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Friday, August 15, 2025

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Emerging author showcases debut novel in Danielson



Maggie Montville of Dudley shows off her debut novel during a signing and meet and greet at Pourings and Passages in Danielson.

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DANIELSON, Conn. — Becoming a published author is a dream many writers long to accomplish. For Dudley, Mass. native Maggie Montville, that dream has now become a reality with the release of her first book, “The Sideshow.”

Montville, who graduated high school earlier this year, officially released her first novel after a roughly two-year publication process, showcasing the finished product during a meet and greet at Pourings & Passages in Danielson, Conn. on Aug. 9. “The Sideshow” is described as a young adult horror-suspense thriller that takes inspiration from several different literary classics to create an engrossing mix of genres and characters. While the process from start to finish was long and required significant dedication, Montville said it was rewarding, and she plans to continue to expand on her bibliography with her second novel currently in the works.

“The Sideshow” started as a short story for Montville’s creative writing class, but she found enough inspiration to expand the tale into a full-fledged book. She called the novel a thrilling story driven by the experiences of her characters as a murder mystery unfolds around them.

“It’s more like a psychological horror story under the surface. It’s more about the characters, what drives them, and the actions around them and how that affects their behaviors. It’s based off a lot of stories. There’s a ton of literary allusions to stories like ‘Alice in Wonderland,’ ‘The Wizard of Oz,’ and ‘Frankenstein.’ Each of the characters are meant to be parallels to classic storybook characters but in a twisted way,” Montville said.

The original concept emerged in Montville’s junior year, sparking a multi-year process where she partnered with an editor to finalize the project earlier this year. She leaned on a close friend to create the art for the book. While to many the process may be daunting, Montville wants to encourage any other aspiring writers to follow their passion as she did.

“Persevere. Keep going. Take much needed breaks when you need to keep yourself invested in the project,” was the advice Montville wished to share. “The dream is so achievable and can definitely be done if you put in the time and effort.”

“The Sideshow” is now available on Amazon or through Montville’s website, maggiemontville.com. Montville plans to continue her writing career as she enters college, currently working on her follow-up book “Echoes in the Frame” expected to release in 2026.

Jason Bleau

Scott Mills promoted to Police Chief in Auburn



AUBURN — The town of Auburn has a new Police Chief! On Aug. 15, R. Scott Mills became the new police chief for the Town of Auburn.

Mills started his police career in 1993 in the town of Norwell before transferring to the Auburn Police Department in 1997.

After working in Patrol Division, becoming a member of the CEMLEC SWAT Team and then the Detective Unit, Mills was promoted to Sergeant in 2002 where he supervised patrol shifts and was given the opportunity to learn about other important aspects of police administration.

While at the rank of Sergeant over an eleven-year period, Mills oversaw the Communications Dispatchers, was in charge of the Property and Evidence Room, was responsible for Firearms Licensing under the direction of Chief Sluckis and immersed himself in learning the ins and outs of grant writing and administration.

In 2013, then Sgt. Mills returned to the Detective Unit as the supervisor, working all manners of major investigations, including the 2016 murder of Officer Ronald Tarentino, Jr. He served as the Investigations Division Supervisor until the start of 2022, when Chief Lemon promoted him to the rank of Provisional Lieutenant and then to be the Department’s first Deputy Police Chief that same year.

As Deputy Chief, Mills revamped the Department’s policies with a move towards State Accreditation, obtained a

Turn To MILLS page A10

Webster’s new Fire Chief sworn in

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — Various aspects of public safety dominated the Aug. 4 selectmen’s meeting.

Swearing in the new fire chief kicked things off. Jeff Saad has been in the department since 2011, and deputy chief about two years.

As Town Administrator Rick Lafond put it, when they did their search for deputy then, “It was really clear to us we were really looking for the next chief.” Saad’s next two years were “an audition” for the top post, and Lafond said “he’s done an outstanding job.”

Retiring Chief Brian Hickey agreed, saying he’ll “walk away feeling very comfortable that Jeff’s extremely capable of taking charge of the department.” To him, that was particularly important given that they’ve spent 15 years “building a department we’re pretty proud of.”

Saad said he wants to “continue to raise the bar” of improvement in the department, and thanked his family for “the sacrifices they make for what this job entails.”

Later, the board heard the semi-annual police department report from Chief Michael Shaw. Over about half an hour, he summarized the first half of 2025, starting as usual with staffing. The

department has a recruit in the academy until January, Officer Bak was award First Responder of the year for delivering a baby, and Shaw plans to host lieutenant’s and sergeant’s assessment centers to promote people in October.

In the field, he noted they’ve seen “a lot more pursuits lately,” which is “a trend we see nationwide” of more people running from arrest (sometimes slowly) than earlier in his career. That sometimes played a role in the various arrests, he discussed. That list included various drug busts; a juvenile caught with a firearm that was not his parents’; a break-

in where the accused turned on the gas possibly intending arson; a March raid where two officers were seriously dog-bitten; a man arrested in April for car theft and assaulting a woman with a knife; another for shooting at juveniles on his property in June.

Beyond those, Shaw cited lots of statistics. This year has seen 510 incidents, 479 arrests and 214 car crashes so far. Among them, he said crimes vs people have dropped 15 percent (sexual assaults are up, but the total number is still low), there are “a lot more shopliftings” and car thefts have “almost

Turn To SAAD page A10

Dudley exploring locations for AEDs

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The Dudley Board of Health is hoping to increase access to AEDs, working to place two of the devices in heavily trafficked areas to be available in case of emergencies.

Automated External Defibrillators, or AEDs, are portable medical devices that deliver shocks to a patient to re-establish normal heartbeat during cardiac arrest. Dudley has two AEDs they are looking to place in strategic areas to be available for public use if a situation arises with plans to donate one to a local business and station another as an accessible town property.

Board of Health Chair Roberta Johnson discussed the plans with the board-at-large on July 15, explaining one of their priorities is to donate an AED to local business Upside, a popular eatery and bar located in a heavily trafficked plaza and nearby to the town’s library.

“I would like to leave one with them because it’s at a central location on Schofield Avenue. There’s a pizza restaurant and a liquor store, there are businesses on that street. I think the library has their own, but (Upside) is the establishment that’s open the latest,” Johnson said.

The staff at Upside have already been properly trained in use of the AED according to Johnson. The AED would be donated by the town to be kept at the business for any emergency.

The second AED will likely be positioned at a town property, likely the town hall or the schools. Joshua Place, a series of apartments off West Main Street, was also discussed as

Turn To AEDS page A10



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Bay Path awarded grant to expand adult workforce training

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is thrilled to announce it has been awarded a Career Technical Initiative (CTI) Round 10 grant totaling \$1,337,077.24, a workforce development initiative supported by the Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Massachusetts Workforce Skills Cabinet.

This highly competitive grant will allow Bay Path to deliver no-cost, credentialed training and job placement services to unemployed and underemployed adults across Worcester County. Training will be provided in Automotive Collision Repair, Automotive Repair

Technology, Building Maintenance, Culinary Arts, Diesel Technology, Electrical, HVAC, Manufacturing, and Welding—fields critical to the Commonwealth’s economic growth.

“We’re incredibly grateful to the Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Workforce Skills Cabinet for this CTI grant,” said Superintendent-Director Kyle Brenner. “This funding allows Bay Path to significantly expand our adult training programs, directly addressing the critical demand for skilled tradespeople in our region. We’re proud to empower individuals with the skills they need to thrive, while

helping build a stronger, more resilient workforce across Massachusetts.”

The Career Technical Initiative is designed to meet persistent workforce shortages in the trades and manufacturing sectors by leveraging the state’s vocational school infrastructure. Bay Path will continue its close collaboration with MassHire Career Centers and regional Workforce Boards to provide high-quality training leading to industry-recognized credentials and direct employment pathways.

Eligible participants must be 18 years or older and either unemployed or underemployed—defined as earning less than \$56,100 annually (or \$27 per

hour). Most recent high school graduates qualify as underemployed and are encouraged to apply.

Bay Path is building on a record of success. Through previous CTI Rounds 7 and 9, the school trained more than 70 adult learners in trades such as Culinary Arts, HVAC, Manufacturing, and Automotive Collision Repair—many of whom are now working in their chosen industries.

“As a graduate of the CTI Program I am excited for the new group of students that will be able to take advantage of the hands-on vocational training. This program will provide them the skills and tools needed to acquire jobs and improve their lives. I am working in the auto collision


field and am planning on more education to better my current position and enhance my career. The support that Bay Path and MassHire provided throughout the program and after with job assistance was key!” said Pamela Truenow / Long Subaru, CTI Auto Collision class of 2025.

Bay Path’s CTI employer partners include Masonic Health System/The Overlook, ckSmith Superior, C&C Temp Control, Inc., Kinefac Corporation, Upper Blackstone Clean Water, Dexter, MassDOT, Sheet

Service Contractors, Table 3 Restaurant Group, Fuller Collision Center, Long Subaru, Harr Motor Group, UMass, and Flexcon.

As the need for skilled tradespeople continues to grow, Bay Path and its network of employer partners remain committed to building opportunity, strengthening local economies, and supporting the success of working families across the Commonwealth.

Interested participants can learn more or apply by visiting masshirecentralcc.com/baypathcti.

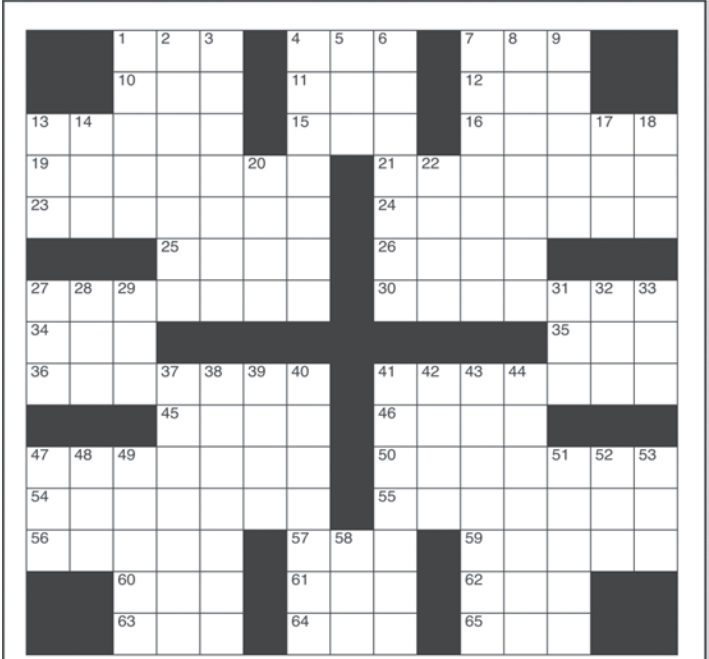


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- ### CLUES ACROSS

 - 1. Auto manufacturer
 - 4. The 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet
 - 7. Two-year-old sheep
 - 10. Member of indigenous people in Asia
 - 11. Airborne (abbr.)
 - 12. Actress de Armas
 - 13. Not moving
 - 15. Cool!
 - 16. Plants of the arum family
 - 19. Perceptible by touch
 - 21. Rorschach test
 - 23. Monetary units
 - 24. Art
 - 25. Cardinal number
 - 26. Dueling sword
 - 27. Hates
 - 30. Fixed in one place
 - 34. Pie ___ mode
- 35. Moved on foot
 - 36. Passenger’s spot on a motorcycle
 - 41. A way through
 - 45. “Rule, Britannia” composer
 - 46. Leader
 - 47. Flowing
 - 50. Common greetings in Arabic countries
 - 54. Solution for all difficulties
 - 55. Soft clothing fabric
 - 56. Building material
 - 57. Sea bream
 - 59. A way to cause to be swollen
 - 60. One and only
 - 61. Skin color
 - 62. Wreath
 - 63. Nevertheless
 - 64. They ___
 - 65. Sea eagle

- ### CLUES DOWN

 - 1. Policemen (French)
 - 2. Toy dog
 - 3. Inflamed colon disease
 - 4. Muscular weaknesses
 - 5. Helps little firms
 - 6. References
 - 7. Takes down
 - 8. Facilitates
 - 9. One-time empress of the Roman Empire
 - 13. Engine additive
 - 14. Chemistry solution
 - 17. Written account
 - 18. Consumed
 - 20. Coming after all others
 - 22. No (slang)
 - 27. Government lawyers
 - 28. Super Bowl winner Manning
 - 29. Small amount
- 31. A way to save for your future
 - 32. A way to travel behind
 - 33. Midway between northeast and east
 - 37. Head pain
 - 38. Loud lawn insect
 - 39. Actress Hathaway
 - 40. Boat race
 - 41. About fish
 - 42. Nursemaid in India
 - 43. Marketable
 - 44. Tinier
 - 47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
 - 48. Paddle
 - 49. Oneness
 - 51. Bitter compound
 - 52. Not around
 - 53. Very fast airplane
 - 58. Swiss river

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Cornerstone Bank tees up big donation to support senior living

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, is donating \$7,500 to the Briarwood Continuing Care Retirement Community with a gold sponsorship in the Briarwood Golf Outing Sept. 25 at Cyprian Keyes Golf Club in Boylston. It’s the third year in a row the bank has donated that amount to Briarwood.

“We’re proud to support Briarwood’s mission to promote independent living among seniors,” said Dan D’Amico, VP, commercial services manager at Cornerstone Bank, who has participated in the tournament in recent years.

“We look forward to this fun event every year,” said Tim Gardell, VP, commercial lender at Cornerstone. “It’s become a great tradition for a worthy cause.”

The Briarwood Community in Worcester provides residential living ranging from independent living to assisted living, memory care and full-service nursing home care.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank’s local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone, which is a subsidiary of PeoplesBankCorp, MHC, operating independently under its own name and brand, provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities through a broad range of deposit and loan products and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.



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REAL ESTATE

AUBURN

\$ \$455,000, 53 Burnett St, Desautelle Rita J Est, and Peepas, Katherine, to Kilonzo, Jeniffer, and Njehia, Bernard.

\$449,650, 17 Bridge St, Deso Gary D Est, and Deso Jr, Robert E, to Madani, Zahir.

\$415,000, 134 Prospect St, Wigen, Suzanne F, and Wigen, Russell J, to Boisvert, Arielle.

\$325,000, 10 Tuck Farm Rd #4, Becker, Maggie R, to Bitsue, Naomi.

\$320,000, 3 May Ln, Popielaczky, Devon P, to Balous, Connor.

DUDLEY

\$685,000, 10 Tobin Dr, Benvenuti, Michael, and Benvenuti, Tracy L, to Marks, Michelle D, and Kennedy, Edward J.

\$635,000, 90 Marsh Rd, Antos, Leonard J, to 90 Marsh Rd Nt, and Conner Land TLLC Tr.

\$470,000, 15 Grace Ln, Leblanc, Kenneth, to Farmer-Mason, Katelynn M, and Mason, Trevor A.

\$205,000, 1 Wysocki Dr #9, Modena Inc, to Reyes, Alicia O.

OXFORD

\$600,000, 2 Depot Rd, Creamer, Colin J, to Abaskhiroun, Essam A.

\$431,000, 270 Main St, Good Shepherd Epis Church, to Malo, Eric N, and Malo, Alysha I.

\$420,000, 19 Corbin Rd, Powell, Dawn M, and Powell, Andrew D, to Colon, Anthony L.

\$400,000, 1 Henry Marsh Rd #A, Teiko, Theophilus N, to Rangel, Rodrigo.

\$249,200, 3 Thayer Pond Dr #10, Cove, Chelsea M, to Dube, Normand

\$152,500, 3 Thayer Pond Dr #11, Boyns, Stephen D, to Shaw Development Inc.

\$75,000, 1 Westview Dr, Lacki, Maryann, to Picard Jr, Robert W, and Picard, Michelle M.

WEBSTER

\$585,000, 28 Joyce St, Korch, Leonard, and Korch, Megan, to 28 Joyce St LLC.

\$488,500, 6 Boyden St, Korch, Leonard R, and Korch, Megan E, to 435 Main Street LLC.

\$450,000, 14 Stockbridge St #A, Brown Ft, and Brown, Paul A, to Boone, Michael, and Boone, Jean A.

\$415,000, 37 Scenic Ave, Garces, Mario, and Garces, Meaghan, to Brien, Jessica P.

\$319,000, 245 Sutton Rd, Ackley, Wendy B, to Hogan, Michael.

\$240,000, 8 May St, Plaza Jean Loretta Est, and Plaza, Mark A, to Dasilva, Aparecido.

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Local officials go the extra mile in support of Pan-Mass Challenge

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE — Local public safety agencies are thanked for once again teaming up to ensure a safe Pan-Mass Challenge. Held on Aug. 2 & 3, the event brought together thousands of riders, volunteers, and guests in support of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The annual ride requires countless hours of preparations from participants, including physical training and fundraising. The same level of commitment is invested in the event from a public safety standpoint, with multiple agencies working together to plan logistics for the big weekend. “I’d like to thank all of our public safety partners for their tremendous support during this year’s PMC event,” said Sturbridge Police Chief Earl Dessert. “As always, this operation would not

be possible without the collaboration and dedication of our fellow law enforcement agencies, support teams, and volunteers.” The following agencies and departments teamed up to ensure a safe ride: Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency; Sturbridge Emergency Management; Sturbridge Fire Department and EMS; Massachusetts State Police; Worcester County Sheriff’s Office; CEMLEC SWAT and the CEMLEC Motor Unit; the Environmental Police; East Brookfield Police Department; Sturbridge Police Department; Quincy Police Department; and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). “I also want to thank PMC staff members Sue Brogan and Matt McGuinness for their continued partnership, com-

munication, and leadership throughout the planning and execution of this massive event,” Chief Dessert added. The 2025 PMC marked the end of an era, as riders departed from the Sturbridge Host Hotel start line for the final time. Beginning next year, the start line will be moved to the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. For Sturbridge residents and public safety leaders, watching the final launch from the traditional start line brought a range of emotions, with riders pouring onto Route 20 in town for the last time. “As this marks the final year the PMC will kick off from Sturbridge, it is bittersweet. While I am saddened to see the event move on, I am extremely proud of the many years we hosted the start of this ride without a sin-

gle major safety issue,” Dessert said. “Our top priority has always been the safety of the riders, and I know we delivered the level of security they deserved—from full intersection coverage to detailed coordination across jurisdictions.” Added Dessert, “To the men and women of the Sturbridge Police Department—thank you for always going the extra mile. The behind-the-scenes coordination and commitment each of you demonstrates every year is a point of pride for our agency and our community.” To ensure a safe ride, local departments begin planning far in advance of the event, coordinating everything from traffic control operations to rider and spectator supports. “A heartfelt thank-you to Lieutenant Larry Bateman

and Matthew Wyke (Sturbridge Emergency Management), who has overseen the security planning for the PMC for many years. Their work starts months in advance and is a major reason why this event has consistently gone off without a hitch,” Dessert said. The PMC is a fully supported bike-a-thon that provides riders with fundraising tools and guidance; meals and snacks at hub sites; water stops along routes; and mechanical and medical assistance. The PMC raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraising event in the country. All funds raised by the event support the Dana-Farber Cancer

and research. “I want to wish all PMC riders many more years of safe and successful rides,” Dessert said. “Lastly, I extend my deepest gratitude to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The PMC has raised an extraordinary amount of money for patients and families, and we are proud to have played a small role in supporting that mission.” The PMC is Dana-Farber’s single largest supporter. Since 1980, the event has raised roughly \$1.05 billion for Dana-Farber. To learn more about the PMC and how you can join the fight against cancer by making a donation, visit www.pmc.org.

Auburn to receive Mass Save Municipal Energy Manager grant

AUBURN — Auburn announced it will receive funding for the inaugural Mass Save Municipal Energy Manager Grant program from The Sponsors of Mass Save® to hire an energy manager who will lead efforts to reduce the municipality’s energy use and carbon emissions in municipal buildings. As part of a concerted effort to become more energy efficient, the energy manager will help Auburn utilize Mass Save programs and incentives for energy efficiency and building decarbonization projects in municipal buildings, with a focus on K-12 schools. “I would like to extend our sincere thanks to Mass Save for the generous grant that is helping to fund our new Energy Manager position. With the ever-increasing cost of energy, it is essential that we work together to reduce consumption where possible,” said Dori Vecchio, Auburn Town Manager. “This new position will collaborate with both town residents and municipal departments to identify and implement energy-saving opportunities that will benefit our entire community.” The funding that Auburn receives is part of a statewide program which will help 63 municipalities across Massachusetts become more energy efficient through the hiring of 24 energy managers. These managers will help cities and towns complete energy efficiency projects that impact communities, with a particular focus on K-12 school buildings. “Residents and businesses throughout Massachusetts will benefit from increased energy efficiency that

these 63 municipalities will experience through this impactful program,” said Tilak Subrahmanian, Vice President of Energy Efficiency and Electric Mobility at Eversource. “We are committed to working with participating communities over the next three years to complete projects that immediately lead to energy savings and improved sustainability of community fixtures like schools, fire departments, and public spaces.” By helping their communities to take advantage of Mass Save programs, the energy manager will drive participation in energy efficiency and building decarbonization projects that will create healthier and more sustainable schools and public buildings and bolster the municipality’s role in achieving the Commonwealth’s climate goals. To learn more about the Mass Save Municipal Energy Manager Grant and other ways the Sponsors of Mass Save are creating a clean energy future for all, please visit www.mass-save.com/community. About the Sponsors of Mass Save® Mass Save® is a collaborative of Massachusetts’ electric and natural gas utilities and energy efficiency service providers including Berkshire Gas, Cape Light Compact, Eversource, Liberty, National Grid, and Unitil. They empower residents, businesses, and communities to make energy efficient upgrades by offering a wide range of services, rebates, incentives, trainings, and information. We respectfully ask that Mass Save is referred to as “the Sponsors of Mass Save,” or “the Mass Save Sponsors,” to

reflect the participation of all utility and energy efficiency service providers within the collaborative. For more information, please visit <https://www.masssave.com/>. Thank you to the Board of Selectmen and Town Administration for supporting sustainability goals and reducing carbon emissions and energy costs. Any questions regarding this initiative can be directed to: E n e r g y M a n a g e m e n t Division e n e r g y m g r @ town.auburn.ma.us (508) 832-7704



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Fundraiser supports DCRSD Baseball and Lacrosse

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — A recent fundraiser procured significant funds that will help purchase equipment and celebratory championship clothing for the Dudley Charlton Regional School District’s Baseball and Girl’s Lacrosse programs. The money, which was raised through donations on SNAP Raise, helps offset the expenses for specialty items for both programs. District Athletic Director Chris O’Donnell appeared before the School Committee in July where he revealed that the platform used allowed supporters and families to voluntarily donate to help funds over the course of around a month’s time. The items that will be covered by the money include championship shirts for the lacrosse team as well as goal targets, box goals, stand-up goalie foam, collapsible defenders and a team camera. The baseball program will invest in a weighted mound tarp and home plate for weather protection, base plugs to keep bases secure, and stone dust for infield, lines, and home plate. O’Donnell explained that the funding was a way to offset the existing program budget and allow families and supporters to donate by choice to benefit local sports. “These funds are raised supplemental, and do not supplant our operating budget and our basic responsibilities. These teams took part in the SNAP fundraising application. This is a platform that the Class of 2025 at Shepherd Hill took part in successfully and used. The contributions came from family members, parents, relatives, friends, etcetera. Families can choose to donate through the app online in any amount,” said O’Donnell. “The goal behind these fundraising efforts was to cover the cost of specialty items in order to help strengthen and expand the programs beyond their current rosters. Both teams had successful years, winning Midland-Wachusett League. The future is bright for both groups.” The School Committee accepted the funding after asking for some specifics about how the money was raised and how it would be used. The combined price tag for all expected investments between the lacrosse and baseball teams came out to roughly \$8,975. It was not clear if enough funds had been raised to cover all or only a portion of that cost.



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Adult Programming
Yoga – Tuesdays at 6:00pm

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

Literacy Volunteers: ESL Classes – Tuesdays at 6:00pm
The Literacy Cafe is a free weekly English conversation class offered by Literacy Volunteers of South Central Massachusetts (LVSCM). This class is free to attend and is open to all adults. No pre-registration is required.

For more information, email us at info@lvscm.org

Yoga Nidr – Wednesday Mornings at 8:15am
Join Adult Services Librarian Jess for a relaxing yoga nidr practice to start your day on Wednesdays. Jess will guide participants through a few simple yoga asanas to release physical tension. Participants will then settle into a reclined position for a guided relaxation (yoga nidr). If you have your own yoga mat, please bring it and be sure to dress in comfortable clothing. This program takes place before the library officially opens. Registration is required and Jess will meet you at the program door.

adult on the team. This puzz fest is a pizza-themed event, so make sure to register! All teams will get to keep their puzzle.

Library for All: A Music, Dance, and Comedy Show: Reading Rocks! – Friday, August 22nd at 10:00am
A Music, Dance and Comedy Show: Reading Rocks features wonderful classic and original songs and tales. The show engages audiences with songs, comedy, technicolor magic, animals and music technology. Join us for this novel performance which will be accompanied by visual and sensory experiences. Everyone will dance, sing, laugh, use their imaginations and connect with new friends. The show is crafted to be inclusive for everyone, including audience members on the Autism Spectrum.

WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

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

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

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

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 a.m. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least two business days in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation for 65 and up, and \$5 for 55- 64 is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and fruit or dessert. This week’s menu: Tuesday, 8/19: Meatloaf with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, carrots, rice krispy treats. Wednesday, 8/20: Roast turkey with gravy, mashed sweet potatoes, roasted brussels sprouts, pear crisp. Thursday, 8/21: Hot dogs, baked beans, coleslaw, baked apples. Friday, 8/22: Soup du Jour, roast beef sandwiches, bean salad, yogurt.

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

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

We are now offering MOVIE MATINEES every Wednesday at 1:00 pm! Popcorn is provided, no registra-

tion is needed. August movies include “My Friend Irma” on August 20th, and “Love Me Tender” on August 27th.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Library for All – First Two Mondays; Last Two Fridays 10AM (Chair Yoga or Craft) SPECIAL EVENT FRIDAY, AUGUST 22nd!

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

Adult Book Group – Monday, August 18th at 6:30pm
Join the adult book group in the community room to discuss Why We Read: on Bookworms, Libraries, and Just One More Page by Shannon Reed. Copies are available at the circulation desk.

Shishito Pepper Tasting Class – Friday, August 22nd at 3:00pm
Registration is required for this family shishito pepper tasting program. Join Jess as we try some of the bounty from our garden!

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

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

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

Sesión Informativa: Programa Acelerador de Negocios de EparaTodos – Monday, August 25th at 6:00pm
¿Tienes un negocio o una idea que quieras hacer crecer? Únete a nuestra sesión informativa para conocer cómo el Programa Acelerador de Negocios de EparaTodos puede ayudarte a lanzar y expandir tu negocio. Este programa gratuito ofrece mentoría personalizada, capacitación empresarial y una comunidad de apoyo para ayudarte a alcanzar el éxito.

Genre Book Club – Thursday, August 28th at 6:00pm
Join our Genre Book Group! Each month we’ll read a different genre. September’s genre is historical folklore: Gods of Jade and Shadow by Silvia Moreno-García.

Craig Harris- Bob Dylan and the Band Talk – Thursday, August 28th at 6:30pm
Based on his ninth book, Last Waltz: The Full Story of The Band (Rowman & Littlefield, July 2025), music historian, percussionist, and Washington DC radio host Craig Harris uses rare recordings, a video montage, and intriguing stories to trace this still-influential quintet from their days with Ronnie Hawkins and Dylan through their 1990’s resurrection, Helm’s three Grammy winners and Robertson’s soundtracks for Martin Scorsese films including Killers of the Flower Moon. Join Craig Harris for his talk: Bob Dylan and the Band.

Programming for All Ages
Puzz Fest – Thursday, August 21st at 6:00pm
Assemble your team (up to 5 people!) and join us in the Community Room to see which team can complete their puzzle first. This intergenerational program is recommended for ages 6 and up, but there must be at least one

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

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

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

School Bus Storytime – Wednesday, August 27th (2 sessions)
Is your little one going to school for the first time this year? Join us for storytime and a ride on a real school bus to prepare them for the upcoming year. Author Carrie Finison will be sharing her book “Hurry, Little Tortoise, Time for School!” She’ll also be leading a tortoise-themed craft and she’ll bring coloring pages as well. Registration is required, but children of all ages are welcome. Please sign up for only one session.

OXFORD SENIOR CENTER

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

Open Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Email: seniorcenter@oxfordma.us
Website: www.oxfordma.us
Facebook: Oxford, MA Senior Center

Thursdays @ 12:30pm- Tap Dance w/ Amanda G. – Cost \$5.00 for one hour drop in class

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

Monthly Activities:
Let’s Talk Oxford History – 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 1pm - Sponsored by the Oxford Historical Commission
Men’s Coffee Group – 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 10:30am – coffee and pastry are served.
Tri-Valley Inc. Options Counseling - 3rd Tuesday of each month from 12:30pm – 2:30pm. By appointment.
SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) – 3rd Wednesday of each month. By appointment.
Book Club – 1st Friday of each month @ 12:45pm – reserve your book from the Oxford Public Library
Movie Matinee – 2nd Friday of each month @12:45 - August movie “About My Father” starring Robert DeNiro
BEANO – 4th Friday of each month @ 12:45pm – arrive by 12:30pm to purchase your BEANO sheets.

Weekly Activities:
Mondays and Fridays @ 10:00 am – Cribbage
Tuesdays @ 9:15am – Strength & Balance w/ Donna Freeland – Cost \$3.00 per class
Wednesdays @ 9:15am – Chair Yoga w/ Heidi Gambaccini – Cost \$3.00 per class
Tuesdays and Wednesday @ 10:15 am - Needleworkers (Knitting, Crocheting, Needlepoint)
Bring your favorite project and come join the group for conversation and laughs.
Wednesdays @ 1:00 pm – Chair Volleyball – Lots of laughs and only two rules (1) stay seated (2) have fun!
Thursdays @ 10:00 am – Dominoes
Fridays @ 9:00 am – Walking Club (weather permitting) Wear your comfy shoes and meet at the senior center.

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



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Richard Majercik named Thompson’s Veteran of the Month

T H O M P S O N — Richard D. Majercik of Pompeo Road has been selected by the nominating committee to be recognized and honored as the August 2025 Town of Thompson Veteran of the Month.

Vietnam War veteran, Sgt. E-5 Richard (Dick) Majercik enlisted in the United States Army in July 1967 and received his honorable discharge on April 17, 1970. During his three-year term serving his country, Sgt. Majercik accomplished with honor and distinction a wide variety of assignments and deployments ranging from the dangerous and horrific Jungles of Vietnam; to Ft. Lee, Va., teaching at the Memorial Activities Quartermaster School for the United States Army.

Sgt. Majercik completed his basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. He was then assigned to Fort Lee, Va. for his advanced training in Grave Registration before he was deployed to begin his tour of duty in Vietnam.

Upon his arrival in Vietnam, he was assigned to a grave registration point in An Khe, where he performed recoveries and identification of his heroic fellow fallen soldiers. The surroundings were a canopy of vegetation in the tropical jungle. Cobras and tigers posed as much of a foe as the Viet Cong enemy. His unit subsequently was reassigned, designation Dong Ha, and Phu Bai and while passing through Da Nang encamped on China Beach he was pulled from his platoon, because of his extensive mortuary background to assist with mortuary work. Sgt. Majercik was needed for this work due to the enormous demands at that point in the ongoing war. This assignment came from the direct order of General William Westmoreland; the commander of the United State forces in Vietnam.

Sgt. Majercik, along with his Mortuary Team during the TET Offensive of 1968, proceeded to embalm and prepare well in excess of 8,700 U.S. Military casualties killed in action for their return home to the United States and to their final resting place. There were more than 17,000 soldiers there from 1967 to 1968. Most of this tedious and tenacious work was accomplished under anything but perfect conditions. With Sgt. Majercik’s leadership and assistance, the remains of the largest number of casualties to ever occur during the Vietnam conflict over a 60-day period, were able to be returned back to their homes in the United States. Sgt. Majercik was the first military embalmer to be assigned to embalming duties in the Vietnam war; and was so recognized by numerous letters of appreciation and commendation on behalf of the U.S. Government for answering the call for volunteer embalmers. He also received commendation from the French Government for preparing a French civilian plantation owner with the minimal supplies for doing restorative work. Of note, one of the thousands of casualties that Sgt. Majercik prepared for return the U.S. was an Army soldier from Thompson, Sgt. David A. Provost. Sgt. Majercik insisted that he personally accompany Sgt. Provost’s body home to his family, and to a Webster Funeral Home and to personally bring some comfort to the Family as best he could.

“You never forget that horror, and you never look back,” he stated. “You just did your job. If I was called today, there would be no hesitation, God and Country!”

Majercik further stated he was “blessed with the honor of preparing to bring many of his brothers and sisters’ home.”

Upon return to the States, Sgt. Majercik was assigned to Fort Lee, Virginia to be an instructor in their Quartermaster School. He taught finger printing, dental and anatomical charting and instructing on the legalities of operating a military mortuary system. At Ft. Lee, he not only taught but was the NCOIC of the burial squad for the State of Virginia. As a result of his preparation and presentation of instructions, he was bestowed a Letter of Commendation for his impressive performance as an instructor and noncommissioned officer with the Memorial Activities Branch, Special Subjects Division and Support Services Department of the United States Army Quartermaster School. Major Ramon Fournier, in a letter presented to Sergeant Majercik, stated that his performance had been unquestionably superior; and that his knowledge, willing attitude, and application to the task at hand had caused his superiors and contemporaries to regard him with high esteem, and that his dependability has been vigorously demonstrated. He further stated that his manner of performance reflects credit upon himself, this department, the Quartermaster School and the United States Army.

For his exceptional and extraordinary service, Sgt. Majercik was been presented The Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, The Vietnam Service Medal, The Vietnam Campaign Medal with dev. 60, The Vietnam Counteroffensive Phase 111, 1V, V and V1 and the TET 69 counter offense medals by the United States Government. In addition, Sgt. Majercik was recently awarded the coveted “Quilt of Valor” by the Quilt of Valor Foundation after being nominated for this National Award by one of his fellow Mortuary Service Members Phil Jeffries of Pennsylvania. Jeffries served with Sgt. Majercik throughout their 3 years of service to our Country. Jeffries stated that he nominated Majercik for this award because of his calmness in terrifying situations in Vietnam and his professionalism throughout his time in service.

Sgt. Majercik was born in Dudley, Mass. in 1947 to parents Anthony P. Majercik and Lena (DeFusco) Majercik. He was educated at St. Anthony Grammar School and Dudley Elementary School. Dick graduated from Bartlett High School Class of 1965. He went on to study at the New England Institute of Funeral Directors and Embalming in Boston. Dick has one brother Dr. Col. Donald Majercik who is a surgeon in Vermont, and retired member of the Air National Guard. Dick has a son Richard Majercik II, and his daughter-in-law Vien who reside in Oxford, Ma. and a daughter the late Lisa-Beth Majercik of Chicopee, Ma. In addition, Dick is the proud grandfather of 5 adult grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Dick is a Life Member and a Board of Directors and House Committee member of the Valley Sportsman Club in North Grosvenordale.

He is a Past President of the Webster Exchange Club, past venerable of the Sons of Italy, past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus and fourth degree knight of the Cardinal Wright Assembly, a life member of the Clydesdale Breeders Association of America and the Friesian Horse Association, Life member NRA, VFW of Webster, Life Member of the Auburn Elks, NRA certified safety officer, certified Judge for the Kansas City barbeque society and the New England barbeque society, and a Member of the Danielson Veterans Coffee House. He is also a Webster Reserve Police, and has served as a Captain and Commander, Deputy Sherrieff for Worcester County, served as a Webster deputy moderator, Webster School Committee and Board of Health. Past President of Worcester County Rehab and Board member, Board of Directors of Tri-Valley Elder Services, NRA safety Officer, Board member of Synkinetics, in Natick and has served on New England Schools and Colleges accreditation teams, past president of the Webster Downtown Business Association, and has chaired the Fund-Raising Campaign for the Webster Band Stand. He has also served on the Board of the Office of Community Development, and chaired the search committee for the past Town Manager.

Mr. Majercik owned and operated the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home in Webster for 55 years, and is now semi-retired. He was a partner in the ownership of Smith Stationers in Webster, and the original partner of Dal-Ma in Webster and a partner of TRM Realty Trust.

Dick’s hobbies include trap shooting, hises trap shooting, showing his Clydesdale horses, competing in driving competitions, collecting horse drawn vehicles, old cars, pocket watches and clocks. A long-time passion and his love of cooking, has had him teaching several Italian cooking classes, making sausage and breads, many various types of Italian pastas for his family and friends, all of which he learned from his great aunts and uncles. Dick has always had a passion for travel, and has had the opportunity to travel all over Europe, in particular Italy and the Caribbean.

Our August Veteran of the Month is a long time resident of his beautiful Pompeo Road Farmhouse along with his partner, Debra Pierce Durant, and their cherished Clydesdales.

Sgt. Richard D. Majercik will be recognized and presented a plaque at the Aug. 6 Board of Selectman Meeting as has all previous Thompson Veteran of the Month recipients.

Edward Jones hosting seminar on health care & retirement

AUBURN — Join Edward Jones Financial Advisors for a free seminar on “Health Care & Your Retirement” Thursday, Sept. 18 at Brookdale Eddy Pond West, 669 Washington St., Auburn.

Medicare Open Enrollment begins Oct. 15. The increasing cost of health care is a growing concern for current and future retirees. In fact, 30 years ago, retirees spent almost twice as much on food as on health care; now the amounts are nearly equal.

Join speakers Dennis Antonopoulos (Financial Advisor for Edward Jones) and Lynne Mussulli (Medicare specialist) for our presentation where we will discuss:

- Medicare coverage and traditional medical expenses
- Long-term medical care expenses
- Strategies for addressing out-of-pocket expenses

Registration begins at 5:45 p.m., with the seminar following at 6 p.m.

To register, please call Karen Rieser at (508) 832-5385 or e-mail karen.rieser@edwardjones.com by Sept. 17.



Courtesy

If you’ve participated in the Auburn Public Library’s Summer Reading program, please make sure to present your completed reading log at the library by Aug. 23 in order to claim your raffle tickets. Drawings for the Summer Reading prize baskets will occur on Aug. 25, and all winners will be notified via email that day. Thank you to the Friends of the Auburn Public Library for funding the prize baskets! And thank you to the over 700 kids, teens, and adults who participated in the Auburn Public Library’s 2025 Summer Reading program! Pictured: Helen Poirier (middle), Literacy Promotion State Chair of the Gen. Ebenezer Learned Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution presents Auburn Public Library staff (from left to right holding certificates, Samuel Korstvedt, Ollie Bowers, Caitlin Myler, Patricia Bogatkowski, David Wood, and Jarad Nelson) with Literacy Champion Awards for contributing to their community in an outstanding manner by promoting literacy.

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

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Striving for a world free from stereotypes

In a world where information is at our fingertips and connections span continents, it is baffling to us that stereotyping still prevails. We pride ourselves on progress, yet we allow preconceived notions to shackle our understanding of each other. It's high time we collectively recognize the damage of assumptions and vow to liberate ourselves from the confines of stereotypes.

Stereotyping is the enemy of empathy, born from our innate need to categorize and simplify complex realities. It's natural for the mind to seek shortcuts, but these shortcuts often lead us astray, blinding us to the richness of human diversity. When we assume we know someone based on their appearance, background, or a single characteristic, we deny them the depth of their individuality and inadvertently perpetuate ignorance.

Let's face it, we've all been victims of stereotypes. Whether it's being judged by our nationality, gender, appearance, or hobbies, we know the frustration of not being seen for who we truly are. So, why do we continue this harmful practice? Fear, laziness, or perhaps a lack of awareness? Regardless of the reasons, it's time to shatter this cycle.

Consider the story of the introverted librarian who's also a salsa dancing champion, or the tattooed artist who spends weekends volunteering at a shelter or going to classical music concerts. These are glimpses into the lives that stereotypes fail to capture. It's not enough to say, "Don't judge a book by its cover." We must actively seek to turn the pages, engaging with the stories beneath the surface.

The path to change begins with acknowledging our biases. Recognizing that we all hold them allows us to confront them head-on. Education is a formidable weapon against stereotypes. By learning about different cultures, histories, and experiences, we open the door to a more inclusive perspective. It's a journey toward realizing that our world is a mosaic of vibrant, individual lives, each with its own colors and textures.

But this change isn't just about self-improvement; it's a societal shift. By resisting stereotypes, we create an environment where empathy flourishes. We extend the hand of understanding to those who've been marginalized and silenced. We pave the way for collaboration that's based on shared goals rather than preconceived judgments.

It's time to rewrite the script of our interactions. Let's ask questions and listen attentively. Let's engage in conversations that bridge gaps and build bridges. Let's be curious about the people we encounter, seeking to understand their unique perspectives.

As we strive for a world free of assumptions and stereotypes, let's remember that change is gradual. But every step taken is a step closer to a society where each person is seen, heard, and valued for who they truly are. Let's be the generation that breaks the chains of stereotype, forging connections that are genuine, lasting, and transformative.

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

Compassion in our world today



BEYOND THE PEWS

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

Compassion. A powerful word and a more powerful action. And this is what we hear in the story of Jesus feeding the 5000 people. Jesus sees a crowd—not just a mass of people but individuals who have needs and struggles, pain and suffering, sickness and confusion. Jesus sees this in the individuals and His heart is moved.

He doesn't turn away. He doesn't retreat to His own comfort. He doesn't simply offer a spiritual message and forget about their physical needs. He steps into their suffering. He heals. He feeds. He offers physical bread to nourish their bodies as He offers His spiritual Presence to feed their souls. He offers a miracle of feeding 5,000, but not simply with bread but with love.

And through this Jesus offers a model for us to imitate. The Greek word used for "compassion" means to be moved from the deepest part of our being. It's not offering pity but active mercy, a love that suffers with and acts for others.

And so, this story challenges us to look at others the way Christ looked at the crowd. Are we moved by the suffering of the world all around us or have we become numb and indifferent? Have we allowed our hearts to break when we see the anguish and torment of others?

Today, there are crowds all around us—and their cries still rise to heaven. In Gaza every day, we see countless innocent civilians - many of them women and children - caught in the midst of war, facing starvation. Imagine being a mother trying to feed your child and yet seeing them die of malnutrition. Where is our compassion for them. What about the suffering in Ukraine and in South Sudan?

Our country is made up of immigrants and yes, there are many immigrants who have entered this country illegally. Many are fleeing violence, poverty, and political danger. Millions have lived in this country for many years, some from their childhood into adulthood, and yet they now fear the future with uncertainty, and are treated in an inhumane manner, ignored or rejected by society.

Whether or not we agree on political policy, the Gospel does not allow us to ignore their humanity. Masses of suffering often become simply a number, and we forget that each one of these people was created in the image and likeness of God. They are our brothers and sisters.

Christ's compassion was never conditional. He didn't show compassion only to those people who were worthy. He simply saw their suffering and responded with love.

St. John Chrysostom challenges us: "If you cannot find Christ in the beggar at the church door, you will not find Him in the chalice."

When the disciples see the hungry crowds, they say, "Send them away." But Jesus corrected them and said, "You give them something to eat." This is a

turning point. Christ puts the responsibility of compassion into the hands of His followers.

In the same way, Christ is asking us today: How are we feeding the hungry? What are we doing to heal the broken? Are we welcoming the stranger and seeing the face of God in each person? Will we comfort the refugee, the prisoner, the immigrant, or even those we may perceive as the enemy?

When we read about the suffering of the innocent women and children in Gaza, or in Ukraine, or South Sudan, will we treat them as a number or will we try to get involved through the International Orthodox Christian Charities or some other international humanitarian agency that tries to relieve the suffering?

You and I may not have the power to stop wars or rewrite laws. But we can offer bread, presence, and love in our daily lives. And God can multiply what we offer—just as He multiplied five loaves and two fish.

The Orthodox Christian faith is not merely about beautiful liturgies or theological precision. It is about imitating Jesus Christ in the compassion He showed to the crowds. St. Silouan the Athonite said: "The person filled with the Holy Spirit will show compassion for all people."

St. Paisios would often weep over the suffering of people he had never met, saying, "'Love for others should never be limited only to our family, but should embrace all of humanity.'"

So how do we live this out?

Will we pray daily and remember those in war zones, refugees, and displaced persons by name and region.

Can we generously support humanitarian aid agencies who serve in these difficult places.

Let us speak up in our community, not with anger, but with clarity and love, demanding that our politicians uphold the dignity of all people.

In your own town, can we look for the crowds among us - the lonely neighbor, the undocumented worker, the teenager struggling with identity and fear and show compassion - active mercy - to all those in need.

Some may say, "But I only have a little—just five loaves and two fish." Good. Offer this to the Lord. That's all He needs.

Let us offer our heart. Offer our time. Offer our attention to those whom the world ignores or turns into a number. Christ never looked at the masses but saw individuals lost, hungry and in need. And remember, He will take whatever we may offer, and bless it, break it, and multiply it.

Today, let us imitate Christ in His compassion.

Let us not be like the disciples who said, "Send them away." Let us not be like those who thought they had too little. Instead, let us listen to our Lord as He says to us, "Bring whatever you have to Me and I will multiply it and feed the people."

Library Loft offers “a smile and a book”



READER'S JOURNEY

GUS STEEVES

PALMER — If you're seeking the Library Loft in Palmer, it looks like what it once was – an elementary school at 1085 Park St.

Inside, the classrooms still have their old numbers and if you need a bathroom, the staff takes you to the principal's office.

But these days, far more than learning goes on in those classrooms. Among other things, Schoolhouse Commons hosts a craft store, a clothing alteration shop, a frame and print shop as well as the Library Loft.

As the store's name suggests, it's an outgrowth of the Palmer Library, specifically started by the Friends of the Library 26 years ago to raise funds for library events. It's the first door on the left as you climb the fairly steep stairs to the main floor; a small, well-lit maze of thousands of titles including tons of children's books and some that are quite old.

They're all donated, and some have come from hundreds of miles away.

"We have a man who comes down from Vermont," and another from New York, "because they don't have anything like this where they live," said volunteer Barbara Lynn Marriott.

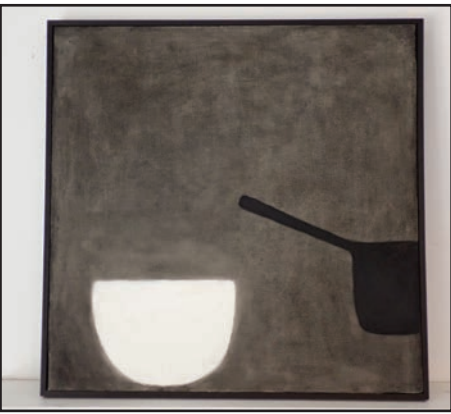


Barbara Lynn Marriott gets a little sun from the Library Loft window.

Often, she noted, "people buy books, read them, then bring them back [as donations] and we resell them."

Turn To **JOURNEY** page **A7**

Art



We've reached number 1 on the top 10 list of antiques and collectibles that regularly sell well for us. As a refresher, here's the rest of the top 10 list that we've covered in previous columns.

10. Transportation memorabilia
9. Old Chinese antiques
8. Vintage and antique posters and advertising signs
7. Vintage and antique cars
6. Historical memorabilia
5. Comic books
4. Baseball cards and sports memorabilia
3. Gold and Silver Coins and Sterling Silver
2. Estate jewelry, gold, and diamonds, gold watches

And finally, art is number 1 on my top 10 list. Art encompasses a wide variety of styles and mediums. There are paintings, metal sculptures, stone sculptures, pottery, folk art in wood and metal, and many other forms. Art of course has a long and varied history ranging from cave drawings dating back to around 40,000 years ago to a 2019 piece of conceptual art featuring a banana taped to a wall.

Unlike most antiques, older isn't always better when it comes to art. A 2019 Art Newspaper article reported declining sales in Old Masters paintings while contemporary art was seeing an increase in value.

In general, we have seen strong values for many works by listed artists over the past year. A J. L. (French sculptor Jean Leone) Gerome, "Gold leaf on Bronze Statue of Woman - Green Alabaster base" sold for \$6,300 last year. An Italian born artist Arnoldo Pomodoro "Gold Patinated Bronze Sculpture" brought \$7,800. Bessie Potter Vonnob was born in S. Louis, MO, and worked in New York. Her "In Arcadia" bronze statue brought \$11,400 last year.

Paintings also brought good auction results last year. An untitled oil on canvas landscape by Charles Gruppe went for \$2,100. Gruppe was born in Canada but painted in Rockport, Massachusetts, a hotbed of artists. The Rockport Artist Association was formed in 1921, and the town is home to the Rockport Art Museum. An abstract oil on canvas painting by French born artist Jacques Doucet titled "La Promenade de Kafka" fetched \$5,400 last year. A Julian Onderdonk, a Texas Impressionist painter known for painting bluebonnet flowers, "A Glowly Sky" signed oil on board painting sold for \$9,600 last year.

A Boston estate modern art collection featuring many paintings by United Kingdom artists was part of our January 2024 auction. A 1967 Craigie Aitchinson fish still life oil on canvas brought \$16,800. Barbara Hepworth's "Rhythmic Form" Abstract oil and ink on board sold for \$37,200. The two most valuable paintings were by United Kingdom artist William Scott. Scott was a Senior Lecturer at the Bath Academy of Art in Bath, England, from 1946 to 1956. During a trip to New York, he met Jackson Pollock, Elaine de Kooning, Mark Rothko, and Franz Kline. Their influence changed his painting method completely and he became an abstract impressionist like them. A William Scott "Grey Theme I" oil on canvas painting reached \$105,000. William Scott's "Nine Pears on a White Plate," c. 1956 oil on canvas fetched \$141,000.

Maurizio Cattelan's "Comedian," the artwork of a banana duct taped to a wall that I alluded to earlier, sold for \$6.2 million last year. The piece includes instructions on replacing the banana when it goes bad, although some have chosen to eat the banana before it rots.

Our online auction of the Harlansburg Transportation Museum in Pennsylvania starts this week. We continue to work on the Laurel and Hardy memorabilia auction and Civil War memorabilia auction. We are accepting quality consignments for other upcoming auctions. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

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

Tried and True Fishing Tips

Whether relaxing on the shore of still waters, or wrangling in a temperamental trout, the sport of fishing remains a simple pleasure life-long memories are made of. With several popular waterways in our area, fishing is an outdoor activity enjoyed by locals both young and old alike. Planning to drop your line into the waters this weekend? Read on for an array of classic tips from successful anglers - all geared to help make your time at the fishing hole more productive!

Successful fishers make it a habit to change their line. Fishing line has memory- it will retain the twist, nicks scrapes, and it gets weaker every time it is used. Don't chance losing the "big one" to brittle line!

And be sure to match your hook size to your bait: small for small,

large for large. It makes a difference in holding your bait, and in how many strikes you will get.

Take a valuable fishing tip from old timers who say "if you find the bait you'll find the fish." To do this efficiently, they make it a habit to scan the water for bird activity. Follow the birds, who follow the bait, and you'll likely find the fish!

When throwing into the wind, drop your rod tip to the water right after making the cast. You'll get more distance and will also get the slack out of your line in case you get bit just when the bait hits the surface. If you leave the rod held high, the wind will make an arc out of your line and you'd lose control of the bait.

Still no bites? It could be your bug repellent. Never handle bait after



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

applying it as the scent will keep the fish away.

Tips to Track Trout

Did you know Rainbow Trout favor 56 degree water? Find that temperature and you're sure to find the fish! If it's cold out, trout can typically be found on the surface of a lake. If it's hot out, they'll be deeper in the water.

Remember, trout have tough mouths. Keep your hooks sharp - and use a number 4 hook for best results!

Want to up your odds of trout for supper? When lake fishing, dip

your crawler in the oil from a can of smoked oysters!

Trying to tempt the best trout? Try this secret recipe from anglers: Combine two ounces of cod liver oil with 20 drops oil of anise. Mix well. Dip your bait in the mixture and string up the trout!

These old fashioned bait recipes are tried and true secret weapons from successful fishermen - but best of all, you can whip them up with ingredients from your kitchen cupboards!

Anglers swear refrigerator biscuit dough is a great bait for trout. Just pull a raw biscuit apart and start reeling in the "big one!"

Even fish love spicy food, as this super lure recipe will attest. Mix together 8 ounce ground aniseed or fennel seed and two ounces ground

allspice. Sprinkle 1/16th oz. oil of cloves over the above and mix. Store in tightly sealed jars for a few days while the odors blend. Put a drop on fish bait.

If you're fishing with salmon eggs or worms, don't forget to add a miniature marshmallow to the hook to keep your bait buoyant!

Try this quick tip: dip your crawler in the oil from a can of smoked oysters! Fish love it!

Win a Three Course Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (or whenever I receive enough tips for a column) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned

restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

Don't pray like a beggar!

Stop praying like you're begging for scraps.

That's why your plans fall apart. That's why the world ignores your voice.

You kneel, you whisper, you plead—but all it shows is a lack of faith.

You weren't made to beg. You were made to command.

Don't get me wrong—prayer is a form of faith. But if you pray like someone who doesn't believe... if you doubt, if you're just hoping for a miracle you secretly think will never come... if you're waiting, crying, complaining—then it's not faith at all. It's a broadcast of fear and lack.

Neuroscience tells us your brain listens to the story you repeat. It takes your words as marching orders. Pray like a beg-

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

gar, and your brain wires itself to expect scraps. Pray like a commander, and you activate the networks in your mind that seek solutions, recognize opportunities, and pull you toward what you claim.

Scientists found that just watching tiny particles changed how they behaved. Prayer works the same way—what you focus on with expectation shapes what shows up.

Life works the same way. If you expect little, you'll get little. If you expect abundance with unwavering certainty, you start tuning into the version of reality where it's already yours.

You're not here to plead for crumbs—you're here to speak as if the feast is already set before you.

The master put it plain:

"If anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them." That's authority! It's knowing reality bends to conviction.

He also said, "According to your faith, let it be done to you." In other words, you don't get what you want; you get what you expect.

And "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." That's the mental blueprint—see it done before it's done.

Begging mode doesn't just feel weak—it makes you weak. Neuroscience calls it a low-agency mindset. When you approach your goals from desperation, your brain

flips into survival mode. You become less capable of spotting opportunities or making bold moves. You're programming your reality to deliver the same disappointments, over and over.

Flip the lens, and everything changes. When you speak and act with certainty, your nervous system recalibrates. Dopamine and serotonin rise, your motivation climbs, and your tolerance for risk increases. You start scanning for proof that what you've declared is already unfolding. It's not magic—it's chemistry.

Faith in command mode looks different. It's not passive, waiting on the sidelines for something to change. It steps onto the court and plays to win. It's the voice that says, "This will happen," instead of "I hope this

happens." It's moving your feet before you see the finish line, because you know it's there.

Every great spiritual teacher, every revolutionary leader, every game-changer in business, art, or science—whether they spoke in the language of God, the universe, or the human spirit—operated with that same unshakable conviction.

Before David killed the giant, he declared it first. Standing in front of Goliath—armed with nothing but a sling, a few stones, and an unshakable belief—he didn't whisper a prayer of survival. He spoke a statement of victory. "This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands!" It wasn't just a declaration; he was saying that his prayer was already answered, and the answer was yes!

You are not here to rehearse defeat in your mind. You are not here to train your nervous system for scraps. You are here to speak life into your own story—out loud, without apology, without retreat.

Every word you speak, every image you picture, every act you take is casting a vote for the reality you will live in tomorrow. Stop praying in fear. Stop reinforcing lack.

Pray like you own the place. Speak like the thing you want is already written in the book of your life, not from an attitude of pride, but from humility.

The truth is simple: reality doesn't give you what you hope for—it gives you what you command, and then work for like it's already yours.

JOURNEY

continued from page A6

Marriott's been helping out here more than 12 years, after coming in as a customer "all the time." She said the woman working there then was sick and considering closing it, so she urged her not to and stepped in to help. (The Loft is managed by Friends' President Eleanor Szlachetka, but she wasn't there when I visited.)

One of Marriott's favorite events is seeing kids bring in boxes of books to donate.

"They're so proud. They feel they can part with these books they don't even want me to take them out of the box. They want to do it," she recalled.

On the other end of the spectrum, she recalled having a little girl come up 25 cents short, so she gave her the book anyway.

"There was no way I was going to deny it to her for 25 cents. Her face lit up, and she went out to tell others about it," Marriott said. "Those are the things that make me want to be here."

So do the fairly frequent times when she's turned into counselor and friend to people who simply need someone to talk to – one, she noted, "just wanted human contact." She notes she's often gotten into conversations with people and ended up closing the place, but continuing to talk. (Store owners in the place tend to check on each other's safety, since some are still working past closing hours.)

Marriott notes the store often gets visitors who went to school here years ago. She also often gets book recommendations from patrons, and

sometimes ends up selling donations "right of this desk before they get shelved."

Library Friends' groups frequently have at least for-sale bookshelves or nooks, but not too many have their own full-fledged stores like this one. Among those that do exist are Worcester's Food for Thought, the Friends Book Shop in Easton, and others.

The American Library Association's site (<https://www.ala.org/united/friends/ideasharing/bookstores>) offers two guides on how to start such stores, one from Stamford, Conn., and the other from Houston. The Stamford one (Ferguson Public Library) includes job descriptions, pricing guides, overview of where they get books and what the funds go to, marketing plans, volunteer surveys, sample forms, and all kinds of other things.

One of its observations dovetailed well with what Marriott has seen. On page 170, it states, "Most of our customers are highly price-sensitive. As much as a third of our revenue comes from dealers; they have to buy 'at wholesale' to buy at all. Our poorest clients can't afford to pay much but value literacy and the books offered in the Shops. Clients who would pay more just end up buying more books..."

As Marriott put it, "We just try to make it count for people. ... A smile and a book – that's a good way to finish your day. That and good coffee."

The Loft is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays.

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

Annual flowers that take the heat



GARDEN
MOMENTS
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As temperatures rise, some annuals slow down or stop flowering due to heat stall. They will recover as temperatures cool but may leave your gardens or containers looking less colorful.

Take some time now to evaluate annual flowers that are thriving in your garden and those that may need to be left off the plant list for next year's garden.

Start looking for more heat-tolerant plants and cultivars to use in the future. A visit to your local botanic garden and viewing gardens in your neighborhood can help provide insight and inspirations for plants suited to your summer weather.

Zinnias are known for their heat and drought tolerance. These long-blooming annuals come in a variety of colors and heights. Wheat, plume, and crested celosia not only add color, but also interesting flower shapes to gardens and arrangements.

Angelonias, also known as summer snapdragons, are upright plants that make great vertical accents and add season-long color to containers and gardens. Granvia strawflowers are taller, more vigorous plants with larger flowers than older strawflower varieties. Enjoy them in the garden and for months after in arrangements, dried wreaths, and other decorations.

Annual vinca, Catharanthus, with its shiny leaves and long-lasting flowers, thrives in hot, dry weather. The dainty flowers of the Soiree® Kawaii series and the fringed, ruffled flower petals of the Soiree® Flemenco series provide a unique flare. Include pentas with their star-shaped flowers to help attract and support butterflies. You'll find plants with white, red, pink, lavender, violet, and bicolor flowers, and even a few trailing varieties.

Cupheas are not only heat tolerant but are magnets for hummingbirds. These season-long bloomers are covered with flowers and do not need deadheading. Mandevilla is another long-blooming, heat-tolerant plant that thrives in sunny locations. You'll find upright, trailing, and tall climbing varieties to include in gardens, containers, and hanging baskets.

If you are looking for a heat-tolerant, trailing plant, consider bidens. The BeeDance® series is an earlier and continuous flowering variety. Moss roses and other portulacas are also trailing and low-growing plants that can be used as annual groundcovers, edging plants, and trailers in containers.

Look for more heat-tolerant cultivars of your favorite annuals that tend to stop blooming during hot weather. Heatopia™, Hot® Waterblue, Techno®, and Laguna® lobelias show more heat tolerance than many older lobelia cultivars. White Stream™, Snow Princess®, and Frosty Knight® are a few alyssum cultivars to consider. They tolerate the heat but prefer moist well-drained soil.

Hot Pak™ French marigolds have been bred for

increased hot weather tolerance. The triploid marigolds like Endurance™ and Zenith™ are a cross between the African and French marigolds. They have the longer bloom time of the French marigold and the

Melinda Myers

Heat-tolerant Sun Parasol® Giant Peach Sunrise Mandevilla and Blue Tiara™ Supertunia® .

heat tolerance of the African species.

Don't give up on heat stalled annual plants in your garden and containers. Continue to water the heat-stressed plants as needed but wait for them to recover before fertilizing if needed. Trim back leggy plants and once the temperatures cool, the plants will start flowering.

Continue to watch for, try, and evaluate new, more heat-tolerant additions for your gardens and containers. Finding the right plants for your growing conditions and garden design can help boost your garden's beauty and your enjoyment even as temperatures rise.

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

“It’s not a dumpster, it’s a big mousetrap”

COLLIER, PARKS EXPLORE LIVES AND MYTHS OF HUNTING BIRDS

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — You wouldn’t think cars would be a major issue for flying beings. But they are.

“That bird didn’t have a death wish, it saw something moving,” Julie Collier said. “That triggered the instinct to go get it. There’s no instinct to look both ways.”

One of the most common ways raptors find their way to Wingmasters, the bird rehab Collier and her partner Jim Parks run in Leverett, is by diving for such prey and not seeing the oncoming car that hits them en route. They’ve taken many such birds to Tufts Animal Clinic in Grafton, but not all survived.

“When things go right,” they get to release the birds back into the wild; that can take years. Some, however, are never releasable, and Wingmasters has a permit to keep them at Rattlesnake Gutter Land Trust and use some of them for educational events.

Last Thursday, they brought several of those birds – mostly owls, but also one peregrine falcon – to Charlton Library to talk about what they do, the lives of such raptors, how they hunt, some myths, and other details of the species they work with.

“If you’re looking for gratitude in this world, do not raise a teenager and don’t rehab birds of prey,” Collier noted, describing one they’d cared for as being “six ounces and all of them



Julie Collier with their rehabbed peregrine falcon.



Jim Parks with one of their barred owls.

nasty” even after three years in their care.

In their experience, the peregrine is “the wisest bird here today,” Parks said, while Collier added the smartest one they’ve rehabbed was a golden eagle and the second was a red-tailed hawk, far brighter than their owls. On a scale of 1-10, they rate eagles as 10, the hawk as 9.75, and owls as 1-4 depending on species. Parks later cited the barn owl as a 4, while Collier noted some other types are just 1 or even 0.5.

The peregrines are “the opposite of owls” in various respects, she said. Peregrines hunt by day using speed and sight – diving at 200 mph it’s “nature’s jet,” so that even when the prey hears them, they don’t have time to react. They migrate south for winter and can’t deal with cold.

Owls, by contrast, are cold-adapted, slow, silent night hunters by sound who stay year round (snowy owls are from the Arctic and find this area usually too warm). Collier flicked and waved feathers of both; the former were clearly audible, the latter, not at all.

Most owls hunt rodents (peregrines mostly hunt birds in flight), and have somewhat adapted to human settings. The owls have fluffy, fur-like feathers evolved to insulate, with most of them having feathered feet and camouflage. Peregrines have thin, bare taloned feet which they can use as fists to knock prey birds out of the sky or grab them in flight. An owl’s bark-looking camouflage is often so good people can walk right by one and not see it watching them from a tree’s

hollow. Collier said to “let the bird reveal itself. Owls are very, very good at sitting still, which falcons are hopeless at.”

Peregrines have become an urban species; Parks noted there’s a nest of them atop Worcester’s Travelers Insurance building that has driven away most of the other bird species that used to be there. Years ago, there were just 39 nesting pairs of peregrines in the US, and they were endangered due to DDT use. (Today’s parallel is rodenticides; they urged people not to use them at all. “You’ll never wipe out the rodent population. You’ll just create havoc for beautiful

birds,” Parks said.) Now there’s at least 50 pairs in Massachusetts alone, with recovery thanks to captive breeding.

The owl species they brought faced similar recovery paths except for the barn owl, which is still endangered. It’s also the least camouflaged of their sample species and would normally migrate but has taken advantage of human places for warmth in winter. Barred owls, by contrast, have recovered alongside the beavers, since they favor wetlands.

All birds of prey share four traits, Parks said – binocular vision, flying ability, talons and curved beaks. Many also love

our trash since they can’t smell it but it attracts lots of prey; as Parks put it, “Ask the owl or hawk, it’s not a dumpster, it’s a big mousetrap.” Often, they hunt the same things at different times; he noted “where you see a hawk by day, you’ve got an owl, too.”

When it comes to myths, both had several they sought to debunk. Some were inaccurate names; Collier noted screech owls do not screech, they call with a “melodic trill.” (The screeches we hear are usually foxes or fishers.) Likewise great horned owls aren’t horned; those tufts are for insulation and silent hunting. (They are “the most aggressive hunting bird of anything that lives in the northeast” and favor “things marked with white.” Females will attack people who come too close to nests, aiming for their faces – not out of viciousness, but to protect their young.)

Owls also aren’t “wise,” and can’t turn their head 360 degrees – just 180. Also, she said she “wished more Americans understood” that waving hello to animals is seen by them as a threat. The birds don’t see the spectrum of shades we can; mostly, they just see the bright colors (red, yellow, orange, black and white) with others being shades of grey to them. But they can also “see by the light of moon and stars in a way you and I can’t.”

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

Local communities take part in National Night Out

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Several local communities recently held National Night Out (NNO) events connecting law enforcement agencies and the residents they serve.

Typically held on the first Tuesday of August, the NNO program is intended to foster the creation of relationships between community members and law enforcement agencies. Residents often only see police officers and other personnel in uniform during the course of their duties, but NNO events help build familiarity during fun, laid-back settings.

“National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community,” read a statement released by NNO organizers. “It provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.”

Multiple area leaders attended NNO programs this year, including Senator Mike Moore, Senator John Cronin, Worcester County District Attorney Joseph

Early, Jr., and Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis.

“We enjoyed a great evening at National Night Out events across the county. These events are all about bringing the community and public safety together,” read a statement released by the Worcester County District Attorney’s Office. “Thank you to the many police departments, towns, cities, and community organizations for a great night.”

The following individuals, agencies, and departments are thanked for their involvement in NNO activities this year: the Worcester Police Department; YMCA of Central Massachusetts; Worcester Fire Department; Worcester EMS; Grafton Police Department; Petersham Police Department; Fitchburg Police Department; Barre Police Department; Barre Fire Department; and the Quabbin Regional School District.

Members of the Central Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council are also thanked for displaying equipment and vehicles for youngsters to check out.



Local law enforcement leaders celebrate the annual National Night Out program.

“National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live,” read the statement released by the NNO leadership team.

Each year, millions of guests take part in NNO activities across all 50 states. Individual communities celebrate the occasion with such activities as block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts, public safety demonstrations, youth events, and visits from emergency personnel.

“We extend our sincere appreciation to all the public safety departments and vendors who participate in these celebrations,” read a statement released by the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office. “This occasion holds great significance, as it promotes the strengthening of positive relationships between our communities and law enforcement.”

To learn more about NNO and how you can join the mission, visit www.natwo.org.

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UMass Amherst announces
Spring 2025 graduates

AMHERST — Approximately 5,000 students received bachelor’s degrees in over 100 majors at the University of Massachusetts Amherst’s Undergraduate Commencement on May 16, 2025 at the McGuirk Alumni Stadium.

Below is a list of students from your area that received a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst:

Auburn
Shivani
Samantha
Nathaniel Edward
Mia Beth Dello
Savana Giurleo
Tracy Van Le
Brenden Peter Mullaney

Allada
Catherine
Anusauskas
Archambault
DelloStritto
Leo
Le
Mullaney

Amherst
Haley A Higgins
Nsanga Esther Kalembe
Mi Meh
Huy
Vinh
Tran

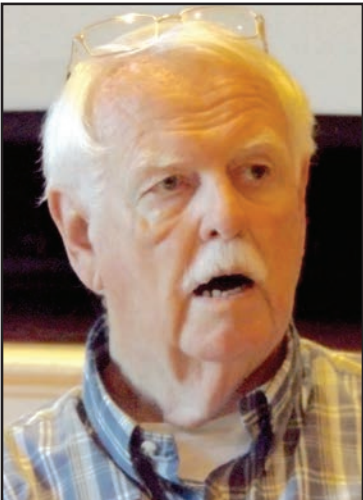
Webster
Kylee Jean Croteau
Robert Francis Gatzke
Gabriela Piwowarczyk

Amelia Rose Nelson
Rachel Tawney Toth
Adriana Morgan
White
Dudley
Treyden James Finlay
Colin Humphries
Kirolos Samy Ibrahim
Grace Chong Jolson
Aml Ahmad Rachid
Demetria Daphne Teguis

Oxford
Haley A Higgins
Nsanga Esther Kalembe
Mi Meh
Huy
Vinh
Tran

Webster
Kylee Jean Croteau
Robert Francis Gatzke
Gabriela Piwowarczyk

Local historian explores region’s numerous Bay Paths



Don Duffy



Two audience members look over Duffy’s map depicting the lines of sight of various hills along the Native Bay Path network.

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Our region is littered with roads, trails and buildings called “Bay Path,” including the vocational high school in Charlton.

As historian Don Duffy told a few dozen people at the library last week, they don’t actually refer to a single thing. Over the centuries, the region has been crisscrossed by numerous “Bay Paths,” all of them so named because they connected to some route leading to Massachusetts Bay.

The most famous of them wasn’t at all a direct route anywhere, at least in this region.

“It wasn’t a normal, let’s go in the easiest way we can go path. It involved hills,” he said.

His map depicted how the path was actually conceived as a network of line-of-sight connections between major hills like Steerage Rock, Coys Hill and Mashamuckett (now Mudgett), with lower levels typically running along rivers (Chicopee, Ware, Quinebaug, Quaboag). People didn’t usually travel the whole route; they just used it to get from one village to the next.

“When you got to the hill, you didn’t climb the last little bit,” Duffy said. “They went around the steepest parts.”

In fact, he said, there are actually at least three Bay

Paths. The original path was the Native American one, a single-file trail that’s still visible in places as a narrow “scoop” or linear depression caused by many thousands of feet over many centuries. When Europeans came, they often laid out property lines with reference to that path – “as skinny as it was, everybody knew where it was,” Duffy said – and put stone walls on either side of it. Over the years, those colonists found the original path didn’t suit their animals and wheeled vehicles, so they shifted it off the hills. Some of those stretches have since become major roads and highways like Route 20; others are still cart paths in the woods.

Beyond our region, Duffy said “the Indian paths didn’t stop. They just kept going” west into the Berkshires and north and south along the Connecticut.

He noted some parts of the network aligned with key astronomical points, but didn’t know a lot about that aspect of it. In some areas, the path passes through large collections of Native cairns, dozens or hundreds in parallel lines, but there are also several smaller groups and single cairns all over the woods. They come in various types, but he said the most common is “a monster rock and above it a bunch of small stones.” Also common

are what he called “gates to the underworld,” where Natives stuck smaller rocks and other gifts to the gods into crevices in boulders.

In some places, they formed effigies of animals. He cited two specifically – a turtle in Brimfield and a snake in Monson, but noted “it wasn’t a great thing. If I didn’t tell you, you wouldn’t know what this thing was.”

Other presenters have noted you can tell Native structures from colonial-era ones by the size of the lichens on the rocks; lichens grow at a very slow but steady rate for centuries.

Duffy said a lot of the work of identifying the Native Bay Path and related structures was recorded by Levi Chase in 1919; his book “The Bay Path and Along the Way” is available free online at the Library of Congress website.

“It’s nice he did this because otherwise we wouldn’t know where things were,” Duffy said.

One audience member speculated the cairns were rocks the Natives removed from their farm fields, like the colonists later did. But Duffy noted many of them are in areas the Natives didn’t farm; they preferred gravelly, south-facing hillside locations and river-side flatlands; they didn’t have plows or domestic animals who could break through clay and other denser soils. For years,

we thought Native agriculture dated to about 300 CE in this area, but recent DNA work has pushed that back to about 600 BCE, he added.

Mary Santos said she lives in a house along the old Bay Path, the old Daniel Harrington property. She cited a document saying the Harrington Road/Pumpkin Lane was laid out in 1783 “on the ancient way,” but the original home was gone by 1830. Some parts of the Native

path are still walkable in that area, she noted.

Another man said the same about stretches running through Oxford’s Clara Barton Camp. He noted it crossed the French River where Quaboag Avenue now is. (Duffy noted one Native name in this area was the Quaboag Path.)

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



Courtesy

Best friends and All Saints Academy fourth grade classmates Evelyn LeBoeuf and Makenna Daoust love to make bracelets together. When summer break kicked off, they thought about setting up a stand to sell their creations. Evelyn, who lives with cystic fibrosis, knows the important role that people have played in raising funds to help find a cure for her condition. With all that in mind, Makenna and Evelyn decided to sell the bracelets, with 50 percent of the proceeds going to a non-profit organization. With the love of their school in mind, they decided that is where their earnings would be donated. In addition to the bracelets, the girls sold their homemade cookies and lemonade. On Saturday, Aug. 2, the girls set up their stand and began selling their products. With all their hard work and dedication, the girls raised \$160 for their school!

QCC’s respiratory care program wins national award

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College’s Respiratory Care program recently received the Distinguished RRT (Registered Respiratory Therapist) Credentialing Success Award from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC). This is the third time QCC has received this award.

The award is given by CoARC to accredited programs that have a three-year running average of 90 percent of students passing both required credentialing exams and earning their Registered Respiratory Therapist certification after graduation. QCC is one of 75 respiratory care programs in the country that won an award out of more than 400 programs.

“I am incredibly proud of our respiratory care students and faculty. With the growing demand for respiratory therapists, QCC graduates are well-prepared to meet workforce needs thanks to the strong clinical training they receive, as reflected by this award,” said Assistant Dean of the School of Healthcare Shanan Stratis.

The Respiratory Care program at QCC is a 20-month associate degree program that prepares students to enter the workforce as a licensed RRT. Graduates from the program are often employed at QCC’s clinical affiliates such as UMass Memorial Medical Center and Mass General Hospital.

“Our program strives to see our students succeed while they are with us and after they graduate and sit for their exams, so that they can become successful respiratory therapists and fill vital positions to serve our local communities,” said Respiratory Care Program Coordinator and QCC alum Daniel Marsala.

QCC’s Respiratory Care program began in 1967, and is the oldest respiratory program in the state. For more information, visit qcc.edu/respiratory-care.

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OBITUARIES

Elizabeth M. Bell



OXFORD – It is with great sadness that our dear step-mother, Elizabeth M. (Riordan) Bell, passed away on Monday, August 4, 2025, at CareOne in Millbury. She was pre-deceased by her husband and best friend of 24 years, Charles F. Bell who died in 2017. She is survived by two stepdaughters, Robin S. Bell and Karen L. Bell, both of Oxford; and her brother, Francis J. Riordan of Oxford. She was born in Worcester, daughter of the late Francis P. and Jane

E. (Doherty) Riordan, and lived in Worcester before moving to Oxford in 1993. She graduated from Commerce High School in Worcester. Mrs. Bell worked for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for over 30 years, retiring in 2013. She enjoyed knitting, baking, making cream puffs, and chocolate chip cookies were her favorite. A funeral service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, August 11, 2025, at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main Street, Oxford. Burial followed at St. John's Cemetery in Worcester. Calling hours were Sunday, August 10, 2025, from 5-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Lydia Kowalski Cane 1932 – 2025



Gainesville, FL - Lydia K Cane passed away at Magnolia Ridge on August 5th after an extended illness due to a serious fall. There will be a gathering of friends to remember her at Haven Hospice at 4200 NW 90 Blvd, Gainesville, FL on Tuesday, August 26 at 4:30. She was born on December 19, 1932, in Webster Massachusetts where she grew up. She earned her accounting certificate and worked as an office manager in Worcester Mass for over 40 years. Later, she moved to Florida and continued to work in office management and later as a hostess at Bonefish Grill. She was the loving wife of Joseph Cane. who pre-deceased her in 2007.

She enjoyed volunteering at hospitals, which she did in Sarasota, Ocala and North Florida in Gainesville. Lydia leaves behind her two nieces and their spouses, Patricia and Fred Gregory of Gainesville and Kerry and Louis Ramunno of Cleveland, Ohio. She is also survived by great nieces and nephews in California, Ohio, and Philadelphia. We thank the staff at Magnolia Ridge and Haven Hospice for her care during this last year. Finally, she also leaves her church family, which meant a lot to her. Donations in her memory may be made to St Paul Parish National Catholic Church, 5245 SE 112th St. Belleview, Fl 34420. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA 01570. For memorial guestbook please visit www.shaw-majercik.com.

Lillian M. Cyr, 91



WEBSTER – Lillian M. (Lebeau) Cyr, 91, died Monday, August 11, 2025 in the Life Care Center of Auburn in the presence of family. Her husband of 69 years, Eugene J. “Joe” Cyr, died in 2023. She leaves 5 children, Michelle Cove and her significant other Carl Paglione of North Grosvenordale, CT, Colleen Anderson and her significant other John Beresik of Webster, Jerilyn Wasielewski and her husband Mark of Ellington, CT, Russell Cyr and his wife Renee of Pepperell, and Pam Cyr and her wife Joyce Holupka of Boston; 10 grandchildren, Jessica Dulmaine and her husband Jay of Oxford, Ryan Cove and his wife Tiana of Lake Forest, IL, Kayla Schmitz and her wife Emily Schmitz of Granby, Paul Anderson and his wife Jill of Whitinsville, Jeffrey Wasielewski of Wilmington, VT, Kristen Harp and her husband Ben of Andover, CT, Zachary Wasielewski of Ellington, CT, Christopher Cyr and his significant other Chris of Boston, Madeline Cyr and her husband Akhanda Shrestha of Arlington, and Erica McIntyre of Granby; 7 great-grandchildren, Samantha and Alexander Holton, Aariah “Ellie” Mark, Isabelle Cove, Callen Harp, and twins Julian and Desmond Anderson; a sister, Doris Ducharme of Turners Falls;

nieces and nephews. She was born on October 4, 1933 in Webster, a daughter of Raymond and Mary (Szczepaniak) Lebeau and graduated from the commercial course at Saint Anne's School. Mrs. Cyr was a secretary for the Harry Seder Company and later at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish for many years before she retired. She supported her husband's businesses, namely the Fish & Chip Outlet, Jean Cyr's Candy Store and the Pastime Café. An active member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, she was one of the founders of the parish bingo, worked at the church festivals as a coordinator and was once a member of the parish council. Lillian took part in her children's activities, especially sports. She served as the president of the Lassie League and was a female umpire. She enjoyed skiing. Her funeral will be held on Saturday, August 16, from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, with a Mass at 10:00 AM in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 16 East Main Street. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 PM on Friday, August 15, in the funeral home. Donations in her name may be made to Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 18 East Main Street, Webster, MA 01570. www.websterfunerals.com

SAD continued from page A1

doubled.” He also noted they’ve “gotten more guns off the street this year than in 5-10 years,” with some of them “ghost guns” (ones without ID numbers, sometimes 3D printed). Regarding outreach, Shaw said the department’s public advocate is close to finishing becoming a licensed mental health clinician. She’s had 190 contacts of various types so far this year (40 more than last year at this time), with more of them accepting referrals for services. Of them, 58 were for mental health issues, 36 domestic violence, 31 substance abuse, 23 each housing and elder needs. He also noted the animal shelter has gotten new kennels via a Fels grant. It’s housed 94 animals this year, including nine dogs rescued in a recent animal abuse case. Beyond those issues, the board also voted to send acceptance of the donation of two landlocked parcels off Houghton Street to Town Meeting for acceptance. Assessor Mark Becker said they were left over from the development of 15-20 homes in the 1940s. They’ve changed hands a few times since then, but these two plots are “about 300 or 400 feet from the existing road,” an attorney deemed them unbuildable, and neighbors didn’t want them. “The town has 12 to 13 properties in that area,” but it’s largely unused because of the proximity of the sewer plant, Becker said. “If somebody’s willing to expend resources to build roads, drainage, utilities, water and sewer [it’s theoretically developable], but it’s pretty prohibitive at this point.” He noted both parcels are only 5000 sq ft, half of today’s zoning minimum, so they’d also have to be combined with other plots there. The town owns all the land between them and the nearest road. Later, Lafond updated the board on an issue not far away – the Brandon/Mill bridge. He said there’s a \$600,000 state budget line item to fund part of the \$1.3 million to

install a temporary, modular steel bridge there. That bridge, already in state hands, should last “as long as you need it” to provide time for the long process of designing and funding a permanent replacement, he said. He added he’s spoken to Dudley’s administrator, who thinks Dudley has enough money to fund the project (in part because the state’s adding to Chapter 90 this year). That road actually has two bridges – the closed one in Dudley, and a still open but old one in Webster. He noted both of them would be replaced in a future TIP project, but those take years. Lafond’s report also included mention of the ongoing process to find a new planner, completion of the May Street Park, discussions with the library trustees about whether to use their annual donation to fund a library job (it now goes to debt payments), and future concerns about potential override requests. Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

MILLS continued from page A1

\$94,000 grant for the Department’s Body Worn Camera program and oversaw the day-to-day fiscal operations, Police and Communications budgets and was responsible for the internal discipline of all Department members. He was appointed by Town Manager Dori Vecchio to replace Chief Lemon upon his retirement, and was officially promoted to Chief of Police on July 15. Mills holds a Bachelor’s degree in English/Communications from North Adams State College, a Master’s Degree from Anna Maria College in Criminal Justice and has completed

the FBI-LEEDA Leadership Program and the New England Institute for Law Enforcement Management. Mills is an avid reader and student of leadership who is constantly looking to improve himself and others around him. “We are going to invest in officer safety and wellness through innovative programs and realistic, high-quality training,” Mills said. “We will continue our commitment to overall public safety through proactive traffic enforcement initiatives, enhancing our strong relationships with the schools and young people and we will continue to meet the standards of investigative excellence as we work to prevent and solve crimes.”

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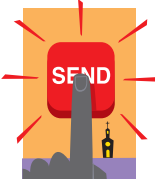
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AEDS continued from page A1

an option. The Board of Health planned to consult local EMS to determine the proper location. As of the July meeting, the Board of Health was just waiting on pediatric pads for the devices before stationing them at their new locations. Johnson revealed that the pads were on backorder. The Board of Health will not issue an official vote on the matter until all the equipment is in hand and ready to go.



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School District to receive free early literacy tutors

**BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT**

DUDLEY / CHARLTON — The Dudley-Charlton Regional School District is among 272 districts that will receive free, high-dose early literacy tutoring in the upcoming school year thanks to state funding.

The announcement was made by Gov. Maura Healey's administration on Aug. 4 which confirmed that the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District was among the hundreds of educational institutions that will receive the service with a primary focus on helping students in early education, particularly first grade, build foundational reading skills. The program,

which is operated through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), provides tutors at no cost to the districts or students.

In her announcement, Healey touted the tutors as an important tool to help prepare younger students for later years in school and build a stable foundation for their education journey.

"It's crucial for our teachers and schools to have access to the resources they need to support every young reader," said Healey in a statement. "This initiative will help bring high-dosage early literacy tutoring directly to students who need it most, giving them the foundational skills essential for long-term success. With the partnership of the

Legislature, we are delivering schools the support they need to reach all their learners."

Our correspondent reached out to the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District, where Assistant Superintendent Kelly True explained that this isn't the first time the schools have received tutoring funding from different sources, but that this state funding, which will benefit first graders at Charlton Elementary School and Mason Road School in Dudley, will be essential to helping preparing students for their long-term education.

"Early literacy is obviously incredibly important because this is where our students are really just first starting to understand how to learn. Their learning the alphabet,

their learning all the sounds and how to put them together, building phonological awareness. For some kids, it can be hard to put it all together. At this point, and especially this year, it seems to be even more critical that we have this kind of tutoring," said True.

Dudley and Charlton had previously qualified for these support services through Title 1 grant funding from the state, which allocates money based on a formula involving the number of low-income students and families. Several district schools had been grandfathered into that program, but this coming school year is the first that Charlton Schools will not benefit from that funding making the Governor's announcement even more significant to the district's continue support of early literacy.

The program is funded through the Governor's \$1.3 billion supplemental budget which included \$25 million in Fair Share money as part of the administration's goal of improving literacy for students across the Commonwealth. Schools selected for the program were required to prove that they were embracing high-quality early literacy models to qualify.

The tutoring will be offered both in-person and virtually to allow flexibility with the child's schedule and availability. The tutors are provided through a third-party contracted by the state.



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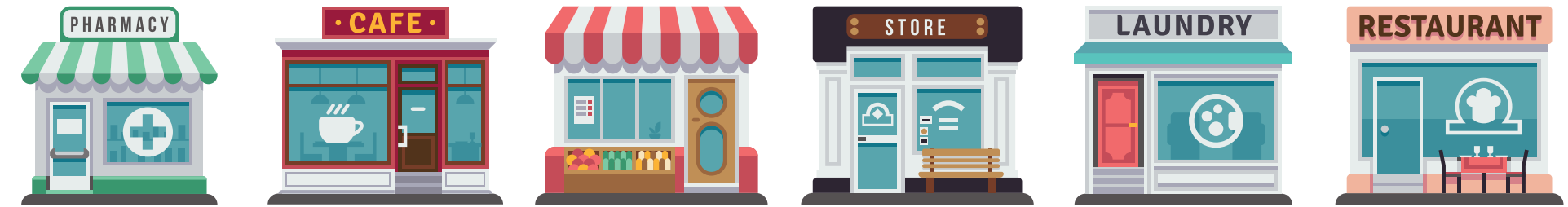
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LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Grace Boro to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mega Capital Funding Inc., dated March 17, 2023 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68940, Page 170, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mega Capital Funding Inc., its successors and assigns to Mega Capital Funding, Inc., recorded on August 26, 2024, in Book No. 70937, at Page 59

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 3:00 PM on September 8, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 15 Glenview Road a/k/a 15 Glen View Road, Auburn, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT: The land in Auburn, County of Worcester, bounded and described as follows:

Being all of Lot #14 on a Plan of Highlawn Manor Estates, dated July, 1951, drawn by R.B. Cullinan, Surveyor, recorded in Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 186, Plan 61, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a stone bound on the easterly side of Glenview Road, it being the northerly corner of said Lot # 14 as shown on said plan; THENCE S. 50 degrees 35’ 40” E. 142.81 feet by Lot #13 as shown on said plan to a stake; THENCE S. 35 degrees 14’ 30” W. by lots 9 & 10 as shown on said plan 100 feet to a stake; THENCE N. 52 degrees 37’ W. by lots # 15 as shown on said plan 149.77 feet to a stake; THENCE by a curve to the right a radius of which is 160 feet, a distance of 40.39 feet to a stone bound; THENCE N. 37 degrees 23’ E. 19.07 feet to a stone bound; THENCE by a curve to the right the radius of which is 124.29 feet, a distance of 47.05 feet to the point of beginning. Said last three courses being by Glenview Road. Containing 15,200 square feet of land, more or less.

For mortgagor’s(s’) title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68821, Page 330.

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

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

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. MEGA CAPITAL FUNDING, INC. Present holder of said mortgage By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 26353 August 15, 2025 August 22, 2025 August 29, 2025

INVITATION TO BID The Town of Webster Department of Public Works is requesting sealed bids for a new 2026 Ford F350 regular cab 4x4 pickup or equal. Bids will be received up to and read at 10:00 am on Thursday, August 28, 2025. Specifications are available at the Town of Webster/Highway Department, 23 Cudworth Rd, Webster, MA 01570. All envelopes must be marked “BID TRUCK”

Office hours are Monday – Friday 7:00 am – 3:00 pm, office number 508-949-3862. The Town of Webster through its Board of Selectmen reserves the right to reject any all bids if deemed to be in the best interest of the Town. August 15, 2025 August 22, 2025

MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by American Painting and Improvement LLC to Crowd Lending Fund One, LLC, dated December 29, 2023 and recorded at Worcester County Registry of Deeds on December 29, 2023, in Book No. 70055, at Page 1, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder Crowd Lending Fund One, LLC, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at public auction at 10:00 AM, on August 26, 2025 on the mortgaged premises being known as 27 Dresser Street, Webster, MA, being all and singular the premises described in said mortgage to wit:

The Land referred to herein below is situated in the County of Worcester, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and is described as follows:

That certain lot or parcel of land situated in the Town of Webster, County of Worcester, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being Lot No. 38 on a Plan of Lots recorded in the Worcester County Registry of Deeds entitled “Dresser Land” in Book 1348 page 653 is bounded and described as follows: Said lot boWlds northerly by land now or formerly of Theophil Koeller and measures 63 feet in width and 165 feet in depth. Being the same premises as described in Book 1653 at page 200. Being the same premises as conveyed to the mortgagor by deed of U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, as Trustee for LEHMAN XS TRUST MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-ION, dated December 7, 2023, recorded on December 29, 2023 at Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book No. 70054, at Page 393.

The above described premises will be sold **SUBJECT TO** and with the benefit of all restrictions, easements, covenants, conditions, building and zoning laws, to any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, water and sewer charges, municipal or other public taxes, assessments or liens, rights of tenants and parties in possession, if any. **TERMS OF SALE:** A deposit of \$7,500.00 DOLLARS shall be required to be made to the mortgagee in cash, by certified or by cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale as a deposit. The successful bidder will be required to execute an Auction Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, by certified check, by cashier’s check, or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee’s attorney within thirty (30) days thereafter at the offices of BARSH AND COHEN, P.C., Attorneys for the Mortgagee, 500 Turnpike Street Suite 201, Canton, MA 02021, in exchange for which and at such time and place, the deed shall be delivered to the purchaser for recording.

The Mortgagee reserves the right to amend the foregoing terms of sale by written or oral announcement made before the auction sale, during the sale thereof or at the commencement of or during any postponed sale, the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, and to postpone the sale up until the time the property is declared sold by the auctioneer. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in the Notice of Mortgagee’s Sale or its publication. OTHER TERMS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE SALE. Dated: July 24, 2025 (signed:) Crowd Lending Fund One, LLC Present Holder of said Mortgage By its Attorneys, Barsh and Cohen, P.C. Neil Cohen, Esquire Attorney for the Mortgagee 500 Turnpike Street Suite 201, Canton, MA 02021 (617) 332-4700 August 1, 2025 August 8, 2025 August 15, 2025

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket No. 25 SM 002324 TO: **Matthew T. Curtis Suzanne L. Curtis ORDER OF NOTICE** and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq): **U.S. Bank Trust National**

Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Douglas, numbered 71 Locust Street**, given by **Matthew T. Curtis and Suzanne L. Curtis to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Omega Mortgage Corp., its successors and assigns, dated December 8, 2009, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 51120, Page 81, and further affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated February 17, 2013, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 51120, Page 81, and further affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated December 3, 2015, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 54867, Page 305, and further affected by an Assumption Agreement dated August 9, 2019, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 61072, Page 290, and further affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated August 22, 2019, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 61072, Page 295, and further affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated September 23, 2020, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 63453, Page 192, 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 09/15/2025 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 8/1/2025 Attest: A TRUE COPY ATTEST RECORDER Deborah J. Patterson Recorder August 15, 2025**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508)831-2200 Docket No. W025C0411CA CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

In the matter of: **Jason Stuart Howard A Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Jason Stuart Howard of Oxford MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Jason Christopher Howard IMPORTANT NOTICE** Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10 a.m. on the return day of 08/26/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding. WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court. Date: July 29, 2025 Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate August 15, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO95P2125WF1 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate Of: **William James Sullivan Also known as: William J Sullivan Date of Death: 04/29/1995** To all interested persons: A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of Will** has been filed by **Janet L Waite of North Billerica MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such 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 09/02/2025.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a dead-

line 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: August 07, 2025 Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate August 15, 2025

{SEAL} Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 Docket No. W025P2645GD NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor In the interests of **Izabella Vegas Rico of Webster, MA Minor** NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

- 1. Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor by filed on 07/30/2025 by Ernest M Enno of Webster, MA will be held **08/26/2025 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located **Worcester Probate & Family Court** You need to:
- 2. Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.
- 3. Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.
- 4. Counsel for Parents:** If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.
- 5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor’s best interests.

ORDER TO PETITIONS IT IS ORDERED THAT copies of the Notice and Petitions for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served in hand on the minor, (if 14 or more years of age and not the petitioner), the guardian, the parents of minor, and any other person if ordered by court, at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the hearing listed above. Service must be made by the sheriff, constable, or other person appointed by the Court. If service in hand cannot be accomplished on any interested party at least **fourteen (14) days** prior to the date of hearing listed above, If the identity of whereabouts of an interested party is not known. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** THAT copies of this Notice and Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served on all interested persons at least **fourteen (14)** dates prior to the hearing date by first class mail and by publishing a copy of the Order and Notice once in the Webster Times publication to be at least **Seven (7)** days prior to the hearing date. If required, service of the United States Veteran Administration and the Department of Childern and Families may be accomplished by regulare mail at least **Seven (7)** days prior to the hearing. **THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE:** An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice. Date: July 30, 2025 Stephanie K. Fattman Register of Probate August 15, 2025

For Legal Advertising Information Call 508-909-4127 email: legals@stonebridge press. news

LEGALS

Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 and M.G.L. c. 21 §§ 26-53, notice is given of a 401 water quality certification application for impact of 143,750 square feet of Land Under Waterbodies at Pout Pond in Webster, MA for the purpose of hydro-raking the pond and its channel to restore them to their original states. The hydro-raked material will be stored at a nearby dredged material storage facility via W.L. French Excavating Corporation at Fish Road in Dudley, MA. Additional information may be obtained through the Applicant's representative, Goddard Consulting LLC, at 1442 North Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Written comments should be sent to: MassDEP Western Regional Office, 436 Dwight Street, Springfield, MA 01103 within twenty-one days of this notice. Any group of ten persons, any aggrieved person, or any governmental body or private organization with a mandate to protect the environment who submits written comments may appeal the Department's Certification. Failure to submit written comments before the end of the public comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing. August 15, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P2693EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Damon Dennis Anderson
Date of Death: 07/04/2025

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Brandon D Anderson of Dudley 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:
Brandon D Anderson of Dudley MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/02/2025.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 05, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
August 15, 2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
Premises: 11 Dalessandro Avenue a/k/a 11 D'Alessandro Avenue, Dudley, MA 01571
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Scott Roseen and Karen Roseen to Household Finance Corporation II, and now held by **U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust**, said mortgage dated April 1, 2003 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 29550, Page 155, as

affected by a Loan Modification dated April 11, 2023 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69122, Page 86; said mortgage was assigned from Household Finance Corporation II to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as trustee for LSF8 Master Participation Trust by assignment dated September 11, 2014 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 52797, Page 325; said mortgage was assigned from U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as trustee for LSF8 Master Participation Trust to DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc. by assignment dated April 3, 2017 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 61008, Page 371; said mortgage was assigned from DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc. to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust by assignment dated September 15, 2022 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 68285, Page 19; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on** September 11, 2025 at 3:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: *The land with the buildings thereon of every nature and description and all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated on the westerly side of D'Alessandro Avenue, in Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts, and being Lot #15 on plan of lots surveyed for Stanley Deren et al, Dudley, Mass., dated August 28, 1952, drawn by Henry A. Racicot, Engr., and recorded with the Worcester District Registry Of Deeds, Plan Book 184, Plan 13, and bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the southeasterly corner thereof, at a stake on the westerly side of said D'Alessandro Avenue, said stake being at the northeasterly corner of Lot #16 as shown on the aforesaid plan; Thence North 82 deg. 18' West by the northerly line of said Lot #16 for a distance of ninety-eight and seventy-three hundredths (98.73) feet to a stake at land of John Ruda, Jr.; Thence North 6 deg. 18' East by land of said Ruda, a distance of eighty-three and sixty-five hundredths (83.65) feet to a stake at the southwesterly corner of lot #14 on said plan; Thence South 81 deg. 19' East by the southerly line of said Lot #14 a distance of one hundred and fifty hundredths (100.50) feet to a stake on the westerly line of said D'Alessandro Avenue; Thence South 7 deg. 39' West by the Westerly line of said D'Alessandro Avenue. a distance of eighty-two (82) feet to the point of beginning. Subject to the following restrictions:*
1. NO BUILDING OR PART OF A BUILDING SHALL BE ERECTED OR MAINTAINED THEREON WITHIN THIRTY (30) FEET OF THE STREET LINE;
2. NO HOUSE SHALL BE BUILT THEREON AT A LESS COST THAN SIX THOUSAND AND 00/100 (\$6,000.00) DOLLARS;
3 THE PREMISES AND BUILDING THEREON SHALL BE USED FOR TRADE OR MANUFACTURE BUT FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES ONLY;
4. NO STABLE SHALL BE ERECTED THEREON AND NO HORSES, CATTLE, SWINE, OR POULTRY SHALL BE KEPT ON THE PREMISES. SUBJECT ALSO TO THE RIGHTS OF THE NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY AND THE WORCESTER COUNTY ELECTRIC COMPANY TO ERECT AND MAINTAIN POLES AND WIRES, AS RECORDED WITH THE WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS, BOOK 3359, PAGE 56 AND IN BOOK 3489, PAGE 407. BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED FROM HENRY R. GELINEAU, NOT STATED TO SCOTT ROSEEN AND KAREN ROSEEN, HUSBAND AND WIFE/ T/B/E BY DEED RECORDED 5/29/1998, IN BOOK 20005, AT PAGE 130, IN THE REGISTER'S OFFICE OF WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.
The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.
For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated May 29, 1998 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 20005, Page 130.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.
FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.
Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
August 8, 2025
August 15, 2025
August 22, 2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
Premises: 189 Main Street, Oxford, MA 01540
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Dominico DiGiovanni to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for LYC Mortgage, LLC, and now held by **JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association**, said mortgage dated February 28, 2013 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 50516, Page 73, as affected by a Loan Modification dated November 5, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 64700, Page 103; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for LYC Mortgage LLC to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association by assignment dated February 15, 2017 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 56760, Page 126; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on** September 8, 2025 at 11:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:
The land in said Oxford, together with the building thereon, situated on the westerly side of South Main Street, shown as Lot C on Plan entitled "Plan to show Division of Property in Oxford, MA owned by Victor Casavant et ux, Book 2176, Page 268" dated December 10, 1956, survey and plan by Kenneth Shaw and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 222, Plan 11, and bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the Southeasterly corner thereof at an iron pipe in westerly line of South Main Street at land now or formerly of H. LaCrosse; THENCE by said LaCrosse land N 77 degrees 27' W one hundred twenty and 93/100 (120.93) feet to an iron pipe; THENCE by land now or formerly of Victor Casavant et us N 19 degrees 30' E one hundred six and 31/100 (106.31) feet to an iron pipe; THENCE by said Casavant land S 70 degrees 30' E ninety four and 25/100 (94.25) feet to a point; THENCE by a curve to the right (radius 20 feet) for a distance of thirty one and 41/100 (31.41) feet to a point in west line of South Main Street; THENCE southerly by the westerly side of South Main Street by a curve to the left (radius 2032.50 feet) for a distance of sixty four and 69/100 (64.69) feet to a Massachusetts highway bound; THENCE southerly by said street seven and 24/100 (7.24) feet to a point of BEGINNING.
The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.
For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated February 25, 2013 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 50516, Page 71.
TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all

liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.
FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.
Other terms to be announced at the sale.
Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
August 8, 2025
August 15, 2025
August 22, 2025

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WATERWAYS REGULATION PROGRAM
Notice of License Application pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 91 Chapter 91 License Application Number 25-WW01-0092-APP
Applicant: Town of Dudley
Project Location: 0 New Boston Road, Waters of Carpenters Pond, Dudley, Worcester County
Notification Date: August 17, 2025
Public Comments Deadline: September 17, 2025
Public Notice is hereby given of the Chapter 91 License Application by the Town of Dudley for removal of the Carpenters Pond Dam and associated structures thereto, installation of temporary cofferdams, stream channel restoration, and improvement dredging within waters of Carpenters Pond at 0 New Boston Road, Dudley, Worcester County. The proposed project has been determined to be a Water-Dependent Use.
The Department will consider all written comments on this Chapter 91 Application received by September 17, 2025 (Public Comments Deadline). Failure of any aggrieved person or group of ten (10) citizens or more to submit written comments to the Department by the Public Comments Deadline will result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with 310 CMR 9.13(4) (c). The group of citizens must include at least five (5) citizens who are residents of the municipality in which the proposed project is located. A public hearing may be held upon request by the Municipal Official.
Project plans and documents for this application are on file for public viewing electronically at: <https://eeaaonline.eea.state.ma.us/EEA/PublicApp/> (enter 25-WW01-0092-APP in the Search Page in the Record ID field). If you need assistance, please contact ivan.morales@mass.gov or if you do not have access to email, please leave a voicemail at (857) 276-3013 and you will be contacted with information on alternative options.
It is recommended that documents and correspondence be filed electronically with the email address specified above when possible. Alternatively, comments may be mailed to Ivan Morales at MassDEP Waterways Regulation Program, 100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor, Boston, MA 02114.
August 15, 2025

Notice is hereby given by Precision Auto Rebuilders, Inc., 243 West Main St, Dudley MA 01571 pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39A that on 9/5/25 @ 5 PM at Precision Auto Rebuilders, Inc., 243 W Main St, Dudley, MA 01571
The following motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle:
Description of vehicle: VIN# 4T4BF3EK3BR088557 ; 2011 Toyota Camry Grey, Reg# NONE
August 15, 2025
August 22, 2025
August 29, 2025

For Legal Advertising Information
Call 508-909-4127
email:legals@stonebridge press.news

Local officials go the extra mile in support of Pan-Mass Challenge

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE — Local public safety agencies are thanked for once again teaming up to ensure a safe Pan-Mass Challenge.

Held on Aug. 2 & 3, the event brought together thousands of riders, volunteers, and guests in support of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

The annual ride requires countless hours of preparations from participants, including physical training and fundraising. The same level of commitment is invested in the event from a public safety standpoint, with multiple agencies working together to plan logistics for the big weekend.

“I’d like to thank all of our public safety partners for their tremendous support during this year’s PMC event,” said Sturbridge Police Chief Earl Dessert. “As always, this operation would not be possible without the collaboration and dedication of our fellow law enforcement agencies, support teams, and volunteers.”

The following agencies and departments teamed up to ensure a safe ride: Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency; Sturbridge Emergency Management; Sturbridge Fire Department and EMS; Massachusetts State Police; Worcester County Sheriff’s Office; CEMLEC SWAT and the CEMLEC Motor Unit; the Environmental Police; East Brookfield Police Department; Sturbridge Police Department; Quincy Police



Department; and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

“I also want to thank PMC staff members Sue Brogan and Matt McGuinness for their continued partnership, communication, and leadership throughout the planning and execution of this massive event,” Chief Dessert added.

The 2025 PMC marked the end of an era, as riders departed from the Sturbridge Host Hotel start line for the final time. Beginning next year, the start line will be moved to the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester.

For Sturbridge residents and public safety leaders, watching the final launch from the traditional start line brought a range of emotions, with riders pouring onto Route 20 in town for the last time.

“As this marks the final year the PMC will kick off from Sturbridge, it is bittersweet. While I am saddened to see the event move on, I am extremely proud of the many years we hosted the start of this ride without a single major safety issue,” Dessert said. “Our top priority has always been the safety of the riders,

and I know we delivered the level of security they deserved—from full intersection coverage to detailed coordination across jurisdictions.”

Added Dessert, “To the men and women of the Sturbridge Police Department—thank you for always going the extra mile. The behind-the-scenes coordination and commitment each of you demonstrates every year is a point of pride for our agency and our community.”

To ensure a safe ride, local departments begin planning far in advance of the event, coordinat-

ing everything from traffic control operations to rider and spectator supports.

“A heartfelt thank-you to Lieutenant Larry Bateman and Matthew Wyke (Sturbridge Emergency Management), who has overseen the security planning for the PMC for many years. Their work starts months in advance and is a major reason why this event has consistently

gone off without a hitch,” Dessert said.

The PMC is a fully supported bike-a-thon that provides riders with fundraising tools and guidance; meals and snacks at hub sites; water stops along routes; and mechanical and medical assistance.

The PMC raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraising event in the country. All funds raised by the event support the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, a world leader in adult and pediatric cancer treatment and research.

“I want to wish all PMC riders many more years of safe and successful rides,” Dessert said. “Lastly, I extend my deepest gratitude to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The PMC has raised an extraordinary amount of money for patients and families, and we are proud to have played a small role in supporting that mission.”

The PMC is Dana-Farber’s single largest supporter. Since 1980, the event has raised roughly \$1.05 billion for Dana-Farber.

To learn more about the PMC and how you can join the fight against cancer by making a donation, visit www.pmc.org.

Worcester Youth Leadership Institute celebrates 12th graduating class

WORCESTER — While many students traditionally have headed off to summer vacations, for the past 11 years, some area high school and college students have participated in the Worcester Youth Leadership Institute. The program offers students a six-week learning experience which exposes them to a variety of Worcester businesses, industries, and mentors. The Institute is a part of a broader effort by the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce to develop and mentor Worcester’s future leaders.

The Institute is a partnership between the Worcester Chamber, MassHire Central Workforce Board, The United Way of Central Massachusetts, Worcester Community Action Council, and the City of Worcester’s Youth Opportunities Office, and DPH, with support from National Grid and GFI

Partners.

“The goal is simple—expose Worcester’s young people to the myriad of businesses, leaders, mentors, and possibilities available in their own communities,” said Timothy Murray, president and CEO of the Worcester Chamber. “These youth are our future leaders. We want them to know and understand their community can offer them a unique college experience and fascinating job opportunities, and provide insight and perspective on the city’s history, leadership, business community, and government make-up.”

Coordinated by Walter Jovel, the Institute identified 25 youth, ages 15 – 21, who are participating in the city’s YouthWorks employment program and who were nominated by their employer. They are participating in a six-week, summer leadership program as part of their

employment program.

“We think this is an awesome opportunity to enhance our employment program,” said Jeff Turgeon, executive director of MassHire Central Workforce Board. “These students have already shown initiative by participating in the YouthWorks program, and by offering extended learning experience outside of the typical workday, are able to give them a unique experience and hopefully a greater appreciation for their community.”

The Institute, which will run from July 11 to Aug. 15, will introduce the participants to the business, government, education, and nonprofit sectors in a variety of ways including talks and question-and-answer sessions with the leadership structures of various sectors and organizations.

The youth participants are all a part of the Worcester

YouthWorks employment program, where they are working Monday through Thursday at the City or other area nonprofits. Topics have included career exploration as well as leadership focus areas from the Worcester fabric, such as entrepreneurship, economic development, public health, and nonprofit organizations.

The program launched in 2014 after conversations between Tim Murray, George Smith and Ron Scott from United Families for Change, Worcester Mayor Joseph Petty, City Manager Edward Augustus, and City Councilors Philip Palmieri and Sarai Rivera. All of the partner organizations came together and have graduated 150 students over the past nine years.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPENCER- EAST BROOKFIELD - RESIDENTS ONLY
Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry
60 Maple St, Spencer, MA 01562
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STURBRIDGE
Saint Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry, Located in the St. Anne Church basement, 16 Church Street, Fiskdale, MA 01518
Stocked by donations
Contact: 508-347-6398

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

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



August programs at the Worcester Talking Book Library

WORCESTER — The Worcester Talking Book Library provides free materials to Massachusetts residents of any age who are unable to read traditional print due to a visual or physical disability. We have access to more than 1.2 million volumes of accessible material, including digital books, large type books, audio-described videos, braille, and magazines in recorded and braille format. Providing mail-order service by telephone as well as service on a walk-in basis, the Worcester Talking Book Library serves customers

from nine months to more than 100 years old. We are located at Worcester Public Library, 3 Salem Square in Worcester, Mass. Programs take place at the Worcester Public Library unless otherwise noted. These programs are typically geared toward those who are blind or visually impaired, but all are welcome to attend! Best of all, they are free! Questions? Call us at 508-799-1730 or email talk-book@mywpl.org.

Tuesday Movie
Matinees
All showings are at 2

p.m. in the Banx room unless otherwise noted. Movies are audio-described for the visually impaired. No registration. Snacks provided!

Aug. 12: "Going in Style." 2017. Rated PG13. 96 minutes. Starring Morgan Freeman, Michael Caine, and Alan Arkin, who team up as lifelong buddies who decide to buck retirement and step off the straight-and-narrow for the first time in their lives when their pension fund becomes a corporate casualty. The three risk it all with a daring bid to

knock off the very bank that absconded with their money.

Aug. 26: "A Real Pain." 2024. Rated R. 89 minutes. Starring Kieran Culkin and Jesse Eisenberg. Mismatched cousins David and Benji reunite for a tour through Poland to honor their beloved grandmother. The adventure takes a turn when the odd-couple's old tensions resurface against the backdrop of their family history.

Summer Night Sounds with Hands On Nature
Monday, Aug. 11, 3 p.m.,

Banx Room. No registration required.
What makes those amazing songs we hear outside our windows during the warm summer nights? Is that a cricket, a katydid, a treefrog? Join Heather from Hands On Nature to learn who's making those chirps and peeps! You might be surprised at what you learn, and your nighttime listening experience will be greatly enhanced!

Accessible Tech for Apple Devices
Thursday, Aug. 21, 10 a.m., Banx Room. No registration required.

Learn the latest in Apple's assistive tech for the blind and visually impaired with an expert from the Massachusetts Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired. This program will focus on assistive technology for the iPhone, iPad, and Apple watch.

Worcester Public Library is located at 3 Salem Square, Worcester. Parking will be validated for the McGrath Lot.



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BARTLETT HIGH CLASS OF 1995 CELEBRATES 30-YEAR- REUNION

The Bartlett High School Class of 1995 from Webster will be holding their 30th high school reunion on Saturday, Sept. 13 at Tree House Brewing, 129 Sturbridge Rd., Charlton. There will be a designated area for the members of the class to gather and celebrate starting at 2 p.m. Outside food and non-alcoholic beverages are allowed to be brought to the brewery. For more information contact Erin at (508) 341-5347 or elanderson1228@gmail.com.

Master Masons gather for Family Fun Day

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

HUDSON — On Sunday, Aug. 10, Master Masons, their family and friends converged to the grounds of the American Heritage Museum, located

in Hudson, for the Masonic Family Fun Day.

The main field at the museum was full of pop-up tents, that represented all the Masonic Districts in the state. There were all kinds of foods and games for children and adults. Children were

lining up at the 24th Masonic District's pop-up tent, that was selling cotton candy and snow cones. Master Masons, as far as western Massachusetts, traveled the long distance to attend this event. What a way to meet other Brethren and their family from other lodges throughout the state. The fellowship and comradery were fun for all.

The best part of this family fun day was at the American Heritage Museum exhibits. Representing Americas conflicts from the American Revolutionary War to today. The amount of military equipment on display was amazing, there were tanks of different wars, from different countries, to cannons, artillery, trucks, war plans of all kinds and much, much more. It brought you back in time with all the war battles on display and the stories from decades past. Some of these exhibits brought tears to your eyes, with what our soldiers endured. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, go to www.massfreemasonry.org to find a lodge nearest you.



Courtesy

Winner Nancy Hattabaugh holds her gift certificate from Point Breeze Restaurant.



Courtesy

Children all excited and waiting to get cotton candy and snow cones at the 24th Masonic District pop-up tent. Backgrounds all lined up, side by side are pop-up tents from other Masonic Districts, from throughout the state participating in this Masonic Family fun Day event.

Friends of the Library enjoy a sweet reward

WEBSTER — Congratulations to Jane Place and Nancy Hattabaugh, winners of \$100 gift certificates to Point Breeze Restaurant. All new and continuing members of the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Library of Webster were eligible for the prize drawing held on Aug. 1. Place and Hattabaugh know there are other benefits to joining the Friends, too, like discounted tickets to the annual gala, Bites, Books and Blooms, coming up on Sept. 25.

All members of our community are winners when people join the Friends. With membership fees starting as low as \$10, the Friends support the many programs for children and adults at our local library. Just last week children's programs included Indoor/Outdoor Fun (bouncy castle!), Storytime, Friendship Bracelets, and adults could enjoy yoga, Music of the Beach Boys, and mindfulness training, all free of charge. These programs are not included in the town budget. They are paid for solely by the Friends.

Check out all that is going on at the library in downtown Webster this week, and say thank you to a Friend. Better yet, become a Friend yourself and do your community a favor! There are no required meetings to attend, no obligations. You are simply adding your contribution and your name to the list of people who recognize all that the library is doing. Ask how to join at the circulation desk or visit the Web page, <https://gladyskellylibrary.org/about-us/friends>.

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