

# Auburn News

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Friday, June 26, 2026

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## Dudley celebrates grand opening of new Fun Zone playground



Courtesy

Town officials, project partners, and community members gather for the ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the grand opening of the new Fun Zone Playground at Dudley Municipal Complex.

## Auburn resident named president of Massachusetts Elks Association



David Charbonneau

AUBURN — At a ceremony held on June 13, David Charbonneau, of Auburn, was sworn in as the 115th president of the Massachusetts Elks Association.

The ceremony was held during the association's annual convention held at Margaritaville Resort Cape Cod, in Hyannis. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is a national fraternal organization, with each state having its own association. The Order's work is based on the principles of charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity. Its programs serve youth, veterans, and communities at large.

"To be trusted with this responsibility by an organization built on service, compassion, patriotism, and community means a great deal to me," says Charbonneau.

Charbonneau was originally initiated into Auburn Lodge #2118 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks in October, 1998. He quickly became an active member and held numerous officer positions,

becoming Exalted Ruler in 2006, and, in 2012, he was appointed and served as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the West Central District. Over the years, Charbonneau has served the MA Elks Association as trustee and as a member or chair of several of larger programs, such as the Hoop Shoot and MA Scholarship, and ENF Most Valuable Student Scholarship committees. In 2023, he was elected as 2nd Vice President of the Association, securing his journey to become State President.

"Serving with Purpose" is the prevalent theme for the year.

Charbonneau states that "Service is not just about keeping busy. It is about doing the right work for the right reasons. It is about seeing a need, stepping up, and making a real difference."

In keeping with this, he aims to increase help for our veterans through growing participation in the Welcome Home Kits for Veterans program, which provides veterans rebuilding their lives with basic items needed to set up a home. He also plans to continue the state-wide Build-a-Bed program, where Massachusetts Elks partner with the organization A Bed for Every Child to provide beds for sleep-insecure children.

"When we support this program, we are giving children comfort, stability, and simple dignity of having a place to sleep. That is exact-

Turn To **CHARBONNEAU** page **A9**

D U D L E Y — Residents, families, local officials, and community partners gathered at the Dudley Municipal Complex on June 17 to celebrate the official opening of the Town's new Fun Zone Playground, marking the completion of a community-driven project years in the making.

The event featured a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the Dudley Recreation Commission, followed by an opportunity for families to explore the new playground, enjoy free offerings from Sturbridge Coffee

Roasters and treats from Suzy Qs Ice Cream Truck.

Addressing the crowd, Board of Selectmen Chairperson Jana Deschenes reflected on the collaborative effort required to bring the project to life.

"An incredible project like this doesn't happen overnight. It takes a community coming together, and I want to recognize the people who turned this dream into reality," Deschenes said.

Deschenes acknowledged the many individuals and organizations whose support made the playground possible, beginning with the

Dudley Woman's Club, whose initial fundraising efforts helped launch the project, and the Dudley Recreation Commission, which provided ongoing oversight throughout the process.

She also thanked the Commonwealth of Massachusetts PARC Grant Program and the Central

Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) for their assistance in securing critical grant funding.

Additional recognition was given to John

Turn To **PLAYGROUND** page **A9**

## Oxford strengthens Fire/EMS facility protection with MIIA grant

OXFORD — The Town of Oxford was awarded a \$10,000 risk management grant from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA), the town's property and casualty insurance provider, to support replacement of deteriorated water lines that had been putting Fire/EMS apparatus and specialty equipment at risk of damage.

Oxford said the funding allowed the town to expedite replacement of a failed fire suppression system water line and sprinkler heads above the garage bay at Fire/EMS Headquarters. The town said the work helps ensure reliable fire protection and reduces the risk of water damage to vehicles and equipment stored in the facility.

"This grant funding has allowed us to protect and safeguard the public safety assets that help keep our residents and businesses safe," said Justin Leduc, Acting Town Manager.

Now in its 24th year, MIIA's FY2026 risk management grant program awarded a total of \$1 million to 146 members to support risk management practices and projects that help protect employees, buildings, infrastructure, and other public assets.

"This grant program is about helping members take practical steps

Turn To **GRANT** page **A8**

## Tree planting celebrates Semiquincentennial

WEBSTER — On Wednesday, June 10, members of the Webster Board of Selectmen and the Webster Conservation Agent joined the Quiet Corner Garden Club (QCGC) and Webster Girl Scout Troop 64941 for a tree planting ceremony at Memorial Beach. The event is part of the Semiquincentennial (America 250) Tree Planting Project sponsored by the Connecticut based garden club.

The white oak (*Quercus alba*) planted replaces one that once stood at the beach, but was destroyed by lightning. Noreen Stehlik from the QCGC guided the digging and planting which was enthusiastically carried out by the Girl Scouts. White oaks are long lived, native trees that can reach heights of 80 to 100 feet and support more wildlife than any other tree species in North America. Their acorns provide critical winter food for species such as deer, squirrels, turkey, and waterfowl, and they serve as a host for more than 900 species of caterpillars. Unfortunately, due to habitat fragmentation, natural regeneration of white oaks



is declining—making the generous gift to Webster more important. These trees serve as a lasting symbol of the nation's strength, resilience, and growth, honoring 250 years of history

while looking ahead to the future. The Garden Club will install a small commemorative plaque recognizing its involvement and that of the Girl Scouts.

Funding for the tree is

provided through a Plant America grant from the National Garden Clubs and supplemented by the QCGC.

**PAW of the WEEK**  
**CHESTER**  
5 YR./59 LB./MALE/RETRIEVER/CATTLE DOG MIX

About Me: Hi, I'm Chester — equal parts sweet, silly, and snuggly. I'm the kind of guy who will happily toss a toy around one minute and then roll over for belly rubs the next. I love my people deeply and bond closely with "my" humans. Once you're in my circle, you're in for life. I'm happiest when I'm playing, relaxing near you, or soaking up affection. I have a big heart, a playful streak, and a soft side that just wants to feel safe and loved.  
*A Few Honest Notes (Because Communication Matters)*  
I'm not a cat guy — it's just not my vibe.  
I've been around other dogs at the rescue and have done fine, but I didn't have much proper socialization before coming here. When dogs rush up to me, I can feel unsure and a little overwhelmed. Because of that, I'd feel most confident being your one-and-only pup while I continue building skills and confidence at my own pace.  
Vet visits used to make me nervous too — especially nail trims and being confined for exams. But guess what? I've made amazing progress. With the help of our awesome trainer, Jackie, I learned to file my own nails (yes, I'm basically a DIY king), and I've been muzzle trained so I can safely and successfully handle checkups and vaccinations! With a little medication beforehand and the right support, I'm doing so much better already. I'm proof that patience and training truly work.

Milford Federal Bank is proud to sponsor the Pawfect Life Rescue PAW of the WEEK!

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## Clara Barton School celebrates memorable week of achievement and fun

OXFORD — It was a week to remember at Clara Barton School as students, staff, and families came together to celebrate a year filled with hard work, achievement, and community spirit.

The excitement began Thursday morning, when students arrived at school to find Principal Anna Hill emerging from a tent set up on the roof of the school. The unusual sight was the result of a friendly challenge Ms. Hill made at the start of the school year. She promised students that if they reached the top fundraising goal during the PTO fundraiser, she would spend a night sleeping on the school's roof.

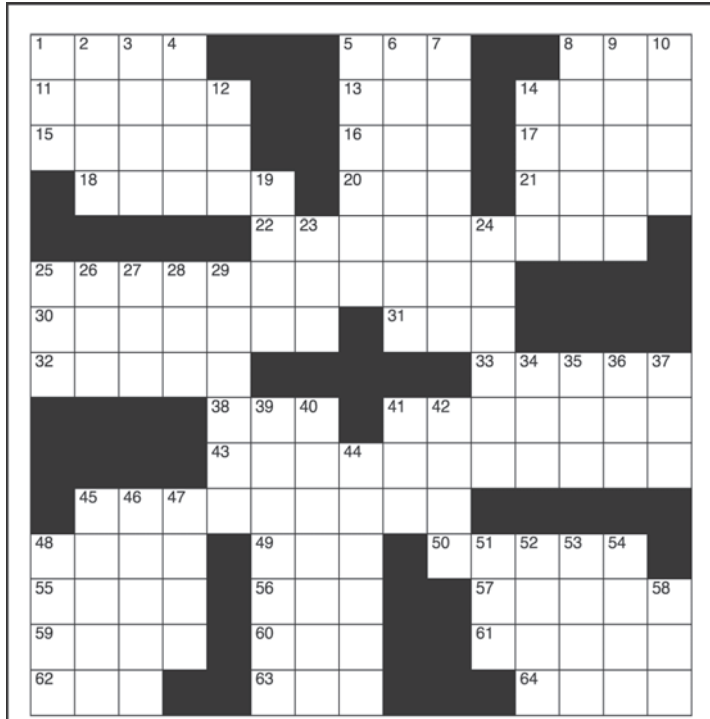
The students rose to the challenge and exceeded the fundraising goal, earning both bragging rights and a memorable reward. As children entered the building on Thursday morning, cheers and laughter filled the air as they greeted their principal after her night under the stars.

The fun continued with a special celebration for Mrs. Gilligan's third-grade class, which won the school's May attendance challenge. Their prize included popsicles and an exciting water balloon activity. Students lined up eagerly, taking turns throwing hundreds of water balloons at targets. Smiles, laughter, and a few splashes made for a perfect afternoon of celebration.

Meanwhile, Clara Barton's fourth graders showcased their hard work during their annual nonfiction project presentations. Family members and friends toured the gymnasium, where students proudly shared their research and knowledge on a wide variety of topics. Visitors were quizzed on subjects ranging from the Titanic and Major League Baseball to sea turtles and many other fascinating topics. The event highlighted students' research skills, creativity, and confidence as presenters.

The week's celebrations culminated on June 16 with the fifth-grade move-on ceremony. Students, families, and staff gathered to recognize the accomplishments of the Class of 2026 as they prepared for their next chapter at Oxford Middle School. The ceremony marked an important milestone and provided an opportunity to reflect on the friendships, memories, and achievements made during their years at Clara Barton School.

From rooftop camping and water balloon fun to academic showcases and moving-up celebrations, the week captured the spirit of the Clara Barton School community—a place where hard work is rewarded, learning is celebrated, and memories are made every day.



### CLUES ACROSS

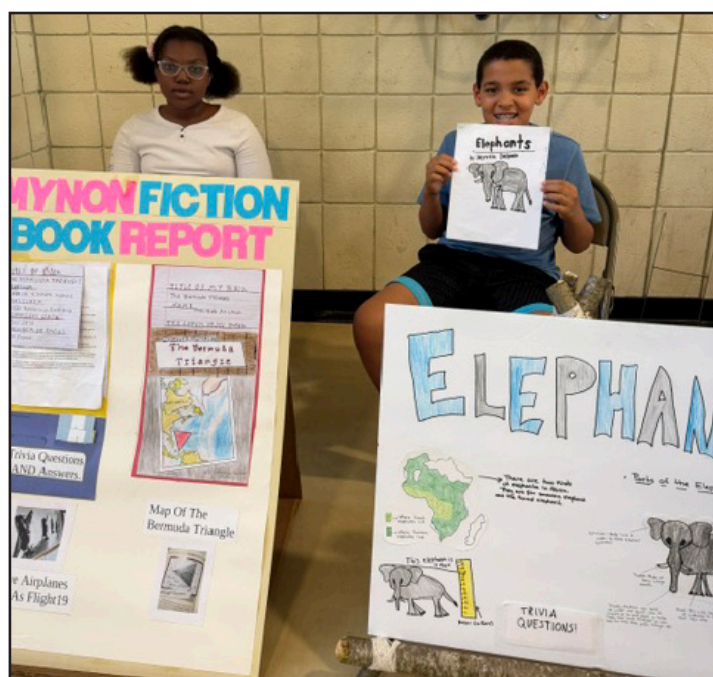
- |                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Egyptian bull god                | 33. Shorthand for accepting     |
| 5. Romanian monetary unit           | 38. Promotional materials       |
| 8. Santa's helper                   | 41. Loss of memory              |
| 11. Fictional Pink Floyd corporal   | 43. One who beheads             |
| 13. Sea eagle genus                 | 45. Photographers               |
| 14. Broad volcanic crater           | 48. Small, rich sponge cake     |
| 15. Minneapolis suburb              | 49. White clerical vestment     |
| 16. Actual commercial worth (abbr.) | 50. Partner to "ooled"          |
| 17. Exchange rate                   | 55. Abba __, Israeli politician |
| 18. Ethnic peoples in Guinea        | 56. Zero                        |
| 20. Men's fashion accessory         | 57. Owl monkey genus            |
| 21. Craft material                  | 59. Lace bug genus              |
| 22. Offerings                       | 60. Mild expression of surprise |
| 25. Early                           | 61. Storage devices             |
| 30. Large room                      | 62. Keyboard key                |
| 31. Soviet Socialist Republic       | 63. Make a mistake              |
| 32. One who hauls                   | 64. One-time Korean president   |

### CLUES DOWN

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Bridge building degree                 | 29. Scrape or wear away by friction    |
| 2. Expression of sorrow or pity           | 34. Popular vegetable                  |
| 3. Large, stocky, lizard                  | 35. Pacific Standard Time              |
| 4. Rumanian river                         | 36. Brazilian state capital            |
| 5. Missive                                | 37. Paddle                             |
| 6. Stout-bodied moths                     | 39. Cause to become insane             |
| 7. Brings out                             | 40. Drier and flakier                  |
| 8. Bird of prey                           | 41. Mimic                              |
| 9. King of Thebes                         | 42. ESPN host Kimes                    |
| 10. Cleaving tool                         | 44. One who moseys                     |
| 12. African antelope                      | 45. Secret political clique            |
| 14. Three are particularly famous         | 46. Behind the stern of a ship         |
| 19. Satisfy                               | 47. Supernatural force                 |
| 23. C. European river                     | 48. Sanctuary in Orthodox churches     |
| 24. Dictator                              | 51. Swiss river                        |
| 25. Portion of (abbr.)                    | 52. Grayish white                      |
| 26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet | 53. Engrave                            |
| 27. Consume food                          | 54. UNC's chief rival                  |
| 28. Woman (French)                        | 58. Midway between south and southeast |

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

E	E	H	R		R	R	E		T	T	V					
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\$300,525, 18 Elbridge Rd, Revive Commonwealth LLC, to MI Realty Group LLC.

\$270,000, 18 Elbridge Rd, Grass, Cheryl H, to Revive Commonwealth LLC.

\$225,000, 8 Fletcher Dr, Bombek, Vinko, to Laflamme, Susan Joan-Meta, and Laflamme, Nicholas James.

### DUDLEY

\$535,000, 9 Susan Dr, Oconnor, Daniel T, and Oconnor, Karen L, to Gould, Emily L, and Apeageyi, Kwabena.

### OXFORD

\$450,000, 20 Rocky Hill Rd, Mccullough, Bruce J, and Mccullough, Sandra L, to Lovett, Lori L.

\$425,000, 59 Larned Rd, Bronson, Derek, and Becerra, Catherine, to Bernard, Allyson J.

\$369,000, 18-4 Thayer Pond Dr #18-4, Carmody, Alecia, and Williams, Robert, to Evans, Nancy Marie, and Evans Jr, Alan.

\$245,000, 9 Ashworth Dr, Moylan Jr Richard

### WEBSTER

\$650,000, 23 Lakeside Rd, Miller, Mary, and Cabana, Jason, to Brusio, Wendy.

\$530,000, 140 School St, John K & A M Hultgren Ret, and Hultgren, Ashley M, to Shannon, Taylor J.

\$402,000, 11 Crystal St, Mello, Jordan Lynn, and Dangelo, Michael Thomas, to Weyhrich, Dylan, and Weyhrich, Kathleen B.

\$395,000, 66 Racicot Ave, Belanger, Ashley E, and Doeg, Christopher W, to Belanger, Ashley, and Silverio, Rachel.

\$385,000, 6 Riebe Ave, Bedard, Raymond, and Bedard, Carol, to Bachand, James, and Bachand, Linda.

\$379,900, 16 Pinewood Dr, Kosakoski, Th

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# A beautiful tradition continues with crowning of Mary during May devotions



WEBSTER — Devotions honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary as “the Queen of Heaven and Earth” occur every weeknight and weekend during May at St. Joseph Basilica. A poignant tradition is the crowning of the statue of the Blessed Mother, a task that carries deep reverence and beauty.

This year, on Monday, May 4, eighth-grade student Ivonka Warnajtys, president of the Children of Mary, had the privilege of placing the blessed floral crown on the Virgin Mary statue, following its blessing by Pastor Rev. Richard Polek. This was a moment of profound beauty, reflecting the mystery it evokes: The Fifth Glorious Mystery of the Rosary – The Coronation of Mary. During the devotion, the First Communion students also received their rosaries. Although the evening’s message was intended for the students, the special devotion dedicated to the Coronation of Mary should remind us of the Blessed Mother’s extraordinary role as the Mother of Jesus and the Catholic Church.

Courtesy

Eighth-grade student Ivonka Warnajtys, president of the Children of Mary at Saint Joseph School, reverently places a blessed floral crown upon the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary during May Devotions at St. Joseph Basilica. Following the blessing of the crown by Rev. Richard Polek, the moving ceremony reflected the beauty and significance of the Fifth Glorious Mystery of the Rosary – The Coronation of Mary – as students, families, and parishioners gathered in prayer to honor Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth.

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## Saint Joseph School hosts engaging Social Studies Fair for students in PreK–Grade 8



Courtesy

Saint Joseph School Grade 8 student Axel Kapitulik proudly stands beside his Social Studies Fair project focused on the attack on Pearl Harbor, which occurred on December 7, 1941. As part of the Grade 8 study of major wars throughout history, Axel researched the events leading up to the surprise attack and its impact on the United States. His well-organized and informative display reflected both careful research and a strong understanding of this pivotal moment in history.

WEBSTER — Recently, Saint Joseph School proudly hosted its inaugural Social Studies Fair, welcoming families and community members after school to experience an afternoon of student learning, creativity, and discovery. Students from the PreK 3-year-old program through Grade 8 participated, transforming classrooms and hallways into vibrant showcases of historical knowledge, research, and hands-on exploration.

The purpose of a Social Studies Fair is to provide students with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of history, geography, civics, and culture through independent and guided research. It encourages critical thinking, organization, and presentation skills, while also fostering curiosity about the world and its people. Events like this allow

students to take ownership of their learning and build confidence as they share their knowledge with others.

Across all grade levels, students created colorful, well-organized displays that reflected both their effort and enthusiasm. Each grade explored age-appropriate topics aligned with their curriculum: Grade 8 examined major wars, spanning from the Revolutionary War to the Gulf War; Grade 7 focused on government, including the Constitution and the branches of government; Grade 6 researched U.S. presidents; Grade 5 studied individual states; Grade 4 explored the history and significance of the Olympics; Grade 3 also researched states, building foundational geography skills; Grade 2 created

family trees, making meaningful connections to their own histories; Grade 1 learned about the American Revolution, choosing to study figures such as Betsy Ross, Benjamin Franklin, Paul Revere, or Thomas Jefferson, while also drawing George Washington and learning about the 13 original colonies; Kindergarten students explored the United States by creating passports and learning about states and presidents; PreK 4 students investigated animals, including their habitats, diets, and predators; and, PreK 3 students researched and shared information about their favorite animals.

The Social Studies Fair provided meaningful benefits at every developmental stage. Younger students were introduced to foundational concepts through hands-on and visual learning experiences, sparking early curiosity and excitement. Elementary students strengthened their research and organizational skills while beginning to make connections between topics and the real world. Middle school students demonstrated more advanced critical thinking, analysis, and presentation abilities, preparing them for future academic challenges.

The event was a true reflection of Saint Joseph School’s commitment to fostering a “Foundation for Life” through engaging, student-centered learning. It was inspiring to see students of all ages take pride in their work and share their knowledge with confidence. The Social Studies Fair not only celebrated academic achievement but also highlighted the importance of inquiry, creativity, and a deeper understanding of our world.

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BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

## EDITORIAL

# Built by many hands, supported by many hearts

The opening of Dudley's new Fun Zone Playground is about far more than swings, slides, and climbing structures. It is a reminder of what can happen when a community identifies a need, commits to a vision, and works together over time to make that vision a reality.

In an era when public projects often become defined by disagreements, delays, or budget concerns, the story behind the Fun Zone Playground offers a refreshing example of cooperation. The playground did not appear overnight. It required years of planning, fundraising, grant writing, engineering, coordination, and persistence. Most importantly, it required people who were willing to invest their time and energy into creating something that would benefit future generations.

The list of contributors is long, and that is precisely what makes the project noteworthy. Community organizations, local businesses, town officials, state agencies, volunteers, and residents all played a role. From the early fundraising efforts of the Dudley Woman's Club to the support of the Dudley Recreation Commission, from grant assistance provided through the Commonwealth and regional planning agencies to the efforts of local contractors and municipal departments, the project reflects a shared commitment to improving the community.

It is easy to overlook the value of public recreational spaces. Yet playgrounds serve an important purpose. They provide children with opportunities to develop physical skills, build friendships, and engage in imaginative play. They offer families a gathering place and create opportunities for neighbors to connect. In a world increasingly dominated by screens and digital distractions, safe and inviting outdoor spaces are more important than ever.

The emphasis on accessibility also deserves recognition. Modern playgrounds are designed with the understanding that recreation should be available to all children. Every child deserves a place where they can play, explore, and feel included. Investments in accessible recreational facilities send a powerful message about the values of a community.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrated a finished project, but it also celebrated the process that made it possible. Behind every successful community improvement are countless hours of work that often go unnoticed. Grant applications are written. Meetings are held. Budgets are reviewed. Plans are revised. Volunteers organize fundraisers. Public employees coordinate details. None of it is glamorous, yet all of it matters.

The result is something tangible that families will enjoy for years to come. Long after the speeches are forgotten and the ribbon-cutting photos are filed away, children will continue to run across the playground, climb its structures, and create memories with friends and family. That lasting impact is the true measure of the project's success.

Communities are often defined not by their buildings or budgets, but by the willingness of people to work together for a common good. Dudley's new Fun Zone Playground stands as a visible reminder of that spirit. It is a place built by many hands, supported by many hearts, and intended for the benefit of all.

For that reason, the playground is more than a recreational facility. It is a symbol of community pride, cooperation, and investment in the future. Those are qualities worth celebrating long after the ribbon has been cut.

## 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

## The mystery of the empty front porch

A few evenings ago, I was taking a walk through a neighborhood not far from home when I noticed something I couldn't stop thinking about. The porches were beautiful.

Fresh paint. Hanging flower baskets. Rocking chairs. Porch swings. Flags fluttering in the breeze. Everything looked exactly the way a New England front porch is supposed to look in June. There was just one thing missing.

People.

Not a single person sat on any of them.

Years ago, front porches were practically community centers. On a warm summer evening, families would gather outside after supper. Neighbors would stop and chat while walking by. Children played in the yard while adults exchanged news, complaints, weather observations, and the occasional town rumor. You didn't need a formal invitation. You simply happened to be outside at the same time. Some of my strongest memories involve those kinds of evenings. Not because anything important happened, but because nothing important happened. Someone waved from across the street. A neighbor wandered over with a question about their lawn mower. A passing dog stopped to make friends. You sat for an hour and somehow learned everything that had happened in town during the previous week.

Today, most of those conversations occur elsewhere. Some happen online. Some happen by text message. Some never happen at all. The porch itself hasn't disappeared. The purpose of the porch seems to have changed. Many of them have become decorative spaces instead of gathering places.

Now, before someone points out that people are busier than they used to be, I understand that. Summer schedules are packed. Youth sports seem to occupy every available hour. Many people work longer days than previous generations. But I don't think busyness tells the whole story. I suspect we've become remarkably good at

LANTERNS  
ALONG  
MAIN  
STREET  
By CHARLES

retreating indoors.

Air conditioning certainly deserves some of the credit. Once temperatures climb into the 80s, a comfortable living room can be difficult to resist. Streaming television, smartphones, laptops, and every other form of entertainment are waiting inside.

The front porch, meanwhile, offers only fresh air and the

possibility of an unexpected conversation. Maybe that's exactly why it mattered. Porches created opportunities for small connections that weren't planned or scheduled. They allowed neighbors to become familiar with one another without making a special effort. You learned who always walked their dog at sunset. You knew which neighbor grew the best tomatoes. You recognized the sound of someone's laugh before you ever saw them coming down the sidewalk.

Communities are built from those small interactions. Not grand events. Not official meetings. Not carefully organized programs. Just people seeing each other regularly.

The funny thing is that I don't believe we've stopped wanting those connections. Every time a power outage knocks out the Internet for a few hours, people seem to emerge from their houses. Suddenly, neighbors are talking again. Children appear in driveways. The street feels alive. It's as though the desire was there all along, waiting for a reason to come outside.

This summer, I may try an experiment. Instead of heading indoors after dinner, I might spend an evening on the front steps with a cold drink and no agenda. Maybe nobody will walk by. Maybe the whole neighborhood will remain tucked away behind screens and air conditioners. Or maybe someone will stop and say hello. If they do, I suspect we'll find plenty to talk about.

After all, the porch is still there. Perhaps all that's missing is us.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The need to ease the burden on Dudley's taxpayers has not disappeared

To the Editor:

Thank you to everyone who supported me throughout this campaign.

While the voters have chosen a different path, I want to be clear about why I ran the way that I did.

Dudley is facing rising expenses and unreimbursed state mandates. We need additional revenue, but that revenue should not come solely from the taxpayers who already shoulder the burden. In addition, the town is facing significant costs related to PFAS remediation, the duration and total amounts of which remain uncertain and are difficult to budget for. I believed it was the right thing to keep pushing for a fair PILOT agreement with Nichols College, to pursue responsible commercial

growth, and to begin discussions with the state about inadequate aid not because it was politically convenient, but because it was the responsible thing to do for the long-term financial health of this town.

I understand that standing up on these issues came with a price. I accepted that price because I believe public service should sometimes require doing what is right rather than what is easy.

To my fellow residents of Dudley, I hope the conversation about generating revenue without placing the entire burden on taxpayers continues. That need has not disappeared.

Thank you.

KERRY J CYGANIEWICZ, SR.  
DUDLEY

## A different viewpoint

To the Editor:

After several weeks and other writers, I feel compelled to give my views. As this is viewpoint, anyone who disagrees with my views, please look it up; the information is easy enough to find.

The national average for a gallon of gas was cheaper during Trump's first term, and now again during his second, than it was during Biden's term, which included over \$5 a gallon in June 2022.

Year over year, inflation was lower during Trump's first term, and again his second, than it was during Biden's term, which hit an all-time high of 9 percent, again June 2022.

The viewpoint that The One Big Beautiful Bill Act 2025 was crammed down our throats by the Republicans is just that — a viewpoint. Just like the American Rescue Plan Act 2021 and the Inflation Reduction Act 2022 were crammed down our throats by the Democrats using the same exact process of reconciliation. Add in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act 2021, and there was almost \$4 trillion in government spending, which could become \$10 trillion or more as the impacts of the requirements are felt.

And finally, the Orwellian views.

Orwellian — An adjective used to describe destructive societal conditions, totalitarian control, or government overreach that erodes personal freedom.

A bill or law that gives people an actual choice of terms to use would, in my view, be OK, but the bill in question drafted by the New York state legislature would make it law to use gestating and non-gestating. Once again, the Democrats in control deciding what can and can't be said. I guess they really don't believe in the freedom of speech they keep trying to make everyone believe Trump is getting rid of.

Section 24220 of the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, a mandate, signed into law by Joe Biden, a Democratic president. No one can blame Trump. Something that was supposed to serve a purpose, but should Democrats be in control, will no doubt be used to extremes that right now only seem Orwellian.

The bright side is that while they seem to have a tough time defining what a woman is, they show some clue. The question now becomes should males be able to compete in sports against those capable of gestating?

JOHN GIAQUINTO  
DUDLEY

## Turn your savings into paychecks in retirement



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Margaret had saved diligently for decades. Every paycheck, a portion went toward her retirement account. Then, the day finally came and she retired. Suddenly, the hardest part wasn't the saving. It was learning to spend.

If that sounds familiar, you're not alone. Many retirees find the shift from building savings to living off them emotionally difficult, even when they've planned carefully. Here are five smart strategies that can help you feel more confident about what's ahead.

Give yourself permission to spend conservatively. Your retirement plan likely assumes a certain annual spending amount, with increases each year to account for inflation. All else being equal, the lower those initial withdrawals, the longer your money will last. A financial advisor can help you set up portfolio withdrawals personalized to your goals and situation. Feel free to give yourself permission to spend those amounts, knowing there's intention behind them.

For many retirees, the challenge isn't math — it's mindset. After years of being rewarded for saving, spending can feel like doing something wrong. It can help to reframe withdrawals as a paycheck you've already earned. For example, using your monthly distribution to cover travel, hobbies or time with family isn't indulgent; it's the purpose of the plan you built. Connecting spending to your values can make it feel more natural and sustainable.

Do be sure to review your spending regularly and don't forget to set aside funds for annual expenses like taxes and insurance.

Keep some cash on hand. A general rule of thumb for retirees is to keep about 12 months' worth of withdrawals in a separate account for spending and another three to five years' worth in short-term, fixed-income investments. This cushion can allow your stock investments time to recover from a market downturn, reducing the need to sell investments when markets are down. That said, holding too much cash carries its own risk, as your portfolio may not grow fast enough to keep pace with inflation. So, while some cash is good, you'll also want to remain invested in assets with more growth potential to help your portfolio last through retirement.

Review regularly. Retirement can last 25 years or more, and even the best-laid plans need updating along the way. Review your financial strategy at least once a year or after any major life change.

Stay flexible. Even small adjustments to your spending can have a big impact on how long your money lasts. Retirees who hold off on spending increases in years when their portfolio declines are often able to stretch their savings further than those who increase withdrawals each year for inflation regardless of market performance.

Making the switch from saving to spending takes both careful planning and a genuine shift in mindset. A financial advisor can help you build out an effective approach to switch from saving to spending, and work with you so you can fully enjoy the retirement you worked so hard to reach.

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. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

## PEARLE L. CRAWFORD LIBRARY

40 Schofield Ave., Dudley  
508-949-8021

To register for events or sign up for the newsletter, go to [www.crawfordlibrary.org](http://www.crawfordlibrary.org) or call 508-949-8021.

Plant a Seed, Read Summer Reading 2026 is in full swing. Summer Reading is for all ages, sign up today and earn tickets towards some amazing prizes! Registration is open until August 10th.

Gentle Yoga  
Every Monday  
10:00-11:00

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

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

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

Quilting Group  
Every Wednesday  
1:30- 3:30

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

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

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

Teams will compete against each other, with the ultimate goal of completing a puzzle faster than their opponents. Teams can have up to six members. The first team to assemble the puzzle wins! Registration is required. There is room for seven teams; only one person from each team should register.

AI for Everyday Life

Thursday, June 25th  
6:00-7:15

Join us for a 60-minute beginner's session designed to demystify Artificial Intelligence. We will explore two essential pillars: Utility - how to use simple, free AI tools to make daily life easier, and Defense - how to spot and protect yourself from the new wave of AI-enhanced scams.

Crawford Library Book Group

Thursday, June 25th  
Prague Winter by Madeleine Albright  
6:00-7:30

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

Children's & Family Programming

Once Upon a Storytime with Kelyc

Every Monday  
10:00-10:45

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

Peaceful Projects with Raleigh

Every Wednesday starting June 17th  
2:00-3:00

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

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

"The Library Boogie" with Tom Knight

Thursday, June 25th  
1:00-1:45

Come join the fun while entertainer Tom Knight performs his exciting combination of music, puppets, and stories in "The Library Boogie"! This show is fun for the whole family, with lots of laughter and audience participation. No registration needed, but when the room reaches capacity, the program will be considered full - so come early!

Family Yoga

Friday, June 26th  
11:00-11:45

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

Seed Art & Mosaics with Hands on Nature

Tuesday, June 30th  
11:00-11:45

Join Hands on Nature for a simple lesson on the life cycle of a plant and the importance of seeds. After, use your creativity to make a mosaic with beautiful seeds! This program is for ages 4 and up. No registration needed, but when the room reaches capacity, the program will be considered full - so come early!

Teen Programming

Dungeons & Dragons Game

Every Thursday  
6:00-7:30  
Ages 14-19

Needle Felted Carnivorous Plant for Teens

Tuesday, June 23rd  
1:30-3:00

Join Pop Up Art to make this quirky and cute needle-felted carnivorous plant, complete with fangs and a bright red tongue, all rooted in a real terra-cotta pot! This teen program is for ages 12-17 only. Registration is required, as spots are limited.

2 Lake St., Webster  
508-949-3880

Library Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Library will be closed on Saturdays from July 4th - Labor Day

The Library will be closed on Friday, July 3rd

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!

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

Special Events

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

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

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

Taxation, Tyranny, and Treason Virtual Talk with Christopher Daley - Friday, June 26th at 10:00am

This dynamic lecture traces the turbulent decade that transformed colonial protest into outright rebellion. Britain's victory in the French and Indian War reshaped its empire - and saddled Parliament with staggering debt. In response, long-ignored colonies suddenly found themselves targeted by new taxes and strict trade controls. Rich with visuals and gripping storytelling, this presentation reveals how outrage became ideology - and protest became independence.

SUMMER READING KICK OFF - Saturday, June 27th 10:30am-1:30pm

Join us at 10:30am for an animal extravaganza with Rainforest Reptile Shows, followed by the Summer Eats Kickoff!

Slime Time! - Monday, June 29th at 5:00pm

Let's celebrate summer with three slime-tastic events! Once a month we will be offering different slime projects for everyone in the community to enjoy. Drop in anytime between 5:00 PM until 6:00 PM to get creative.

Women in the American Civil War - Monday, July 6th at 6:00pm

Women in the American Civil War explores the often-overlooked effects of the war on women. The program will look at the acceptable roles for women in 1860. It will investigate women's many and varied important contributions to the Union and the Confederacy during the

four years of the War. The program will use examples of women whose efforts and sacrifices changed the concept of acceptable women's work.

Adult Programming  
Literacy Volunteers:  
ESL Classes - Tuesdays at 6:00pm

The Literacy Cafe is a free weekly English conversation class offered by Literacy Volunteers of South Central Massachusetts (LVSCM). This class is free to attend and is open to all adults. For more information, email us at [info@lvscm.org](mailto:info@lvscm.org).

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

Losing a loved one is never easy. Please know that you are not alone. If you need support in trying to navigate the changes in your life, join us in a place of safety and comfort with others who have also experienced loss. This grief support group is a place to find understanding as we explore our grief, share coping strategies, and begin to heal.\*\*The Saturday Sessions for July and August will be held offsite at Generations in Webster.\*\*

Yoga - Tuesdays at 6:30pm

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

Midnight Society Book Club - Wednesday, July 1st at 6:30pm

Love to read spooky books all year round? Join us for a horror book club where we will meet and discuss a book every month! We will try out classic horror as well as newer releases, and scary horror as well as cozy. Prepare to have fun being scared! Copies of this month's book are available at the circulation desk. To be added to the group, email Janessa at [jbarrette@cwmar.org](mailto:jbarrette@cwmar.org)

The Final Frontier Sci-Fi Book Group - Thursday, July 2nd at 6:00pm

Want to explore outer-space from the comfort of your own home? Want to discuss speculative futures? Join Assistant Director Evan Hale for a Sci-Fi Book group where we will look at classic and modern sci-fi titles.

Programming for All Ages

Library for All - Mondays and Fridays in June at 10am

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

Davis Bates Presents: Sea Songs & Stories from Shore to Deep Water - Thursday, June 25th at 6:30pm

Celebrate New England maritime traditions and folklore in this lively, participatory program by Davis Bates. Be sure to join us for this wonderful program of traditional

interactive entertainment celebrating the magic and power of the sea. Funded, in part, by a grant from the Webster Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the MA Cultural Council.

Children's and Young Adult Programming

Play-Doh Storytime - Mondays at 10:30am

Join us for an engaging storytime filled with interactive stories and Play-Doh fun! Kids are invited to explore, squish and make new creations each week. This sensory-friendly program is perfect for young learners and their grown-ups.

Creators Club - Mondays at 4:00pm

Come explore our Creators Club, where each month features a new theme highlighting a different art supply for kids to experiment with and turn into their own masterpieces! July's Theme: Button Art! Kids will have an array of buttons to choose as they make their wildest creations. From button fish to button trees anything the ideas are endless. All creations left behind will be displayed in the Children's program room for the rest of the month.

Tiny Groovers - Tuesdays at 10:30am

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

Mighty Builders - Tuesdays at 4:00pm

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

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## Brookfield Water Department

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### Water Superintendent/Primary Operator

**The Town of Brookfield is seeking a full time MA DEP Licensed Water Superintendent/Primary Operator dedicated to water system operations, with additional duties as directed and assigned.**

**The Superintendent/Primary Operator will work under the direct supervision and authority of the Brookfield Water Commissioner. This position is responsible for all aspects of supervision, planning, administration, operations-maintenance and customer service of the Brookfield Public Water Department, D1/T1 system.**

**In accordance with MA DEP regulations, the Superintendent/Primary Operator must be available to the system within one hour travel time.**

**For more information and a copy of the Position Description, please contact the Brookfield Water Department at 508-867-2930 X17 or via email: [hchisholm@brookfieldma.us](mailto:hchisholm@brookfieldma.us)**



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**Hours: Thursday, Friday & Saturday 4-8; Sunday 12-5**

**Hexmark Tavern Hours: Thursday & Friday 4-8**

# Little Pirates Class of 2026 celebrates preschool graduation



OXFORD — Proud families, friends, and teachers gathered at Oxford High School on Monday morning to celebrate a special milestone for the Little Pirates Preschool Class of 2026 as students participated in their Moving On to Kindergarten Ceremony.

The ceremony began at 10 a.m., with excited graduates entering the venue dressed in decorated caps and gowns, showcasing their unique personalities and creativity. The young students were met

with smiles, applause, and plenty of cameras as loved ones captured the memorable occasion.

Throughout the ceremony, teachers recognized the achievements and growth of each child during the past school year. One by one, students proudly crossed the stage to receive their diplomas, marking the completion of their preschool journey and the beginning of an exciting new chapter in kindergarten.

Family members and friends cheered

enthusiastically as each graduate accepted their diploma, celebrating the hard work, friendships, and stood politely for pictures.

The event concluded with a touching slideshow featuring photographs of the students throughout the school year. The presentation highlighted classroom activities, special events, learning experiences, and moments of laughter shared among classmates.

The Moving On to Kindergarten Ceremony served as a joyful celebration

of the Little Pirates Class of 2026 and their readiness for the adventures that await them in elementary school. With diplomas in hand and bright futures ahead, the graduates left the ceremony surrounded by the support and encouragement of their families, friends, and teachers.

Congratulations to the Little Pirates Class of 2026!

DUDLEY — The Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library's 2026 Summer Reading Program, "Plant a Seed, Read!" is officially

## Summer Reading Program at Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library

underway, and community members of all ages are invited to participate.

This year's program encourages patrons to make full use of library services. Participants can earn tickets toward prize drawings by checking out library materials, including eBooks and audiobooks through Libby, attending library programs, and engaging with library resources throughout the summer.

"Summer Reading is a wonderful opportunity for families, children, teens, and adults to discover everything the library has to offer,"

Library Director Nicole Messier said. "Whether you're borrowing books, listening to audiobooks on Libby, attending programs, or exploring new interests, every library visit can help

you earn chances to win."

The library is grateful for the generous support of local businesses, organizations, and community members who have donated prizes and made the program possible.

Special thanks to: Hugh & Harriet Endowment for the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library; Friends of the Crawford Library; Yummy's; Worcester Red Sox (WooSox); Candice of Emmerly Lane; A. & K. Richford; S. Anderson; P. Korch; Crystal Caves; Profile Salon; Yankee Candle; Eric Carle Museum; Armstrong Acres; Simply Baking; Boston Crawling;

Woodstock Fair; Bradley Theatre, and Bryzee Candles.

Their generosity helps support literacy, lifelong learning, and community engagement, while providing exciting prizes for participants throughout the summer.

Registration is open now, and there is still plenty of time to join the fun. Visit the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library to sign up and start earning entries today.

For more information about Summer Reading 2026 and upcoming programs, visit [crawfordlibrary.org](http://crawfordlibrary.org) or stop by the library.

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Associate Professor of Medicine, Umass-Chan Medical School  
25 Oak Ave., Worcester, MA 01605 508-799-2674  
"Committed to Advancing appropriate care to people with arthritis"

**Friday's Child**

Trendiva is a bright, kind, and curious young girl with a warm and engaging personality. She enjoys learning, sharing her thoughts with others, and exploring the world around her. Trendivamakes connections easily when she feels comfortable and supported, and she takes pride in her accomplishments. She is thoughtful, creative, and self-aware, showing maturity as she works on positive habits and personal growth. Her resilience, kindness, and eagerness to try new things make her a joy to be around. Trendiva is a creative learner who especially enjoys math and reading. She loves hands-on activities and projects, such as planting a chia seed fairy garden, and enjoys opportunities to express her creativity. She also takes pride in helping around the home and demonstrates responsibility in her daily routines. Trendiva responds well to encouragement, consistency, and structure, and she thrives when given opportunities to learn, create, and connect with others. With continued support and guidance, Trendiva will continue to grow and shine. She would benefit from a nurturing and encouraging family that can support her academic interests, creativity, and social development while helping her build confidence and explore new experiences.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/50901156408>

**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.

## DUDLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCES

### HONOR ROLL

DUDLEY — Dudley Middle School has released its honor roll for the fourth quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

**Grade 5 High Honors**  
Adelynn Ashford, Reid Bachand, Calleigh Barney, Jacob Belanger, Emily Bell, Emma Bennett, Aleah Blackburn, Estelle Brackett, Layla D'Andrea, Charlie Durgin, Maurice Hammil, Makenna Karle, Mason Karle, Logan Keefe, Phoenix LeBlanc, Hunter Leverone, Rosalie Lundy, Ivan Mayombwe, Christopher Mello, Bella Menzone, Penny Myler, Gregory Panu, Anderson Paradise, Bayleigh Podles, Mackenzie Smart, Gregory Standing, Kaiden Swift.

**Grade 5 Honors**  
Joicey Agim, Xzavier Agosto, GunnarAnderson, Madeline Avakian, Jadiel Berrios, Connor Campbell, John Campbell, Noah Chestna, Aidyn Choumanivong, Brendan Clark, Maliyah Cooley, Landen Cruz, Anthony Cunkovski, Jarilyn Delcid, Emmeline Dirodi, Benjamin Drewry, Lois Dzanka, Isabelle England, Dominic Estremera, Jonathan Fawzy, Nevaeh Fraticelli, Stella Fuentes, Ashlyn Goetz, Adelyne Greamo, Reagen Hansen, Audrina Harrington, Averi Hortance, Amelia Jones, Maaray Kostandy, Cailin Lambert, Abigail Lamusta, Miguel Lara Alves, Savannah Lepage, Jensen Linares Calderon, Jordan Lopez, Nathan McCormack, Aaliyah Maina, Alexandra McAvey, Skylar Meehan, Mackenzie Mettel,

Mina Morgan, Eva Padgett, Gavin Page, Lillian Paradis, Ann-Heavenly Pommier, Gabriella Powaza, Carlos Prefontaine, Rafael Rabski, Quinn Remillard, Logan Rim, Avery Ruderman, Gabriella Santos, Victoria Santos, Norah Scott, Nicholas Spahl, Alice St. George, Hazel St. Laurent, Cedric Snyal, Ayla Thurber, Isla Tomlinson, Arsanios Towadros, Jovahnni Vallejo, Alexis White, Emma Wierbik, Cameron Wilson, Owen Young, Paisley Zawalich.

**Grade 6 High Honors**  
Jayden Agosto, Natalia Androlewicz, Charlie Audet, Audrey Barcelo, Nina Browning, Gabriela Cabrera, Mary Carmignani, Nestor Castaneda Garland, Austin Cazeault, Abigail Craver, Eleanor Daniel, Luca DiDonato, Kaelee Fix, Keilani Gonzalez, Connor Hains, Elaria Ibrahim, Elianna Ibrahim, Carter Lebeau, Sid Lindsay, Bryce McCormack, Riley Mackowiak, Samuel Majka, Liam Mason, Maxwell Mathews, Amora Mello, Jameson Metzler, Maddox Millette, Zachary Moisan, Liam Nelson, Irvin Nyatuka, Kalisia Roldan, Alayah Ruskin, Xander Sanchez, Aniela Slanda, Alexander Vivencio, Theodore Weimbs-Tsvid, Charlotte Young.

**Grade 6 Honors**  
Julianna Androlewicz, Meadow Arena, Noah Aubin, Hunter Baldwin, Nicholas Bandolean, Colin Barnes, Reagan Barrile, Biman Basalious, Riley Bell, Kaelianys Boulos, Jak Bousquet, Mason Cahill, Maya Caron, Juliet Carter, Sadie Cerand, Anthony Coccia, Kaiden Coulson, Seth Cregg, Rebecca Czernicki Ramsey, Vincent D'Ambra, Robin Donais, Tristan Ducharme, Mia Fifield, Madison Fortin, Wyatt Foskett, Amelia Gago, Korbin Giantsios, Geomara Gonzalez, Lucas Henderson Mendoza, London Hogan, Michael Keefe, Cash Keenan, Owen Laro, Alexus McGinty, Zoe Meeks, Cathaleya Melendez, Cody Mitchell, Elijah Murray, Iyla Navin, Leo Piotti, Gabriela Prusinski, Alexa Racine, Madalynn Rodriguez, Bryce Rousseau, Hailey Shaw, Adele Sikorski, Grace-Ann Smith, Camellia Sobinska-Colon, Hannah Staruk, Andrew Szpakowski, Hunter Tomlinson, Geovanny Vazquez, Leah Waleski.

**Grade 7 High Honors**  
Miah Amorelli, Jasmine Arboleda, Grayson Belley, Rihnaya Bembridge, Logan Connor, Logan Dunn, Kylie Ebbeling, Nadia Gawrych, Penelope Habib, Elliott Harnois, Henri Hokanson,

Charlotte Langlois, Anthony LeBlanc, Alexandria Lundy, Olivia Macek, Lauren Mitchell, Benjamin Moisan, Annabel Murray, Rhys Myler, Delaney O'Grady, Layla Perez, Sara Rabski, Skyline Rivera, Logan Rodrigues, Amarie Rosario, Zachary Standing, Claire Snyal, Braden Traverso.

**Grade 7 Honors**  
Ivory Agim, Addelin Anderson, Connor Ares, Avery Battista, Ava Baxter, Lily Blessington, Jason Broadmeadow, Jacob Casey, Silas Ciuchta, Caleb Coddington, Fiona Cole, Ronan Coulson, Liv Cushing, James D'Andrea, Chloe Daniels, Lana Denson, Arianna Dos Santos, Afram Geres, Malcolm Goetz, Leo Guardiani, Ava Hortance, Jack Joyce, Michael Kaloyanides, Cynthia Kerry, Timothy King, Mia Kreft, Whitney Kungu, Abigail Larrabee, Angelina LeBlanc, Makayla Mabee, Giada Manzi, Isabella Mathieu, Marcus Meschke, Sebastian Milewski, Adriana Panu, D'Andre Parra-Olivera, Aralynn Patraw, Peter Penesis, Joseph Poletta, Hunter Reid, Ava Rosario, Jenna Rousseau, Sabella Rust, Colin Shorten, Leilani Sobinska-Colon, Isabella Soto, Ivy St. Laurent, Natalie Stinehart, Lorenzo Trifone, Jacob Wilson, Ishak Youssef.

**Grade 8 High Honors**  
Abigail Avakian, Yosneiry Baez Pena, Sophie Barcelo, Jackson Bell, Gwyneth Boudreau, Sofia Cabrera, Richard Carmignani, Paul Chabot, Celeina Collins, Isabella Congdon, Tiffany DePaula, Addison Duval, Taya Greene, Milani Hammil, Phoebe Houatchanthara, Eliora Ibrahim, Karolina Janusz, Camden Karle, Olivia Laskowski, Taylor Laskowski, Calista Lawless, Alexander Lewandowski, Chidimma Madu, Maria Mankarios, William Martel, Jolene Ndegwa, Arianna Norton, Natalia Osowska, Carter Paquin, Mia Piotti, Ariana Rodriguez, Evan Steriti, Ayla Tombeno, Anastasia Towadros, Lucas White.

**Grade 8 Honors**  
Erik Anderson, Logan Ashford, Jordan Ashton, Griffin Bachand, Oltina Bektashi, Jason Bianchi, Kellen Caines, Kolby Campbell, Olivia DeLisle, John Doyle, Olivia Dubreuil, Dylan Dufresne, Benjamin Durgin, Chase Dzivasen, Mason Fanion, Jaxon Flagg, David Kruszewski, Noah LePage, Cooper LeVierge-Mallet, Macy MacDonald, Eleanor McCool, Victor Mensah, Chanice Patel, Kiersten Plocher, Alayna Pontbriand, Jolena Renaud, Valentina Sedykh-Gil, Nathan Shay, Justen Shenouda, Jacob Strafer, Malik Thomas, Ryder Trajanowski, Ivanka Twumasi-Ankrah, Avianna Vega, John Whitcraft, Rofail Youssef.

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# Experience an 18th century magic show at the Samuel Slater Experience

WEBSTER — Step back into history for a one-of-a-kind experience of magic, illusion and mystery. The Samuel Slater Experience will be hosting a historical magic show by award-winning Professor D.R. Schreiber, the Historical Conjurer, on July 3 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$16 per person.

As the Historical Conjurer, Professor D.R. Schreiber evokes the spirit of early magical performances and brings parlor magic back to the public. In the 18th century, conjuring (as magic was called then) emerged as a genuine art form and entertainment. Known as “professors of

natural philosophy”, magicians would rent taverns, legitimate theaters or lecture halls for the exhibition and displays of legerdemain, necromancy, or what would today be called “illusion” and “magic tricks.” Top dollar would be paid by the citizens of Europe to see the latest discoveries in the science of “natural philosophy” presented by these conjurers. Today, Professor D.R. Schreiber presents an historic look at the beginnings of modern magic in his performances and exhibitions. Professor D.R. Schreiber leads his audiences on a stroll through the past centuries of conjuring entertainment. His unique presentations enter-

tain while educating the audience about historical events, literary and cultural figures, and the science and art of conjuring.

The Samuel Slater Experience will be closing at 2:30 p.m. to accommodate this special performance. Please purchase tickets online, at the box office, or by calling 508-461-2955. Buy both museum admission for Friday, June 3 and performance tickets for a discount. Email [admin@samuel Slater Experience.org](mailto:admin@samuel Slater Experience.org) with any questions. The performance will be held at the Samuel Slater Experience, 31 Ray St., Webster.



# Oxford Lions Club helps local resident regain independence



Jenna Santos is joined by members of the Oxford Lions Club following the presentation of funding for adaptive vehicle modifications that restored her ability to drive independently.

OXFORD — The Oxford Lions Club recently helped local resident Jenna Santos regain her independence through a community-wide effort to fund adaptive vehicle modifications.

Since December 2019, Santos has lived with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS), a condition that limited the use of her right leg and left her believing she might never drive again. While a Cecropia Strong grant helped her learn to use adaptive driving equipment, the cost of modifying a vehicle remained a significant barrier.

Funding for the project was made possible through a Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) District Community Impact Grant and support from the Webster Lions Club, Oxford Lions Club, L & L Concrete, Webster/Dudley Veterans Council, DAV Chapter 53, Webster PAV, and Webster VFW.

Advance Wheels of Oxford completed the vehicle adaptations, allowing Santos to return to driving independently.

The project serves as a powerful example of how

Lions Clubs help their communities by identifying local needs and bringing together grants, businesses, organizations, and volunteers to create meaningful change. Through the combined efforts of community partners and dedicated Lions members, what once seemed impossible became a reality for one local resident.

“Because of your generosity, I have regained my independence, reconnected with my social life, and taken a major step toward returning to work. Thank you for giving me my freedom and my future back,” said Santos.

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# Webster First announces Premiere Sponsorship to save annual Independence Day Fireworks

WEBSTER — Webster First has announced it will serve as the premiere sponsor for the annual Independence Day fireworks display on July 2 at Memorial Beach. Hosted by the Webster Dudley Charles R Guenter Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 654, the event will ensure local families can continue to enjoy this cherished community tradition.

The Town of Webster typically hosts the annual celebration for residents. However, due to significant budget limitations this year, town officials were faced with the difficult possibility of canceling the event. Recognizing the importance of the fireworks display to the local area, the town partnered with the Veterans of Foreign Wars to facilitate a sponsorship donation.

Webster First stepped forward to bridge the funding gap, underscoring a deep commitment to its members and the surrounding community. As an institution founded in Webster, the organization prioritizes giving back to the community that provided its foundation. Stepping in to save the fireworks reflects a continued dedication to supporting local families and preserving important civic events.

## GRANT continued from page A1

to reduce risk and strengthen resilience,” said Stan Corcoran, Senior Executive and MIIA Executive Vice President. “Our focus this year was to empower members to effectively address the growing challenges of evolving weather patterns, employee health and safety, and emerging cybersecurity threats. We are pleased to support Oxford’s efforts to protect critical emergency response equipment, reduce property risk, and strengthen facility safety.”

MIIA is a membership service of the Massachusetts Municipal Association. As a mission-driven, member-led nonprofit, MIIA focuses on providing Massachusetts municipalities and other governmental entities with insurance coverage alternatives, quality risk management, and wellness programs.

For over four decades, MIIA has proudly supported its members in their efforts to build stronger communities, foster safer work environments, and implement programs that promote the health and well-being of their employees. For more information, visit [www.emiia.org](http://www.emiia.org) and [www.mma.org](http://www.mma.org).

## Booklovers’ Gourmet hosting meet & greet with author Jenn Bouchard

WEBSTER — Booklovers’ Gourmet, located at 72 East Main St. in Webster, is hosting a summer meet & greet with author Jenn Bouchard for her newest release, “Palms on the Cape,” on Tuesday, July 14, from noon to 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Signed copies of several of her books will be available for purchase. For more information or to RSVP, please call 508-949-6232 or email [deb@bookloversgourmet.com](mailto:deb@bookloversgourmet.com).

About the Book: After a tumultuous childhood, Rachel Sinclair has made a life for herself. On the verge of turning forty, her upscale beach bar—Palms on the Cape—is packed throughout the Cape Cod summer season. She has surrounded herself with a devoted staff and great friends, including her best friend, Carlos...who she might be in love with. When Rachel learns of a plan to take over her business, she must decide if it’s worth the gamble to join forces with an unlikely ally, or risk losing everything she has worked for.

Jenn Bouchard is the award-winning author of “Palms on the Cape,” “Considering Us,” and “First Course,” as well as several published short stories. She has been teaching high school social studies for twenty-six years and also teaches short story classes to adults in her community. She is an avid cook, volunteer for good causes, and devoted Red Sox fan. A graduate of Bates College and Tufts University, she lives in the Boston suburbs with her husband and two teenage children.

## Local students named to Dean’s List at Hofstra University

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Molly Starczewski of Dudley and Patrick Bruso of Auburn excelled during the spring 2026 semester at Hofstra, achieving a GPA of at least 3.5 to earn a spot on the Dean’s List.

Starczewski’s major is Dance, and Bruso’s is Political Science.

Hofstra University’s primary mission is to provide a quality education to its students in an environment that encourages, nurtures, and supports learning. At Hofstra, new ideas take shape through collaboration, engagement, and interaction. Hofstra students create their success with small classes and dedicated faculty, alongside a beautiful campus, plus all the opportunities of New York City within easy reach.

## Lasell University’s Abigayle Simpson receives Collaboration Recognition Award

NEWTON — Abigayle Simpson of Auburn was selected to receive the Collaboration Recognition Award at Lasell University for the Spring 2026 semester at Lasell University. This peer-nominated award recognizes students who demonstrate excellence in collaboration through effective communication, idea-sharing, and teamwork. The award reflects Lasell’s emphasis on collaboration as a core learning outcome and a key career readiness competency identified by the National Association of Colleges & Employers.

## Dudley residents invited to participate in Master Plan Community Workshop

DUDLEY — The Master Plan Steering Committee invites residents, business owners, and community stakeholders to attend an upcoming Master Plan Community Workshop on Saturday, June 27, 2026, at Shepherd Hill Regional High School. The interactive workshop will be held from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., allowing participants to drop in at any time during the event.

The workshop is an important opportunity for community members to help shape the future of Dudley by sharing their ideas, priorities, and vision for the town’s long-term growth and development.

Participants will have the chance to provide input on a variety of topics, including:

- Open Space and Recreation
- Housing
- Land Use
- Transportation
- Economic Development
- Public Services and Facilities

The feedback gathered during the workshop will help guide an update to Dudley’s Master Plan, a comprehensive roadmap that will influence future decisions related to land use, infrastructure, economic growth, community services, and quality of life.

“Community participation is essential to creating a Master Plan that reflects the needs and aspirations of Dudley residents,” Town Planner Bruce Webb said. “We encourage everyone to attend and share their perspectives as we plan for the future together.”

To make participation easier for families, free food will be provided, and children’s activities will be available throughout the event.

Residents of all ages are encouraged to attend and contribute their ideas as Dudley works to create a shared vision for the future.

## Eastern student Ella Springer of Dudley makes Dean’s List

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — Eastern Connecticut State University recently released its Dean’s List for the spring 2026 semester, recognizing 1,216 students for maintaining high GPAs.

Among them is Ella Springer of Dudley, a full-time senior majoring in health sciences.

To qualify for Dean’s List, full-time students must complete a minimum of 12 credits in letter-graded courses with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher in the semester. Part-time students are eligible if they’ve accumulated 15 or more credits of letter-graded coursework with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher.

## Local student earns degree from Emmanuel College

BOSTON — Emmanuel College awarded a Bachelor of Arts Psychology - Developmental Psychology Cum Laude to Ava Brown of Auburn at the College’s 104th Commencement on May 9.

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# Community Connection

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# OBITUARIES

## Irena R. Paprocki, 101



**DUDLEY** – Irena R. Paprocki, 101, died Saturday, June 20, 2026 in Notre Dame Long Term Care after a period of declining health.

She leaves several nieces and nephews: Virginia M. Carnignani of Dudley who was also her caregiver, Mary V. Reilly and her husband Thomas of Ashburn, VA, Katherine A. Vincent of Atlanta, GA, and Donald F. Vincent, Jr. and his spouse Dr. John Hohneker of Las Vegas, NV; many great-nieces and great-nephews, great great-nieces and great-great-nephews.. She was preceded in death by her brothers Edward W. Paprocki and Henry A. Paprocki, and by her sisters Helen Hajec, Dorothy M. Paprocki and Theresa E. Vincent.

Ms. Paprocki was born on May 7, 1925 at home in Dudley, the third child of Walter and Mary (Kozlowski) Paprocki and graduated from Bartlett High School in Webster in 1943. She completed studies at the Vesper George School of Art. She lived in Boston during her working years, returning to Dudley on the weekends and for vaca-

tions. She worked for over 50 years as a commercial artist for the advertising department at the telephone company in Boston, retiring from Verizon in 2000.

She was a communicant of Saint Andrew Bobola Church in Dudley and, along with her sister Dorothy, sang Masses there for many years. She was a member of the Chorus Pro Musica in Boston when she lived there and participated in their international tours. She excelled at photography and loved taking pictures at any occasion. She was also an accomplished artist, specializing in oil paintings.

Her funeral will be held on Monday, June 29, from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster, with a Mass at 11:00 AM in Saint Andrew Bobola Church, 54 West Main Street. Burial will be in the family plot in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace, Webster. Visitation will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 in the funeral home on Monday, prior to the Mass. Donations in her name may be made to Saint Andrew Bobola Parish, 54 West Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571.

www.websterfunerals.com

## Paul S Wilga, 76



Paul S Wilga, age 76, of Webster died Friday, June 19, 2026 at UMass-Hubbard Campus after a courageous battle with cancer.

Paul was born August

12, 1949 in Webster, MA. He is the son of the late Paul J and the late Rose (Gagnon) Wilga. Paul graduated from Bartlett Trade School and has lived in Webster all his life.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 53 years Linda (Nezuh) Wilga and one daughter: Tara and her husband Tim Whiting of Webster, His beloved grandchildren grandson, Tyler; granddaughter Taylin; two sisters: Janet and her husband Gordon Forrester of Thompson, CT and Norma Kapitulik of Shelburne Falls, MA, Sister In Law, Liz and her husband Tom Gion of Dudley. many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

His greatest joy was watching his grandkids at all of their sporting events. Always happy to show his support for not only them, but all of the people in his village. He was their loudest supporter, even when you couldn't hear him and was always happy to share his opinion with

any official that would listen. He was truly loved by so many .

He was employed many years in maintenance departments at area plants. He later worked for Dugas Vending in Webster and All Seasons in Southbridge.

Second to his grandchildren was family trips to Cape Cod and visits to Disney World to visit "The Mouse".

A Mass of Christian burial will be held 11:00 am on Friday, June 26 at St. Anthony Of Padua Church, 24 Dudley Hill Rd., Dudley. Calling hours will be Thursday, June 25 from 6 to 8 PM at Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, MA.

In lieu of flowers, memorials donations may be made to Bartlett High School Athletic Department, c/o Bartlett High School 52 Lake Parkway Webster, MA 01570 .www.bartelfuneralhome.com

### PLAYGROUND

continued from page A1

Milas and the Webster Dudley Oxford Chamber of Commerce for fundraising to rally business and community support in reducing the local contribution financial impact on Dudley taxpayers.

A special acknowledgment was made to Assistant Town Administrator Olivia Antonson, who served as the project's primary coordinator and liaison among state agencies, designers, and contractors throughout the planning and construc-

tion process.

Deschenes also thanked Superintendent MJ Gatzke and the Dudley Highway Department for overseeing site preparation, Michael Radner and Katarina Creamer of Highpoint Engineering for the playground's design, and Mike Leshar of Landscaping by J. Michael for installing the playground and site enhancements.

"Finally, thank you to the residents of Dudley for supporting this investment in our community. This playground belongs to all children, and we are so proud

to officially open it today," Deschenes said.

The new Fun Zone Playground represents a significant investment in recreation, accessibility, and quality of life for Dudley families. Town officials noted that the project stands as an example of what can be achieved through partnerships among residents, local organizations, businesses, and government agencies.

The town extends its gratitude to everyone who contributed their time, expertise, funding, and support to make the project a reality.

### CHARBONNEAU

continued from page A1

ly what serving with purpose looks like," Charbonneau says.

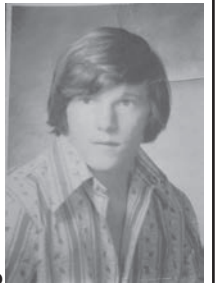
Charbonneau's internal goals within the MA Elks Association focus on Getting Back to Basics, strengthening or rebuilding areas that suffered from and are still recuperating since COVID, including lodge and public ceremonies and rituals, and traditions. As part of this, he has pledged to visit every one of the 54 lodges in the state at least once during his tenure.

During his speech at the association banquet, Charbonneau thanked his wife, Debi, his family, fellow lodge members, and past State Presidents for their guidance and support over the years, which made it possible for him to assume his new role as state president.

### In Memoriam—Kevin Darling

#### A Half Century of Remembrance

On July 4, 1976, our beloved Kevin Darling, only 22 years old, lost his life in a tragic accident.



As we reach the fiftieth anniversary of that day, we pause to honor his memory and the lasting impact of his short but meaningful life.

Kevin was a proud athlete who loved the game of football, and he carried that same spirit — determination, loyalty, and heart — into everything he did. His absence has been felt across generations, yet his legacy endures in the stories we share and the love we carry.

— The Darling Family

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)



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# LEGALS

COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS  
LAND COURT  
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL  
COURT

Docket Number: 26 SM 001927  
ORDER OF NOTICE  
TO: Angela Phaneuf  
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq) Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in 27 Homestead Avenue, Auburn, MA 01501, given by Angela Phaneuf to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for United Wholesale Mortgage, LLC, dated October 31, 2023 and recorded in the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 69829, Page 329, 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 7/27/2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.  
Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 6/15/2026.  
Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder June 26, 2026

COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS  
LAND COURT  
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL  
COURT

Docket No. 26 SM 001860  
ORDER OF NOTICE  
TO: Blossom A. Williams and Sandra A. Simon  
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 D/B/A Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Oxford, numbered 39 Fairlawn Avenue, given by Blossom A. Williams and Sandra A. Simon to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Caliber Home Loans, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated November 18, 2022, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68505, Page 76, 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 07/20/2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.  
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 6/8/2026.  
Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder June 26, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate  
and Family Court  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
(508) 831-2200  
Docket No. W026P1666EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Joyce A Nilson**  
**Date of Death: 09/16/2025**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Sandra A Brown of Millbury MA and George C Berry of Auburn, 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: .  
**Sandra A Brown of Millbury MA and George C Berry of Auburn, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the estate in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/14/2026**.

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

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

**WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: June 12, 2026  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
June 26, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate  
and Family Court  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
(508) 831-2200  
Docket No. W023P2678EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FOR  
ALLOWANCE OF ACCOUNT**  
**In the matter of: Robert John Miller  
Date of Death:07/19/2023**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition has been filed by: **Christine M. Jacob of Webster MA** requesting allowance of the 1st account(s) as Personal Representative and any other relief as requested in the Petition.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/07/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: June 10, 2026  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
June 26, 2026

**MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE  
OF REAL ESTATE**

**9 Birch Dr, Webster, MA 01570**  
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Cynthia M. Bourbeau to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., acting solely as nominee for First Magnus Financial Corporation, an Arizona Corporation, its successors and assigns, dated June 22, 2007 and recorded in Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 41372, Page 162, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as mortgagee to Aurora Loan Services LLC recorded October 22, 2009 in Book 44995 at Page 213, the mortgage was assigned to Aurora Loan Services LLC, by Nationstar Mortgage LLC, its Attorney-in-Fact to Nationstar Mortgage LLC, recorded October 21, 2013 in Book 51649 at Page 98, the mortgage was assigned

from Nationstar Mortgage LLC to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Lehman Mortgage Trust Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-8, recorded April 11, 2025 in Book 71844 at page 149 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction on July 21, 2026 at 2:00PM local time upon the premises 9 Birch Dr, Webster, MA 01570, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:  
A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND WITH THE BUILDINGS THEREON, SITUATED IN WEBSTER, IN THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER, AND COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:  
BEGINNING AT A RAILROAD SPIKE ON THE SOUTHERLY SIDE LINE OF BIRCH DRIVE AT THE NORTHWESTERLY CORNER OF THE PARCEL TO BE DESCRIBED; SAID SPIKE BEING THE MOST EASTERLY CORNER OF LAND OWNED BY IRWIN YOUNG AND EUGENIA YOUNG;  
THENCE N. 88 DEG. 16' 13" E. ALONG THE SOUTHERLY SIDE LINE OF BIRCH DRIVE FOR A DISTANCE OF 72.46 FEET TO A RAILROAD SPIKE;  
THENCE: S. 22 DEG. 07' 52" W. ALONG LAND OF JOHN JOHNSON AND DONNA A. JOHNSON FOR A DISTANCE OF 110.27 FEET TO AN IRON ROD;  
THENCE: IN A GENERAL WESTERLY DIRECTION ALONG LAND OF MARY DOW AND THE FORMER EDGE OF A SWAMP FOR A DISTANCE OF 130 FEET MORE OR LESS TO AN IRON ROD;  
THENCE: N. 52 DEG. 16' 46" E. ALONG LAND OF IRWIN YOUNG AND EUGENIA YOUNG FOR A DISTANCE OF 36.10 FEET TO AN IRON ROD;  
THENCE: S. 54 DEG. 00' 45" E. ALONG THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF PARCEL B FOR A DISTANCE OF 14.48 FEET TO AN IRON ROD;  
THENCE: N. 35 DEG. 59' 15" E. ALONG THE EASTERLY LINE OF PARCEL B FOR A DISTANCE OF 49.56 FEET TO AN IRON ROD;  
THENCE: N. 52 DEG. 16' 46" E. ALONG LAND OF IRWIN YOUNG AND EUGENIA YOUNG FOR A DISTANCE OF 29.01 FEET TO THE RAILROAD SPIKE AT THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

THE ABOVE -DESCRIBED PARCEL CONTAINS 9,975 SQUARE FEET MORE OR LESS.  
BEING A PORTION OF THE PREMISES CONVEYED TO LEO A. BOURBEAU AND CYNTHIA M. BOURBEAU BY FOUR DEEDS RECORDED WITH THE WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN BOOK 7670, PAGES 259, 261, 263 AND 264.  
SAID PREMISES ARE SHOWN AS PARCEL A ON PLAN OF ALBERT L. FITZBACK, R.L.S. DATED DECEMBER 16, 1982 AND RECORDED IN PLAN BOOK 503, PLAN 80.

The premises are to be sold and conveyed "as is" subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, easements, restrictions, covenants, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, improvements, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water and sewer liens, municipal liens and assessments, and any other encumbrances of record which are in force and applicable having priority over said mortgage whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens, encumbrances is made in the deed and will be subject to any rights of redemption for unpaid federal taxes, if any, as shall, notwithstanding this provision, constitute valid liens or encumbrances thereon after said sale, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order at the time and place of sale will be required to be Paid by the purchaser in the form of certified funds at the time and place of sale. The Deposit shall be forfeited to the mortgagee if the successful bidder does not comply strictly with the terms of the Memorandum of sale. The balance of the purchase price shall be

paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified funds to Albertelli Law, 5404 Cypress Center Dr., Ste 300, Tampa, FL 33609. A deed will be provided to the purchaser for recording upon receipt of the full purchase price. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. By order of the present holder of said Mortgage which hereby gives notice of its intention to bid as said sale or at any adjournment or postponement thereof.

TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.  
Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Lehman Mortgage Trust Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-8, Present Holder of said Mortgage  
By Its Attorney,  
Patrick D. Beaton, Esq.  
Albertelli Law  
400 Trade Center, Suite 5900  
Woburn, MA 01801  
Phone: 813-221-4743  
25-002508  
June 19, 2026  
June 26, 2026  
July 3, 2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket Number: 26 SM 001849 Date Filed: 6/5/2026 ORDER OF NOTICE TO: **Amanda J. Adams** and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq) **Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for the benefit of the Freddie Mac Seasoned Credit Risk Transfer Trust, Series 2020-3** claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Haverhill, **37 Highcrest Park, Unit 4**, given by Amanda J. Adams to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS") as nominee for Norwich Commercial Group, Inc., d/b/a Norcom Mortgage dated November 16, 2012 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 49983, Page 141, 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 **07/13/2026** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 6/8/2026.  
Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder.  
June 26, 2026

**SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

Under G.L. c.255 Sec.39A Notice is hereby given by School Street Towing, 17-31 School St., Webster, MA 01570 Pursuant to the provisions of G.L.c. 255, Section 39A. that on 11 July 2026 at 9am at 17-31 School St by Private Sale. the following motor vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garagekeeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle:

Vehicle Description: Year 2018  
Make:Dodge  
Model:Ram1500  
Registration#/State: Un Reg  
VIN:3C6JR6DG0JG312327  
Name and Adress of vehicle owner:  
KATELYNN MARRIE RICHARD  
21 BRANDON RD  
DUDLEY, MA 01571-3425  
by Frank Czechowski  
Dafted: 10 June 2026  
This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. c. 2S5, Section 39A  
June 26,2026  
July 3, 2026  
July 10, 2026

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Webster - 24 Cooper Rd  
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Saint Joseph School's 2026 Spelling Bee winners are pictured with event judge Mrs. Krystal Kolesnik. From left: Lukas Barbosa, First Place; Axel Kapitulik, Second Place; Quinn Meehan, Third Place; and Mrs. Krystal Kolesnik, President of the Saint Joseph School Home and School Association. Lukas won the competition by correctly spelling the word initiative.

# Lukas Barbosa crowned 2026 Saint Joseph School Spelling Bee Champion

WEBSTER — On Wednesday, May 27, Saint Joseph School held its annual Spelling Bee for students in Grades 7 and 8. The event, which has become a cherished school tradition, provided students with an opportunity to demonstrate their spelling proficiency, vocabulary development, and ability to perform under pressure in a friendly yet challenging academic competition.

After several competitive rounds, Lukas Barbosa, a Grade 8 student, was crowned the 2026 Spelling Bee Champion by correctly spelling the winning word, initiative. Second Place was awarded to fellow Grade 8 student Axel Kapitulik, while Third Place honors went to Quinn Meehan of Grade 7.

The Spelling Bee was judged by Mrs. Krystal Kolesnik, President of the Saint Joseph School Home and School Association (H.S.A.). Following the competition, Mrs. Kolesnik presented the awards on behalf of the H.S.A., recognizing the

dedication, preparation, and perseverance demonstrated by all participants.

As part of this long-standing tradition, Lukas's name will be added to the school's perpetual Spelling Bee plaque, which proudly recognizes past champions and serves as a reminder of the academic excellence fostered at Saint Joseph School.

Spelling bees offer students far more than an opportunity to compete. They encourage the development of strong language skills, expand vocabulary, improve reading comprehension, and build confidence in public speaking. Participants learn the value of preparation, persistence, and good sportsmanship—qualities that will benefit them both in and beyond the classroom.

Congratulations to all of our student spellers for their hard work and commitment, and special recognition to Lukas, Axel, and Quinn for their outstanding performances in this year's competition.

# Deirdre Legasey named to Dean's List at University of Maryland Global Campus

ADELPHI, Md. — Deirdre Legasey of Auburn was named to the Dean's List for the spring 2026 term at University of Maryland Global Campus. To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.

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

# Ted Spanos of Auburn named to University of Alabama Dean's List

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Ted Spanos of Auburn was named to The University of Alabama Dean's List for Spring Semester 2026.

A total of 14,306 students enrolled during Spring Semester 2026 at The University of Alabama were named to the dean's list with an academic record of 3.5 (or above) or the president's list with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's).

The UA dean's and president's lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or undergraduate students who take less than a full course load.

For more information, visit news.ua.edu. The University of Alabama, part of The University of Alabama System, is the state's flagship university. UA shapes a better world through its teaching, research and service. With a global reputation for excellence, UA provides a forward-thinking environment and over 200 degree programs on a beautiful, student-centered campus. A leader in cutting-edge research, UA advances discovery, creative inquiry and knowledge through more than 30 research centers. As the state's largest higher education institution, UA drives economic growth in Alabama and beyond.

# I scream, you scream...

AUBURN — The Auburn Historical Society & Museum will be doing a three-part series on the ice cream shops past and present. In the past, what was your favorite place to get ice cream and why? Where do you go today to get your ice cream? What's your favorite flavor? Maybe your favorite will be in future articles.

This ice cream survey is still on the Auburn Historical Society and Museum Facebook page at Auburn Historical, for people to chime in their opinion. There is also email auburnmuseum@verizon.net, leaving a message by phone [508-832-6856] or come into the Auburn Historical Society & Museum, 41 South St. The museum is open Tuesday and Saturday mornings 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and www.auburnhistoricalmuseum.org.



Congratulations to the following students who were selected as May students of the Month at St. Joseph School: Pre-K 3-year-old: Carter Healy; Pre-K 4-year-old: Forrest Lovett; Kindergarten: Maeve Haynes; Grade 1: Clark Collins; Grade 2: Harper Quetti; Grade 3: Paulina Deptula; Grade 4: Keziah Anobah; Grade 5: Julia Biela; Grade 6: Giorgios Sgouritsas; Grade 7: Jacob Manzi; Grade 8: Kalleia Agosto. Students are awarded Student of the Month for their outstanding exemplification of Religion, Respect, and Responsibility. Keep up the great work!

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