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Dudley selectmen to explore enforcement options for snow covered sidewalks



DUDLEY — As the snow continues to pile on, safety concerns mount for the pedestrians who are forced from impassable sidewalks and into the streets.

At a recent Dudley Board of Selectmen's meeting, Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda reported his office has been receiving complaints regarding the hazard.

The town has a "sidewalks to be kept clear" bylaw on the books that says every owner, tenant or occupant of an estate abutting upon a hard-finished sidewalk shall keep the sidewalk free from

all dirt, rubbish, refuse, oil, snow and ice or other like substance.

The bylaw, Mr. Ruda said, has no "teeth."

Despite the town's recent efforts to educate residents on the regulation, some people, he said, simply are not going to clear their sidewalk, which ties the town's hands because the bylaw is lacking enforcement options.

Ruda is working with town legal counsel, the police chief and health agent to draft a town meeting article for selectmen's consideration.

"The goal is to add an

enforcement mechanism to the existing town bylaw that already requires property owners to keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice and debris," Ruda told the selectmen. "We continue to receive complaints about uncleared sidewalks. Without enforcement authority the town really has no way to address it."

Mr. Ruda added the proposed bylaw change isn't about punishment but about public safety and the risks associated with people walking into the street when a sidewalk is covered in snow.

"Years ago, residents

passed a bylaw requiring sidewalks to be kept clear of debris but assigned no enforcement authority or penalty," Mr. Ruda said. "A May Town Meeting article will propose an amendment that would give the town the authority to enforce the standing bylaw with a penalty for noncompliance or vote it down altogether. In the meantime, we ask all residents to voluntarily comply and understand the public safety risks associated with residents and their kids who may be forced to walk in the road because their sidewalk remains uncleared."

Webster officials address potential causes of high water/sewer bills

WEBSTER — An unusually high water bill is most often caused by a leak or change in water use. Some common causes of high water bills include:

- A leaking toilet, or a toilet that continues to run after being flushed (see additional information below)
- A dripping faucet; a faucet drip can waste 20 gallons of water a day or more
- Filling or topping off a swimming pool
- Watering the lawn, new grass, or trees; also check for an open hose bib
- Kids home for summer vacations or school holidays; guests
- Water-cooled air conditioner's
- A broken water pipe or obvious leak; check the pipes in the basement or crawlspace; the water heater could also be leaking
- Water softener problems—cycles continuously
- Running the water to avoid freezing water pipes during cold weather

Generally, water consumption is higher during the summer due to watering of lawns, pools, and gardening. Typically, an average family of four uses 4,000-5,000 gallons of water a month. Here are a few things to check if you get a bill that is higher than usual.

Changes in your water use

Did you have house guests, water your lawn more than usual, or do anything else out of the ordinary in the last few months that would use a lot of water? If so, this may account for an increase in your water/sewer bill.

Check for leaks

Leaks, whether unseen or unfixed, can and will waste hundreds and even thousands of gallons of water. It is important to routinely check your plumbing and home for leaky faucets, toilets, and outside taps and irrigation lines.

Turn To BILLS page A9

Oxford Community Center Friends hosting shoe drive fundraiser

OXFORD — The community is invited to clean out their closet for a shoe drive to raise funds to help support the Oxford Community Center. Donations of gently worn, used and new shoes, boots, sneakers, sandals and slippers will be accepted through April 15. The amount of money raised is determined by the total weight of the shoes collected.

All donated shoes will be redistributed to micro-enterprise partners through Funds2Orgs, a for profit social enterprise, and used in developing nations for impoverished people to start their own businesses.

Donations may be dropped off during business hours at the Oxford Community Center, 4 Maple Rd., or the Oxford Free Public Library, 339 Main St.

In the US alone, more than 300 million pairs of shoes are thrown away per year. The materials used to manufacture a pair of shoes are created from chemical compounds that will create health hazards if left to disintegrate openly or in landfills. By donating your gently worn, used and new shoes to the Oxford Community Center Friends Fundraiser, your shoes are given a second chance to make a difference.

About Oxford Community Center Friends

Oxford Community Center Friends (OCCF) is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, nonprofit organization formed to support the Oxford Community Center (OCC). The mission of the organization is to run fundraisers and locate sources of grants, funding and contributions to supplement and expand the activities and programs offered by the OCC.

Clara Barton Drone Club launches Mission 2026 — "Time Warp"



OXFORD — The Clara Barton School's after-school aerial drone teams are preparing to launch Mission 2026, themed "Time Warp," following an impressive inaugural season.

In its first year, the program fielded two competition teams that achieved notable success on the national stage. One team

placed 147th out of 674 middle school teams nationwide and ranked 41st out of 134 teams in the Northeast region. The second team finished 223rd nationally and 58th in the Northeast—an extraordinary accomplishment given that students had only a few months of practice before competing.

Building on that early

success, the drone club is expanding this year and is expected to field six or even seven teams. The growth of the program has been made possible through the generous support of the Cecelia J. Smolenski-Millette Charitable Trust for the opportunity to participate in this innovative program and are looking ahead with excitement to another outstanding season of competition.

this year.

Students and staff at Clara Barton School expressed their gratitude to the Cecelia J. Smolenski-Millette Charitable Trust for the opportunity to participate in this innovative program and are looking ahead with excitement to another outstanding season of competition.

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.
THE WEBSTER SENIOR
CENTER WILL BE CLOSED
ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY
16TH FOR PRESIDENT'S
DAY!

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

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845

at least three 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 dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, 2/17: Jambalaya, rice pilaf, green peas. Wednesday, 2/18: Fish with crumb topping, lemon seasoned potatoes, country blend vegetables. Thursday, 2/19: Garlic herb chicken, cranberry stuffing, broccoli and carrots. Friday, 2/20: Breaded mac and cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans.

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 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.

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.

Now introducing Line Dancing with Forty Arroyo! Classes will be held from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm on the last Monday of the month.

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!

We now have an official Bridge group! We will be meeting every Friday from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in the upstairs activity room. All that are interested are welcome to join!

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.

REAL ESTATE

AUBURN

\$745,000, 2 Camden Dr, Macaruso, Joseph A, and Macaruso, Josephine, to Nguyen, Shayla.

\$615,000, 21 Linda Ave, Coughlin, Brooke, to Jordan Jr, James L, and Jordan, Kellie A.

\$600,000, 4 Fox Run Cir, Robert D Maclea Irt, and Maclea, Robert G, to Macaruso, Josephine, and Macaruso, Joseph A.

\$535,000, 37 Elmwood St, Wooldridge, Paul D, and Wooldridge, Linda M, to Waleed, Waleed, and Alsamarraie, Nadeen.

\$40,000, 5 Commonwealth Ave, Morse Nt Of 2017, and Morse, Edmund C, to Structured Com Cap LLC.

\$570,000, 326 Pakachoag St, Labrie Donald R Est, and Butler, David M, to Powell, Reed A, and Pendexter, Kasey R.

\$427,000, 61 Elmwood St, Mcquade, Matthew, to Malin, Jacob D.

\$97,000, 24 Perry St, Option One Mtg Loan T 200, and Wells Fargo Bank Na Tr, to Arraho Rt, and Frateschi, Edward A.

DUDLEY

\$300,000, 14 Schofield Ave, Greenleaf Terence J Est, and Greenleaf, Nicholas A, to Brc Investment Group LLC.

\$155,000, 21 Central Ave, Dederian, Stella J, and Newrez LLC, to Morgan, Medhat.

\$450,000, 247 W Main St, 245 West Main Prop LLC, to Precision Calibrations LL.

\$420,000, 11 Williams St, Msl Properties LLC, to Sunden, Timothy, and Bates, Ashley.

\$155,000, 5 Wysocki Dr #29, Dion, Linda A, to Gervais, Bryan.

OXFORD

\$459,000, 10 Old Millbury Rd, Thompson, Eben, and Thompson, Olivia, to Ly, Bui V.

\$400,000, 20 Leicester St, Bunning, Eric M, to Riaz, Sawera, and Javed, Muhammed.

\$300,000, 1 Old Webster Rd, Ma-Chu Inc, to Lmt Oil Inc.

\$135,000, 9 Oak Dr, Wassenaar, Evangelyn S, to Rinaldo Construction LLC.

\$120,000, 55 Coughlin Rd #4, Barton Ctr For Diabetes E, to Beaupre, Apryl R.

\$690,000, 137 Main St, Oberg, Michael, and Oberg, Dena, to Schofield Jr, Weston, and Schofield, Jennifer.

\$460,000, 20 Drury Ln, Welch, Christopher R, and Welch, Laura E, to Pike, Adam R, and Pike, Christina.

\$358,000, 2 Waite St, Okeefe Rt, and Sanderson, Jadrienne M, to Okeefe, Ashley N, and Bixby, Matthew T.

WEBSTER

\$789,000, 169 Upper Gore Rd, Daisy Lane LLC, to Glass, Christopher, and Glass, Michele L.

\$649,900, 57 Upper Gore Rd, Marin, Gregory S, and Marin, Tonia L, to Hansen, Daniel E, and Hansen, Alyssa S.

\$600,000, 31 Goddard St, Douglas, Robert T, and Douglas, Sharon, to Jimenez, Kelvin.

\$445,000, Goddard St, 73 Willard Road LLC, and Wilmington Svgs Fund Soc, to Amtd LLC.

\$175,000, 48 Myrtle Ave, Ozaniak Steven P Est, and Marciak, Jennifer M, to Jaupaj, Krenar.

\$3,000,000, 51 Thompson Rd, Webster Properties LLC, to Store Master Funding Xxxv.

\$450,000, 224 Main St, Bankhometown, to Wp Property Holdings LLC.

\$180,000, 8 Mount Pleasant St, Jane F McKay Irt, and McKay, Paula L, to Boukman Investments LLC.

Webster Democrats to elect delegates to 2026 Democratic State Convention

WEBSTER — On Tuesday, March 17 at 6 p.m., Democrats in Webster will convene in person in the Local History room at the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, 2 Lake St., Webster, to elect seven delegates and four alternates to represent Webster at the 2026 MA State Democratic Convention. The 2026 convention will be in person at the Worcester DCU Center on Saturday, May 30 to endorse candidates for statewide office ahead of the Democratic Primary.

Webster residents aged 16 and above who have registered or pre-registered as Democrats in Webster by Saturday, March 14 may vote and be elected as delegates or alternates at the caucus. Youth (Age 16 to 35), people with disabilities, people of color, veterans, members of the LGBTQ+ community not elected as delegates or alternates are encouraged to apply to be add-on delegates at the caucus or by visiting massdems.org/massdems-convention.

For more information about the caucus and to get involved with the Webster Democratic Town Committee, contact or text Raquel Colby at 203-314-8965 or email raquelcolby@gmail.com.

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ALMANAC

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DUDLEY

DUDLEY TOWN HALL (508) 949-8000

Monday: 8:00 AM-6:30 PM (second floor offices),
Tuesday-Thursday: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, Friday: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM.

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DUDLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-8040)

Monday-Sunday 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

OXFORD

OXFORD TOWN HALL (508) 949-8027

Board of Selectmen and Town Clerk Hours:

Monday, Tues., Thurs. 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

OXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT (987-0156)

For emergencies, call 911

OXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT (987-6012)

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

WEBSTER

WEBSTER TOWN HALL (508) 949-3850

Office Hours:

GLADYS E. KELLY PUBLIC LIBRARY

2 Lake St., Webster
508-949-3880
Library Hours: Monday-
Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday
9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.-2
p.m.

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

The Literacy Cafe is
a free weekly English conversation
class offered by Literacy
Volunteers of South Central
Massachusetts (LVSCM). This
class is free to attend and is open
to all adults. No pre-registration
is required. For more information,
email us at info@lvscm.org.

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

Losing a loved one is
never easy. Please know that you
are not alone. If you need support
in trying to navigate the changes in
your life, join us in a place of safety
and comfort with others who
have also experienced loss. This
grief support group is a place to
find understanding as we explore
our grief, share coping strategies,
and begin to heal.

Yoga – Saturdays at 9:30am
Join Julie or Lauren at the
Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa
yoga class for all levels. A
typical class involves centering the
mind with the breath, aromatherapy,
movement of the body to release
energetic blockages, and,
finally, rest and relaxation. Classes
are free. Funded by the Friends
of the Gladys E. Kelly Public
Library.

Yoga Nidra with Jess – Fridays
at 8:15am

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

Writing Group – Monday,
February 23rd at 6:00pm

Do you enjoy writing but
struggle to find the time or excuse
to sit down and do it? Join us for
a low pressure evening where you
can sit and write creatively with
others in a cozy setting. There will
be prompts available, and time to
share and discuss our projects, or
just chat about the writing process,
but sharing is not required. Bring
something you are currently working
on, or start something new!
Snacks and drinks will be available.

Something from Nothing Pantry
Series – Monday, February 23rd
at 6:00pm

This month we'll be
hosting Courtney Squire from
Unbound Glory Farm! In this
class, we will make a quick and
nourishing ginger and turmeric
curry paste and then whip up a
deliciously simple soup, utilizing
both fresh and pantry ingredients.
Attendees will come away with a
new resource in their toolkit for
supporting their immune systems
during the winter months, as well
learn how to use this soup base to
provide unlimited ways to make an
easy comfort food that can be put
together quickly. Participants will
get to enjoy a delicious plant-based
soup, and learn how easy it is to
use food as medicine!

90s Silent Disco – Wednesday,
February 25th at 5:30pm

Come join us for a silent
90s Dance Party in the Community
Room! Attendees will be given a
pair of headphones all loaded with
the same 90s hits so you can bust
a move alone or with your friends.
Keep the 90s nostalgia going by
checking out our 90s museum on
the 26th. Cowabunga, dude!

Silent Book Club – Wednesday,
February 25th at 6:00pm

Looking for a quiet
escape? Join us for the first meeting
of our Silent Book Club. The
community room will be as cozy
as it gets. Bring a book or borrow
one from the library and enjoy an
hour or two of silent reading. Quiet
discussion is permitted. We'll provide
the tea and atmosphere, you
choose your book!

90s Museum – Thursday,
February 26th from 12:00-8:00pm

Nostalgic for the 90s?
Didn't experience the 90s, but
want to see what it was all about?
Join us for our one day only 90s
museum. We'll have 90s tech, 90s
toys, 90s memorabilia, and 90s
fashion.

The Chatty Chapter – Thursday,
February 26th at 6:00pm

Join The Chatty Chapter,
our genre book group! Each
month we read a different genre.
February's genre is a cozy mystery:
A Deadly Inside Scoop by
Abby Collette. Extra copies are
available at the circulation desk.
To be added to the group list,
please email Jess at jfontaine@cwmars.org

Winter Armchair Travel Series
for Seniors: Rome – Friday,
February 27th at 10:00am

The tour takes you
through some of Rome's most
iconic landmarks. Starting at
Venice Square, we'll continue to
Capitol Hill with its panoramic
view of the Roman Forum, then
explore the Forum more closely
before finishing at the Colosseum.
This program is for senior citizens
and will be facilitated by one of
our librarians. Please come with
questions for your tour guide!

Programming for All Ages

Library for All – Mondays and
Fridays at 10am

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

week of the month is painting.

Children's and Young Adult
Programming
Play-Doh Storytime – Mondays
at 10:30am

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

Creators Club – Mondays from
4:00-5:30 PM

We will have a variety of
craft materials available to put
your creativity to the test! Come
explore our newly rebranded
Monday night program: Creators
Club! February's theme is:
Wooden Art Magnets! Kids will
decorate different wood pieces
to bring home. All creations left
behind will be displayed in the
Children's program room for the
rest of the month.

Tiny Groovers – Tuesdays at
10:30am

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

Mighty Builders – Tuesdays at
4:00pm

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

"Mommy and Me" Workout/
Mobility Series – Thursdays,
February 19th-March 12th

Join us for a postpartum-friendly
"Mommy & Me" class designed to help women
feel strong, supported, and
confident. All activity levels
are welcome, with a focus on
recovery during the first
12 months postpartum. The
series includes one class on
breathing and mobility, one
on core, one on pelvic floor,
and a final class combining
everything to give you
tools for safe, effective
workouts at home.

Mommies are welcome to
attend with their baby in a carrier,
on the mat, or on their own
for some self-care. This program
requires registration. This
postpartum-friendly
"Mommy & Me" class is led
by Dr. Kellyn Snow, a pelvic
floor physical therapist and
owner S6L Pelvic Wellness
Studio located

in Webster, MA.

Rolie Polie Guacamole – Friday,
February 20th at 10:30am

Rolie Polie Guacamole
turns library programs into joy-filled,
high-energy music parties
for kids and their grown-ups. Born
in Brooklyn and beloved nationwide,
the band mixes smart, silly
lyrics with irresistible grooves,
big harmonies, and just the right
amount of rock 'n' roll. Parents
love the throwback vibes, kids
love the fun, and everyone leaves
smiling.

Princess Tea Party – Saturday,
February 21st at 11:00am

Join us for a charming
Princess Tea Party filled with
delightful treats and tons of fun!
Come meet Mirabel and Belle
as they share a story, sing some

songs, and enjoy a cup of 'tea' and
some treats with you. Everyone
who attends will have the chance
to meet both princesses and take a
picture with them. Due to limited
supplies, registration is required.
This program is generously funded
by a grant from United Way of
South Central MA.

Twist and Shout Balloon Show
– Saturday, March 7th at 11:00am

Come one, come all to
the Twist & Shout Balloon Magic
Show. There will be exciting
games, tricks, and balloon magic!
Fun for all ages, but suggested
for children 3-8 years old. This
program is generously funded by
a grant from United Way of South
Central MA.



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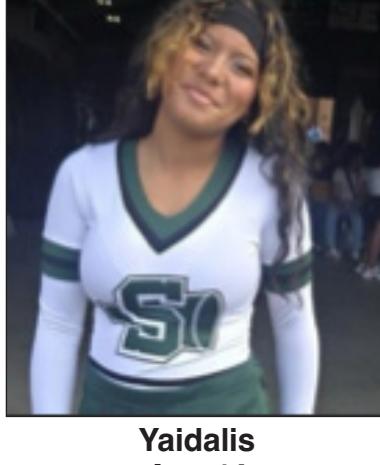
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Hours: Thursday, Friday & Saturday 4-8; Sunday 12-5

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260 West Main Street, West Brookfield, MA 01585
www.salemcrossinn.com (508)867-2345

Friday's Child



Yaidalis is a creative and artistic teen
who loves expressing herself through
making and creating new things. She
enjoys exploring her creativity in many
ways and takes pride in her personal
style. Yaidalis especially likes having
her hair and nails done, which allows
her to express herself and feel confident.
In her free time, Yaidalis enjoys
going to the movies and listening to
music, often finding comfort and inspiration
in her favorite songs. She appreciates
opportunities to relax, have fun,
and connect through shared experiences.
Yaidalis would thrive in a supportive,
nurturing family who values

Yaidalis
Age 14
Registration #8705

creativity, self-expression, and quality time together. With encouragement
and consistency, she has the potential to continue growing into her interests
and developing her talents, while building meaningful connections
with those around her.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21196090768>

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

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

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Steady hands in unsteady times

In a world that seems to reward the loudest voice in the room, there is something quietly powerful about steadiness.

We see it in small moments every day. A coach who keeps his cool when a referee's call doesn't go his way. A teacher who answers the same question for the fourth time with the same patient tone. A parent who chooses calm conversation over raised voices when a teenager tests boundaries. These are not dramatic acts. They won't trend on social media. But they are the foundation of strong families, strong schools, and strong communities.

Life in towns like Webster, Dudley, and Oxford has never been free of disagreement. Attend a Select Board meeting. Sit in on a School Committee discussion. Listen to neighbors debate a zoning change or a proposed project. Opinions can run strong. They should. People care deeply about their homes and their futures.

But caring does not require losing control.

It is easy to mistake intensity for strength. It is easy to believe that the person who pounds the table or fires off the sharpest remark is the one who "wins." In truth, the opposite is often the case. The most effective leaders, in town government, in business, in our homes, are those who can absorb pressure without passing it on.

There is wisdom in taking a breath.

When emotions rise, words spoken in haste tend to linger far longer than the moment that sparked them. A cutting remark at a public meeting can echo through a community for months. A harsh exchange in a workplace can erode trust that took years to build. Even in our personal lives, the brief satisfaction of "letting it out" often gives way to regret.

Calm is not weakness. It is discipline.

In recent years, we have all lived through periods of stress that would have seemed unimaginable not long ago. A pandemic. Economic uncertainty. Political division. Families balancing work, childcare, and elder care all at once. The pressure has been real.

And yet, in the middle of it all, we have also seen what steady hands can accomplish. Volunteers organizing food drives without fanfare. Town officials working late into the night to sort out budgets and logistics. Neighbors checking in on neighbors. None of it flashy. All of it necessary.

There is a lesson there.

Communities do not thrive because everyone agrees. They thrive because even in disagreement, people choose respect. They thrive because someone in the room decides not to escalate. They thrive because cooler heads set the tone.

This does not mean suppressing conviction. It means expressing it in a way that leaves room for dialogue. It means remembering that the person across the table is also someone's parent, neighbor, or friend. It means understanding that today's debate is not the last word in a relationship that will continue long after the meeting adjourns.

In small towns especially, we live with the consequences of how we treat one another. We see each other at the grocery store, at school events, at church suppers, at youth games. We cannot retreat into anonymity. That is not a burden. It is a gift. It reminds us that our words matter.

The strongest communities are not those without tension. They are those that handle tension with maturity.

As the seasons shift and routines settle back into place, perhaps this is a good moment to recommit to steadiness. To choose the measured response over the sharp one. To pause before replying. To model for our children what self-control looks like in practice.

Anyone can lose their temper. It takes character to keep it.

And in the long run, character is what sustains a town.

Viewpoint

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

Landing strips in Auburn

BY HELEN POIRIER
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In an article written by Art Simas in March 1981 in the Auburn News, there was an airfield on Pakachoag Hill on land owned by Arthur Eaton. It was next to what is now 1 Wyoma Dr. There was the Eatonhurst Riding academy and Frank Knowles riding track there in the same area. This landing strip allowed Auburn to be one of the first towns to have air mail delivery. It was a flat grassy plain that made it perfect place to alight a small biplane. In the article Art was interviewing Joh Underwood who grew up in town and bought the Wyoma property in 1952. John told him how exciting an event it was and that schools would let the kids out to see the plane land. Accompanying the article were photos showing biplanes with Arthur Eaton's mother, Martha, standing next to one and another ready for takeoff in 1920.

The second landing strip was described by Richard [Dick] G. Warren in his notes "Auburn Airport and other Auburn Aviation Notes of Interest." The notes pre-dated Auburn Airport. Dick describes the landing strip as being near the Conroy Construction Company which was on Southbridge Street extending from then Leicester Street, now Church Street, to Water Street. Dick tells when Ralph Conroy started to fly, around 1937, he "would occasionally land the airplane in the field across from the Conroy home." In a talk given by Jack Haroian at an Auburn Historical Society meeting on the "Businesses on Southbridge Street," he made mention of the landing strip when talking about the Auburn Driving Range which is on the very same land. Still another retired gentleman recounts a story his dad told when his dad was young, being asked to hold a stick with a sock on it up as high as he could so the pilot could tell which way the wind was blowing so the plane could land.

Lastly is the Auburn Airport, which is where BJ's and Home Depot are today on Washington Street. This land was originally part of the Howe farm. Ralph Conroy and his family were instrumental in developing the airport starting about 1939, when he acquired the land. According to Dick Warren, it was a small private airport through the 1940s to mid-1950s, it then became a drive-in theater. It did not have paved runways, only grass ones, and it did have a hanger. According to an article from the Worcester Telegram in 1939, the airport was on 67 acres of land, 22 acres were cleared and leveled, the prevailing wind runway was 1650 feet. The hanger was 40 feet by 50 feet and could house five small planes. There were other small airfields in the area, including Windle in West Millbury, Westboro, Leicester, Spencer though not as prominent as Grafton Airport which was considered "Worcester Airport" in the 1930s and 1940s.

There was also a club at the airport that owned a two-passenger aircraft for members use. When World War II started members of this club started enlisting in the Army Air Corps- C.A.A. flight program.

During the war the Auburn Defense Police, which was a 150-man uniformed unit serving as an ARP protection division

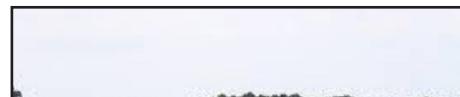
under the Civilian Defense Program of the Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety would use the Auburn airport for air raid practices.

After war was over around 1946, Ralph got a Globe Swift airplane to compliment the Aeronca Super Chief which was already at the airport. Men and women learned to fly at this airport with a Miss Betty Carron of Worcester being one of Ralph's pupils who soloed in eight hours and five minutes, which according to Ralph, "was an exceptional accomplishment for a woman."

As time went on, Ralph felt the need to put more time into the family construction business with his brother, Fred. It was about 1948 when Glenn Tessmer and Vincent Rideout started running the airport operation until 1951. Dick Warren acquired about 12 acres of land from his grandfather's estate which abutted the Auburn Airport then deeded to Ralph for expansion of the airport. This expansion never happened, according to the Worcester Telegram dated December 22, 1953, a petition to dissolve Auburn Airport Incorporated was posted Superior Court. The stockholders meeting that was held Nov. 5, 1953, unanimously voted to dissolve the corporation and it was attested to by Ralph J. Conroy, President & Treasurer and notarized by Lee F. Burke. It was approved and by March 28, 1954, another article told of the petition by Ralph Conroy to the Board of Appeals for a zoning classification change for the airport land so that it could become a drive-in theater that would be leased out. There was some opposition to it as abutters were concerned about the possibility of devaluation of their properties. On a vote of 35 for and 10 against the change was made. The E.M. Loew Inc. would be allowed to operate it.

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

Types of aircraft used at the Auburn Airport



1937 Tayloy craft airplane



1941 Aeronca Super Chief

The quiet confidence of knowing your way

There is a certain kind of confidence that does not announce itself.

It does not come with raised voices or bold claims. It does not rush to prove anything. You notice it most often in people who know exactly where they are, even if they could not explain how they got there.

I think about this whenever I see someone navigate a place they have known for years without hesitation. They take the right turn without thinking. They park instinctively in the same spot they always have. They greet someone by name, even if they have not seen them in a while.

None of it is flashy. All of it is earned.

In small towns, this kind of confidence used to be common. You learned it slowly. You figured out which roads flooded after a hard rain, which shortcuts were worth taking, and which were not. You knew where the sun hit the sidewalk in winter and which side of the street stayed cooler in summer.

That knowledge lived quietly in the body. It did not require a screen or an update. It came from repetition, observation, and time.

Now, many of us rely on directions for even familiar trips. We check schedules we already know. We second-guess routes we have taken for years. There is nothing wrong with that, but something subtle changes when we stop trusting our own sense of place.

I do not miss getting lost. I do miss the confidence that came from not needing constant confirmation.

There was a time when knowing your way meant more than geography. It meant

knowing when to speak and when to wait. Knowing which questions mattered and which ones could sit unanswered. Knowing that not every problem required immediate action.

You still see this kind of assurance in certain people. Often, they are older, but not always. They move through a room without urgency. They listen more than they talk. When they do speak, it is usually measured, and often helpful.

They are not slow. They are steady.

That steadiness is something our towns quietly depend on. It shows up in long-serving clerks, familiar faces at local counters, and neighbors who seem to understand how things work without needing to explain themselves.

They remind us that experience does not need to shout to be valuable.

I catch myself trying to relearn some of that confidence. Leaving the phone in my pocket. Trusting memory instead of prompts. Letting familiarity do its work without checking to see if it is still correct.

Sometimes it is. Sometimes it is not. But the act of trusting it again feels important.

In a world that constantly asks us to verify, update, and refresh, there is something grounding about knowing your way well enough to move forward without asking permission.

That quiet confidence does not draw attention. It does not need to.

Like so many good things along Main Street, it is simply there, doing its work, steady as ever.

Unlock the
full potential
of your 401(k)



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Your 401(k) is one of the most powerful tools for securing your financial future. The question is: Are you using it to its full potential?

Here are some strategies to help you maximize its benefits:

Earn your employer's match. It's a good idea to contribute as much as you can afford to your 401(k) plan. (In 2026, you can put in up to \$24,500, or \$32,500 if you're 50 or older. If your plan allows, there's also a "super catch-up" contribution of \$11,250 for people aged 60 to 63, for a total contribution limit of \$35,750.) At least put in enough to earn a matching contribution if one is offered. Otherwise, you're shortchanging yourself. For example: Your employer matches 50 percent of your contribution up to \$5,000. If put in \$8,000, your employer's 50 percent match is \$4,000, and you're leaving \$1,000 "on the table."

Give your plan a raise. When your income increases, consider increasing contributions to your 401(k). When you get a bonus or a tax refund, you could use some or all of that to boost your retirement savings.

Evaluate the Roth option. When you invest in a traditional 401(k), you contribute pre-tax dollars, lowering your taxable income that year. Your earnings grow tax-deferred and are taxed when you withdraw. If your employer offers a Roth 401(k), you contribute after-tax dollars, so your taxable income doesn't drop that year. However, withdrawals in retirement, contributions and earnings alike, are generally tax-free. (Employer matching contributions and related earnings remain taxable.) If you expect a higher tax bracket in retirement or want to diversify tax treatment for flexibility in retirement, consider the Roth option. In 2026, the Roth option must be used for catch-up contributions if you earn more than \$150,000 and you are 50 or older. Consult your tax advisor before deciding.

Build an appropriate investment mix. You may have multiple investment options in your 401(k). The driving principle early on is growth so your plan can fund a long retirement. But growth-oriented investments are naturally riskier than fixed-income vehicles. When starting your career, you may prefer a portfolio weighted toward aggressive growth, as you have years to recover from downturns. Nearing retirement, though, consider shifting to a more conservative mix. A financial advisor can help you choose an appropriate mix at different stages, based on your risk tolerance, time horizon and goals.

Keep your plan intact. At times, you may feel a financial pinch that leads you to consider taking out loans or early withdrawals from your 401(k). However, this can cause you to incur taxes and penalties and will likely slow the growth needed to help reach your retirement savings goals. Taking steps to prepare for unexpected expenses, such as building an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, can help you avoid dipping into your 401(k). You may also be able to find other ways to access cash.

By following these steps, you can unlock the full potential of your 401(k) and position it as a cornerstone of your retirement income.

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

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS HONOR ROLL

OXFORD — Oxford High School has announced its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

High Honors

Seniors: Zack Bond, Alanna Borelli, Cassidy Burke, Delaney Burke, Keegan Comeau, Veronica Griffin, Gwen Gustafson, Alexander Hamilton, Matthew Hilman, Abigail Hoyt, Rosy Krantz, Kyra Krasinskas, Madison Labay, Ava Liberis, Addisen Monsen, Samuel Paradise, Ethan White

Juniors: Shayla Boliver, Abigail Davis, Kate Mayo

Sophomores: Sabrina Adamiak, Haniya Awais, Andrew Collins, Isabella Costa, Calleigh Furtado, Laura Grenier, Olivia Hammond, Noel Jandrow, Zachary MacDonald, Brooke Nitti, Torin Stone, Mia Urbaez, Keagan Vanarsdalen

Freshman: Brenna Burke, Ethan Campbell, Chase Checkoway, Bella Coghlan, Viktorya Davis, Ashlyn Halliday, Ethan Hamilton, Ali Johnson, Tyler Melton, Brooke O'Connor, Haley Odom

Honors

Seniors: Justine Anderson, Muhammad Anees, Hailey Angell, Rachel Arndt, Sarah Arndt, Jaelynne Caracciolo, Savannah Cioppa, Anna Costa Heroux, Lilyan Daoust, Conner Dawe, Michaella Dwyer, Craige Grenier, Jeffrey Guzman, Abigail Kimball, Nolan Remington, Yazlin Rios Maldonado, Amaya Rosario-Green, Hannah Taranto, Ava Vincent, Vanessa Walker

Juniors: Isabella Amorim, Michelle Annancy, Gabrielle Bartlett, Audri Chalifoux, Jillian Chevalier, Marie Cosentino, Zaria Edison, Lilli Falkenheiner, Daymyin Lopez, Leighya McDowell, Huckleberry McQuillan, Brooklynn Mott, Ethan Odom, Chase Paul, Braden Stone

Sophomores: Gwenyth Auger, Kaeli Cordova Del Cid, Pietro Falsarella, Davi Fracalossi, Tatiangelys Hernandez Barreto, Ella Kasprzycki, Keith Kirkpatrick, Wyatt McQuillan, Kyleigh Minardi, Lacey Parker, Devyn Quarshie, Alejandro Shaver, Adam Sliwoski, Krystiana Sobocinski

Freshman: Michael Annancy, Alex Holt, Tabbitha Jyring Langevin, Sophia Kinhan, Chloe Lavallee, Riley Maki, Samantha Marrier, Olivia Martinez, Agnes Molloy, Nathan Paquette, David-James Purkis, Dionne Quarshie, Harper Shobлом, Amanda Torres, Samuel Yogaratnam

OXFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS HONOR ROLL

OXFORD — Oxford Middle School has released its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

High Honors

Grade 8 - Sadie Crouch, Lily Dolbec, Zachary Dubsky, Ella Gasasira, Liam Harrity, Brookelynn Mangano, Maxwell Palai, Henrique Paniagua, Mateo Quintero, Megan Riley

Grade 7 - Clayton Almstrom, Saige Angell, Jack Belmore, Hazel Burlingame, Briella Caracciolo, Sadie Coghlan, Amber Conway, Hadley Coraccio, Brynn Czernicki-Nasis, Olivia Daoust, Cora Descheneau, Kendall Donnelly, Joshua George, Trevor Gould, Margaret Griffin, Kellen Harrison, Jackson Harvey, Vanessa Johnson, Isabella LaMountain, Joseph Menke, Ava Montalvo, Caroline Montalvo, Sofia Moura, Stella Pantano, Jenna Shenette, Mya Skeates, Chad Sliwoski, Mia St. Peter, Sadie Stewart, Raeann Teal, Marissa Worden, Makenzie Zwang

Grade 6 - Audrey Almstrom, Tianna Delacruz, Eli Dexter, McKenna Evans, Jaelyn Halley, Liam Huambachano, Mia Mazzella, Jack Richard, Bradley Seeley, Harper Skowron, Slate Skowron, Logan Thomas

Honors

Grade 8 - Bethany Abrahamson, Larissa Amorim, Gemma Balboni, Isabella Bishop, Princess Bonagwa, Olivia Boulette, Ryan Burke, Abigail Burque, Isaac Dechaleune, Julia Do Nascimento, Shea Dunlavy, Jillian Gustafson, Willow Keller, Alana LaFrance, Lucas Laurie, Matthew Martellotta, Alana McFarland, Sophia Meneguzzo, Alexander Napolitano, Ashton O'Malley, Dylan Powers, Jr., Hunter Rodriguez, Rachel Rodriguez-Pacheco, Heather Stebbins, Lilliana Tervo, Jordyn Torteson, Harrison Voas

Grade 7 - Darrel Amon, Diego Aponte, Kaylee Augustynski, Colin Baldwin, Hayden Bates, Narta Berisha, Miraanda Bieger, Tyler Bouley, Bradley Bush, Lucas Bush, Kyle Case, Grant Corriveau, Kaiden Corriveau, Anthony Degaetano, Caleb Dubsky, Grady Eason, Timothy Forand, Jaziebel Gonzalez, Trevor Gould, Ethan Gustafson, Vanessa Judge, Castiel Kaiser, Travis Kogbe, Brooke Mastromatteo, Baileigh Mazerolle, Zoe Morello, Landon Morris, Aria O'Neil, Tianna Parker, Tessa Peloso, Victoria Rivera, Eric Sloan, Sarah Stebbins, Briley Todd, Bradley Toedt, Liam Valipour, Aislyn White, Lilliana Woods

Grade 6 - Tyleeah Adorno, Dakota Allen-Nunes, Ayla Ansah, Bridget Bejune, Sebastian Benoit, Leeanne Carlson, Katrina Chuong, Ava Churchill, Rylee Cordova, Jaxon Cortis, Janek Czapnik, Ella Davis, Evelyn Decoster, Juan Escobar, Alexander Farrar, Natalia Ferrante, Nahashon Gachuna, Maeve Genatossio, Edward Graham III, Bennett Harding, Lukas Kasprzycki, Zaidyn Kublis, Savannah Langlois, Seth Maki, Harley McConnell, Gregory Meneguzzo, Tayshi Nguyen, Tai Nguyen-Le, Annelise Palai, Colby Palin, Fernando Paniagua, James Paul, Margaret Paul, Maura Persall, Emilia Raimondi, Carlos Ramirez, Lorenzo Riccardi, Sophia Riccardi, Hannah Riley, Avery Robillard, Ayla Schonberg, Aiden Socia, Kylie Stidson, Thomas Stone, Seamus Sweeney, Charlene Williams

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.

WDO Chamber hosting Business After Hours networking event

THOMPSON, Conn. — The Webster Dudley Oxford Chamber of Commerce invites the community to a Business After Hours event Monday, Feb. 23 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Raceway Golf Club, 205 East Thompson Rd.

Join the Chamber for a fantastic networking event. Enjoy a cocktail at the new bar, check out the simulators, and catch up with old friends while making some new ones.

Admission: \$10 per person. Cash bar.
Register at www.wdochamberma.com.

Learning in Retirement to hold open house in Killingly

DANIELSON — Learning in Retirement (LiR -QV) is holding a free Open House on Friday, Feb. 27 at 1 p.m. at the Killingly Community Center, 185 Broad St., Danielson. Living History Interpreter Karlee Turner Eter will present "The Arrest of Suffragist Elizabeth Glendower Evans." Preview spring courses.

Light refreshments will be served. Limited seating will be available; no reservation required. For more information, visit www.lir-qv.org.

Oxford launches community rain barrel program

OXFORD — The Town of Oxford has teamed up with The Great American Rain Barrel Company to offer discounted rain barrels.

Order your rain barrel online at www.tgarb.com by May 3. Click on Community Programs and the select Oxford. Choose your color, quantity, and any accessories. You can pay online or call The Great American Rain Barrel Company at 800-251-2352.

Rain barrel pickup will be on Saturday, May 16, 10:30 a.m.-noon at the DPW Garage, 34 Charlton St. Oxford.

For more information, please call Oxford DPW at 508-987-6006.

Fairfield University congratulates Fall Dean's List

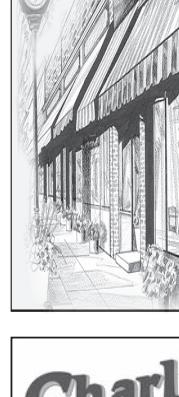
FAIRFIELD, Conn. — Sofia Fortunato of Auburn received Dean's List Honors for the Fall 2025 semester at Fairfield University.

In order to be placed on the Dean's List, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours in a semester, have no outstanding or incomplete grades for that semester, and have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better.

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Oxford Democrats to hold caucus on Feb. 28

OXFORD — The Oxford Democratic Town Committee will host the annual town Democratic caucus on Saturday, Feb. 28 at 11 a.m. at the Oxford Free Public Library, 339 Main Street, Oxford. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m.

At the caucus, registered and preregistered Democrats in Oxford will gather to elect delegates and alternates to represent the town at the 2026 Massachusetts Democratic Convention, and to connect with neighbors and fellow Democrats.

All are welcome to attend, and firsttime participants are encouraged. To vote or run for delegate or alternate, you must be a registered Democrat in Oxford. Eligible voters who are not yet registered as Democrats may register at the caucus.



Courtesy

Congratulations to Bartlett High School Senior Captain Kenny Arpin for scoring his 1,000th point on Feb. 6.



Courtesy

Oxford Middle School proudly recognized and celebrated students who achieved perfect attendance through the first 100 days of school! Reaching this milestone reflects dedication, responsibility, and a strong commitment to learning. Showing up every day builds important habits, strengthens connections with peers and staff, and supports academic success. We are incredibly proud of these students for their consistency and perseverance. Their commitment sets a positive example for our entire school community. Congratulations to all students who earned this outstanding achievement — keep up the amazing work! Pictured, left to right: Ashton O'Malley, Zachary Dubsky, Ella Gassasira, Joshua George, Jack Richard, Savannah Langlois, and James Paul.



Courtesy

Oxford Middle School recognizes students each month who exemplify our Be The 3 goals of Respect, Responsibility, and Safety as well as showing that attendance matters, displaying citizenship, and showing growth in a variety of ways. This month, OMS celebrates Sadie Stewart, Mateo Quintero, Isaac Dechaleune, Aiden Socia, and Keira Hryzan (not photographed) our January Students of the Month.

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- 2024 Chevrolet Tahoe "LT"**
- 2023 Volkswagen Tiguan "4-Motion"**
- 2025 Nissan Sentra "SV"**

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Worcester Model Railroaders announce open house



WEBSTER — The Webster Division of the Worcester Model Railroaders announces an open house at 14 Railroad Ave. in Webster to be held on March 1. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., families, friends and kids of all ages will be able to view and operate two large, model railroad layouts in operation. The first is a 40-by-60-foot HO gauge layout depicting railroad operations in New England. This layout is computer controlled using Digitrax DCC. Watch the trains as they climb to the second level via the helix. The second layout is a

10-by-30-foot O gauge layout—a typical Lionel train operation that is familiar to most folks.

During the open house, visitors of all ages will have an opportunity to control the trains as they make their way around the layout. Club members will be available to give tours of the layouts and discuss club activities. This is also a great opportunity to donate any railroad equipment that might be languishing in basements and attics. The club will accept any equipment no matter its condition. Members will also be able to discuss and help solve any problems visitors might be having with their

own railroad equipment. If visitors have DCC equipped locomotives, they are welcome to bring them to run on the HO layout.

Our open house is a family oriented event being held in conjunction with our annual show being held the same day at the Auburn Elks Club. Refreshments will be served. There is no admission charge but donations would be welcomed. GPS will get you to Railroad Avenue in Webster. Once there, cross the RR tracks, bear right, keeping the brick buildings on your left and follow the signs to the open house. Best of all, come prepared to have fun!

Information: www.wmrr.org, ralphkimball@charter.net.

Dudley library to host program on “Popular Music and Veterans”

DUDLEY — On Thursday, Feb. 26, Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library in Dudley will host the program “Popular Music and Veterans,” performed by Jon Waterman at 6 p.m. The program consists of original and traditional songs along with an accompanying slideshow about the history of veterans in America and some related music history. The library is at 40 Schofield Ave. in Dudley.

Jon Waterman has performed music and history programs in venues throughout New England as part of his Live Music Making History Live series. The series was designed to encourage the celebration and exploration of history through music. Jon is a lifetime musician and songwriter and licensed history teacher in Massachusetts. The program is supported in part by a grant from the Dudley Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

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Local residents named to William & Mary Dean's List

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Bronson Dubey of Dudley was recently named to the Dean's List at the College of William & Mary for the fall 2025 semester.

In order to achieve Dean's List status, a full-time degree seeking undergraduate student must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 Quality Point Average during the semester.

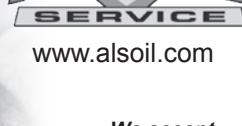
William & Mary is the second oldest institution of higher learning in the United States.

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PET of the WEEK



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Meet Dottie — The Smart, Water & Sun-Loving Pup You've Been Waiting For! Dottie has been soaking up all the love and sunshine in foster and now she's looking for that special someone who will give her the time and space she needs to thrive.

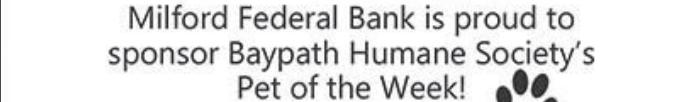
Dottie may take a minute to warm up, but once she does, she's all in — loyal, affectionate, and eager to be near her people. She loves lounging on the bed or sunbathing on her foster's deck in the backyard. While she can be quiet and independent at times, she also has a playful, silly side. She does best in a calm, predictable environment.

Dottie is a quick learner and is having fun with training and games like "find it" that engage her nose and brain. She's a strong girl and can be enthusiastic on leash — especially when squirrels or exciting scents are involved. Quiet walking routes are best for her, and she LOVES to sniff and explore at her own pace. She also LOVES car rides!

Dottie is looking for an adult-only home, where she will be the only pet, with people who understand that good relationships take time. Once she feels safe and secure, her sweet, affectionate side really shines.

Dottie's adoption fee has been generously sponsored

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Milford Federal Bank is proud to sponsor Baypath Humane Society's Pet of the Week!

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More than 7,500 University of Rhode Island students named to Fall Dean's List

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that several area students have been named to its Fall 2025 Dean's List. Among them are:

Tori Masiello of Oxford
Evan Fallon of Webster
Austin Giarnese of Dudley
Maya Golemo of Dudley
Ava Milette of Dudley
Jasmyne Gates of Auburn
Nate Jette of Auburn
Katie Small of Auburn

To be included on the Dean's List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable

during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

Students named to the Dean's List represent nearly all of Rhode Island's cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and countries.

About the University of Rhode Island

The University of Rhode Island is a diverse and dynamic community whose members are connected by a common quest for knowl-

edge. As a global education leader and the state of Rhode Island's flagship public research institution, URI offers distinctive opportunities designed to meet the global challenges of today's world and the rapidly evolving needs of tomorrow. Founded in 1892, URI now enrolls more than 18,000 students and offers more than 200 degree programs across nine schools and colleges. As a land- and sea-grant institution, URI is a key driver of economic development in Rhode Island and contributes significantly to the health and vitality of the state, the New England region, and the nation. To learn more, visit: uri.edu.

“Spring” into something new this March with Bay Path Continuing Education

CHARLTON — Bay Path Continuing Education is excited to highlight some offerings from the Winter/Spring Term. Our talented instructors are offering an inspiring lineup of classes, including some new ones not in the catalog. Whether you're looking to learn a new skill, meet new friends, create lasting memories, or simply relax and reconnect your mind and body, there's something waiting for you. Explore the offerings and register today—we can't wait to welcome you up to Bay Path.

A sampling of upcoming classes:

Auto Damage Appraising Tuesdays & Thursdays, Feb. 24-April 7, 6-9 p.m., \$499 (Class ID: 42886)

Cultivating Resilience for Parents & Children Thru Self-Compassion Wednesdays, Feb. 25-Mar 13, 6:30-8 p.m., \$129 (Class ID: 42832)

Yoga For All (Drop In Class) Thursday, Feb. 26, 7-8 p.m., \$15 per class (no registration required)

MA Real Estate Person's Course - Prelicense required education

Monday & Thursday, March 2-April 30, 6-9 p.m., \$459 (Class ID: 42861)

Introduction to Bracelet Making Using Stone, Glass & Crystal Beads

Wednesday, March 4-April 8, 6-8:30 p.m., \$79 (Class ID: 42840)

Introduction to Welding

Date Night! Shamrock

Beginner's Country Line Dancing Monday, March 2-April 17, 6-7:15 p.m., \$79 (Class ID: 42818)

Yoga For All (Drop In Class) Thursday, March 5th & March 12, 7-8 p.m., \$15 per class (no registration required)

Introduction to Beekeeping Mondays, March 2-March 9, 6-8 p.m., \$69 (Class ID: 42795)

Ballroom for Beginners Dance Package

Tuesday, March 3- May 12, 6:30-8:45 p.m., \$169/ Couple, \$85 Single (Class ID: 42811)

How to Plan, Start, and Operate a Small Business Tuesdays, March 3-April 7, 5-7:30 p.m., \$159 (Class ID: 42896)

Stronger Together: An Introductory Guide to Understanding Special Education Tuesday, March 3, 6-7:30 p.m., \$39 (Class ID: 42870)

Learn About Elder Law & Estate Planning Tuesday, March 10, 6-8 p.m., Couples \$59, Individuals \$39 (Class ID: 42792)

Exam Prep: MA Construction Supervisors Unrestricted License (CSL)

Wednesday, March 4-April 8, 6-8 p.m., \$899 (Class ID: 43361)

Introduction to Bracelet Making Using Stone, Glass & Crystal Beads

Wednesday, March 4-April 8, 6-8:30 p.m., \$79 (Class ID: 42837)

Learn how to Paint with Acrylics

Wednesday, March 11-April 15, 7-9 p.m., \$179 (Class ID: 42837)

Introduction to Welding

Date Night! Shamrock

Ravioli: Decorative Pasta Mastery Thursday, March 12, 5:30-8:30 p.m., \$145 per couple (Class ID: 42878)

Investing: Rules of the Road Tuesday, March 17, 6-7 p.m., \$39 (Class ID: 42887)

Considering Real Estate Sales as a Career? Wednesday, March 18, 6-9 p.m., \$39 (Class ID: 42899)

Introduction to Computers II

Wednesday, March 18-April 1, 6-8 p.m., \$69 (Class ID: 42917)

Newly Added The Beauty of Ikebana: An Introduction to Japanese Floral Art Design (43357)

Tuesday, March 10, 6:30-8 p.m., \$59 (Class ID: 43357)

Learn About Elder Law & Estate Planning

Tuesday, March 10, 6-8 p.m., Couples \$59, Individuals \$39 (Class ID: 43358)

Registration is open & rolling throughout the term. Classes are offered through May 2026.

You can register three ways:

Online at baypath.augusoft.net

By Phone: 508-248-5971, ext. 1715

In Person: 57 Old Muggett Hill Rd., Charlton, MA 01507. Monday-Thursday 1-9 p.m.

Cornerstone Bank opens applications for 2026 scholarship program

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank is now accepting applications for its 2026 scholarship program, awarding 18 scholarships of \$2,500 each to local high school seniors planning to study business or finance. Applications are due April 13.

"We are proud to support students who are thinking seriously about their future and taking meaningful steps toward it," said Cornerstone CEO Todd Tallman. "These scholarships help remove barriers and encourage young people who want to make a positive impact through business and financial leadership."

Applicants must be graduating from high school in 2026 and plan to attend an accredited,

degree-granting institution full time beginning in fall 2026. Students must demonstrate academic achievement, community involvement and interest in a business or financial career.

Required materials include an official transcript and GPA along with a completed application and a one-page essay describing career goals, steps toward achieving them and how the scholarship will support their path to success.

The application and more information can be found on the bank's Web site.

Scholarship recipients will receive funds after successful completion of their first college semester and upon submission of an official first-semester transcript and second-semester bill.

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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BILLS

continued from page A1

Toilets and faucet leaks

The most common cause for a high water/sewer bill is running water from your toilet. A "continuously" running toilet can waste 200 gallons a day or in some cases much more. That can easily double a family's typical water use, so fix toilet leaks as soon as possible. Some leaks are easy to find, such as a faucet or running toilet. You can usually hear a running toilet, but not always. See the toilet assessment below for help in determining if this is the cause of your high water bill.

Do-It-Yourself toilet assessment

First check for the most common leak: a deteriorated or defected flush valve (flapper) ball at the bottom of the toilet tank. If it does not make a tight seal, water will leak into the toilet bowl. To check for this:

- Take the lid off of the tank behind the bowl, flush the toilet, then wait for it to fully refill
- Put a few drops of dye or colored dye tablets (available at local hardware store) in the tank
- Wait 20 minutes; longer if you suspect it is a small leak
- If color shows up in the toilet bowl, there is a leak

The second most common type of leak has to do with an improperly adjusted or broken fill valve. To check for this take the lid off the toilet tank, flush, and see if water is draining into the overflow tubes when the tank is full.

Outdoor and underground leaks

Leaks can also occur in harder to find places, such as under your house or in the service line between your water meter and your home. Check outdoor spigots and crawl spaces, and look for wet spots in your yard, which may indicate a leak.

Irrigation systems

During summer months, irrigation systems are a common source of high water use. Watering times generally double during the summer months compared to the spring or fall. Automated irrigation systems should be checked regularly to be sure they are functioning properly and have no leaks or broken sprinkler heads. If a sprinkler valve sticks on, it could waste an extremely large quantity of water. The irrigation timer may not work or may not be programmed properly; i.e., sprinklers are watering too often and/or for too long. Reprograming may be necessary if the power has been off.

What can I do if my bill is unusually high?

If you feel your bill is too high, check the common causes listed above. This may help pinpoint the source of the high bill. Water Department staff are available to recheck a meter reading if you feel there is an error. If the meter reading is checked and found to be accurate, you may need to contact a licensed plumber or other professional to help determine the source of a leak or high bill. Property owners are responsible for all private water service lines from the curb-stop into the residence and for leaks inside

the home. If a toilet leaks and the water enters the municipal sewer system you are responsible for the water/sewer bill.

Other helpful self-management tools!

Webster water customers with the new water meter can monitor their own water usage data through a customer Web portal. The customer web portal can be accessed here: <https://websterma.my360-app.com>.

Please note you are responsible to monitor your own water usage and if you have concerns about excessive usage and/or leaks please visit our website for helpful tips and information at <https://www.webster-ma.gov/402/Leaks>.



CONROE, TX – Lawrence "Larry" Bonnette, 76, Died on February 5, 2026 at Houston Healthcare, Conroe, surrounded by his loving family.

Larry is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Nancy (Allard) Bonnette; son, Corey Bonnette and his wife Lorie of

Woodstock, CT; 2 daughters, Patricia Bonnette, and Carol Abbot and her husband Shawn all of Florida; five grandchildren, Kendra Sweetland,

Julia Saint-Hilaire, Miranda Bonnette, Deven Abbott, and Victoria Bonnette; 3 great-grandchildren, Mirabella, Felicity, and Jousha; 4 sisters,

Clare Casey, Ceil Spenard, Christine Bonnette all of Woodstock, CT, and Marie Flint of Delaware, MD; 5 brothers, Danny Bonnette of Webster, MA, Joe Bonnette of Florida, Paul Bonnette of Suffolk, VA, Jim Bonnette of Thompson, CT, and

Bob Bonnette of Woodstock; his brother-in-law, Ronald "Ronnie" Allard of Thompson, CT; many nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his sister Carol (Bonnette) Paquette.

He was born on September 1, 1949, in Philadelphia PA, a son of the late Clarence and Catherine (Novak) Bonnette. He was a graduate of Springfield Trade School, MA.

Mr. Bonnette was an electronic Technician for 10 years in the U. S. Navy. After the Navy

the family moved back to Webster, MA and he

first worked as an electronic engineer for ITT, he then worked Digital Equipment of Littleton,

MA, which later became Compaq and Hewlett

Packard.

While at Digital he was an integral part of

some of the groundbreaking developments,

including the first PC's such as the VT 100 and

many others.

He found enjoyment in building and flying

radio-controlled helicopters and airplanes, and as a ham radio operator, and cooking, making everyone feel welcome and comfortable. His home was always full of family.

After retirement, he continued working and creating many electronic toys and items. Volunteering his time as secretary for Yankee Flyer and Tri-County Barnstormers.

His greatest joy was spending time with his children and grandchildren, whether he was coaching a baseball team, or as a league umpire, or just watching them in the pool.

He was proud, along with his wife, to have been a Webster, MA town representative in the 1990's. He was also always ready to help his brother at his brother's service station.

He was a self-made man who was highly

respected, strong, creative, funny, caring and

very intelligent. He liked to debate and make you think. He intentionally said no to his children, so

that they had to work it out for themselves and

learn to be independent. He always made his

kids laugh by telling great stories and songs he

made up. They would compete with him for the

best story.

Private services will be held at the convenience of the family. The family requests that flowers be omitted and instead donations in his memory be made to the American Heart Association, 20 Speen Street, Framingham, MA 01701. McNutt Funeral Home, 1703 Porter Road, Conroe, TX 77301. Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main Street, Webster, MA is handling local arrangements.

www.websterfunerals.com



OBITUARY

Lawrence "Larry" Bonnette, 76

radio-controlled helicopters and airplanes, and as a ham radio operator, and cooking, making everyone feel welcome and comfortable. His home was always full of family.

After retirement, he continued working and creating

many electronic toys and items. Volunteering

his time as secretary for Yankee Flyer and Tri-

County Barnstormers.

His greatest joy was spending time with his

children and grandchildren, whether he was

coaching a baseball team, or as a league umpire,

or just watching them in the pool.

He was proud, along with his wife, to have

been a Webster, MA town representative in

the 1990's. He was also always ready to help

his brother at his brother's service station.

He was a self-made man who was highly

respected, strong, creative, funny, caring and

very intelligent. He liked to debate and make you

think. He intentionally said no to his children, so

that they had to work it out for themselves and

learn to be independent. He always made his

kids laugh by telling great stories and songs he

made up. They would compete with him for the

best story.

Private services will be held at the convenience

of the family. The family requests that flowers

be omitted and instead donations in his memory

be made to the American Heart Association, 20

Speen Street, Framingham, MA 01701. McNutt

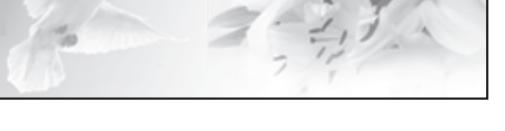
Funeral Home, 1703 Porter Road, Conroe, TX

77301. Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main

Street, Webster, MA is handling local arrangements.

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LEGALS

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

Premises: 2 Aleda Drive, Auburn, MA 01501, By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Raymond Fortin to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Pacific Union Financial, LLC, dated October 25, 2018, and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59596, Page 152, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by assignment of mortgage from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Pacific Union Financial, LLC to RoundPoint Mortgage Servicing Corporation, dated December 12, 2019, and recorded with said Registry in Book 61610, Page 346, and by an assignment of mortgage from RoundPoint Mortgage Servicing Corporation to Freedom Mortgage Corporation, dated October 16, 2020, and recorded with said Registry in Book 63625, Page 83, and by an assignment of mortgage from Freedom Mortgage Corporation to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as legal title trustee for RMTT Trust Series 2021 Cottage-TT-V, dated June 10, 2022, and recorded with said Registry in Book 68002, Page 239, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold by Public Auction at 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the 4th day of March, 2026, at the mortgaged premises located at 2 Aleda Drive, Auburn, MA 01501, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, To wit: A certain tract of land in said Auburn situated in the northerly side of Aleda Drive and further bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point in the northerly line of Aleda Drive at the southeasterly corner of the land now or formerly of Raymond Hallberg, said point being N. 78 4 7' E. forty (40) feet from a stone bound set at an angle in said street line; THENCE N. 78 47" E. ninety (90) feet by said street lien to a stone bound at a corner of land now or formerly of Verner Richardson et ux; THENCE northerly one hundred (100) feet by said Verner Richardson land to a point at other land now or formerly of Werner W. Richardson et ux; THENCE S. 78 47' W. ninety (90) feet more or less to the northeasterly corner of said Hallberg land; THENCE S. 11 13'E. one hundred (100) feet by said Hallberg land to the point of beginning. CONTAINING 9,000 square feet by approximation and being Lot 9 on a Plan of Ridgewood, a development by Werner Richardson in Auburn, date May 1951, approved by Auburn Planning Board July 23, 1951, recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan 176, Plan 23. The above premises are conveyed subject to the following restrictions: That no buildings shall be erected on the said premises other than a one-family type home to cost not less than \$10,000.00 and garage in connection therewith. Being the same premises as conveyed to the Grantors by deed of Virginia M. Soloperto dated July 11, 2012, and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 49389, Page 374. Premises to 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 Dollars (\$10,000.00) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. High bidder to sign written memorandum of sale upon acceptance of the high bid. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid by certified or bank check at Friedman Vartolo LLP, 1325 Franklin Avenue, Suite 160, Garden City, New York 11530, within thirty (30) days from the date of the sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee for RMTT Trust, Series 2021 Cottage-TT-V, Present holder of said mortgage by its Attorneys, **Friedman Vartolo LLP** 1325 Franklin Avenue, Suite 160, Garden City, New York 11530

February 6, 2026

February 13, 2026

February 20, 2026

TOWN OF DUDLEY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Please take notice that:

Sombath Keophaymany

Have applied to the Zoning Board of Appeals to vary the terms of the Zoning By-Laws Section 2.03.02

Location: 54 Old Southbridge Road
In the following respect: Applicant is seeking a special permit for chickens
The Public Hearing will be held on Thursday March 5, 2026 @ 7:00pm at the Town Hall room 321A, at which time you may be hard relative to this Public Hearing.

Please contact Amanda Jacobson at 508-949-8012 or building@dudleyma.gov to attend the meeting.

George Slingo, Chairman
Zoning Board of Appeals

February 13, 2026

February 20, 2026

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS (SEAL)

LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:

CASE NO. 26 SM 000412

Michael C. Socia and Norel M. Cronin and all The Heirs, Devisees or Legal Representatives of The Estate of Charles Socia, Jr.

and all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. App. §501 et seq:

Windstream Capital LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in North Oxford, numbered 6 Oak Drive, given by **Charles Socia, Jr. to BNY Mortgage Company LLC, dated November 24, 2006, and recorded at Worcester County Registry of Deeds on November 30, 2006, in Book No. 40254, at Page 281**, has filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now, or recently have been, in the **active** military service of the United States of America, then you are 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 should file a written appearance

and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before 3/23/26

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 said Court on Attest:

2/4/2026

Deborah J. Patterson

Recorder

February 20, 2026

Notice is hereby given by: Precision Auto Rebuilders, Inc., 243 W Main St, Dudley, MA 01571 pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39 A that on March 20, 2025 5PM 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 vehicles:

Description of vehicles:

Vehicle: 2015 Ford Focus

VIN# 1FADP3K23FL380803

Owner: Paul Bonczyk 2 Trinity Ave

Worcester MA 01605

This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. c.225, Section 39 A

February 26, 2026

March 5, 2026

March 12, 2026

February 13, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Docket No. WO26P0669AS
CITATION
G.L.c.210, §6**

To:

Julio Caesar Oliveras, Jr.
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth:

A Petition has been presented to said Court by:

Alexandra Baldwin of Webster, MA

Tanisha Espino of Webster, MA requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

Alivia Grace Espino

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: Worcester

ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON:

03/03/2026

WITNESS, Hon. :Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 3, 2026

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

February 13, 2026

February 20, 2026

TOWN OF WEBSTER WATER DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 793

38 HILL STREET WEBSTER, MA

01570

WWW.WEBSTER-MA.GOV

INVITATION FOR BIDS

SEALED BIDS clearly marked "**Scrap Meters**" will be received up to **09:00 A.M.** local time **Friday, February 27, 2026** in the office of the Webster Water Department, 38 Hill Street, Webster, MA 01570 (using FedEx or UPS) **If mailing USPS use Webster Water, P.O. Box 793, Webster, MA 01570. Meters must be picked up within 7 business days from bid award letter. Webster Water is not responsible for discrepancies on the quantity amounts.

Bid shall include:

Price per meter and total bid mount:

• 5/8" - 4,028 \$ _____

• 3/4" - 48 \$ _____

• 1.0" - 39 \$ _____

• 1.5" - 44 \$ _____

• 2.0" - 23 \$ _____

• 3.0" - 5 \$ _____

• 4.0" - 2 \$ _____

• 6.0"-1 \$ _____

• Size unknown-4 \$ _____

\$ Total Amount:

Requests for information should be directed to Michelle Roy, Administrative Assistant: mrroy@webster-ma.gov

Normal business office hours of

7:00A.M. to 3:00P.M. Monday – Friday

by phone 508-943-3861, or visit our website www.webster-ma.gov

Meter material:

Mostly–The Neptune T-10 water meter features a **lead-free, high-copper alloy bronze maincase**. This robust, corrosion-resistant body is designed for long-term durability, withstanding high internal water pressure and in-line piping stresses. The internal measuring chamber is constructed from a proprietary polymer.

Key Details Regarding Materials:

• **Maincase:** Lead-free bronze.

• **Measuring Chamber:** Proprietary polymer/engineered thermoplastic.

• **Bottom Caps:** Available in bronze, cast iron, or a synthetic polymer (5/8" only).

• **Compliance:** NSF/ANSI 61 Annex G and Annex F compliant.

February 20, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage dated November 10, 2022 given by Daniel Yarnie to Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Three Trust u/d/t dated October 25, 2022 (recorded in Book 68416, Page 212), said mortgage recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68476, Page 194, and which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at

1:00 p.m. on the 16th day of March, 2026 on the premises at 64 Leicester Street, Oxford, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

To wit:

Property Address: **64 Leicester Street, Oxford, Massachusetts 01537**

The following parcels of land in Oxford, Worcester County, Massachusetts:

Lots 26A and 26B as shown on that cer-

tain plan recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book

407, Plan 119.

Lots 27 and 28 as shown on that cer-

tain plan recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book

78, Plan 1.

Lot 2 as shown on that certain plan

recorded with the Worcester District

Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 817,

Plan 116.

For title see deed recorded herewith

[Book 68476, Page 190].

Premises to 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 rights of any tenants and parties in possession, if there be any, 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.

The successful bidder will pay all costs of recording the foreclo-

sure deed and any other foreclosure documents including, without limitation, all state and county excise stamp fees, and shall also be responsible for any Title V inspection and repair requirements.

Terms of sale: A deposit of Fifty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$50,000.00) 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 to Mirrione, Shaughnessy & Uitti, LLC, 2 Batterymarch Park, Suite 202, Quincy, MA 02169 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. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Three Trust

u/d/t dated October 25, 2022
Present holder of said mortgage

St. Mary's Parish hosting annual Fish Fry March 6

SHREWSBURY — St. Mary's Parish in Shrewsbury invites you to join us at our annual Lenten Fish Fry. This year's event will be held on Friday, March 6 in the St. Mary's Parish Hall (16 Summer St., Shrewsbury) from 4-8 p.m.

Nearly four dozen people volunteer to prepare, cook and serve dinner. Thanks to the sponsors, dinners are offered at a reasonable price. This year, the Fish & Chips dinner with coleslaw, a soft drink, dessert, and coffee is still just \$10 in advance/\$15 at the door - same great price we've had for several years! Kids can enjoy pizza or macaroni & cheese, plus a soft drink and dessert, for \$5 in advance/\$8 at the door. Clam Chowder, beer, and wine are available for an additional charge.

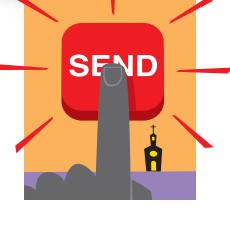
According to Msgr. Mike Rose, the parish was "not looking for another fundraiser, but rather a break-even community event. The Fish Fry is an opportunity for members of the parish and others in the community to gather and socialize, to get to know new people, to have fun, and to eat a great meal. The Fish Fry is intended to be a FUN-raiser!" It has been quite successful, and attendance has certainly grown through the years. Last year, more than 800 meals were served.

For more information on how to purchase tickets, go to stmarysparish.org/fish-fry.

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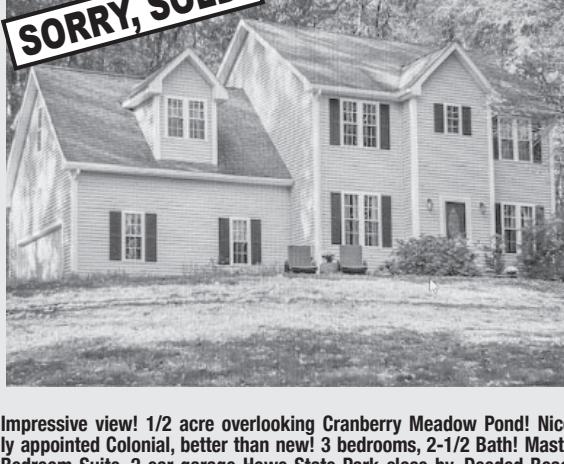


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* June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan* Lori Johnson-Chausse * William Gilmore II * Maureen Cimoch * Bryan Pelletier

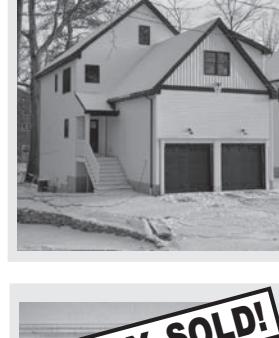
Impressive view!



Impressive view! 1/2 acre overlooking Cranberry Meadow Pond! Nicely appointed Colonial, better than new! 3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 Bath! Master Bedroom Suite. 2 car garage Howe State Park close by. Deeded Beach Rights! A Must See! assisted sale \$545,000



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Webster - 24 Cooper Rd
New Construction - Craftsman Style home
Tucked away on Cooper Rd. Webster Lake with access at Lakeside beach/boat ramp. 3rd of 4 homes being built at this site. Offers 2,155 sq. ft +/- of living area, 7 rms, 4 brs, 2 1/2 baths, 9ft ceiling, wood flooring throughout with ceramic tile baths. Spacious main BR Suite w/ walk-in closet, and private full bath, double sink vanity, finished lower level walk-out w/ slider. Central AC, garage \$649,900



Condominium - 78 Athol Street
Killingly, Ct.
End Unit! Nice floor plan! 2 Bedroom, 1-1/2 Bath, Sliding Door to Deck. Basement w/Bulkhead. Priced to Sell! assisted sale \$205,000

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!



Panoramic View, from this absolutely lovely home. 2600 +/- SF, 3+ Beds, 2 full baths, 2 car detached garage! 63' +/- waterfront. .37 Acres! Sandy Waterfront! \$1,100,000

Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island



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

Webster Lake Waterfront Listing!!

On Indian Point # 10 "Private Rd"



Astounding Panoramic Views across mid-section of Webster Lake! Sun drenched from early morning sunrise till sunset! View the lake from all windows. Located on a peninsula providing 2 Shorelines. Fireplaced Living Room! Recent Kitchen & Bath! Primary Bedroom w/walk-in closet. Hardwood Floors. 2 Baths. FHW Oil Heat! Central Air. Garage. \$ 900,000.

REAL ESTATE





WORCESTER — This Valentine's Day, the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) is debut-

ing a brand-new look—and putting its heart on the road. WRTA will roll out its first newly branded bus featur-

Head over wheels

ing a new logo and heart-themed design that celebrates Worcester's role as the Heart of the Commonwealth.

At the center of the new brand are two conjoined hearts forming a subtle "W" pattern, symbolizing connection at every level: from origin to destination, community to community, person to person, and operator to passenger. The design reflects both Worcester's central location within Massachusetts and WRTA's mission to deliver convenient, comfortable, safe, and reliable transportation throughout the region.

"This project was truly a labor of love," said Josh Rickman, Administrator of WRTA. "Worcester sits at the heart of the Commonwealth, and our transit system plays a vital role in keeping that heart beating—connecting neighborhoods, businesses, schools, and communities across the region."

To ensure the new brand authentically represents the community it serves, WRTA partnered with one of the nation's leading transit design firms and conducted extensive public and internal outreach. More than 376 community members completed surveys, and WRTA staff were engaged throughout the process. Feedback showed strong support for retaining a blue color palette, widespread enthusiasm for the heart sym-

WRTA PUTS ITS HEART ON THE ROAD THIS VALENTINE'S DAY

bol, and a range of preferences across modern, timeless, and progressive design styles—insights that directly informed the final design.

The heart motif represents the people onboard and establishes a consistent, recognizable visual identity across the fleet. The new branding also standardizes the placement of contact information on the exterior of buses, improving clarity and system-wide recognition.

Safety and visibility were key considerations in the design. The new WRTA logo appears on all sides of each bus in retroreflective white to enhance visibility, while high-contrast elements support rider and roadway safety. Forward diagonal lines add a sense of movement and energy, reflecting WRTA's role in

keeping the region moving forward.

The new brand is anchored by WRTA's updated slogan: "moving the Worcester region forward with heart." The message captures the Authority's commitment to service, connection, and pride in a city that truly sits at the heart of the Commonwealth.

This Valentine's Day, riders will see more than a new look on the road—they'll see a symbol of connection, community, and care traveling through the Worcester region.

Share the Love. See our new bus on the road? Share a photo or video and tag us on social media:

Instagram: @hop.on.wrta

Facebook: @theWRTA

X (formerly Twitter): @thertha

Use #iHeartWRTA so we can see and share your posts.

The Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) is a regional transit system that services the City of Worcester and the surrounding 36 communities in the Central Massachusetts area with a bus fleet that includes diesel-electric hybrid buses, and clean-diesel buses. The second largest regional transit authority in Massachusetts, the WRTA offers reliable, comfortable, and safe transportation for traveling to work, shopping, school, medical appointments, and leisure activities. The WRTA also provides paratransit service for the elderly and disabled, as well as a variety of special services for those groups in the entire service area. In 2025, WRTA provided five million passenger trips throughout its system. All fixed routes and paratransit services are free through June 2026.

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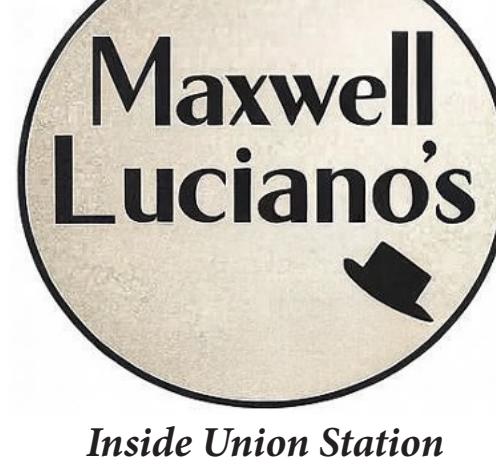
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