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BLACKSTONE VALLEY TRIBUNE

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Douglas, Northbridge, Uxbridge, Linwood, Whitinsville and North Uxbridge

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS Friday, November 14, 2025

Northbridge awarded Community One Stop for Growth grant



Courtesy
Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter Director Leslie Reichert, along with Lt. Gov. Kimberly Driscoll at the award announcements on Nov. 6 in Monson.

NORTHBRIDGE — Last week, on Thursday, Nov. 6, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced that the Town of Northbridge was one of 190 communities across the state that were awarded assistance through the Community One Stop for Growth, an application portal overseen by the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED). Northbridge will receive \$125,000 from the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, that will be provided to the Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter (“BVES”), a non-profit 501c3 that is dedicated to

providing temporary transitional accommodations to individuals experiencing personal and family emergencies. BVES will be performing a feasibility study exploring the development of a Guest House model in the Northbridge, Uxbridge, or Douglas areas that would serve the 13 communities the organization supports. A Guest House initiative aims to provide safe, supportive transitional housing for individuals experiencing homelessness. It is a short-term, non-emergency home, serving individuals and families. It is not a bed for the night, but an opportunity to achieve self-sufficiency, and move

into affordable housing. BVES has provided seasonal shelter and emergency stays for individuals and families in crisis for eight years. However, temporary placements offer limited time to address the root causes of homelessness. A permanent Guest House model would provide longer-term accommodations paired with case management, workforce readiness, and connection to services, offering guests the stability they need to transition to permanent housing. Northbridge Town Manager Adam Gaudette was quoted as saying, “The Town of Northbridge is

Turn To GRANT page A9

Whitin Community Center announces Black Friday Scratch-Off event with unbeatable membership deals

WHITINSVILLE — Get ready to kick off your Black Friday shopping with an exciting and unique twist at the Whitin Community Center! On Nov. 28, exclusively in person from 8 to 10 a.m., we’re offering a limited-time opportunity for both new and existing members to snag huge discounts on memberships through our Black Friday Scratch-Off Event. Attendees will receive a scratch card that reveals their discount on membership fees—ranging from 30, 40, 50, to an incredible 75 percent off! Plus, to make this event even more thrilling, one lucky winner will walk away with a free membership. Everyone is guaranteed at least 30 percent off! Please note that you must pay in full at the time of the event. “This event is unlike the other membership promotions,” says Chrissa Gannon, Director of

Marketing & Events at Whitin Community Center. “Not only does everyone walk away a winner with substantial savings, but the excitement of revealing your scratch-card discount adds a fun and interactive element to our Black Friday event.” The in-person-only event is open to all new and current members of the WCC. Supplies are limited, we have just 300 scratch tickets available, so attendees are encouraged to arrive early to secure their scratch cards and take advantage of the unbeatable discounts. Mark your calendars and don’t miss this chance to unlock incredible savings at the Whitin Community Center’s Black Friday event. Whether you’re a fitness enthusiast or someone just looking for a great deal, this is an opportunity you won’t want to pass up! For more information, visit whitincommunitycenter.com or contact a Member Services Representative at 508-234-8184.

The Whitin Community Center is committed to enhancing the health and well-being of individuals and families and building a strong community in the Blackstone Valley. We offer social, recreational, educational, and outreach programs that bring community members of all ages and backgrounds together. The Whitin Community Center is the Blackstone Valley’s most complete family and recreation center with two swimming pools, a gym, fitness center, early learning programs, summer camps and a seven and a half acre park. For more information call 508-234-8184 or visit www.WhitinCommunityCenter.com.

Third Annual Festival of Trees brings holiday magic to Whitinsville

WHITINSVILLE — The spirit of the season will shine bright at the 3rd Annual Blackstone Valley Festival of Trees, taking place Dec. 5–7 at the Great Hall in Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main St., Whitinsville. This cherished community tradition benefits the Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter, providing hope and housing support to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The festivities begin on Friday, Dec. 5, with a Preview Party from 5–7 p.m., featuring delicious food sponsored by Hannaford, champagne and beer provided by Courthouse Brewery, and live performances by the Blackstone Valley Community Chorus, Chris Bildeau, and the Blackstone Valley String Ensemble. Tickets are \$15 and available online at www.bvfestivaloftrees.org. On Saturday, Dec. 6, the event is free and open to the public from 10 a.m.–6 p.m., with beautifully decorated trees, live ice sculpting sponsored by Wiersma Insurance, food trucks, a holiday scavenger hunt,

and fun surprises for children and families. Then on Sunday, Dec. 7, Santa Claus will make a special visit from 10:30 a.m. to noon, sponsored by UniBank. The celebration concludes that evening with the exciting Tree Raffle Drawing, beginning at 4 p.m., when lucky winners will take home one of the stunning themed trees. Come experience the beauty, music, and joy of the holidays at this year’s Festival of Trees—and help bring hope to those who need it most this season.

relief organizations across Central Massachusetts. With teamwork, energy, and plenty of muddy boots, students made an incredible impact. “Together, they harvested more than 1,600 pounds of cabbage in which 630 lbs. was packaged for this week’s distribution. In total - this is more than 9,000 servings of highly nutritious cabbage going out to our hunger relief partners,” the organization stated in a Facebook post. In addition to the cabbage, students also harvested nearly 70 pounds of kale, adding another 470 servings of nutritious greens to the total. In all, their morning’s work will help provide approximately 9,500 recipients with a

WCS serves at Community Harvest

GRAFTON — The eighth grade class at Whitinsville Christian School spent a day serving at Community Harvest Project in Grafton, a local nonprofit farm that grows fresh produce for hunger

relief organizations across Central Massachusetts. With teamwork, energy, and plenty of muddy boots, students made an incredible impact.

“Together, they harvested more than 1,600 pounds of cabbage in which 630 lbs. was packaged for this week’s distribution. In total - this is more than 9,000 servings of highly nutritious cabbage going out to our hunger relief partners,” the organization stated in a Facebook post. In addition to the cabbage, students also harvested nearly 70 pounds of kale, adding another 470 servings of nutritious greens to the total. In all, their morning’s work will help provide approximately 9,500 recipients with a

serving of fresh vegetables. This experience was more than just a field trip, it was a hands-on lesson in service, stewardship, and the power of community. WCS middle school students have been serving twice a year at Community Harvest for more than ten years. “We are so grateful to Community Harvest Project and their incredible volunteers for welcoming us, guiding our students, and providing this opportunity to serve,” said Miranda Osterman, Interim Assistant Principal. “Their commitment to feeding our neighbors and educating the next generation about community service makes a lasting impact.”





Holiday makes for early deadlines

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication in our Nov. 28 will be Thursday, Nov. 20 at 10 a.m. Submissions can be e-mailed to news@stonebridgepress.news. The staff wishes our readers a safe and happy Thanksgiving

A family legacy

BAY PATH GRAD JOINS SISTERS AS LPN IN LOCAL HEALTHCARE

CHARLTON — Jason Houatchanthara joined the region’s healthcare workforce on June 2 as a practical nursing student in his last term and continues to do so after reaching an important professional milestone. Jason Houatchanthara, a resident of Fiskdale, has officially earned his LPN license by passing the NCLEX-PN exam on his first attempt. Jason graduated from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton this past June 20. He is currently employed at the Southbridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Southbridge.

Houatchanthara’s path to becoming a nurse was marked by determination, hard work, and a deep commitment to helping others. Balancing rigorous academic requirements with demanding clinical rotations and employment, he exemplified perseverance and dedication throughout his training. Jason is a graduate of Southbridge High School, where he was challenged with honors courses and Advanced Placement (AP) courses in Algebra and Statistics.

“The nursing journey was tough, filled with long

nights, hard work, and sacrifice,” Houatchanthara shared. “But through dedication and determination, we finally made it. With the support of our families, classmates, and instructors, every challenge became a stepping stone to success.”

Hands-on training and clinical experience
Houatchanthara’s path was marked by perseverance, balancing academic demands with extensive hands-on training and prior employment. During the program, Jason completed 1,097 hours of didactic and clinical training, gaining hands-on experience across several healthcare settings:

Quaboag Rehab and Skilled Care Center in West Brookfield, where he demonstrated leadership in wound care and medication administration.

Vibra, The Meadows in Rochdale, where he performed advanced procedures such as trach care and G-tube feedings.

Lutheran Rehab and Skilled Care Center in Worcester, where he focused on patient care, charting, and communication with interdisciplinary teams.

His academic excellence earned him induction into the National Technical Honor Society, and he was an active member of the Mock Code Team. He built a strong foundation in pharmacology, Medical-Surgical Nursing, and geriatric care.

Career Transition and Early Nursing Experience
Before entering the nursing field full-time, Houatchanthara worked as the Head Custodian at Brimfield Elementary School until May 30. In that role, he managed staff assignments, ensured safety and maintenance standards, and coordinated supply inventories — experiences that strengthened his leadership, organization, and communication skills, all vital for nursing practice.

Shortly before graduating, as a practical nursing student in his last term, he began his healthcare career as a Graduate Nurse at Southbridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, gaining early professional experience in patient care and clinical teamwork.

Family Legacy in Nursing and A Family Tradition of Compassion

Houatchanthara’s dedication to nursing runs in the family. His successful transition into nursing continues a notable family legacy, joining his two older sisters in the nursing field.

His sister, Kamphan Houatchanthara, LPN, graduated from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in 2021. As a Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy graduate, Kamphan’s accolades include Recipient, Clinical Excellence Award and Random Act of Kindness Award; Member, Mock Code Team, UNICEF Club, and Admissions Panel Interview; Certifications on Mental Health First Aid, Dementia Care, Infusion Therapy / Central Line Care Program, and attendance at the COVID-19 Contact Tracing Johns Hopkins University. She currently serves in a leadership position at the Lutheran Rehab and



Skilled Care Center in Worcester. Khamphan became a nurse following their sister, Maxine. Their other sister, Maxine Khounthy, LPN, also works at Southbridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Center previously as Nursing Supervisor, now as the Assistant Director of Nursing, and shares a long-standing connection with Bay Path faculty.

Maxine recently sent a message to Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy’s former Academy Director, expressing her gratitude:

“Thank you so much for all you did for my sister Kamphan, and brother Jason,” Maxine wrote.

Maxine and Dr. Bolandrina first met in 2013, when Dr. Bolandrina served as the Clinical Facilitator at Southbridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, and Maxine was the evening nursing supervisor.

Serving the community
Now a fully credentialed LPN, Jason holds certifications in BLS/CPR for Healthcare Providers, Mental Health First Aid, Dementia Care, and Stop the Bleed.

Equipped with skills in EMR/EHR systems, infection control, and vital signs monitoring, he is eager to contribute to the healthcare community with compassion and professionalism.

“Nursing has taught me that compassion and teamwork can make a lasting difference,” Jason said. “I want to continue to give back to the community that supported me.”



ARTHRITIS?

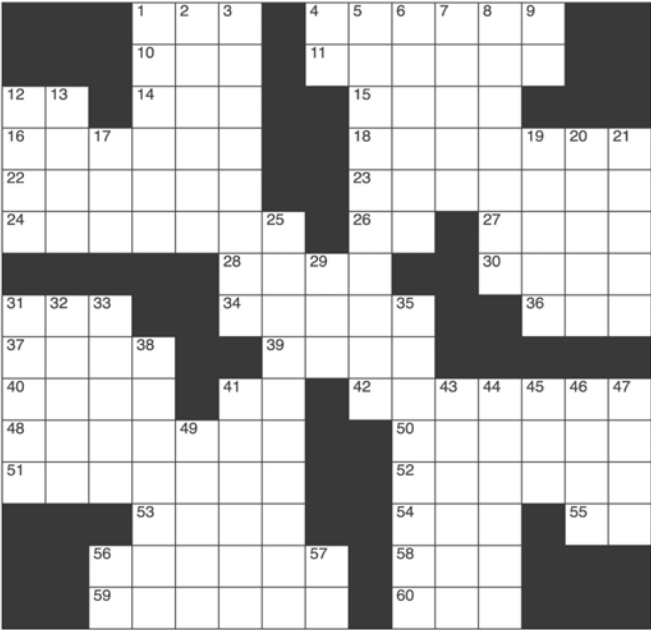
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Popular broadcast network

4. Train line

10. Go quickly

11. Straightforward

12. Canadian province

14. Swiss river

15. It can be straight or curved

16. Edit

18. Utter repeatedly

22. Gotten up

23. Sea vessel

24. Agents of one's demise

26. Not out

27. Something to scratch

28. A round water pot

30. Slang for cylindrical green fruit

31. Promotions

34. Masses of matter
36. Soviet Socialist Republic

37. Nightstand item

39. The content of cognition

40. Arab ruler

41. Northern U.S. state

42. Chewed in small bites

48. Hawaiian island

50. More thin

51. Of one

52. Rigid bracelet or anklet

53. Barbary sheep

54. Not even

55. Atomic #106

56. Haggle

58. Boxing's GOAT

59. Division of a group into opposing factions

60. Vietnamese offensive

CLUES DOWN

1. Horse-drawn carriage

2. Prejudices

3. Peacefully

4. University athletic official

5. Soldiers

6. Large mollusk

7. Take out again

8. Sour or bitter in taste

9. Songwriter Tunstall

12. Husk of wheat

13. Flexible covering in some birds

17. Energy

19. Night monkey genus

20. Small nails

21. Colorless volatile liquid

25. In a way, changes integrity
29. Mark Wahlberg's stuffed animal

31. Remember it

32. “Good Will Hunting” lead man

33. Pleasant facial expression

35. Sea vessel

38. Lacking poetic beauty

41. Tall, swift and slender dog

43. Sports personality Michelle

44. Robber

45. Liquefied natural gas

46. Snake-like fish

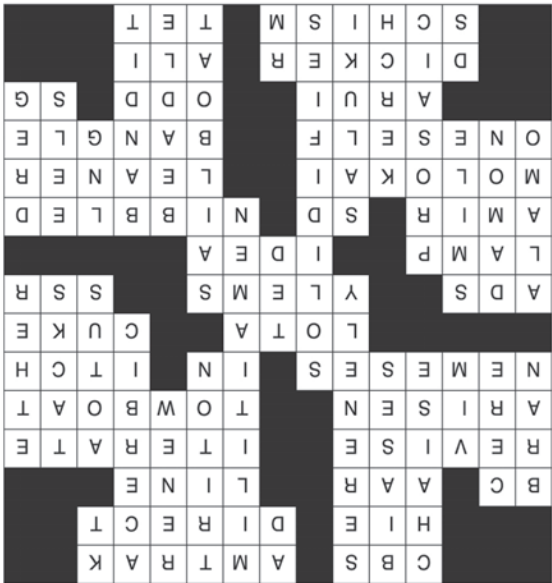
47. Sediment at bottom of a liquid

49. Crimean seaport

56. Bad grades

57. Popular S. Korean rapper

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New England Country Music Club welcome South County Line

UXBRIDGE — The New England Country Music Club will hold a dance with live, classic country music on Sunday, Dec. 7 with the “South County Line” band at the Uxbridge Progressive Club, 18 Whitin St., Uxbridge. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., music 1-5 p.m. Admission charge, cash bar, snacks are allowed.



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Grass Roots Coffeehouse hosting musical holiday celebration



NORTHBRIDGE — The Grass Roots Coffeehouse announces “Christmas in New England” on Saturday, Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m. Celebrate the Winter Solstice with Christmas in New England, hosted by the Grass Roots Coffeehouse and the Rockdale Congregational Church. Christmas in New England has been performing concerts for over 20 years, at RCC since 2007. Karen Wilber, Amy Gallatin,

Roger Williams, JD Williams, Dave Orlomski, Krissy & Bob Dick will present a night of traditional, contemporary, original Christmas and Holiday/Seasonal songs. The concert will take place in sanctuary of the Rockdale Congregational Church at 42 Fowler Rd. in Northbridge. Prior to the show, come have a bowl of soup or chili, and at intermission have dessert. Proceeds go

to the Church. Also we’ll have our Cookie Walk at intermission. Buy a box for \$15 (or if you are a return customer with your box from last year \$10) and fill it up with cookies baked by the congregation. Admission to the show is \$20 at the door only. Doors will be open at 6:30 p.m. Seating for the 7:30 p.m. show is at a first come/first serve basis.

QCC campus police receive \$60,000 in public safety grants

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College was recently awarded \$59,912 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security. The funding, which is part of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program, will allow QCC’s Police Department to connect to the Motor Vehicle Automated Citation and Crash System (MACCS). The MACCS is a state-operated, browser-based platform for electronic traffic citation and crash data collection and reporting. Additionally, in August, QCC received a \$5,000 Military and First Responder Grant from CSX Transportation, which will also be used to support the transition to MACCS. “QCC Campus Police are committed to modernizing our operations to better serve and protect our community,” said QCC Chief of Police Stephen DiGiovanni. “These grant funds will help us replace outdated manual processes with state-of-the-art equipment that connects to the Motor Vehicle Automated Citation and Crash System, which is hosted by the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles.”

The QCC Police Department’s transition to MACCS will streamline citation and crash reporting, enabling safer and more efficient traffic stops and crash data. This will allow officers to spend more time in the community, increasing visibility and helping prevent crime. The system also enables real-time data sharing, enhances data accuracy and accountability, increases officer safety, and supports coordinated crime reduction strategies through integrated intelligence.

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Gratitude in small-town ways

November has a certain quiet beauty in the Blackstone Valley. The maples are bare now, the air has that edge that makes you see your breath in the morning, and Main Street seems to slow down a little. The fairs and festivals are behind us, and even the busiest households begin to retreat indoors. But in these early weeks before Thanksgiving, something else happens too—a steady, familiar stirring of generosity that defines small-town life.

Everywhere you look, someone is quietly doing their part. The Uxbridge Food Pantry begins filling baskets for local families, the Northbridge Senior Center collects warm coats and blankets, and Sutton’s church kitchens start to smell like cinnamon and roasted squash. Scouts, 4-H clubs, and school service groups collect canned goods and toiletries. Volunteers sort donations long after the lights are out, and neighbors leave a few extra bags of groceries on the pantry steps with no names attached.

It’s these moments, not the ones captured in headlines, that show a community’s character. They reveal the Blackstone Valley at its best: practical, caring, and unwilling to let anyone fall through the cracks.

The truth is, gratitude doesn’t live only in the big gestures or the Thanksgiving speeches. It lives in the small things—when a student shovels a neighbor’s steps, when a parent drives the carpool even on the icy mornings, when a business quietly sponsors a Little League team or donates turkeys to a local shelter. Gratitude here isn’t a word on a greeting card; it’s a habit of the heart, repeated year after year.

Every November, we’re reminded that strong communities aren’t built on wealth or size but on participation. The people who make these towns thrive are rarely seeking attention. They’re the ones setting up chairs at the Grange Hall, stringing lights on the town common, or spending a Saturday morning at a fundraiser pancake breakfast.

They understand something essential—that the measure of a place is not how many visitors it attracts, but how deeply it cares for its own.

For some families, this season brings real worry. Heating bills rise, the holidays loom, and the cost of living weighs heavier than it used to. That’s when the strength of our network shows. The Valley has always rallied when needed, whether for a fire victim in Northbridge, a family displaced in Douglas, or a senior who can’t afford her prescriptions. There’s an instinct here to check in, to make sure that someone else is warm and fed before turning in for the night.

It’s worth taking note, too, of how much this care shapes the next generation. Children learn gratitude not from what we say, but from what we model. When they see their parents and teachers working together on a food drive, or a local police officer helping load boxes at the senior center, they learn what community service really means. Those early lessons stick. They turn into lifelong habits that keep towns like ours strong.

So as Thanksgiving nears, maybe the best way to give thanks is to look around and recognize the small acts of kindness that happen every day—the crossing guard who greets every child by name, the library volunteer who always finds time to read to preschoolers, the neighbor who clears the storm drain before the rain. None of it makes headlines, but all of it matters.

The holidays remind us to be grateful, but the Valley reminds us how. Gratitude here is not a once-a-year performance; it’s a quiet, constant rhythm that carries us through every season.

If we continue to nurture that spirit—of generosity without credit, of care without fanfare—we’ll have more to celebrate than any one meal can hold. The Blackstone Valley’s greatest harvest has never been its crops or its commerce. It’s the simple, enduring habit of neighbors looking out for one another.

That, more than anything, is what makes this place home.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Uxbridge abolitionists

To the Editor:

Do you know your Latin? Sic transit gloria mundi. “Thus passes the glory of the world.”

Back in the horse and buggy days, we studied Latin in High School just like the Founders of our nation. Even Abigail Adams studied Latin and taught her children, one of whom, John Quincy Adams, became our sixth President.

Do our students study Latin? Or is it oppressive because Romans owned slaves? Do our students study U.S. History? Or merely World Revolutionary history? The Spanish Revolution. The Russian Revolution. The American Revolution. They are all the same, say most educators, college indoctrinated to become Socialists.

Ken Burns, in his new documentary on The American Revolutionary War, may just disagree. Thomas Jefferson, a slave owner, proposed the abolishment of slavery in the Declaration of Independence. He knew in his heart that the southern colonies would never consent because of their great debt to British lenders for everything associated with running a rice or cotton plantation in the South.

In the short time between the Revolutionary War and the Civil War, the nation grew to see slavery in a different light. From 1727 to 1827, the seeds of abolition were planted. Prior to the Civil War, the Underground Railroad flowed through Uxbridge. How many enslaved persons were helped here on their way to freedom? Fifty? One hundred? Maybe more? We will never know.

In 2012, the Worcester Telegram interviewed the late Police Chief Peter Emerick. An amateur historian, he described the extensive anti-slavery efforts of a local woolen mill owner, Effingham L. Capron. As Vice-president of the New England Anti-Slavery Society and a member of the American Anti-Slavery Society in the 1830’s, Capron founded the Uxbridge Anti-Slavery Society.

Capron’s home was the original Robert Taft house (now restored) on the Uxbridge Common. His woolen mill stood where Riverview Wine and Spirits (the former Lynch’s Drug Store) is located today in Uxbridge. In 1834, Capron gathered with 450 male and female members (50 were from other towns) of the Society. Chief Emerick told the Telegram that, with a small population of 2,000, this membership was

impressive in Uxbridge.

Research indicates that Capron sheltered fugitive enslaved persons in his family’s homes near the Blackstone Canal and at his farm at the current River Bend Farm state park. Some historians believe that the Blackstone Canal - abandoned by 1850 - was used by the Underground Railroad to move people safely to Worcester. To walk along the canal today, one can see how easily it could be done.

In the book, “The Fall of the House of Dixie,” author Bruce Levine describes how, before the Civil War, Southerners nervously observed the “breathtakingly rapid growth of the anti-slavery Republican Party.” Never forget that Southern Democrats viciously hated Lincoln. These are the same folks who created Jim Crow laws and segregation in the South.

Did you know that the Civil War monument on the Uxbridge Common records the names of 207 citizens who fought or died for Emancipation? Did you know that Civil War nurse, Marie Barton Greene, is buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery?

In a search for her gravestone, nearby we also found the gravestone of one, “Robin, a black man, aged 72 years, died 1812 in Uxbridge.” Mrs. Nancy Adams who escaped slavery is buried in the New Almshouse Cemetery off Route 146, South Uxbridge. A reproduction stone reads: “Mrs. Nancy Adams. A respectable colored woman. Died in Uxbridge. June 6, 1859.” Unfortunately, this cemetery is now the haunt of people doing nefarious things, some of them illegal.

Nevertheless, Uxbridge is hallowed ground. It is not the ground of oppressors, as Critical Race Marxists and Communistic educators would have you believe. What happened more than 300 years ago - when a small number of persons in Uxbridge held a small number of enslaved persons in their households - does not define Uxbridge today.

Yet socialists, Marxists, and Communists insist that America, including Uxbridge, must be defined by its slavery history. Is the most significant historical fact about Uxbridge that a small number of enslaved persons lived here?

Where do you stand?

Not written by AI,

BEV GUDANOWSKI
UXBRIDGE

Latest auction news

It’s been nearly a month and a half since my last auction news update, and there’s a lot to report. I’ll start by sharing news about a rare piece of Titanic memorabilia being auctioned in the United Kingdom.

Frederick Sutton, a 61-year-old first-class passenger from New Jersey, was lost at sea when the Titanic sank on April 14, 1912. Some of his personal effects were recovered and given to his family. The family held them for over 100 years before deciding to now auction the memorabilia. Mr. Sutton’s family received his belongings in a white canvas bag marked “46.” It included a first-class passenger list that had been damaged by the cold Atlantic waters after the tragic incident. The collection includes a note from Titanic’s White Star Lines. Families of missing passengers were advised that they would have to pay for a first-class ticket to return deceased family members’ bodies that were recovered. “This is callous in the extreme but goes to illustrate how different the world was in 1912,” the auctioneer said in the BBC article. The passenger list is estimated to bring £100,000 (\$131,350 U.S.).

A massive collection of memorabilia from the estate of colorful and eccentric Indianapolis Colts owner, Jim Irsay, will be



sold in several auctions. Irsay had shared some of his collection with the public in 2023 when he offered free concerts to the public with the opportunity to view some historical and pop culture memorabilia. One of the stops on the tour was at Boston’s TD Garden, where I was fortunate enough to see some of the rare artifacts. Items being auctioned include “an Apple II manual signed by Steve Jobs, Hunter S. Thompson’s Red Shark convertible and Jack Kerouac’s original typewritten manuscript of “On the Road,”” according to the Indy Star.

A toilet might make an impact on the art world when it goes on the auction block later this month. Made of gold, the working sculpture was designed by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan and is titled “America.” It “was created with 101.2 kilograms (223 pounds) of gold,” according to MSN. An identical one was stolen from England’s Blenheim Palace in a brazen 2019 heist. Cattelan is the artist who sold “Comedian,” a banana duct taped to a wall, for \$6.2 million last year. No estimate for the toilet was provided, but the gold used is worth approximately \$10 million at current rates. The artist is hoping it bowls over bidders and brings much more though.

Our single-collector Civil War auction will be taking place this month. Following that, we’ll have a major auction with fine jewelry, sterling silver, art, and other antiques and collectibles. 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).



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
• • • • •
WAYNE
TUISKULA

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.

Avoid holiday debt: Spend with intention, not impulse



FINANCIAL FOCUS
DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

Holiday cheer has a way of loosening purse strings – sometimes more than we can afford. In 2024, one-third of Americans ended the year with holiday debt averaging \$1,181. And 60 percent of them were stressed about it, according to a December 2024 Lending Tree survey.

Ironically, when Americans created their 2025 New Year resolutions, they listed saving more money (45 percent) and reducing debt (32 percent) as two of the top three, per a 2024 CFP Board study. Imagine the head start they could have had without that holiday debt.

Here are some practical tips to help you stay mindful of your spending this holiday season:

Build – and follow – a budget. Decide how much you can realistically afford without going into debt or disrupting your regular expenses. Write that number down and refer to it regularly – doing so makes you more accountable and turns your budget into a plan, not just a wish. To help you stay the course and avoid unpleasant surprises later, keep a written or digital log of your purchases and reconcile them with your budget regularly.

Start early. The earlier you begin shopping, the more time you have to compare prices, check out the myriad of sales and make thoughtful decisions. Last-minute purchases, on the other hand, can lead to panic buying, overspending and costly rush shipping fees.

Pay with cash or debit. Credit cards make it easy to overspend, especially if you don’t plan to pay the balance in full. Using cash or a debit card and paying for it now rather than deferring payment can help you stick to your budget and avoid buying things you can’t afford.

Make a list – and check it twice. Think about each person on your list and what they would value. Then write it down. If it already feels overwhelming, consider trimming your list to only close friends and immediate family. You might also shift your focus from material gifts to experiences – like a shared meal, a hike or a homemade coupon for help with chores. These often cost less and create lasting memories

Protect your long-term savings. Avoid dipping into retirement accounts or investments to fund holiday purchases. Depending on the account you tap, you could face penalties, fees and taxes – and you’ll be sacrificing potential future growth for short-term gratification.

Plan ahead for next year. If overspending is a recurring issue, start preparing now for 2026. Decide how much you want to spend and set up a holiday fund. Contributing monthly to an interest-bearing account can ease the burden next year – and even earn you a little extra.

The holidays should be joyful, not financially stressful. By planning ahead, spending intentionally and keeping your long-term goals in mind, you can enjoy the season without the burden of debt. A little discipline now can lead to a more peaceful start to the new year – and a healthier financial future.

Dress up your holiday gatherings with a few succulents

Add a bit of life to your holiday gatherings with the help of succulents. You and your guests will enjoy the easy-care beauty of succulents. Their subtle colors and dramatic form make them great gifts and decorations now and throughout the year.

Small-scale succulents provide a multitude of opportunities for incorporating them into your holiday celebrations. Just select containers that complement, but don't overpower their charm.

Create a succulent garden to use as a centerpiece for the table. A shallow container filled with a variety of succulents with different shapes and colors is sure to capture everyone's attention. Set the container on a saucer to protect the table and add a complementary table runner for even greater impact.



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

Consider using succulents as party favors for guests to take home and enjoy for years to come. But first, use them to decorate the table by making them into place cards for your guests. Simply add a name to the decorative pot. Or display them all together in a tray, terra cotta saucer or other shallow container to use as a centerpiece throughout the evening. When the party is over, each guest can pick their own plant to take home.

Add a unique flair to the table by placing cocktail glasses filled with succulents next to each guest's

place setting. This makes a unique table decoration and party favor for guests to take home as a reminder of your fun gathering. Use a few planted cocktail glasses to decorate the beverage table or bar.

Grow these plants in a cacti and succulent potting mix. These fast-draining mixes help reduce the risk of overwatering. Further reduce this risk by using containers with drainage holes that are only slightly larger than the succulents' root system. Growing them in too large of a container for the plant size will retain moisture longer that can lead to root rot, decline, and even the death of your plants.

After the party continue to provide proper care so your centerpiece will be ready for your next event. Move the succulent planter to a cool, draft-free location near an unobstructed

south-, west- or east-facing window. If light is limited, consider adding artificial lights.

Water thoroughly but only when the top few inches of soil are dry and just often enough to keep the plants from shriveling. These winter-growing conditions often encourage a spring display of colorful and unique flowers.

Share these directions with your guest and if possible, the name of the succulent. This helps your guest keep the plants alive to enjoy for years to come.

With a trip to your favorite garden center and your imagination you can create fun holiday décor and party favors. You and your guests will enjoy their beauty throughout the holidays and beyond.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook,



Melinda Myers

Create a succulent garden centerpiece with different shapes and colors this holiday season.

2nd Edition and Small Moment radio program. Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" streaming courses and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR NOVEMBER 14-21

Friday, Nov. 14

The chill's arrived, the air is sweet, Join Sutton scouts on Main Street! Their bake sale starts at 4 p.m. sharp, At Town Hall's lawn—come fill your cart!

Saturday, Nov. 15

In Douglas town the crafts await, At the Church Fair—don't be late! 9 to 2 at the Second Congregational, With pies and quilts sensational!

Sunday, Nov. 16

The Whitinsville Chorus lifts the air, At 3 p.m. in Linwood Square. Hymns and harmonies so fine— Admission's free, just bring some time.

Monday, Nov. 17

A quiet night, but perfect still, To read at the Uxbridge Library till The book club meets at 6:30, friends, To chat of plots that never end.

Tuesday, Nov. 18

At Northbridge Senior Center's hall, A noon potluck will feed you all! Bring a dish, and bring your cheer, Winter's near—but warmth is here.

Wednesday, Nov. 19

The Planning Board convenes once more, 7 p.m. behind the old town door— Public hearings, papers, plans, Civic duty in capable hands.

Thursday, Nov. 20

In Sutton schools, a concert's played, 6:30 p.m., where songs are made. Band and choir fill the night, With holiday tunes and student delight.

Friday, Nov. 21

Finish your week in grateful tone, With candles lit and kindness shown— The Valley glows in neighborly light, May your weekend be warm and bright.

Cornerstone Bank donates \$5,000 to support financial literacy in Quaboag Valley

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank has donated \$5,000 to the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation (QVCD) in support of its Learn and Save Club, a financial fitness program that teaches participants how to develop healthy money habits and save toward the purchase of important assets.

"Financial literacy is the foundation for long-term success," said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. "We are proud to support the Learn and Save Club again this year, which equips local families and individuals with the tools they need to make confident financial decisions."

The year-long program combines financial literacy classes with matched savings to empower low-income residents of the Quaboag Valley to achieve greater finan-

cial stability. Participants attend monthly meetings, receive hands-on guidance and work toward goals such as home ownership, education or reliable transportation.

This is the second consecutive year Cornerstone Bank has contributed to the Learn and Save Club. In addition to financial support, bank employees have volunteered to help lead financial education sessions, sharing their expertise with program participants.

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.

Community invited to Christmas dinner

WHITINSVILLE — Parishioners and volunteers from the Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church would like to cordially invite everyone to our Free Community Christmas Dinner, including the usual holiday meal favorites, roast turkey, potatoes, vegetables, squash, stuffing, cranberry sauce and dessert.

This year's meal will be served on Thursday, Dec. 25, from noon to 2 p.m. in the Blackstone Valley United Methodist Faith Hall at, 61 Linwood Ave., Whitinsville. Parking is available behind the church accessible from Church Street.

The dinner is open to everyone free of charge. Please come join us for a joyous Christmas celebration that will include holiday fun, food, and fellowship with many from the community.

For more information, call the church office at 508-234-2275.

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Webster Five, Project New Hope Inc. launch food drive to support local veterans and military families

AUBURN — With Veterans Day approaching, Webster Five and Project New Hope Inc. are calling on the community to help support local Military and Veteran families in need through a regional food drive running Wednesday, Nov. 5 through Friday, Nov. 21.

All donations will go directly to Project New Hope’s Sully’s Pantry, which provides food and household essentials to Veterans, Service Members and their families across Central Massachusetts.

“Our partnership with Project New Hope through United Way of Central Massachusetts gives our community a meaningful way to support local Military and Veteran families,” said Christopher Watson, Chief Business Lending Officer, Webster Five and Member of the Board of Directors, United Way of Central Massachusetts. “Every donation this holiday season helps provide essentials and reminds these families how much their service is appreciated.”

“At Project New Hope Inc., we’re honored to parter with Webster Five to help Military and Veteran families put food on the table this holiday season,” said Bill Moore, CEO and Founder, Project New Hope Inc. “Every can, box and donation represents hope for those who have served our nation. Together, we’re showing our Veterans and their families that their community stands with them.”

How to Help
Donations can be dropped off at any Webster Five branch location:



Webster Five partners with Project New Hope Inc. through United Way of Central Massachusetts to launch food drive. From left to right: Christopher Watson, Webster Five; Brian Westerlind, Webster Five; Leah Larson, United Way of Central Massachusetts; Amanda Coccia, Webster Five; Tim Garvin, United Way of Central Massachusetts; Rebecca Jalbert, Webster Five; Bill Moore, Project New Hope Inc.; and Debbie Erickson, Project New Hope Inc.

- 400 Southbridge St.,
Auburn
208 West Main St.,
Dudley
343 Main St., Oxford
261 Grafton St.,
Shrewsbury
136 Thompson Rd.,
Webster
266 Chandler St.,
Worcester
100 Front St., Suite 150,
Worcester

Requested items include:
Cereal
Canned Vegetables
Pop-Tarts
Canned Fruit
Applesauce
Canned Soup/Stew
Snack-Packs Jello & Pudding
Canned Chili
Cranberry Juice
Baked Beans
Raisins
Stuffing
Knorr Sides

Alfredo Sauce
Ranch & Italian Dressing
Rice-A-Roni
Mayonnaise
Broth
Canned Tuna
Soup – box
Canned Chicken
Canned Corned Beef
Grape Jelly
Canned Hams
Peanut Butter
SPAM
Chef Boyardee
Manwich
SpaghettiOs
Hamburger Helper
Macaroni & Cheese
Taco Kits
Syrup
Refried Beans
Ketchup
Instant Mashed Potatoes
Shelf-Stable Milk
Instant Oatmeal

Please donate only unopened items that are within their “best by” date to ensure freshness and

Nichols College hosts renowned author, filmmaker Christy Cashman for inspiring campus discussion



DUDLEY — Nichols College proudly welcomed celebrated author, actress, and filmmaker Christy Cashman to campus on Thursday, Nov. 6, for a public discussion and signing of her award-winning novel “The Truth About Horses.” The free event, held in Fels Lounge, drew students, faculty, and members of the local community for an afternoon of creativity, conversation, and inspiration.

Cashman, whose film credits include American Hustle, Joy, and Ted 2, spoke about her career path, creative process, and the resilience required to succeed in the arts. She shared stories from her experiences in film and publishing, offering attendees practical advice on building confidence as writers and trusting their unique voices.

Throughout the discussion, Cashman emphasized that creativity flourishes through persistence and authenticity. Students had the opportunity to ask questions about her work and to learn firsthand about the balance between imagination, discipline, and self-belief that underpins successful storytelling.

Cashman told attend-

quality.

About Webster Five
Established in 1868, Webster Five offers consumers, businesses and nonprofits not only a wide range of products and services but also stability and community support that can’t be matched by their larger counterparts. To learn more about Webster Five, visit [web5.com](https://www.web5.com).

About Project New Hope Inc.
Project New Hope Inc. has been empowering Veterans, Service Members, and their families for over 14 years through transformative retreats, essential resources, and holistic support services. To learn more about Project New Hope’s mission and programs, visit <https://www.project-newhopema.org/>.

ees, “Write through everything. Keep writing when you don’t feel like it. Keep writing when you feel like you don’t have anything to say. Keep writing when you’re tired. Keep writing no matter what your circumstances are.”

Earlier in the day, Cashman met privately with members of the Nichols College Equestrian Club and participated in a luncheon with campus leaders. Nichols College President William Pieczynski also attended the event and joined Cashman for photos following the discussion.

“Christy’s story and her commitment to encouraging young creatives resonated deeply with our students,” said President Pieczynski. “Her message about perseverance and confidence aligns perfectly with Nichols’ mission to empower students to pursue their passions with purpose and courage.”

Cashman’s debut novel, “The Truth About Horses,” earned the 2024 IBPA Benjamin Franklin Gold Award for General Fiction, along with Silver Awards for Best New Voice and Teen Fiction. She has also authored two children’s books and founded YouthINK, a nonprofit dedicated to mentoring teen creators, and YOUthink Creative Wellness Retreats, which support wellness through art and storytelling.



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Quiet Corner Garden Club receives prestigious awards

WOODSTOCK, Conn. — The Quiet Corner Garden Club (QCGC) received 16 awards at the 96th Annual Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut Awards Meeting in Southington on Oct. 22. QCGC’s 122 members live in 26 towns in northeastern Connecticut and south central Massachusetts. The awards are based on garden club activities from June 2024 to May 2025.

The Lucille Schavoir Award is presented annually to a club for outstanding garden club work and is considered the highest award presented to a club. “Each year... [the Federated Garden Clubs of CT] look for a club that is just doing everything, supporting their community, improving their community, volunteering in the community, and making a difference in their community. The Quiet Corner Garden Club was recognized this year for its outstanding work in the com-



munity. Its club members are active in every aspect of garden club activities.”

The QCGC received its first ever award from the National Garden Clubs, Inc. A Certificate of Appreciation was awarded for the Club’s monthly newsletter. The Lea Bauerfeld Beautification Award is presented to a

club for an outstanding civic project that benefits the community both aesthetically and environmentally. This award was presented for the Club’s work at Quasset Cemetery in Woodstock.

The Pauline B. Tyler Award for excellence in promoting conservation was presented to Noreene

Stehlik of Woodstock Valley for her efforts to eradicate and educate about invasive plants.

An Award of Excellence in Healing, Therapy and Senior Gardening was given for the Club’s commitment to expand and share its passion for all things gardening. QCGC members conducted work-

shops at six local Senior Centers in Connecticut and Dudley, Mass.

QCGC received the Luckner Youth Award for its efforts working with the Putnam Rotary Interact high school students who worked in the TEEG Community Garden. The club also received a Citation for Digital Media

and a Certificate of Merit for the monthly newsletter. In addition, The QCGC received a Citation for its Floral Design Course under the leadership of Bonnie Berthiaume of Woodstock and Marcia Kettle of North Grosvenordale, and also a Citation for garden work at Eastford Municipal buildings and grounds.

Individuals also recognized for their work were Linda Kaplan of Woodstock, Kathy Mulford of Brooklyn, Deni Van Der Voort of Woodstock, Marian Hallowell of Woodstock, Laura Salo of Woodstock, Ashley Goyette of Putnam, Mary Ann Johnson of Woodstock, and Ginny Sears of Woodstock.

The Quiet Corner Garden club meets monthly from September to June at the South Woodstock Baptist Church. For more information see our Facebook page or our Web site, www.quietcornergardenclub.com.

Greater Milford Ballet Company presents “The Nutcracker”

MILFORD — Support your local talent by attending The Greater Milford Ballet’s

David Sanchez of Uxbridge appointed to Nichols College Senior Advisory Council

DUDLEY — David Sanchez of Uxbridge is one of 15 students appointed by Nichols College President Bill Pieczynski to the 2025-2026 Nichols Senior Advisory Council (NSAC).

This group of accomplished seniors will meet with the President and members of the President’s Counsel monthly and act as an advisory group as the College plans for the future.

“Congratulations to the students selected for this year’s NSAC cohort. These are exemplary students, citizens and leaders who have distinguished themselves among a strong senior class,” said Pieczynski. “Their insights will be invaluable to the leadership team, and we look forward to hearing their perspectives and learning more about these outstanding students.”

Upcoming NSAC meetings will include discussions on the College’s new initiatives as well as broader trends and issues in higher education. In addition to helping Nichols enhance the overall experience for all members of its community, the meetings are also intended as an opportunity for students to further strengthen their communication and presentation skills, which are critical to career advancement.

About Nichols College

Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols transforms today’s students into tomorrow’s leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu

production of “The Nutcracker” at Milford High School stage Dec. 13 and 14 at 2 p.m. at Milford High School auditorium.

Come see this exciting 47-member cast of characters, colorful costumes and dazzling choreography. This production is local, easily accessible, affordable and never disappoints when it comes to delivering high quality entertainment and has been a holiday tradition favorite for decades.

Katherine Vigly and Joe Lynch from Ballet RI are the featured professionals in the roles of Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier. The rest of the cast are from Webster, Grafton, Blackstone, Bellingham, Hopedale Milford, Mendon, Millville, Webster, Wrentham, Uxbridge, and Cumberland, R.I.

The Greater Milford Ballet’s “The Nutcracker” is not only a family tradition, but it also creates a fun time for families who perform within the cast. From Grafton, Laiken Johnson is cast as a Mouse and Polichinelle and Camryn Johnson, her sister, is a Small Angel. Raven Spitz, from Webster, is a Small Angel.

Available at intermission: refreshments, holiday raffle items including gift certificates from local restaurants, retailers and themed gift baskets.

Tickets are priced at \$25 and \$30. Ticket sales are available by calling the Deane Dance Studio at 508-473-2105

or at Charles River Bank, located at 16 Hastings St. in Mendon. Discount sales for Council on Aging and non-profit 501(c)3 groups of (10) or more including

Girl Scout Troops can be arranged by calling Colleen O’Brien at (508) 954-4756. Tickets will be sold at the auditorium depending on availability.

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Local Applicants

Help Wanted

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DOUGLAS ADULT SOCIAL CENTER

331 Main St.
(508) 476-2283
Hours of operation: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-noon

DAILY ACTIVITIES: All our daily activities are free of charge.
Monday: Painting class 9:45 to 11:45, Balance & Strength Exercise 12pm, Mat Yoga 2pm
Tuesday: Walking club 9 am, Cribbage 9:00 am, Zumba 9:30 am, Lunch & Bingo 11:30am, Technology Class 1pm (call to make an appt.), Line dancing 2 pm
Wednesday: Balance & Strength 10am, Darts 11:30 am, MahJong 12:45pm, Dominoes 1 to 2:30pm
Thursday: Walking club 9am, Chair Yoga 9:30am, Pitch 9:00am, Hand and Foot card game 12:30pm
Friday: Balance & Strength 10am

FOOD DONATIONS: We would like to thank the many generous residents who have called asking to donate to the community.
THE CENTER IS NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR OUR POP UP FOOD PANTRY. We will accept non-perishable items during our regular business hours. Monday- Thursday 9-3 & Fridays 9-12. We will have a basket at the bottom of our ramp, or you can bring donations inside. Please DO NOT leave anything on our ramp after hours.
We are just starting out so we are in need of the following: pasta, sauce, rice, soup, stuffing, canned fruit, canned vegetables, peanut butter, cereal, cereal bars, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, tooth brushes, razors, shaving cream, paper towels & toilet paper.
We are currently setting it up, it will be open to residents on November 17th @ 9:00.

Tuesday & Thursday lunch club please call the Friday before to sign up.
November Lunch Menu:
Tuesday 11/4: Meatloaf, mashed pota-

toes, carrots, & pudding
Thursday 11/6: Baked mac & cheese, salad, & ice cream sundaes
Tuesday 11/18: Tomato soup, grilled cheese, & cupcakes
Thursday 11/20: Sweetish meatballs with egg noodles, carrots, & cake
Tuesday 11/25: Chicken broccoli Alfredo, garlic bread, & cookies

Friday Shopping Schedule: Please call 48 hours in advance to schedule your ride. Grocery shopping pick up starts at 9:30.
Friday 11/7 & 11/28: Hannaford
Friday 11/14: Walmart
There is NO shopping on Friday November 21st. Please plan your shopping accordingly.

NOVEMBER EVENTS:
The center will be closed on Tuesday November 11th in observance of Veteran's Day.

Wellness Clinic Dates: Monday November 10th from 9:30 to 11:30 & Tuesday November 18th from 10 am to 12 pm. The nurse is happy to check your blood pressure, can do a finger stick blood sugar. If you have any questions or concerns please stop in and see the nurse.
Trip to the Shops @ Blackstone Valley: Thursday November 13th. Arrival time 12:30 pm & departure time 2:30 PM. Please call the center to schedule by 11/10 to sign up. The van will pick you up at home or at the center, with a planned arrival time of 12:30.
Lunch & a Movie: Thursday November 20th @ 11:30. We will be watching "The Thursday Murder Club." Lunch is \$4.00, Swedish meatballs with egg noodles, carrots, & cake. Please RSVP before 11/14.

The Sunshine Club invites you:
Annual Gingerbread House Decorating: Friday December 5th @ 12 pm. This annual event is always full of fun and laughs! Every year brings new faces, and a large assortment of different houses. Please sign up before 11/26. You may call the center to sign up.



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Friday's Child



Zyon
Age 11
Registration #7396

Zyon is a sweet, clever, and funny kid who lights up any room they enter. Those who know Zyon describe them as curious, loving, and full of energy, while Zyon describes himself as thoughtful, empathetic, and caring. What makes Zyon truly unique is their deep compassion for others—an extraordinary empathy that shines even in the face of past challenges. They are often described as "wise beyond their years" and have a remarkable ability to support and uplift those around them. Zyon thrives when engaging in creative activities. They love all kinds of arts and crafts, especially projects that involve building, designing, and problem-solving. Whether working with Legos, building blocks, or puzzles, Zyon's imagination and determination always come through. They also enjoy drawing, painting, writing stories, and expressing their love of superheroes—using art and writing as powerful tools for self-expression and storytelling. Zyon proudly identifies these creative outlets as some of their greatest strengths. Outside of their artistic passions, Zyon enjoys playing Pokémon and Super Smash Brothers, spending time outdoors, and exploring new adventures. Though they haven't yet chosen a specific dream for the future, Zyon's big imagination and open-mindedness show that they're on an exciting path of self-discovery—ready to explore the many possibilities ahead.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22550199734>

Can I Adopt?

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

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

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
Premises: 54 Carney Street, Uxbridge, MA 01569
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Bear Iona McColloch and Courtney R. McColloch to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Cardinal Financial Company, and now held by **Freedom Mortgage Corporation**, said mortgage dated April 18, 2024 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 70411, Page 210, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS") as mortgagee, as nominee for Cardinal Financial Company Limited Partnership to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment dated July 23, 2025 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 72296, Page 247; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on December 8, 2025 at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:
A certain lot or parcel of land being shown as Lot No. 1 on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Uxbridge, Massachusetts, Prepared for Harold F., Jr. and Jeanne M. Francis, Scale 1" = 40' dated January 16, 1997 by Andrews Survey and Engineering,

Inc., 104 Mendon Street, Uxbridge, Mass. 01569" and being recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 713 as Plan 64. This conveyance is made subject to and with the benefit of restrictions and easements of record so far as now in force and applicable. For title see deed recorded herewith.
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 April 9, 2024 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 70411, Page 207.
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 Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
November 7, 2025
November 14, 2025
November 21, 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. WO25P3751EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
David W. Hathaway
Date of Death:07/11/2025
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Susan G. Hathaway of Fairfax VA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:
Susan G. Hathaway of Fairfax VA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Corporate Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of

the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/02/2025.** 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: November 03, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 14, 2025

PLUMMER PLACE

Home of the Northbridge Senior Center

The following events will take place at Plummer Place, Home of the Northbridge Senior Center. We are located at 20 Highland St. in Whitinsville. Telephone: (508) 234-2002. Northbridge residents have priority for all programming and events.

Regular Programs:
Mindful Meditation with Kelly
Every Thursday at 9:30am
Writing Your Way Writer’s Group
Please note: due to the holiday, there will not be a class on November 27th
Call Lori with any questions.
Blood Pressure Clinic
Tuesday, November 18th
11am-12p:00pm
Reading Between the Lines Book Club
Wednesday, November 19th
10:30am-11:30am
Call Kelly to find out what book we are currently reading!
Dull Men’s Club
Tuesday, November 25th
9:30am-10:30am
Special Guest: Town Manager Adam Gaudette

Special Events and Activities:
All programs require signing up by calling or stopping by our Main Office.

Organize Your Medical Files

Tuesday, November 18th @ the Northbridge Fire Station
9:30am-10:30am
Come and learn about the “File of Life” medical history program to include emergency medical contacts, insurance policy information, current health issues, medications and dosages and more!

Social Security and Estate Planning ~ Lunch and Learn
Wednesday, November 19th
12:00pm-1:00pm
All your questions answered! Attorney Azza and Special Guest Todd Miller will cover topics such as hoe does social security fit into my retirement income plan? When Should I start taking benefits? Space is limited. Northbridge residents have priority. Sign up in the main office.

TV’s Golden Age of Candlepin Bowling
Thursday, November 20th
1:00pm-2:00pm
Join author Mike Morin as he shares special stories of Tommy Olszta and Stasia Czernicki from his years on television calling the matches in New Hampshire and Boston. You won’t want to miss this one!

Artificial Intelligence Program
Tuesday, November 25th
11:00am-12:00pm
Come and learn all about AI and staying safe while using AI, in addition to how AI can help us in our daily lives and for travel tips and medical information.

GRANT
continued from page A1

proud to partner with the Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter to assist exploring solutions for the growing need for transitional housing assistance for individuals or families looking to overcome homelessness and find affordable housing alternatives for long term stability in their lives.”
The study is expected to be completed in the spring of 2026.

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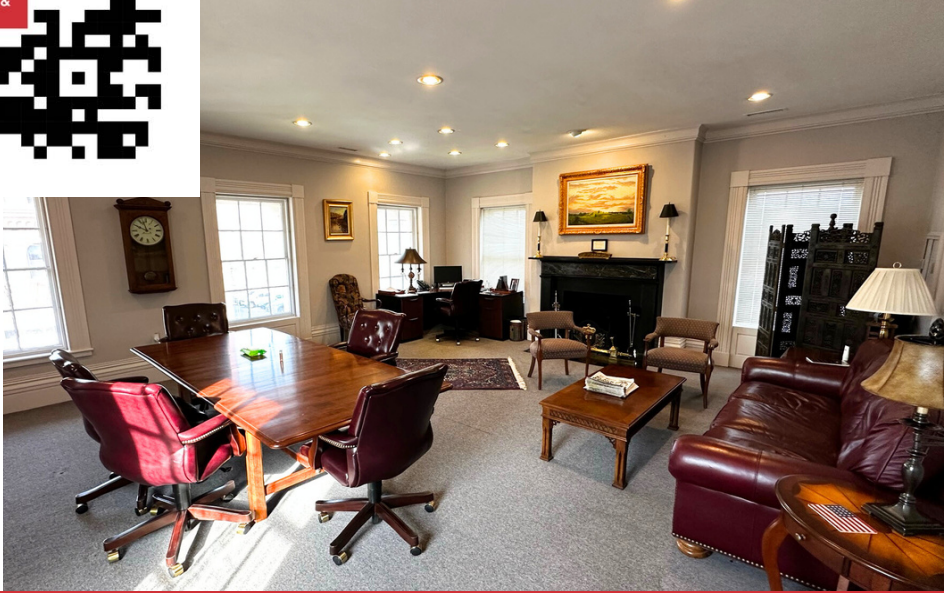
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- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished



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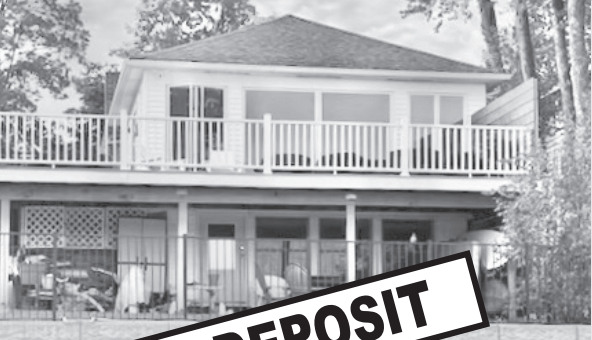
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Featured Listing
DUDLEY - 13 OXFORD AVE
2 -FAMILY offers 2,354 SF of living area! 2 Large Apartments, 5 Spacious Rms, 2 BRs, 1 Bath each. Beautiful grand front entry foyer with the charm of yesteryear! double French doors & other unique features. Plenty of Natural light that flows into these apartments! 2nd flr apt has a private enclosed rear entry with it's own outside covered porch. Updates were done to electric & roof to accommodate Solar Panels. Property was family occupied \$399,900.

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

Webster Lake -
302 Killdeer Island
PANORAMIC VIEWS!



ON DEPOSIT

Renovated + move-in ready lakefront home w/1,700+/- sq ft. Open kitchen/dining/living w/ cathedral ceilings + wall of windows. Primary suite w/private bath! 2 add'l bedrooms, 2nd Full bath. Lower level family room w/walkout to water. Wraparound deck, new vinyl railings, terraced yard, sandy beach, professional landscaping. Many updates.
\$775,000

Featured New Listing!!!
WEBSTER - 19 FIRST STREET



Bring an open mind to this unique property & let your creative design ideas flow! This one level 1,040 sf, 3 BR home is reminiscent of an English Country Cottage! It evokes a cozy, rustic, lived-in vibe. The overall aesthetic is one of practical comfort, collected charm and a relaxed, slightly whimsical atmosphere. Key characteristics include spacious rooms, hardwood floors, a primary BR with sliders to a very private deck, retractable awnings, replacement windows, etc. Move right in!
\$304,900



WEBSTER - 24 COOPER RD
NEW CONSTRUCTION Craftsman Style Home! Tucked away on Cooper Rd, Webster Lake w/Access at Lakeside Beach/Boat Ramp. 3rd of 4 Homes being built at this Site. Offers 2,155 SF+/- of Living Area, 7 Rms, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 9' Ceilings. Wood Flooring Throughout w/Ceramic Tile Floors in the Baths. Spacious Main BR Suite w/ Walk-in Closet & Private Full Bath. Double-Sink Vanity! Lower level walkout w/ Slider. Basement-rough plumbed Central AC! Garage
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WATERFORD CT - 20 AVERY LN.



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WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT LISTING! KILLDEER RD



ON DEPOSIT

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Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!



SORRY, SOLD!

Panoramic View, from this absolutely lovely home. 2600 +/- SF, 3+ Beds, 2 full baths, 2 car detached garage! 63' +/- waterfront .37 Acres! Sandy Waterfront!
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Webster Lake - 53 Colonial Rd



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Webster Lake Waterfront 8 Long Island



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Courtesy



THANKING ALL WHO SERVED

Local senior veterans from the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard enjoyed a special veterans’ breakfast at Plummer Place, Home of the Northbridge Senior Center this week. The event was sponsored by the Northbridge Police Association, Unibank, Milford Federal Savings Bank, Rep. David Muradian, a veteran’s donation, and the Friends of Northbridge Elders (FINE). Veterans enjoyed a hot catered breakfast, the companionship of fellow service members, special treats and beautiful hand-made raffle baskets and cards courtesy of our treasured volunteers of Plummer Place. Richard Sasseville, Lieutenant Colonel USAF (RET) was the keynote speaker, and it was a wonderful morning for all in attendance as veterans were thanked for their patriotism, bravery, and overall love of our country. For more information on Plummer Place, please call (508) 234-2002.





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