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Friday, February 20, 2026

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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, which provided initial funding for the purchase of drones and has continued to support the program’s expansion

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.

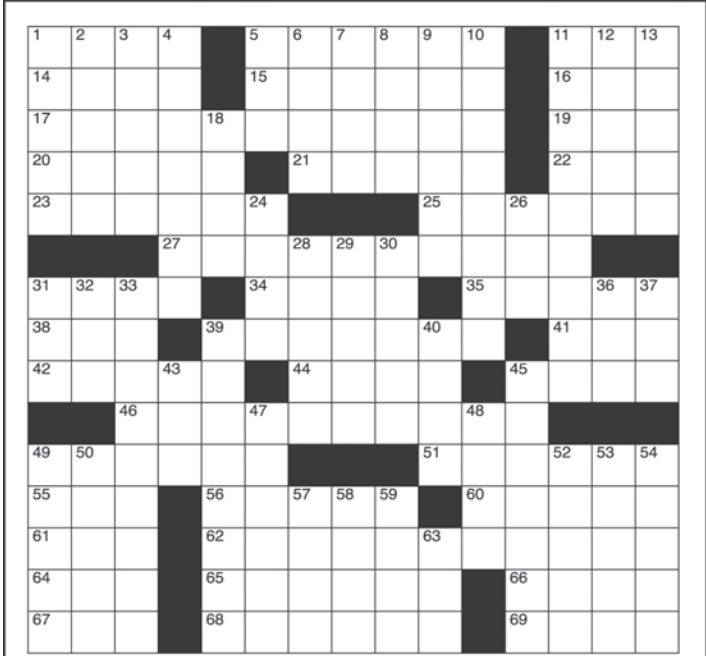


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- The Arimathea Corporation*

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www.ggbfunerals.com  
e-mail info@ggbfunerals.com



CLUES ACROSS

1. Cut quickly  
5. A way to state clearly  
11. River in NE Scotland  
14. Expansive  
15. Lacking social polish  
16. Amount of time  
17. Frame  
19. Automobile  
20. Toadstools  
21. High school dances  
22. Utilize  
23. Experimented with  
25. One-sided  
27. Acquisitive  
31. Potted plants  
34. Everyone has one  
35. Kalahari Desert lake  
38. Unidentified flying object  
39. People 65 and over
41. Small amount  
42. Daughter of Acrisius  
44. Ornamental box  
45. Government agents  
46. Uncertain  
49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish  
51. Treeless plains  
55. One’s sense of self-importance  
56. Consumer advocate  
60. Type of lounge  
61. Body part  
62. Can be persuaded  
64. Woman (French)  
65. Ready and willing to be taught  
66. Arab ruler title  
67. Unhappy  
68. Gradually went away  
69. Able to think clearly

CLUES DOWN

1. Brushed  
2. Small water spirit (Germ.)  
3. Heroes  
4. Monetary units  
5. Some don’t want to share theirs  
6. Free-swimming invertebrate  
7. Litigates  
8. Outer  
9. Parallelograms  
10. Uneasy feelings  
11. Cross  
12. A way to remove  
13. Pages can be dog-\_\_  
18. Ukrainian city  
24. A citizen of Denmark  
26. Month  
28. Hindu queens  
29. Group of chemicals  
30. Rider of Rohan  
31. Wet dirt
32. Southwestern Russia city  
33. Observed  
36. Angry  
37. Drivers’ licenses  
39. Musical composition  
40. Auction  
43. They \_\_  
45. Women  
47. Be filled with love for  
48. Thick-soled sock  
49. Appears  
50. Old World lizard  
52. The leading performer  
53. Protein  
54. “Gunga Din” script writer  
57. Art \_\_, around 1920  
58. \_\_ Blyton, children’s author  
59. Abnormal breathing  
63. A place to rest


PUZZLE SOLUTION

Э	Н	У	С		Д	Э	О	У	Э		Д	У	С
У	И	У	Э		Э	Г	И	О	О		Э	У	У
А	Л	И	Г	И	В	У	Н	Э	У	У		У	Э
У	О	У	У	В		У	Э	О	У	У		О	Э
С	У	Д	У	У	Д		У	Э	Э	Л	У	У	С
			Э	Л	Г	О	С	Э	У	У	И		
С	О	Э	Д		О	У	У	И		Э	У	У	Д
О	У	Л		С	У	О	И	У	С		О	Д	У
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		С	У	О	И	О	И	У	У	У			
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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.

www.StonebridgePress.com



**ARTHRITIS?**

Is your arthritis care all that you would hope it to be?  
If not we may be able to help.

**Osteoarthritis  
of Hands - Knees- Hips.  
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Rheumatoid Arthritis  
Psoriatic Arthritis - Gout**

**Charles A. Birbara, MD**  
Associate Professor of Medicine, Umass-Chan Medical School  
25 Oak Ave., Worcester, MA 01605 508-799-2674  
“Committed to Advancing appropriate care to people with arthritis”

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CALL: 508-909-4149  
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**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 Alsammarraie, 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, Greenlief Terence J Est, and Greenlief, Nicholas A, to Brc Investment Group LLC.  
\$155,000, 21 Central Ave, Derderian, 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 Sundeen, 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, Wassenar, 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, Robet T, and Douglas, Sharon, to Jimenez, Kelvin.  
\$445,000, Goddard St, 73 Willard Road LLC, and Wilmington Svgs Fund Soc, to Amdt LLC.  
\$175,000, 48 Myrtle Ave, Ozaniak Steven P Est, and Marciniak, 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.

**ALMANAC**

**OPEN TO CLOSE**

**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.  
**DUDLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-4411)**  
Staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week  
**DUDLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-8040)**  
Monday-Sunday .....6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**OXFORD**

**OXFORD TOWN HALL (508) 987-6027**  
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:  
Monday .....8 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Tuesday-Thursday .....8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Friday .....8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**WEBSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-1212)**  
For emergencies, call 911  
**WEBSTER FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-3875)**  
Monday-Friday .....8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Saturday .....8 a.m. to 12 p.m.



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.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!  
Want to receive updates about our upcoming events? Sign up for email alerts by visiting our website or contacting our Adult Services Librarian Jessica Fontaine at jfontaine@cwmars.org

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. Mommas 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 SoL 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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# Friday's Child




**Yaidalis**  
**Age 14**  
**Registration #8705**

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



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STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

# Steady hands in unsteady times

In a world that seems to reward the loud-est 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 ref-eree’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 disagree-ment. 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 con-trol.

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 cut-ting 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 per-sonal 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 accom-plish. Volunteers organizing food drives without fanfare. Town officials working late into the night to sort out budgets and logistics. Neighbors checking in on neigh-bors. 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 con-viction. 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 an-onymity. 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

## 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 Ralp Conroy started to fly, around 1937, he “would occasionally land the air-plane 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 develop-ing 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 air-fields 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 excep-tional 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 opera-tion 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 & Treasure 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 zon-ing 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](mailto:auburnmuseum@verizon.net) or 508-832-6856, [www.auburnhistoricalmuseum.org](http://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

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 assur-ance 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-serv-ing 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 ver-ify, 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» contribu-tion 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 exam-ple: 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 con-tribute 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, con-tributions 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 flexibil-ity 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 invest-ments are naturally riskier than fixed-in-come vehicles. When starting your career, you may prefer a portfolio weighted toward aggressive growth, as you have years to recover from downturns. Nearing retire-ment, though, consider shifting to a more conservative mix. A financial advisor can help you choose an appropriate mix at dif-ferent 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 con-sider 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 expens-es, 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 posi-tion 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](mailto:dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com). Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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



OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES 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, Jaelynn Caracciolo, Savannah Cioppa, Anna Costa Heroux, Lilyan Daoust, Conner Dawe, Michaela Dwyer, Craigie 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 Falkenhainer, 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 Jyringi-Langevin, Sophia Kinhan, Chloe Lavallee, Riley Maki, Samantha Marrier, Olivia Martinez, Agnes Molloy, Nathan Paquette, David-James Purkis, Dionne Quarshie, Harper Shoblom, Amanda Torres, Samuel Yogaratnam

OXFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCES 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 Palaia, 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 Deechaleune, Julia Do Nascimento, Shea Dunlavey, 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, Miranda Bieger, Tyler Bouley, Bradley Bush, Lucas Bush, Kyle Case, Grant Corriveau, Kaiden Corriveau, Anthony Degaetano, Caleb Dubsky, Grady Eason, Timothy Forand, Jazziebel 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, Leeann 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, Harlei McConnell, Gregory Meneguzzo, Tayshi Nguyen, Tai Nguyen-Le, Annelise Palaia, Colby Palin, Fernando Paniagua, James Paul, Margret Paul, Maura Persall, Emilia Raimondi, Carlos Ramirez, Lorenzo Riccardi, Sophia Riccardi, Hannah Riley, Avery Robillard, Ayla Schonberg, Aiden Socia, Kylie Stidsen, Thomas Stone, Seamus Sweeney, Charlese Williams

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](http://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 Etter 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](http://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](http://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.

For Advertising Information Call 774-200-7308 email: [mikaela@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:mikaela@stonebridgepress.news)

National Grid hosting energy savings event in Auburn

AUBURN — National Grid invites the community to a Customer Assistance energy savings event Thursday, Feb. 26 from 4-7 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library, 369 Southbridge St.  
You will be able to connect with assistance program experts from National Grid, as well as other providers such as Mass Save and Eversource, to discuss the resources your family needs, all under one roof, all in one day.  
If you are unable to attend, please visit [ngrid.com/maevent](http://ngrid.com/maevent) to view National Grid's Customer Assistance event calendar and connect with a Consumer Advocate.

Pocketbook Bingo is back!

DUDLEY — The Dudley Woman's Club most popular fundraiser is back! Pocketbook Bingo will be held Sunday, March 22 at the PACC, 37 Harris St. in Webster.  
Doors open at 1 p.m., with BINGO starting at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$35 per person for this fun afternoon of BINGO with the gals plus the chance to win 10 designer handbags!  
Lots of laughs, giveaways and raffles. The DWC's voluntary Giving Project for this event is nonperishable breakfast items for the Webster-Dudley Food Share. Tickets online at [www.dudleywomensclub.org/pocketbookbingo](http://www.dudleywomensclub.org/pocketbookbingo).

Public hearing planned on Webster school budget

WEBSTER — The Webster School Committee has proposed an operating budget for FY2027. A Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Michael Makara Conference Room, 77 Poland St., Webster.  
Copies of the budget and supporting documentation can be found immediately on the Webster Public Schools Web site at [www.webster-schools.org](http://www.webster-schools.org) on the Office of Business and Finance page. Hard copies may also be obtained from the Webster Public School Administration Offices, 77 Poland St.

[www.StonebridgePress.com](http://www.StonebridgePress.com)



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## 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.



# *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 first-time 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 Georae, Jack Richard, Savannah Lanoalis, 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 Deechaleune, Aiden Socia, and Keira Hryzan (not photographed) our January Students of the Month.

## PRESIDENT'S DAY



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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](http://www.wmrr.org), [ralphkimball@charter.net](mailto: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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AAU membership needed \$28 (purchase on our website, we'll pull them)

**Tryout # 1:** February 21, 2026  
**Location:** Tantasqua Jr High School (320 Brookfield Rd., Fiskdale, MA)  
• Boys Grades 4th-6th 8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.  
• Boys Grades 7th & 8th 9:45 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
• Boys Grades 9th-12th 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
• Varsity players sign up if still playing with school\*\*

**Tryout # 2:** Sunday March 1, 2026  
**Location:** Oxford High School (100 Carbuncle Dr., Oxford, MA)  
• Girls Grades 4th-6th 4th-6th 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
• Boys Grades 4th-6th 4:30p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
• Boys & Girls Grades 5:45 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
• Boys and Girls Grades 7:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
• Varsity players sign up if still playing with school\*\*

**NEW PROGRAMS** Spring 2026  
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Varsity players cannot tryout until school season has concluded, still sign up. Will announce another March tryout (grades 9-12)

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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



MEET Dottie

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 fosters 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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# 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 Millette of Dudley  
Jasmyn 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  
Wednesdays, 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)

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)

Exam Prep: MA Construction Supervisors Unrestricted License (CSL)  
Wednesdays, March 4-April 8, 6-8 p.m., \$899 (Class ID: 43361)

Introduction to Japanese Floral Art Design  
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: 42792)

Bob Ross Painting Session: Mountain Rhapsody  
Tuesday, March 10, 5-8 p.m., \$69 (Class ID: 42848)

Learn how to Paint with Acrylics  
Wednesdays, March 11-April 15, 7-9 p.m., \$179 (Class ID: 42837)

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  
Wednesdays, 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)  
Wednesday, March 18, 6:30-8 p.m., \$59 (Class ID: 43358)

Registration is open & rolling throughout the term. Classes are offered through May 2026. You can register three ways:  
Online at <https://bay-path.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](http://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>.

# OBITUARY

## Lawrence “Larry” Bonnette, 76



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.



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

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LEGALS

**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 RMTP 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 RMTP 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 he 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ • ¾” - 48 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ • 1.0” - 39 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ • 1.5” - 44 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ • 2.0” - 23 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ • 3.0” - 5 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ • 4.0” - 2 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ • 6.0”-1 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ • Size unknown-4 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ • Total meters: 4,194 **\$ Total Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

Requests for information should be directed to Michelle Roy, Administrative Assistant: [mroy@webster-ma.gov](mailto:mroy@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](http://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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 certain plan recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 407, Plan 119. Lots 27 and 28 as shown on that certain 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 and 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 By his Attorneys, Mirrione, Shaughnessy & Uitti, LLC 2 Batterymarch park, Suite 202 Quincy, MA 02169 February 20,2026 February 27, 2026 March 6, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO26P0331EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of: **Nikolaos Darlagiannis Date of Death: 11/30/2025**

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Anna Darlagiannis-Livingstone of Shrewsbury MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Anna Darlagiannis-Livingstone of Shrewsbury MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**. **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/03/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. **UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)** A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. **WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.** Date: January 30, 2026 Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate 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 6, 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: 2012 Honda Civic VIN# 2HGFB2F5XCH564873 Owner: Christian Cooley 11 Western Ave Norwich CT 06360 This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. c.225, Section 39 A February 13, 2026 February 20, 2026 February 27, 2026



# 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](http://stmarysparish.org/fish-fry).

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

# 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): @therta Use #iHeartWRTA so we can see and share your posts.

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2 Washington Square Worcester, MA 01604

Good until April 17th, 2026

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.

NO ONE FIGHTS HARDER POUND FOR POUND. EVEN THOUGH SHE DOESN'T QUITE WEIGH ONE.

At the region’s only Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, you’ll find a team of specialists who are ready 24-hours a day to help high-risk infants rise above their challenges and go home with their families. Our ability to provide around-the-clock, exceptional care for premies and their families is more proof that we’re the only pediatric hospital of its kind in the region.

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