075,000



WEBSTER - 11 PARK RD.
ON DEPOSIT
MASSIVE TWO FAMILY! Off the beaten path, on a rarely traveled side road! Each apartment boasts 1,372 SF +/- of living area ~ the 1st floor Apt has 6 Rms, 4 BRs & Full Bath. The 2nd Floor Apt has 6 Rms, 3 BRs & Full Bath. Updated Boilers w/ Hot Water Storage Tanks Heat by Natural Gas.
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STURBRIDGE - 66 WESTWOOD DR
1640' FRONTAGE - 11.61 ACRES!
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SORRY, SOLD!
1640' direct waterfront on Cedar Lake! Secluded 11.61 Acres - Pristine, Undeveloped, Private & Serene! Potential for up to 5 house lots! 119' road front w/Gravel Drive Access to Land & Lake! 183' Cedar Lake is full recreational- A Once in a Lifetime Opportunity!
\$999,000



WEBSTER- 4 PERRYVILLE RD
ON DEPOSIT
Hip Roof ranch! Move In Ready. Updated Kitchen. Formal Dining Rm, Living Rm.(18x13) Great Rm. 3+ BRs & full updated Bath w/Tub. Hardwood floors. Fireplace.Quality Owens-Corning finished basement system. 3 large LL rooms & 2nd Full Bath, kitchen area w/cabinets & refrigerator. Morton Barn Style Garage .39 acre **\$435,000**



Webster Lake - 53 Colonial Rd
WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT!
JUST SIMPLY AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY! OVER 31,000 SQ FT OF LAND! Summer Cottage on 9482 SF of land.Commanding view, breathtaking Western Sunsets + 5 Waterfront Lots across the street, on 4 of the 5 possibly buildable.
assisted sale **\$1,199,900**



Webster Lake Waterfront 88 Union Point
SORRY, SOLD!
Excellent opportunity! Natural Facing Shoreline- Beautiful Sunsets - Views of Middle to North Pond! 7,000 +/- Sq. Ft. Waterfront Lot! Fireplaced living room ! 12 X 30 one car garage.
\$660,000



Webster Lake Waterfront 8 Long Island
ON DEPOSIT
Beautifully Updated Circa 1890s Classic Antique Island Cottage, with Rare Boat House Included! Extremely Unique, Clean & Well Maintained, Modern Conveniences w/the Charm of Yesterday! 1,240 SF, 6 Rms, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, Hardwood Floors! Fireplace w/Wood Pellet Stove, Wrap-Around Screened Porch, Lg Outbuilding w/full Bath/Showers/Laundry & Workshop. Patio! Town. Wtr/Svr + Private Well for Outdoor &/or Off-Season Water Use! 14,300 SF +/- Level Lot w/100s of Shoreline. Most Important of All - 25% Shared Ownership in a Mainland Waterfront Lot for Parking, Boat Docking & Winter Storage.
\$595,000



SORRY, SOLD!
WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT!
15 CEDAR POINT RD
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\$1,000,000



Webster Lake Waterfront Lots Bates Point Rd
In Beautiful, Calm, *Winter Cove*
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Master Masons gather for pig roast



Courtesy
From left to right Billy Aubin, Max Hanus, Brother Fred Aubin III, Brother Fred Aubin JR., Brother Clay Tull and Dave Mackenzie all smile after successfully removing the pig from the grill and resting it on the table before carving it up and serving it to the guests.

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

OXFORD — On Saturday, July 26, the Oxford Masonic Lodge parking lot was packed with Master Masons, their family and friends from the 24th Masonic District. Brother Fred Aubin Jr., from the Oxford Masonic Lodge, and Brother Clay Tull from the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge in Southbridge hosted this family fun event.

Brother Fred Aubin of Oxford, with the help of his sons and friends, along with Brother Clay Tull of Southbridge, started cooking the pig on Friday night at 11 p.m. The pig that they were roasting was about 120lbs and took about 15 hours to fully cook. There were cornhole games set up for the kids and adults to have fun. The pig that they were roasting sent an aroma in the air, and it was driving people crazy because it smelled so good. Also served were cooked pork butts, BBQ

Chicken, corn on the cob, pasta salad, potato salad, corn bread, Cole slaw, baked beans and much more.

Money raised at this great event will go towards the Lodges' needs and scholarship funds. It was great to see and hear people laughing. Children were running around laughing and having fun throwing water balloons at each other. Most of all the comradery and fellowship that Freemasonry is all about talking to other Brethrens, family and friends. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, go to www.massfreemasonry.org to find a lodge nearest you.

DA meets with interns



Courtesy
Interns with the Worcester Judicial Youth Corps Program recently met Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr.

REGION — Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr. recently met local interns with the Worcester Judicial Youth Corps Program.

The program includes members representing several schools from throughout the county.

"It was an honor to speak to this year's Worcester Judicial Youth Corps Program interns," read a statement released by Early. "Throughout the summer, this great group of high school students will learn more about our court system from some of the best and brightest judges, lawyers, clerks, probation officers, and other court personnel."

To learn more about programs run by the DA's Office, visit www.worcesterda.com.

Local residents named to Clark University Dean's List

WORCESTER — The following local residents were named to Clark University's Spring 2025 Dean's List:

Sydney M. Lyons, of Auburn was named to first honors.
Isadora R. Johnson, of Auburn was named to second honors.
Morgan T. Ryan, of Auburn was named to second honors.
Rowyn E. Magee, of Dudley was named to first honors.
Kaila N. Donahue, of Oxford was named to first honors.
Lillian M. Nelson, of Dudley was named to first honors.
Dillon Taylor Palmer, of Oxford was named to first honors.
Sofia Poplawski, of Dudley was named to first honors.
Nicole Ucher, of North Oxford was named to first honors.

Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

Founded in 1887, Clark University is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow's most daunting challenges and embrace its greatest opportunities. Through 33 undergraduate majors, more than 30 advanced degree programs, and nationally recognized community partnerships, Clark fuses rigorous scholarship with authentic world and workplace experiences that empower our students to pursue lives and careers of meaning and consequence.



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