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Friday, May 1, 2026

## Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter celebrates volunteers and community impact at Annual Meeting

**NORTHBRIDGE** — The Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter (BVES) hosted its Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Celebration on April 16 at Pleasant Valley Country Club, bringing together volunteers, community partners, and supporters for an evening of gratitude, reflection, and vision.

The event highlighted a year of remarkable growth and impact, as BVES continued its mission to ensure that no one in the Blackstone Valley faces homelessness alone. In 2025, the organization expanded its physical shelter operations, strengthened partnerships with eight local police departments, and launched new initiatives like the Baskets of Hope laundry program and Hope's Thrift Closet—both designed to restore



dignity and provide sustainable support.

The evening program featured powerful stories of hope and transformation from volunteers and community partners, offering a moving look at how com-

passion and collaboration were changing lives across the region.

A special highlight of the evening was the presentation of the first annual "Christine Johnson and Regina Hutnak Hands

of Hope Award," which was given to the dedicated volunteers of Hope's Thrift Closet. In just one year, these volunteers helped generate more than \$40,000 in support of BVES programs while also

providing clothing, care, and compassion to individuals and families in need. Their work reflected the heart of BVES—bringing comfort, dignity, and hope to those facing hardship.

"Every night we opened

our doors, every call we answered, and every life we touched was made possible by our volunteers," said Leslie Reichert, Founder and CEO of BVES. "This celebration was about honoring the hands and hearts that made hope real in our community."

The Annual Meeting also looked ahead to BVES's future, including its Hope Housing Initiative, "100 Days to Hope," a program designed to provide temporary supportive housing and help individuals transition from crisis to stability and permanent housing.

Following the formal program, guests enjoyed a time of fellowship and connection, celebrating the collective effort that continued to make BVES a beacon of hope in the Blackstone Valley.

## Andrew Dolan named 2026 MAVA Outstanding Vocational Technical Student



Andrew Dolan

Outstanding Vocational Technical Student.

Dolan's academic, vocational, and extracurricular achievements at BVT and in the community earned him this recognition. As an award recipient, he was honored at the 40th annual MAVA Outstanding Vocational Technical Student Awards Ceremony on April 16 at Mechanics Hall in Worcester.

Throughout his high school career, Dolan has been a passionate advocate for the skilled trades and the nursing profession. He has earned numerous honors through his involvement with SkillsUSA, including serving as vice president and winning a national gold medal in health care. Andrew also serves as president of

BVT's National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society chapters. His dedication to community service, including work with the Aaron Zenus Foundation and the Ty Louis Campbell Foundation, earned him the Gold President's Volunteer Service Award.

Dolan's passion for health care led him to participate in BVT's cooperative education program with UMass Memorial Medical Center in Marlborough. Employed as a medical surgical inpatient clinical technician, he gains hands-on experience by caring directly for patients and supporting their recovery. He also participates in an emergency medicine internship at Milford Regional Medical

Center, a nonprofit community and regional teaching hospital and part of the UMass Memorial Health system.

Dolan plans to continue his vocational education by pursuing a doctoral degree in acute trauma nursing. He hopes to work as a nurse practitioner in emergency medicine.

About Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT)

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the

heart of the Blackstone Valley, BVT creates a positive learning community that prepares students for personal and professional success in an internationally competitive society

through a fusion of rigorous vocational, technical, and academic skills. For more information about the school, visit [www.valleytech.k12.ma.us](http://www.valleytech.k12.ma.us).

### Join Douglas Sunshine Club for lunch and line dancing

**DOUGLAS** — Join the Douglas Sunshine Club for a fun at our BBQ lunch and line dancing on Friday, May 8 at the Douglas Adult Social Center.

The Sunshine Club is hosting this event which starts at 1 p.m., with lunch followed by Lil guiding us through some line dancing. Whether you are new to line dancing or experienced, everyone is welcome to come try some new dances. Lunch is \$7, and must be paid when you sign up by May 5. The center is at 331 Main St., Douglas, and can be reached by calling 508-476-2283 for further information. Doors will open at 12:30 p.m.

## DAR presents Good Citizen Awards

**DOUGLAS** — On April 16, the Captain Job Knapp Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution presented their 2026 Good Citizens Awards & Scholarships. This award is given by the chapter to honor four area high school seniors selected by their teachers who demonstrated good citizenship qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism in their homes, schools, and communities.

This year's recipients are Caitlin Kelly, Blackstone Valley Technical High School, Mia Darling, Douglas

High School, Lorelai Drapeau, Northbridge High School, and Madison Amati, Whitinsville Christian High School.

Each of these four outstanding young citizens received a DAR Good Citizens pin, a certificate, and a scholarship funded through a generous donation from Unibank and the chapter. The DAR Captain Job Knapp Chapter would like to publicly thank Unibank who has been a community supporter of this scholarship for many years.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, founded in 1890 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children. It is a nonprofit, non-political, volunteer women's service organization. Any woman who has an ancestor who fought in or rendered aid in the American Revolution may be eligible for membership in DAR.



# Blackstone Public Library awarded Internet-enabled devices by Connected and Online Program

BLACKSTONE — On April 3, the Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), a division of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MassTech), announced the distribution of nearly 27,000 Internet-enabled devices through the Connected and Online Program to improve quality of life for Massachusetts residents by providing access to essential services and resources online.

The Blackstone Public Library is an awardee of this program and has received 16 Dell laptops, 10 Dell tablets, 10 Dell Chromebooks, and 18 Dell desk-

tops for patron use. Two of the Dell desktops will be situated at the Blackstone Senior Center for resident use.

Funded through the U.S. Treasury's Capital Projects Fund, the Connected and Online Program is a \$28.5 million initiative that will provide Massachusetts-based organizations with nearly 27,000 devices, including laptops, tablets and desktop computers. In addition, more than 20,000 pieces of supporting equipment including monitors, assistive technology and remote patient monitoring tools will be made accessible to more than 200 of these organizations statewide, including

nonprofits, hospitals, libraries, and elder and youth aid organizations. Devices will be used in public spaces such as schools, libraries and learning centers, or incorporated into free-to-borrow lending programs.

"Massachusetts residents rely on the internet every day to find work, take classes, access health care and build stronger community ties," said Gov. Maura Healey. "The Connected and Online Program helps residents improve their lives by equipping them with the capacity to directly access services and opportunities."

"The Connected and Online Program is an example of how Massachusetts is focused on expanding economic opportunity for all our residents," said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. "By supporting local organizations that serve as anchors for connection and learning, the program meets residents where they are and invests in communities."

The Connected and Online Program is designed to increase access to education, workforce development and health care services with a particular focus on Gateway Cities and rural communities. Devices will be offered through lending programs or at locations accessible to the public. Organizations will conduct

public outreach to notify people of opportunities to borrow and use devices.

"Access to digital tools is essential for connecting people to opportunity," said Economic Development Secretary Eric Paley. "The Connected and Online Program helps residents access jobs, training and essential services while supporting a stronger workforce across Massachusetts."

"MBI is expanding access to devices in order to empower residents and enable them to take full advantage of opportunities in today's economy," said MBI Program Executive Jody Jones. "By putting devices in people's hands, we are opening up new pathways to trainings and resources that can accelerate careers. With digital access, residents will have the ability to pursue new offerings like the free online AI training now available through the Grow with Google partnership with the Massachusetts AI Hub."

The Connected and Online Program builds on MBI's broader digital empowerment strategy and complements broadband infrastructure investments through the Gap Networks Grant Program, Broadband Equity Access and

Deployment (BEAD) program and Residential Retrofit Program to expand affordability and access statewide.

The complete award breakdown by organization can be found on the MBI Web site at [broadband.masstech.org/connected-online](http://broadband.masstech.org/connected-online).

About the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech A division of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) is working to extend high-speed internet access and availability across the state. To achieve this, MBI uses state and federal funding to launch infrastructure expansion programs that target areas of the state that lack high-speed internet access as well as digital equity programs that tackle barriers to internet adoption and increase availability, addressing critical issues around affordability, enhanced public Wi-Fi, the need for internet-enabled devices, and digital literacy training. Learn more at [broadband.masstech.org](http://broadband.masstech.org).



## ARTHRITIS?

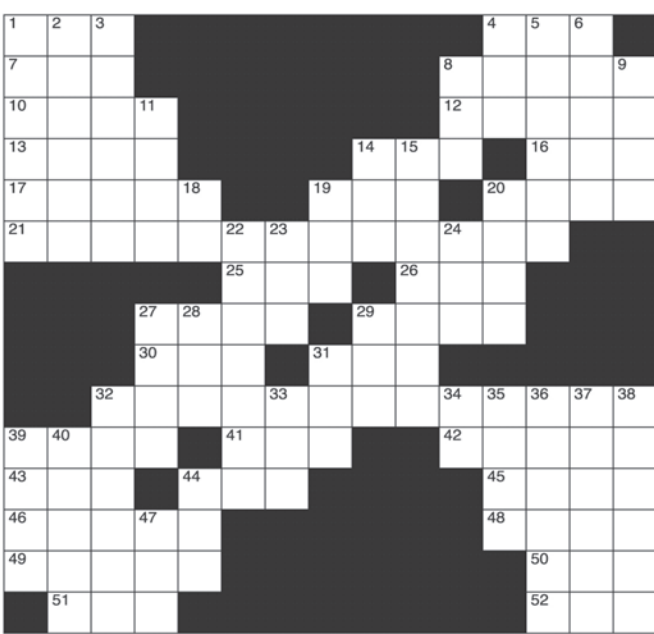
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### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Purchase
- 4. British news organization
- 7. Midway between northeast and east
- 8. Language specialist group
- 10. Fancy automobile
- 12. Small loop or series of loops
- 13. Exploiter
- 14. Don't know when yet
- 16. Group of languages
- 17. One who's finished
- 19. After B
- 20. Angled
- 21. A place to adopt pets
- 25. Swiss river
- 26. Young boy
- 27. Unexciting
- 29. American comedian Vidale
- 30. Peyton's little brother
- 31. Corporate higher-up
- 32. "All in the Family" star
- 39. Strike something forcefully
- 41. Up in the air (abbr.)
- 42. Clay earth pigments
- 43. Means to record brain activity
- 44. Small constellation
- 45. Embraces
- 46. Brief description
- 48. Exclude
- 49. White (French)
- 50. Insect
- 51. A major division of geological time
- 52. Soviet Socialist Republic

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Type of whale
- 2. In tune
- 3. A citizen of Yemen
- 4. Actress Ling
- 5. One who supports
- 6. Circus performer
- 8. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- 9. Quantitative fact
- 11. Utah city
- 14. Where a golfer begins
- 15. Attendant
- 18. The ancient Egyptian sun god
- 19. Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
- 20. Benedictine monk
- 22. Not turbulent
- 23. Car mechanics group
- 24. Buffer used in chemistry
- 27. Fall heavily
- 28. Pie \_\_\_ mode
- 29. The Brits love it
- 31. Children's TV channel (abbr.)
- 32. Jacksonville footballer
- 33. Helps little firms
- 34. \_\_\_ and behold
- 35. A way to resemble
- 36. Fingers
- 37. Excessive indulgences
- 38. You might be an "empty" one
- 39. "How the West Was Won" writer
- 40. European river
- 44. They begin the alphabet
- 47. The body's messenger

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

B	U	Y					B	B	C							
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## Houatchanthara, of Whitinsville, presents research findings during third annual Social Justice Research Symposium

WESTON — Haden Houatchanthara, of Whitinsville, presented their research "Psychological Effects of Social Media on Teens" during Regis College's third annual Social Justice Research Symposium on April 16. Houatchanthara is a Business Management major.

Cosponsored by the Writing Program and the Center for Student Engagement, the symposium features student research panels, poster presentations, art/music displays and performances, and thesis slams from students across the university's undergraduate and graduate programs.

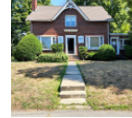
More than 200 students participated in the event, highlighting Regis' mission to cultivate students as change agents in their communities, and to encourage them to serve and lead as advocates for a more just and compassionate global society.

"This is the third annual symposium bringing together the research and voices of students, faculty, and staff at Regis to explore unsolved issues in our local and larger communities," said Associate Professor of the Writing Program and Symposium Coordinator Jennifer Krusinger, PhD. "At a time when AI plays an ever-more dynamic and unpredictable role in many of the professions and our society, this event underscores the power of our mission at Regis and our unique emphasis on the human role in identifying a need, taking responsibility, and developing solutions in a socially just way."

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**UXBRIDGE**  
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\$709,347, 141 Mantell Rd #37, 47 Dodge Deco LLC, to Sarmiento, Justin T, and Mazzarelli, Jace R.  
\$657,866, 197 Crownshield Ave, Tmd Re Hldg-Uxbridge LLC, to Carrara, Enzo.  
\$520,000, 127 Old Stage Rd, Bache, Daniel D, to Vitkosky, Stacey, and Vitkosky, William Robert.  
\$300,000, 56 Rockmeadow Rd Ext, Actor Joseph Francis Est, and Actor, Mary E, to Wassenar Ft, and Wassenar, Diane J.

**WARE**  
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\$435,000, 27 Morse Ave, Slattery, Kevin P, to Ocran, Sydney, and Ocran, Oxana.  
\$430,000, 207 Monson Turnpike Rd, Yellowbrick Property LLC, to Daigle, Daniel, and Daigle, Corey.  
\$334,000, 44 South St, Chehimi, Nasser H, and Sultan, Ahmad, to Aria, Elian Morfe.  
\$282,000, 310 Palmer Rd, Smith, Kristy L, to Dulak, Jessica Lee.

# Local sound healers join global Wesak celebration with gong bath & meditation in Sutton

SUTTON — On Friday, May 1, sound healers Candace Ouillette Gaumond of Spiritology by Candace and Mary Weinstein of Sound Healing Fusion with Mary will co-facilitate a Wesak Moon Gong & Sound Bath at Dragonflies and Amber, located within the historic Manchaug Mills in Sutton, Massachusetts.

The event is part of a global synchronized celebration, with more than 200 gong baths taking place across over 20 countries in honor of Wesak, the sacred full moon associated with the birth, enlightenment, and teachings of the Buddha. Widely regarded as a time of peace, compassion, and unity, Wesak brings people together worldwide in meditation and reflection. The Sutton event offers participants an opportunity to connect with this global energy through an immersive local experience.

The evening will feature a guided meditation and sound bath using gongs and other vibrational instruments designed to support relaxation, nervous system regulation, and overall well-being. Sound healing practices are increasingly recognized for their ability to reduce stress, promote mental clarity, and encourage a deeply meditative state.

“This is more than a local event, it’s

part of a worldwide wave of intentional sound and meditation for greater well-being,” said Weinstein.

Gaumond added, “Participants are not only receiving the benefits of the sound bath itself but also connecting into a larger field of collective focus on healing, peace, and compassion.”

Both practitioners trained under internationally respected sound therapist Vikrampal, founder of the International Therapeutic Sound Association.

“The Gong takes you into a deep meditative state where your mind relaxes, intuition awakens, and your healing ability is enhanced. You’ll learn to connect with yourself from a new place, full of meaning,” said Vikrampal.

The gong will be a central feature of the evening’s sound bath experience.

Often referred to as the “master” instrument in sound healing, the gong produces a rich, complex range of tones that can engage both body and mind simultaneously. Its immersive sound field is known to quiet mental activity, support emotional release, and promote a return to balance.

The Wesak Moon Gong & Sound Bath will take place from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Friday, May 1, at Dragonflies and Amber,

Manchaug Mills, 6 Whitins Rd., Sutton. Advanced registration is recommended due to limited seating. Tickets are available at [dragonfliesandamber.com/classes-events](http://dragonfliesandamber.com/classes-events).

Gaumond is the founder of Spiritology by Candace, offering intuitive guidance, energy healing, and sound-based modalities. Weinstein is a certified sound healer specializing in vibrational healing. Together, they create collaborative sound experiences designed to support deep relaxation and energetic alignment. Dragonflies and Amber is a holistic wellness and creative space within Manchaug Mills that hosts workshops, healing events, and community gatherings.

## Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall

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

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# Six spring renovation tips from Koopman experts

WHITINSVILLE — As homeowners across New England prepare for spring renovation season, early planning remains one of the most important factors in keeping projects on schedule and on budget. With demand for contractors, materials, and permitting increasing as warmer weather approaches, the experts at Koopman Lumber, a family-owned building materials supplier serving Massachusetts and Connecticut, encourage homeowners to begin planning now to avoid delays and rushed decisions.

“Spring is when renovation planning really picks up across New England,” said Denise Brookhouse, CEO of Koopman Lumber. “Our team works closely with homeowners early in the process to help guide decisions around materials, timing, and expectations. The better the plan, the smoother and more efficient the process for all involved, and we are here to help.”

The experts at Koopman have pooled their decades of experience to provide these six tips:

Start with clear communication and realistic expectations. If you are hiring a contractor, be clear about your goals, budget, and priorities from the start. Early conversations help align scope and timing and can prevent surprises, delays, or costly changes later.

Secure a contractor early. Spring is the busiest season for renovations, and reputable contractors often book months in advance. Starting your search early gives you more options, and helps keep your project on track as the season ramps up.

Lean on experts during the planning phase. Renovations involve many decisions and materials. Working with experienced professionals such as kitchen designers, window and door specialists, or decking experts can help homeowners make informed choices and avoid issues.

Build a realistic timeline and understand permitting. While contractors typically handle permits, homeowners

should be aware that timelines can vary by town. Finalizing designs early and allowing extra time for permitting can help prevent delays once work begins.

Plan for flexibility in your budget and product selections. Many homeowners discover new options or upgrades during the planning process. Setting aside a contingency budget of 10 to 20 percent allows flexibility if priorities shift or additional costs arise.

Consider energy efficient upgrades early. Energy efficient windows, doors, insulation, and appliances can improve comfort, lower long term energy costs, and may qualify for rebates or tax incentives. Planning these upgrades early helps ensure they fit smoothly into the project.

Homeowners and contractors are invited to visit any Koopman Lumber location to connect with experienced team members and plan upcoming projects. Koopman offers Window and Door and Kitchen and Bath showrooms featuring such leading brands as Andersen, Marvin, Mathews Brothers, Crystal Cabinets, Decora, and Schrock Cabinetry. These

showrooms provide a comfortable place for homeowners and contractors to meet together or on their own to review options, ask questions, and make informed decisions. Select Koopman Lumber locations also offer full-service Benjamin Moore paint, providing expert advice and premium color selection for homeowners, painters, and contractors.

“With locations across Massachusetts and Connecticut and a strong distribution network, Koopman Lumber is built to support the demands of peak construction season,” said Denise Brookhouse, CEO of Koopman Lumber. “We work with both homeowners and pros across the region, and our focus during the busiest time of year is making sure projects have the products, support, and service they need to keep moving forward.”

Koopman Lumber, a family-owned business founded in 1939 and headquartered in Whitinsville, Mass., is a trusted provider of lumber, hardware, and home improvement products. The company’s mission is “Supplying Excellence for Generations,” a promise it brings to every team member, customer, and community it serves. For more information, visit [koopmanlumber.com](http://koopmanlumber.com).

# National Day of Prayer gathering to be held on Douglas Common

DOUGLAS — National Day of Prayer is May 7. Join others as we come together throughout the country to pray for our communities, our state and country at the Douglas Commons Gazebo on Main Street, Douglas at 6:30 p.m.

All are welcome. We will join together in worship, with songs and praise and petitions to our Lord.

We have a great opportunity that many countries don’t have, the privilege to pray in public without fear. Let’s come together as a community, in a spirit of repentance, knocking down walls, and seek the Lord to heal our nation.



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Drift is a curious, affectionate pup with a heart full of love and a zest for life that’s impossible to resist. He’s the kind of dog who gets excited about the little things—walks, toys, puzzles, treats (especially treats!), and just being near his people. Whether he’s learning a new trick or exploring the outdoors, Drift is happiest when he’s engaged and having fun. He already knows “sit” and “down” and is eager to keep learning. He’d do best in a home with teens or older kids since he can get a little jumpy when excited.

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## EDITORIAL

# A stronger safety net close to home

There are moments in a community's life when quiet work behind the scenes begins to show its full value. The recent annual meeting of the Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter offered one of those moments.

Organizations like BVES rarely make headlines in dramatic ways. Their work is steady, practical, and often unseen. Yet the expansion of services over the past year shows how much difference a coordinated local response can make when people face housing instability.

Across Sutton, Douglas, Uxbridge, and Northbridge, residents understand that homelessness is not a distant problem belonging only to cities. It appears here too, sometimes unexpectedly, and often quietly. A lost job, a medical emergency, or a sudden change in family circumstances can push someone into crisis faster than many people realize.

That is why the growth of the shelter's partnerships with eight area police departments stands out as especially important. Public safety agencies are frequently the first point of contact when someone has nowhere to go. A coordinated response helps ensure that those encounters lead to support rather than uncertainty.

Programs like Baskets of Hope and Hope's Thrift Closet reflect another strength of the region's response. They recognize that dignity matters as much as shelter. Access to clean clothing, laundry services, and everyday necessities may sound simple, but these are often the first steps toward stability. When people feel respected, they are better positioned to rebuild.

The success of Hope's Thrift Closet in generating more than \$40,000 in its first year shows how practical solutions can also be sustainable ones. It demonstrates that small, community-rooted programs can create both immediate help and long-term impact at the same time.

Perhaps most encouraging is the organization's focus on what comes next. Emergency shelter is essential, but it is only the beginning. The Hope Housing Initiative and the "100 Days to Hope" program point toward a larger goal: helping individuals move from crisis to permanent stability. That shift from short-term response to long-term planning reflects a growing understanding of what effective support really looks like.

Communities across Massachusetts continue to face rising housing pressures. Even towns that once felt insulated from these challenges are seeing changes in rental availability and affordability. Local programs that respond early can prevent larger problems later.

There is also something reassuring about the fact that this work is happening close to home. Residents here tend to take care of one another in practical ways. When neighbors support neighbors, the results often reach farther than anyone expects.

The Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter's progress over the past year shows what can happen when partnerships, planning, and compassion come together. It is a reminder that the strength of a community is not measured only by growth or development, but by how it supports people during difficult moments.

A reliable safety net does not appear overnight. It is built step by step, program by program, and partnership by partnership. In the Blackstone Valley, that work is clearly moving forward.

# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A lesson in Jeffersonian history

To the Editor:

It is the 250th anniversary year of the Declaration of Independence [1776], our Semi-quin-centennial. Time for a little lesson in history.

Did you know that the Presidential election of 1800, John Adams v. Thomas Jefferson, was a doozy? It was vicious. It was a modern political campaign.

In 1789, General George Washington had been elected our first President, unanimously and served two terms. Adams was our second President. Alexander Hamilton, a close ally of Washington, planted his friends in the Adams' cabinet so he could control the Adams' administration. The First Deep State.

President John Adams neither liked nor trusted Hamilton. When Adams fired the "Hamilton" Cabinet members, Hamilton set about destroying Adams' reputation. He called Adams "mentally unhealthy" with an uncontrollable temper. He said Adams flew into "gusts of rage." Sound familiar? Nothing new under the sun.

The two-party system had sprung up during Washington's administration - to his great disgust - with the Republicans championing state's rights and the Federalists, led by Hamilton, in favor of a strong central government. Jefferson, using his poison pen, called Adams and Hamilton "autocrats" and "monarchists."

Jefferson said that Hamilton wanted to restore a King and House of Lords. A No Kings Rally in 1800? Sound familiar? Jefferson even speculated that Federalists wanted to end elections! Truly, today's Leftists are simply unoriginal.

In the 2026 book, "Being Thomas Jefferson, An Intimate History," by Andrew Burstein, the author admits unpleasant facts about Jefferson. He was cold and unfeeling when his "friends" in France were murdered by French Revolutionary mobs. Burstein resists speculation and relies strictly on facts. In 1800, Hamilton and Jefferson loathed each other. Jefferson was rabidly ambitious and despised Hamilton - for being rabidly ambitious.

Burstein wrote that "plain old John Adams from Massachusetts did not disguise who he was at any point in his public career." He acknowledged his prickly nature. He loved working as a farmer in his fields next to his hired hands. His wife, Abigail, was an excellent financial manager. In contrast, Jefferson lived "splendidly and died deeply in debt." When Jefferson died, all of his belongings, including Monticello, were sold at auction. His daughter, Martha,

was evicted.

In the magazine, Monticello, the historian John Ragosta describes the rancid fight among giants of the American Revolution. Adams. Jefferson. Hamilton.

Jefferson's opponents called him "an infidel in principle, a coward in the hour of danger...and a dupe to wild, anti-Christian and demoralizing theories." The newspapers said he would burn Bibles. Political cartoons portrayed Jefferson as dangerously pro-French, un-Christian, and un-American.

Adams' opponents said he was fat (he was), incompetent (he was brilliant), and a monarchist. He was arrogant, but did not want to be a king.

During the Adams Presidency, the French did not like us signing a peace treaty with Britain. So, they seized 300 U.S. ships trading with Britain. When the French foreign minister demanded a bribe before he would meet with the U.S. delegation, Adams and the Federalists passed a law allowing President Adams to expel any foreigner he considered "dangerous." Jefferson said: "a reign of witches!"

Jefferson was only 33 years old when he drafted the glorious words of the Declaration of Independence. At the same time, he was a slave holder. He disgracefully used a slave woman, Sally Hemings (his dead wife's half-sister!) and had six children with her. We are all sinners, every one.

In 1800, the Electoral College voted. Jefferson and Aaron Burr tied, with Adams in third place. This threw the election to the House of Representatives. They voted 36 times. Federalists finally voted for Jefferson because Hamilton convinced them that Aaron Burr would be a dictator! Is there anything new under the sun?

Jefferson was a pretty good President, doubling the size of the nation by the Louisiana Purchase. In 1801, he told our navy to destroy the Barbary pirates from the Muslim Regencies of Tripoli, Tunis, Algiers and Morocco who captured our ships and enslaved our sailors off the coast of North Africa.

European powers had caved to these nations, agreeing to pay them tribute in order to pass unmolested. Today, Iranian pirates want \$1 for every gallon of oil through the Straits of Hormuz. We have a Jeffersonian President who is destroying the fanatical Iranians who have pirate-tized and terrorized the Middle East for 47 years!

BEV GUDANOWSKI  
UXBRIDGE

### Reading my own thoughts...

To the Editor:

Another pithy contribution to the discussion from intellectual polymath Phyllis Kuik. Who would have thought she could surpass her previous lamination — "I agree with everything Bev says!" Yet, inconceivable as it may seem, she now comes with "Thank you again Mike, I agree with every word you wrote." Stunning! Imagine her praise had MAGA Mikey been factually correct even once!

While I'm busy 'reading my own thoughts,' Phyllis is busy avoiding 'thinking' like it's the Plague. To be clear, Phyllis, if you find anything I have written to be factually untrue, gather your favorite crayons, summon your literary prowess, and provide compelling argument to the contrary. You will 'love the sound of your own voice'. I promise.

In the midst of her latest 10th grade history lesson, Bev tells us that we have to stop criticizing the destruction of our democracy, because a 'patriot' never questions anything that his or her country does. Except when it comes to Massachusetts 'communists and socialists', who are her weekly target.

"Did you know..." there are four primary types of patriotism/patriots discussed in political philosophy:

1. Moderate / Ethical / Constructive Patriotism — patriots who support the community to ensure collective benefit, but protest against government policies in order to make their country better.

2. Deflated / Personal Patriotism — patriots who show their gratitude for their country providing safety, rights, or identity, and who volunteer in the community, honoring veterans, and participating in the political process.

3. Robust / Civic Patriotism — patriots who actively participate in national life,

such as paying taxes, voting, and taking pride in civic accomplishments.

4. Extreme / Blind / Nationalistic Patriotism — patriots with unquestioning support for all government actions, asserting superiority over other nations, and xenophobic tendencies.

It's obvious that Bev's 'patriots' fall squarely into category 4. For all her reflections on history, Bev fails to notice what happened to the Nationalistic Patriots of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy. Ben Franklin, when asked about the form of government American patriots were adopting, said "...a republic, if you can keep it." His quote served as warning that a democratic republic requires active, informed citizenship to survive, and is not self-sustaining. Maintaining a free state requires ongoing civic engagement and diligence, rather than allowing government to become corrupt or despotic. We have to be continually identifying and criticizing - as we did against slavery, and for voting rights and women's right.

Bev also says that the rest of the world is jealous of us! That must be why NATO no longer includes us in their meetings; why Canada now wants to join the European Union; why Danish Parliament couldn't control themselves laughing at Trump's attempt to take over Greenland; why countries around the world hold protests mocking Trump; why Arab nations no longer want the liability of having U.S. bases in their countries; and on and on. The world is laughing at us because of the buffoons we have in power. Russia and China are observing our bumbling ineptitude in this war with Iran. Trump, a corrupt, lying, pea-brained narcissist, who falls asleep during

Turn To LETTER page A5

## Saving for retirement: Are you guessing or planning?

Let's say you dream of spending your retirement mornings on a warm beach, coffee in hand, waves rolling in. To get there, you had a simple plan: save \$1 million and buy the beach house you always wanted.

But when retirement arrives, reality hits. After accounting for keeping your current home, everyday expenses and health care, \$1 million doesn't stretch as far as you thought, and the beach house remains a dream. The problem wasn't your discipline — it was that your number was never really your number. It was arbitrary, not anchored to what your ideal retirement would actually cost.

How can you make sure your retirement number is right for you?

A solid savings goal starts with a clear picture of the retirement you want. Think through where you plan to live, whether you'll keep your current home or downsize, how much you plan to travel, if you'll help children and grandchildren financially and what health care might cost you later in life. Build a realistic monthly budget, then multiply by 12 months to find your annual need. Adjust this amount for inflation until the first year of retirement.

Then, multiply that figure by 25 to get a sense of how much may be needed to save. It's a formula based on the idea of withdrawing 4 percent annually from your savings, assuming you retire in your mid-60s. If you need \$60,000 a year, your target is around \$1.5 million. You may need more or less depending on your lifestyle, health, unexpected expenses, Social Security benefits and other income. No single rate or strategy will work for everyone. A financial advisor can help you determine your number and strategy.

Once you know your target, the path forward becomes clearer. Here are a few tips for next steps:

Start early. The sooner you begin saving, the more time compound interest has to work in your favor. Small amounts set aside automatically each paycheck have the opportunity to grow significantly over decades.

Live below your means. Spending less than you earn is one of the most powerful wealth-building habits. When your income rises, save and invest the difference instead of upgrading your lifestyle.

Keep your debt under control. Since credit cards and other high-interest debt can slow your progress, pay off balances monthly when possible.

Invest consistently. If your employer offers a 401(k), aim to contribute at least 10-15 percent of your salary, and increase your contributions after every raise. If you max out your 401(k), a traditional IRA or Roth IRA may offer additional tax-advantaged growth (eligibility and contribution limits apply).

Boost your income when you can. Develop new skills, ask for a raise or explore a side income. Every extra dollar saved moves you closer to your goal.

The difference between a retirement you love and one full of compromises often comes down to the planning you do today. Know your real number, build a solid plan and get the right help along the way.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

## LETTER

continued from page A4

press conferences, is destroying America.

Federal Judge Richard Leon, a conservative appointed by George W Bush, says Trump cannot build the above-ground structure over his new security bunker unless he gets permission from Congress. Trump is now claiming that the ballroom is part of the bunker, and screaming that his life is in danger, because he is expecting an attack on our country. He is apparently OK with the rest of us being killed. As he said at the start of the Iran war: «Some of you may die, but it's a sacrifice that I am willing to make.» Excuse me?

Chief Supreme Court Justice Roberts is facing threat of disbarment over \$20,000,000 received from firms whose cases he ruled on. In essence, Roberts is accused of long-term ethical violations involving his wife's income from law firms that argued cases before the Supreme Court. It claims he failed to properly disclose millions in commission-based earnings, misreported them as salary on financial forms, and did not recuse himself from hundreds of related cases, despite laws requiring judges to step aside when conflicts of interest exist. Just your typical Republican appointee.

SNAP helps more than 41 million people in the United States afford food. Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act included the largest cuts to SNAP in history. In November, the program paused for the first time ever, when the Trump administration refused to fund benefits during the government shutdown, which left many without food assistance for nearly two weeks. People were forced to go hungry, choosing between paying for bills or for food, or not eating to ensure children were fed. Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Agriculture approved waivers that allow 18 states to restrict some foods from being purchased with SNAP. All this is unfolding amid an affordability crisis with continued high costs for medical care, housing, and, of course, food. But Trump has money for a ballroom, a bunker and an arch. Where are all the 'Christians' on this?

Another one bites the dust. Lori Chavez-DeRemer is out as Trump admin Secretary of Labor, joining Pam Bondi and Kristi Noem in the discard pile. (During his first term, Trump's administration experienced record-setting turnover, with at least 14 high-ranking members fired or forced to resign.) Among the allegations against her are claims that she was having the department pay for personal trips, drinking on the job, taking staffers to strip clubs, and in a romantic relationship with a bodyguard.

On Faux News, Jesse Watters was all scorn and vitriol over Virginia voting to do a little redistricting. How dare they! Especially after Texas did it first, not expecting the weak-in-the-knees Democrats to respond in kind. Well guess what, Jesse!

The EU approved a \$106 billion loan package to help Ukraine, after Hungary, with Orban now gone, lifted its veto. No help from America, as Putin's puppet Trump was busy doing Netanyahu's dirty work.

RFK Jr. is hiding a Covid vaccine report because the data shows how effective the vaccine was. Measles and polio are back. Why do you think he is trying to kill us? Why is Trump letting him?

So the FBI guy is drunk in his room, the war guy is quoting Pulp Fiction bible passages, the health guy is slicing of raccoon genitalia...and Iran needs regime change? Do you Republicans remember that Jesus, in Matthew 5.5, said "...the meek shall inherit the earth"...not the stupid?

Now that Trump's tariffs have been ruled illegal, do you think we-the-people will see a penny of the \$Billions that have to be paid back? Yeah...me neither.

May the farce be with you!

RICK BEVILACQUA  
WHITINSVILLE

## 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.

# When the porch chairs come back

## LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET By CHARLES

There is a certain day every year when you realize the town has put its chairs back outside.

Not folding chairs for a parade or a cookout. I mean the ordinary chairs. The ones that live on front porches, at the edge of driveways, beside garage doors, or near the front walk where the afternoon sun lingers the longest. One week they are not there. The next week they are everywhere.

You do not see them arrive. They simply reappear, as if they had been waiting all winter for permission.

I noticed the first one this year outside a house on a side street I drive through often. A plain wooden chair, nothing special about it, set just far enough from the front door that someone could sit comfortably and watch the street without feeling like they were blocking the entrance. Two days later there were three

more on the same block. By the end of the week it felt as though the whole neighborhood had quietly decided it was time again.

Porch chairs change the pace of a town.

When people sit outside, they notice things. They see who walks by with a dog that is getting older. They notice which kid has suddenly outgrown last year's bicycle. They wave to someone who has lived three houses down for 20 years, but whose schedule never quite lined up with theirs until now.

You cannot do that from inside.

Winter encourages us to keep moving. We arrive home and go straight indoors. We close the door and settle into the evening. Spring invites us to pause again. Not for long stretches, necessarily. Sometimes just five minutes before supper. Sometimes

long enough to finish the last of a cup of coffee. Sometimes long enough to watch the sky change color without quite meaning to.

Those chairs make that possible.

When I was younger, it seemed as though there was always someone sitting outside somewhere along the street. Not every house. But enough that you never felt alone walking past. There was usually someone who would nod, or raise a hand, or ask how things were going even if they did not expect a long answer.

That kind of presence is easy to overlook until it returns.

I passed one house the other evening where two chairs had been placed side by side near the front steps. No one was sitting in them at the time, but they faced the road in a way that made it clear they would be used soon. A little farther along, someone had set a single chair near the edge of a driveway where the

late sun reached just before disappearing behind the trees. Down the block, another chair rested beside a small table that looked as though it had held a glass of iced tea not long before.

None of these things were remarkable on their own. Taken together, they made the street feel open again.

A porch chair is a small declaration. It says someone plans to be outside for a while. It says the day has stretched enough to make room for sitting instead of hurrying. It says the neighborhood is not only a place we pass through, but a place we share.

I always like the week when the chairs come back. It means the season has turned in a quiet but dependable way. And it means that before long, someone will be sitting in one of them, watching the evening settle over the street the same way people here always have.

## WHITINSVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ANNOUNCES

### HONOR ROLL

WHITINSVILLE — Whitinsville Christian School has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

#### Grade 6

High Honors: Charlotte Alberts, Nathaniel Andreychenko, Elliot Chandler, Jana Cnornbrnja, Aren DesJardins, Ava Holland, Madison Kumnick

Honors: George Barnes, Tara Barton, Liam Brochu, Ella Bullock, Charlotte Caruso, Teagan Clifford, Leo Couto, Jonathan Gilchrist, James Hastie, Ella Kurczy, Andrew Lambert, Brynn Martino, Adelaide Osterman, Shay Schadler, Juliette Schwenke, Davi Silva, Sawyer Szilagy, Anthony Trapp, Logan Vitale, Albert Wiesner, Sterling Wilson, Isaac Wood

#### Grade 7

High Honors: Storey Barnes, David Bronitskiy, Dominic Calarese, Ava Chambers, Mila Cnornbrnja, Elliot Finch, Addison Foppema, Mikaela Foppema, Maeve Hart, Cassidy Houde, Elena Justus, Eleanor Oberlies, Thea Pantazelos, Caroline Quinton, Cecilia Rizzo, Ayla Sobiech, Noelle Wieggers, Ella Zietek

Honors: Makendrick Ignace, Aliko Kachaje, Aviana Meehl, Avery Mogan, Jacob Paiva, Molly Rainbow, Daphne Rufo, Emma Savage, Izabela Schofield, Clara Soden, Nicholas Tomasino, Aelisha Uttangi

#### Grade 8

High Honors: Riley Ahearn, Chloe Barker, Evelyn Barnes, Joshua Cambridge, Ethan Cwiakala, Hadley DeFrancisco, Georgia Mulroy, Aletta Osterman

Honors: Madelyn Arrigan, Lily Brochu, Morgan Colgate, Leonardo Dasilva, Remi DesJardins, Gianna Dyke, Charlotte Fogg, Brayden Kurczy, Dylan Lucas, Ella Pitts, Hannah Reynolds, Lillian Schwenke, Samyra Sethi, Jackson Shanahan, Valerie Taylor, Jacob Tomasino, Micah Zylstra

#### Grade 9

High Honors: Elise Bastien, Isaac Besong, Molly Chambers, Thomas Cintolo, Poliane Da Silva, Sophie Finch, Jack Foppema, Mariola Godinez Simon, Elyse McGee, Caitlyn Neal, Sienna Roach, Mason Thakkallapalli, Effrosyni Tzimogianni

Honors: Olivia Barnatt, Mackenzie Brower, Putnam Costello, Isabella DeOliveira, Kaleb DeWeerd, Aidan Domenico, Mia Foster, Eliza Gaudiano, Samuel Johnson, Dawson Martinka, Ethan McCabe, Mason Moesker, Joseph Monteiro, David Trapp, Arielle Zdanis

#### Grade 10

High Honors: Neria Bagaya, Benjamin Barron, Jacob Beatty, Casrae DesJardins, Joshua Hilgenberg, Jack Johnson, Katelyn Keeler, Hannah Parke, Ryleigh Shanahan, Olivia Soden, Yvette Solorzano, Abisha Uttangi, Michael Vos, Lucas Weden

Honors: Jaden Ashton, Thomas Barry, Cadence Calarese, Tessa Grelewicz-Ferreira, Cameron Houde, Fiona Johnson, Evan Kling, Thomas Robbins, Inez Smith, Natalie Tubo

#### Grade 11

High Honors: Isabella Aloise, Nathan Bagaya, Angelee Bagley, Emily Bastien, Demetri Boermester, Samantha Boria, Amelia Bowler, Aberlin Cwiakala, Avery Dertien, Audyn DeWeerd, Mya Duffy, Enson Enoch, Emily Flagg, Molligh Flannery, Lucia Gaudiano, Jude Goodson, Hailey Kindl, Christine Lee, Elliot McCabe, Sophia Robbins, Ruth

Stenbuck, Nathanael Vos, Emma Whitsitt

Honors: Amelia Besong, Ethan Curry, Andrew Dani, Charlotte DeFrancisco, Ian Finch, Abby Flagg, Alexi Gilchrist, Jensen Gonville, Finch Harvey, Indiana Hollibaugh, Aimee Jolicoeur, Carrie Keeler, Joshua LaBonte, Eamon Moloney, Julia Monteiro, Vaughn Mulroy, Connor Neal, Neola Nigh, Benjamin Peck, Amelia Rufo, Brinley Rufo, Matthew Taylor, Caleb Tetreault, Elisavet Tzimogianni

#### Grade 12

High Honors: Madison Amati, Kacy

Brochu, Emily Burkhart, Natasha Carreiro, Joao Victor Dasilva, Ludmilla Da Silveira, Matthew Dudley, Eli Focht, Elijah Fortna, Noah Garrant, Brinley Gonville, Ethan Hand, Ryan Martinka, Hadasyah Mestres, Camden Morse, Faith Najem, Emily Oatis, Maria Ramos, Justin Smith, Lilly Wierenga, Matthew Wren, Brian Wright, Mark Yarger

Honors: Addison Boone, Micah Deters, Orla Donnelly, Meredith Johnson, Jillian Lawson, Charles Ramsdell, Magdalena Szymanska, Genevieve Tatulli



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# Camp Invention's fun, action-packed summer STEM program coming to area

REGION — Camp Invention®, a nationally recognized, nonprofit summer enrichment program, is coming to the following locations.

**Auburn:** Auburn Middle School the week of July 6 - July 10.

**Uxbridge:** Our Lady of the Valley Regional School the week of June 22 - June 26.

Regional program sponsors include Johnson Controls Foundation and Overdeck Family Foundation.

A program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame® in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Camp Invention challenges children in grades K-6 to tap into their natural curiosity and use their creativity to solve problems. Through hands-on activities, Camp Invention promotes STEM learning; builds confidence, leadership, perseverance and resourcefulness; and encourages entrepreneurship - all in a fun and engaging environment.

Each year, the program features new curric-

ula inspired by some of our nation's most world-changing inventors - the National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductees. This year's Spark program encourages children to be confident in their ideas and explore their innovativeness through hands-on activities including:

**Space Morphers™:** Kids build a DIY rocket and launch an epic mission to transform a new planet's atmosphere, terrain and ecosystem. After a high-energy Rover Race to collect samples and data, they grow dazzling crystal trees and hatch a mysterious animal egg in a Space Lab.

**Make Waves™:** Campers ride the waves of entrepreneurship and invention! Inspired by a surfer's journey, they create prototypes, pitch their innovative products to hook investors and build a billboard boat to set sail and "make waves" in the market.

**Fur-ensics™:** Kids sharpen their animal detective skills with Cap E. Bara and a fleet of robotic copy-

paras. They investigate a trail of footprints, collect bits of fluffy fur and examine suspicious splatters before forensically analyzing evidence that has a surprising twist.

**The Infringers™:** Campers use their invention superpowers to solve challenges in their community and around the world. They miniaturize top-secret innovations, safeguard their designs using cryptography and protect their intellectual property from the Infringers.

"I love that this camp lets my kids step out of the usual roles that they have at home and in school, and explore different parts of themselves," said the parent of 2025 Camp Invention campers. "At camp my son learns to be more creative and my daughter learns to be more independent."

All local Camp Invention programs are facilitated and taught by qualified educators who reside and teach in the community. Camp Invention serves 147,000 students every year and partners with more than 2,600 schools and districts



Courtesy

In Camp Invention's Make Waves experience, children ride the waves of entrepreneurship and invention by creating prototypes, pitching their products and building a billboard boat.

across the nation. For more information or to register, visit [invent.org/camp](http://invent.org/camp).

About Camp Invention Camp Invention is the only nationally recognized summer program focused on creativity, innova-

tion, real-world problem solving and the spirit of invention. Through hands-on programming, Camp Invention encourages children entering kindergarten through sixth grade to explore science, technology, engineering and mathematics curricula inspired by some of the

world's greatest inventors. Since 1990, our education programs have served more than 3.3 million children, and 297,000 teachers and Leadership Interns. Regional program sponsors include the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

## Massasoit Art Guild announces Spring Small Works show at Leicester Public Library

LEICESTER — The Massasoit Art Guild will present its Spring Small Works Art and Photography Show from April 30 through May 27 at the Leicester Public Library, offering visitors a chance to view a wide range of compact-format artwork created by guild members from across the region.

The members-only exhibition will feature original pieces limited to a maximum size of 12 by 14 inches, measured by outside frame dimensions. Artists may submit up to two entries each. Organizers said the smaller format encourages experimentation and accessibility while allowing a broad range of styles and media to be displayed in a shared community setting.

The show will be judged as a single category rather than divided by medium. Awards will be presented for first, second and third place, along with an hon-

orary mention. A People's Choice selection will also be recognized. Ribbon prizes will be awarded to winners.

Artwork drop-off and check-in is scheduled for Thursday, April 30, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the library's ground-floor Community Room. Later that day, the guild will host a public meet-and-greet reception with participating artists from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the same location. Organizers encourage all participating artists to attend the reception to connect with visitors and fellow exhibitors.

The exhibition will remain on display during regular library hours through May 27. Pick-up for submitted artwork is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, from 9:30 to 11 a.m., again in the Community Room.

Registration for the show opened Feb. 22 and continues through April 15, or until available space is

filled. Advance registration is required, and artists must complete the entry process through the guild's website.

Guild representatives said the annual small works exhibition provides an opportunity for artists to present new material while also introducing local audiences to the range of talent within the organization. The show is designed to be approachable for both established artists and newer members interested in exhibiting their work publicly.

Support for the exhibition is provided in part through a grant from the Spencer Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council.

Additional information about show rules and registration is available through the Massasoit Art Guild website. Questions may also be directed to the organization by email at [massasoitartguild@gmail.com](mailto:massasoitartguild@gmail.com).

## Cornerstone Bank supports EcoTarium's "The Secret World of Elephants" exhibition



Courtesy

Sean Duke, Market Manager; Kim Drudi, Commercial Services Officer (ASB); Julie Mann, Executive Assistant (ASB); Jasondre Williams, Customer Relations Specialist Onboarding Ambassador; Todd Tallman, CEO; Nicole Gaylord, Community Relations Manager; Madeline Gronska, Community Relations Assistant; Dan Zona, President.

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank has donated \$25,000 to the EcoTarium museum of science and nature, to sponsor The Secret World of Elephants exhibition.

The donation will help defray the more than \$600,000 cost of bringing the traveling exhibit from the American Museum of Natural History in New York to Worcester for a six-month stay from March through September 2026. The EcoTarium expects more than 100,000 visitors to experience the exhibit, which will not travel to Boston.

"The Secret World of Elephants" explores the science, behavior and impact of elephants through immersive displays including a life-size woolly mammoth, detailed models of modern elephants, touchable casts, interactive exhibits and video experiences. Visitors

will learn how elephants communicate, sense vibrations through their feet, use the 16 powerful muscles in their trunks and shape the ecosystems around them.

"Supporting organizations that expand access to education and science is central to our community mission," said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. "We are proud to help bring this extraordinary exhibition to the region and make it accessible to families, students and visitors across Central and Western Massachusetts."

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help a people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model

enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone, which is a subsidiary of PeoplesBankCorp, MHC, operating independently under its own name and brand, provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities through a broad range of deposit and loan products and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit [cornerstone-bank.com](http://cornerstone-bank.com) or call 800-939-9103.

## Girls on the Run Worcester County will host 5K event May 17

WORCESTER — Girls on the Run Worcester County will host its 5K event on Sunday, May 17 at Polar Park in Worcester.

This spring season, Girls on the Run Worcester County is supporting more girls than they ever have in a single season, reaching 986 girls throughout Worcester County. Girls on the Run is a physical activity-based, positive youth development program that uses fun running games and dynamic discussions to teach life skills to girls in 3rd to 8th grade. During the eight to ten-week program, girls participate in lessons that foster confidence, build peer connections and encourage community service while they prepare for an end-of-season celebratory 5K event.

Participation in the 5K event on May 17 is open to the public and all proceeds from the event will benefit Girls on the Run Worcester County. This season's 5K event is expected to bring together approximately 4,000 participants including program participants, their family, friends, and community members. Registration is \$55 or \$65 for day of registration and includes a finishers medal. This event is not chip timed as Girls on the Run volunteer coaches coach their girls to run at their "happy pace" and the goal is to cross the finish line.

The doors will open at Polar Park at 8:30 a.m., and the run will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 17 at Polar Park. Early arrival is suggested. For more information about the event, how to register and volunteer opportunities, visit [www.gotr-worc.org](http://www.gotr-worc.org).

About Girls on the Run

Based in Charlotte, N.C., Girls on the Run is a nonprofit organization with local Councils in all 50 states. Founded in 1996 with 13 girls, Girls on the Run has now served over 2 million girls. Over the course of the program, girls in 3rd-8th grade develop essential social, emotional and physical skills to successfully navigate life experiences. The program culminates with girls positively impacting their communities through a service project and being physically and emotionally prepared to complete a celebratory 5K event. With the largest 5K series by number of events in the world, Girls on the Run hosts more than 300 5Ks per year. Girls on the Run is included as a top research-based program in a Social-Emotional Learning Guide developed by researchers at Harvard University and has been recognized by the National Afterschool Association (NAA) as one of the most influential after-school programs. Girls on the Run is offered in more than 13,000 across the US. Visit {council website} to learn how to get involved in your community.

# BVCC to host ribbon cutting ceremony at Refined Image in Millbury!

MILLBURY — The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce (BVCC) is proud to host a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony celebrating Refined Image's new location on Wednesday, May 20, at noon. The event will take place at 45 River St., Millbury, and is free to attend!

Refined Image is a professional photography studio serving Worcester County and Central Massachusetts, specializing in corporate head-

shots, personal branding portraits, real estate, and architectural photography. Founded by Robert Langevin, Refined Image helps busy professionals, business owners, and real estate agents make powerful first impressions through polished, consistent imagery that elevates their brand.

Based in Millbury, they also offer the convenience of on-location portable setups that can bring the session directly

to you! Whether in-studio or on-site, every session delivers the same polished, confidence-building results without the intimidation of a traditional studio environment.

"My passion for creating a Refined Image through photography intersects with the needs of so many in this community; whether it's a professional who needs a headshot that opens doors, or a real estate agent who needs imagery that sells a prop-

erty before anyone walks through the door," said Robert Langevin, Owner of Refined Image. "Great photography changes outcomes. I'm proud to bring that to the Blackstone Valley and Worcester County."

BVCC Executive Director, Liz O'Neil shared her sentiments, noting, "We are so excited to welcome Refined Image to their new location in Millbury with this ribbon cutting celebration! Their

creative vision and passion for storytelling through the lens will no doubt enrich the community in Millbury. We look forward to their continued growth and success."

All are invited to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony and will include brief remarks from organizational leaders. Come celebrate with us! Attendees can register for this free ribbon cutting online at [www.blackstonevalley.org/events](http://www.blackstonevalley.org/events).

The mission of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce is to preserve and enhance the economic vitality of the Blackstone Valley by addressing the needs and concerns of businesses and providing leadership, support and resources in connection with issues which impact commerce and the quality of life in the Valley.

## Thomas J. Bartholomew recognized on Forbes BestInState Wealth Advisors list for ninth consecutive year

WORCESTER — Bartholomew & Company, a provider of financial planning and wealth management services headquartered in Worcester, Massachusetts announced that President & CEO, Thomas J. Bartholomew, AIF® has been named to the Forbes "BestInState Wealth Advisors" list for 2026, marking the ninth consecutive year he has received this recognition. The 2026 rankings were released on April 7.

The Forbes BestInState Wealth Advisors list rec-

ognizes financial advisors nationwide based on research and analysis conducted by SHOOK Research. According to Forbes, the evaluation process incorporates both qualitative and quantitative criteria, including industry experience, assets under management, compliance history, and professional credentials.

"I am honored to be included on this list for the ninth year in a row," said Tom Bartholomew. "I am thankful for the continued trust of my clients and remain focused on provid-



Thomas J. Bartholomew

ing thoughtful guidance tailored to their individual financial needs."

About Bartholomew & Company  
Bartholomew &

Company has been providing individuals and organizations with financial guidance since 1994. Located at 370 Main St., Suite 1000, Worcester, MA and 405 Cochituate Rd., Suite 305, Framingham, Bartholomew & Company's advisors pride themselves on crafting unique strategies for each client—whether serving individuals, families, municipalities, or institutional clients. For more information, please visit [www.bartandco.com](http://www.bartandco.com).

Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial

Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser.

2026 Forbes Best In State Wealth Advisors, created by SHOOK Research. Presented in April 2026 based on data gathered from June 2024 to June 2025. Not indicative of advisor's future performance. Your experience may vary.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.forbes.com/lists/best-in-state-wealth-advisors/>.

## SOPHOMORES NAMED TO BAY PATH HONOR ROLL

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School congratulates the following students in grade 10 on being named to the honor roll for the third quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

### High Honors

Madeline Candice Adugyamfi, Davian Alexander Alicea Aponte, Matheus Holanda Antonelli, Nyahlise Lillian Aviles, Isabella Elizabeth Barrell, Caterina Beverlianna Boon, Emerson Hagen Borgeson, Benjamin Robert Brooks, Morgan Lynn Brooks, Julia Rose Bukowski, Claire Elizabeth Calnan, Derek Alexander Campos, Keegan Jack Champlin, Sydney Faustina Chisholm, Noah James Cole, Alyssa Marie Cuevas, Esme Elizabeth Cyr, Ayla Rose Drisco, Alice Marie Dufault, Christopher Jeremy Feliciano, Brian Thomas Finnegan, Madelyn Helena Frost, Melody Starr Fuentes, Alivia Rose Gauvin, Vanessa Diane Gordon, Yadiel Enrique Hernandez Navarro, Shaylan Rose Hesselton, Emma Mae Jalbert, Veronica Mae Jensrud, Jordyn Kate Labrecque, Isabella Grace Leatham-Wright, Ginelly Shantel Molina, Carly Jane Moody, Shea Alfred Mulligan, Teagan Patrice O'Halloran, Michael Thomas Payson, Ava Sophia Reed, Ethan Vance Rodriguez, Alexia Grace Rondeau, Esmerelda Rosario Tirado, Brianna Jingchen Shi, Paul Joseph Skarzenski, Victor Manuel Sobinski, Nelson Tobias Sorto, Victoria Marie Sullivan, Spencer Thomas Wisniewski

### Honors

Arlind Aliu, Chase Michael Anthony, Yaniel Aviles, Gianna Rae Bedard, Elizabeth Susan Bennington Lynch, Addam James Bergeron, Cody James Blair, Brian Bui, Andrew Mason Carter, Julie Elizabeth Chenier, Sadie Ann Cleary, Elijah Gabriel Cornier, Brody James Coughlin, Jackson Murray Coughlin, Addyson Kaeleigh Coutu, Blake Nicholas Curbooy, Holly Marie Dailey, Tavis McKinley Davis, Norah Abigail Dean, Arielle Grace Deauseault, Oliver Gage DeLorge, Aaron Justin Desautels, Ava Marie Dufault, Fable Dufresne, Rylie Anne Dwyer, Dominik John Duziubasik, Madysin Riley Fitzgerald, Kylee Marie Fournier, Nikolas William Foustoukos, Anthony Joseph Fredette, Charlotte Susan May Fredette, Ryan James Fuller, Jayden Robert Afolabi Giwa-Bello, Colton Philip Hall, Marcus Roy Hamilton, Addison Katie Harrington, Fatima Edilene Herrera, Chloe Rose Hosley, Colin Henry Joyce,

Victoria Rose Kaiser, Brooke Marie Kasprzak, Brayden Albert Kraus, Brianna Ashleigh Laforest, Olivia Corinne LaMountain, Andrew Arthur Lashua, Wesley Patrick Lawless, Valentina Medeiros Lima, Juliano Ligeniale Lopez, Kaitlin Angela Lulu, Emily Ann Macko, Cynthia Kagan Marc, Julia Danielle Marini, Aydan Michael Marsh, Sherlyn Mazariegos Hernandez, Madison Grace McKinstry, John Steven McMahon, Logan James Mondino, Ashlyne Emily Monsen, Derek Omar Morales, Raider Keith Newton, Adalynn Jane Nietzsche, Nathaniel Leif Noyes, Landen Spencer Olszta, Giavanna Bella Orsi, Gabriel Armando Ortiz, Julian Thomas Papeirski, Matilda Cecile Paradis, Jocelyn Rose Peck, AJ Jesse Perron, Kurtwood Russell Pettiford, Parke rJonathan Piehl, Joseph Lewis Pretty, Blake Leonard Richard, Christopher Jeffrey Richardson, Shaye Patricia Riley, Danna Paola Rodriguez

Lopez, Emilyyanis Joan Rodriguez, Ava Victoria Rondeau, Keomar Arnaldo Rosario Sanchez, Isabella Roszkowski, Aiden Lee Rubito, Liliana Morgan Rubito, Rianna Gathoni Ruo, Jayden Jose Santos, Thomas Francis Shivick, Grace Autumn Shoblom, Alejandro Javier Sierra Varas, Tatiana Maria Smolynsky, Heather Holiday Starr, Owen Miles Stewart, Jade Antonia Stien, Angela Sofia Suarez Pineros, Nayelis Nahir Torres Godineaux, Olivia Ruth Torres, Haidynn Anne Tuttle, Shafick Yamal Vasquez-Grande, Gina Grace Vautour, Castiel Lee Vazquez, Colin Anthony Vega, Sadie Mckenna Villegas, Sione Flynn Villegas, Ella Violette Wall, Thomas Earl Welch, Colby Deary Wells, Madison Elizabeth Wells, Riley John West, Sydney Alexandra Winer, Benjamin Richard Wolanski, Chloe Olivia Young, Isabella Anne Zorena

Principal's List

Zachary Barry Barsalou, Abel Pax Burdick, Collin Edward Burt, Jowell Alberto Cedeno, Paul Matthew Ceppetelli, Ayva Marie Coffey, Aiden Michael Collins, John Michel Rousseau Daniel, Tristan Nichole Defazio, Nadya Anita Delgado, Nicolas James DiGioia, Ian Joseph Fantasia, Emanuel Jesus Feliciano Rodriguez, Adrie James Ford, Tyler Blake Friend, Matthew Donald Graves, Jannie Mahoney Kabba, Ryan Khai Lima, Amelia Layne Magorian, Amelia Layne Magorian, Isabella Adeline Monahan, Marieliz Magdalena Morel, Bryton Favor Mosong, Anthony Jadon Ribeiro Ortiz, Saverio James Palaia, Mason D. Michael Parker, Jacob Louis Pecore, Treva Mae Plank, Tianyu Qi, Bo Carl Riley, Kayla Elizabeth Shepard, Gavin Joseph Thompson, Jamison Douglas Trevallion, Angelina Marie Vazquez, Joniel Leonardo Velez Diaz, Noah Joel Waterhouse, Julianis Paola Zayas Rivera

## P.E.O. Chapters R and AA join forces to revive beloved "Chocolate Sunday" fundraiser

CHARLTON — After a hiatus of several years, a cherished local tradition is making a decadent return. Sheila Ansley of P.E.O. Chapter R recently announced that the organization's signature "Chocolate Sunday" is officially back on the calendar, thanks to a dynamic new partnership with Chapter AA.

The fundraiser—an afternoon dedicated to sampling gourmet chocolate treats, coffee, and tea—was previously sidelined due to the intensive labor required for a single small group to manage. However, after Chapter R reached out to their sisters in Chapter AA, the two groups agreed to a joint venture. By splitting the workload, the chapters have found a sustainable way to bring the sweetness back to Charlton.

Event details  
Date: Sunday, May 17  
Time: 2 p.m.  
Location: The Performing Arts Center at The Overlook, Charlton  
Mission: All proceeds support the P.E.O. Sisterhood's mission of providing life-changing educational opportunities and scholarships for women.  
Contacts: Sheila Ansley 508-434-2649 or Elizabeth Patek 508-829-4504

A season of sisterhood: Chapter R's Active Winter

The revival of Chocolate Sunday comes on the heels of a busy winter for Chapter R. Despite a string of "historically biting" temperatures, members remained dedicated to their cultural and social calendar.



In December, members braved one of the coldest nights of the year to tour the "Winter Reimagined" display at Tower Hill Botanic Garden. While the air was frigid, the spectacular light installations proved well worth the chill.

The momentum continued into January with two standout events:  
Musical excellence: Members attended a moving organ concert performed by Amanda Mole, daughter of Jackie Mole. The performance offered a warm, soaring reprieve from the January frost.

Founders Day: The group honored the P.E.O. Sisterhood's 1869 roots at the Founders Day Program. Members «toughed out» the New England cold to

enjoy a commemorative meal and program honoring the seven women who started the organization over 150 years ago.

Looking ahead to spring  
As the frost thaws, Chapter R is looking forward to milder weather and continued community engagement.

For over a century and a half, the P.E.O. Sisterhood has focused on the intersection of friendship and philanthropy. Through various grants and STAR scholarships, they continue to help women reach their educational goals, one "Chocolate Sunday" at a time.

## PLUMMER PLACE

Home of the Northbridge Senior Center

The following events will take place at Plummer Place, Home of the Northbridge Senior Center. We are located at 20 Highland St. in Whitinsville. Telephone: (508) 234-2002. Northbridge residents have priority for all programming and events. Please call the main office to sign up for special events and programs, so we can plan accordingly.

### Medical Drivers

We are in need of medical drivers for out-of-town medical appointments. This is a very important service that we provide for seniors who cannot drive themselves to their medical appointments. If you are interested and can spare any time, it would be most appreciated. Drivers are reimbursed for their mileage. For more information, please call the main office.

### Regular Programs:

Meditation with Kelly  
Every Thursday morning at 9:30am  
Book Club:  
3rd Wednesday at 10:30am  
Please call Kelly to find out what book we are reading.  
Brew Crew:  
First Wednesday at 9:30am  
NO meeting on May 6th  
Dull Men's Club:  
4th Tuesday at 9:30am  
Tuesday, May 26th  
Guest Speaker ~ Mark Dermugrditchian, Armenian-American author, musician,

motorcycle enthusiast and longtime Massachusetts resident.

### Scrabble:

First and Third Mondays at 9:30am  
Women's Collective:  
2nd Thursday at 10:00am  
Please call Amy for more information.  
Writing Your Way  
2nd and 4th Thursdays at 2:00pm  
Please call Lori for more information.

### Special Events and Programs:

Wednesday, May 6th  
1pm - 2pm  
Mother's Day Tea  
Deborah Sampson — A Farm Girl on the Front Lines!

Janet Parnes is back to teach us the secrets and strategies of a young woman who hoodwinked the Continental Army with her principled deception. A special thank you to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Atria Senior Living, Unibank and Hawk Hill Orchard for helping to sponsor this event. Hats and fancy attire are welcomed, but not necessary. Space is limited. Sign up in the main office. This program is sponsored in part by a grant from the Northbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Rod Lee's The Poison Pen Author Talk  
Tuesday, May 12th  
10:30am-11:30am  
At the heart of "The Poison Pen Club" are two rival writers who begin

as intellectual opponents but gradually become obsessed with outmaneuvering each other through increasingly personal, sharp political critiques and dangerous "letters." As the exchanges grow more hostile, the threat of physical violence looms over the narrative, turning words into something that feels alarmingly real. You won't want to miss this one! Sign up in the main office.

### Radio Turns 100 ~ "The Sound That Shaped Our Lives"

Tuesday, May 19th  
11am - 12pm  
From crackling early broadcasts to the voices Boston grew up with, this program brings a full century of radio to life! Join us for an engaging journey through time. This program is designed to entertain, inform, and stir memories with Mike Morin, presenter and a crowd favorite at Plummer Place.  
Sign up in the main office.

### Confidence, Caution and Control ~ Three Keys to Staying Steady on Your Feet

Wednesday, May 20th  
1pm-2pm  
Join us for an informative discussion about easy, practical ways to reduce your risk of falls and stay active and independent at home. This program will be led by a nurse, physical therapist, and an occupational therapist who will share helpful insights about how vision, memory, home environment, medication, strength and

balance can all affect fall risk. Together, we will explore simple strategies that can help you stay safer and more confident in your daily activities. We will also discuss how small changes can make a big difference in preventing future falls. Sponsored and presented by our friends at Seraphic Springs Health Care. Sign up in the main office.

(please use the Seraphic Springs logo - attached)

### Jimmy "Rag Tag" O'Neil Concert

Thursday, May 21st  
1:30pm - 2:30pm  
Oldies, Sing-a-Long, & Fun!  
When "Jimmy Rag Tag" is in the house, it's like turning on a vintage broadcast set and letting the past play through the speakers. The songs everybody knows bring back fond memories. It is amazing how everyone remembers the words to the songs we all grew up with and love. Sign up in the main office.

### The Art of Cats

Wednesday, May 27th  
1pm - 2pm  
Cats have long captivated us, going beyond their role as mere pets to become powerful symbols and icons in art, literature, and more. From ancient civilizations to modern society, the allure of cats has left a mark on our culture, inspiring countless works of creativity and fascination. Do you have a story to tell about a cat? We hope you can join us for this wonderful program. Sign up in the main office.

## DOUGLAS ADULT SOCIAL CENTER

331 Main St.  
(508) 476-2283

Hours of operation: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-noon

DAILY ACTIVITIES: All our daily activities are free of charge.

Monday: Painting class 9:45am to 11:45am, Balance & Strength Exercise 12pm, Mat yoga 2pm

Tuesday: Walking club 9am, Cribbage 9:00am, Lunch & Bingo 11:30am, Technology class 1pm (call to make an appt.), Line dancing 2pm

Wednesday: Balance & strength 10am, Darts 11:30am, Mahjong 12:45pm, Dominoes 1 to 2:30pm

Thursday: Walking club 9am, Chair Yoga 9:30am, Pitch 9:00am, Hand and Foot card game 12:30pm

Friday: Balance & strength 10am, Zumba 11:30am

Tuesday & Thursday lunch club, please call the Friday before to sign up. Lunch is \$4.00 per person. If you would like to attend we offer free rides to and from the center and are willing to waive the lunch fee if necessary.

### May Lunch Menu:

Tuesday 5/5: BBQ chicken, sweet potato, corn & pudding  
Thursday 5/12: Tomato soup, grilled cheese & fruit  
Tuesday 5/14: American chop suey, salad, garlic bread & ice cream  
Thursday 5/19: Baked potato bar & cupcakes  
Tuesday 5/26: Sweet & sour chicken, rice, carrots & cookies

Friday Shopping Schedule: Please call 48 hours in advance to schedule your ride. Grocery shopping pick up starts at 9:30.

Hannaford: 5/22

Walmart: 5/1, 5/15

Price Chopper: 5/8

Rider's choice: 5/29

MAY EVENTS: The center will be closed on Monday May 25th, in observance of Memorial Day.

WELLNESS CLINIC DATES: Monday May 4th & Tuesday May 19th. Clinic is open from 10 am to 12 pm.

May 7th Darci will be back doing hearing aid cleanings. She is at the center from 10 to 11, please call the center to schedule your appointment with her.

Friday May 8th @ 1:00: BBQ lunch & line dancing. The Sunshine Club is looking forward to seeing you! Tickets are \$7.00 per person and must be paid when you sign up. There will be a line dancing instructor to guide us. Sign up by 5/1.

Wednesday May 13th @ 12:00: Annual mother's day luncheon. Lunch is free of charge. Sign up by 5/4.

Thursday May 14th @ 11:30: Lunch is \$4.00, American chop suey, salad, garlic bread & ice cream. Meals must be paid for when you sign up. Sign up by 5/8.

Friday May 15th 9:00 to 10:30: Interested in learning how to play Mah Jongg? Learn from experienced players! This is the American version of the game.

Thursday May 21st: Sunshine Club trip, WooSox Game has tickets left to purchase. Please stop in the center to sign up and reserve your ticket today. First pitch is 11:05. The Road Runner will be available for rides. When you purchase your ticket please schedule your ride.

PLEASE CALL (508) 476-2283 TO SIGN UP FOR PROGRAMS & CLASSES

Check our website for events that may not be listed here

<https://www.douglas-ma.gov/202/AdultSocial-Center-Senior-Center>



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## LEGALS

### 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. WO26C0080CA  
CITATION ON PETITION TO  
CHANGE NAME

In the matter of:

**Yadiel Lucas Umberto Perez**  
A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by  
**Yadiel Lucas Umberto Perez of Uxbridge MA**

requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Yadiel Lucas James Solan**  
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10 a.m. on the return day of 05/05/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey First Justice of this Court.  
Date: April 15, 2026  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
May 1, 2026

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200

### Docket No. WO26P1329EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:

**Edward Addison Whipple**  
Also known as: **Edward A Whipple**  
Date of Death: 10/05/2020

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Pauline E Whipple of North Smithfield RI** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:

**Pauline E Whipple of North Smithfield RI** 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 05/19/2026**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised

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

**WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.**

Date: April 22, 2026  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
May 1, 2026

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200

Docket No. WO26P1278EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:

**Brandon K. Phipps**  
Also known as: **Brandon Phipps**  
Date of Death: 07/24/2024

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **William Phipps of Uxbridge MA and Denise Intinarelli of Medway 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 Phipps of Uxbridge MA and Denise Intinarelli of Medway MA** be appointed as Personal Representa-

tive(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the estate 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 05/12/2026**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

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

**WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.**

Date: April 17, 2026  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
May 1, 2026

# Safe Boating certificate courses scheduled at Milford and Webster locations

**REGION** — The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts will be instructing two upcoming boating safety classes that meet current state mandated educational requirements.

The Boat America Course is offered in a one-day format developed to provide the skills and confidence needed to explore the coast and inland waters by boat. Basic knowledge and skills are needed to have safe and enjoyable boating experiences. This course is perfect for families that have just purchased any type of boat or are planning to in the future, and for the boater keeping up with changes to boating regulations and laws. Basic marline-spike seamanship (knots etc.) will also be included. Successful completion of the course will certify any minor, from 12 to 16 years of age, to operate a powerboat, including a Personal

Water Craft / Jet Ski (for 16 & 17-year-old operators), on all Massachusetts waters; in conjunction with the Mass. Environmental Police. Approved by National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) it will also cover the requirements to operate a vessel in most other states & many countries where boating safety education is mandatory including RI and CT.

The Hanson-Milone Boater Safety Act, signed into Mass. Law, will now requires ALL Mass. motorboat operators to complete an approved Safe Boating Certificate course before April 1, 2026, for anyone born after 1/1/1998, and by April 1, 2028, for boaters born before 1/1/1998. Enforcement of the new law will begin on September 1, 2026. This course meets the new Mass. requirement. Most boating insurance companies offer

a discount on premiums for successful completion of this course. Participants 16 years old and under must be accompanied, in person, by a registered parent/guardian. **SPACE IS LIMITED** so register soon:

Milford High School – Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Milford High School courses offered at 31 West Fountain St., Milford. Registration is managed through the Milford Community School Use Program.

[https://milfordcommunityprogram.activityreg.com/selectactivity\\_t2.wcs#](https://milfordcommunityprogram.activityreg.com/selectactivity_t2.wcs#)

Adult-Spring-2026 – Education - Boat America Certificate Class or call Laura Farrell (508) 478-1119, email lfarrell@milfordma.com.

The registration deadline is April 26.

For additional USCGAux. information: phil.uscgaux@verizon.net or (508) 478-3778.

Webster Fire Department – Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Webster Fire Department Classroom, 55 Thompson Rd., Webster

The registration deadline is May 10.

Contact our Public Education Officer Phil Kubat for registration or

additional information: email phil.uscgaux@verizon.net or call (508) 478-3778.

To locate the BA meeting certification requirements, and other USCG Auxiliary courses offered go to: [https://www.cgaux.org/boatinged/class\\_finder/index.php](https://www.cgaux.org/boatinged/class_finder/index.php)

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, please visit [www.cgaux.org](http://www.cgaux.org)

## New Bocce League open to community

**SOUTHBRIDGE** — Bay Path Continuing Education & the Southbridge Italian Club have teamed up to launch an exciting new bocce league on Tuesday nights throughout May and June.

Bocce is a game that all can enjoy—no special skills or talents are required! If you can roll a ball, you can play! These two community organizations are thrilled to bring this sport to a wider audience. Both Bay Path Continuing Education and the Southbridge Italian Club are dedicated to offering various events for people to engage, socialize, and have fun. This new league is a perfect fit. Here are the details: Tuesdays: May 12 – June 30 (eight weeks)

Teams of four to eight players

\$240 per team  
One game per week at either 6 or 7 p.m. Maximum of eight teams – don't wait! Only team captains need to register for their team.

A brief informational captain meeting will be held before the season starts.

Gather your friends (18 and older), form a team, and come join us for a fantastic time on the court!

Games will be held at: Italian American Club 20 North St., Southbridge

To register your team, call Bay Path Continuing Education at 508-248-5971, ext. 1715. Spots for teams are limited, so don't hesitate—call today!



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# NORTHBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES THIRD QUARTER HONOR ROLL

**NORTHBRIDGE** — Students at Northbridge High School are recognized for their academic success with a quarterly Honor Roll. This is determined shortly after the close of each of the four quarters. This recognition is based on their quarter grades, and is determined as follows:

- **HIGHEST HONORS:** Term GPA is 4.0+
- **HIGH HONORS:** Term GPA is between 3.3-3.9
- **HONORS:** Term GPA is between 2.7-3.2

**Highest Honors**  
 Grade 12: Jason Bolduc, Olivia Choumanivong, Danielle Chrabaszc, Lorelai Drapeau, Reed Dziekiewicz, Natalie Fasold, Kylie Grazulis, Sonja Hastings, Aedan Holcomb, Penelope Houpt, Nadia Kotwica, Kathleen Leonard, Isle Malik, Ellory Manning, Effielyn Marrero, Gisel Morrissette, Vidhi Patel, Brendan Riche, Audriana Roby, Jake Rogers, Elly Schofer, Sofia Smith, Caleb Smith, Kallie Tevepaugh, Angel Wesson

Grade 11: Emily Billmyer, Carly Brett,

Kayla Briggs, Jacqueline Cammarano, Alexandra Corey, Samuel Corman, Lillian Donahue, John Donahue, Julia Fisher, Cayleigh Foley, Meghan Frieswick, Leah Gallerani, Austin Kee, Emily Kelly, Dawson Kramer, Cecilia Laviolette, Abigail Leveille, Bryce Lundquist, Ava Mandelenakis, Ashley Papa, Zahra Rith, Bryce Rogozenski, Bryce Ryan, Isabella Saad, Lillian Sabourin, Danika Schofield, Elizabeth Tubbs

Grade 10: Taylor Alden, Gohar Arakelyan, Alexander Austin, Chloe Barnatt, Kayla Bolduc, Paisley Comeau, Taryn Conway, Brady Drenzo, Gage Doble, Kallie Dunn, Emily Flauto, Landon Gerardi, Ashlyn Gonyea, Cailey Graceffa, Jessica Haberski, Kara Helinski, Savannah Hendricks, Katherine Hernandez Mendoza, Cassandra Higgins, Arabella Kosciak, Thomas Krause, Anna Lavallee, Chi Le, Molly Leonard, Ashley Ann Lucena, Lila MacDonald, Maya MacLeod, Madelynn Nowak, Shane Paulhus, Avery Riche, Marissa Roadman, Madison Scungio, Audrey Siemaszko, Isabelle Stanley, Ava

Strazzulla, Kaitlyn Szerlag, Brooklyn Thibeault, Jade Thomas, Keelyn Touhey, Boluwatife Vera-Cruz, Amanda Waterson, Lexi Wilson

Grade 9: Mya Bassett, Maci Coe, Zoe Corey, Leah Fasold, James Flaherty, Reese Hendricks, Callie Kaska, Florissa Lundquist, Lexie Paulhus, Madelyn Pellegrino, Mason Richard, Kalina Rolan, Natasha Souvanna

Grade 8: Cameron Brouillard, Levi Buehler, Giovanna Bufaino Rocha, Kelsey Desousa, Kenneth Gauthier, Aliana Jimenez, Klara L'Hommedieu, Vrinda Patel, Wyatt Piegorsch, Joseph Seaver, Sawyer Woods,

**High Honors**

Grade 12: Natalie Clark, Polina Conio Potselueva, Kelsey Costello, Addyson Crothers, Hailie Cullen, Antonio D'Alfonso, Luke Davis, Kevin DiMuzio, Nathan Falconer, Jacoby Gallerani, Grace Haden, Arabella Hakani, Stacia Hilditch, Joel LaChapelle, Mong Le, Marcus MacLeod, Sienna Mastroianni, John Mazzarelli, Maxwell MAzzarelli, Aiden Mulcahy, Hayden Naylor, Emma Oosterman, Owen Pollock, Zixuan Qiao, Lara Rivers, Trevor Roadman, Logan Sansone, Jordan Shaw, Leticia Silva, Nicollas Silva, Taden Stanovich, Tyler Strazzulla, Nicholas Thomas, Jacob Tomaino, Jenna Tomasetti, Dayanara Torres, Braedan Tracy

Grade 11: Brendan Aldrich, Lucas Babiy, Kalintria Bailey, Skyla Boucher, Barbara Brooks, Brooke Cammarano, Christina Chiras, Vahan DerKosroffian, Quinn Driscoll, Samuel Gorman, Tanner Haden, Bailey Kee, Jillian Krula, Nathan Kuras, Anthony Mooradian, Michael Potter, Mia Prosser, Lily Proto, Zoey Rith, Brooke Shumate, Mia Smith-Hale, Olivia Stanick, Tyler Tran, Michael Tubbs, Kaylee Vakoc, Kayla Whitney, Alexander Zanchi

Grade 10: Ereeny Absamis, Ethan Alvarado, Ella Arias, Quin Austin, Hannah Bacon, Olivia Cairra, Anita Comforti, Victoria Concepcion-Cruz, Aleina Cortes-Crespo, Trevione Evans, Elizabeth Garcia, Taylla Victoria Goncalves, Aiden Jenkins, Dylan Kelly, Kathleen L'Hommedieu, Rory LaMonda, Vincent Lomonaco, Colton Lotfy, Karibella Matuszak, Julia McKenna, Connor McLaughlin, Rafael Montalvo, Ryan Parker, Olivia Pollock, Samuel Samuel, Shiloh Stewart, Stephany Villanueva Juarez, Isaac Vitoria

Grade 9: Anna Andresen, Nevaeh Ayala, Renji Bailey, Nathaniel Borges, Maggie Caron, Arayelix Esquilin Cruz, Giovanna Ferreira, Willow Hogan, Emmanuel Jimenez Suarez, Payton Kaska, Jameson Kaska, Evan LaChapelle, Cooper Mandelenakis, Hailee Martin, Kole Melanson, Marshall Munhall, Abbygale Novinger, Logan Overfield, Alexander Picard, Jolene Poulin, Ethan Searles, Aubrianna Theroux, Addison Trotter, Christian Vacca Rivera, Jacob Ware, Maxwell Zyra

Grade 8: Sophia Baldwin, Kaylee Desousa, Emily Desousa, Bella Drury, Jonah Gendron, Abigail Gorman, Morgan Jenkins, Landon Joubert, Reese Lamonda, Avianna Mejia, Adetree Nayak, Brayden Neyland, Addison Onorato, Jordan Paradis, Charlotte Pitts, Camren Poulin, Zulianny

Rodriguez, Brayden Ryen, Owen Sanford, Savannah Shumate, Caleb Silva, Charlotte Superior, Logan Theberge, Declan Trites

**Honors**

Grade 12: Lily Bilodeau, Davin Bolduc, Jeffrey Doyle, Markus Goncalves, Alexander Goodrow, Trisha Lange, Charlotte LaTour, Callum Lax, Luke Lewandowski, Alexander Lund, Nina McElreath, Sophia Nicholatos, Smit Patel, Aubrey Pollinger, Kayleigh-Ann Pomeroy, Ryan Reyes, Dayli Reyes Fuentes, Ryan Ruzzo, Emily Scholl, Gabriel Smart, Sean Sprott, Jarissa Sylvestry, Kelsey Tucker, Saxon Zona

Grade 11: Jaiden Becerril, Cody Coonrod, Mo Rodney Daigle, Max Frazer, Isaiah Gabrila, Alfredo Garcia, Christian Gomez White, Zachary Kingsbury, Belle Elizabeth LeClair, Isabella Liberty, Ryder Meagher, Fam Mekhaeel, Hayden Murphy, Jadiel Ortiz, Aidan Payen, Jordan Priore, Dylan Saster, Iszac Smith, Parker Stanick, Caroline White

Grade 10: Grace Alicandro-Kinney, Destiniece Almeida, Kirra Arsenault, Brady Connolly, Jaxon Gabrila, Nathan Gammon, Adrianna Goncalves, Mark Henin, Joshua Kuras, Layana Lee, Madelyn Loos, Sophia Maracle, Cody Miller, Sadie Nephew, Trevor Talieri

Grade 9: Logan Blood, Nathan Boisvert, Calli-Ann Bolduc, Myra Briggs, Parker Falvey, Jayden Foley, Logan Kaiser Ballard, Angelina Keddy, Teagan Koopman, Logan Lemarr, Zoe Matuszak, Devyn Nicholson, Kaden Noel, Chase Pichel-Daigneault, Zakiiya Rawson, Landon Tucker, Jack Vallee, Sasha Vidinha, Blake Wenc

Grade 8: Ryen Alexander, Deric Alicea, Austin Almeida, Brayden Barnatt, Aria Beaupre, Ariannah Berrios, Isaiah Clemente, Benjamin Comforti, Aaliyah Daluise Sims, Isabella Farrand-Antobenedetto, Lucas Freniere, Erin Geary, Kayla Haggatt, Lucas King, Josiah Klar, Briella Lavallee, Anthony Alessandro Lucena, Benjamin Maracle, Alex McKellick, Aditree Nayak, Logan Porzio, Mia Reed, Tyler Reyes, Shannon Rich, Joseph Seaver, Caleb Silva, Myka Taylor, Logan Theberge, Declan Trites, Finnian Trites

## Summit campus, QCC announce three-week summer college readiness program

**WORCESTER** — Summit Campus and Quinsigamond Community College's Student Accessibility Services today announced the Summer College Prep Program, a new collaborative summer program designed to help rising high school juniors and seniors develop self-advocacy, strengthen academic skills and prepare for meaningful post-secondary options.


The three-week summer self-exploration and college readiness program will provide diverse learners with an immersive college experience on QCC's campus that includes writing workshops and personal development sessions. The program also offers an optional dormitory living experience at Summit Campus, called Summit Summer Launch.

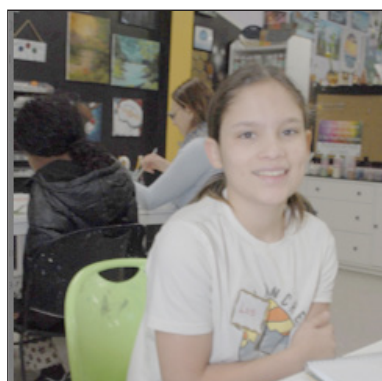
"I have always believed that students with learning differences need an experience to show them what they may not be able to envision on their own. This program can impact a student's vision of their future immeasurably and create a pathway to higher education that may not have seemed possible," said Nikki Koppel, director of Summit Campus. "This partnership creates a supportive environment where students can grow academically and personally while gaining real insight into college life."

"Quinsigamond Community College is proud to partner with Summit Campus to support students in our community as they prepare for their educational futures," said Kristen Proctor, director of Student Accessibility Services & Assistive Technology. "This program reflects our commitment to expanding access to college readiness opportunities and helping students see themselves as future college scholars."

All accepted students will attend sessions on study strategies, time management, college expectations, self-care and stress management. The program will also offer a variety of social events and excursions.

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






Luis is an active, outgoing, and inquisitive young boy who brings energy and enthusiasm to everything he does. He loves spending time outdoors, whether he's riding his bike around the neighborhood or showing off his competitive spirit while playing soccer or basketball. Luis enjoys staying active and thrives in environments where he can move, play, and challenge himself. When he's not outside, Luis likes to unwind by playing video games, giving him a chance to relax while still engaging his curiosity and problem-solving skills. He is also a thoughtful and caring child who values his relationships—on his birthday, Luis chose to use his own money to buy presents for his sister, showing just how much he cares about the people in his life. With his lively personality, strong sense of curiosity, and kind heart, Luis is a joyful and engaging child who brings both fun and warmth wherever he goes.

**Luis**  
**Age 14**  
**Registration #8311**

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



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

**Webster Lake Waterfront**  
22 Union Pt  
*Snug Harbor Villa Open House*



May 2, Sat. 11-2  
&  
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**Let's Talk Webster Lake Real Estate!**

**Waterfront Lake Snug Harbor Villa End Unit! Most Luxurious & Largest on the Lake!**  
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**Webster - 106 East Main St (Rte 12)**  
*Commercial Opportunity!*



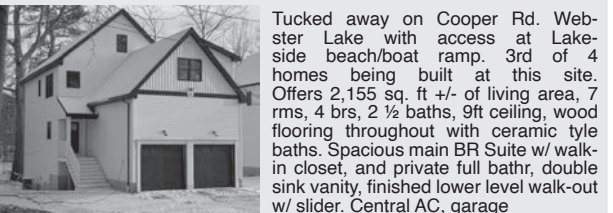
Corner Lot, 275' +/- Road Frontage, Extremely High Traffic Count, 6,200 SF (75x80) Commercial Building, Currently 2 Units -> Potential for More. Economical, Efficient Natural Gas FHA Heat & Cooling. Its close proximity to Successful National Franchised Businesses generates Significant Commerce at this Location. Convenient Access.  
List Price: \$ 615,000

*Featured Listing ~ New To Market!*  
**Webster ~ 33 Slater Street**



Sprawling fieldstone faced 1 Level Ranch, located on a +/- 0.5-acre level, w/24'x24' 2 car att'd garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 2 stone fireplaces w/pellet stove inserts, FHW BB heat by oil. Open floor plan kitchen, living rm, dining rm, breezeway w/sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom, hardwood & c-tile floors.  
\$525,000

**Webster - 24 Cooper Rd**  
*New Construction - Craftsman Style home*



Tucked away on Cooper Rd. Webster Lake with access at Lake-side beach/boat ramp. 3rd of 4 homes being built at this site. Offers 2,155 sq. ft +/- of living area, 7 rms, 4 brs, 2 1/2 baths, 9ft ceiling, wood flooring throughout with ceramic tile baths. Spacious main BR Suite w/ walk-in closet, and private full bath, double sink vanity, finished lower level walk-out w/ slider. Central AC, garage  
\$649,900.00

## On the shores of Lake Chargoggagogmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

**Webster Lake Waterfront Listing!!**  
On Indian Point # 10 "Private Rd"



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

**Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island**




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


**Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!**



Panoramic View, from this absolutely lovely home. 2600 +/- SF, 3+ Beds, 2 full baths, 2 car detached garage! 63' +/- waterfront. .37 Acres! Sandy Waterfront!  
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# Bill Ballou shares “Tales From a Reporter’s Notebook” at Northbridge Senior Center



beyond the box scores to provide an intimate look at the world of professional sports journalism. Bill had the room laughing out loud as he shared behind-the-scenes stories that never made the headlines, offering a glimpse into his interviews, casual conversations, chitchats, and small talks with Moe from the Three Stooges, Jeff Daniels, Johnny Damon, Paul Cellucci, John Glenn, Roger Clemens, and Bette Davis just to name a few! The event concluded with a lively Q&A session where Ballou fielded questions ranging from his favorite memories with Manny Ramirez to the current state of baseball in Massachusetts, Worcester and the Major Leagues.

The Northbridge Senior Center currently provides programs, services, and outreach for local seniors to enhance their quality of life and maintain their independence through social engagement and educational opportunities. For more information, please call (508) 234-2002.

**NORTHBIDGE** — Residents and sports enthusiasts gathered at the Northbridge Senior Center this week for a captivating morning with renowned Worcester sportswriter, Bill Ballou. The fan-favorite returned to Plummer Place to share a career’s worth of insights in a presentation titled “Tales from a Reporter’s Notebook.” Ballou, whose career spans over four decades of covering the Boston Red Sox and the Worcester sports landscape, moved

# A night of harmony and hope

JAK-L FOUNDATION TO HOST DUELING PIANOS IN AUBURN



Courtesy

The members of the JAK-L Foundation. Front row, from left: David Boucher, Christine Afful, Joy Kochinskas, Devon Renfro, Steve Kochinskas. Second Row, from left: Karen Sisko, Kathy Konkol-Saad, Kim Sterczala, Shirley Shepardson, Kerry Bielicki, Ruth Cahill, Laurie Boucher

**AUBURN** — Get ready to sing, dance, and make a difference. On Saturday, May 2, the local community will gather at J. Anthony’s Italian Grill for a high-energy “Dueling Pianos” event presented by the JAK-L Foundation.

The evening promises a vibrant blend of music and laughter, but the mission behind the melodies is deeply personal. Proceeds from the event will directly support youth mental health and suicide prevention programs within the local community.

Turning pain into purpose

The JAK-L Foundation was established in 2023 by President Joy Kochinskas. For Kochinskas, a local salon owner and stylist for more than 25 years, the cause is an intimate one. After losing her sister to suicide in 2017, she became a dedicated advocate, par-

ticipating in the “Out of the Darkness” walks for years before founding the JAK-L Foundation to create a more direct impact on mental health awareness.

“I’m hoping to make more of an impact on the mental health society,” Kochinskas said regarding the foundation’s mission. Alongside an active event committee, the foundation is working to transform how the community discusses and supports mental wellness.

Event details

The event kicks off at 8:00 PM, though supporters are encouraged to arrive early.

- When: Saturday, May 2
- Time: 8 – 10 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.)
- Where: J. Anthony’s Italian Grill, 917 Southbridge St., Auburn
- Admission: \$35 per person (plus fees)

Pro-Tip: Guests who enjoy dinner at J. Anthony’s prior to the show will receive priority seating for the performance.

Community support

The success of the JAK-L Foundation is driven by a dedicated team of volunteers. The event committee includes David Boucher, Christine Afful, Joy Kochinskas, Devon Renfro, and Steve Kochinskas. Supporting the front lines are team members Karen Sisko, Kathy Konkol-Saad, Kim Sterczala, Shirley Shepardson, Kerry Bielicki, Ruth Cahill, and Laurie Boucher.

By attending, guests aren’t just buying a ticket to a show—they are helping to “spark meaningful change” for local youth who may be struggling in silence.

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# Open Sky awarded \$250,000 housing grant from TD Charitable Foundation

**WORCESTER** — Open Sky Community Services, a nonprofit behavioral health and human services organization, was awarded a \$250,000 Housing for Everyone grant from the TD Charitable Foundation, the giving arm of TD Bank U.S., to support the agency’s comprehensive services for individuals at risk of homelessness in Central Mass.

a meaningful investment in the longterm stability of our communities,” said Paige Carlson-Heim, Head of Social Impact at TD and Director of TD Charitable Foundation. “When renters stay housed, neighborhoods remain strong and local economies are more resilient. The work of Open Sky is vital in helping renters navigate challenges before they escalate, promoting stability for families and the communities they call home.”

community achieve more than they imagined possible for over 50 years. The agency provides a wide range of services throughout Central Massachusetts for children, adults and families with mental health challenges, intellectual and developmental disabilities, substance use disorders, brain injury, homelessness, and other complex challenges. Open Sky Community Services has over 1,300 dedicated employees and nearly 150 programs throughout the region, supporting over 8,000 individuals annually. Open Sky is committed to equity, belonging, and promotes a trauma-informed, whole-person care culture. For more information, please visit [www.openskycs.org](http://www.openskycs.org).

“Our community continues to face significant housing challenges that demand a comprehensive, community-based response,” said Ken Bates, Open Sky President and CEO. “This contribution will have an immediate and meaningful impact on individuals at risk of homelessness, and most importantly, it will help save lives. Thanks to the generosity of the TD Charitable Foundation, we can continue to advance housing stability and help individuals and families achieve greater economic mobility.”

Open Sky is among 40 nonprofit organizations across TD’s footprint to receive funding through the grant program, which supports solutions that foster early intervention, advance housing stability, and decisively address housing challenges for renters in low- to moderate-income communities.

“I am incredibly proud of the work of our housing and homelessness teams,” said Amy Arrell, Assistant Vice President of Behavioral Health Services. “Tenancy Preservation is such an important aspect of our work, and this generous grant will allow us to provide wraparound supports to a wider range of individuals in Central Mass.”

About the TD Charitable Foundation

The TD Charitable Foundation is the giving arm of TD Bank U.S. TD Bank US Holding Company and its subsidiaries, including TD Bank, N.A., are collectively known as TD Bank U.S. As the U.S. banking business of The Toronto-Dominion Bank (TSX and NYSE: TD), a leading North American financial services firm, TD Bank U.S. serves more than 10 million clients and has a network of approximately 1,050 locations throughout the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Carolinas and Florida. We support our clients and communities with a full range of retail, small business, commercial banking products and services, and more. Since its inception in 2002, the Foundation has distributed over \$386 million through donations to local nonprofits from Maine to Florida.

Open Sky’s existing Tenancy Preservation team engages with vulnerable and at-risk populations ages 55 and over, with resources to stabilize housing access and prevent eviction and homelessness. The specialized model offers case management, clinical services, and recovery-based support while connecting individuals to social service programs, skills training, and additional resources. Through the Housing for Everyone grant, the program will be expanded to support adults under the age of 55.

This year’s grantees were selected for their proactive approaches to eviction prevention and housing stabilization, which help individuals and families remain housed, reduce financial stress, and strengthen communities.

About Open Sky Community Services

Open Sky Community Services is a 501(c)3 nonprofit agency based in Worcester that has been helping individuals in our

“At TD, we believe that supporting organizations dedicated to preventing eviction is not only a philanthropic commitment, but

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