

Auburn News

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Friday, September 19, 2025

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www.StonebridgePress.com



Courtesy

CHURCH DONATES SCHOOL BACKPACKS

The Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Webster provided 80 school backpacks and 80 Dollar Tree gift cards, valued at \$15 each, to Park Ave Elementary School and Webster Middle School, and another 40 backpacks to an elementary school in Southbridge, to help students start off the school year in a good way. The Academic Interventionist Team at Park Ave helped put the gifts together and delivered these to the adjustment counselors and family liaison. The Saints Constantine and Helen Church Family offer these each year, and then will follow up with Thanksgiving Baskets and Christmas gifts for families in need during the holiday season.

Oxford High School announces 2025 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees

OXFORD — The Oxford Athletic Hall of Fame Committee is proud to announce the induction of the Class of 2025. This special event will take place on Saturday, Sept. 20, from 1-3 p.m. in the Roger D. Bacon Gymnasium. Each inductee will be introduced by a presenter and then presented with an award. We will be providing light refreshments and snacks.

In addition, game tickets for the home football game on Friday, Sept. 19 will be provided to all friends and family of inductees that wish to attend. A special announcement will be made for the inductees at halftime honoring their achievements. The HOF Committee looks forward to our gathering this coming September as we get to renew old acquaintances and start new ones. We are looking forward to celebrating these Pirates and their athletic accomplishments at our Oxford Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony:

Roger Bacon - Class of 1951

Roger Bacon, a distinguished member of the Class of 1951, had a lifelong relationship with Oxford High School, first as a student-athlete and later as a dedicated educator and administrator. As a student-athlete, he was a member of Clark Tournament qualifying basketball teams. His professional career brought him back to OHS, where he served for 33 years in various capacities.

During his tenure at OHS, Bacon held multiple roles, including math teacher, coach, guidance counselor, and assistant principal. He spent 13 years as the school's principal, leaving a lasting impact on the institution. Beyond his work at the high school, he was the MIAA Central Massachusetts Basketball Tournament Director for 43 years, a testament to his commitment to high school athletics.

Bacon's immense contributions to Oxford High School were permanently recognized when the OHS gymnasium was named in his honor. This tribute solidifies his legacy as a central figure in the school's history and a beloved member of the community.

Emily (Dawidczyk) Tessier - Class of 2013

Emily (Dawidczyk) Tessier, a standout athlete from the class of 2013, excelled in soccer and track and field, earning numerous accolades

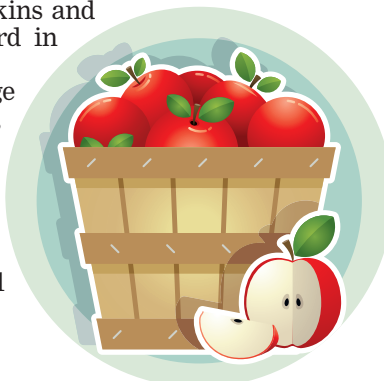
Turn To **HOF** page **A13**

Dudley Grange to hold annual Apple Festival Oct. 4

DUDLEY — Come out and enjoy a New England fall day at the Dudley Grange Apple Festival on Saturday, Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The festivities will be held at the Dudley Grange, located at 139 Center Rd. in Dudley, across the street from the Black Tavern Craft Fair.

The Apple Festival offers something for all ages. Shop for home-made goods and crafts from local vendors and artisans. It's a great opportunity to start your holiday shopping! While you are browsing, enjoy live music by "The Old Fiddler's Club of Rhode Island" and "The Grey Whisker Pickers" both sponsored by the Massachusetts and Dudley Cultural Councils. Bring the family, kids will enjoy the animals at the Records and Burpee Petting Zoo as well as playing children's games and participating in fun activities. Don't forget to get farm grown pumpkins and freshly picked apples from Buell's Orchard in Connecticut.

Looking for delicious food? Dudley Grange will be serving their famous hot apple crisp, our fresh, hand cut French Fries and delectable, chocolate covered apples. The First Congregational Church of Dudley (Conant Memorial) will be offering their delicious chili, chowder and hot dogs/chili dogs. So, save the date for a fun, New England fall festival experience!



Ceremony recognizes local Vietnam veterans



BY STEVE GALLANT
CHESTER P. TUTTLE AMERICAN LEGION POST 279

AUBURN — On Sept. 6, the Chester P. Tuttle American Legion Post 279 held a ceremony to recognize Vietnam veterans from their post, and from the town of Auburn.

To begin the event, everyone was asked to go outside to a memorial tribute to the fallen Vietnam veterans. Surrounding

the Traveling Vietnam Wall, owned by the Vietnam Veterans for the Community, Commander Rich Larson led a dedication of the memorial with the Star Spangled Banner, a prayer by Chaplain Don Legasy, a dedication of the monument representing Soldiers that never made it back, and then Taps.

When that was finished, everyone reentered the banquet hall for the rest of the pro-

gram. Senior Vice Commander Steve Gallant introduced Ray Robidoux to read a poem by Red Burnette. Gallant introduced the speakers for the event, leading off with Massachusetts State Senator Michael Moore followed by Massachusetts State Representative Paul Frost. After that was the Town Manager Dori Vecchio. Following was a speech by Vietnam Veterans for the

Turn To **VETERANS** page **A10**

Webster selectmen delay Swinging Chicken decision

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — The selectmen put on hold a decision regarding the Swinging Chicken's plan to have outdoor concerts, sending it to the Planning Board for site plan review first.

That was pretty much what the proponents, owner Sergio Manzi and attorney Mike Jalbert, were hoping to avoid. Jalbert argued the site already has noise control in the form of an eight-foot fence "out of respect and courtesy to existing abutters."

The long-extant bar on Lake Street wants to have bands on its back patio on "a limited number of Saturdays from 2-6 p.m.," with one this year and about 12 every year going forward, Jalbert said. He later noted he sent out 54 abutter letters, but only got four responses.

Residents, however, said noise there already "disrupts to a great extent the enjoyment of our property," in Carolina Cooper's words. She said this is her second summer living here, and described it as already being "a noisy background" she can hear with closed windows, curtains and the TV on. Although noise is not always an issue, she said she often hears it "after the venue closes," with people hanging out nearby "late into the night" and sometimes from arriving or departing vehicles' loud engines.

Debbie Jolin said her house faces the bar's back end, so she "can hear when there are people on the back porch area talking and laughing in our bedroom." She's concerned concerts there will result in "outdoor partying until I don't know what kind of hours."

Another woman claimed she sees "one guy out there smoking all the time" who can see into her house despite the fence. She also cited on-street parking issues where she's had to wait more than an hour for people to move their cars that were blocking her driveway.

Parking seemed to be a contention, with Jalbert saying Manzi wants to add spaces and is willing to call police on errant parkers. But Planner Ann Morgan said the site plans reduce it, and there was "a lot of concern" about parking when they added that back patio several years ago. To her, it's likely the bands will use some of the parking, reducing it further for customers.

Morgan said the bar is a "pre-existing non-conforming use" in that residential district (meaning it predates zoning) and urged the board to delay until the Planning Board reviews it.

Earl Gabor agreed, saying he's "lived next to a bar in Webster for 40 years" and has seen numerous issues. To him, the basic need is for "mutual respect for one another."

Mark Rogers noted he wants to hear from Fire Chief Saad about safety. Although the town has a noise bylaw, "the decibel limitations aren't that effective because the bands are at the highest level constantly," he added.

Tom Klebart agreed, saying there also needs to be a clear

Turn To **WEBSTER** page **A10**

Auburn residents to participate in 37th Annual Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai

AUBURN — 13 residents from Auburn will participate in the 2025 Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai on Sunday, Oct. 5.

Tim Connor, William Connor, Bernadette Connor,

Edward Jones

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Diane Mara, Camryn Connor, Lauryn Connor, Addyson Connor, Matthew Berthiaume, Jessica Hickson, Barbara Pero and three other Auburn residents, along with thousands of other walkers, will participate in the iconic annual event that will unite the community to raise funds to support all forms of adult and pediatric care and research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Jimmy Fund Walk will aim to raise \$9.5 million this year in the effort to prevent, treat, and defy cancer.

“For 36 years, the Jimmy Fund Walk has been a cornerstone of support for lifesaving cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber,” said Caitlin Fink, vice president of The Jimmy Fund. “Every participant contributes directly to advancing lifesaving research and critically important cancer care. Walk Day is more than just an event—it’s a celebration of hope and the shared commitment of the Jimmy Fund community.”

One walk, four distances, for all cancers

The Jimmy Fund Walk takes place along the famed Boston Marathon® course, and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options: 5K walk (from Dana-Farber’s Longwood Medical Campus); 10K walk (from Newton); Half Marathon walk (from Wellesley); and Marathon walk (from Hopkinton). Walkers who prefer to participate virtually can complete their chosen distance from any location.

Whatever route participants choose, they will be supported by hundreds of volunteers and treated to refueling stations with refreshments throughout the course. Walkers will be motivated by poster-sized photographs of Walk Heroes that appear along the course as inspiration. All routes will conclude at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line Powered by Schneider Electric at Boston Common, by the corner of Charles and Beacon Street. Finish line activities will include a celebration with food, entertainment, and more.

To register for the Walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker, visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call 866-531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt. You can also sign up to volunteer on Walk day.

About the Jimmy Fund

The Jimmy Fund, established in Boston in 1948, is comprised of community-based fundraising events and other programs that, solely and directly, benefit Dana-Farber Cancer Institute’s lifesaving mission to provide compassionate patient care and groundbreaking cancer research for children and adults. The Jimmy Fund is an official charity of the Boston Red Sox, the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, the Pan-Mass Challenge, and the Variety Children’s Charity of New England. Since 1948, the generosity of millions of people has helped Dana-Farber save countless lives and reduce the burden of cancer for patients and families worldwide. Follow the Jimmy Fund on Facebook, X, and Instagram: @TheJimmyFund.

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Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is one of the world’s leading centers of cancer research and treatment. Dana-Farber’s mission is to reduce the burden of cancer through scientific inquiry, clinical care, education, community engagement, and advocacy. Dana-Farber is a federally designated Comprehensive Cancer Center and a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School.

Dana-Farber provides the latest treatments in cancer for adults through Dana-Farber Brigham Cancer Center and for children through Dana-Farber/Boston Children’s Cancer and Blood Disorders Center. Dana-Farber is the only hospital nationwide with a top 5 U.S. News & World Report Best Cancer Hospital ranking in both adult and pediatric care.

As a global leader in oncology, Dana-Farber is dedicated to a unique and equal balance between cancer research and care, translating the results of discovery into new treatments for patients locally and around the world, offering more than 1,100 clinical trials.

REAL ESTATE

AUBURN

\$785,000, 8 Bridle Path, Patel, Rohitkumar J, and Patel, Vanita, to Basta, Amanda C.

\$475,000, 171 Boyce St, Foreman, Jennifer, and Bergeron, Kevin, to Bush Jr, Alfred, and Kaneunyenye-Bush, C.

\$470,000, 10 White Ter, Oshafi, Clinton, and Balle, Vanina, to Ford, Michelle, and Ford, Kevin.

\$425,000, 30 Davis Rd, Zielonka Rt, and Zielonka, Mark C, to Roy, David, and Davis, Julia R.

\$380,000, 231 Millbury St, Platukis Robert L Est, and Rusack, Kristine M, to Quijada, Marco.

\$370,000, 5 Victoria Dr #2, Rynders Elaine J Est, and Bleau, Paul W, to Kurban, Mariana, and Kurban, Mykhailo.

DUDLEY

\$252,000, 7 Duval Rd, Lefort, Louise A, to Lewis, Kayla A, and Beaudet, Susan D.

\$160,000, 5 Mason Rd, Dodge, Bruce, and Dodge, Jayne, to Dupont Mason Road Nt, and Dupont, Jeffrey W.

\$100,000, 6th Ave #2, Kiritsis, Sotirios, to Kiritsas, James W.

OXFORD

\$500,000, 61 Locust St, Cullivan, Philip P, and Cullivan, Claire E, to Gasasira, Gaspard, and Gasasira, Theodette.

\$310,000, 66 Pleasant St #9, Gauthier Sr, Bernard V, to Forcier, Katherine.

\$275,000, 7 Thayer Pond Dr #11, Ferreira, Luis, and Ferreira, Rachel, to Lowell, Cory.

WEBSTER

\$1,177,500, 28 Prospect St, Webster Rentals LLC, to J&r Re Holdings LLC.

\$1,177,500, 28-1/2 Prospect St, Webster Rentals LLC, to J&r Re Holdings LLC.

\$715,000, 16 Blueberry Way, Siegmund Paul D Est, and Siegmund, Darlene A, to Pease, Michael, and Thompson, Julie A.

\$697,500, 56 Upper Gore Rd, Anderson, Linda A, to Schoonmaker, Peter.

\$636,000, 29 Granite St, Webster Rentals LLC, to Thomas, Angemot, and Isaac, Renande.

\$636,000, 29-1/2 Granite St, Webster Rentals LLC, to Thomas, Angemot, and Isaac, Renande.

\$480,000, 14 Emmanuel Ave, Dellana Jr, George G, and Dellana, Aileen C, to Wonderlie Jr, Jeffrey A, and Wonderlie, Yvelisse.

\$435,000, 3 Rodman Rd, Ngugi, Benjamin, to Wesseh, Marcus, and Wesseh, Etta.

\$419,000, 22 Morris St, Slaughter Homes LLC, to Bissell, Shannon.

\$385,000, 1 Upper Gore Rd, Gonsorcik Jr, John A, and Gonsorcik, Christella M, to Badgett, Eric, and Badgett, Eleanor.

\$385,000, 32 Main St, Demon Deacon Realty LLC, to Gmggg Properties LLC.

\$310,000, 29 Upper Gore Rd, Kunkel Lt, and Kunkel, Bernard C, to Francisco Stone Work Inc.

\$165,000, 150-R N Main St, Waller, Samantha A, to Ekt Investments Inc.

White, Tanya, to Megna, Michael, and Megna, Kelly.

\$360,000, 3 Sears Ave, Santora, Jai J, to Collier, Andrew, and Costello, Casey.

\$300,000, 5 Hall St, Gordon Dean Wentworth Irt, and Wentworth Jr, Gordon, to 5 Hall Street LLC.

\$42,220, 5 Kingsbury Rd, Bomysoad, Justin M, and Nye, Rachel M, to Nye, Rachel M.

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DUDLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-8040)
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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

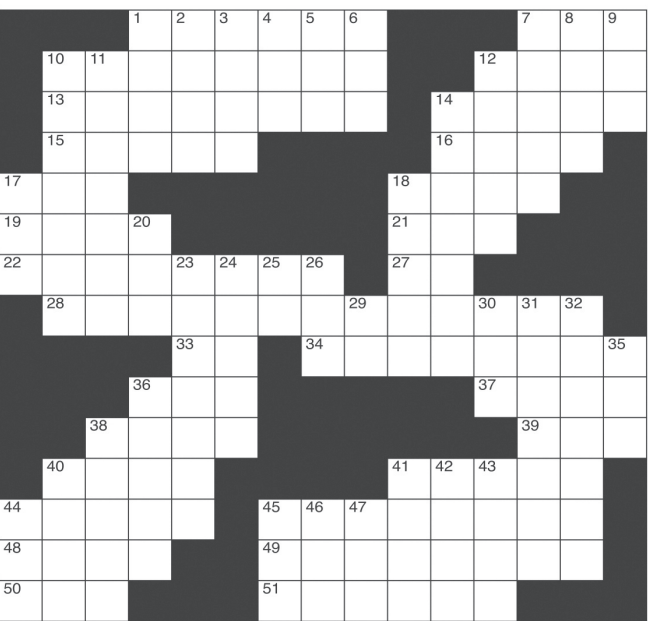
OXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT (987-6012)
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

WEBSTER

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Tuesday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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For emergencies, call 911

WEBSTER FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-3875)
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Saturday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Carved into

7. ___ Rogers, cowboy

10. Unruly locale

12. Edible mushroom

13. Influential noblemen

14. Rattling breaths

15. David ___ George, Brit. P.M.

16. Musician Clapton

17. Small Eurasian deer

18. Invests in little enterprises

19. Perimeter

21. Chicago ballplayer

22. Animal body part

27. It's everywhere these days

28. Fictional ad exec
33. Mr. T character Baracus

34. Against the current

36. Subway rodent

37. Armor plate

38. Hair on the head

39. Strong insect

40. Swollen lymph node

41. A way to lessen

44. Walter White poison

45. Sleeveless garment

48. Long accompanied song

49. Without features

50. Yankee great Mattingly

51. Removes from record

CLUES DOWN

1. Root of taro plant

2. Those ones

3. Appliances have one

4. A way to sing

5. Midway between east and southeast

6. Animal dwelling

7. An object that as survived from the past

8. Oil cartel

9. Affirmative

10. Foul smell

11. Brisk tempo

12. S. American indigenous person

14. Restored

17. Official

18. Skin lesions

20. Electroencephalograph

23. Middle Eastern country
24. Extremely angry

25. Title used before a woman's name

26. British thermal unit

29. By the way (abbr.)

30. Anger

31. Nullifies

32. Ones who acquire

35. Time zone

36. Arabic name

38. Protein in mucus

40. Ballpoint pen

41. Mimics

42. Humans have a lot of it

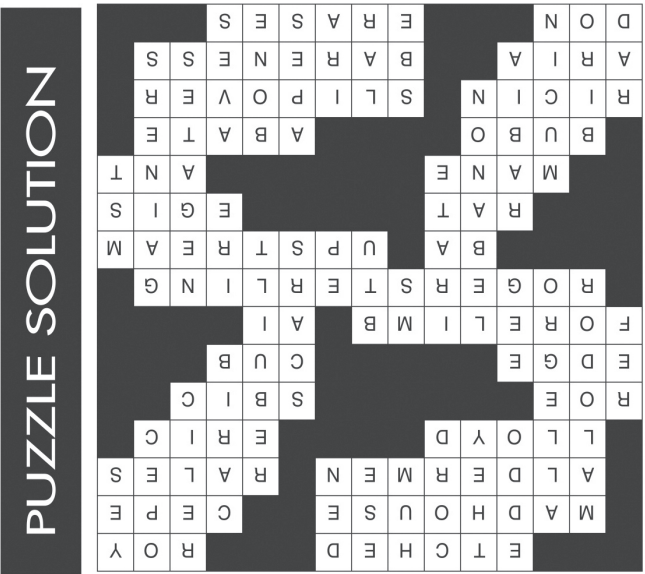
43. Expressions of good wishes

44. Cool!

45. One point east of due south

46. City of Angels football team (abbr.)

47. A way to save for retirement



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Webster resident to participate in 37th Annual Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai

WEBSTER — One resident from Webster will participate in the 2025 Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai on Sunday, Oct. 5.

Debbie Mann, along with thousands of other walkers, will participate in the iconic annual event that will unite the community to raise funds to support all forms of adult and pediatric care and research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Jimmy Fund Walk will aim to raise \$9.5 million this year in the effort to prevent, treat, and defy cancer.

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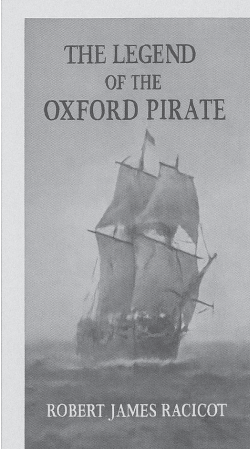
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Dudley, Charlton receive state dam grants

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — Dudley and Charlton have both been awarded funding through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Dam and Seawall Repair or Removal Program that will allow each community to perform much needed work on dams and structures essential to water control and public safety.

The two towns are among 23 municipalities awarded the state funding. Dudley is receiving \$250,000 for the rehabilitation of the Lower Gore Pond Dam, while Charlton will receive \$89,900 to fund a feasibility study for the removal of the Lower Sibley Pond Dam. The grants are intended to help communities address structural issues that could put local homes and roads at risk if the waterways were to overflow.

Dudley Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda broke the news during a Board of Selectmen meeting on Sept. 8, calling the Lower Gore Pond Dam project long overdue after several years of applying.

“(Former Town Planner) Bill Scanlon put in the original application and it follows our strategy to pursue grant funding to mitigate all of the many town dams that are on their way out around town, repair them, in some cases we can engineer them down to have them removed altogether,” said Ruda.

In Charlton, Town Administrator Andrew Golas said the funding will be essential determine designs and costs for resolving the Lower Sibley Pond Dam situation.

“This dam had been identified as structurally deficient by the Office of Dam Safety (ODS) last year. The dam was previously identified as a privately owned dam by ODS. Further title search of the property found that the dam was located on property owned by the Town. Since this discovery, we have been working with our consulting engineers and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs on opportunities to address this hazard through the Dam and Seawall Repair or Removal Program,” said Golas.

In a press release announcing the grants, the Healey-Driscoll Administration called the overall investment of \$10.9 million in funding an important step forward in protecting neighborhoods from disaster. The Dam and Seawall Program provides funding for the design, permitting, and construction of these infrastructure projects which the administration noted are often the first line of defense for communities against flood risks and storm damage. The Dam and Seawall program has provided nearly \$146 million in grants and loans since its inception in 2013.

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PET
of the
WEEK

Meer Kipper

Don't let his age of 11 years fool you—Kipper may be a senior, but he's strong, spirited, and has plenty of love (and zoomies!) to give. Kipper is a gentle soul with a big personality, searching for a loving home to enjoy his golden years. Sweet and affectionate, he thrives on companionship and adores being around his people. He's the perfect mix of calm and playful—happy to join you for a walk or romp with his stuffed toys, and just as content to curl up beside you for a snuggle. Fully housetrained and crate-trained, Kipper already knows all the basics—"sit," "down," "paw," "place," "off," and even "roll over!"—and he's still learning new tricks! Kipper would love a loving home (no cats, please!) where he can lounge on a soft bed, enjoy tasty treats, and bask in all the love and attention he deserves. Despite everything he's been through—including arriving at Baypath underweight—Kipper's resilience shines through. He's ready to embrace this next chapter with his trademark charm, strength, and gentle heart.

500 Legacy Farms North • Hopkinton, MA 01748

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PROGRAMS & EVENTS

AT THE 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 library will be opening at 11am on Wednesday, Sept. 24.

This September, we invite you to celebrate Library Card Sign-Up Month and discover how a single card can open the door to endless opportunities. With a library card, you can do more than check out books. From free classes to computer help, streaming media, and cultural events, today's libraries connect communities to information, inspiration, and each other.

Please join us in the month of September to celebrate the incredible art by featured local artist Deb Piselli. A variety of paintings are displayed for your enjoyment in the Fels Room whenever the Library is open!

Gentle Yoga
Mondays in September
10:00-11:00 AM

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.

Mahjong at the Pearle
Every Wednesday in September
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 welcome, registration not required.

Quilting Group
Every Wednesday in September
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 for this informal group.
Bring your project, enjoy the company

"Cook the Book" Book Club
Monday, September 22nd
6:00-7:00
Book: Cooking In Real Life by Lidey Heuck

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.

There will be a place to include your recipe selection in the reservation form. Registration Required.

Crawford Library Book Group
Thursday, September 25th
6:00-7:30
Book: The Woman Is No Man By Author: Etaf Rum
Books are available at the circulation desk for checkout one month prior to discussion.
No Registration Required.

Baby Open Play
Fridays in September
10:00- 12:00
Open play for babies! Parents and caregivers can let babies play while getting to know others in the community. Come anytime between 10-12 or stay the whole time! No Registration Required

Pre-K Power
Tuesdays in September
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!
No Registration needed.

Toddler Storytime
Wednesdays in September (not meeting on Sept. 24)
10:00-10:45
Best for children 6 months - 36 months and their caregiver (siblings always welcome!). We'll have fun with songs, fingerplays, a story, moving our bodies to music, shaker eggs, scarves, and bubbles! There will be time for free play and socialization, too.
No Registration needed.

Graphic Novel Book Club
Thursday, September 11th
6:00- 6:45
Do you love graphic novels? Join us for Graphic Novel Book Club! Each month we will meet to discuss the graphic novel of the month. Copies of the book will be located at the circulation desk in the Children's Room. Best for ages 8 and up. Registration not required. This is not a drop off program.

Wiggles & Giggles for Littles
Thursdays in September
10:00-10:30
YFCP is pleased to offer a FREE 7-week music series for children, ages 6-24 months, with a parent/caregiver. Ms. Laine will introduce music, movement, musical instruments and stories to your little ones. Registration is required. Please note: you are registering for a 7-week series.
Registration Required.

Wiggles & Giggles
Thursdays in September
10:45-11:45
Join YFCP and Ms. Laine for a FREE 7-week music series held here at the Pearle L. Crawford Library. Children (ages 2-5) with a parent/caregiver, will sing, move, play musical instruments, learn rhythm and listen to stories. Siblings are welcome. Registration is required. Please note: you are registering for a 7-week series.
Registration Required.

Pokemon Club
Thursday, September 18
6:00-6:45
Do you love everything Pokemon? Join us for Pokemon club! Each month we will have exciting crafts and activities! Best for ages 6 and up. No Registration Required. This is not a drop off program.

New! Yoga for Children
Friday, September 19
10:00-10:45
Join certified Yoga instructor, Patricia (also known as Buffy), for a 45-minute yoga class for children ages 3-5 and their caregivers! Caregivers are encouraged to participate in the class, but it is not required. If you will be participating, please bring your own mat. (Yoga mats will be provided for the children.) Registration is required as space is limited.

Dungeons & Dragons Game
Thursdays in September
6:00-7:30
Ages 14-19
Are you looking to play a game that contains action, adventure, and drama?
Come play the world's number one role playing game.

2 Lake St., Webster
508-949-3880
Library Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Wednesday 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
The Library will close at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 25 for Bites, Books, and Blooms

BITES BOOKS AND BLOOMS:
Thursday, September 25th
Tickets are on sale online and at the Library for the Friends of the Library annual fundraiser. Join us for an evening of art, music, food, and conversation!

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

Adult Programming

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

Yoga Nidra– Wednesday Mornings at 8:15am

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

Library for All – First Two Mondays; Last Two Fridays 10AM (Chair Yoga or Craft)

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

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

Literacy Volunteers: Citizenship Test Preparation Class – Series Begins Thursday, Sept. 11th at 6:00pm
Literacy Volunteers of South Central Massachusetts (LVSCM) is pleased to offer a free, 10-week US Citizenship Test Preparation Class. Please note that the class is taught in English, so students should be comfortable speaking and listening to English in class. Space is limited and registration is required. To register, please email Emily at info@lvscm.org.

Fire Cider with Christine Leo – Thursday, September 18th at 6:00pm
Join Christine Leo for her herbal tincture making demonstration, fire cider tasting, and "fire cider tea." You'll make your own pint of fire cider to bring home with you.

The Seahorse: A Pastel Workshop with Greg Maichack – September 23rd at 5:30pm
"The Seahorse" a pastel workshop with all professional grade materials, templates, and Rembrandt pastels included. Registration is required.

Genre Book Group – Tuesday, September 23rd at 6:00pm
Join our Genre Book Group! Each month we'll read a different genre. September's genre is historical folk-

lore: Gods of Jade and Shadow by Silvia Moreno-Garcia.

How Money Works for Adults – Monday, September 29th at 6:30pm

In this session, attendees will learn the Magic of the Rule of 72, the power of starting early, understanding debt and credit, and some basic life long skills we are not taught in the US educational system. This presentation will share via vivid examples how time and compound interest are what Einstein called one of the wonders of the world. Attendees learn how to understand money basics and gain a deeper understanding of budgeting tips, debt reduction tools and savings habits.

The Nest: E for All Information Session – Monday, September 29th at 6:00pm

Do you have a business or an idea you want to grow? Join our information session to learn how the E for All Business Accelerator Program can help you launch and expand your business. This free program offers personalized mentoring, business training, and a supportive community to help you achieve success.

Computer Basics: Libby and Hoopla – Tuesday, September 30th at 3:00pm

Interested in learning how to borrow eBooks and Audiobooks through Libby and Hoopla? Join Assistant Director, Evan Hale, and Adult Services Librarian, Jess Fontaine, to learn how to use the apps with your Gladys E. Kelly Library Card. Bring your phone or tablet!

Programming for All Ages
Mike Ford: How Money Works for Teens – Monday, September 29th at 5:00pm

A modified version of How Money Works that is geared for Parents and Children. Key concepts of importance to teens are learning the difference between simple and compound interest, how credit cards and debt works and the power of time and compound interest. Attendees will learn some basic concepts of protection, debt management savings and investments and wealth building that if learned early in life can have profound positive impacts later in life.

Children's and Young Adult Programming
Creators Club – Mondays from 4:00-5:30 PM

We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test! Come explore our newly rebranded Monday night program: Creators Club! Each month features a new theme highlighting a different art supply for kids to experiment with and turn into their own masterpieces. September's theme is Yarn - kids can weave, wrap, or invent their own creations! Artwork left behind will be displayed in the childrens program room for the rest of the month.

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

Mini Block Party – Tuesdays at 3:30pm
Play with magnets, wooden blocks, and Legos.

Toddler Storytime – Fridays at 10:00am
Join us for a fun and interactive storytime just for toddlers! This program is a great way for toddlers to learn and create alongside their grown-ups.

Me and My Mini – Thursday, September 18th

A 45 minute creative movement group for ages birth through 2.5 with a grown-up. Group is focused on adult and baby spending quality time together, fostering attachment, and baby interacting with others their age. Get groovy to upbeat music with props, instruments, and a story. Adult participation is required and 1-2 children per adult is recommended.

Craft Adventures: Beaded Keychains – September 18th at 4:00pm

Join us for our new Thursday craft series, Craft Adventures, tailored for elementary kids! Each month features a different hands-on project, and this month participants will create their own colorful beaded keychains to take home. A great wat for kids to get creative and try something new each month!

Homemade Playdough – Saturday, September 20th at 12:00pm

Mix, squish, and sculpt your very own colorful playdough to take home! Perfect for younger makers between the ages of 3-8 but siblings are welcome. Registration Required.

Creepy Comics Club – Monday, September 29th at 5:30pm

Calling all readers ages 8-12! Dive into the exciting world of graphic novels at Creepy Comics Club. Each month you'll read a spooky graphic novel before our meeting, and then we'll come together to discuss the book, enjoy some snacks, and have fun! This month's graphic novel book is: The Old Willis Place by Mary Downing Hahn. Please register your child and then pick up a copy of the book behind the Children's Desk by 9/26.

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Plant this fall for beautiful spring bouquets



Courtesy — Longfield-Gardens.com
A bouquet consisting of unique daffodil varieties found in one of Longfield Gardens' daffodil bulb collections.

This fall plant an array of spring flowering bulbs to brighten your garden and bouquets. There are plenty of daffodils, tulips, hyacinths and alliums that will delight with an assortment of flower colors and sizes that will bloom throughout the spring.

Include animal resistant double, bicolor, and split cup daffodils that provide unique beauty and impact in floral arrangements. Create a

simple bouquet with just a few stems of daffodils or an elegant arrangement of single and double flowered varieties.

Harvest daffodils when the buds show color and are perpendicular to the stem like a goose's neck. Don't worry about the sap daffodils exude, shortening the life of the other cut flowers in the arrangement. Properly conditioning the daffodils will eliminate the risk to your other spring

favorites

Consider wearing gloves as some people report itching or rashes when handling these plants. Use your hands to harvest daffodils for the longest stems possible and to reduce sap released from the stem. Reach into the base of the flower stem, thumb pointed down and pull up. Cut the stems of freshly picked daffodils to the desired length for conditioning. Place them in a

clean container of cool water and floral preservative. Leave them in the water for three to six hours when the sap stops flowing. Do not recut the stems before adding them to mixed flower arrangements.

Tulips have long been a favorite of gardeners and floral arrangers. Grow some taller varieties like Finola, Foxtrot, Silver Parrot Tulips and Negrita Double (longfield-gardens.com).

Gardeners growing tulips strictly for cutting will plant the bulbs in trenches and treat them as annuals. The first-year bloom is always the biggest, but you can enjoy them cut and try for a second and third year of flowers. Just cut the stems short and leave at least two to three leaves on the plant to create and store energy for next year's bloom.

Harvest tulips when the buds are just starting to show color for the longest vase life. Wait for double and parrot type tulip buds to be fully colored but not yet open. Remove the whole plant, bulb and all, if you do not



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

long and sturdy stems make them easy to harvest and arrange. Purple Sensation, Mount Everest, drumstick allium and Allium atropurpureum make excellent additions for floral bouquets.

plan on saving the plants for the following year. Store the tulips upright with the bulbs attached. Cut and rehydrate the stems in water just before arranging.

Wrap the stems in brown paper if they are cut in the garden or when you rehydrate the stems and set them in several inches of cool water for 12 to 18 hours. Keep in mind tulips continue to grow after cut so plan for this when creating your arrangements.

Harvest hyacinths for cutting as you did tulips. Pull the whole plant, bulb and all, out of the ground if you are growing them as annuals for cutting. Otherwise, cut only the stem and leave all the leaves behind if you want the bulbs to bloom again next year.

Include a variety of alliums in your planting plans this fall. Alliums'

Cutting and arranging flowers is a wonderful way to bring the beauty of your garden indoors. The more you do it, the easier it gets, and you'll soon be sharing your flowers with friends, neighbors, family, coworkers, and everyone who stops by to admire your gardens.

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

WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

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

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

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

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least two business days in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation for 65 and up, and \$5 for 55-64 is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and fruit or dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, 9/23: Meatloaf with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, chuckwagon corn, apple crisp. Wednesday, 9/24: Shepherd's pie, carrots, peas, chocolate mousse. Thursday, 9/25: Greek chicken, lemon seasoned potatoes, country blend vegetables, birthday cake. Friday, 9/26: Soup du Jour, roast beef sandwiches, bean salad, yogurt.

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

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

Let's celebrate the Fall equinox! The Friends of the Webster Senior Center will be hosting their next Friendship Series party on Monday, September 22nd from 1-2:30 pm with live music from Bob Jordan! We will also be hosting a Soup Social at 11:30 am! Please make sure to sign up for BOTH!

We are now offering MOVIE MATINEES every Wednesday at 1:00 pm! Popcorn is provided, no registration is needed. Our last September movie is "Mystic Pizza" on 9/24. Looking for a creative way to spend Columbus Day? Join us for our Columbus Day Craft Fair! Browse a selection of handcrafted gifts, and maybe get some holiday shopping in too! Crafter applications are open as well! Please email hackensonc@aol.com for more

information.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Worcester County

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

Senior SAFE is a program that supports fire and life

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

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Sept. 7-13.

A 28-year-old male from Holden whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Sept. 8 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member, Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon, Disorderly Conduct, and Disturbing the Peace.

A 29-year-old male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Sept. 9 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member and Assault with a Dangerous Weapon. A 34-year-old female, also from Webster, received a summons in lieu of arrest for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Andrew O. Simpson, age 47, of Worcester was arrested on Sept. 10 for Operating Under the Influence of Drugs, Trafficking in More than 18 but Less Than 36 Grams of Cocaine, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, operating a vehicle with No Inspection Sticker, and a Number Plate Violation.

Jacob Andrew Swiatlowski, age 37, of Webster was arrested on Sept. 11 in connection with a warrant.

Jose Manuel Soares Pontes, age 23, of Brockton was arrested on Sept. 12 in connection with a warrant.

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Sap bucket painting workshop Sept. 20 at Samuel Slater Experience

WEBSTER — Join artist Jean Walker for a unique and creative experience that combines acrylic painting and decoupage, on Saturday, Sept. 20, from 1-4 p.m., at the Samuel Slater Experience.

In this fun and hands-on class, you'll work on original New England sap buckets, transforming them into one-of-a-kind decorative pieces.

Whether you're a seasoned artist or just trying something new, this class is perfect for all skill levels.

Class cost is \$45, which includes all supplies: sap buckets, acrylic paint, and decoupage materials. Refreshments will be provided.

To register, email admin@samuelslaterexperience.org or call 508-461-2955.

Jean Walker is a native New Englander, well known for her painting classes at local libraries and workshops for businesses.

The class will be held in the Samuel Slater Experience meeting room, 31 Ray St., Webster. Information about the museum is at <https://samuelslaterexperience.org>.

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STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

*Building
stronger
communities
through
shared
purpose*

It doesn't take long to see the strength of our towns when neighbors come together with a common goal. In the past few weeks, we've seen it in classrooms, churches, and on athletic fields. From Long Subaru's generosity at Park Avenue Elementary, to the Dudley Woman's Club launching its 18th year of service, to Shepherd Hill students organizing a 5K to fight mental health stigma, the theme is the same: when people invest in one another, good things grow.

This is what makes our local communities resilient. They are not defined only by their borders or their budgets, but by the willingness of residents to give time, talent, and support. Volunteers baking for festivals, businesses donating supplies, students stepping forward to address issues bigger than themselves — all of these efforts weave a fabric that keeps towns strong even when challenges mount.

It is worth noting that these contributions don't come from any single group. They come from teenagers with a vision for change, from retirees offering quiet guidance, from local businesses putting people before profit. Each act, no matter how small, sends a message: this place matters, and the people in it matter.

At a time when many towns across Massachusetts wrestle with questions of growth, development, and how to preserve their character, these everyday examples of shared purpose are reminders of what is most important. A thriving community is not built overnight, and it cannot be bought. It is built in classrooms, on playing fields, at local libraries, and in volunteer halls. It is built when people decide that being part of a town means giving back to it.

As we head into the fall, let's take inspiration from our neighbors who have already shown what's possible. Whether it's cheering at a school event, offering to serve on a local board, or simply showing up to support a fundraiser, we all have a role to play.

Strong communities don't happen by accident. They are the result of shared purpose, repeated often, across generations. That is the tradition in our region, and it is worth protecting.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

VIEWPOINT

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](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news) — news@stonebridgepress.news

The antidote in a divided, angry and violent world

Our country has been shaken once again. The assassination of Charlie Kirk. Another school shooting on the very same day. Violence that fills us with shock, anger, fear and even numbness.

"I cried all day when I heard that Charlie Kirk was killed," one parishioner lamented to me. Another depressing stated, "It's so disturbing how a death causes more division instead of unity. It's getting scary how much hate exists between the different political sides in our country."

Do you feel it? That weight? That heaviness in our society?

We live in a time when political violence is rising on all sides. People are angry and afraid. Tragedies no longer shock us but fill us with fury because they happen so often. When the death of people —whether a political figure or children in a school—do not lead to mourning and unity, but instead sparks more arguments, more hatred, more division, something is wrong!

In the middle of this, however, I look around our Saints Constantine and Helen Church Family in Webster and see something different.

Here in our church, we are not all the same. We don't all vote the same. We don't all watch the same news. We surely don't all hold the same political opinions. We have passionate conservatives sitting next to committed progressives! And somehow—somehow—we remain one community, one family. And we actually love one another!

How is that possible?

It's not because we're all naturally patient or kind. It's not because we've found the perfect political balance. It's not because we always agree. No! It's because in this community of faith, we try to focus on the Good News of Jesus Christ and not on our politics.

A dear friend, Fr. Nicholas Halkias wrote a provocative and powerful reflection on social media:

"The soul of America is dying. Not because Charlie Kirk or students in Denver or a Ukrainian refugee or innocent victims in Gaza were killed, but because there are people who are happy that these deaths took place."

Think about that. The real tragedy, the real death is that human hearts are celebrating when others die. We've turned our enemies into monsters instead of seeing them as human beings.

There is no defense for what is going on in our country right now, and if anyone is going to point the finger to someone else besides themselves, then we're not even looking at the problem. The only thing that will begin our country's recovery are four words: "I am to blame."

Not the news. Not the government. Not the other side.



BEYOND THE PEWS

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

conciliation in the face of division. The Cross is compassion and grace in the midst of rigid legalism.

From the Cross, our Lord cried out: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." God expects us to embrace this spirit of mercy and grace toward our enemies.

Every time we make the sign of the Cross, or whenever we feel the cross around our necks, we need to remember to forgive, to love, to reconcile, to act as peacemakers. Every time we kiss the Cross, we are kissing the way of mercy, the way of compassion, the way of sacrificial love.

But how does this look in practice?

When someone posts something on social media that makes your blood boil—we don't respond with anger, sarcasm, mockery but choose patience, understanding, and restraint. When a conversation at work or with family turns heated over a difference of opinions, we don't raise our voice and add to the chaos but we choose to listen respectfully and try to understand. When our society tells us, "Your political opponent, all democrats or all republicans, are your enemy" we choose to see the other as a fellow human being, a child of God created in His image whom we are called to love.

Our faith does not allow us to demonize others. Our faith does not allow us to rejoice in the suffering of others. Our faith does not allow us to give up in fear or become numb and say, "This is just how things are."

Christians follow the crucified and resurrected Lord Jesus. Saint Paul tells us that "the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing." God expects us to be different from the world. He expects us to act as a light in the darkness. He invites us to serve as His ambassadors of love and mercy and grace to society.

And the good news is—we already have a beautiful witness to offer here in our Church Family in Webster. We surely do not agree on everything. Far from it. But here, week after week, we stand side by side as brothers and sisters. We offer the same prayers. We sing the same hymns. We embrace one another and give the kiss of peace at each Divine Liturgy. We approach the same chalice "with the fear of God, with faith and love." Yes, we hold extremely different political views, yet we choose to remain a loving Family!

That is a miracle in today's America. The world outside is fractured, divided, angry, fearful. In this church, however, we show another way. In here, we live out the reality that Christ has broken down the wall of division between us. We cannot underestimate how powerful such a witness can be to the world.

When people see that our Church Family embraces conservatives and progressives, immigrants and lifelong citizens, people who loved Charlie Kirk along with people who rejected his message—when they see that, they see the Kingdom of God breaking into the world.

I challenged my parishioners not to let this spirit stop at the church doors. How we respond in times like this shows who we are. What we post on social media shows who we are. How we speak to our neighbors and coworkers reflects our true spirit.

Will we ignite the fires of division, or will we put out the flames of hatred? What will you choose? The way of anger, the suspicion, and hatred or the way of the Cross – following a path of forgiveness, mercy, compassion, reconciliation?

Yes, the world is angry. The world is afraid. The world is divided. But the Cross stands before us today as the antidote. The Cross shows us that love is stronger than hate; forgiveness is stronger than vengeance; reconciliation is stronger than division; life is stronger than death.

May we all take up the Cross by saying "I am to blame." And each time we want to blame and attack the other; let us each decide: "This ends with me. Nobody else. I am to blame." And then let us live differently.

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When investing, one of the best abilities is durability



FINANCIAL FOCUS

DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

You've probably heard about "genius" investors or those who got in on the "ground floor" of a company that grew to be a huge success. These stories may be interesting, but they are also rare — and sometimes not even true.

The truth is that successful investing isn't glamorous, and it isn't necessarily quick. Instead, a well-founded investing strategy is a durable one — one that can withstand the test of time.

Here are some actions that can help you build durability.

Take your time: Most individual investors make their money over time, not overnight. Despite stories about fortunes made on one or two trades, you're more likely to be successful making money over time. You'll want to own a well-diversified portfolio of quality investments — and plan to own those investments for the long term.

A long-term perspective can help you ignore the constant noise in the markets and stay invested. When you hear about the latest "hot" investment tip, especially if it's already performed well, the best advice is this: Ignore it. Although it may be tempting to buy a popular investment, it may not fit with the rest of your portfolio, it may have already peaked, and it may be riskier than you expect. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Invest in quality: When building your investment portfolio, quality should be a top priority. For stocks, quality is frequently measured by the steadiness of earnings and dividend growth over time. For bonds, one measure of quality is an investment-grade credit rating, which indicates that the borrower has a good track record of making its promised interest and principal payments and the bond has a relatively low risk of default.

Quality investments are more likely to overcome temporary challenges, which is why a good track record can be an indication of quality. Don't reach for yield by looking for investments offering the highest dividend or interest rate without considering the risk. Remember, there is no perfect investment — a higher rate generally means higher risk.

Stick to your strategy: Building a long-term strategy can anchor your decisions and provide a roadmap for your investment choices. Your strategy should consider your goals, tolerance for risk and the time needed to save toward each goal.

Within that strategy, you can be flexible. Buy and hold, for example, doesn't mean buy and forget. Over time, your goals may change, or you may choose to hold more conservative investments. But it's important to make changes for the right reasons, not simply because stocks or your other investments may have dropped in price.

Perhaps one of the biggest mistakes you can make is trying to time the markets, moving in and out in response to short-term declines or the latest prediction. This often results in getting into and out of the market at the wrong times, costing time and money — and resulting in lower returns over time.

Remember that investments don't all move up or down at the same time but portfolio diversification can help smooth the ups and downs of the market. A long-term perspective can help you see past short-term fluctuations in some investments.

Successful investing isn't about making dramatic moves or chasing the latest trends. It's about developing a durable strategy personalized for your life, then sticking with it through market ups and downs. In investing, as in life, slow and steady could help win the race.

Auburn and the American Revolutionary War, Part 6: The Bancroft Men

BY HELEN POIRIER
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Bancroft name is a very prominent name in the history of the town. The Bancroft family was one of the original families that helped to form Worcester South Parish which is what Auburn was called in the beginning. Bancroft family names included in the General Court order that allowed for the forming of the South Parish of Worcester were William, Pheobe, Daniel, Jonas, and David.

In the “American Guide Series Auburn 1837-1937” book, other Bancroft names appear and are given credit for serving in the Revolutionary War. James and Jonas were sergeants, William was a corporal, Jonas Jr., Rahan, and Benjamin were privates. It is not known how these people are related or even if these names are related to each other due to the naming pattern that was

followed in this time period and a lack of data.

David Eaton Bancroft was born in 1718 in Reading. His first wife Eunice was born in 1719 in Lynn. She died in 1777. Their children were Nathaniel, Timothy, Jonas, Jonathan, Ebenezer, and Mary. Timothy was the great-grandfather to Enoch who married Julia F. Knowles, a.k.a. Julia Bancroft. David Bancroft was a representative to the Worcester Provincial Congress and General Assembly in July of 1775. He served as a moderator at the first meeting for South Parish of Worcester in 1773. David also served on many town committees from 1773 -1785: finding the preacher, overseer of the treasurer, committee to incorporate, leather sealer, moderator, church construction, school committee to name a few. David moved to Worcester sometime before his son, Jonas, was born in 1745. It is likely

the family lived around the Pakachoag Hill area that was incorporated into the South Parish of Worcester in 1773.

Jonas did his part in the Revolutionary War as a 4th Sergeant, in Capt. John Crowl’s company. of Colonel Ebenezer Learned’s regiment out of Oxford, which marched on the alarm of April 19, 1775, and he served eight days, according to the Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors who served in the Revolutionary War. Jonas married Sarah Blood of Hollis, New Hampshire in 1769. They had two children, Jonas II, and John. Jonas also served in the town government and was listed as “Major” Jonas Bancroft in the town minutes of the first meeting of the “Town of Ward” in 1778. He was appointed the fence viewer, and In 1782, he was appointed as a hogreever.

According to a news article dated March of 1817, Jonas’s farm was in the southerly part

of Ward and was about ninety-five acres of pasture and wood lots. The farm was being sold by Jonas Jr. for a down payment of \$600 and the rest on credit. It was offered as a whole package or could be broken down into house lots.

A Daniel Bancroft was listed on the first warrant for the South Parish of Worcester on July 6, 1773, and on the committee July 27. On August 27 he was moderator for the first parish meeting. There was no Daniel Bancroft in the vital records listing or in the burial grounds.

“The American Guide Series Auburn 1837 – 1937” William Bancroft was credited to Ward and was listed as a Corporal, in Captain John Crowl’s company in the Colonel Ebenezer Learned’s regiment of Oxford which marched on the alarm of April 19, 1775, and serviced 12 days. No record of this service was listed in the

“Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors who served in the Revolutionary War.” William served the town of Ward from 1778 – 1782 as sealer of lumber, on the school squadron for second district, field driver, fence viewer, warden and a bondsman for Benjamin Carter Jr., who didn’t pay his taxes in 1785. Lastly, he was a highway supervisor in 1782. In the birth vital records of Auburn there was a William married to Mary, and they had a child Phebe in November of 1782.

James Bancroft was also listed in the same book and was a 4th sergeant in the same company as William, but again no listing in the “Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors who served in the Revolutionary War.”

As for Phoebe Bancroft being listed as one of the original families, women’s information in this is very scarce. No Phoebe was listed as married to any of the men coming

from Worcester. It could be that she was a widow and was living on land that was being included in the South Parish of Worcester.

Bancroft Street runs between Pakachoag Street and Millbury Street, which might have been where the Bancroft clan had lived in the 1770s. The Bancroft name has served the town greatly through the years and rightly deserves to have a street named after them.

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

Motivation. We all want it, but half the time it feels like it walked right out of the front door. It has a way of slipping through your fingers. One minute you’re fired up, ready to conquer the world. Next, you’re sprawled on the couch, scrolling through your phone, telling yourself you’ll “start tomorrow.”

What is it? Testosterone? Purpose? Willpower? Is it in the food we eat, or is it some mystical force that appears from time to time?

Here’s the truth: motivation isn’t magic, and it isn’t a mood. It’s not some lightning bolt from the gods. Motivation is a pattern your brain runs, a rhythm you can learn to catch. The real question isn’t “Where did it go?”—it’s “How do you make it show up tomorrow, the next day, and the day after that?”

We’ve all started the project with lots of motivation, but it often disappears before the finish line.

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

Scientists recently discovered something fascinating about motivation. In September 2024, researchers hooked participants up to brain monitors while they worked on learning tasks. What they found was striking: the instant someone realized they were making progress, their brain lit up like a switchboard. Focus sharpened. Distractions faded. Engagement skyrocketed.

Think about that for a second, it isn’t about standing at the finish line—it’s about noticing that you’re moving forward. Each time you recognize progress—no matter how small—your brain tosses you a reward—effort feels lighter. Momentum builds.

But here’s where some of us get stuck. We’re so focused on how far we have to go, we forget how far we’ve come.

I’m not a mountain climber, but I have hiked some challenging trails. It’s easy to start at the

trailhead with determination, but when you’re only halfway and passing out on a boulder from exhaustion, complacency can take over fast. Perhaps you didn’t want to reach the top. Still, maybe you did, and you just lost motivation. Why?

It’s called finish line fixation. When you only measure yourself against the summit, your brain feels incompetent. When you’ve been hiking for 14 hours, night is approaching, and you still have another 14 to go, it’s easy to feel inept, to think, “I thought I’d be at the peak by now!”

It’s no good to beat yourself up, especially when you’re giving it your all.

A 2018 study found that people do best when they keep two things in mind: big, meaningful goals and the small victories along the way.

So when you’re only part of the way towards your goal, and frustration sets in, look back at the ground you’ve already covered. That perspective

shift turns discouragement into momentum.

There have been many studies on motivation, and the science is clear: People are far more successful when they regularly track progress. Recognize how far you’ve come.

The summit matters, but so does the trail. Looking back at the challenges you’ve overcome thus far and recognizing your progress produces the dopamine your brain needs to gather more steam.

The brain doesn’t hand out dopamine for nothing—it’s a survival mechanism. Progress signals that you’re learning, adapting, and moving

closer to a reward, which is exactly what kept our ancestors alive. That same wiring still runs the show today: every step forward tells your brain, “This path is working—keep going.”

Your brain doesn’t reward perfection—it rewards progress. That’s why some people quit inches from the breakthrough—not because they weren’t moving, but because their brain couldn’t recognize how far they’ve come. No receipts equals no motivation.

Of course, there will still be days when even focusing on your progress feels like it’s not helping. That’s when you pitch a tent, take a break,

and start climbing again the next day.

So, here’s my challenge. Don’t wait for a spark. Don’t wait for the mood to hit. Today, write down one thing you’ve already done that proves you’re moving. Then take another step forward. Track it. Tomorrow, repeat it.

Do this long enough, and you’ll stop wondering where motivation went.

Because motivation doesn’t reward the dreamers. It rewards the doers.

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of Emmy - Nominated A Separate Peace, and the CEO of Cubestream Inc.

A Medley of Seasonal Tips

Summer is winding down and as we’re trading in long summer nights for brisk autumn mornings, the focus shifts to the simple pleasures of the season. Read on for a potpourri of tips and tricks to make life a little easier during autumn and beyond.

Just because the bugs are waning doesn’t mean you have to ditch your stash of citronella. Before you toss or pack away this season’s supply of citronella oil, consider keeping it in the medicine cabinet. Citronella soothes aches and pains because it produces a subtle sensation of warmth when diluted in a massage oil and applied to the skin.

Why not repurpose your skin grade citronella oil? You can dilute citronella in unscented lotion or cream (up to 15 drops per ounce for normal skin; or up to six drops per ounce for sensitive skin, according to National Association for Holistic Aromatherapy)

Or try this tip for relieving arthritis pain: Try adding three drops of skin grade citronella essential oil per teaspoon of massage oil. Using this natural mixture in a



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

friction massage can help bring relief to painful joints.

Note: Always dilute citronella before applying to skin. Clear its usage with your physician.

Has your indoor plants taken a back seat to the garden? Now’s the time to give them some TLC. To make your lackluster indoor plants glow try this trick: When watering your plants, simply mix tablespoon of castor oil to the water to rejuvenate them.

Also, did you know dusty leaves can be stunting your plant’s growth? Simply dusting the leaves exposes them to more beneficial light!

Want to pick a perfect apple this season? Make sure it’s firm and bruise free with a smooth skin. If you’re buying apples, keep in mind a green stem means it’s been freshly picked and not stored.

Every fall, I repeat this mind boggling fact, and here it is again: Apples stored at room temperature becomes soft ten times faster than if its refrigerated! So while it’s tempting to pile red apples in a bowl to display, keep in mind the fruit will only last about a week out of the refrigerator.

Herbs are still producing in the garden – when cooking with them, try these tips: When chopping fresh herbs such as basil and tarragon, sprinkle the leaves with a few drops of olive oil. This effectively slows the darkening of the chopped leaves.

If your dried herbs aren’t passing muster, simply chop up parsley with them to freshen up the flavor.

Cleaning out your spice cabinet prior to the holidays? Here is a recipe for a proven fish bait enhancer that recycles old spices:

Mix together four ounces ground fennel seed and one ounce ground allspice in a covered jar. Sprinkle

Turn To HINT page A11



Community Connection



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“We want to measure our customer relationships in decades”

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

Tucked into a small strip mall off James Street, Worcester, is a bookstore with an unassuming name and unassuming storefront – Annie’s Bookshop.

Inside, though, it’s fairly unique, and that’s what’s kept it going for decades. That uniqueness is not in appearance – densely packed bookshelves look the same pretty much everywhere – but what’s around and atop those shelves. A lot of them are Doctor Who related, with toys, models, video series, tons of off-shoot books and various related things all over the place.

Annie’s also highlights book series for other sci-fi, horror, and fantasy universes, including Star Wars. Pern and Dragonlance, and shelves lots of older sci-fi, going back into the early 20th century “pulp” material. Behind the register, they display just some of their collection of comics, and, of course, have a wide range of other genres of fiction and non-fiction to select from.

Most of the time, the person at that register is owner Patty Cryan, sometimes her partner Michael Salvo or employee Joshua Young.

“I make a joke that if you ever want to cure you’re reading addiction, buy a bookstore,” Cryan said. Of course, when she said that, she’d just looked up from a book, and notes she particularly likes talking to customers about books “I should be bringing in.”



Patty Cryan and Michael Salvo handle some of the copious paperwork that goes into running Annie’s Bookshop.

Gus Steeves

She’s owned it since 2007, and it’s been in this site since 2009, but started in Auburn’s Drury Square. While Cryan came to bookselling by way of editing and bookstores in New York and Worcester, Salvo came to it by running a mail order



READER’S
JOURNEY

GUS
STEEVES

business he began in 1976. Over that time, Cryan and Salvo have come to know what their clientele wants, and the publisher representatives they’re in touch with know it too. That can be quirky.

While I was there, one man came in seeking a rather specific thing – maps of fantasy worlds. They didn’t have one at the moment, but led him right to the far corner where it’d be if they did. (I have seen them there before.)

Given how tight her space is, Cryan notes she has “to pick and choose” what goes on her shelves, especially for nonfiction. Although the stock is mostly fiction (lots of his-

torical fic and mystery besides sci-fi), the nonfiction (history, politics, self-help etc) is literally right in the center of the store. There’s also a room for kids’ books.

Space plays a role in the fact she used to host many events (writing groups and book readings among them), but has had to scale them back to fit more books. Salvo also pointed to the city’s recent establishment of a 25 mph limit city-wide as

suppressing traffic to the store and other nearby businesses.

Despite those things, Cryan doesn’t want to move. She’s seen that hurt bookstores, citing one that had a “cute little funky space and was booming,” then moved into a “sterile mall across the street” and died.

Nor does Salvo, who said many of their customers come to Annie’s “as a destination” anyway.

“We want to measure our customer relationships in decades, not 30 seconds on a website,” he said. “... We learn what they want.”

Young likes that view, saying the store “feels more like a community service” than retail to him. Part of that comes from the fact it’s mostly used books. With new ones being “so expensive,” he noted people on Social Security and disability can afford used ones, and he’s seen some buy a month’s worth of books and return them the next month for store credit to get more.

Cryan notes the internet plays a fairly big role in how she connects to her customers. It also played a key role in keeping Annie’s “afloat during the pandemic, when many stores had to learn it from scratch.”

“I’m a bit more internet-involved than many of my compatriots my age, with a lot of social media communication,” she said.

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

6TH

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SIGN UP

Middle school starts quiet reading time

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — Webster Middle School will give students some quiet reading time as the new school year commences.

According to Principal Heidi Peterson, it's "a very important piece that's missing from our students' lives" because it's "the basis for all learning" and affects life in myriad ways.

Specifically, the new ROAR "Reading Offers Awesome Rewards" program will set aside 20-30 minutes daily for fifth and sixth graders, and four days a week for seventh and eighth graders (due to other scheduling issues), for them to read anything that's printed – books, poetry, magazines, newspapers, etc. – but not electronic materials.

Talking to the Sept. 9 School Committee meeting, Peterson said the

idea's rooted in 2023 data showing "only 14 percent of 13-year-olds read for pleasure ... that's very, very low." Even the UK has seen significant reading declines, but not nearly as much as here. There, just 43 percent of eight- to 18-year-olds read for pleasure, so "we're well below what's below their normal," she said.

Part of the problem stems from the curriculum. She noted it mostly "does not allow for novels anymore – it's pieces of novels or short stories – and that doesn't build the skills that are needed."

Various studies have credited long-form reading, especially of fiction, with numerous benefits, including promoting empathy, long-term mental health, brain maturation and problem solving. One, by Gregory Burns and others in 2013 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3868356/>), explored how kids' brain connections changed from reading a novel over time. They found "On the days after the reading, significant increases in connectivity were centered on hubs in the left angular/supramarginal gyri and right posterior temporal gyri [parts of the brain]. These hubs corresponded to regions previously associated with perspective taking and story comprehension, and the changes exhibited a time course that decayed rapidly after the completion of the novel," but "persisted for several days."

Later, they observed something many readers have experienced: "One possibility for increases in somatosensory cortex connectivity is that reading a novel invokes neural activity that is associated with bodily sensations."

That's a very neuro-

logical exploration; psychology has shown such brain activity has real world impact. One 2008 paper by Raymond Mar and Keith Oatley (<https://dixitciencia.com/wp-content/uploads/pdf-c8vBXO7Maa.pdf>), found "Engaging in the simulative experiences of fiction literature can facilitate the understanding of others who are different from ourselves and can augment our capacity for empathy and social inference," in part because of the emotions and sensations the text evokes.

In the schools themselves, Peterson said 2016 study found readers choosing their own books saw improvements in English, math, science and history performance. Her own student survey found 56 percent like reading, but 28 percent don't do any for pleasure and 54 percent don't use the public library.

Chair Kelly Seddiki said she's "impressed with this" and agreed with reading's importance to "life in general," not just academics. She later noted she likes the fact that some events have requested "gently used books" as their admission fee.

Lauren Koleros agreed, saying reading "opens a ton of possibilities. ... Even math has so much reading involved."

"I hope the outcomes are exactly what the research shows," and "gaps close a little bit in terms of the deficits our children are coming up to the middle school with," Peterson replied.

She noted her school has no librarian, but some students have helped organize the books there. She said she'd like to see more parents come forward to help there.

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

Webster schools start year seeking grants

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — To Superintendent Monique Pierangeli, the school year kicked off "remarkably well," with numerous new things and ongoing projects to keep track of.

Many of them are grants, as the district tries to ensure funding for its various needs. Patty Mackay said the total is currently lower than last year, in part because this will be the phase-out of the 21st Century grant (previously \$200,000 a year, now \$180,000) "but we knew that was coming." To compensate, she's applying for an "increasing student voices grant" that will provide \$60,000 for seven kids to be paid interns within the 21st century program.

She's also seeking a "Rethinking Discipline" grant of \$75,000. Because a recent state review found "a disproportionality of students on IEPs that were suspended more than 10 days," the state's requiring Webster to look at how its practices might be "exclusionary" and to replace them by promoting social-emotional wellbeing, among other things. Another \$25,000 grant aims to help fund the district's family liaison, and at least four others totaling nearly \$100,000 do a range of other things.

Pierangeli said some of the money is offsetting the increasing cost of sending some special education students to private schools. The state requires public districts to pay a "proportionate share ... for our homeschool and parochial students," but Mackay said how it calculates them changes depending on the grant source and whether they're "coded as economically disadvantaged," among other things.

To add to the ripple effect, federal poverty program guidelines can change the local budget significantly every year, forcing the district to "figure out what we're going to fund and how we're going to make up the lack of funding" in other areas, the superintendent said. This year's cuts in SNAP and other programs will affect Webster's Chapter 70 funding, reducing the official numbers but actually increasing the need for services and support staff, she noted.

This school year began with higher enrollment at Bartlett and Park Avenue, but lower at the middle school. Speaking of Bartlett, Business Manager Lisa Kontoes said the renovation project is on schedule; the contractor found some roof leaks from the phase two section and are tracing them.

She also noted an increase in participation in the Summer Eats program, especially at the library. In related news, the farm to school program's raised-bed garden and hydroponics project has seen participation from all three schools, which are trying to incorporate the gardens into the curriculum.

Chair Kelly Seddiki thanked Kontoes for her focus on the Bartlett work. She noted she often hears complaints in public about it, but it's "on time and on budget, and really, actually going extraordinarily well despite some of the challenges you have all worked through...As much as we want it done yesterday, we want it done well."

The committee voted to shift a vacant half-time nurse's post to make the existing half-time nursing assistant full-time, as well as to hire four special education aides to help deal with the 43 new IEP students enrolling this year.

Pierangeli noted the special ed PAC, which has been "struggling" for years, seems to be starting this year well. She also noted middle school kids will see additional English and math testing in January and March, as part of a federal pilot program; Park Ave kids saw something similar last year. Peterson said the feds aren't sending the district the results.

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Enjoy a lovely night of hot hors d'oeuvres and live music with your neighbors and friends. A cash bar will also be available. The centerpiece(s) of the event will be the more than 20 floral creations depicting the artists' favorite reads, i.e. "Books in Bloom." Ticket and raffle proceeds will go to the Friends of the Library to fund the many free programs provided for children and adults throughout the year. The Books in Bloom will remain available for public viewing at no charge on Friday, Sept. 26 until 3 p.m., but please support your library if you are able. Buy your tickets for the main event today!

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

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OBITUARIES

Barbara A. Szamocki, 77



AUBURN – Barbara A. (Boyea) Szamocki, 77, died Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at home after a long illness. She leaves her husband of 31 years, Michael Szamocki; a son, Christopher L. Wells of Clearwater, FL; a daughter, Melissa L. Paranto and her husband Tony of Webster; five grandchildren, Devin Wells of San Francisco, Brady Wells and Abbyrae Wells, both of Foxborough, Colby Wells of Dudley, and Logan Paranto of Webster; a brother, Edward Boyea and his wife Shannon and a sister, Debra Boyea, all of Malone, NY; several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by a brother Craig Boyea, by two sisters Andrea Maiorana and Francesca Chesborough, by her stepfather Gary Champagne, and by her first husband Richard L. Wells. She was born on April 3, 1948 in Malone, NY and raised there, a daughter of Walter and Luella (Cooley) Boyea and graduated from Saint Joseph Academy in Malone. She lived in the Webster, Dudley and Oxford area before moving to Auburn 15 years ago. Mrs. Szamocki first worked as an office clerk at the former Simplatrol Dana Industry in Webster and then was a nurse's aide at Shepherd Hill Regional

High School in Dudley for over 10 years. She enjoyed crafts, painting, drawing, sewing and decorating homes to make them cozy and inviting for her family. She loved to cook for her family. She was very fashion conscience and took great care to look her best. Most importantly she changed her career to take care of her grandchildren. Nothing meant more to her; they were her pride and joy. All she wanted out of life was to make people happy and feel loved. If Barbie loved you, you knew and felt it. Her husband Michael loved her very much and stood with her through all of her illnesses. For better or worse, in sickness and in health, "her rock". Her funeral will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, October 11, in the First Congregational Church of Dudley, 135 Center Road, Dudley. The family will greet relatives and friends beginning at 10:30 in the church. Another celebration of her life will be held on November 1 at the PAV, 30 Ray Street, Webster, from 2:00 to 6:00 PM. Donations in her name may be made to either Feeding America, 161 North Clark Street, Suite 700, Chicago, IL 60601 or to Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Arrangements are under the direction of Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main Street, Webster. www.websterfunerals.com

Carolyn A. Smith, 79



NEW SMYRNA BEACH - Carolyn A. (Cozzens) Smith, 79, died on Friday, August 22, 2025, with her family by her side. She leaves her husband of 58 years, Roger E. Smith; 2 daughters, Christine Marrier and her husband Brian of Dudley, MA, and Susan Jean and her husband Stephen of Oxford, MA; 3 grandchildren, Jacob Marrier, Allison Marrier, and Madeleine Jean; her sister-in-law Alice Daly and her husband David of Sutton, MA. She was preceded in death by her brother Charles C. Cozzens. She was born in Webster, MA on May 10, 1946, the daughter of Charles C. and Mabel I. (Blanchard) Cozzens. She was a 1963 graduate of Bartlett High School in Webster, MA. She was a life-long learner and had a thirst for knowledge. After she ensured that her children completed their own college education, Carolyn then went back to college herself. She was proud to have earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from St. Joseph's College, Standish, ME at the age of 51. Carolyn worked in the Human Resources Department at Hubbard Regional Hospital, Webster, MA and ultimately became the Director of Human Resources. She retired in 1998. Upon her retirement she enjoyed being "Nanny" and lovingly cared for her grandchildren. She often said that her happiest days were spent playing and laughing with her grandchildren. Carolyn loved the beach and was a "snowbird", spending her winters in New Smyrna Beach, FL. She moved to Florida in 2020. Carolyn always put others before herself, never hesitating to go the extra mile. She was a parishioner of Saint Louis Church, Webster, serving as both a Eucharistic Minister and Lector. She

was a member and past president of both the Saint Louis League of Catholic Women and the Tuesday Club. She was a member of the Serra Club of Southern Worcester County. In addition, Carolyn was a member of the Fairgreen Garden Club and the Volusia Reads Book Club, both in New Smyrna Beach, FL. Carolyn loved animals and she had 3 beloved dogs of her own: Tippy, Duffy, and Clancy. She befriended dogs wherever she went and she looked forward to caring for her neighbor's dogs when needed. Carolyn had a "can-do" spirit, and once she put her mind to something, nothing stopped her. She enjoyed crafts and she could make anything with her hands. She was an avid reader, an expert gardener, and enjoyed the challenge of the weekly crossword puzzle in the Sunday paper. She never missed her favorite TV show, Jeopardy. She was proud of her original first car, a 1965 Corvair, which she had the opportunity to buy back 30 years later. She enjoyed showing her car at local car shows, winning several trophies. Carolyn enjoyed traveling and she took several cruises and bus trips with her husband and close friends. Her favorite trip was traveling to Ireland and visiting the beautiful land where her family originated from. Carolyn's greatest joy was the time she spent with her family, especially her 3 grandchildren, whom she cherished. A calling period will take place on Saturday, September 20, 2025 from 9:00-10:30 AM in Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main Street, Webster, MA. A memorial Mass will follow at 11:00 AM in Saint Louis Church, 14 Lake Street, Webster, MA. Burial will be in Lakeside Cemetery, Webster, MA. Donations in her memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. www.websterfunerals.com

Elaine R. Krommer, 95



WEBSTER – Elaine R. (Hoenig) Krommer, 95, died on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 with her family by her side. Her husband of 58 years, Richard Krommer, died in 2009. She leaves a son, Kevin R. Krommer of Dudley; 2 daughters, Karen E. Bussiere of Webster and Kathleen A. Krommer of Webster with whom she lived; 2 grandchildren, Jennifer L. Leighton and her husband Corey of Leominster, and Kiel R. Krommer of Dudley; 2 great-grandchildren, Maggie Leighton and Connor Leighton; nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her grandson David R. Bussiere in 2017, and by 2 brothers and 3 sisters. She was born in Webster on January 10, 1930, a daughter of Christian and Anna (Zimmerer) Hoenig. She grad-

uated in 1947 from Saint Louis High School as the class valedictorian. Mrs. Krommer worked from 1950 to 1953 at the Pentagon under Anna Rosenberg's manpower initiative, after which she dedicated herself to raising her 3 children. She was a life-long parishioner of Saint Louis Church and a lifetime member of the Saint Louis League of Catholic Women. She had a green thumb and took great pride in her flowers and garden. She enjoyed playing games on her I Pad and making jigsaw puzzles. Above all, she loved her family. A memorial Mass was held on Saturday, September 13, at 10:00 AM in Saint Louis Church, 14 Lake Street. Burial was in Mount Zion Cemetery. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main Street. www.websterfunerals.com

Mary Keane-Hazzard



Mary Keane-Hazzard passed away on September 5, 2025, in Ogunquit, Maine. Born in Webster, Massachusetts, Mary began her education

at St. Louis Grammar School and continued at Putnam Catholic Academy High School. She then attended Boston University where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Education. Details for a Celebration of Life will be shared in the near future.

Frank S. P. Yacino, 92



Webster/Douglas-Frank S. P. Yacino, 92, of Bates Point Road, passed away on September 15, 2025, at home peacefully. His wife of 56 years, Barbara A. (Janeczek) Yacino passed away August 28, 2013.

He is survived by two sons, Frank R. Yacino and his wife Dawn of Naples, Florida, and Brian H. Yacino and his wife Laurie of Mount Vernon, Maine; two daughters, Pamela A. Carter and her husband Garry of Douglas, and Margaret M. "Meg" Yacino of West Bath, Maine; six grandchildren, Matthew Carter and his wife Jenna, Jeffrey Carter, Scott Carter and his wife Bonnie, Nichole Chapman and her husband Derek, Frankie Yacino and his wife Heather, and Jenna Morrissey and her husband Matthew; fifteen great grandchildren, Scott, Jacob, Brionna, Emmalee, Jaxson, Lucca, Sophia, Knox, Rocco, AnnaBeth, Reagan, Colin, Beckham, Gavin, Avery, and two brothers, Joseph A. Yacino and his wife Sandra, and Michael D. Yacino and his wife Debra both, of Douglas; nieces, nephews, cousins, and many close friends. He was predeceased by a brother Peter who died in 1945.

Born in Northbridge on January 14, 1933, he was the son of the late Frank A. and Philomene M. (Fannie) Yacino, and has been a resident of Webster since 1992. Prior to that, he resided in Douglas. He graduated from Douglas Memorial High School in 1950. He attended The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. until 1953 and then entered the U. S. Army and served in Korea and the Reserves for several years. In 1956 he returned to the University and graduated in 1958 with a degree in Civil Engineering. He worked in Washington, D. C. for Donohoe Construction Co., Inc. until mid-1962 and returned to Douglas. Over the next forty-five years he worked in the Worcester area for the former Draper Corporation, former A. Mason & Sons, former Madore Construction, former Walden Construction Co., Inc., former Granger Bros., Inc., former Digital Equipment Corporation, the City of Worcester, and was a Corporator/Trustee/Director for twenty-eight years, and Building Consultant for Unibank headquartered in Whitinsville.

Frank was a member of St. Denis Parish in Douglas; the first parish lector; a Eucharistic Minister; officiated at over 200 communion services in the parish; during Lent he officiated at the Stations of the Cross for many years; taught catechism for ten years; and served on several committees over the years. After his retirement in 1998 he was a daily communicant, altar server, and lector at St. Joseph Basilica in Webster for seven years. Frank was also a lector and server for the Daily TV Mass at Mary, Mother of the

Redeemer Chapel at St. Paul Cathedral in Worcester for eight years, from March 8, 2010 to March 26, 2018.

Frank was involved in Douglas politics from 1967 through 1982. He served on the School Needs Committee; was a member of the Finance Committee for nine years; and Town Moderator for seven years. Frank was a member of the former Douglas Civic Association and a part-time police officer from 1964 to 1967. In 1956 he became a member of the Joseph J. Michna VFW Post 7554, serving in all of the officers positions, including Commander. In 1982 he was an All State District 8 Commander. For over twenty years Frank organized the Town of Douglas Memorial Day Parade for the VFW Post, as well as organizing the Halloween Parade and party for the children. He was a Life Member of the VFW.

After Frank's wife Barbara passed away from Alzheimer's disease, he wrote a book about their journey with the disease, called "The Long Good-bye". He became an advocate for those suffering with the disease, and their caregivers. He was also instrumental in advocating for Summit Elder Care where his wife Barbara was a participant for over seven years, in assisting over twenty families that wished to enroll in the program. He was a frequent speaker at many support groups in Worcester County, always wanting to help new caregivers. He was dedicated to the annual Alzheimer's Walk in Worcester County for 17 years. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of his book was also donated to the Alzheimer's Association for "Team Barbara".

He enjoyed traveling, hunting, fishing, photography, boating, being at the lake and most of all his family, and being with them. He was a devoted, caring husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend.

The family wishes to thank close friend Renee and the Overlook Hospice care team for all their love and support.

Frank's Funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, September 20, 2025 at 10:30 AM in St. Denis Church, 23 Manchaug Street. Burial will follow in St. Denis Cemetery. Calling hours at Jackman Funeral Home, 7 Mechanic Street, Douglas will be held on Friday, September 19th from 4:00-7:00 PM, and on Saturday morning in St. Denis Church from 9-10 AM. At the family's request, please omit flowers. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Denis Church Capital Improvements, 23 Manchaug St., Douglas, MA 01516, or to the Alzheimer's Association, 309 Waverly Oaks Road, Waltham, MA 02452. To leave a condolence message for his family please visit: www.Jackmanfuneralhomes.com



WEBSTER

continued from page A1

limit on the number of shows. (Some residents expressed concern that the proposed 12 could grow over time.)

In other business, the board approved selling 46 Granite St., a property it took in tax title some time ago, after Accountant Tim Bell summarized recent changes in federal law regarding taken properties. Specifically, he said a

US Supreme Court case called Tyler v Hennepin County ruled that communities cannot keep any excess funds a sale might generate beyond what it cost them to clean, demolish, sell or otherwise handle the property. Now, towns are treated as "fiduciaries" who have to pay any excess money to the previous owner, and cannot just auction parcels in groups, but have to actually hire realtors and formally sell them. Bell estimated that if 46 Granite sells for \$75,000,

Webster "will break even and the prior owner would get some [money]." So far, the town's costs have been about \$56,000, and the property's estimated value is \$45,000, he said.

The town can keep properties if they have a "good municipal purpose," but he didn't see one for this parcel, he added.

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

VETERANS

continued from page A1

Community Phil Madaio.

Our keynote speaker of the day was the Massachusetts Commander of the American Legion, Scott Conner, who spoke about the committee that repatriates service members lost in battle. After the opening speeches, the name of each Vietnam veteran was read out and the American Legion Auxiliary from the post

went to them and pinned a Vietnam Tribute Lapel Pin on them and gave them a Proclamation from the President of the United States. You could see the gratitude in the faces of each vet as they were pinned.

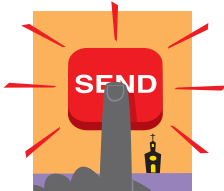
Next, there was another pinning ceremony. The host asked if there were any wives present that supported their spouse while they were in service. They were asked to stand and the Auxiliary members approached them

with a special Veterans' Spouse lapel pin. This was an unexpected bonus that was well received. Following that was a light lunch. Thanks to the committee for their hard work in putting the event together. They were Chair Steve Gallant, Committee Members: Millie Larson, Lorie Zybus, Marsha Robidoux, Mike McNamara, Ray Robidoux, and Steve Conway. This was the conclusion of our event, titled 'Welcome Home.'

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HINT
continued from page A7

in two drops oil of cloves and let it marinate for a day or two. To use, just put a drop on fish bait.

Stop overwatering your lawn this season. Proper watering can be the key to a fantastic fall lawn. Lawn experts claim a healthy lawn with a good root system doesn't require watering more than one to three times per week. The bottom line? Your lawn needs about an inch of water once every seven to ten days to grow strong roots.

Win a Three Course Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing.

One winner per month (or whenever I receive enough tips for a column) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

Trinity Pare receives Elmira College Key Award

ELMIRA, N.Y. — Trinity Pare of Webster received the Elmira College Key Award for academic and community leadership. A tradition that goes back to 1935, the EC Key Award is presented to outstanding students in their junior year of high school or preparatory school.

This year, the award was given to 831 students in 18 states and Canada. Recipients receive an \$88,000 scholarship over a four-year period, \$22,000 per year, upon enrolling at Elmira College.

"This award is given to students with the potential to excel academically, serve as leaders, and go on to enjoy success in life," said Charles Lindsay, president of Elmira College. "We hope they will choose to make Elmira College their place."

Sponsored by the EC Alumni Association, the Key Award recog-

nizes students for high scholastic achievement, leadership, citizenship, and participation in extracurricular activities.

About Elmira College

Founded in 1855, Elmira College is a private, residential, liberal arts college offering 30-plus majors, an honors program, 17 academic societies, and 19 intercollegiate programs with 15 NCAA Division III-sponsored sports. Located in the Southern Finger Lakes Region of New York, Elmira's undergraduate and graduate student population hails from more than 20 states and nine countries. Elmira is a Phi Beta Kappa College and has been ranked a top college, nationally, for student internships. The College is also home to the Center for Mark Twain Studies, one of four historically significant Twain heritage sites in the U.S., which attracts Twain scholars and educators from

around the world for research on the famous literary icon. Proud of its history and tradition, the College is committed to the ideals of community service, and intellectual and individual growth.

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PUBLICATION NOTICE**
Estate Of:
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Date of Death: 06/23/2025**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Eileen M Harrigan of Sutton MA Eileen M Harrigan of Sutton MA** has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve **without** Surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
September 19, 2025

NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE Premises: 81 Bancroft Street, Auburn, MA 01501 By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Michael A. Robidoux to CitiMortgage, Inc., dated April 11, 2005, and recorded with the Worcester Registry of Deeds in Book 36093 at Page 267, as affected by an assignment of mortgage from CitiMortgage, Inc. to Federal National Mortgage Association, dated February 13, 2014, and recorded with said Registry in Book 52046 at Page 117, as affected by an assignment of mortgage from Federal National Mortgage Association to Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper, dated July 16, 2019, and recorded with said Registry in Book 60713 at Page 343, as affected by an assignment of mortgage from Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper to UMB Bank, National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Legal Title Trustee for PRL Title Trust I, dated May 3, 2023, and recorded with said Registry in Book 69093 at Page 132, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by assignment, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold by Public Auction at 12 o'clock P.M. on the 1st day of October, 2025 at the mortgaged premises located at 81 Bancroft Street, Auburn, MA 01501, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, To wit: A certain parcel of land situate on the easterly side of Bancroft Street in said Auburn, being lot 9 on Plan of Land in Auburn, Mass., Overhill Estates Section 1A, owner by Edward Tuck, drawn by William C. Taylor Associates, April 10, 1965, and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 290 Plan 56, and bounced and described as follows: BEGINNING at the most westerly corner of the premises to be conveyed at a point marked by a concrete bound in said easterly line of Bancroft Street at the northerly line of land of the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority; THENCE S. 84° 25' 18" E. by the northerly line of said land of Massachusetts Turnpike Authority two hundred fifty and no hundredths (250.00) feet to an iron pip at land now or formerly of Ed Tuck; THENCE N. 12° 26' 33" E. by said land now or formerly of said Tuck one hundred ten and no hundredths (11.00) feet to an iron pipe at lot 10 as shown on said plan; THENCE N. 82° 30' 10" W. by said lot 10 two hundred thirty-seven and thirty-five hundredths (237.35) feet to an iron pipe in said easterly line of Bancroft Street; THENCE S. 18° 03' 38" W. by Bancroft Street one hundred twenty and no hundredths (120.00) feet to the point of beginning. Containing 27,470 square feet, more or less. Together with the interest of grantors in the abutting portions of Bancroft Street to the center line thereof. This conveyance is made expressly subject to the restrictions, which shall apply to all lots shown and said plan and to other land of Edward

Tuck, as more particularly set forth in a Declaration dated May 25, 1965, and recorded in Worcester District Registry of Deeds, June 14, 1985, Book, 4570, Page 319. For Mortgagor's title, see deed dated September 5, 2003 and recorded in Book 31757, at Page 31 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds. Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. **TERMS OF SALE:** A deposit of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. High bidder to sign written memorandum of sale upon acceptance of the high bid. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid by certified or bank check at Friedman Vartolo LLP, 1325 Franklin Avenue, Suite 160, Garden City, New York 11530 within thirty (30) days from the date of the sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. UMB Bank, National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as legal title trustee for PRL Title Trust I Present holder of said mortgage By its Attorneys, Friedman Vartolo LLP 1325 Franklin Ave, Suite 160 Garden City, NY 11530
September 12, 2025
September 19, 2025
September 26, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P2908EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
Estate Of:
**Lori Ann Sinkis
Date of Death: July 04, 2025**
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Caitlin Sinkis of Oxford MA Caitlin Sinkis of Oxford MA** has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve **without** Surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
September 19, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P3139EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
**Patricia Ann Parslow
Also known as: Patricia A Parslow
Date of Death: 07/07/2020**

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/07/2025.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 09, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
September 19, 2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
Premises: 6 Carol Drive, Unit 5B, Oxford, MA 01540
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Brian Elliot and David Elliot to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Caliber Home Loans, Inc., and now held by **NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing**, said mortgage dated January 7, 2019 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59912, Page 297, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Caliber Home Loans, Inc. to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing by assignment dated August 29, 2024 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 70962, Page 330; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on October 9, 2025 at 01:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, **directly in front of the building in which the unit is located**, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

Unit B (the "Unit") in Building 5 (the "Building") of Buffumville Heights Estates Condominium (the "Condominium") located in Oxford, Worcester County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts and created pursuant to a Master Deed recorded on July 1, 1987 with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 10602, Page 30.
The mailing Address and Post Office Address of said Unit is 6 Carol Drive (formerly Dolge Court), Unit 5B, Oxford, MA 01540.
Said Unit 5B contains 2250.1 square feet, more or less, as shown on floor plans of said condominium recorded with said Registry, Plan Book 579, Plan 12, a copy of a portion of said plan being attached to the first unit deed to which is affixed a verified statement in the form required by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 183A, Section 9. Said Unit is also conveyed together with and subject to:
a. An undivided interest of 4.9400% in the common areas and facilities described in the Buffumville Heights Estates Condominium Master Deed.
b. The benefit of, and subject to all easements, rights, restrictions, agreements and provisions created in said Master Deed, and the Declaration of Trust creating the Buffumville Heights Estates Condominium Trust and the By-Laws contained therein, recorded in Book 10602, Page 58, as the same may be amended of record, the Rules and Regulations from time to time promulgated thereunder, and the floor plan.
c. Subject to and with the benefit of all easements, rights, restrictions and agreements as recited in a deed of Matthew Rockman Trustee of the Estate of Monsam Building Contractors, Inc. to John J. Sneade dated January 19, 1989, recorded with said Registry in Book 11883, Page 256.
d. The Exclusive right to park passenger motor vehicles with the driveway or portion of the driveway that exclusively servessaid Unit (the "Parking Area"); and
e. The exclusive right to use the deck adjacent to said Unit as shown on said

plans.
This conveyance is also subject to and with the benefit of the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 183A, as now in force and as from time to time amended. For title See deed from Jeffrey M. Fox and Kara M Fox f/k/a Kara M. Pierce to be recorded herewith.
The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.
For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated December 13, 2018 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59912, Page 295.
Said Unit will be conveyed together with an undivided percentage interest in the Common Elements of said Condominium appurtenant to said Unit and together with all rights, easements, covenants and agreements as contained and referred to in the Declaration of Condominium, as amended.
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 NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
September 5, 2025
September 12, 2025
September 19, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P3053EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
**Annette Rita Starzec
Also known as: Annette R Starzec
Date of Death: 11/28/2021**

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **William A. Starzec, II of Webster MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: **William A. Starzec, II of Webster MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/07/2025.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 04, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
September 19, 2025

HOF

continued from page A1

throughout her high school career. She was a three-time SWCL All-Star in soccer, indoor track, and outdoor track. Her senior year in 2013 was particularly impressive, as she was named an All-State and All-New England Selection in soccer.

Dawidczyk’s dominance in track and field was even more pronounced. She was a multi-time District and D2 Central/West Champion, setting meet records in the 55-meter hurdles and 100-meter hurdles. Her success culminated in 2013 when she became an All-State Champion in both indoor and outdoor track, winning the long jump, 55-meter, and 100-meter hurdles events.

Her exceptional performance led to significant media recognition, including multiple selections to the T&G Super Teams for soccer and track. Her prowess on the track was further highlighted by being named the T&G Indoor Track Athlete of the Year and the T&G Track & Field Athlete of the Year in 2013. She concluded her high school career by holding six different

school records in track and field.

Sarah (Mahan) Brandt - Class of 2003

Sarah (Mahan) Brandt, a distinguished athlete from the Class of 2003, was a force in multiple sports, most notably basketball. In her basketball career, she scored 906 total points and grabbed 857 rebounds. She was a key member of the SWCL Basketball Championship team for four consecutive years from 2000 to 2003 and a member of the District Basketball Championship team in 2001 and 2002.

Her athletic prowess wasn’t limited to the court; Mahan was a versatile three-sport athlete. She was recognized as a three-time SWCL All-Star in basketball and a two-time SWCL All-Star in soccer. Her talent earned her a spot on the T&G Basketball Super Team in 2003.

Brandt’s exceptional performance and leadership were further acknowledged with prestigious awards in her final year. In 2003, she received the Central Massachusetts Athletic Directors’ Award and was honored as the MBCA Massachusetts

State Player of the Year, solidifying her legacy as one of the top athletes of her era.

Douglas Caves - Class of 2005

Douglas Caves, a member of the Class of 2005, was a highly decorated student-athlete with a remarkable record of achievements in cross country and track and field. He earned a total of six SWCL All-Star selections across these three sports, with two nods in each. His dominance in the SWCL was further cemented by his Cross Country Championship in 2004, and multiple titles in various events, including the 55m and 300m in 2004 and the 600m in 2005.

Caves’ success extended beyond the league level, as he became a force at both the district and state competitions. He was a 2004 District E 55m Champion, where he also set a new record for the event. He also captured district titles in the 100m and long jump. His impressive versatility was on full display in 2004 when he was crowned the Decathlon Central/Western MA champion.

Throughout his career, Caves set numerous records and won multiple

championships. He was a two-time Telegram and Gazette All-Star in 2004 and 2005. His senior year was particularly successful, as he set Central MA records in both the 400m and 200m events, and became an All-State Champion in two different sports: the indoor track 600m and the outdoor track 400m.

Kirsten Doldoorian - Class of 2006

Kirsten Doldoorian, a remarkable athlete from the Class of 2006, left an indelible mark on Oxford High School’s athletic program, particularly in basketball. She graduated as the third all-time leading scorer in OHS history with a total of 1,461 points. Doldoorian was a pivotal player on four consecutive SWCL Basketball Championship teams from 2003 to 2006, as well as the District Basketball Championship team in 2005.

Her versatility extended beyond the basketball court, as she was a successful three-sport athlete. Doldoorian earned four SWCL All-Star selections in basketball and was also named an SWCL All-Star in both softball and soccer. Her stellar performance in basketball was recognized with two consecutive selections to the T&G Basketball Super Team in 2005 and 2006.

Doldoorian’s overall athletic achievements were celebrated with two prestigious awards. She received the George Shattuck Award for Oxford’s Most Outstanding Runner in cross country and was honored with the Central Massachusetts Athletic

Directors’ Award in 2006, highlighting her excellence and leadership across multiple sports.

1997 Football Team
Division 3 Super Bowl Champion - 1997
Record: 11-1
3 Shutouts
Super Bowl: Oxford 39 Franklin Tech 6

Head Coach: Ron Springer
Assistant Coaches: Gerry Nadeu, Mark Lempicki, Michael O’Brien, Don Defeudis and Tom Saad
Captains: John Escolas, Ryan Guertin, Dom Reno and Abe Lempicki

Super Bowl Oxford 39 Franklin Tech 6 at Springfield College

From the opening kickoff of week 1, it was clear the Oxford Pirates had something special. With a balanced offense, a relentless defense, and unshakeable team chemistry, the team marched through the season, overcoming injuries, tough opponents, and late-game challenges to emerge as Super Bowl Champions. The season got off to a great start with two huge victories over Worcester Voke and Bay Path with a combined score of 73-9. There were three very close games, but the Pirates earned hard-fought wins against Bartlett 14-13 and Northbridge 13-12 with our only loss coming on Thanksgiving Day to our rival Auburn 15-14. Overall, the defense was incredible and had 3 shutouts vs. Worcester Voke, Grafton, and Tantasqua.

The offense was led

by the Senior captains - quarterback Dom Reno, running backs Ryan Guertin, Abe Lempick and the blocking up front by John Escolasi. Other key notable players on the offense were Keith McIlvaine, Rob Phillipo, Nate Guzman, Jason Wilson, Jason Hawkes and Mike Escolas. The defense was led by linebackers John Escolas, Abe Lempicki, Keith McIlvaine and defensive ends Jason and Walter Morgan.

The Pirates finished the regular season at 10-1 and qualified for the Division 3 Superbowl against Western Mass opponent Franklin Tech from Turner Falls. Leading up to the big game a highlight for the team included a practice up on the turf at the College of Holy Cross followed by a team meal at Coney Island. The game took place on December 6th at 9:45 am at Springfield College. We were fortunate to win 39-6 to achieve Oxford High School’s first ever SuperBowl win and finished the season at 11-1, which still stands as the best record for an Oxford High football team to this day.

The season won’t just be remembered for the championship — it will be remembered for the heart, resilience, and unity that defined every snap. The 1997 Oxford Pirate football team will go down as one of the greatest teams in school history. We’re proud to see that unity still persists today by the enduring friendships forged by this amazing team.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **James D. Smith** to Fleet National Bank dated November 4, 2002, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 28623, Page 183; said mortgage was then assigned to MEB Loan Trust IV by virtue of an assignment dated January 22, 2020, and recorded in Book 61813, Page 388; and further assigned to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of CSMC 2022-JR1 Trust by virtue of an assignment dated May 8, 2023, and recorded in Book 69218, Page 392; and further assigned to U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee for MEB Loan Trust IV by virtue of an assignment dated June 12, 2024, and recorded in Book 70760, Page 337; and further assigned to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely as Owner Trustee of CSMC 2022-JR1 Trust by virtue of an assignment dated June 12, 2024, and recorded in Book 70760, Page 340, and further assigned to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee on behalf of and for the benefit of BP-JR 1 Loan Trust by virtue of an assignment dated December 4, 2024, and recorded in Book 71479, Page 328; of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at PUBLIC AUCTION at 03:00 PM on **October 8, 2025**, on the mortgaged premises. This property has the address of 581 Main Street, Oxford (North), MA 01537. The entire mortgaged premises, all and singular, the premises as described in said mortgage:

THAT CERTAIN PIECE OF PARCEL OF LAND, AND THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, KNOWN AS 581 MAIN ST, IN THE TOWN OF N OXFORD COUNTY OF WORCESTER AND STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN A DEED RECORDED IN BOOK 4941, PAGE 132.

Subject to and with the benefit of easements, reservation, restrictions, and taking of record, if any, insofar as the same are now in force and applicable. In the event of any typographical error set forth herein in the legal description of the premises, the description as set forth and contained in the mortgage shall control by reference. Together with all the improvements now or hereafter erected on the property and all easements, rights, appurtenances, rents, royalties, mineral, oil and gas rights and profits, water rights and stock and all fixtures now or hereafter a part of the property. All replacements and additions shall also be covered by this sale.

Terms of Sale: Said premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and assessments, tax sales, tax titles and other municipal liens and water or sewer liens and State or County transfer fees, if any there are, and TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) in cashier’s or certified check will be required to be paid by the purchaser

at the time and place of the sale as a deposit and the balance in cashier’s or certified check will be due in thirty (30) days, at the offices of Doonan, Graves & Longoria, LLC (“DG&L”), time being of the essence. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Dated: August 15, 2025 U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee on behalf of and for the benefit of BP-JR 1 Loan Trust

By its Attorney DOONAN, GRAVES & LONGORIA, LLC, 100 Cummings Center, Suite 303C, Beverly, MA 01915 (978) 921-2670 www.dgandl.com 57173 (SMITH)

September 12, 2025
September 19, 2025
September 26, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. W025P3136EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

Estate Of:
Gail M Proulx
Also known as: Gail Proulx
Date of Death: 05/20/2025

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Melissa C Welsh of Willington CT** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Melissa C Welsh of Willington CT** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/07/2025.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 09, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
September 19, 2025

Friday's Child



Wesley

Age 11

Registration #8475

https://www.mareinc.org/child/21180805788

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.



StonebridgePress.com

News, really close to home

Walk to support Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf

OXFORD — Join Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf volunteers and others on Sunday, Oct. 19, for the annual Crop Hunger Walk. Everyone is welcome!

The walk begins at the First Congregational Church, 355 Main St., Oxford, at 1 p.m. Please arrive at 12:30 p.m. to sign in and gather to walk an easy 3.5 miles through Oxford together. A small monetary donation is suggested.

We're looking to raise \$2,500 this year, which will help stock the shelves of the Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf, Oxford's community food pantry, in the weeks ahead.

To participate, go to <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/event/oxfordma> and follow the steps from there.

Or just show up on the 19th. Volunteers will be at the church to help you get started.

For more information, check the Oxford Food Shelf page on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/OxfordMAFoodShelf>) or call 508-987-1062.

The Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf is a free non-profit food pantry in Oxford. We are available to every resident in Oxford MA who needs groceries to help feed themselves or their family.

Thank you for your continued support of the Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf.

Local students named to Holy Cross Dean's List

WORCESTER — College of the Holy Cross congratulates the students named to the Spring 2025 Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2024-25 academic year.

To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

The following local students made the list:

Lily-Ann C'Miel, of Auburn
Nora Foley, of Auburn
Claudia Oliver, of Auburn
Sabrina Tang, of Auburn
Caroline Villa, of Auburn
Maxine Adu-Boahen Jones, of Webster
Aurora Voas, of Oxford

About Holy Cross
The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, is among the nation's leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

Auburn DPW announces Water Street lane closure

AUBURN — Starting Monday, Sept. 15, a portion of Water Street in Auburn will be reduced to one lane just south of the Webster First Federal Credit Union's driveway due to a deteriorated culvert. The portion of this roadway will be converted to one-way, allowing vehicles to travel westbound from Central Street to Southbridge Street. The eastbound traffic from Southbridge Street will be detoured via Sharon Ave and Meadow Street.

Based on the findings of a recent Massachusetts Department of Transportation inspection a portion of the southbound lane must be closed to traffic due to deterioration of the culvert. The town's Department of Public Works will place signage and barriers to safely close this portion of the road. The Town will seek funding at the Special Town Meeting in October for the design and replacement of the culvert.

For more information, contact the Department of Public Works at 508-832-7814.

SNHU announces Summer 2025 President's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Summer 2025 President's List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Dina Holmes of Auburn

Nathaniel Kunz of Auburn
Kelly Szafarowicz of Auburn
Nikita Giantsios of Dudley
Jacquelyn Ricard of Webster
Meighan McCarthy of Webster
Melody Serrano-Rodriguez of Webster
Eryk Chamberlin of Webster
Mark Bennett of Webster
Ognjen Milosavljevic of Webster
Emma Snow of Oxford
Kevin Meleshuk of Oxford
Tatiana Landin of Oxford
Krystal Bonafilia of Oxford

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 92-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, New Hampshire. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

Jessica Socia named to SNHU Dean's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Jessica Socia of Oxford has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Summer 2025 Dean's List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 92-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, New Hampshire. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

Wildcats secure first win of the season against Auburn Middle School

WEBSTER — The Webster Middle School Wildcats opened their 2025 campaign with a solid team win over a tough well-coached Auburn Middle School football team.

The Wildcats wasted no time setting the tone, jumping out to a 14-0 lead in the first quarter and adding one more touchdown in the second to take a 20-0 half-time lead. First half highlights included a stingy WMS defense, tough offensive line play, and explosive runs from the running backs.

"Defensively, we played outstanding and had some key stops early in the game," added Coach Adam Stawicki, praising the entire unit's discipline and hustle.

The third quarter saw Webster extend their overall lead. A late touchdown in the fourth quarter helped the Wildcats to secure their first victory of the season.

"Since the start of the season, we emphasized and will continue to stress what it takes to be a winning team. Today, we showed what hard work and dedication can do for a team like ours," said Coach John Bsouami.

With the win, the Wildcats now turned focus to their Week 2 matchup: Thursday, Sept. 18, at 5:30 p.m. against Knox Trail at the Memorial Athletic Field in Webster.

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Saturday, September 20th

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Distribution: 3rd Saturday 9 AM-12 Noon

St. Joseph's Church, Charlton
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Wednesday 9-11 a.m.
Everyone is welcome.

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

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

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Oxford Community Center
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Oxford, MA 01540
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ROCHDALE
The Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry
Greenville Baptist Church
674 Pleasant St.
Rochdale, MA
Distribution: Every Monday from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Open to everyone.

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

SPENCER- EAST BROOKFIELD - RESIDENTS ONLY
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Saint Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry,
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16 Church Street, Fiskdale, MA 01518
Stocked by donations
Contact: 508-347-6398

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

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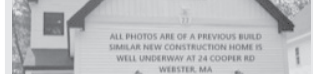
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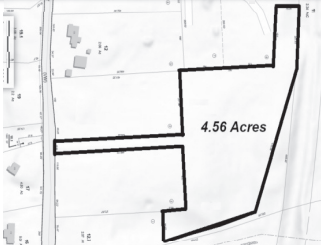
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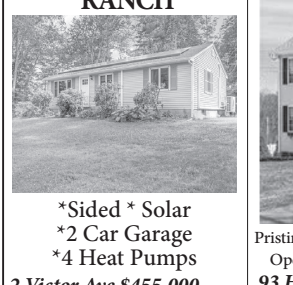
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All Saints Academy commemorates Sept. 11 attacks

WEBSTER — On the 24th anniversary of the tragic events that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001, All Saints Academy opened the school day with a prayer service followed by individual classes spending time learning about the events that struck our country. Students also watched a video about the Survivor Tree, a pear tree at the 9/11 Memorial that is a symbol of hope and resilience and our ability to recover and bounce back after a challenge.

allowing them to express their deepest thoughts and emotions—to turn remembrance into something tangible. When you look at the ASA Strong Pear Tree, adorned with every message, you see more than paper. You see resilience, compassion, faith and a promise that we will never forget. Each symbol hanging on the tree carries a voice, a memory, and a hope for peace.

Attigah reminds us of the power of perseverance: “Even through the toughest of times, hope and perseverance will get you far.”

The lesson continued on Sept. 12 – National Day of Encouragement. In a world where so many things come at a cost, encouragement is absolutely free — yet it can be priceless to someone who needs it. Students were encouraged to take the lessons they learned about 9/11 and carry them into today and beyond with purpose and kindness and that each one of us has the power to make our environment more supportive, prayerful, welcoming, and kind — one word or action at a time.

Following the age appropriate discussions, classes completed a project to honor the strength, courage, and unity that followed these horrific attacks. Students created a leaf, heart, or badge

Jackson Dunkley, Grade 7, encourages us with compassion: “Stay strong and keep your faith. It’s okay to still mourn.” Benjamin Mukuha, Grade 8, draws strength from scripture, quoting Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” And Alanna Yelu-

All Saints students celebrate new canonizations



WEBSTER — All Saints Academy marked the canonization of St. Carlo Acutis and St. Pier Giorgio Frassati with a series of joyful and meaningful events that engaged the school community.

about the saints, creating a booklet for each saint, decorating their classroom, and enjoying canoli in honor of both saints’ Italian heritage. Students also received holy cards and prayed for intercession through St. Carlo Acutis and St. Pier Giorgio Frassati.

online. After selecting their favorite concepts, the students showcased their final decisions by creating a laptop Google Meet session—symbolizing their commitment to using digital tools for Christ.

Throughout the year in Kindergarten, students are introduced to many saints. To help remember them, the class creates a special Saints Booklet. The students were excited to add two new saints to our booklet this year: St. Carlo Acutis and St. Pier Giorgio Frassati, who were canonized by Pope Leo on Sept. 7.

In addition to celebrating the canonizations, Grade 3 also celebrated the nativity of the Blessed Mother with flowers, cards, decorating her statue and singing Happy Birthday to her.

Ideas included creating a secure app/digital platform to connect children with specific childhood illnesses with other children their age who are experiencing similar challenges and need someone to talk to, developing a website that will help children with a problem that then shares a Bible passage for them to reflect on, and a video game for acting out the lives of saints.

The celebration of St. Carlo Acutis, the Patron Saint of the Internet, continued with the seventh and eighth grade students exploring how technology can be used as a force for good. Through thoughtful discussion and brainstorming sessions, they shared creative ideas on how to live out their faith

This was a perfect way to recognize the first saints canonized under Pope Leo XIV in 2025!

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