

# Auburn News

Friday, May 31, 2024

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**Bartlett Empty Bowls 2024 was another huge success! We raised \$4,000 for the Webster/Dudley Food Share.**  
Potters: Sean Harrington, Ivy Bucasas, Elise Malla, Jayden Blaisdell, Nazaiah Anokye, Ayden Do, Alianna Phelps, Caleb Cuenca Medina, Lillyanna Cannon, James Alkire, Hope Cooper, Isabella Rivera, Jizanie Alvarado, Savannah Bjork, Dakota Vaudreuil, Rakhiah Austell, Janessa Macario, Leximee Phanthavong.  
Click image for more info!

Courtesy

**Bartlett High School's 2024 Empty Bowls fundraiser was another huge success, raising \$4,000 for the Webster/Dudley Food Share. Pictured are potters Sean Harrington, Ivy Bucasas, Elise Malla, Jayden Blaisdell, Nazaiah Anokye, Ayden Do, Alianna Phelps, Caleb Cuenca Medina, Lillyanna Cannon, AJ James Alkire, Hope Cooper, Isabella Rivera, Jizanie Alvarado, Savannah Bjork, Dakota Vaudreuil, Rakhiah Austell, Janessa Macario, Leximee Phanthavong.**

## Dudley voters approve Audit Advisory Committee

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The town of Dudley held its annual Town Meeting on May 21 where citizens approved most items on the warrant, including a new budget. However, echoes of the controversial 2023 budget season still loomed leading to the creation of a new Audit Advisory Committee which proved to be the biggest talking point of the night.

The committee was proposed by citizen John Briare and was heavily discussed during a public hearing earlier in May. Briare's proposal stemmed from the lengthy budget season in 2023 that threatened town services and prolonged the process until a spending plan finally passed in August. In November Briare posted his initial proposals on social media intent on bringing the Audit Advisory Committee to the Spring Town Meeting. The final copy of the bylaw amendment received overwhelming support at the town meeting despite opposition from members of the Board of Selectmen. The final draft did take into consideration recommendations made by selectmen during the May 6 public hearing, including specifying the requirements of membership.

The decision effectively establishes a three-member committee that will choose an independent auditor every three years, review the financial statements and reports of the town, and report the findings back to the citizens. They will also be empowered to make recommendations on financial practices, public records policies and compliance, and expand audits if necessary. The membership will be made up of one individual appointed by the Board of Selectmen, Finance, Appropriation and Advisory Committee, and Town Moderator respectively with each member required to be a citizen of Dudley and to pass a CORI check conducted by the town.

Earlier in the night voters secured a budget for Fiscal Year 2025 which saw a much easier path to approval than last year's spending plan. The \$29.1 million budget passed by a wide margin and includes a general fund of \$10.7 million and a school budget of \$13.4 million. The town meeting also approved the revolving fund and water and sewer budget items as well as unpaid bill payments, purchasing a new police vehicle, and salary increases for the Treasurer/Collector and Town Clerk. However, a proposal to fund merit-based increases for non-union employees failed.

Two items from prior Board of Selectmen meetings were also addressed at the annual Town Meeting, albeit with much less debate than in previous months. A proposal for a waterline easement to allow the town to install permanent utility water lines along Eagle Drive was passed with no significant input from the public despite being the subject of a lengthy hearing earlier in the year. The proposal is considered a final solution to ongoing PFAS contamination issues in the area. The potential use of the Dye House Property on Ardlock Place to create a Centennial Park for Dudley's Tri-Centennial had also received heavy discussion earlier in 2024, but Despite a motion by the Board of Selectmen to pass over the item at the recommendation of the Historical Commission voters chose to act on the item voting down the proposed use of the space.

The rest of the warrant proved to be easy decisions for voters. The meeting approved mandatory dam inspections, amendments to town bylaws concerning shared driveway standards, the acquisition of land along the Quinebaug Rail Trail, and a Solicitors Bylaw proposed by the Dudley Police Department while tabling a proposed Noise Bylaw for the fall town meeting. A series of six citizen petitions were all passed over after Town Counsel had noted they were either unenforceable or would violate Massachusetts General Law. These petitions included term limits for town offices, requiring the town to clear all private and public streets of sand and snow, cutting real estate taxes for those over 65 by 50 percent, requiring that only registered US citizens with valid IDs can vote, reducing Dudley's real estate taxes by 20 percent, and increasing the required majority for Proposition 2 ½ override votes to 75 percent. Citizens were given the option to make a symbolic vote on the items but chose to pass them over instead by a small margin.

## Oxford Town Meeting funds schools fully

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — A fairly contentious Town Meeting earlier this month gave the schools the budget hike they wanted by adding \$509,796 to the manager's proposed budget. Afterward, the voters funded it with money from the Stabilization Fund, thus making this year's total budget almost \$48.6 million.

School Committee Chair Corey Burke proposed the first change, while his colleague David Cornacchioli proposed the second. The two, and others, argued the schools needed to get all of the additional Chapter 70 money the state had given Oxford, saying Boston had increased it specifically because of the town's growing student body and needs.

While she agreed with that point, Town Manager Jen Callahan tried to make a case that the costs of fulfilling the town/school agreement had also risen on the town side. She said the town's use of Chapter 70 would be going to the schools, in the form of paying for increased costs in insurance, retirement, unemployment and school choice/charter assessments. Chapter 70 funds, she noted, aren't just for things in the schools themselves.

A stream of town department heads talked

about what they thought shifting the money from the General Government budget would do to their departments. After Burke's motion passed, Robert King proposed a way to partially fund it by taking about half the money from the General Government side of the ledger. After some debate and a proposal to delay the budget to late June that failed, Town Meeting rejected King's proposal by a 77-168 vote.

That opened the door for Cornacchioli's idea. Matt Pearson said the schools will keep needing more money "year over year" going forward, but "we can't continually fund it from Stabilization." He dubbed it "kicking the can down the road" because Town Meeting wouldn't be putting enough back into that account.

Callahan agreed, saying it "will impact borrowing" for the already-approved school renovations, and the state "extremely frowns on exactly what we're doing."

But the majority sided with Palmira Griffin, who said, "Our kids deserve the money the state has given."

Later, the voters also supported \$2 million in capital projects. That item sparked some debate over demolishing the his-

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## Board of Health approves revised housing regulation

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The Dudley Board of Health has approved a revised version of new housing regulations geared toward increased accountability for landlords of non-owner-occupied buildings.

In April, the Board of Health held a public hearing where numerous landlords issued complaints about the proposal. The continued hearing on May 21 received very little added input from the public with the revised regulations approved by the Board of Health without significant debate or controversy.

The regulation proposed in April included a registration fee as well as up to two annual inspection fees. The intent behind the document was to address potential issues concerning landlord and tenant accountability, protecting tenants from landlords that neglect their properties while also protecting landlords from tenants who purposely destroy or damage properties to avoid paying rent. However, many landlords felt it would be an added financial burden while at least one local tenant felt it would be a violation of her privacy. Some landlords recommended the program be made optional while comments from the Board of Health

sought to reduce the fees. Health Agent Patrick Hannon explained that the document was trimmed down significantly eliminating or altering many of the aspects of the previous proposal that had led to the backlash.

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"This has been drastically cut back. There are no fees. There are no registrations. This will only apply to rental units that have had violations in the last two years, 2022 and 2023. If you go through 2024 with no violations, you fall off the list. It's really only for one year if you have any new violations," said Hannon.

He clarified that they began with 2022 because that was when the town started using electronic software for housing inspections, meaning the town will have more precise records from 2022 onward to better execute the policy. The approved document essentially means that from now on any landlord of a non-owner-occupied rental property will be subject to added scrutiny for at least twelve months after a recorded violation.

Board of Health member Jennifer Cournoyer said she felt the policy was a good compromise, adding "I do think it's been trimmed down to the bare bones. I think it's a great way that we handle the

REGULATION page A12

## Bronze Junior ROTC Medal awarded

OXFORD — The General Ebenezer Learned Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter of Oxford is proud to announce the recipient of the Bronze Junior ROTC Medal from Oxford High School is Cadet Reese Reynolds.

This is awarded to either a junior or senior student in a high school/secondary school JROTC program that shows outstanding ability and achievement in high

school ROTC programs of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Space Force. Recipients must have demonstrated loyalty and patriotism and earned a record of military and scholastic achievement during their participation in an ROTC program. Students must be in the upper 25 percent of their classes in military and academic subjects. They must have shown qualities of dependabil-

ity and good character, adherence to military discipline, leadership ability, and a fundamental and patriotic understanding of the importance of ROTC training. Congratulations to Cadet Reynolds.

The Daughters of the American Revolution is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization. DAR members are dedicated to

promoting preservation, education and patriotism in communities across the nation. All students are invited to participate and learn more about the educational programs the DAR offers. Educators, parents and students are encouraged to contact their local DAR chapters for more detailed information on these programs.

Cadet Reese Reynolds and Regent Helen Poirier.



# Cornerstone Bank offers financial literacy program in Spanish for residents at Hector Reyes House

**WORCESTER** — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, recently held a series of four financial literacy classes in Spanish for residents of the Hector Reyes House in Worcester. In addition to providing individualized residential substance abuse treatment, the House offers educational programs designed to help participants with independent living.

“We place tremendous importance on education and pride ourselves on our dedication to furthering the knowledge of our community,” said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. “We have continued to grow and expand our financial literacy classes, and this Spanish-language program is another step toward increasing access. We offered 114 programs in 2022 and 204 in 2023. Our goal in 2024 is to continue this growth, with a focus on underserved populations. We want to provide all the people in the communities we serve with the knowledge they need

to make sound financial decisions.”

Cornerstone Bank employees Joel Laureano, assistant vice president, senior market manager; and Ivori Hidalgo Batista, human resource intern; conducted the classes in Spanish. Content included:

How to manage and balance a checking account

The importance of savings accounts and tips for saving

The difference between a cashier's check and a money order

Understanding ATM cards, credit cards and debit cards

What “insufficient funds” means

How mobile banking works

How to fill out deposit and withdrawal slips, write a check and read a paycheck

What credit and a credit score are, why they are important and how to build credit

How to calculate debt to income ratio, what it means and why it's

important

Debt consolidation

How to identify red flags and tips to help avoid scams and fraud

After completing all four classes, participants were invited to open savings and checking accounts at Cornerstone Bank, even if they had been turned down in the past due to their financial history.

About Cornerstone Bank  
Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the

community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, 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 tag line, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit [cornerstonebank.com](http://cornerstonebank.com) or call 800-939-9103.

## Country Bank opens new Worcester location

**WORCESTER** — Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, is pleased to announce the opening of its fourth banking center in Worcester at 1393 Grafton St. The new location will officially open on Monday, June 3.

Country Bank's expansion in Worcester is a testament to its commitment to reinvesting in its communities and providing a valuable resource for customers and community members. Country Bank offers a comprehensive full-service support team equipped with banking center specialists trained to assist customers with all their banking needs, and ensuring financial security and exceptional customer service.

Country Bank invites the public to participate in a week-long celebration filled with exciting activities and giveaways. Customers and visitors can participate in drawings for local gift cards, WooSox tickets, giveaways, and free delicious treats from Wholly Cannoli. The Worcester Red Sox's Smiley Ball and Country Bank's mascot, Buck, will be on hand to entertain on Friday, June 21 from 10 a.m. - noon. All are invited

to join in the June 18 ribbon-cutting ceremony at 3 p.m. attended by dignitaries and members from Country Bank's team and Board of Trustees.

In addition to its commitment to customer service, Country Bank actively supports the City of Worcester through philanthropy and volunteerism efforts. The bank has made generous donations and has dedicated numerous volunteer hours to various community causes. Country Bank is one of the 21 founding partners of the Worcester Red Sox, and an active supporter of more than 210 local nonprofits in 2024.

Nathan Bourgeois, Retail Banking Officer, will lead the new Worcester location assisted by Lily Figueroa, Assistant Manager. Nathan joined the bank as the Assistant Manager at the Tatnuck Square location in 2022 and is ready to welcome new and existing customers to the Grafton Street Banking Center. Nathan is an active volunteer for a variety of Worcester nonprofits, attends after-hours business events, and enjoys making connections with colleagues in the city.

The Grafton Street Banking Center hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday-Wednesday, Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. Extended hours are offered through ITMs at this location from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

About Country Bank  
Country Bank is a full-service \$1.8B mutual community bank serving central and western Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield,

Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, and Worcester. With a commitment to personalized service and community involvement, Country Bank offers individuals, businesses, and municipalities a comprehensive range of banking products and services. Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at [countrybank.com](http://countrybank.com).

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**PET of the WEEK**





**BAYPATH HUMANE SOCIETY OF HOPKINTON**  
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**Meet: Kaylee, 11 years**

Are you looking to help a senior pup find a home? If you answered yes, then please consider Ms. Kaylee! This sweet lady came from a tough life, but that hasn't stopped her from having a heart of gold. At around 11 years old, Kaylee is definitely slowing down but still enjoys a relaxed stroll on the sidewalk and playing with her favorite toys. Her favorite spot is her comfy bed or on the couch next to her people! She's such a love and enjoys nothing more than a good snuggle. Kaylee has lived with dogs before so wouldn't mind having a dog sibling, as long as they don't mind kicking back and relaxing alongside her.

If you think your home could be the place Kaylee spends her golden years, please reach out today!

Apply for Kaylee at [baypathhumane.org](http://baypathhumane.org)



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Dudley Middle School congratulates its Students of the Month. 5th Grade - Braden Traverso, Brynlee Chickering, Maya Rousey, & Ivy St. Laurent; 6th Grade - William Antos, Oltina Bektashi, & Ahrienna Spear; 7th Grade - Miranda Carlson, Charity Acquaah-Mensah, & Mariah Morse; and 8th Grade - Graham Zimmer, Cadence Kilderry, & Kamil Trujillo Reyes.

Courtesy

# Local Cub Scout earns prestigious STEM Award

DOUGLAS — William Hughes, age 10, of Cub Scout Pack 316 was recently awarded the Dr. Charles Townes Supernova Award. Supernova awards recognize superior achievement by a Cub Scout in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

According to Scouting America's official Web site: "The [BSA] developed the STEM Nova Awards program to excite and expand a sense of wonder in our Scouts. By working with an adult counselor or mentor, the various modules allow them to explore the basic principles of STEM and discover how fun and fascinating STEM can be. The Supernova awards are offered for those who enjoy a super challenge."

Each Supernova award is named after a famous inventor or scientist. To earn his Supernova award, William had to learn about Dr. Townes, in addition to completing other science and math activities.

"Dr. Townes developed the use of lasers in astronomy and earned the Nobel Prize in 1964," shares Hughes.

He also conducted several studies and experiments which helped him learn about math, statistics, and the scientific method.

"My favorite experiment was learning about the energy created from burning different types of candy. Candies with higher sugar content burned brighter and longer!" he explained.



William Hughes

Along with other members of his Cub Scout den and school, he visited science museums, grew rock crystals, and did an investigation into the science of food

packaging.

Scouts also have to research a career in a STEM-related field to earn their Supernova recognitions. Hughes met with a civil engineer, and found that there was several different types of science and math involved.

"I think the best part of a civil engineer's job would be able to construct bridges- building them and making them hold as much weight as possible. You have to be able to use different materials and different designs to make a bridge that could hold cars or trains," he said.

As a Cub Scout who has spent a year earning the prestigious Supernova Award, Hughes wants to share his knowledge with others.

"Math and science are very important because they're everywhere. Not just a science project or a math test, but in everyday life. Whenever I am working on Minecraft, I am using math and simple equations to build certain buildings. When my family is baking cookies or making a cake we are using science. The way the ingredients interact with each other at different times and different temperatures—it's all explained by science. Math and Science help us understand things that we experience in life," he said.

Supernova awards are available for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, and Venture Scouts.

They are challenging to earn— less than 1 percent of Cub Scouts in the Heart of New England Council have earned it in the past year. If you're interested in joining Pack 316, reach out to douglaspack316@gmail.com. Check out www.beascout.org for other local Scout units. You can also support all the adventures Scouting has to offer by visiting <https://trails-end.com/store/scout/L180AYLT>.



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Courtesy

Last Wednesday, Marianapolis Preparatory School, located in Connecticut, came out to visit Park Avenue Elementary. The students ranged from grades nine through 12, and were there to facilitate play with The Park Avenue Students. "The students colored, played basketball or just did whatever the students wanted to play," said Matthew Aronian, The Dean of Students. The students did a great job making sure the students were having fun but being safe. "My favorite game was Apples to Apples," said Amarillis Santiago, a fourth grader at Park Avenue Elementary. The Park Administration has worked hard this year at making sure there is safe play at recess which stems from our PBIS initiatives in The Webster Public School System.

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## Assumption students named to Dean's List

WORCESTER — Assumption University has announced those who have been named to the University's Dean's List for the spring 2024 semester. Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters.

Elizabeth Cormier of Webster  
Adam Ide of Dudley  
Julie Jean Jacques of Webster  
Cassandra Pryor of Dudley  
Eric Giarnese of Dudley  
Madison Piehler of Webster  
Brooke Leblanc of Dudley  
Sebastian Podgorny of Oxford  
Morgan Smith of Webster  
Isabella Direda of Oxford  
Benjamin Duquette of Webster  
Laura Byrne of Auburn  
Georgia Pokropowicz of Auburn  
Robert Russell of Auburn  
Owen Fitzgerald of Auburn

Assumption University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is a premier New England University for high-quality education, integrating career preparation and education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and centuries-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption's graduates are known for their intellectual seriousness, thoughtful citizenship, and dedication to the common good. Located in Worcester, Massachusetts, Assumption has undergone a series of major advancements since transitioning to a university, including new academic buildings, degree programs, and athletic facilities for our NCAA Division II student athlete population. The University offers 38 majors and 50 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, nursing, and professional studies, and other areas, as well as graduate degrees and professional credentials. For more information about Assumption University, please visit [www.assumption.edu](http://www.assumption.edu).

## Amropali Karmakar makes Academic Achievement List at Georgia Southwestern State University

AMERICUS, Ga. — Amropali Karmakar, a resident of Auburn, made the Spring 2024 Academic Achievement List at Georgia Southwestern State University and was among 730 students recognized for scholastic achievement.

To be eligible for the Academic Achievement List, a student must previously earn at least 12 credit hours at GSW, be enrolled in 3 to 11 hours of courses, and earn a 3.5 or higher GPA.

Georgia Southwestern State University, located in Americus, Ga., is a public, four-year unit of the University System of Georgia with approximately 3,500 students. Georgia Southwestern offers outstanding professional programs of study as well as degrees in the arts, humanities, sciences and graduate programs in business, computer science, education, English, and nursing. Founded in 1906, Georgia Southwestern is recognized as one of the best value colleges in the nation. Visit [www.gsw.edu](http://www.gsw.edu) for more information.

## Regis College students named to Dean's List

WESTON — Regis College proudly announces the Spring 2024 Dean's List.

"Being named to the Dean's List is a testament to students' persistent commitment to their academic journey throughout the semester," said Dr. Mary Erina Driscoll, PhD, the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. "At Regis, we prioritize the development of students' character and confidence, equipping them with the skills they need for a successful career and life of meaning. Recognition on the Dean's List reflects ones resolute dedication to academic excellence."

To earn a spot on the Dean's List, Regis sophomores, juniors, seniors, and professional studies students must have a GPA of 3.5 or higher; first-year students must have a GPA of 3.25 or higher. Additional criteria can be found in Regis' Academic Catalog.

The following students were recognized on the Spring 2024 Dean's List:

Samantha Gevry of Dudley  
Diana Pickett of Oxford  
Caitlin Young of Webster  
Samantha Stokes of Auburn

Regis College is a coed university 12 miles west of Boston in Weston, Mass. founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston nearly a century ago. With more than 3,200 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students enrolled on campus and in fully online graduate programs, Regis provides an academically rigorous education within the schools of nursing, arts and sciences, business and communication, and health sciences. In line with Regis' mission of providing innovative, industry-focused learning opportunities, the university offers academic partnerships with hospitals and local employers, a clinical dental center in Waltham, Mass., and bachelor's completion and accelerated nursing programs at its campus in Lawrence, Mass. The university's 20 NCAA Division III athletic teams compete within the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC). Regis challenges, inspires, and supports students who are driven by passion, purpose, and a pursuit to positively impact the world within a learning community that embraces inclusivity and innovation and builds strong character, confidence, and careers. Visit [regiscollege.edu](http://regiscollege.edu) to learn more.

## SENIORS NAMED TO BAY PATH HONOR ROLL

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School congratulates the following students in grade 12 on being named to the honor roll for the third quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

High Honors  
Sophia Balestracci,  
Rachel Carpenter,  
Meredith Clark, Kirsten Congdon, Mariselle Cosme, Zachary Cournoyer, Daniel Daige, Emma Davidson, Dylan DeJesus, Marissa Dumas, Jenna Gajewski, Simon Greening, Lucas Hafner, Tristan Hanson, Anna Lehtola, Kristina Liberty, Leah Monti, Kayla Nguyen, Peter Nhan, Madison Nolin, Nason Omasta, Noalani Perez, Paige Seymour, Jacob Sirard, Victoria Tinsley, Hailey Williamson, Gabrielle Zopatti

Honors  
Alexander Adkins,  
Kaidra Anderson, Kasey

Babkuaskas, Colton Beauchamp, Angeliz Beltre Colon, Alex Beshiri, Jaden Blake, Luke Boliver, Caroline Borgeson, Andrew Bousquet, Emma Bransky, Ryan Bray, Samuel Brill, Vincent Brink, Kayla Brown, Samantha Buchanan, Caitlyn Burke, Gabriella Cabrera, Olivia Carrier, Natalie Cierpich, Petru Cojocar, Yanieris Colon Vega, Karoline Corpes Diaz, Richard Corriveau, Peter Courville, Kyleigh Czechowski, Wyatt Daoust, Emma DeJong, Jeffrey Denham, Jibril Erraihani, James Ferreira, Kacey Flanagan, Robert Fleck IV, Chase Forehand, Jonathan Forget, Ethan Gallant, Sabien Gonzalez, Raceh Gormley, Makayla Graham, Bridget Hast, Riley Heenan, Isabelle Herholz, James Heywood, Carly Impey, Ian James, Stanislaw Janusz, Madisyn Kozlowski, Braeden LaPointe,

Benjamin LaTour, Emma Levasseur, Kai Lukasek, Andrew Lunn, Patrick Luperchio, Catherine Magnusson, Ava Marotta, Sarah Martin, Matteo Mastrototaro, Shaun McLaughlin, Jenna McLeish, Vincent Messier, Adrianna Navarro, Christian Nguyen, Alix Norman, Avelyn O'Brien, Noah Okolita, Gianna Pantalone, Colin Plante, Laci Pollone, Jared Powell, Logan Powers, Evan Provost, Emily Quental, Wendy Ramirez, Victoria Roberts, Caterina Schiappa, Amanda Seidler, Ryan Sinkewich, Jason Sinkis, Catherine Sirard, Gerald Splaine, Brady Staniunas, Adriana Stanley, Lacey Sullivan, Kyle Sylwanovicz, Jackson Taiste, Christopher Verdolino, Landon Walker, Timothy Welch, Thomas Wilk, Charlotte Worster, Stone Zink

Aidan Anderson, Eyan Chase, Jomar Cintron Perez, Deanna Davis, Jayden-James Dunston, Nicholas Gagne, Devin Gavaletz, Alba Henriquez Baez, Valerie Hernandez, Derek Hosley, Eva Jerez, Abigail Kibaru, Matthew Lach, Julianna Laforce, Abigayle Linde, Albert Luciano, Hannah Luukko, Jadier Maldonado, Marissa Masciarelli, Logan McCann, Macaylah Miller, Matthew Mullen, Megan O'Shea, Brayden Parente, Syllas Perreault, Dominic Pigeon, Ismael Porrata, Gabrielle Proulx, Jacob Reed, Gabriela Rivera Burgos, Daniel Russell, Margaret Russell, Samantha Russell, Connor Sentence, Kayliana Sevieri, Sydney Seymour, Madison Sibert, Brady Suprenant, Yasmin Tolomio, Ryleigh Warchal, Genesis Williams-Heath, Sebastian Winer

Principal's List

## Local students graduate from College of the Holy Cross

WORCESTER — Holy Cross celebrated 751 Bachelor of Arts degree recipients at its 178th Commencement held in person on Friday, May 24 at the DCU Center in Worcester. Dr. Laurie Leshin, director of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and former president of Worcester Polytechnic Institute delivered this year's address to the Class of 2024 and received an honorary degree.

In her remarks, Leshin spoke about the forward-looking, visionary pioneers who have paved the way for space exploration success throughout the years, and stressed the importance of being audacious and pushing boundaries.

"So this is my challenge to you, Class of 2024 - to dare mighty things together," said Leshin. "You certainly inherit an imperfect world. A planet, a society, with flaws. But I have faith in you."

"You have the vision. You have the intelligence and the drive. And if you can you think big, pursue audacious ideas, and do so with passion and commitment, mind-blowing things are possible."

In addition to Leshin, Holy Cross also awarded an honorary degree to Rev. Paul F. Harman, S.J., a longtime Holy Cross administrator who played a key role in the College's transition to coeducation 50 years ago.

The following local students earned degrees:

Kelsey Connor, of Webster, Magna Cum Laude  
Kaylee Fradsham, of Oxford  
Christina Bui of Auburn, Cum Laude  
About Holy Cross

The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, is among the nation's leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,200 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Some of the best memories are made in flip flops

With Memorial Day weekend in the rearview mirror, summer is (unofficially, at least) in full swing, with everyone walking around with a sun-kissed glow. Apart from mild weather, lush green forests, swimmable rivers and lakes and beautiful flowers, there are significant health benefits to these summer months.

Sunlight aids in regulating our systems. During the summer months there is a reduced rate of heart attacks. One study revealed that those who suffered a heart attack during the summer had survival rates increase by 19 percent. Vitamin D is said to play a role in protecting the heart as well as regulating calcium and phosphorus absorption.

Individuals tend to eat lighter and healthier in the summer, consuming more fruits and vegetables, which boosts our immune system. Produce is in abundance, whether it's at the local farmer's market or in our own back yards. Bring on the watermelon! The sun, can also cure many skin issues, such as psoriasis, dermatitis and acne, however this doesn't mean we can skip the sunscreen.

Summertime encourages us to get out and exercise. Getting the blood pumping creates endorphins and initiates and improves the flow of oxygen to the brain, which in turn lowers stress, and can aid in productivity in other areas of our lives. The longer days also afford us zero excuse to get out and get it done.

Because of the warmer temperatures, we automatically increase our water intake. This promotes digestion and flushes the toxins from our bodies.

Sleep disorders tend to fall by the wayside or improve during the summer due to the sun's early morning exposure. Experts say getting sunshine between 7 and 9 a.m. every morning, will help you sleep better at night.

Spending time with friends, family and community increases in the summer which is key to our mental health. During summer months there are more outdoor activities that bring folks together such as band concerts, farmer's markets, campfires, which are all great places to catch up with our neighbors.

Most people tend to go on vacation during the summer, reducing stress and burnout. More and more people are realizing just how important it is to take a breather.

Summertime helps us to feel more footloose and fancy free. There is also an overall feeling of relaxation and joy, over simple things like reading a book on the front porch, sipping sun tea or the smell of fresh cut grass.

The rivers flow wildly in the mountains and the lakes remain calm for fisherman to drop a line and float about, letting all cares melt away as the sunlight dances off the small ripples and waves. Mountain summits are picture perfect with blue skies, white clouds, vibrant green trees with glistening rocks, oftentimes creating scenes that don't even look real.

Take advantage of the season and savor every moment. In the words of the great writer Henry James, "Summer afternoon-summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

VIEWPOINT

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

Humble doubts and questions can lead to faith

How many of us have some doubts mingled with our faith? How about certain skepticism about fundamental tenets of the faith? For example, what questions arise in your mind when thinking of Jesus' resurrection from the dead? Or when we think of bread and wine becoming the holy Body and Blood of Christ? Or what happens when we immerse someone in water in the Mystery of Holy Baptism?

Do you have some doubts, questions, and even skepticism? Some may think that such wrestling implies there's something wrong with our faith. That it is too weak or feeble. And yet, this isn't necessarily true. Doubts, questions and even skepticism may simply be stepping stones to a greater faith. And yet they also may be a subtle drifting away from faith. What is the difference and how can we use our doubts, questions, and skepticism to grow in our faith?

Let's begin with the greatest miracle that we celebrate and highlight in a special way during this 40 day Paschal season. From the day of Easter, we emphasize that Jesus Christ rising from the dead is the very cornerstone of our Orthodox Christian Faith. Following Jesus isn't first and foremost about "Do's and Don'ts," about obeying some moralistic standards. No, our faith is above all else the Good News that Jesus Christ victoriously rose from the dead and destroyed death itself! We're talking about the ultimate victory of good over evil, of life over death, of light over darkness, of Christ over Satan. And yet, this miracle of miracles seems quite unbelievable and even impossible.

Of course, in the first century it was a strange teaching that many people couldn't accept! St. Paul put it most bluntly, however, when he states that if the resurrection isn't true, then the entire faith in Christ is meaningless! If the resurrection is a fairy tale, then we Christians are the greatest fools of all, because we believe in a lie. If Christ is not risen, then we are all dead in our sins. The Apostle Paul goes on to say, if Christ is not risen, then instead of trying to live a disciplined, Christ-centered life of sacrificial love, grace and mercy, instead we should just eat, drink and be happy. Just enjoy the moment and the day, for there is nothing after death!

Well, many people in our contemporary world have accepted such skepticism and fully embrace a life without resurrection, and thus a life without ultimate meaning. In fact, although some people may grudgingly accept a certain moral value in Christianity, they reject its very foundation - Christ's Resurrection itself.

Doubt and uncertainty certainly existed in the first century. Even the disciples of Jesus found it hard to accept the resurrection as a reality. They witnessed his cruel and terrible death, and couldn't initially believe in the miracle of resurrection. Maybe this is why the Church dedicates the first Sunday after Easter to "doubting Thomas," to the disciple who initially doubted the authenticity of Christ's Resurrection.

Do you remember the story of Thomas? The Risen Jesus first appears to His disciples in the upper room on the day of His Resurrection. The apostles amazingly looked upon their crucified Lord alive and standing in their midst! They couldn't believe it, yet their eyes didn't deceive them. Christ was truly risen and alive!

The disciples rejoiced and were filled with hope. Yet, one of Christ's followers, Thomas, wasn't present when He appeared to the others. When his colleagues enthusiastically told Thomas "We have seen the Lord!" he represented skeptics of every future generation when he announced, "Unless I see the mark of nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

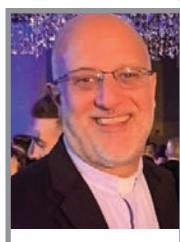
"Unless I see... I will not believe." How many of us can relate with Thomas? We have doubts. We are uncertain and unsure about believing what the Church has taught us.

We may even wonder if it's ok for a Christian to have such doubts? Our Lord Jesus did say, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe!"

Yet, we need to distinguish between the different types of doubt. Certain doubt and questions may lead us to drift away from our faith and from a vibrant relationship with God. Yet, other doubts and questions may actually feed our faith and lead us into a more intimate relationship with our Lord.

If we have doubts or uncertainties, let's think about the spirit behind our questions and skepticism.

The first doubt that people may experience can be called ARROGANT DOUBT. This doubt finds its roots in our ego and pride. We don't want to believe



BEYOND THE PEWS

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

because we think that we are above such foolish faith. We know more than the Church. Its faith is antiquated and out of touch with modernity. Over the past several centuries, especially since the Enlightenment Period, much of the Western world has wrestled with such arrogant and rebellious doubt. Many so-called great thinkers of this age simply don't want to believe in the Resurrection, or in the idea of an Almighty God who works outside of our human logic and reason. Such thinkers find it hard to accept anything greater than the human mind. Such "enlightened" people prefer to consider themselves gods, and thus, reject anything that doesn't fit into their human logic. Such arrogant doubt sees NO VALUE in faith or in any spiritual journey.

A second type of doubt we may call WAVERING DOUBT. Surely uncertainty comes to us in moments of weakness. We don't want to doubt, but we may allow different thoughts to enter our minds during moments of temptation and weakness, and we may not be too sure of what truth is. In moments like this, we express doubt in issues of faith. This doubt has value only in reminding us of what weak creatures we are, and how the devil continually used temptation to lead us astray. We should address such wavering doubt in humility, guarding our minds and hearts while seeking answers from God. Questions and doubt aren't bad, as long as we sincerely seek out the answers. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." Christ offers truth, absolute truth. The question is whether we will take the time and make the effort to seek after ultimate Truth, or simply accept the skepticism and cynicism of modern humanity.

The third type of doubt we may name HUMBLE DOUBT. This doubt comes to someone who is uncertain. They may simply state the obvious - for example a belief in someone resurrecting from the dead seems impossible! And yet, while admitting this logic, they are still open to be proven wrong. They humbly remain open to a faith that works outside the human perspective. They realize that, ultimately, God is a Mystery who can do anything He wants and thus, they remain open to God's Holy Spirit. Yes, we may not be sure, but are we humble enough to learn, and to be corrected? In fact, such humble doubt can lead us to learn something new and grow in their faith?

In the story about the Apostle Thomas' doubt, he surely had the third type - an honest doubt. He questioned the truth of Christ's Resurrection because he witnessed His gruesome death. Even though Thomas saw Jesus raise a child who had died, and then raise the widow's son in his funeral procession, and then even raise up His friend Lazarus who was in the tomb for four days, still he found it difficult to believe that Jesus resurrected on the third day! Yet, he remained open to being proven wrong. In fact, he wanted to be proven wrong. Remember, honest doubt can play an important role in increasing our faith! True faith rarely comes without questions, without struggles, without a sincere search and longing for truth. Honest doubt teaches us to stay humble, to learn and to grow. Without questions, we remain babies in our faith.

The significance of St. Thomas' doubt was that he remained open to God, and immediately changed his beliefs when encountering the Risen Lord Jesus. Thomas didn't accept the witness of his friends, yet when he saw the Christ alive a week later, he immediately believed and made the great profession of faith, "My Lord and My God!" His honest doubt opened the door to an increased faith, which led him to see Jesus not only as his Master and teacher but even as his Lord and God!

This revelation and renewed faith led the Apostle Thomas to travel as far as India in order to proclaim the Good News of Christ's Resurrection from the dead. Obviously, St. Thomas' sincere and honest doubt of initially not believing Jesus alive changed into such a faith that he would travel thousands of miles in order to obey Christ and go forth to all nations.

So, let us think about our own doubts and questions. What can we say about the doubts we harbor in our own hearts and minds? The central question we all must ask ourselves is this: "Am I sincerely and earnestly searching for answers to my questions and doubts, or have I remained content with my skepticism and cynicism of faith? If I have doubts, am I willing to seek to understand my faith at a deeper level."

The Orthodox Christian faith is unapologetic about its claims of the

Turn To BEYOND page A7

Don't let investments take a vacation



FINANCIAL FOCUS  
DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

Summertime is almost here — and for many people, that means it's time to hit the road. But even if you decide to take a vacation, you'll want other areas of your life to keep working — especially your investments.

So, how can you prevent your investments, and your overall financial strategy, from going on "vacation?" Here are a few suggestions:

Check your progress. You want your investments to be working hard for you, so you'll need to check on their performance periodically — but be careful about how you evaluate results. Don't compare your portfolio's results against those of a market index, such as the S&P 500, which tracks the stock performance of 500 large U.S. companies listed on American stock exchanges. This comparison may not be particularly valid because your own portfolio ideally should include a range of investments, including U.S. and foreign stocks, corporate and government bonds, certificates of deposit (CDs) and other securities. So, instead of checking your progress against a market index, use benchmarks meaningful to your individual situation, such as whether your portfolio is showing enough growth potential based on a compounding rate of return to keep you moving toward a comfortable retirement and other long-term goals.

Invest with a purpose. When you work intensely at something, it's usually because you have a definite result in mind. And this sense of purpose applies to investing, too. If you buy a stock here, and another one there, based on "hot" tips you might have seen on television or the internet, you may end up with a jumbled sort of portfolio that doesn't really reflect your needs. Instead, try to follow a long-term investment strategy based on your financial goals, risk tolerance, asset accumulation needs, liquidity and time horizon, always with an eye toward where you want to go in life — how long you plan to work, what sort of retirement lifestyle you envision, and so on.

Be strategic with your investments. Over the years, you will likely have a variety of competing financial goals — and you'll want your investment portfolio working to help achieve all of them. That means, though, that you'll likely need to match certain investments with specific goals. For example, when you contribute to an IRA and a 401(k) or similar plan, you're putting away money for retirement. But if you want to help your children go to college or receive some other type of post-secondary education or training, you might want to save in a 529 education savings plan, which allows tax-free withdrawals for qualified education expenses. Or, if you want to save for a short-term goal, such as a wedding or a long vacation, you might choose an investment that offers significant protection of principal, so the money will be available when you need it. Ultimately, this type of goals-based investing can help ensure your portfolio is always working on your behalf, in the way you intended.

When you take a vacation, you will hopefully be more relaxed and refreshed. But if you let your investments stop working as hard as they should, the results could be stressful. So, be diligent about your investment strategy, monitor it regularly and make those moves appropriate for your situation. By doing so, you can't necessarily guarantee a long day at the beach, but you'll have a good chance of enjoying a sunny outlook.

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

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news@stonebridgepress.news



# The next generation of fishermen

What a great Memorial Day weekend! The nice weather gave everyone a chance to enjoy time with family and friends in the great outdoors.

It gave Americans a chance to remember all of our veterans that served our country, which is the real meaning of Memorial Day, with many that had paid the ultimate sacrifice.

This week's picture shows the recent graduation of 16 young fishermen that had completed Whitinsville Fish & Game Club's first annual Jr. fishing class. The class was pond Chairman Daryl Carter & Kris Hawkes' idea to have the class in hopes of promoting fishing to many youngsters. After the graduation, the young anglers were treated to a full breakfast by numerous members and volunteers.

With the falling interest in fishing in Mass., hopes are high that the annual class will have more anglers participating in the sport of fishing! Nice job, everyone. The following young anglers graduated from the fishing class: Jacob Plumondon,



This week's picture shows the Whitinsville Fish & Game Club's Jr. graduating fishing class of 2024.

Brayden Nicastro, Jayden Dubois, Arthur Dubois, Jacob Dubois, Hetherington, Bobby Diamond, Joseph Sever,

Boon Flagg, Braydon Vaidyn, Logan Williams, Mason Williams, & Jackson Lavallee. I hope to see you on the water!

Fly fishing was my favorite sport when I was 16 years old, and I hope the upcoming class will have someone that

is a fly fishing angler, that will become a teacher for future students. Joining the New England Fly Tyers group



THE GREAT  
OUTDOORS  
\*\*\*\*\*  
RALPH  
TRUE

will also provide some great and exciting new fishing and fly tying opportunities.

Striper fishing was hot in both Mass. & Rhode Island last week, with live lining pogies providing the most exciting success. Watching a striper chase a live pogy, and literally inhale the baitfish, and peel the line from the reel until the hook finds its mark! The fight is on! Large bluefish are also hitting lures and live bait, which is not good news for many striper fishing anglers. They are more of a nuisance for some anglers fishing for striped bass. If the striper needs to be released, you need to get them back in the water ASAP, to insure their survival!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

## BBQ Grilling Tips

It's officially barbecue season! Firing up the BBQ grill, is a summer tradition, and this country boasts a rich history of barbecue celebrations, dating back to the Colonial era. In fact, written history accounts reveal George Washington attended a barbecue in 1769!

Today, serving up creatively prepared foods grilled to perfection has been elevated to a fine culinary art. The good news is you don't have to be a cooking school graduate to earn your BBQ apron - sometimes all it takes is a refresher guide in basic backyard grilling techniques.

And, as you prepare for a season of grilling, remember that we have Native Americans to thank, as they first introduced basic barbecue techniques to the colonists!

**Tenderizing Techniques:** Great grilling starts with meat preparation. Taking the time to tenderizing tough cuts of meat can make the difference between grilling success or failure. While the goal is to break down the muscle fibers in the meat, there are a few standard methods that have been proven successful. The manual method employs the use of a kitchen mallet, which is used to "beat" down the fibers in raw meat. Also, there are several meat tenderizers available on the market that can be sprinkled onto the meat before cooking. Perhaps the most popular tenderizing option is the use of marinades, as these liquids not only make the meat tender but impart an important boost of flavor too. Add the fact overnight marinating can reduce cooking time by up to 35%, and it's no surprise the marinating method is a top choice.

BBQ experts recommend tender cuts of beef marinate for just a couple of hours, while tougher cuts may require overnight soaking. Keep in mind marinating should be used with zippered plastic bags or glass or plastic bowls as the acids in some marinades can react with metal. After marinating, be sure to pat the meat dry with paper towels to ensure it cooks evenly on the grill.

Certified Angus Beef Signature Steak



TAKE  
THE  
HINT  
KAREN  
TRAINOR

Marinade (reprinted with permission and by popular demand!)

This recipe from the country's premiere beef brand is a tasty tribute to grilled steak suppers.

**Ingredients:** 1/2 cup Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce; 3 tablespoons Balsamic vinegar; 1 1/2 tablespoons Dijon mustard; 1/2 teaspoon pepper.

**Instructions:** Combine all ingredients. In large, shallow non-aluminum baking dish or plastic bag, pour marinade over steaks; turn to coat. Marinate in refrigerator for 30 minutes. Remove steaks; discard marinade. Grill or broil steak to preferred doneness.

**\*\* No Fail Marinade**  
This unconventional recipe from the retro era promises taste and tenderness.

**Ingredients:** one third cup steak sauce; one half cup packed brown sugar; one twelve ounce can 7Up or Sprite; one half cup melted butter; four tablespoons red wine vinegar; one quarter teaspoon each onion powder, garlic powder, salt and pepper.  
**Instructions:** Combine all in a bowl or zip lock bag. Allow meat to marinate in mixture for at least an hour, or as long as overnight.

**\*\* Hot off the Grill: Gauging Doneness**  
Gauging meats grilled to perfection can be a tricky challenge. Beyond checking the temperature of the meat, backyard chefs have learned to rely on a few "rules of thumb" to test for doneness.

\*This "old school" chef trick is still a reliable way to gauge your meat without cutting into it:

To test doneness by "feel" this method compares your hand and fingers to the firmness of the cut of meat. Pressing on the middle of the steak, a rare steak should feel the same as the heel of your hand (the fleshy area between your thumb and wrist) when hand is relaxed; a medium rare steak should feel like the heel of your hand when you press your thumb and forefinger together (which is firmer); a medium rare steak will feel as

firm as the heel of your hand when you touch your middle finger to your thumb (firmer yet); and medium well should feel as firm as the heel when you press your ring finger and thumb.

\*Another common "rule of thumb" for doneness is the inch method is to cook by thickness of the meat. For a one inch thick steak, cook seven minutes for rare; nine minutes for medium; and 11 minutes for well done.

\* When using an internal thermometer: a rare steak should be cooked to 125-130 degrees; 130 to 140 degrees for medium-rare; 140 to 150 degrees for medium; 150-160 degrees for medium-well or 160 to 170 degrees for well done.

### \*\* BBQ Basics

\*As a general guide, when you grill with charcoal, it takes about 30 minutes for coals to reach a medium temperature and become ash covered.

\*For gas grills, allow about 15 minutes for the grill rack to preheat properly.

\*To increase the heat on a charcoal grill, simply push the coals together, add more coals as needed lower the grilling surface, or fan the fire and tap the ashes from the coals.

\*Steaks best for grilling without the need to tenderize, are such cuts such as Ribeye, Filet Mignon, T-Bone and Porterhouse.

\*For best results cook pork on direct heat to seal the juices. Then finish it with indirect heat to ensure the center is completely cooked. Just be sure to preheat the grill so it will seal in the juices quickly.

\*Cooking for a crowd? To ensure even grilling, meats should be placed about three quarters of an inch apart on the grill rack.

\*Does your fish dry out and break up when you cook it on the grill? Brush it with lemon juice while cooking to keep

it moist.

\*Fish should be from one to one and a half inches thick to prevent drying out.

\*Always apply sweet basting sauces made with sugar, honey or syrup during the last few minutes of grilling only to prevent burning.

\*When cooking steaks on the grill don't season the meat until each side has browned to keep the cut tender.

\*When using a dry rub during barbecuing, always allow the meat to cook for approximately one third to one half of the total time before applying any basting sauce. This allows the meat to become warm and start absorbing the dry rub seasonings.

\*If you are marinating meat, you'll need one to two cups of marinade for every one and a half to two pounds of food. You want enough marinade to completely surround the food.

\*\* 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 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.

## Notecards to raise funds for Auburn Historical Society and Museum

AUBURN — The Auburn Historical Society and Museum has a new addition to the Museum gift shop: assorted blank notecards for sale. There are photos of scenic landscapes, flowers, and the shoreline, along with copies of beautiful paintings adorning each card. These cards were created by society member, Rich Hedin as a fundraiser for the Auburn Historical Society.

Single cards with an envelope may be purchased for \$2 or an assortment of six notecards with envelopes is available for \$10. The Auburn Historical Museum gift shop, which also features Cat's Meow scenes of Auburn, Auburn Dandies coffee mugs, and books on Auburn's history, is open Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

### BEYOND continued from page A6

absolute and eternal Truth found only in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ. Every sincere Christian, until his/her dying day, will remain a sojourner in this pursuit of absolute and eternal Truth. None of us can ever understand everything, and surely doubts will arise in our hearts from time to time.

Let us remember how St. Thomas reminds us to keep journeying from doubt to faith, from ignorance to deeper knowledge, from uncertainty to eternal truth. The ultimate answers to life's central questions exist in Jesus Christ and within our Orthodox Christian worldview and faith.

Don't be afraid to ask questions and don't be scared of the doubts lurking in your heart. Be sin-

cere and honest with your doubts and questions—are they arrogant doubts, are they wavering doubts, or are they humble doubts. Use these humble doubts to push you to seek and look for the answers that the Risen Christ offers. In this way, our faith will increase and we also will come to the point of saying, "My Lord and my God."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Oxford Firefighters Association grateful for support of Janet Malser Humanities Trust

To the Editor:  
The Oxford Firefighters Association (OFA) wishes to gratefully acknowledge our selection as a recipient of the latest round of grants from the Janet Malser Humanities Trust.

Since 2015, The Malser Trust has provided over \$42,000 in grants to the OFA that have allowed us to continue our important historic preservation work. Without this support from the Malser Trust, our efforts to preserve our collective history and contribute to the cultural enrichment of the community would not have been possible. Thank you to the Trust!!

The OFA is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the identification and preser-

vation of the historically significant artifacts of the Oxford Fire Department and the fire service in general. Our membership is comprised of former firefighters from the Town of Oxford and surrounding departments, as well as associate members who share a common interest in promoting the goals of the Association. We currently own and operate the Huguenot Steamer No. 1 Fire Museum located at 655 Main St. in North Oxford. Additional details can be found on our Web site: [www.huguenot-steamer.com](http://www.huguenot-steamer.com).

DANIEL M. BARRY  
TREASURER  
OXFORD FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION



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<sup>1</sup>DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 5/31/2024. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Get 20% off your entire purchase and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 5/1/2024 and 5/31/2024. Additional \$500 off your purchase, minimum purchase of four (4) required, taken after initial discount(s), when you purchase by 5/31/2024. Military discount applies to all active duty, veterans and retired military personnel. Military discount equals \$500 off your entire purchase and applies after all other discounts, no minimum purchase required. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "ENERGY STAR" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. <sup>2</sup>It is the only warranty among top selling window companies that meets all of the following requirements: easy to understand terms, unrestricted transferability, installation coverage, labor coverage, geographically unrestricted, coverage for exterior color, insect screens and hardware, and no maintenance requirement. Visit renewalbyandersen.com/nationsbest for details. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of their respective owners. ©2024 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2024 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.



# Masons hold annual Widows and Veterans Luncheon



Widows and Veterans enjoying time together in the Great Hall room at the Overlook Masonic Home facility in Charlton.



Rainbow Girls of Oxford, representative Caera Gonyea handing out roses to all the women and thanking them for all they have done for their service and support of their men.

**BRO. JIMMY FALZONE**  
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE  
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CHARLTON — On Saturday, May 25, the 24th Masonic District held its Annual Masonic Widows and Veterans Luncheon at the Overlook Masonic Home facilities in Charlton.

This event has been going on for 12 years now. Chairmen Brother Dean Moss, and committee members were very happy to see all the attendees that came out for this very special tradition to honor our Masonic widows and veterans. Fifty-six people attended, including many of the Overlook Masonic Home residents. This event has had the greatest numbers of volunteers from members throughout the 24th Masonic District since this annual event started 12 years ago. There was entertainment by Clyde Wheatley who played his saxophone and played

mostly jazz from the 30's to 40's era. His music brought back many memories for those who attended this event.

Prior to entering the hall veterans and widows registered for the event. The Oxford Rainbow Girls from Oxford walked to each table and handed the widows and women roses and thanked them for their support and service.

Prior to the meal, the Color Guard entered the dining hall. The flag bearer, Brother Kevin O'Donnell, entered the room and proceeded to the POW/MIA Missing Man Remembrance Table or sometimes refers as the Fallen Comrade Table. This table is our way of symbolizing the fact that members of our profession of arms are missing from our midst. Bro. O'Donnell read a beautiful passage in remembrance of our fallen, missing, or impris-



Bro. Kevin O'Donnell reading a beautiful passage in tribute to the fallen service men and women in front of the POW/MIA missing man table for our fallen, missing, or imprisoned U.S. service men and women.

oned U.S. military service men and women.

The Chairman of this event, Bro. Dean Moss, spoke and thanked everyone for attending this event. He told me he looked forward to this event because "The best thing we can give our widows and veterans is our time."

These are veterans who

served our country when we needed them the most and risked their lives so we could have a better life. They have served their country with honor and distinction and the widows supported them and believed in what they were fighting for. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, go to [www.massfreemasonry.org](http://www.massfreemasonry.org) to find a lodge nearest you.



Bro. Dean Moss serving food to the widows and veterans along with Bro. Johnathan Neitz ready to serve the delicious dessert.

## Literacy Volunteers brings on new tutors



Pictured left to right - back row: R. Creighton Peet, Jeff Ardis, Julianne Brechtl, Danelle Laflower, Melissa Damelio, and Amy Ouellette. Front row: Emily Farrell (LVSCM Executive Director), Debbie Twigg (Tutor Trainer), Deborah Harvell, Wendy Woodard, Francine Breger, Wendy Ramirez, Melinda Hannah, and Vanessa Fors (Tutor Trainer).

REGION — Literacy Volunteers of South-Central Massachusetts has 11 new volunteer tutors trained to provide one-to-one tutoring for ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) to adults. These volunteers successfully completed the rigorous 18-hour tutor training on Monday, April 22. The training took place in the Community Room at the Southbridge Police Department and was the first in-person tutor training offered by LVSCM since 2019. Instruction was provided by board member Vanessa Fors and tutor Debbie Twigg, who were both certified to teach this course by Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts in December 2023.

We're thrilled to have these new volunteers trained and ready to be matched with adults who are on our waiting list. Their volunteer commitment significantly increases our capacity to serve more adults in the community, and will help people reach their personal, professional, and educational goals. Tutoring is free, confidential, and individualized to the needs of each adult learner.

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	<p>FRIGIDAIRE SIDE-BY-SIDE REFRIGERATOR <b>\$999<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$1,599.99</p>	<p>AMANA WASHER OR DRYER <b>\$469<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$599.99</p>	<p>MAYTAG DRYER OR WASHER <b>\$569<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$699.99</p>	<p>WHIRLPOOL FRENCH DOOR BOTTOM FREEZER <b>\$1599<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$2,699</p>	<p>10 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER <b>\$499<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$599.99</p>	<p>20 CUBIC FOOT UPRIGHT FREEZER <b>\$799<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$999.95</p>
	<p>LG TOP FREEZER 18 CU. FT. <b>\$699<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$899.99</p>	<p>AMANA GAS RANGE #AGR1533CBAS • Stainless Steel <b>\$599<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$699.99</p>	<p>GE FRONT LOAD WASHER #GFWSO5SNWV <b>\$749<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$899.99</p>	<p>20 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER <b>\$899<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$1099.99</p>	<p>LG SMOOTH TOP ELECTRIC STOVE <b>\$729<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$899.99</p>	<p>OVER THE RANGE MICROWAVE <b>\$199<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$279.99</p>

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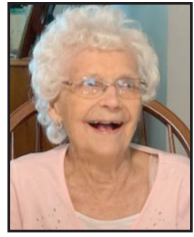
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# OBITUARIES

## Florence D. Wolenski, 95



**DUDLEY** – Florence D. (Stawiecki) Wolenski, 95, died Tuesday, April 30, 2024 in Saint Vincent Hospital, Worcester, with family at her side. He husband of 57 years, Walter J. Wolenski, died in 2005.

She leaves 2 daughters, Patricia A. Barbour of Dudley, and Elaine Dabrowski and her husband Paul of Webster; a son, Kenneth W. Wolenski and his wife Diane of East Hampstead, NH; 6 grandchildren, Scott A. Chartier and his significant other Jill Morin of Putnam, CT, Christopher Chartier and his significant other Martha Otero of Henderson, NV, Steven D. Wolenski and his wife Lexie of Warwick, RI, Kristen M. Brown and her husband Derick of Manchester, NH, Kaylin E. Megan and her husband Brendan of Auburn, NH, and Matthew J. Wolenski and his significant other Julia Demkowicz of Tewksbury; 3 great-grandchildren, Elizabeth, Mickael and Benjamin; 2

great great-granddaughters, Raven and Luna; nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by 4 brothers and a sister. She was born at home in Dudley on August 10, 1928, the daughter of Vincent and Dominika (Jurgelewicz) Stawiecki. She moved to Webster in 1948 at the time of her marriage and then returned to Dudley in 1960. Mrs. Wolenski was a homemaker. She loved crocheting and baking. She was a member of Saint Andrew Bobola Church. Her favorite activity was spending time with her grandchildren. Her funeral was held Saturday, May 4, at 11:00 AM in Saint Andrew Bobola Church, 54 West Main Street (please meet at the church). Burial was in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace, Webster. Calling hours are private.

Donations in her name may be made to Saint Andrew Bobola Church, 54 West Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571. Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster. www.websterfunerals.com

## Leonard R. Wasielewski, 91



**WEBSTER** – Leonard R. “Butch Walsh” Wasielewski, 91, died Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at home after an illness. He leaves a son, Andrew L. Wasielewski and his wife Shannon of Woodstock, CT; a daughter, Karen A. Wasielewski of Southbridge; 4 grandchildren, Joseph Nowak, and Matthew, Leah and Garrett Wasielewski; Carol White, his friend for 18 years, of Oxford and her sons Robert and David; 4 nephews, Dennis, Mark and Matthew Wasielewski, and Sean Sayers; and 3 nieces, Dianne Wasielewski, Marcia Azzaoui and Bonnie Sayers. He was preceded in death by his brothers Edward and Raymond Wasielewski and by his sisters Theresa Wasielewski and Cynthia Sayers. He was born on August 18, 1932 in Webster, a son of Henry A. and Frances E. (Maciejewski) Wasielewski and lived here all his life. He graduated from Bartlett High School in 1950 and attended Nichols College in Dudley; he played on the varsity basketball teams at both schools. He served in the United States Air Force from 1952 to 1956, traveling on sports teams as a football and bas-

ketball player. Mr. Wasielewski was an assembler at the former General Motors plant in Framingham. He retired in 1986. He was an avid golfer, playing almost daily at Harrisville Golf Course in Woodstock, at Nichols College Golf Course and at Myrtle Beach. He also was a pitcher in local softball leagues including the Nipmuc Lakers and the Past Time Café team. He loved to play cribbage and complete Sudoku puzzles. He was a life member of Saint Joseph Basilica. His funeral was held Wednesday, May 29, from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, with a Mass at 10:00AM in Saint Joseph Basilica, 53 Whitcomb Street. Burial was in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace, with the Webster-Dudley Veterans Council providing the military honors. Visitation was held from 6:00 to 8:00 PM Tuesday, May 28, in the funeral home. Donations in his name may be made to either Saint Joseph School Fund, 47 Whitcomb Street, Webster, or to a charity of one's choice. www.websterfunerals.com



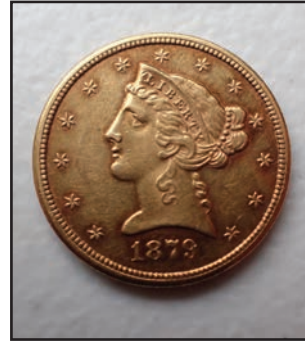
# Checking your coins

I often handle estates with coins that families have collected. In today's column, I'll share some things you can look for if you also have coins.

We recently auctioned a silver tea set made by Ephraim Brasher, who lived next door to George Washington in New York City. Brasher created the first gold coin, the Brasher Doubloon, over two centuries ago in 1787. The United States minted gold coins for circulation until 1933 when production was halted to stabilize gold value during the Great Depression. However, gold coins are still being made for collectors by the U.S. Mint.

Gold coins will always be at least “worth their weight in gold.” Older coins were made from 90 percent gold. Some modern collector gold coins are 99.99 percent pure. Some gold coins are “bullion” meaning they are worth only the value of the gold, however, older coins may have value well above their melt value.

Along with checking the date on your coins, there are other factors to consider. Mintmarks indicate where the coin was produced. A “P” or plain/unmarked coin is from the Philadelphia Mint. “D” is for Denver, “S” indicates San Francisco, and “O” stands for New Orleans. The Carson City Mint used “CC” and coins featuring that mintmark are often the most valuable.



Just like other collectibles, coins can be graded. Professional grading companies use a scale of 1 to 70. The highest-grade coins are categorized as MS (Mint State), with an MS-70 being a perfect coin. Some coins may be valuable enough to pay to send out for grading, while others may not. Along with the condition, there are other variations to coins that can make them desirable. Having slightly different shaped letters and differently placed stars and rays can make a big difference in price. An 1861-S \$20 Double Eagle AU55 (Almost Uncirculated) gold coin sold for \$3,120 at auction in 2023. A “Paquet” variation with the same AU55 grade coin sold for \$162,000 that year.

The United States minted silver coins (dimes, quarters, half dollars, and dollar coins) out of 90 percent silver until 1964. Kennedy half dollars from 1965 to 1970 are made with 40 percent silver. Any silver coins from these years will be at least “bullion” coins and worth their weight in silver but

some could be more valuable.

Many of the same factors that impact gold coins also come into play with silver. Age and condition are important. A rare high grade 1794 Flowing Hair Silver Dollar sold for \$6.6 million in 2021. The number of coins produced at each mint for each year is very important. This holds true for both gold and silver coins. Only 360,649 silver Peace Dollars (depicting the head of the Statue of Liberty) were produced in 1928 while 10,198 were minted in 1925. A 1925 MS66 grade Peace Dollar sold for a little over \$500 recently while a 1928 coin with the same grade sold for over \$30,000.

The United States has issued half cents, one cent, two cent, three cent, half dime, and twenty cent coins. There are “type collectors” who look for coins in different denominations and variations. It's worth checking your old coins, some may be worth a pretty penny.

We are accepting coin consignments for our late summer auction along with art, gold jewelry, sterling silver, historical items, advertising signs, and other antiques. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/ Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services; [info@centralmassauctions.com](mailto:info@centralmassauctions.com) or (508-612-6111).



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES  
WAYNE TUISKULA

# Grow vertically for added beauty and garden productivity

Expand your planting space, grow a living screen, or add vertical interest to your garden beds. Train vines up a decorative support, onto a fence, or allow them to climb a trellis set in front of a wall or structure.

Pole beans, peas, Malabar spinach, cucumbers, melons, and squash are all edible candidates for growing vertically. Training these vegetables up a support saves space in the garden. Plus, the increase in light and

airflow through vertically trained plants helps reduce the risk of mildew and other diseases.

Growing vertically can also increase your yields and make harvesting much easier. Pole beans typically produce an extra picking. Plus, it requires less bending to harvest. If it is easy, you are more likely to pick regularly, increasing productivity and ensuring the best flavor. Try scarlet



GARDEN MOMENTS  
MELINDA MYERS

runner beans or purple podded pole beans for added color.

Train Malabar climbing spinach up an obelisk in a container or over a decorative trellis in the **Turn To GARDEN page A11**

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

# LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO24P1708EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate of: Stella Julia Derderian Also known as: Stella J. Ivanowski Date of Death: 06/19/2022**

To all interested persons: A Petition for **ormal Appointment of Personal Representative** been filed by **Robert M. Derderian of Worcester 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:

**Coreen D. Goodwin of Springfield MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE** You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/18/2024.**

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: May 20, 2024 Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate May 31, 2024

Dudley Youth Soccer will be having their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday June 26th, 2024 at 6:00 PM by the shed at Lavoie Soccer Field in Dudley. See our website and Facebook page for additional details. May 31, 2024

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket Number: 24 SM 001981 ORDER OF NOTICE**

To: Robert M. Derderian; Heirs, Devisees, and Legal Representatives of the Estate of David W. Lovitt; Steven Wyzanski; Mark Wyzanski; Eliot Wyzanski; Bradford Derderian Sr., as Guardian for Brian P. Derderian; Coreen D. Goodwin as Personal Representative of the Estate of Stella J. Derderian; Heirs, Devisees and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Anne Sheir; Heirs, Devisees and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Ethel Lovitt; Arnold Sheir; Robert Sheir and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq): NewRez LLC, successor by merger to Specialized Loan Servicing LLC, d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Dudley, numbered 21 Central Avenue, given by Stella J. Derderian, David W. Lovitt to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., dated April 28, 2009, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 44188, Page 154, 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 July 8, 2024, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act. Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on May 23, 2024. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder 24557 May 31, 2024

**NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE UNDER G.L.C. 255, SECTION 39A** Notice is hereby given by: A and D All Automotive Repair And Sales Inc Phone : 508-461-7733 pursuant to the provisions of G.L.C. c. 255, Section 39A, that on: 7 June 2024 at 9:00am at 5 West Main Street, Dudley, MA by private sale the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garage-keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle. Vehicle description: Year 2004 Make: 2018 Nissan Altima silver Registration#/State: Un Reg. VIN: 1N4AL3AP0EN235734 Name and address of vehicle owner Melissa Carter Melissa Carter 58 Brandon Road Dudley, MA 01571 By Dany Habib 24 May 2024 This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L.c. 255, Section 39A. May 24, 2024 May 31, 2024 June 7, 2024

**Legal Notice** Notice Is hereby given by Lincoln Auto and Truck LLC 590 Lincoln St Worcester Ma. 01605 Pursuant to the:Provlstons Of General Law C255 Section 39a, that on 06/03/2024@ 9:00 am at; Lincoln Auto and Truck LLC 590 Lincoln St Worcester Ma 01605 the following motor vehicle will be sold at a prlvate/public sale to satisfy the garage keepers lien there on for storage towing, charges, care and expenses of notices and of said vehicle description of vehicle VIN # 1gtp6de10g1380550-2016 gmc canyon p/u owner Jeffery G. Blais 39 Wallace Ave. Auburn Ma. 01501 and or any lien holders this notice has been given under the provisions of general law 39a May 24, 2024 May 31, 2024 June 7, 2024

**GARDEN**

continued from page A1

garden. Use the leaves the same way you use true spinach. The buttery nutty flavor is great fresh, added to a salad, used as a sandwich wrap, stir-fried, or steamed. The red stems, flowers, and seeds make an attractive display in the vegetable or ornamental garden.

Support the heavy fruit of melons and squash when growing vertically. Create a sling from cloth strips, an old T-shirt, or macramé – yes, it's back! Tie the sling to the trellis to cradle the large fruit. The sling handles the weight, preventing the heavy fruit from ripping the plant off the support and damaging the plant. Elevating the fruit also reduces loss to soil-dwelling insects and disease.

Use decorative supports to add a bit of beauty or help blend edibles into ornamental plantings. Save money and add some personality by upcycling

found items into creative supports. A section of an old iron fence, headboard, golf clubs, or farm implements can add a bit of functional whimsy to your garden.

Add color to a plain fence or wall with annual and perennial flowering vines. Use a support and leave space between wooden fences and siding to reduce moisture buildup that could damage these structures. This also makes it easier to manage future repairs and painting if the vines can easily be moved away from the structure.

Double up your plants to increase the floral impact. Use annual vines to provide quick cover for the first few years while establishing perennial vines onto the support. Consider mixing two vines on one support if space allows. Select vines that bloom at the same time to create interesting combinations. Or plant two vines that bloom at different times

to extend the floral display.

Always select supports strong enough to support the plants you are growing. Make sure the support provides the structure needed for the vines to climb. Those with twining stems and petioles need something to grab onto while those with root-like holdfasts or suction cups need a rough surface for attaching. Make sure the structure will not be damaged by the vines adhering to the surface. Other vines may need their stems to be tied to the support.

As you can see, the possibilities are endless. Start gathering decorative supports, look for spaces that need a bit of vertical interest, and select vines suited to your growing conditions and landscape design.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow*



Melinda Myers

Clematis and impatiens growing on a wheel trellis.

Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

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# GLADYS E. KELLY LIBRARY

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Library Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Wed: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Fri: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Randa Cox at rcocx@cwmars.org.

No Spice club this month, but check out our Geraldine Brooks display in the lobby!

discussing Their favorite books from childhood and adulthood. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone at 508-949-3880, or by email to rcocx@cwmars.org for inquiries.

of members from Mali, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Guinea, and the US. Crocodile River Music's mission is to connect audiences with African artists and cultures through performance and education. They are a diverse group of people committed to presenting African art, music, and culture to audiences of all ages, backgrounds, and capabilities.

one per patron.

**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! Every month we will rotate our craft material, stop in to see what we're making this month!

**LEGO CLUB**-- First two Tuesdays of the month at 3:30 PM

Come play with the library's Legos. If you like, we can put your work on display! No registration Required

**BUILD TUESDAYS** - from 3:30-4:30 PM

Join us for the last two Tuesday for a self-guided STEM-based building challenge, appropriate for all ages. Younger kids should bring a parent. Instruction sheets will be provided. Contact Andrew at 508-949-3880, or atai@cwmars.org for more details.

**STORYTIME**--- June 4th, 11th, and 18th at 10:00 AM

Mornings will be filled with fun stories, songs, and activities perfect for ages 2-5. Siblings are welcome to join.

**STUFFED ANIMAL STORYTIME** --- June 5th at 10:00 AM

Join Library Director Sondra Murphy for stories, songs, and fun with our plush pals! This story time is geared toward ages birth to 3, but siblings are welcome.

**MUSIC TOGETHER**--- Saturdays June 1st, 8th, 15th, and 29th at 11:00 AM

Fun, fabulous, uplifting, magical early childhood music class! For ages 0 to 6 and their families. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

**SENSORY BIN EXPLORATION**--- June 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th at 10:00 AM

Join us for open sensory bin exploration. Bins will be filled up with sand, rice, dirt, dry pasta, and more! This program is geared towards ages 2 to 5, but siblings are welcome.

**ANIMAL ADVENTURES**--- June 24th at 10:00 AM

Join us for this exciting outdoor event marking the kickoff of summer reading! There will be animals of all shapes and sizes. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

## REGULATION

continued from page A1

problem offenders. I truly appreciate everyone from the last meeting giving all the information. That was excellent and exactly what we wanted."

The revised document states a few simple purposes: to establish local inspection requirements for non-owner-occupied rentals with prior violations, provide local procedures for the Board of Health to ensure compliance with local regulations, and ensure that the rental units subject to the regulation are inspected semi-annually. The document also specifies that a property that maintains compliance for twelve months will not require semiannual inspections and does not include any fees in its text. The Board of Health clarified that this would only apply to officially documented issues and complaints and not issues that are rectified without the need for written documentation.

## OXFORD

continued from page A1

toric Barton fire station. Richard Vacca tried to have the \$475,000 allocated to DPW building improvements on the grounds that one of its potential projects would be that demolition, but he couldn't just cut that item. Later, he also suggested using the money to repair it instead.

But Fire Chief Laurent McDonald noted people "can clearly see there's a sag in the roof," and the town moved people out of it years ago "because it's unsafe." He described it as "a significant liability for the town."

The rest of the warrant's items passed with minimal discussion, although one - to put \$250,000 into Stabilization - was "tabled" to the end of the meeting to deal with other items. After that deposit and the earlier school funding, Stabilization has about \$2 million in it.

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

**FRIENDS ANNUAL BOOKSALE IS COMING!** The dates are as followed:

**THURSDAY** June 20th from 9:00am until 8:00pm

**FRIDAY** June 21st from 9:00am until 5:00pm

**SATURDAY** June 22nd 9:00am until 11:00pm

**Adult Programming YOGA** - Saturday June 1st, 8th, 15th, and 29th at 9:30 AM

Join Julie or Lauren at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. In Sanskrit, Vinyasa yoga translates to the "uniting of movement with breath". A typical class involves centering the mind with the breath, aromatherapy, movement of the body to release energetic blockages, and, finally, rest and relaxation. Classes are free. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

**ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** - June 20th at 6:30 PM

This month's book discussion will be in the Library's Community Room. The Group will be

**ADULT BOARDGAME NIGHT**--- (No May Meeting) June 24th at 6:00 PM

Come in and play games with other board game enthusiasts. Learn a new one, or play one you know and help others learn!

**COOKBOOK CLUB** - June 11th at 6:00 PM

Every month there will be a new cookbook and you will choose a delicious recipe to make! You can choose anything out of the cookbook to bring and share. Whether you like to cook or bake there will always be something for you! We will eat and discuss our favorite and our least favorite things of the cooking adventure. You can pick up your copy from behind the circulation desk.

**FRIENDS CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS:** Crocodile River--- June 13th at 6:30 PM

African rhythms, history, and culture merge into an evening of movement, cultural exploration, and joy. Internationally recognized, the group consists

**Children's and Young Adult Programming**

**Scavenger Hunt**--- All Month Long

What's more exciting than a scavenger hunt? Come upstairs to the Children's room to pick up a list of things to find all around the library. Once you've completed the scavenger hunt, check in with the Children's Librarian to redeem a prize.

**TAKE AND MAKE CRAFT**--- All month long

Take and Make craft kits are now available for pick up upstairs in the Children's Room. Each month will feature a different craft to create and instructions will be provided with the supplies. New Take and Make kits will be available for pick up on the 1st of every month, while supplies last, and are limited to

5 Church St.  
(508) 949-3845

Open Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov

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!

Webster Senior Center will be closed on Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day.

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least 48-hours in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread and fruit or dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, 6/4 Haddock with Parmesan Cream

Sauce, Lemon Seasoned Potatoes, Green beans. Wednesday, 6/5 Baked Potato with Chili & Cheese, Broccoli, Sour Cream. Thursday, 6/6 Hot Dog in Bun, Baked Beans, Coleslaw. Friday, 6/7 Buttermilk Chicken, Scalloped Potatoes, Country Blend Vegetables.

Need Transportation? Contact SCM Elderbus at 1-800-321-0243 at least 2 business days in advance to schedule transportation. Elderbus is available Mondays - Fridays 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.

A SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) Counselor is available at the Webster Senior Center. Please call (508) 949-3845 to schedule an appointment.

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. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays by appointment only from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Call (508) 341-8724 to schedule an appointment.

The REC Farmer's

Market is on pause for the month of May and will return in June.

Mondays only, Wednesdays have been cancelled until further notice. Exercise Classes with Forty Arroyo - Chair Dancing - the perfect workout for any fitness ability! Cost: \$3.00 per class.

Mondays: Knitting/Crochet Social 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Bingo: Every Tuesday, 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 6-card or 13-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!

Webster Senior Center Trips! Trip 1:

Jimmy Buffett Tribute & Maine Lobster Bake at Foster's on Monday, July 15th. Cost: \$137.00 per person includes show ticket, transportation, luncheon, meal taxes & gratuity. Trip price does not include bus driver gratuity. Trip 2: Happy 2 Gather, 60's Flashback Show at Lake Pearl, Wrentham MA on Wednesday, September 18th. Cost: \$131.00 per person includes show ticket, transportation, luncheon, meal taxes & gratuity. Trip price does not include bus driver gratuity. For more information call (508) 949-3845. The Worcester County Sheriff's Office House

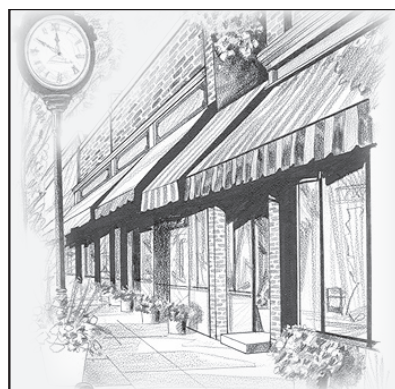
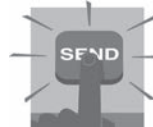
Numbering Program will create a custom wooden sign with your house number free of charge. One sign per senior household. Please contact the Webster Senior Center if you are interested in having a house number sign made for you. (508) 949-3845.

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, at no cost to you! All you have to do is give them a call at (508) 949-3875

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# Massachusetts poets to perform at free spoken word/poetry reading

WOODSTOCK, Conn. — Poets at Large is happy to announce their first free poetry/spoken word event of the season will be on June 16, 2-4 p.m. in the barn at Roseland Park, 205 Roseland Park Rd., Woodstock, Conn.

This is the fifth year for the regional group to bring poets to the park. Featured readers that afternoon will be MA poets Lea Deschenes, and Howie Faerstein, along with Woodstock poet Karen Warinsky. Featured Open Mic reader will be Long Island poet Steve Borodkin. Sign up for open mic at karen.warinsky@gmail.com. Five-minute limit as time allows. Because this reading coincides with Father's Day, all fathers will be entered in a raffle for a book and gift from Poets at Large.

Howie Faerstein is the author of five books, including "Play a Song on the Drums He Said" (Owl's Head Press) and "Out of Order" (Main Street Rag), and has been published in numerous journals including Great River Review, Nimrod, Off the Coast, Rattle, upstreet, Banyan Review, Nine Mile, Verse Daily, Nixes Mate, On the Seawall, Hole in the Head Review, Gyroscope, Peacock Journal, & Connotation. He also facilitates open mics at the Northampton, MA Forbes Library. A multiple Pushcart nominee, Cutthroat Discovery Poet, & recipient of the NOVA 2022 poetry prize, he's co-poetry editor of Cutthroat & lives in Florence.

Lea C. Deschenes resides in Worcester;

and holds an MFA in Poetry from New England College. Her poetry has appeared online, on stage, and in print. A former member of four National Poetry Slam teams and a coach to two more, she also holds a BA in Theater. She has received a Jacob Knight Award, been nominated for two Pushcart Prizes, and represented Worcester in the 2005 Individual World Poetry Slam. She is the author of thirteen chapbooks. Her first full-length collection, "The Constant Velocity of Trains," is available through Write Bloody Publishing and her editorial debut "Knocking at the Door" is available from Birch Bench Press.

Karen Warinsky is a 2023 Best of the Net nominee and a former finalist of the Montreal International Poetry Contest. She has three books, "Gold in Autumn" (2020), "Sunrise Ruby" (2022) from Human Error Publishing, and "Dining with War" (2023) from Alien Buddha Press and has been published in numerous anthologies and journals including the 2019 Mizmor anthology, "Blue Heron," Ms. Aligned" and "Whose Sprits Touch." She is the coordinator of Connecticut-based Poets at Large.

Poets at Large is a project of Windham Arts. This series is sponsored in part by bankHometown, Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, and Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors and Global Partners.

# Cecelia J. Smolenski/Millette Charitable Trust accepting applications

OXFORD — The Trustees of the Cecelia J. Smolenski/Millette Charitable Trusts have announced applications are available for grant funding for projects and programs that promote and foster recreational and literary opportunities and activities for children in Oxford.

The Smolenski/Millette Trusts were established in 1995 and 2000 to be used for the charitable, recreational, literary, or educational purposes for the benefit

of the youth of Oxford. The Trustees are comprised of various Town Officials as well as members of the public. The original donation to the Trust totaled more than \$2 million and distributions are made from trust income.

Previous projects and programs funded in whole or in part through the trust include the Splash Pad, the NJROTC program at the High School, the library pass program, the skate park, activities at Joslin Park,

the Greenbriar osprey camera, playground equipment, upgrades to the Little League concession stand, and activities at the Community Center.

Applications can be found online at [www.oxfordma.us/500/Town-Manager](http://www.oxfordma.us/500/Town-Manager). Applications are due no later than June 7. Applications are also available by contacting the Town Manager's Office at [manager@oxfordma.us](mailto:manager@oxfordma.us) or (508) 987-6030, ext. 8



## Thank You Janet Malser Humanities Trust!

The Bartlett ART Department has been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Janet Malser Humanities Trust. This grant will be used to purchase new state of the art laptops for our students to use in the creation and documentation of their artwork. Bartlett artist: Sean Harrington, Caleb Cuenca Medina, Ayden Do, Marievelise Collazo, Isabella Richards, Isabella Rivera, Tabby Wheeler, and Ivy Bucasas

Courtesy

The Bartlett High School Art Department has been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Janet Malser Humanities Trust. This grant will be used to purchase new state of the art laptops for our students to use in the creation and documentation of their artwork. Bartlett artist: Sean Harrington, Caleb Cuenca Medina, Ayden Do, Marievelise Collazo, Isabella Richards, Isabella Rivera, Tabby Wheeler, and Ivy Bucasas.



Courtesy

## ZION LUTHERAN CELEBRATES MOMS

On Mother's Day, the mothers of Sunday School children and Cradle Role babies were gifted with bright red teaspoon tulip posters created by the children in their class for their moms. All moms were honored with pink carnations and a special coffee hour hosted by the Evangelism Committee. Pastor Michael Bastian shared a personal memory of his late mother: "Holding a mother's hand transmits energy like an electric current through your body. It is warm, loving, and comforting. It makes you feel loved and secure."



Courtesy

Sofia McCarty was the recipient of the \$1,000 scholarship awarded from the Friends of St. Louis. The Friends of St. Louis is a group of volunteers from St. Louis parish in Webster who work to support and raise money for the church in addition to holding events to grow the community throughout the year.

## REAL ESTATE

### AUBURN

\$810,000, 916 Southbridge St, Pirpiris, Georgios, to Eleftheria LLC.

\$440,000, 11 Bancroft St, Homeowner Fincl Soln LLC, to Isemwami, Edward, and Neema, Grace.

\$435,000, 128 Hampton St, Cyr, Zachary, and Cyr, Kathryn, to Daring, Michael A, and Arsenaull, Kristina L.

\$380,000, 8 Garden St, Gallant, Mark, to Blackstone Dev Group LLC.

\$360,000, 11 Bancroft St, 11 Bancroft St Auburn Rt, and Newcomb, Robin G, to Homeowner Fincl Soln LLC.

\$250,000, 57 Shore Dr, Squires, Lisa M, and Johnson, Mark E, to Ferrera, Jonathan.

\$175,000, 16 Marion Ave, Parenteau William Est, and Parenteau, James E, to Butler, Shannon M.

### DUDLEY

\$644,500, 16 Bates Rd, Bates, Kenneth W, and Bates, Marsha E, to Shorten, Richard B, and Shorten, Michele M.

\$630,000, 18 Barry Ave, Kelly 3rd, Raymond L, to Dubois, Matthew D.

### OXFORD

\$810,000, 916 Southbridge Rd, Pirpiris, Georgios, to Eleftheria LLC.

\$640,000, 6 History Dr, Cor Group LLC, to Boss, William, and Boss, Tina.

\$515,000, 244 Sutton Ave, Lucier Irt, and Lucier, Scott E, to Olliney, Christopher D, and Edwards, Hailey M.

\$467,500, 394 Main St, Cygielnik, Sharon, to Nevalsky, Alexis, and Craft, Noah.

\$410,000, 11 New St, Cns Investment Group LLC, to Hayden, Emelie.

\$350,000, 8 Walcott St, Cadarette, Jack J, to Vigeant, Benjamin C, and Stafinski, Sarah E.

\$205,500, 14 Thayer Pond Dr #10, Schuemann, Leslie C, and Charette, Bruce, to Skillings, Kyle.

### WEBSTER

\$984,900, 179 Upper Gore Rd, Janet S Konkel RET, and Konkel Sr, Robert E, to Daisy Lane LLC.

\$415,000, 12 Concord Ct #B, Doyle, Florence C, to Bogatkowski, Ronald B, and Bogatkowski, Patricia J.

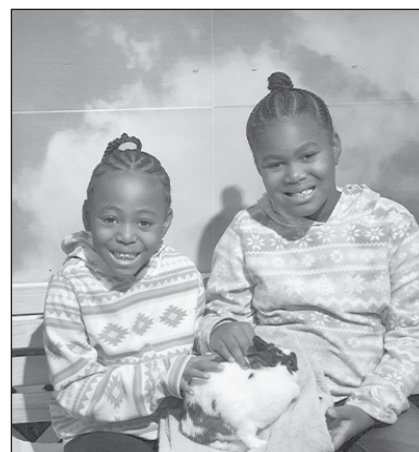
\$400,000, 30 E Main St, J & E Holdings LLC, to K & M Holdings LLC.

\$340,000, 31 Upper Gore Rd, Kirk Irrevocabke T, and Kirk Jr, Richard D, to Cournoyer, Joshua R, and Cournoyer, Peter.

\$290,000, 3 Park St, Morales, Jose D, to Tamayo, Diego.

\$210,000, 61 Old Worcester Rd, Gould Jr, Robert W, and Gould, James R, to Cleaves, Donna M.

## Friday's Child



Chantce and Halo  
Age 8 and 9

Hi! Our names are Chantce and Halo and we love to be active!

Chantce and Halo are spunky, creative girls who share a very close bond. Chantce, the older sister, is outgoing and makes friends easily. She loves sports, especially soccer, basketball, and hockey. Both girls love to play outside. Chantce is creative and enjoys art projects. Halo is a curious and sweet girl. While she can be shy at first, once she is comfortable she loves

to spend time with others. Halo loves to go swimming and participate in gymnastics. She also enjoys art projects. Chantce and Halo have a very close relationship and love spending time together.

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/children/8603-8753>

### 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](http://www.mareinc.org). Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.



# Local residents receive degrees at WPI's 155th undergraduate Commencement

WORCESTER — On Friday, May 10, Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) held its 155th Commencement. Nearly 1,100 undergraduate degrees were awarded during the ceremony. President Grace J. Wang, PhD, and Board of Trustees Chair William Fitzgerald presided over the exercises. Wang told the gradu-

ates that in a changing world, where new technologies and industries are rapidly emerging, and where they could be doing jobs that have not yet been invented, they should dream boldly, persevere, be a team player, and enjoy the journey. "WPI has prepared you for this future," Wang said. "During your time here, you have been

immersed in a transformative, leading-edge, and inclusive environment to ready you for jobs, careers, and, also, exciting opportunities to come." In her commencement address to undergraduates, Nancy M. Pimental, a 1987 WPI graduate who spent 11 years as a writer and executive producer on the hit Showtime series "Shameless," told the graduates they are well-prepared for whatever career path they choose to follow.

Trustees, received honorary degrees as part of the ceremony.

Student speaker Samuel Levitan, a biology and biotechnology major, weaved Commencement history into his speech, reminding the audience that Black educator, reformer, and intellectual Booker T. Washington gave WPI's 50th Commencement address in 1915, speaking about America's transformation since the end of slavery. Levitan also talked about the sense of belonging instilled in WPI students, who balance a STEM education with a formative personal experience.

"To learn about cutting-edge technologies and scientific discoveries at WPI takes an open mind," Levitan said. "But no matter where you go and no matter what you do, an open heart is just as important. Remember that you belong wherever that may be, and that the people around you are counting on you to believe that they belong, too."

The following students earned bachelor's degrees:

Bryce Kennedy, of Auburn majored in Mechanical Engineering. Sandra Phan, of Auburn majored in Data Science and Management Information Systems. Jacob Vosburg, of Auburn majored in Biochemistry.

Edison Doko, of Dudley majored in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Brock Dubey, of Dudley majored in Data Science. Abigail Duval, of Oxford majored in Aerospace Engineering. James Ralph, of Webster majored in International and Global Studies and Mechanical Engineering.

Austin Rebello, of Oxford majored in Computer Science.

Justin Santiago Wonoski, of Dudley majored in Computer Science.

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI, a global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the class-

room to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI's pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 70 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber, data, and security systems; learning science; and more. www.wpi.edu

## Local students receive degree at WPI's 155th Commencement

WORCESTER — On Friday, May 10, North Oxford resident Nikita Igoshin, who majored in Mechanical Engineering, and Auburn resident Caleb Scopetski, who majored in Computer Science, were each bestowed a BS/MS degree at Worcester Polytechnic Institute's (WPI) 155th Commencement. Nearly 1,100 undergraduate degrees were awarded during the ceremony.

President Grace J. Wang, PhD, and Board of Trustees Chair William Fitzgerald presided over the exercises. Wang told the graduates that in a changing world, where new technologies and industries are rapidly emerging, and where they could be doing jobs that have not yet been invented, they should dream boldly, persevere, be a team player, and enjoy the journey.

"WPI has prepared you for this future," Wang said. "During your time here, you have been immersed in a transformative, leading-edge, and inclusive environment to ready you for jobs, careers, and, also, exciting opportunities to come."

In her commencement address to undergraduates, Nancy M. Pimental, a 1987 WPI graduate who spent 11 years as a writer and executive producer on the hit Showtime series "Shameless," told the graduates they are well-prepared for whatever career path they choose to follow.

"With your degree from WPI, you're ready for success," Pimental said. "You can literally accomplish anything you set sights on. Isn't that amazing? The possibilities are unlimited. You learn to think critically, solve problems logically, and work together collaboratively. These are the skills you need to overcome any obstacles that are thrown your way. There's nothing you can't do now that you're a WPI grad."

Pimental and Michael J. Dolan '75, WPI Trustee Emeritus, who served for 16 years as an active member of the Board of Trustees, received honorary degrees as part of the ceremony.

Student speaker Samuel Levitan, a biology and biotechnology major, weaved Commencement history into his speech, reminding the audience that Black educator, reformer, and intellectual Booker T. Washington gave WPI's 50th Commencement address in 1915, speaking about America's transformation since the end of slavery. Levitan also talked about the sense of belonging instilled in WPI students, who balance a STEM education with a formative personal experience.

"To learn about cutting-edge technologies and scientific discoveries at WPI takes an open mind," Levitan said. "But no matter where you go and no matter what you do, an open heart is just as important. Remember that you belong wherever that may be, and that the people around you are counting on you to believe that they belong, too."

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## Strawberry Festival coming to Dudley

DUDLEY — For the 69th year, the whole community is being invited to the Dudley Grange Strawberry Festival at 129 Center Road on Thursday, June 20. The festivities begin at 4 p.m. and last as long as the strawberries do.

Included in the day's fun are music from the Old Fiddlers' Club of Rhode Island, "The Living Statue," Dudley Fire Department's smoke house, petting zoo animals, a frog jumping contest, handmade french fries, tables from community groups and more, all in a place of good humor and community. As usual, neighboring organizations are also putting on



events, including tours of the Black Tavern.

If you have time the day before, we also need people to hull the strawberries. That's also at the

Grange starting at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, June 19, and volunteers will get snacks.

Come on down and help us hold and have fun

at an old-fashioned lawn party next to Nichols College!

## Stonehill College celebrates Class of 2024

EASTON — A total of 625 students processed at Stonehill College's 73rd Commencement on Sunday, May 19, 2024.

Benjamin Daggett of Dudley, Riley LaPre of Oxford, and Kyle Novakoski of Auburn

During the ceremony, Ed Cooley '94, head coach of the Georgetown University men's basketball team, gave the keynote address. The speaker also received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree alongside Br. Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C. '80, superior general of the Congregation of Holy Cross, and Jean MacCormack, former chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and former president of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate.

For more information about Commencement, visit Stonehill College's website.

About Stonehill College

Stonehill College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1948. Located on the beautiful 387-acre campus and former estate of Frederick Lothrop Ames in North Easton, it is a community of scholarship and faith, anchored by a belief in the inherent dignity of each person.

Through more than 100 academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, business and pre-professional field, Stonehill College provides an education of the highest caliber that fosters critical thinking, free inquiry and the interchange of ideas for more than 2,500 students.

Stonehill College educates the whole person so that each Stonehill graduate thinks, acts and leads with courage toward the creation of a more just and compassionate world.

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## Yard Sale

June 8 and 9  
 9am  
 5 Pinewood Drive, Webster  
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 Tools, Baby Furniture, Household Items,  
 2 Room Tent, Snowmobile, Old World Style Collectibles

June 1 and 2  
 8am-3pm  
 28 Hall Rd., Webster  
 Mens Size Medium shirts, pants and shorts  
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 Gallon size glass jars, 5 gallon buckets, grow lights, exhaust fans, Ski Boots (W 8.5, 10; M11)

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\* June Cazeault \* Laurie Sullivan \* Matthew Ross \* Lori Johnson-Chausse \* William Gilmore II \* Bryan Pelletier

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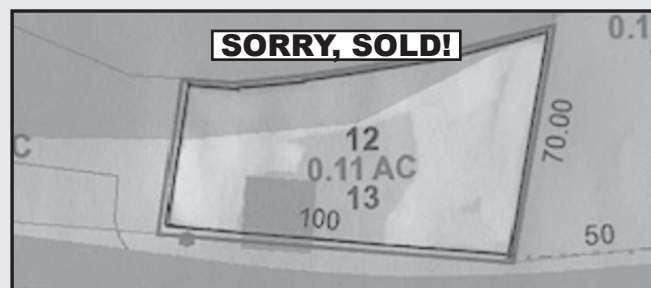
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