WEBSTER TIMES

Free by request to residents of Webster, Dudley and the Oxfords

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©2026, Issue #29

Friday, July 24, 2026

Calling all creative types to Webster's Bites, Books and Blooms

WEBSTER — It's not too late to exercise your creative muscles and join other floral artists, professional and amateur alike, in creating a display for Bites, Books and Blooms. This annual highlight of the Webster social calendar will take place at the Gladys Kelly Library on Sept. 23. In past years we have seen these representations through flowers of a favorite book or poem can range from literal to abstract and serious to silly. All have been intriguing and thought-provoking and demonstrate the talent for the visual arts that exists in our community.

For example, in 2024 Forget Me Nots Flowers & Gifts in Dudley chose to interpret Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone with a gorgeous burgundy sorting hat, a literal object from the book, alongside a pumpkin arrangement, a more abstract nod to the festive spirit of Hogwart's Great Hall at Halloween.

This year, Deb Horan, owner of Booklovers' Gourmet, has chosen a poem, The Red Wheelbarrow by William Carlos Williams. She says, "I was inspired by this simple, descriptive poem of everyday objects and setting that asks us to just stop and observe our surroundings." We can't wait to see how she will translate this into a visual form through flowers.

Courtesy

"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," a Book in Bloom created in 2024 by Forget Me Nots in Dudley.

If you are inspired to submit your own Book in Bloom, please fill out the commitment form on the Friends of the Gladys Kelly Library website by August 3 or get a form at the library at 2 Lake Street in Webster.

Still unsure? Come to a Books in Bloom workshop on August 12, where Elaine Davies will lead a planning session, teaching you the mechanics of putting together a floral interpretation. Register for the workshop at the library or online under the library's events calendar: August 12, 6 pm "How to Create a Book in Bloom."

Whether you will be a featured artist or not, don't miss this evening of food, music and fun on Sept. 23, benefiting the library's free programming for all. Tickets will go on sale beginning Aug. 22.

Dudley Recreation Commission receives $2,400 grant

DUDLEY — The Town of Dudley Recreation Commission is excited to announce that it has received a $2,400 grant award from the Janet Malser Humanities Trust.

This generous funding will support the Recreation Commission's efforts to bring more live musical performances to community events.

"We had a live musician at our 2025 Spooktacular that made the event more fun and cohesive," Recreation Commission Chair Alicia Figueiredo said. "We are excited to partner with the Janet Malser Humanities Trust to bring more live music to our community events in 2026/2027."

The Recreation Commission welcomes local musicians, bands, and

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Auburn resident sets out to raise awareness for Frontotemporal Degeneration

REGION — The Jim Tobin Memorial is inviting the community to support two upcoming events dedicated to raising awareness of Frontotemporal Degeneration (FTD), advancing research, and advocating for families affected by the disease.

The Third Annual Jim Tobin Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26 at Holden Hills Country Club. Registration is now open for foursomes at $500 per team, and individuals who do not golf are welcome

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Alley May Coté Dorgan to headline Keys for Kitties event

WEBSTER — Community Cat Connection will present Keys for Kitties, featuring Alley May Coté Dorgan (she/her/hers), an accomplished composer and multi-instrumentalist, in an exclusive piano performance. The performance will be held at Webster Federated Church of Christ, 4 Church St., at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 8.

The public is invited to join for an afternoon of music for all tastes and times. Attendees can enjoy neo-classical musical compilations featuring renditions of Green Day, Red Hot Chili Peppers, and Metallica in a whole new way. The concert will feature two 45-minute sets with a brief intermission, and light refreshments will be available. Audio or video recording and flash photography are not allowed during the performance.

All proceeds support Community Cat Connection, a no-kill nonprofit shelter. Tickets are $10 each and can be purchased at the door the evening of the event or at Community Cat Connection (289 Thompson Rd. in Webster) during open hours. The shelter is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and you can call (508) 949-0779 for more information.

Coté Dorgan has been playing the piano for 40 years, composing for 32 years, and accompanying for 33 years. She has studied classical piano since her grandmother, JoAnn Milburn May, recognized her talent at age four.

Coté Dorgan attended Worcester State University on the Frédéric François Chopin scholarship and has also studied and performed at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, and Thayer Music Conservatory in Lancaster. She has appeared as a solo pianist, accompanist, composer, and arranger around the Worcester area, and has also composed and arranged neo-classical/new age solo piano music for special events.Alley has played drums in several bands and is a member of three semi-professional choruses: the MasterSingers of Worcester, co-founded by her grandmother in the 1970s; the Worcester

Turn To EVENT *page* A10

Courtesy

On Tuesday, July 13, Det. Sgt. Joe Reed and Det. Tim Whiting of the Webster Police Department met with Mrs. Minarik's 2nd-grade class at Park Ave Elementary School to discuss the use of the police bicycle and give a safety presentation. The kids discussed the different types of bikes they have learned about recently and engaged in question-and-answer sessions. Det. Sgt. Reed and Det. Whiting talked about summer safety, including helmet use, proper use of 911, and safety around pools and lakes. The kids were excited to wear Chief Shaw's official bike uniform shirt as part of the presentation. Photo courtesy of the department's Facebook page.

PET of the WEEK

BAYPATH HUMANE SOCIETY OF HOPKINTON
Small Shelter Big Heart

Meet Jill!

Jill is a sweet, affectionate girl with a constantly wagging tail and a heart full of love. She thrives on companionship and enjoys being close to her people, whether she's relaxing on the couch, napping after a walk, or greeting you in the morning with one of her favorite squeaky toys. Her adorable morning routine includes happy circles, tail wags, and plenty of requests for pets and attention.

Jill is a low-energy dog who enjoys a relaxed lifestyle. She loves short daily walks, naps throughout the day, and spending time with her family.

One of Jill's favorite activities is going for car rides. Just mentioning a ride gets her excited. Jill is a smart girl who knows several commands, including sit, give paw (both paws!), and lay down. Because she is highly food motivated, treats are a great way to continue building her skills and confidence.

Jill would do best with an adopter who understands that she can be selective around other dogs. She has made great progress with positive reinforcement training and treats, and would thrive with an adopter who can support her ongoing training.

If you're looking for a gentle, devoted dog who will greet you every day with a wagging tail and a happy heart, Jill may be the perfect match for you

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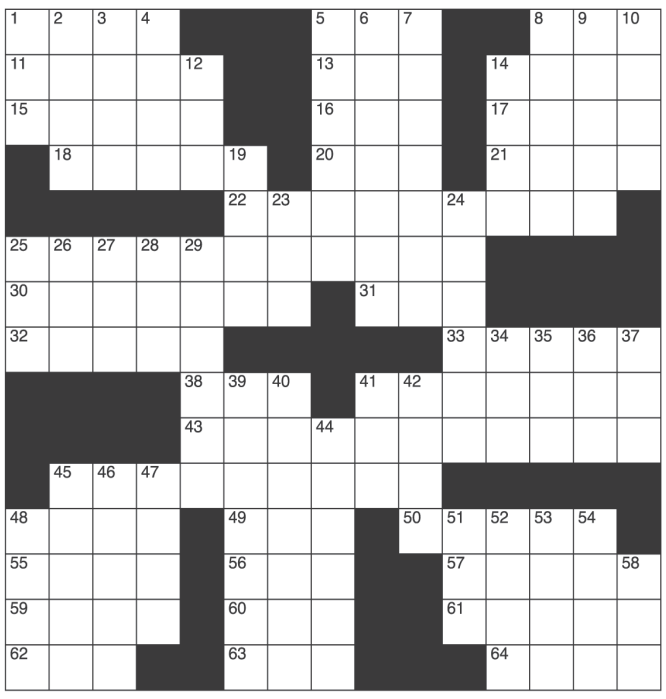


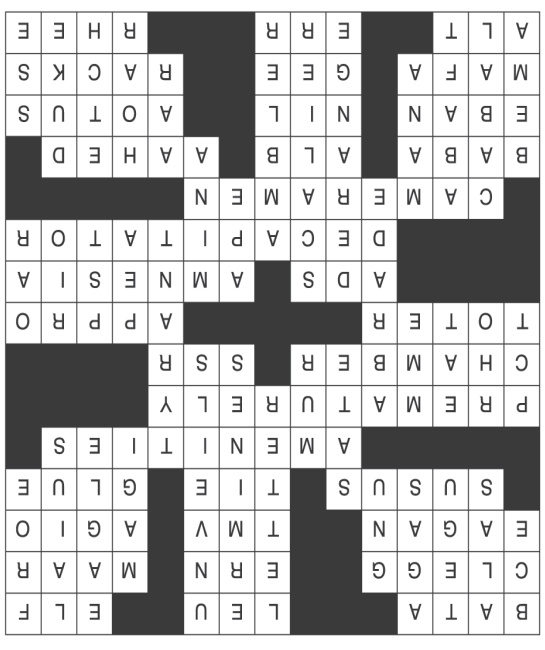
CLUES ACROSS

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

CLUES DOWN

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

PUZZLE SOLUTION



First Congregational Church invites community to celebrate 250 years of faith

AUBURN — The First Congregational Church, UCC, in Auburn is inviting the community to celebrate an extraordinary milestone - 250 years of faith, fellowship, and service - at its 250th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, July 25.

Founded on Jan. 25, 1776, First Congregational Church is the first church established in Auburn, with a history that predates the signing of the Declaration of Independence. For two and a half centuries, the church has been a place of worship, community, and service for generations of Auburn residents.

The celebration begins at 3:30 p.m. on the church steps with a ceremonial reading of the Declaration of Independence, honoring both our nation's beginnings and the church's unique place in history.

Guests will then be welcomed into the sanctuary for a special anniversary program featuring remarks from distinguished guests, including U.S. Representative Jim McGovern, State Representative Paul Frost, Rev. Bob Bachelder, Southern New England Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Carol Steinbrecher of the United Church of Christ, representatives from Auburn's Scouts BSA, and additional community and church leaders.

Following the program, the celebration moves outdoors to the church lawn for an afternoon and evening of family-friendly activities. Guests can enjoy cupcakes, colonial lawn games, food trucks, and fellowship while exploring the church grounds. As the sun sets, everyone is invited to stay for an outdoor movie under the stars.

Throughout the event, the church will also be open for visitors to explore historic displays and artifacts that tell the story of the congregation's 250-year journey and its enduring impact on the Auburn community.

The event is free and open to the public. Whether you are a current member, former member, neighbor, history enthusiast, or simply looking for a fun community event, all are welcome to join in this once-in-a-generation celebration.

Event Details

First Congregational Church, UCC
128 Central St., Auburn

Saturday, July 25

3:30 p.m. – Reading of the Declaration of Independence
4 p.m. – Anniversary Program
Following the Program – Community Celebration with historic displays, cupcakes, colonial lawn games, food trucks, and an outdoor movie.

For more information, visit www.fccauburn.org or follow First Congregational Church Auburn on Facebook.

Local churches team up for Compassion VBS

OXFORD — Join the First Congregational Church of Oxford and Oxford United Methodist Church this summer for Compassion Vacation Bible School! Children ages five to 12 are invited Aug. 3-7 from 8:30 a.m. to noon each day for a fun-filled week of music, games, crafts, stories, and activities designed to encourage kindness, compassion, and faith. Space is limited to 20 children, so register early by calling (508) 987-2211 or e-mailing firstchurchoxford@gmail.com.

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PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS

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The Webster Times (USPS#024-928) (ISSN 1945-6611) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, Inc., 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical postage paid at Southbridge, MA and additional mailing office(s).. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Webster Times, P.O. B ox 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

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Real Estate

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$1,000,000, 325 Southbridge St, 325 Southbridge LLC, to Drury Square Plaza LLC.

$525,000, 25 Manor Rd, Earielo, Michael Anthony, and Melendez-Earielo, Jennife, to Lon, Daniel.

$482,500, 32 Pakachoag St, Petraitis, Craig R, to Petriatis, Derek Craig.

$425,000, 12 Shore Dr, Home By Holly LLC, to Adisano, Carmen, and Adisano, Eric.

$300,000, 79 Central St, Warre, James M, to Riello, Gary.

DUDLEY

$662,000, 44 New Boston Rd, Pianka, Zdzislaw, and Pianka, Katarzyna, to Hall, Donna, and Manoogian, Peter.

$610,000, 42 Eagle Dr, Kicilinski, Marcin, and Kicilinski, Joanna, to Bubon, Ronald P, and Bubon, Joyce T.

$535,000, 25 Noble St, St Francis, Julie, to Holland, Casey, and White, Rebekka Leigh.

OXFORD

$425,000, 665 Main St, Ryan, Brendan P, to Harvey, Kristin L, and Harvey, Colby D.

$415,000, 12 Carron Ln, Cherebua, Ama A, and Annancy, Ernest F, to Burgos, Jean O, and Barreto, Carmen D.

$395,000, 22 Quobaug Ave, Wheeler, Nathen J, and Wheeler, Veronica, to Barge, Kailyn J, and Barge, Brent A.

$80,000, 11 Lovett Rd, Austin Rt, and Bissonnette, Carey R, to Barge, Kailyn, and Murphy, Robert.

$10,000, 17 Millbury Blvd, Silva, Eric A, and Atsma, Lisa M, to Silva, Eric A.

WEBSTER

$550,000, 6 Emmanuel Ave, Hernandez, Jovanny Antoni, and Moya, Blanca, to Lynch, Patricia.

$515,000, 30 Linwood St, Leddy, Kerin, and Leddy, Kalyn Aline, to Karapanos, Chloe D.

$433,000, 12 Whitcomb St, Tessier, Douglas W, and Tessier, Lisa M, to Duodu, Bismark K.

$411,000, 33 Highland St, Cianci, Edward A, and Frechette, Raymond, to Bunna, Emmanuel Opoku.

$370,000, 7 Birchwood Dr, Decelles, Theresa, to Bonin, Stephen P.

$300,000, 14 Brandes St, Gadoury Jr, Ernest J, to Welcome, Pamela Lee.

$220,000, 4 Crosby St, Revive Commonwealth LLC, to Kay, James, and Cianci, Edward A.

$205,000, 4 Crosby St, Gion Sr, Daniel W, and Gion, Lynn A, to Revive Commonweatlh 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.

Explore "History and Legends through Song" at Gladys E. Kelly Library

WEBSTER — On Thursday, Aug. 6, the musical duo Sultana will bring "History and Legends through Song" to Gladys Kelly Public Library at 2 Lake St. in Webster, at 6:30 p.m.

The program consists of songs, history and slides about fascinating historical or legendary people and events. The show will include songs about New England History, Ancient Mesopotamia, a character from Arthurian legend, a renowned radio broadcast and more. "History and Legends through Song" is part of the series "Live Music Making History Live." The other shows in the series are "The Roots of American Popular Music," "The Railroad in Song," and "Popular Music and Veterans."

The duo Sultana is Jon and Li Waterman, both lifelong musicians and songwriters. Jon is also a licensed history teacher in Massachusetts. He created "Live Music Making History Live" in 2018 with the belief that history and entertainment go together - throughout the ages, songs, stories and theater have included history, and history is – or should be – entertaining.

The program is supported in part by a grant from the Webster Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall

Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall
This two-bedroom cottage near Tignish provides sweeping views of the ocean, the beach, and the North Cape lighthouse. Enjoy kayaking, bicycling, walking the beach, swimming in the warmer Gulf Stream waters, and exploring the community of Nail Pond and the many PEI attractions. Full Appliances. The cottage sleeps six comfortably. Weekly rent is only $1,100. Contact Scott, for more information at 603-254-5032, or scottm@plymouth.edu.

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Girl Scout troops welcome new members

AUBURN — Girls entering grades K and 1 in the fall are invited to join Troop 65600, which meets in Auburn every other Tuesday 5:30-6:30 p.m., and Troop 655999, which meets every other Thursday in Dudley from 6-7:15 p.m. Girl membership registration fee is $111, and is active until September 30, 2027. Financial Assistance is available.

Girl Scouts is the premier organization for girls to learn about leadership, financial literacy, life skills, the outdoors, community service, science and technology.

Girl Scout programming is customizable for all types of learners!

Previous Girl Scout experience is not necessary.

You can register for a spot in the troop at https://go.gscwm.org/troop65600

Questions? Email info@gscwm.org or call 508-365-0115.

About Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts serves nearly 6,000 girls in grades K through 12 with the strong support of over 2,500 adult volunteers in 186 towns and cities in central and western Massachusetts. The Girl Scout program allows girls to discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together while building their personal leadership qualities. GSCWM supports girls by giving them extraordinary opportunities to explore, experience, and learn about their world and helps girls recognize that they are vital members of their communities.

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Cadence Stawiecki named to Salve Regina University's Spring Dean's List

NEWPORT, R.I. — Cadence Stawiecki of Dudley was named to the Dean's List during the spring 2026 academic semester at Salve Regina University. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 for full-time students completing at least 12 graded credits, or a semester grade point average of 3.8 for part-time students completing at least six credits.

Salve Regina University is a Catholic, coeducational institution of higher education founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1947. It offers rigorous, innovative academic programming in the liberal arts tradition that prepares students to be global citizens and lifelong learners. More than 2,700 undergraduate and graduate students from around the world are enrolled in Salve's 60+ academic programs, which include bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees along with graduate certificates and combined bachelor's/master's programs. Every undergraduate student engages in Salve Compass, a four-year experience that charts a personalized, values-based path connecting college to a successful, fulfilling career and life. The University is also home to the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy, a multi-disciplinary research center focused on the intersection of politics, policy and ideas. For more information visit salve.edu.

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WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests from July 5-18.

Rebecca A. Westbury, age 39, of Douglas was arrested on July 5 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor) and Possession of a Class B Drug.

A 29-year-old male whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on July 6 for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

Gregory L. Devlin, age 43, of Holden was arrested on July 7 in connection with an out of agency warrant.

Donald Jay Wessman, age 50, of Southbridge was arrested on July 7 in connection with a warrant of apprehension.

Charlette A. Salisbury, age 58, of Sterling, Conn. was arrested on July 7 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and making an Improper Turn.

Valentin Almanzar Rosario, age 46, of Webster was arrested on July 8 as a Fugitive From Justice on a Court Warrant.

Tyler Zachery Bailey, age 31, of Dudley was arrested on July 8 in connection with a warrant.

Michael Wolverson, age 25, of Webster was arrested on July 8 in connection with a warrant.

Joseph H. Gardner, age 43, of Worcester was arrested on July 9 for Possession of a Class B Drug (Subsequent Offense). Alicia Rojas, age 40, of Worcester was arrested during the same incident in connection with a warrant.

Brian P. Bourque, age 42, of Webster was arrested on July 15 in connection with a warrant.

Gerard L. Nadeau, age 70, of Webster was arrested on July 16 in connection with a warrant.

A 40-year-old female from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on July 17 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Christopher Adam Palmerino, age 41, of Webster was arrested on July 17 for Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon, Disorderly Conduct, and Disturbing the Peace.

A 48-year-old female from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on July 17 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Michael Sael Liriano Rivera, age 29, of Las Piedras, Puerto Rico was arrested on July 18 on Probable Cause From Another Agency.

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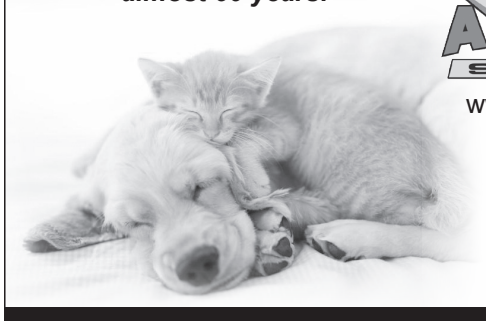
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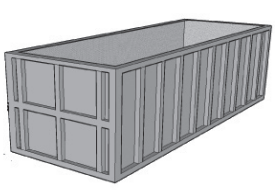
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Gladys E. Kelly Library
2 Lake St, Webster MA
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July 7th through Aug 14th
Park Ave Elementary (Cafeteria)
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July 7th through July 31st
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Viewpoint

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

Stonebridge Press

A STONEBRIDGE PRESS WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
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STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

The stories we grow together

Libraries have always been places where imagination takes root. Long before digital screens became part of daily life, they invited people to discover unfamiliar worlds, explore new ideas and connect with neighbors through a shared love of reading. One of the most enjoyable reminders of that mission is an event that asks participants to take those stories off the page and bring them to life in an entirely different way.

The Gladys Kelly Library's annual Bites, Books and Blooms celebration does something remarkable. It combines literature, art, music and community into an evening that appeals to readers and non-readers alike. It reminds everyone that creativity does not belong to professionals alone. It belongs to anyone willing to try something new.

That is perhaps the greatest strength of the Books in Bloom tradition.

Participants are challenged to create floral interpretations inspired by books or poems. There are no rigid rules. Some arrangements faithfully recreate memorable scenes or recognizable objects. Others capture the mood, symbolism or emotion of a favorite story in ways that encourage viewers to stop, think and perhaps even revisit a classic they have not read in years.

The beauty of the exhibit lies in its diversity. One display may make visitors smile with a clever visual joke. Another may quietly inspire reflection. Together, they become a gallery that celebrates not only literature but also the unique perspectives of the people who call Webster and the surrounding communities home. That community spirit deserves recognition.

Events like this succeed because local businesses, volunteers, artists and residents choose to participate. A florist contributes professional expertise. A bookstore owner offers literary inspiration. Amateur designers discover talents they never knew they possessed. Visitors purchase tickets, admire the displays and, in doing so, help support free library programming that serves children, families and seniors throughout the year.

It is easy to think of creativity as something reserved for painters, sculptors or musicians. Books in Bloom challenges that assumption. It encourages people who may never have entered an art competition to experiment with flowers, color, texture and symbolism. The result is an exhibit that is welcoming rather than intimidating. Perhaps even more importantly, it creates conversations.

Someone who has never read "The Red Wheelbarrow" may find themselves looking up William Carlos Williams after seeing a floral interpretation. A child may ask why a particular arrangement represents a favorite novel. Friends may compare their own reading lists while walking from display to display. Those moments are exactly what libraries hope to inspire: curiosity leading to discovery.

The planning workshop being offered before the event is another reminder that participation matters more than perfection. Not everyone begins with experience arranging flowers, but everyone begins with imagination. Providing guidance lowers the barrier to entry and opens the door for more community members to share their ideas.

In an age when so much entertainment is consumed alone, there is something refreshing about gathering around books in a way that is interactive, colorful and distinctly local. These are the kinds of traditions that give a town its character. They create memories, strengthen friendships and remind residents that culture does not only happen in large cities or famous museums. It thrives wherever people are willing to create together.

As September approaches, there is still time for someone to decide that this is the year they will take part. Whether inspired by a childhood favorite, a classic novel or a beloved poem, each new display adds another voice to the conversation.

The finished arrangements may last only a short time, but the inspiration they spark can endure much longer. That is the quiet magic of libraries. They do not simply preserve stories. They encourage every generation to tell new ones, in whatever form their imagination allows.

The last pay phone

LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET

By CHARLES

Every once in a while, something disappears so quietly that you don't realize it has gone until you go looking for it. That happened to me a few weeks ago.

I wasn't actually planning to make a phone call. I simply drove past an old convenience store where I distinctly remembered a pay phone standing outside for decades. It had been tucked beneath a little metal hood, facing the parking lot. It wasn't attractive. It wasn't historic. It wasn't something anyone photographed.

It was simply...there. Except it wasn't.

The concrete pad remained, along with four rusty bolts sticking out of the ground like tiny gravestones. If you didn't know what had once occupied that spot, you'd never give it a second glance.

For anyone under about 30 years old, the idea of needing a pay phone probably sounds ridiculous. We all carry computers in our pockets now. If we're lost, we have GPS. If we need help, we can text. If we're running late, we can call before anyone has time to wonder where we are.

But there was a time when finding a pay phone could feel like finding water in the desert.

You always needed a quarter. If you didn't have one, you started checking cup holders, coat pockets or the bottom of your glove compartment. Sometimes you'd ask a stranger, "Do you have change for a dollar?" Nobody thought that was odd.

There was an unspoken etiquette, too. You kept your conversation short if someone else was waiting. If the weather was bad, you'd hunch beneath the little metal cover while rain dripped off the edges. In winter, the handset always seemed about twenty degrees colder than the air around it.

The pay phone was also a witness to life. Teenagers nervously calling home after missing curfew. Parents letting family know they had arrived safely. Drivers reporting breakdowns before roadside assistance came with smartphone apps. Young couples talking longer than they could afford because hanging up first somehow felt impossible.

Looking back, it's amazing how much trust we placed in those phones. They sat outside through blizzards, thunderstorms and heat waves. Thousands of hands touched them. Somehow they almost always worked.

Today's technology is unquestionably better. I wouldn't trade my cell phone for a pocket full of quarters. But convenience has changed something else. Because every call is private now.

You never overhear someone happily announcing they got the job. You don't hear somebody telling their spouse they'll be home in twenty minutes. You don't watch a nervous teenager practicing what they're about to say before dropping a coin into the slot.

Life still happens, of course. We just experience it behind screens instead of out in the open.

Small-town Massachusetts has always been full of ordinary landmarks that quietly stitched communities together. A hardware store with creaky floors. The diner where everyone knew the waitress's name. The corner barber shop. The bulletin board covered with handwritten notices.

The pay phone belonged on that list. It wasn't important because of what it was. It mattered because everyone, sooner or later, needed it.

Maybe that's why seeing those four empty bolts caught my attention. They reminded me that progress rarely arrives with a parade. More often it comes one unnoticed change at a time, until the world you've always known has become somebody else's history.

Someday, a child will ask what those rusty bolts are for. Someone my age will smile.

"They used to hold a pay phone," we'll say.

The child will probably look puzzled. And for a brief moment, we'll realize we're telling a story that has quietly become history.

Oxford artist's work on display at Booklovers' Gourmet

WEBSTER — Booklovers' Gourmet, located at 72 East Main St. in Webster, is hosting a local art show & sale featuring the paintings of W.J. Yacino of Oxford.

"Through the Eyes of an Artist" will be on view July 1st-31st in the cafe gallery and may be viewed during regular business hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Wednesday 10am-6pm.

The public is invited to a meet and greet with the artist on Saturday, July 25, noon to 2 p.m. For more information, call 508-949-6232 or visit booklovers-gourmet.com/events

Wayne Joseph Yacino is a native of Oxford who is of Metis (French – Abenaki), Italian and Polish descent. He began painting at the age of five years. As a self-taught artist, and with over 60 years of experience, he has had the opportunity to live in Europe for two years during his military tour with NATO. He has displayed several of his pieces in Vicenza, Italy. He has also displayed his woodwork and paintings throughout the United States.

The artist has done extensive research into Native American imagery and has taught the Ancient American Skills the first weekend in October, at the Annual Water's Farm Days event in Sutton, Massachusetts, from 1996-2022.

The artist's goal is "To share with the viewer my emotions and Spiritual experiences through my art; to rise above the mundane, and to bring honor and Glory to my God."

Whatever his subject, he finds great joy and blessing in the way the eye moves through a painting and follows the interaction of all the colors.

Vision looks to tomorrow and sees the reality that should exist today. Vision is the ability to dream – to dream better things in a better world. Vision brings power to a life that might otherwise be meaningless.

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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.

The hidden danger of investing too cautiously

FINANCIAL FOCUS

DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

One of the most significant risks investors face isn't losing money in a market dip; it's failing to reach their long-term financial goals.

Many people focus heavily on short-term losses in the stock market and try to protect their savings by investing conservatively or avoiding stocks altogether. But that runs the risk that their savings won't grow enough to keep up with inflation or support future needs.

Understanding what investment risk really means helps you make smarter financial decisions, considering these three key aspects.

Risk tolerance describes your emotional comfort with risk. If you›d want to pull your money out of the market during a downturn, that reveals something about your tolerance. Many financial advisors use questionnaires to help clients understand how they might react in different market conditions.

Risk capacity refers to how much risk you can afford to take. Your timeline matters. A 35-year-old saving for retirement has decades to ride out market swings. A retiree drawing income from their portfolio doesn›t have that same cushion.

Required risk describes how much risk you may need to take to reach your financial goals. Higher returns generally come with higher risk, though higher risk does not guarantee higher returns. If you need strong growth to retire comfortably, you may need to accept more short-term volatility.

Sometimes these elements don't line up. You might be uncomfortable with risk but need strong growth to meet your goals.

Balance and diversification matter: Finding the right balance matters more than you might think. A small difference in your annual rate of return, from 5% to 7% for instance, doesn't just add up a little. It multiplies. That's the power of compounding — returns earning their own returns, year after year, building on an ever-growing base. Over 30 or 35 years, that can become significant.

You needn't choose between playing it so safe your money barely keeps up with inflation and taking on more risk than you're comfortable with. Instead, a balanced mix can fit your comfort level and still help grow your money over time.

The age factor: You'll want to adjust your approach to risk as you get older. If retirement is years away, your portfolio may lean toward growth investments like stocks and stock mutual funds; you have time to absorb short-term losses and benefit from long-term gains. Lower risk investments like bonds still play a role because they can help smooth out changes in your portfolio's value.

As you near retirement, your portfolio may shift toward a more even mix of stocks and bonds to limit exposure to large market swings. The goal is to protect what you've built while still generating enough growth to fund a retirement that could last decades.

Investing well isn't about eliminating risk; it's about taking the right amount of it. Too little risk can be just as damaging as too much. A financial advisor can help you find the balance that matches your comfort level, your financial situation and your long-term goals.

Investors should understand the risks involved with owning investments, including interest rate risk, credit risk and market risk. The value of investments fluctuates and investors can lose some or all of their principal.

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

Local students receive degrees from Quinnipiac University

HAMDEN, Conn. — The following students received degrees from Quinnipiac University during commencement ceremonies held in May:

Morganne Lucier of Auburn received a Bachelor of Arts in Film, Television & Media Arts

Owyn Law of Dudley received a Master of Business Administration in Management Science

Katelyn Marshall of Oxford received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology

About Quinnipiac University

Quinnipiac is a private, coeducational institution located 90 minutes north of New York City and two hours from Boston. The university enrolls 9,700 students in more than 100 degree programs through its Schools of Business, Communications, Education, Computing and Engineering, Health Sciences, Law, Medicine, Nursing and the College of Arts & Sciences. Quinnipiac is ranked 51st in The Wall Street Journal/College Pulse "2026 Best Colleges in the U.S." and is also recognized by U.S. News & World Report and The Princeton Review's "The Best 391 Colleges." The university is expanding innovative programs for both traditional and adult learners and developing dynamic corporate partnerships. Quinnipiac recently completed a significant capital expansion on its main campus, including a state-of-the-art new School of Business and an interdisciplinary science and innovation hub. For more information, please visit qu.edu. Connect with Quinnipiac on Facebook and Instagram and follow Quinnipiac on X @QuinnipiacU.

Sophia Gawronski named to dean's list at Tufts University

MEDFORD — Sophia Gawronski, Class of 2027 of Auburn, was named to the dean's list at Tufts University for the spring 2026 semester. Dean's list honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

Tufts University, located on campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Grafton, Massachusetts, and in Talloires, France, is recognized among the premier research universities in the United States. Tufts enjoys a global reputation for academic excellence and for the preparation of students as leaders in a wide range of professions. A growing number of innovative teaching and research initiatives span all Tufts campuses, and collaboration among the faculty and students in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs across the university's schools is widely encouraged.

Austin Brush of Dudley named to Dean's List at Saint Michael's College

COLCHESTER, Vt. — Austin Brush of Dudley was named to the Dean's List at Saint Michael's College for the Spring 2026 semester.

Students who complete at least 12 credits of classes and achieve a grade point average of at least 3.5 in a semester are named to the Dean's List for that semester.

About Saint Michael's College

Saint Michael's College, founded in 1904 on principles of social justice and leading lives of purpose and consequence, is a selective, Catholic college just outside Burlington, Vermont, one of the country's best college towns. Located between the Green Mountains and Lake Champlain, our closely connected community guarantees housing all four years and delivers an internationally respected liberal arts education, preparing students for fulfilling careers and meaningful lives. Young adults here grow intellectually, socially, and morally, learning to lead with empathy and professionalism, and to be responsible for themselves, each other, and their world.

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.

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, 7/28: Spaghetti and meatballs with marinara sauce, green beans. Wednesday, 7/29: Beef stir-fry, steamed rice, peas and onions. Thursday, 7/30: Honey mustard pork, seasoned potatoes, carrots. Friday, 7/31: Soup du jour, cranberry chicken salad, pasta salad, three bean salad.

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.

A SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) counselor is available at the Webster Senior Center from April through December. Please call (508) 949-3845 to schedule an appointment.

Come down to 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.

Line Dancing with Forty will be held on the 27th from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm for $3 a class. Donations go directly to Shriner's Children's Hospital. Everyone of any skill level is welcome! Closed toed shoes are required.

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.

We offer Movies every Wednesday afternoon at 1:00 pm! The last movie in July will be "The Mirror Cracked" on 7/29.

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 9:30 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.

Dudley's Deschenes to hold open office hours

DUDLEY — Selectman Jana Deschenes will hold Open Office Hours 10 a.m. - noon on July 25 in the Fel's Community Room at the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library at 40 Schofield Ave.

Deschenes invites residents to visit with her to discuss issues important to them, ask questions or simply stop by to say hello.

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Bay Path celebrates 59 CTI graduates, expands workforce training programs

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School proudly celebrated the graduation of 59 students from its Career Technical Initiative (CTI) program last evening, marking a significant milestone in the program's continued growth and impact.

The CTI program, launched in 2024, provides adult learners with access to high-quality, hands-on technical training designed to meet regional workforce demands. Last night's graduates represent a diverse group of individuals who demonstrated dedication, perseverance, and a strong commitment to building new career pathways. Many balanced work, family, and personal responsibilities while completing rigorous 200-hour training programs that prepare them for immediate employment in high-demand industries.

"This graduating class represents the heart of what the CTI program is all about—opportunity, access, and workforce readiness," said Marci Komssi, Program Coordinator. "We are incredibly proud of these 59 graduates and the determination they demonstrated throughout the program."

The success of the CTI program is made possible through continued state investment and workforce development partnerships. As part of the Commonwealth's commitment to economic recovery and growth, $24.2 million was awarded to 23 organizations throughout Massachusetts to train 2,490 individuals. These strategic investments, led by the Massachusetts Workforce Skills Cabinet, are designed to expand access to career pathway programs and better position residents to fill critical workforce needs across the state.

Building on this momentum, Bay Path is expanding its program offerings to reach even more adult learners. For the first time, the school will offer a 200-hour Building Maintenance program in a five-week hybrid summer format, running from June 29 through July 31. This program is offered in partnership with MassHire, with applications opening this week.

Looking ahead to Fall 2026, Bay Path will offer nine CTI programs, further increasing access to career training opportunities. These programs include:

Building Maintenance
HVAC
Culinary
Manufacturing
Auto Collision
Auto Technology
Diesel Mechanic
Welding
Electrical

Since its inception, the CTI program has continued to expand in both enrollment and program diversity, attracting students from local communities as well as across the region. The program remains a critical component of Bay Path's efforts to support workforce development and provide meaningful career pathways for adult learners.

For more information about the CTI program or to apply for upcoming opportunities, please contact Marci Komssi at mkomssi@baypath.net.

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

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

Special Events
Summer Eats – Monday-Friday 12:00-1:00pm
This totally free-of-charge program provides free lunch to all kids and teens. Adults can also eat lunch for $5. If weather is poor, this program will be held inside. Made possible by Project Bread, the Massachusetts Department of Education, and local school and community meal providers.

Family Capoeira Workshop Series – Thursdays, June 25th-August 20th at 3:00pm
Capoeira is an Afro-Brazilian martial art form originally developed in Brazil by enslaved peoples as a form of resistance. It incorporates elements of acrobatics, dance, and music. In this class, parents and kids will learn together — beginning with basic capoeira movements, songs and rhythms.
No experience needed, and all athletic levels are welcome! Come ready to move and wear something comfortable. The class is led by instructors from Mass Capoeira Culture Center, located right here in Webster. See you there!

Joys of Nature: Helping Endangered Species – Thursday, July 23rd at 4:30 and 5:30pm
What is an endangered species? Why are many animals and their habitats disappearing? Learn about endangered species in the wild here in New England, and around the world, and some things we can all do to help them. Don't miss meeting some of their animal relatives up close and personal! This intergenerational program is designed for ages 4 and up, registration is required.

Summer Soul Collage: Expressive Arts Workshop with Kaylah – Thursday, July 23rd at 6:30pm
You can either beat the heat or bask in it — either way, summer stirs something within all of us. Please join us for an expressive arts workshop where we'll explore what warmth, light, and the summer season mean for our minds, bodies, and spirits through the meditative art practice of collage. We'll invite creativity and conversation, touching on how heat and sunlight affect our mental health, and leave you with local resources to support your well-being all season long. This program is for adults and registration is required.

Dinosaurs with Dinoman – Tuesday, July 28th at 4:30pm
Dinoman Dinosaurs take the audience on a fact filled adventure through the Mesozoic Era with fun, magic and amazing props. What is a dinosaur? When were they here? How do we know? All this and more will be answered and some life-sized dinosaurs may appear. Suitable for folks age 4 and up, but visual enough for everyone. There is even time afterwards to visit and take photos with these gentle giants from the past.

Discover our Local Butterflies – Thursday, July 30th at 11:00am
Jerry Schneider brings displays of butterflies and moths, cocoons, and sometimes caterpillars to the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library! Kids will answer questions such as: How can we attract more butterflies to our back yards? What are some ways we can conserve butterfly habitat? What does a good butterfly garden look like? When, how, and why do Monarch butterflies go to Mexico? After the presentation kids will be able to participate in a tee shirt craft. Registration is required.

In Concert: Melodious Zach – Thursday, July 30th at 6:30pm
Melodious Zach performs pop/rock and Motown songs of the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, as well as a handful of original tunes in the retro style. Melodious Zach has been performing music professionally since 2004. In 2015, he received the ASCAP Plus award for songwriters and independent recording artists. His music video "Hum It" was featured on NH Chronicle, followed up by NH Magazine's featuring his "20 Greatest Hits!" which was a #1 album on Amazon's new Bubblegum CD chart. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Webster Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Adult Programming
Literacy Volunteers: ESL Classes – Tuesdays at 6:00pm
The Literacy Cafe is a free weekly English conversation class offered by Literacy Volunteers of South Central Massachusetts (LVSCM). This class is free to attend and is open to all adults. For more information, email us at info@lvscm.org.

Grief Support Group – 2nd Monday and 4th Saturday of the Month (6:30pm on Mondays; 10:00am on Saturdays) in the Local History Room and Generations in Webster
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.**Saturday Sessions for July and August will be held offsite at Generations in Webster.** JULY SATURDAY DATE IS JULY 18th

Yoga – Tuesdays at 6:30pm
Join Meg at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. A typical class involves centering the mind with the breath, aromatherapy, movement of the body to release energetic blockages, and, finally, rest and relaxation. Classes are free. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

The Chatty Chapter Genre Book Club – Thursday, July 23rd at 6:00pm
This month we're reading Democracy in Retrograde by Sami Sage and Emily Amick: "In today's political climate, it's hard not to get discouraged. Isolated, doom scrolling, lacking a sense of purpose or community...it's easy to become overwhelmed by the dire state of democracy and do nothing. This book provides a new lens through which to see yourself: a new & powerful light which bridges the personal & the political. In the words of Joan Baez, action is the antidote to despair, and with this helpful guide, even if Mercury is in retrograde, our democracy doesn't have to be."

Writing Group – Monday, July 27th 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.

Programming for All Ages
Library for All –Mondays and Fridays in June at 10am
Library for All is an inclusive program for teens and adults of all abilities and their caregivers. Please let us know if you need any special accommodations! Join us every Monday and Friday! The 1st week of the month is coloring, the 2nd week is LEGO, the 3rd week is chair yoga, and the 4th week of the month is painting.

Children's and Young Adult Programming
Sensory Bin Explorations – Mondays at 10:30am
Bring your little ones outside for sensory bin exploration! Each Monday morning will feature a new theme, offering hands-on fun for children ages 2–6.

Creators Club – Mondays at 4:00pm
Come explore our Creators Club, where each month features a new theme highlighting a different art supply for kids to experiment with and turn into their own masterpieces! July's Theme: Button Art! Kids will have an array of buttons to choose as they make their wildest creations. From button fish to button trees anything the ideas are endless. All creations left behind will be displayed in the Children's program room for the rest of the month.

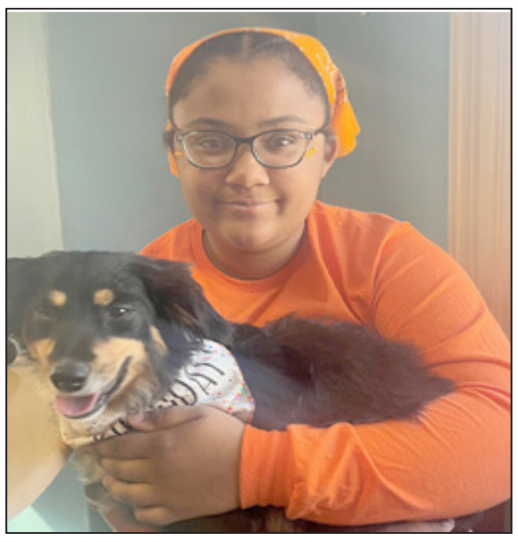
Tiny Groovers – Tuesdays at 10:30am
Join Miss Paige for a groovy storytime! Toddlers ages 2-5 and their caregivers will dance to popular kids' tunes while using instruments and playful props, and enjoy an interactive story each week.

Mighty Builders – Tuesdays at 4:00pm
Unleash creativity in our free-build program featuring LEGOs, magnet tiles, wooden blocks, marble runs, and more!

Messy Art Storytime – Thursdays at 10:30am
Join Miss Paige for storytime and messy, hands-on fun! Each week, children ages 2–6 will enjoy a new art project that lets their creativity shine. Dress for a mess and get ready to create! No registration required.

Apple Country Music Together – Fridays, July 10th-August 14th at 10:30am
A music and movement program available to children from birth to age 6 and their families based upon on-going scientific research, and designed to help nurture children's musical, cognitive, social, emotional, and physical growth. Classes include singing and dancing. The program brings families together by providing a rich musical environment in the classroom and by promoting and facilitating adult participation.

Friday's Child



Jaslyn
Age 18
Registration #7206

Jaslyn is a friendly, outgoing teen who truly lights up when she's around others. She loves being in the company of people and thrives in social settings where she can talk, laugh, and share experiences. Jaslyn has a warm and welcoming personality that helps her connect easily with both peers and adults. She enjoys expressing herself through fashion and self-care, especially getting her hair and nails done. It's something that makes her feel confident and happy. Jaslyn's favorite activities include singing and dancing — she loves music and isn't shy about showing off her moves when a good song comes on! Jaslyn is also very active and enjoys spending time outdoors. Whether she's participating in community activities, going for walks, or simply soaking up fresh air, she appreciates opportunities to be out and about. She enjoys staying busy and benefits from environments where she can engage in fun, structured activities. Jaslyn's joyful energy, love for connection, and enthusiasm for life make her a bright presence wherever she goes.

https://www.mareinc.org/child/22533457815

Can I Adopt?

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

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

Bay Path Continuing Education's fall catalog available

CHARLTON — We are excited to announce that the Fall 2026 catalog is now available at www.baypath.net/bpce. There is something for everyone, featuring offerings in trades exam preparations, continuing education, professional development, health & wellness, art, food & entertaining, financial wellness, and much more.
Here are some of the new classes available:
Basket Weaving
Breadmaking and more
Gluten-Free Pasta Making
Japanese Ikebana Flower Design
Professional Writing
Tai Chi
and more
Additionally, we have returning favorites including:
Line Dancing
Ballroom Dancing
Stained Glass Making
Bob Ross Art Classes
Yoga for All
Classes for Two People to Take Together
Registration Opens on July 20 – Make sure to sign up early for the classes that catch your interest so you don't miss this opportunity! You can reach us at www.baypath.net/bpce or call 508-248-5971, ext. 1715. Bay Path has been providing engaging adult continuing education classes for the past 30 years, conveniently located at 57 Old Muggett Hill Rd., Charlton.

Pearle L. Crawford Library

40 Schofield Ave., Dudley
508-949-8021

To register for events or sign up for the newsletter, go to www.crawfordlibrary.org or call 508-949-8021.

The July featured artist is Lisa Shea. A variety of her pieces will be on display for you to enjoy in the Fels Room whenever the Library is open.

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

The game consists of players competing to form distinct sets or pairs of tiles, similar to gin rummy.

Everyone is welcome; registration is not required.

Quilting Group
Every Wednesday
1:30- 3:30

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

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

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

Gentle Yoga
Every Monday
10:00-11:00

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

Yoga with Buffy
Every Friday
10:00-11:00

Join Buffy for Friday Yoga! Take time to relax, stretch, and recharge at this weekly Friday session. Registration is required: wideopenyoga@gmail.com. A co-payment is required to attend.

Introduction to Zentangle
Monday, July 20th
6:00-7:30

Zentangle is a simple, relaxing art method that uses easy-to-learn patterns to create beautiful designs. No artistic experience is needed—just one line at a time. The process encourages mindfulness, reduces stress, and allows creativity to flow naturally, with no mistakes and no pressure.

Participants will get to take home the materials that you use.

Registration is required. Ages 17+

Tuesday Crafternoon- Pressed Flower Art Bookmark
Thursday, July 21st
1:00

Make a fun pressed flower bookmark. Registration is required.

Ages 17+ Only

CrafterNIGHT- Pressed Flower Art Bookmark
Thursday, July 23rd
6:00-7:00

Pressed flower art with Jubilee.

Registration is required.

Ages 17+ Only

Crawford Library Book Group
Thursday, July 23rd
The Briar Club by Kate Quinn
6:00-7:30

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

No Registration Required

"Cook the Book" Book Club-More is More: Get Loose in the Kitchen by Molly Baz
Monday, July 27th
6:00-7:00

"Cook The Book" Book Club will meet on the 4th Monday of every month at 6:00

You will pick one recipe from the book selected for the month-the dishes don't have to be complicated or fancy, any recipe from the book is fair game, except alcoholic beverages-sorry! Prepare the recipe at home and share it at the library. We cannot reheat or keep food warm, so consider this when choosing your recipe.

You are responsible for bringing serving utensils. We will provide paper goods and utensils for eating.

Children's & Family Programming

Once Upon a Storytime with Kelcy
Every Monday
10:00-10:45

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

Peaceful Projects with Rileigh
Every Wednesday
2:00-3:00

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

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

Interactive Bubble Show
Wednesday, July 22nd
11:00-12:00

Bubbles make everything more fun!! Let's have a popping good time! Bubble show and interactive bubble session too! Bubbles for all ages! Bubbles for everyone! Outside weather permitting.

Juniors named to Bay Path honor roll

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School congratulates the following students in grade 11 on being named to the honor roll for the fourth quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

High Honors

Lillian Lauren Araujo, Boden Richard Barrell, Brett Julius Beltzer, Alyssa Rose Bonneville, Alexia Rose Brown, Sagesse Mpolo Budimbu, Clara Mae Burlingame, Bella Kristina Calnan, Michaela Sarah Carter, Jenna Lynne Cianci, Naomi Natania Cooper, Trinity Chevelle Crompton, Benjamin Jackson Cryan, Livia Cassandra Deluca, Brianna Nyarkoa Dwomoah, Ava Lila Erkoc, Samantha Lynn Fleck, Brooke Nicole Fuller, Aliyah Marie Gauvin, Adrian Dariusz Golemo, Liam Reed Greenwood, Emma Grace Harrington, Julia Abigail Holton, Kelsey Rose Karlowicz, Finnian John Keefe, Perry Khai Lima, Julie-Anna Marie Marchetti, Nicholas Isaac Meneguzzo, Miles Joseph Moriarty, Nathaniel Thomas Munson, Kaiya Rowan Murphy, Melany Tuyet Ngo, Johnny Ly Nhan, Anastasia Marie Nieuwenhoff, Katie Ann Putnam, Jordyn Alexandria Sabotka, Owen Wajer Sanford, Ella Lanmei Schofield, Kayla Lynn Schroeder, Isabella Christina Sepulveda, Zachary Stephen Sirard, Alexander Gregory St. Jacques, Travis Jacob Tong, Timothy Nicholas Tripp, Kyle Dennis Twombly, Brady Matthew Weeks, Nico Anthony Yacavace, Lucy Vivian Zaleski, Payton Cailee Ziemski

Honors

Anais Annette Alamo-Abad, Monica Jelis Alvarez-Rivera, Salete Hellen Alves, Trevor Riley Amaral, Winifred Donna Aucoin, Collin William Bachand, Kennadie Taylor Balcunas, Benjamin Whitman Bassett, Samantha Mackenzie Belanger, Kayleigh Rose Bissell, Alexandria Helene Blanchard, Olivia Raychal Burgos, Dominic Francis Carofaniello, Evalynn Rose Cedillo, Lizzy Choiniere, Dominic William Cincotta, Liam Zachary Colon, Maya Janara Cronin, Destiny Love Fortunata Daviau, Nathan Stephen Donnelly, Madisson Clara Drewry, Zachary Michael Dumas, Molly Elizabeth Dwyer, Tobias Michael Falco-Foreman, Jeremy Anthony Figueroa, Dylan Michael Filipkowski, Aria Faith Fournier, Ely Eric Gemboski, Jinnette Lynn Goguen, Sebastian Smith Hansen, Aidan Joshua Hodgdon, Vikram Kenchan Jha, Owen John Kennedy, Filip Tadeusz Kulma, Abena Kwartemaa Kwarteng, Benjamin Mitchell Labbe, Sangey Dawa Lama, Bret Robert Leonardi, Damon James Libby, Jared Thomas Magnusson, Emily Arlene Malia, Christopher Warren Martin, Aaron Robert Mazur, Finn McDaniel, Ava June McKellick, Joshua Daniel McLaughlin, Alysia Marie Melendez, Johannys Marie Melendez, Alexis Kayla Moore, Samantha Jean Morley, Miguel Angel Mosqueda, Thomas Andrew Nault, Daniel Anthony Nowlan, Sarah Hazel O'Donnell, Izabella Grace Paquin, Kiley Marie Paronto, Aylah Mae Patraw, Mayli Ann Pedersen, Iban Alexander Pelaez, Racquel Evelyn Provencal, Sophia Morrigan Ramirez-Murphy, Evan Mitchell Roberts, Dani Roemer, Leilani Marie Rohena Torres, Autumn-Rayne Rondeau, Eziajah Gianni Santiago, Isaiah Omar Santiago, Logan James Schoff, Michael Ryan Scott, Julia Rose Simpson, Addisyn Theresa Skeates, Allison Marie Smith, Rebecca Marie Smith, Duane Caden Stephens, Marley Ray Talbot, Eskil John Tranes, Nicholas Aiden Tremblay, Bryce Joseph Vautour, Jazzelle Gia Wolverson, Jackson Robert Young

Principal's List

Vincent Louis Balducci, Zaclayia Rose Ballard, Nolan Scott Chumsae, Hunter William Defosse, Aariana Ryan Dolan, Jackson Christopher Edwards, Emma Lynn Grensavitch, Colin Paul Hurley, Dominik Ignatovich, Brady Nicholas Johnson, Ella Josephine Komssi, Maximilian Thomas Lapriorore, Jaxon David Kevin Leonard, Apollo Ridge Logan, James Dean Mack, Colin Archak McIlvaine, Jayden Anthony Minardi, Corey Amoako Ntim, Jacey Okyere-Tawiah, Matthew Dean Parmenter, Keira Ashley Pederson, Dylan James Poissot, Ava Marie Rennie, Isabella Lynn Richard, Jake Albert Roemer, Yarisbeth Michelle Rojas, Trevor Anthony Rose, Korban Christopher Roy-Bouthillette, Jennessa Ellie Sepuka, Emma-Lee Ann Shocik, Brady Patrick Smith, Nicholas Ryan Thebeau, Isaiah Miguel Torres, Sophia Ann Vigeant, Dashiel Robert Williams

Ryan Rushford joins Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates

WORCESTER — Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates is proud to announce Ryan Rushford has joined their Worcester office. Rushford joins a dedicated team of knowledgeable agents at Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates, who bring many years of combined real estate expertise to their clients. Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates, located at 470 Park Ave., is an independently owned and operated affiliate of Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. For more information, please contact Julia Acquaah-Harrison at (508) 795-3885 or jharrison@hope-homes.com.

About Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.

Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. is a top real estate franchisor established in 2001 by Jim Weichert, president, chairman and CEO of Weichert Companies, which has been in operation since 1969. The company provides a clearly defined business model for operating, managing, and marketing a real estate brokerage, along with industry-leading technology, marketing tools, and support. Its first affiliate opened in 2002, and the franchise network has since grown to over 330 offices, serving markets in over 40 states. The company has appeared on the Entrepreneur Franchise 500 list as a top residential real estate franchise and been identified by Franchise Business Review as a top franchise for owner satisfaction 11 years in a row. For more information about Weichert, visit Weichert.com. For more information about franchise opportunities, visit WeichertFranchise.com.

Community Connection

Charlton Oil Company Propane
508-248-9797
Don't Pay Too Much for Propane

PROPANE	PRICE PER GAL	PROPANE	PRICE PER GAL
0-50	$4.99	301-500	$2.25
50-75	$3.49	500 PLUS	$2.10
76-150	$2.95	Duel Fuel	$3.75
151-300	$2.55	Drop off Tanks	$3.00

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*prices subject to change

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BHS Class of 1986 seeks community's help locating classmates for 40th reunion

REGION — As the Bartlett High School Class of 1986 prepares to celebrate its 40th reunion on Sept. 26, organizers are asking the community for assistance in locating classmates who have not yet been reached through social media or via text.

To make the process simple, the reunion committee has created a short contact-information form and is encouraging residents, friends, and former classmates to help spread the word. If you know someone on the "missing classmates" list, organizers ask that you text them the link to the form so they can update their information.

Contact Info Form: https://tinyurl.com/BHS1986-40Years

If it's easier, you may also complete the form on a classmate's behalf—so long as you have their current contact details. Organizers emphasize that any help tracking them down is truly appreciated, as personal connections often succeed where digital outreach falls short.

A list of classmates the committee is hoping to locate appears below. With the community's support, they hope every member of the Class of '86 will have the opportunity to join this milestone celebration.

Peter Allain
Beth Antonopoulos
Marie Aperges
Andrew Baca
Austin Bailey
David Beardsley
Frank Belanger
Carolyn Bembenek
Richard Bernier
Sheila Bialoncik
Beth Bialy
Jason Borski
Doreen Bourget
Eric Brisbois
Kathleen Brown
Paul Browning
Paul Bugan
Cindy Bullens
Sandra Butt
Mont Canterbury
Stephen Carlson
Daniel Chapdelaine
Kelly Cobb
Ken Cournoyer
Timothy Decker
Tammy Deschenes
Aaron Dorcas
Daniel Doyle
Dorothy DusoSelina Fife
James Gardner
Jeffrey Gatto
Tina Giakoumis
Alicia Goudreau
Richard Guerin
Robert Hamm
Scott Horanzy
Jane Houle
Todd Hufault
Joseph Hughes
Melissa Jankowski
Thor Johnson
Nena Johnston
Lisa Kozlowski
Robert Krasnecky
Jill Krause
Michael Kryger
Rick Lawson
Deborah Leite
Linda Lifer
Patricia Majewski
Renee Marchand
Jennifer Marsh
Jennifer Mason
John Meagher
Fumiyo Mochizuki
Deborah Munsch
Brett Napierata
Wayne Parmentier
Brian Poplawski
Gary Poplawski
Edward Powers
William Radcliffe
James Remy
Debra Ross
Collin Salmon
Dale Schleis
Theresa Sergel
Henry Skiba
Alan Standrowicz
Jeffrey Surozenski
Karen Toukonen
Joseph Veronick
Douglas Waldron
Robert Wheeler
Edward Zdrok

LEGALS

TOWN OF DUDLEY
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
71 WEST MAIN STREET,
DUDLEY MA 01571

Please take notice that:
Craig Garabedian
Have applied to the Zoning Board of Appeals to vary the. terms of the Zoning By-Laws Section: 4.01.01 Parking Standards Requirements
Location: 57 West Main Street
In the following respect: A special permit granting permission to get a class 2 Auto license at 57 West Main Street. Parking Standards Regulation 4.01.01 Requirements currently not met.
The Public Hearing will be. held on Thursday August 6, 2026@ 7:00pm at the Town Hall room 321A at which time you may be hard relative to this Public Hearing.
Please contact Amanda Hohnes at 508-949-8012 or building@dudleyma.gov to attend the meeting.
George Slingo, Chairman Zoning Board of Appeals
July 24, 2026
July 31, 2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 26 SM 002236 ORDER OF NOTICE TO: John G. Hall and Donna M. Hall and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq) Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency claiming to have an interest in a mortgage covering real property in Webster, numbered 11 Nancy Drive, given by John G. Hall and Donna M. Hall to Grafton Suburban Credit Union, dated April 25, 2013, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 50788, Page 103, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendants` Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before August 31, 2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on July 14, 2026
Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder
July 24, 2026

Commonwealth
of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Worcester Probate and
Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P0243EA
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate of:
Patricia Anne Carrigan- Mann
Date of Death: April 5, 2025
To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative(s) has been filed by Melissa Pepin of Fairfield , CT requesting hat the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner(s) 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 August 4, 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 thereturn date, action may be
taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM
PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative(s) 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(s) 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: July 8, 2026
Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate
July 24, 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.WO26P2175EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:
Richard Francis Wheeler, Sr.
Date of Death: 03/04/2026
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Jacquelyn Jankowski of Webster MA r**equesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: .
Jacquelyn Jankowski of Webster MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the estate in u**nsupervised 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 08/04/2026.**
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: July 08, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
July 24, 2026

TOWN OF DUDLEY
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
71 WEST MAIN STREET, DUDLEY
MA 01571

Please take notice that: Kate Packard
Have applied to the Zoning Board of Appeals to vary the terms of the Zoning By-Laws Section 2.04.02
Location: 21 Jaybee Ave
In the following respect: Applicant is seeking a 4ft variance on rear setback for proposed deck
The Public Hearing will be held on Thursday August 6, 2026 @ 7:00pm at the Town Hall room 321A, at which time you may be hard relative to this Public Hearing.
Please contact Amanda Holmes at 508-949-8012 or building@dudleyma.gov to attend the meeting.
George Slingo, Chairman Zoning Board of Appeals
July 24, 2026
July 31,2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 5 Hammond Street,
Oxford, MA 01540

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Lenda D. Young to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc, as Mortgagee, as nominee for Security First Mortgage Funding, LLC, and now held by **Computershare Delaware Trust Company, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for PRET 2025-RPL2 Trust**, said mortgage dated September 4, 2015 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 54262, Page 185, as affected by a Loan Modification dated January 25, 2018 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 60047, Page 289; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc., as nominee for Security First Mortgage Funding, LLC, its successors and assigns to Ditech Financial LLC by assignment dated May 30, 2018 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 58870, Page 270; said mortgage was assigned from Ditech Financial LLC to New Residential Mortgage LLC by assignment dated March 6, 2020 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 62010, Page 134; said mortgage was assigned from New Residential Mortgage, LLC to NewRez LLC D/B/A Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing by assignment dated May 26, 2020 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 62471, Page 220; said mortgage was assigned from NewRez LLC F/K/A New Penn Financial, LLC D/B/A Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust by assignment dated September 27, 2022 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 68374, Page 282; said mortgage was assigned from U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its Individual Capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust to Computershare Delaware Trust Company, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for PRET 2025-RPL2 Trust by assignment dated February 17, 2026 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 73256, Page 210; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on** August 27, 2026 at 03:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain parcel of land with the buildings and improvements thereon situated on westerly side of Hammond Street, Oxford, Worcester County, Massachusetts, being Lot 35 on a plan of lots in Oxford, MA owned by the Rocky Hill Realty Company, dated May 26, 1958 drawn by Walter W. Brown and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 233, Plan 24, and bounded and described as follows:
BEGINNING at the southeasterly corner of said lot, said point of beginning being the northeasterly comer of Lot 34 on said plan and being 230.50 feet northerly, as measured along the extended westerly line of Hammond Street from the intersection of the extended westerly line of Hammond Street and the extended northerly line of Rocky Hill Road;
THENCE N. 7° 58' E. 91.62 feet to an iron pipe;
THENCE by a curve to the left with a radius of 20 feet and a length of 30.37 feet to an iron pipe;
THENCE N. 79° 02' W. 92.02 feet to an iron pipe;
The last three courses being by the westerly then southerly line of Hammond Street;
THENCE S. 11° 54' W. by Lot 41 on said plan 108.80 feet to an iron pipe;
THENCE S. 78° 12' E. by Lot 34 on said plan 118.65 feet to the point of beginning

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated August 14, 2015 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 54262, Page 183.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND ($5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Computershare Delaware Trust Company, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for PRET 2025-RPL2 Trust
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
July 24, 2026
July 31, 2026
August 7, 2026

For Legal Advertising Information, Call 508-909-4127 • email: legals@stonebridgepress.news

Mechanics Hall expands Club 321 to year-round concert series

WORCESTER — Mechanics Hall announces the 2026-2027 season of Club 321, expanding its popular live music series to 12 performances spanning July 2026 through June 2027.

The season opens July 30 and introduces a new full-season subscription, giving audiences more opportunities to experience outstanding regional, national, and international artists in an informal club setting.

With the launch of Club 321 in 2022, Mechanics Hall created an inviting listening room in the iconic landmark's Washburn Hall, showcasing exceptional musicians across blues, jazz, soul, folk, Americana, and world music.

Now presented one Thursday evening every month, the series has earned a loyal following for its relaxed atmosphere and outstanding live performances.

New this season, audiences may purchase a full-season subscription, receiving tickets to all 12 performances for the price of 10. Individual tickets are $30, while a season subscription is $300. Mechanics Hall members receive an additional 10 percent discount on both individual tickets and subscriptions.

"Club 321 gives audiences the chance to discover incredible musicians in a setting where every seat feels close to the stage," said Christon Carney, education and outreach manager for Mechanics Hall and the curator of this season's series. "This season brings together artists representing a wide range of musical traditions—from

returning audiences' favorites to performers making their Club 321 debut. Every concert offers something unique, while maintaining the high caliber of musicianship audiences have come to expect from Mechanics Hall."

Club 321 takes place in Washburn Hall at Mechanics Hall, with cabaret tables, theater seating, and standing room creating a relaxed club atmosphere. Doors open at 6:15 p.m., with performances from 7 to approximately 9 p.m. Events are open to guests ages 18 and older and include a cash bar, a featured signature cocktail, and charcuterie prepared by Worcester local Charcuterie by Cherise.

Tickets available at mechanicshall.org.

2026–2027 Club 321 Schedule
July 30 – Robbie Pate (jazz, soul & R&B)
Aug. 20 – Carlos Odria & RioFlow (Latin jazz & world music)
Sept. 24 – Albino Mbie (Afro-pop & global music)
Oct. 22 – Greg Piccolo & Heavy Juice (blues & R&B): Presented in partnership with 90.5 WICN's Brian Barlow Series
Nov. 12 – Mark Mandeville & Raianne Richards (folk & Americana)
Dec. 10 – Michelle "Evil Gal" Willson (blues & soul)
Artists for the following dates will be announced:
Jan. 21
Feb. 18
March 11
April 8
May 13
June 10

About Mechanics Hall

Steeped in the rich history of 19th-century Worcester, Mechanics Hall is internationally regarded as one of the world's great concert halls. Regionally, it is a gathering place celebrated for its architecture, acoustics, and vibrant cultural programming. In addition to serving as a premier performance venue and recording venue, Mechanics Hall offers inspiring cultural experiences through concerts, educational initiatives, community

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Mechanics Hall is a nonprofit organization owned and operated by the Worcester County Mechanics Association, established in 1842. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Learn more at MechanicsHall.org.

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QCC professor gives voice to formerly incarcerated in new documentary

Kristy Glover

WORCESTER — What is it like to get out of prison and start over? QCC Professor of Criminal Justice Kristy Glover spent her sabbatical researching this question and creating "Voices of Justice," a documentary film that she produced, filmed and edited herself.

"Voice of Justice" features accounts from three men who have firsthand experience with the justice system. The documentary highlights how multiple support systems are critical for re-entry, the period of time when individuals are transitioning out of incarceration. Support from family members, community organizations and probation officers, along with raising awareness to reduce stigma, were all mentioned as ways to reduce recidivism and influence personal and professional growth.

"There are so many things that we expect of individuals when they're just getting released. They have to get a job, pay their monthly supervision fees and find a place to live," Glover said.

Glover witnessed the re-entry process during her time as a parole officer for the state of Georgia, but the connection is also personal. Her grandfather encountered challenges when he was released from prison, which left a lasting impression on the family, including Glover's mother, who also joined law enforcement, eventually becoming a police captain.

In the documentary, Glover interviews Mario Rivera, who spoke about his own re-entry experience. Rivera praised Worcester-area nonprofits such as Legendary Legacies and Open Sky Community Services for providing services such as counseling and assistance with obtaining a laptop and hygiene products. He also acknowledged his family as a large source of support.

"Without initial help in the first 60 days of me coming home, my progress wouldn't have taken off the way it did," Rivera said.

Rivera didn't wait until he was released to start preparing. He completed QCC's culinary re-entry program, a partnership with the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction that teaches skills needed to work in food service and includes multiple certifications upon successful completion. In "Voices of Justice," Rivera shared that during the program, he realized education was a vital part of his path to a new future. After his release, he enrolled at QCC and in the Liberal Arts for Returning Citizens (LARC)program at Clark University.

"The culinary program has had a significant impact on hundreds of incarcerated individuals," said Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis. "We are proud to have helped Mario build a successful path forward after incarceration."

Anthony Bryant, who also appeared in "Voices of Justice," has seen multiple sides of the criminal justice system. Before he was incarcerated, he held roles as a corrections officer, a deputy sheriff and a highway patrolman.

"Law enforcement is not just a job; it's your identity. And losing that role can produce deep internal shame," Bryant shared.

Bryant, however, drew on his law enforcement training to stay calm and focused during his incarceration, using that discipline as a foundation for working to improve his life. As his release date approached, he didn't receive any re-entry preparation from the prison, so he got ready by reading self-help books and journaling.

After his sentence, Bryant relied on employment assistance programs, but he was often steered into manual labor positions that didn't reflect his skills, making it difficult to rebuild his professional career.

In addition to family and community programs, both Bryant and Rivera said that a strong relationship with a probation or parole officer can make a positive difference. They noted that the stigma of having a criminal record can be detrimental to progress, but even one person who sees past their mistakes can be instrumental. They hope others can offer the same grace to those who are going through re-entry.

"People change when their dignity is restored, responsibility is entrusted gradually and their story is allowed to mean something more than their worst decision," Bryant remarked. "It's a mindset shift that many people and legislators don't understand."

Rivera and Bryant have also taken it upon themselves to help others with similar experiences. Bryant has become an ethics trainer for law enforcement and other public service organizations. Rivera has stayed connected with Legendary Legacies to educate others and advocate for those in the re-entry process.

"I'm taking accountability in my own life for the things that I've done," Rivera said. "Some people might not be receptive to my situation, but I take it as motivation to do better."

"Voices of Justice" can be viewed at youtube.com/watch?v=odTT0Stx3Tg.

Outdoor summer concert returns Aug. 21 in downtown Worcester with Jazz+ Live™ featuring The Love Dogs

WORCESTER — WICN Public Radio 90.5 FM, The Hanover Theatre & Conservatory for the Performing Arts, and the Downtown Worcester Business Improvement District invite the community to celebrate summer at the 9th Annual Jazz+ Live™ concert,

featuring the acclaimed jump blues and rhythm & blues band The Love Dogs.

The outdoor concert will take place on Friday, Aug. 21, behind The Hanover Theatre in

downtown Worcester. Gates open at 5 p.m., with the concert beginning at 6:00 p.m.

For more than two decades, The Love Dogs, fronted by the charismatic Eddie Scheer, have

entertained audiences across the United States, Canada, and Europe with their irresistible blend

of jump blues, New Orleans R&B, swing, and early rock 'n' roll. Their powerhouse horn section,

boogie-woogie piano, soulful vocals, and infectious stage presence have made them one of New

England's premier live bands and a favorite among music lovers of all ages.

"Jazz+ Live™ has become one of Worcester's signature summer traditions because it brings

together outstanding live music, strong community partnerships, and people who simply enjoy

spending an evening together," said Melanie Le-Boeuf, Executive Director of WICN Public

-MORE-Radio. "At WICN, we believe music has the power to connect people."

Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, along with food and non-alcoholic beverages, to

enjoy during the performance. Food trucks and cash bars will be available throughout the

evening. Outside alcohol is not permitted.

General admission tickets are $30 in advance and $35 on the day of the event. Guests should

bring their own lawn chairs. VIP front-row tables for four are available for $175 per table,

offering reserved seating with the best views of the stage. Tickets are available through The

Hanover Theatre Box Office and online at TheHanoverTheatre.org.

About WICN Public Radio

WICN Public Radio 90.5 FM is an independent, nonprofit public radio station serving Central

Massachusetts and beyond. Through award-winning jazz, roots, blues, world music, and locally

produced programming, WICN connects listeners with the arts, culture, education, and

conversations that enrich the region. WICN's mission is to inspire, entertain, and engage diverse

audiences while supporting the cultural vitality of the communities it serves. Broadcasting

throughout Central New England and streaming worldwide, WICN brings exceptional music and

local voices to audiences wherever they are.

FTD

continued from page A1

to attend the Italian buffet lunch for $40 with advance registration. The event will also feature raffles, contests, and sponsorship opportunities. Net proceeds will benefit the Frontotemporal Disorders Research Center at UMass Chan Medical School and The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (AFTD).

On Sunday, Sept. 6, Auburn resident and David Prouty High School graduate Devyn Tobin will take on the "From Lab to Legislator" Walk, a 40-mile one-man journey from UMass Chan Medical School in Worcester to the Massachusetts State House in Boston. Wearing a 40-pound weighted vest to symbolize the weight FTD places on families, he hopes to increase public awareness, support research, and encourage legislative action for those living with Frontotemporal Degeneration.

Both events honor the memory of Jim Tobin, a longtime Spencer resident, Air Force veteran, husband, father, and grandfather who lived with FTD. Many members of the Tobin family, including Jim's wife, continue to call Spencer home and hope the community will join them in honoring Jim's legacy and supporting efforts to improve the lives of families affected by FTD.

For golf registration, sponsorship information, or to learn more about the awareness walk, contact jimtobinmemorial@gmail.com or visit the Jim Tobin Memorial social media pages.

EVENT

continued from page A1

Chorus; and the Sounds of Stow. She currently teaches piano at Guitar Center in Millbury. Her website is alleycote.wordpress.com.

GRANT

continued from page A1

performers who are interested in participating in future community events to reach out and share their information by email to recreation@dudleyma.gov.

We look forward to using this grant funding to continue enhancing our local events for the families of Dudley.

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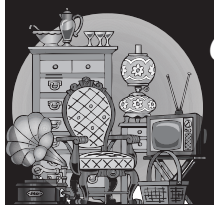

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Webster First launches 'Pay a Person'

SEND MONEY TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY INSTANTLY, NO EXTRA APPS REQUIRED

WORCESTER — Webster First has announced an exciting update to its online banking platform with the launch of a new "Pay a Person" feature. Arriving this July, this convenient tool will let members send money instantly to friends and family straight from their account—no extra third-party payment apps to download or sign up for. With just a few taps, members can transfer funds in seconds, making it faster and easier than ever to pay back a friend, share expenses, or help out a loved one. Designed for speed and simplicity, "Pay a Person" puts effortless, secure payments right at members' fingertips.

The Pay a Person tool was created to make everyday financial moments simpler. To send money, members only need the recipient's name and phone number or email address. There's no need to ask for account or routing numbers. Once a transfer is started, the recipient gets a quick notification and can accept the funds in just a few steps, even if they don't bank with Webster First.

The feature is built for the moments that come up in daily life. Members can split a dinner bill with friends, chip in for a group gift, pay a babysitter or dog walker, settle up on shared rent or utilities, or send emergency funds to a family member in a pinch. Pay a Person makes it easy to move money quickly and securely whenever the need arises.

Webster First designed the Pay a Person feature with flexibility and affordability in mind, giving members several ways to send money based on how quickly it needs to arrive. Sending money to another Webster First member is always free and lands in their account instantly, making it perfect for quick, everyday exchanges. When the money is headed to someone at a different bank, members can choose a free next-day delivery option that's ideal for payments that aren't time-sensitive. And for those moments when speed matters most, recipients at outside financial institutions can accept the funds instantly for a simple, low flat fee of just $2.50. No matter which option members choose, the recipient receives a text or email with clear, step-by-step instructions on how to accept the funds.

To make sending money as simple as possible, Webster First has built Pay a Person directly into its online banking platform. Members can access the feature right from their account dashboard, with clear prompts and an intuitive layout that guides them through each transfer in just a few taps.

About Webster First

Webster First is a community-focused credit union committed to helping its members make sound, responsible financial decisions. By providing modern digital tools and trusted local service, Webster First makes everyday banking simple and secure. For more information about the new online banking updates, visit websterfirst.com.

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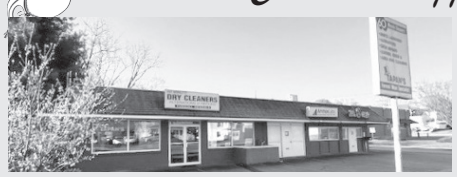

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Major collaborative milestone marked at QCC Center Topping Off

Courtesy

Left to right: Deputy Commissioner Dr. Richard Riccardi of the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education; QCC Trustee Dr. Barur Rajeshkumar; QCC Trustee Dr. Satya Mitra; Commissioner Adam Baacke of the Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM); QCC Board Chair Dr. Linda Maykel; QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja; State Sen. Robyn Kennedy; State Rep. James O'Day; Assistant Secretary Robert LePage of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education; Worcester Mayor Joseph Petty; QCC Student Trustee Dawit Quilty and Craig Skurka, operations manager for Gilbane Building Company.

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College celebrated a major construction milestone with a Topping Off Ceremony for its new QCC Center, marking the completion of the building's structural frame. State and local leaders, project partners, and members of the college community gathered to witness the raising of the final beam and celebrate the progress of this transformational project.

"Through careful planning, advocacy, fundraising, design and construction, the vision is now becoming a reality," said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja. "Most importantly, this will create opportunities for students to develop the skills they need to succeed in today's workforce and strengthen the connection between education, industry and our community."

The event featured a ceremonial beam signing and remarks from Pedraja; State Sen. Robyn Kennedy; State Rep. James O'Day; Worcester Mayor Joseph Petty; Assistant Secretary Robert LePage of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education; Deputy Commissioner Dr. Richard Riccardi of the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education; Commissioner Adam Baacke of the Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM); and Craig Skurka, operations manager for Gilbane Building Company.

"The raising of the beam is a moment for us to give gratitude and thank those who have stepped up to make this a reality," Kennedy said. "As you join into the growing skyline of Worcester, we continue to grow with you. By signing our names to these beams, we are signing our commitment to make sure the school continues to be successful."

The Topping Off Ceremony commemorated the progress of the $37.4 million renovation and expansion project, which is transforming a 1960s-era athletic facility into a modern, accessible hub for learning, workforce development and student life.

Upon completion, the 57,000-square-foot facility will feature advanced manufacturing and robotics laboratories, hospitality training spaces, flexible classrooms and revitalized athletic facilities. The project also includes significant upgrades to aging infrastructure and accessibility improvements designed to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all students.

"This project is so important to the mission and vision of Quinsigamond Community College, the region it serves and the Commonwealth," Riccardi said. "We know that holistic student success incorporates curricular and co-curricular initiatives, and this project provides the infrastructure to check both of those boxes."

Speakers highlighted the collaborative partnership among the college, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and project stakeholders that have made this investment possible.

"It is a necessity that we continue to improve our community college environments," O'Day said. "The legislature has made it very clear that not only is higher ed important, but certainly the community college segment is equally as important. It's been an honor to be able to represent the college."

While the majority of the renovation is funded by DCAMM, the project reflects the type of transformational campus investment envisioned through the Commonwealth's BRIGHT Act (An Act to Build Resilient Infrastructure to Generate Higher Education Transformation). The statewide initiative is designed to support modernization of public higher education facilities.

"I want to thank our legislative partners for championing the BRIGHT Act to date and hopefully getting it across the finish line so we can keep doing impactful projects like this one," Baacke said. "As someone whose parents both worked at community colleges, I know there are few things we do that are more important in changing the lives of residents across the Commonwealth than what community colleges do every day."

Designed to achieve LEED Gold certification, the facility will support improved energy performance, enhanced indoor air quality and long-term sustainability goals.

"Buildings like this bring jobs to your community – great-paying opportunities for advancement. We are looking forward to continuing to make these investments. They are about the future of the economy," LePage said.

Skurka recognized the efforts of the construction team and project partners in reaching the milestone safely and efficiently.

"Today's event celebrates a significant construction milestone and the many people and partnerships helping us bring this project to life," Skurka said. "At Gilbane, we are committed to creating healthy, safe and sustainable spaces that have a lasting effect on the community. We are honored to partner with QCC on this transformative project."

The QCC Center is expected to open in Fall 2027 and will serve as a centerpiece of the college's campus, creating new opportunities for hands-on learning, workforce training and community engagement.

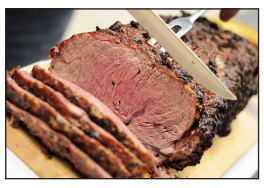
"When we look at this structure, we aren't just looking at steel beams and concrete; we're looking at the literal framework of Worcester's economic future," said Petty. "True progress means lifting everyone up. By expanding physical accessibility and producing state-of-the-art, energy-efficient systems, QCC is ensuring our green energy and equity goals move forward."

308 Lakeside

Casual Waterfront Dining on Lake Lashaway

LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEK!
7/18 THE MOONSHINERS 7/19 RYAN HOOD
7/24 JOHNNY TAYLOR 7/26 EASY SEASON
7/31 EVAN COUTURE

MUSIC BINGO EVERY THURSDAY 7 TO 9



Half Priced Apps
Tues-Thurs from 2-5pm
New Summer Mocktail Menu

2025 BEST OF CENTRAL MASS

OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK
11 - CLOSE
CLOSED MONDAYS

Please visit our website or Facebook page for our full menu.

Please call 774-449-8333 for reservations, take-out or reserve online 308lakeside.com

New Summer Menu & Hours (11-9)

308 Main Street
East Brookfield
774-449-8333
308lakeside.com
Find us on Facebook

Summer Clearance Sale!

0% Interest - for 1 Full Year

We are in the process of selling out some of our current stock to make room for new Fall models. Because of this, we are offering savings throughout the store!

- Bedrooms
- Living Rooms
- Recliners
- Occasional Pieces
- Entertainment Centers
- Sealy Mattresses

*Some items are one of a kind floor samples. *No orders will be taken on these items. Floor Sample Clearance items are sold on a first come first serve basis.*

www.sundeenfurnitureinc.com
Sundeen Furniture
241 Providence Rd., Whitinsville MA 01588 • 508-234-8777
FREE LAYAWAY • FREE DELIVERY
M. T. W. 9:30-6:00; TH., FRI. 9:30-7; SAT. 9:30-6:00; SUN. 11-5

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!

news@stonebridgepress.news

BIG Summer SALE
GREAT SELECTION! TV SALE!
OUR PRICES ARE THE BEST!
Great Selection! A/C's
GAS GRILL SALE!
weber
MATTRESS SALE!
TWIN: $199 (REG. $299) / FULL: $269 (REG. $499) / QUEEN: $299 (REG. $599)
2025 CHOICE AWARDS
DEALS BETTER THAN the BIG BOX STORES!
FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER REG. $449.99 $329.99
G.E. STOVE w/AIR FRY REG. $899.99 $699.99
SMOOTH-TOP STOVE REG. $699.99 $599.99
21 CU. FT. FREEZER REG. $999.99 $799.99
G.E. 27 CU. FT. FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR REG. $1999.99 $1499.99
5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER REG. $239.99 $189.99
AMANA WASHER OR DRYER REG. $599.99 $489.99
ENERGY STAR 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR REG. $699.99 $599.99
FAMOUS-MAKER OVER-THE-STOVE MICROWAVE REG. $249.99 $229.99
LG WASHER OR DRYER Front Load - REG. $1599.99 $1,399.99
MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER REG. $699.99 $529.99
FRIGIDAIRE SIDE BY SIDE REG. $1,499.00 $1099.99
BIKE SALE!
1000's IN STOCK!
WE REPAIR BIKES!
E-BIKES IN STOCK!
SPRING BIKE TUNE-UP: $49.99!
INSTANT FINANCING UP TO $10,000!
WHITCO
140 MAIN STREET, SPENCER, MA
508.885.9343
WE INSTALL MICROWAVES, DISHWASHERS, and TVS!
Store Hours: Mon. thru Fri: 10am-8:30pm • Sat: 9am-8pm • Sun: 12 Noon-7pm