

# Auburn News

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Courtesy

Dudley resident Sean Drummond, a diesel technician at Advantage Truck Group in Shrewsbury, was among seven technicians who recently earned the Western Star trucks expert-level certification. From left: ATG Network Trainer Matt McCuin, ATG Training Director Rob Lynds, diesel technicians Angel Diez, Kaleb Legrand and Nick Perry of ATG Westfield, Sean Drummond of ATG Shrewsbury, Ian Schulte of ATG Lancaster, and technicians Dave Bauer from Freightliner of ME in Fort Kent and Daniel Gillis from Freightliner of Maine in Houlton.

## Webster selectmen wrap up several smaller issues

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — The Jan. 13 selectmen's meeting was largely a review of things that have been in process for some time now.

One was the finalization of expanded concerts at Indian Ranch. While facility spokespeople sought six more shows, the board opted for three (bringing the total to nine), and said they want to review any issues at the end of the season.

One major issue was back-to-  
Turn To **WEBSTER** page **A13**

## Dudley agrees to Municipal Aggregate Energy price

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The Town of Dudley has secured pricing for its Municipal Aggregate Energy program which will present consumers a secured rate through a third-party provider as an alternative to existing energy options.

Dudley partnered with Colonial Power Group to serve as their consultant to seek energy bids for the program. On Jan. 13, the company revealed the rates provided by four unnamed bidders while its President and Director Mark Cappadona discussed the advantages and disadvantages of each option. The most affordable prices came from a company designated a "Supplier 2" in their presentation which provided a 12-month option of \$0.013510 per kWh and an 18-month option of \$0.12830 per kWh. Cappadona argued that these rates provided sufficient affordability compared to other options like National Grid.

"From a historical standpoint, \$0.128 for an

annual price is still a little lofty, but I still don't see prices coming down just given the renewable portfolio standard continues to step up. I find this pricing to be adequate. I wouldn't say it's great, but I also, with the cold weather that we're having, I don't see it getting better right now," Cappadona said.

The bids also included options for longer term contracts of 24 months and 30 months from the company designated "Supplier 4." The 30-month option provided the next best price in the bid at \$0.13045 per kWh. Data provided by Colonial Power Group showed the projected average rate for National Grid at \$0.15417 per kWh meaning any of the four most cost-effective deals would still provide relief for consumers.

The Board of Selectmen authorized Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda to enter in an agreement with Colonial Power Group to utilize the best bid as long as the price changed by less than half a penny

of the rates presented on Jan. 13. Ruda's office has confirmed that the town has agreed to an adjusted 18-month partnership of \$0.12826 per kWh with First Point Power. The deal also includes an option taking into consideration National Wind Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) at \$0.12992 per kWh and an option an option including MA Class I RECs at \$0.13031 per kWh.

The town and Colonial Power Group will now embark on a public awareness campaign including public meetings and mailers with a goal of launching the program in April of this year. This is an optional program designed to provide an alternative option for those seeking to save money utilizing a third-party energy provider. While there are no fees associated with opting in at the negotiated price, third-party fees with other vendors may apply. This program does not impact transmission charges or any associated discounts.

## Oxford schools looking at virtual school cap

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — The School Committee is revisiting the idea of capping virtual school attendance at 1 percent of the district's total student body, after deciding not to do so last year. But they postponed a decision on it until their next meeting.

Superintendent Mike Lucas said the cap will have no impact on students currently attending those schools, and Oxford now has 16 such students. The district loses \$5000 from its state aid per student who goes to a regular public school, but \$7,000 for those going to the virtuals. By state law, it can vote to cap only if the number of students already exceeds 1 percent, which it does (it had not quite reached that level last year).

He noted virtual schools are treated the same way as choosing to other schools — "when you go, you're all in," rather than taking some classes locally — but Oxford does offer some virtual classes to its own students.

According to David Cornacchioli, the state has two public virtual schools which have a combined cap of 4,200 stu-

dents and a current attendance of 4,152. He said "totally understand[s] why the superintendent is proposing this. You don't want to lose the money." But he and others also agreed that fact it's public should still be an option for parents, especially if the students have issues that make physically going to school a challenge.

Lucas agreed, saying it's a "good option for kids with anxiety" and other IEP issues. From talking to interested parents, he said he feels most of those who don't go to virtual schools will homeschool.

The board briefly discussed whether they could cap it with a case-by-case exception for kids with "a significant need." Members also noted some districts have supported caps, but later revoked them.

Later, regarding the fact MCAS is no longer a graduation requirement, Lucas said the state is requiring districts to revamp their requirements so that kids have to pass the subjects they would have had to test on. Those are 9th-grade biology and chemistry, 10th-grade English, alge-

bra and geometry. He said that will be incorporated in the high school's revised course of studies for next year, and "from what I've read, it's in line with other districts."

Palmina Griffin said she'd like to see what those other districts are actually doing.

Regarding school renovations, Business Manager Matt Bobola said the project manager has been hired for the roof and siding work, with a plan to put the RFP out in February and do the work over the summer. MSBA is in the process of visiting districts to survey building needs statewide and will interview various local officials as part of that process.

Griffin was impressed MSBA was doing this on their own initiative. She noted any work needs to take into account changing accessibility needs and should interview those who have issues with that.

She also suggested having the district compile a complete inventory list to plan for replacement of equipment, building materials and other items.

Turn To **OXFORD** page **A13**

## Saint Joseph eighth graders awarded class jackets

WEBSTER — Congratulations to the Saint Joseph School Class of 2025!

Following the Annual 8th Grade Mass and breakfast, the students were awarded their 8th Grade Jackets. The jackets are a significant milestone that the 8th Grade students look forward to each year.

In addition to the students' year of graduation, and St. Joseph School logo, the left sleeve of each jacket is embroidered with a symbol representing the sports that they participated in during their time at Saint Joseph School. Sports include soccer, basketball, cheerleading, and cross country.

In addition to acknowledging the students' participation in athletics, the right arm of each jacket lists academic clubs and achievements, including altar serving, band, Children of Mary, choir, Drama Club, LEGO Robotics, National Junior Honor Society, AAA Safety Patrol, Yearbook Club, and Student Council. The jackets are a unique and incredible memory of the students' time at Saint Joseph School. The Class of 2025 includes Oluwatobiloba Akindede, Ryan Amaral, Rosemary Basha, Jada Jackson, Lisa Kippax, Simon Kowalczyk, Jake Martin, Kyle Muchiru, Faith Muga, Jacob Parafinowicz, Gianna Pigeon, Ayla Reed, Arianna Rivers, Alan Rubin, Gabriel Rudnicki, Ethan Ryan, Luke Surowanec, Liana Worth, and Adam Wozniak. The 8th Grade Home Room instructor is Mrs. Mary Ann Weaver.



Courtesy

The Saint Joseph School Class of 2025 stands proudly, each student wearing their newly awarded 8th Grade Jacket.

# Lessons at the library

DUDLEY — Local 4 Life, a Dudley-based non-profit organization, is hosting four free family programs at the Pearl L. Crawford Memorial Library, 40 Schofield Avenue, Dudley. There will be one session per month, held on Saturdays from 10 to 11 a.m. in the library's Fels Community Room. This program is funded in part by a grant from the Dudley Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Each session will feature local farmers as guest speakers, hands-on activities, interactive science lessons, and take-home projects.

The sessions are as follows:

Saturday, Jan. 25 - Powerful Pollinators- Learn about the different types of pollinators, what they do, and how you can help them.

Saturday, Feb. 22 - Prolific Plants- Learn about the parts of plants, the life cycles, and needs of plants.

Saturday, March 22 - Amazing Animals- Learn about



Children engage in a summer program sponsored by Local 4 Life.

Courtesy

the traits of farm animals, the life cycles, and needs of these animals.

Saturday, April 27 - Sustaining Soil & Composting- Learn about the characteristics of soil, how compost makes nutrient rich soil, facts about decomposers, and how to compost at home.

All children must be accompanied by an adult and registration is required. There is a limit of 15 children per session. Families can register by visiting the Pearl L. Crawford's calendar on their Web site at [www.crawfordlibrary.org](http://www.crawfordlibrary.org), Local 4 Life's website [www.local4life.org](http://www.local4life.org) or by calling (508) 341-5347.

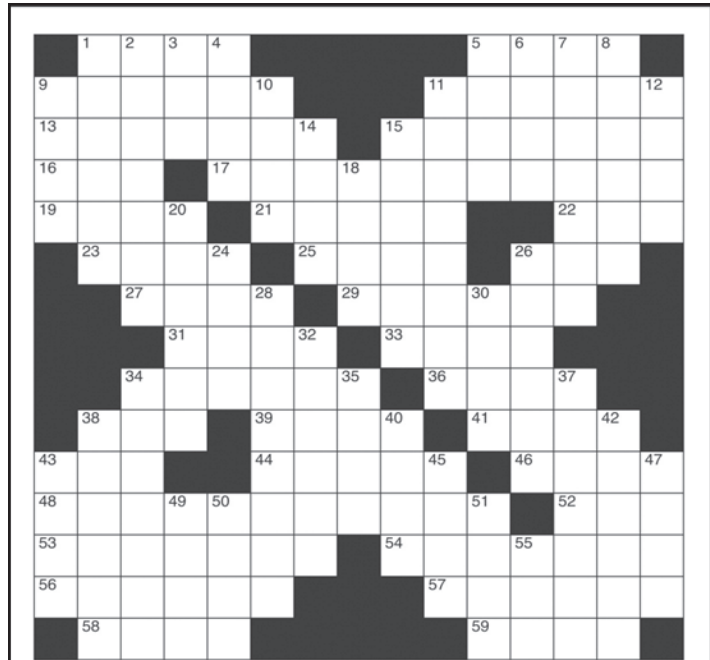
Local for Life aims to cultivate local connections through agriculture and business partnerships that provide educational outreach, promote conservation, and foster community.

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**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. "Loser" rocker
- 5. Partner to relaxation
- 9. Mixing
- 11. Winged nut
- 13. Expression of blame
- 15. Vast ocean
- 16. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 17. Multiply
- 19. Meat from a pig (French)
- 21. Related
- 22. Rocker Stewart
- 23. Surprise completely
- 25. Loon
- 26. Canister
- 27. Large, deep-bodied fish
- 29. Takes forcefully
- 31. Oil cartel
- 33. Palmer and Hepburn are two
- 34. More than one
- 36. Places down purposefully
- 38. Pitching statistic
- 39. Type of sword
- 41. Witnesses
- 43. Body part
- 44. Mixes slowly
- 46. Satisfy
- 48. Strong belief
- 52. One's physique (slang)
- 53. More frightening
- 54. Soup cracker
- 56. Teaches
- 57. One who carries something
- 58. Actor Sean
- 59. Changes

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. \_\_\_ Aires, city
- 2. Coarse grass
- 3. Type of gene
- 4. Door handle
- 5. Competition
- 6. Muslim ruler title
- 7. Hunting expeditions
- 8. Large mollusk
- 9. Bind securely
- 10. Former U.S. presidential candidate
- 11. 2-point plays in football
- 12. Breezed through
- 14. Type setting
- 15. Felt for
- 18. Codified rules
- 20. Small dome
- 24. Chevrotrain
- 26. Male reproductive gland
- 28. Controversial beliefs
- 30. Z Z Z
- 32. One who confines another
- 34. Bishop
- 35. Garlands
- 37. Bird that flies by the coast
- 38. Optical device
- 40. Greek goddess of discord
- 42. Some are "Rolling"
- 43. Formerly (archaic)
- 45. Thrust a knife into
- 47. German river
- 49. Atomic #26
- 50. Make a grotesque face
- 51. Primordial matter of the universe
- 55. Chinese philosophical principle

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

## Dudley Cultural Council announces 2025 awards

DUDLEY — The Dudley Cultural Council (DCC) is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils in Massachusetts supported and funded by the Commonwealth through the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Grants are allocated by DCC to qualified individuals, schools, and cultural organizations that bring cultural programs in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences to the Dudley community.

This year, \$12,732 was awarded to the following grant recipients:

1. "Hip Hop Chair Dance for Seniors" at the Dudley Senior Center, MUSIC Dance.edu
2. "Local 4 Life - Lessons at the Library" at the Pearl L. Crawford Memorial Library, Local 4 Life, Inc.
3. "Dragon King Tanglewood Marionettes Show" - Dudley Elementary School
4. "A Celtic Celebration: Songs & Stories from Ireland, Scotland and Wales" at the Pearl L. Crawford Memorial Library, Davis R. Bates III.
5. Samuel Slater Experience - Dudley Middle School
6. "Jumpin' Juba Concert" at the Pearl L. Crawford Memorial Library - Steven Hurlbut
7. "The Wizard of Oz" - Shepherd Hill Regional High School
8. "Mother's Day Memory Caf  Concert" at the Dudley Senior Center, Daniel Kirouac
9. Dudley Grange #163 Strawberry Festival and Apple Festival
10. Town of Dudley Halloween and Christmas Celebrations
11. "A Christmas Carol" at Hanover Theater, Dudley Middle School
12. "The Science of Sound - Mason Road School

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\$650,000, 186 Boyce St, Seifae, Farzad, and Mendivil, Alma R, to Scalse, Stephen J, and Nano, Rovena.

\$565,000, 30 Waterman Rd, Razi, Main, and Afrin, Sazia, to Perrone, Michael R.

\$300,000, 729 Oxford St S, Szymczak, Scott C, to Sullivan, Steven C.

**DUDLEY**

\$620,000, 3 Prince Cir, Spooner, Charles, and Spooner, Stacy, to Brisbois, Abby L, and Mcdonnell, Shane P.

\$440,000, 10 West St, Plaza-Seavey Rt, and Seavey, Maria E, to Tholley, Maymuna.

\$185,000, 27 Fairview Ave, Bibeau George Joseph Est, and Bibeau, Neal G, to Heavenly Hm Solutions LLC.

**OXFORD**  
None

**WEBSTER**

\$589,900, 42 Scenic Ave, Brunner Concrete LLC, to Cole, Cynthia A.

\$555,000, 1106 Treasure Island Rd #1106, Clark Kathleen A Est, and Poblocki, Elizabeth A, to Walters, Vickie E.

\$465,000, 5 Harvard St, Diiorio, Paul C, and Diiorio, Beth, to Trottier, Andrew, and Ugaz, Cinthya L.

\$460,000, 14 Cutler St, L P & E Pearl Jezierski T, and Jezierski, Leon P, to Jezierski, John.

\$285,000, 52 Harris St, Truman 2016 Sc6 Title T, and US Bank NA Tr, to Cv Investment Group LLC.

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# Evangelidis mulls run for governor's office

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION — After receiving waves of support from across the state following the release of a petition urging him to make a gubernatorial run in 2026, Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis said he will carefully consider his options before reaching a decision on his political future.

Posted to Change.org late last month, the online petition titled "Draft Lew for Governor" thrust the longtime Sheriff into the statewide spotlight. Prior to its release, Evangelidis didn't even know of the petition's existence, but he quickly became aware of the strong support when his phone started ringing.

Over the past week-plus, Evangelidis (R—Holden) has received calls and

emails from Republicans and Democrats throughout the Commonwealth encouraging him to pursue a campaign for governor in 2026.

"People have contacted me not only to express their support, but also to share their frustrations with the track we're on," said Evangelidis, who has served as Sheriff for the past 14 years. "I want Massachusetts to do better. Right now, we are going down an unaffordable, unsustainable path."

In a summary posted to the Change.org page, the organizers of the online petition described several frustrations shared by Massachusetts residents and officials, including issues with affordability and disapproval of Democratic Governor Maura Healey's immigration policies.

"With Maura Healey's dangerously liberal policies that have contributed to the crippling debt, overburdened our healthcare system, and prioritized illegal immigrants over hardworking taxpayers in the Bay State, the time has come for change," the petition read in part.

The organizers also cited rising crime in their summary, which Evangelidis confirmed as a major problem in Worcester County. He told the New Leader he is receiving calls and emails daily from residents and officials seeking a change in the state's leadership.

Looking ahead, Evangelidis doesn't plan to rush into any decisions. He is committed to continuing conversations with officials statewide and monitoring conditions as the new year progresses.

"I am also going to continue raising awareness that we have a bad situation right now," said Evangelidis, who opposes the Governor's handling of the migrant shelter crisis, calling for major changes to policies. "I haven't made my mind up yet [on a potential run for governor]. I am flattered to receive such strong support."

Evangelidis said he will take time to review how a potential run would align with his family situation. He appreciates the many residents and officials who have reached out to express their support. Many callers conveyed

praise for his leadership as Sheriff since his election in 2010.

"I love being Sheriff. I enjoy it every day," Evangelidis said.

Evangelidis previously served as a state repre-

sentative for eight years. He represented the First Worcester District.

Healey has not announced whether she plans to run for re-election to a second term in 2026.

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# Preparing high school students for civic engagement and leadership

[SUBHEAD] Cornerstone Bank donates to 2025 Inspire Massachusetts Youth Leadership Institute

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, is donating \$2,500 to a program designed to educate, inspire and engage local high school students to be civically active and address key social issues affecting their schools and communities. Inspire Massachusetts Youth Leadership Institute is a one-day civic engagement session presented by the Massachusetts Teachers Association in partnership with Team Harmony.

"We want to help pave the way for a bright future for area youth in our community, and we know that begins with a strong foundation for encouraging future leaders," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "When our children

succeed, we all succeed."

This year, the institute is scheduled to take place at Worcester State University on Jan. 16, when 100 students from high schools across the state will gather and learn about critical social issues such as educational justice, school violence, environmental protection, women's rights and racial harmony. Teachers acting as coaches work to empower students to create and implement action plans to address these issues in their schools and communities. Organizers follow up in the spring to recognize students who successfully put their ideas into action.

"This program inspires real-world change," said Tallman. "At Cornerstone Bank, we know that innovation and collaboration lead to impact. It's special to see young people put that formula to work to create measurable results in their own communities."

## Dean College announces Fall 2024 Dean's List

FRANKLIN — Dean College is pleased to announce the students that have earned a place on the Dean's List for the Fall 2024 semester. These students have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

- Kyrie Sullivan of Auburn
- Hayden Dube of Oxford
- Hannah Nordstrom of Oxford
- Alyssa Evers of Oxford
- Paige Evora of Webster

Dean College is a private, residential New England college grounded in a culture and tradition that all students deserve the opportunity for academic and personal success. A uniquely supportive community for more than 150 years, Dean has woven together extensive student support and engagement with exceptional teaching and innovative campus activities. Our graduates are lifetime learners who thrive in their careers, embrace social responsibility and demonstrate leadership. This is The Dean Difference.

## Local residents named to President's List at Dean College

FRANKLIN — Amanda Shields of Oxford and Makaylah Gagnon-Deneault and Natalie Zona of Auburn have earned a place on the President's List for the Fall 2024 semester. Students named to the President's List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

Dean College is a private, residential New England college grounded in a culture and tradition that all students deserve the opportunity for academic and personal success. A uniquely supportive community for more than 150 years, Dean has woven together extensive student support and engagement with exceptional teaching and innovative campus activities. Our graduates are lifetime learners who thrive in their careers, embrace social responsibility and demonstrate leadership. This is The Dean Difference.

## SUNY New Paltz congratulates Arianna Bravo Alfonso for earning fall 2024 Dean's List honors!

NEW PALTZ, N.Y. — SUNY New Paltz is proud to congratulate Arianna Bravo Alfonso of Auburn for being named to the Dean's List for the fall 2024 semester. Well done!

Dean's List designation is reserved for students who excel academically and earn at least a 3.3 grade-point average in a semester with a full-time course load.

Follow us on Instagram @sunynewpaltz to see more about our students' academic excellence.

Located in the heart of a dynamic college town, 90 minutes from New York City, SUNY New Paltz is a highly selective university of more than 7,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

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## PET of the WEEK



McKinley - 18 Months

McKinley's Foster mom wants you to know what makes her the ideal catch! She's a smart girl - McKinley's love for treats makes her a quick learner. She's already mastered "sit," "down," "touch," and "look," and she's working hard on perfecting "loose leash walking" and "leave it." With her drive to please, McKinley will thrive in a home where she can continue learning and growing. She is currently going to training classes. She's a social butterfly - McKinley loves spending time with people and other dogs. She would be thrilled to join a family with another dog to play with. She's Active, Playful, and a master cuddler - McKinley is in shape, fast, and incredibly agile. She loves playing fetch and could spend hours running and chasing the ball. She would be a great fit for an active family who enjoys outdoor activities. After burning off some energy, McKinley enjoys snuggling up on the couch and relaxing with her people. She really knows how to balance playtime with downtime! House Trained: McKinley has had no accidents since coming to her foster home, and does well in her crate when her family is away or at night. Her Ideal Home: McKinley would thrive in a home with a fenced yard where she can run and play ball to her heart's content. She would do best in a home with older children who can handle her exuberant and goofy nature. McKinley would love a family who enjoys spending time outdoors and is looking for a dog who will match their energy. She'd also be very happy with another dog to share her adventures with! Don't miss out. Apply today

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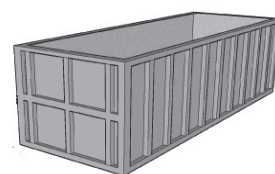
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Hours: Thursday, Friday & Saturday 4-8; Sunday 12-5  
Hexmark Tavern Hours: Thursday & Friday 4-8

# PEARLE L. CRAWFORD LIBRARY

# GLADYS E. KELLY PUBLIC LIBRARY

40 Schofield Ave., Dudley  
508-949-8021  
Join us for one of our programs at the Pearle! Do you want to be the first to know about events happening at the Library? Check out our event calendar at [www.crawfordlibrary.org](http://www.crawfordlibrary.org) or sign up for our eNewsletter by calling 508-949-8021.  
Gentle Yoga  
Mondays in January  
10:00-11:00 AM  
Join our new yoga instructor Patricia, for a traditional “on the mat” yoga class with chair yoga modifications. This truly is a one size fits all class. Bring your own mat. Wear layers, do not eat heavily 1.5-2 hours before class. Registration is required to receive weather cancellation notifications.

Movies @ The Pearle!!  
Tuesdays in January at 1:00  
This month’s theme is: Books we love that were made into movies we love.  
January 21: The Devil Wears Prada  
January 28: The Notebook  
No registration required.

Lotus Flower Lantern Craft  
Thursday, January 23  
6:00-7:30  
Join us to make a traditional Korean lotus lantern, learn about the lotus & the lantern festival, and finish up by learning a little about Korean customs at the end of the class. The Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project members will give step-by-step instructions on making a lovely lotus flower lantern using colored paper and wire-frames. All materials are supplied.  
Ages 174 please  
Registration is required.

Crawford Library Book Group  
Thursday, January 23  
6:00-7:30  
Book: Unwind  
Author: Neil Shusterman  
Books are available at the circulation desk for checkout one month prior to discussion.  
No registration required.

Literacy Volunteers of South Central MA  
Thursday, January 30 at 6:00  
Volunteer information session.

Mahjong at the Pearle  
Every Wednesday in November  
10:00-12:30 Fels Community Room  
The game consists of players competing to form distinct sets or pairs of tiles, similar to gin rummy.  
Everyone is welcome.  
Registration not required.

Quilting Group  
Wednesdays @ 1:30  
Are you a quilter? Would you like to learn how to be one? All skill levels are welcome to this informal group. Bring

your projects and join the fun!  
No registration required.  
Knit & Crochet Group  
Thursday 5:30-7:30 and Friday 10:00-12:00  
All stitchers are welcome for this informal group. Bring your project and enjoy the company!  
No registration required.

Dungeons & Dragons Game  
Thursdays, 6:00-7:30  
Come play the world’s number one role playing game. This program is geared towards kids and teens that are looking to learn more about playing and some short adventures!  
No registration required.

Storytimes at the Pearle  
10:00-10:45  
Tuesday-Pre-K Power (best for ages 3-5)  
Wednesday-Toddler Time (best for ages 0-3)  
Friday-Open Baby Play (best for ages 0-12 months-pre-walkers)  
Registration not required. Siblings always welcome!

Wiggles & Giggles for Littles  
Monday, January 6, 13, 27, and Feb. 3, 10 (no session on 1/20)  
10:00-10:30  
YFCP is pleased to offer a FREE 5-week music series for children, ages 6-24 months, with a parent/caregiver. Ms. Laine will introduce music, movement, musical instruments and stories to your little ones. Registration required. Please note: you are registering for a 5-week series.

Wiggles & Giggles  
Monday, January 6, 13, 27, and Feb. 3, 10 (no groups on 1/20)  
10:45-11:45  
Join YFCP and Ms. Laine for a FREE 5-week music series held here at the Pearle L. Crawford Library. Children (ages 2-5) with a parent/caregiver, will sing, move, play musical instruments, learn rhythm and listen to stories. Siblings are welcome. Registration required. Please note: you are registering for a 5-week series.

Baby Sign Language with Sheryl White  
Tuesday, January 21 & 28  
10:30-11:30  
Learn how to reduce frustration and help give your baby the ability to communicate before he/she can speak with BABY KNEADS. Sheryl White, has guided thousands of families, caregivers, teachers and professionals since 1999.  
This is a 4 week ongoing program. Please note you are registering for a 4-week series.

2 Lake St., Webster  
508-949-3880  
Library Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Wednesday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Fri: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

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

WINTER READING RAFFLE – All Month Long for all Ages  
We’re running a Winter Reading Raffle for all of January. Sign up at the circulation desk for either our children, teen, or adult, raffle, get your Bingo sheet, and start reading!

Adult Programming  
TAKE AND MAKE CRAFT – All Month Long  
Stop by the table by the entrance to the library to pick up everything you need to make a wintery tree craft.

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

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP— January 27th at 6:30 PM  
We’re reading Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by James Ford this month. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone at 508-949-3880, or by email to [jfontaine@cwmar.org](mailto:jfontaine@cwmar.org) for inquiries.

COMPUTER BASICS: Unclutter Your Email – January 30th 5:30-6:30PM  
Is your inbox full of spam emails? Do you have trouble finding important emails when you need them? Join Assistant Director Evan Hale and Adult Services Librarian Jess Fontaine to learn how to make your email inbox more manageable.

THE NEST: Steps to Start Your Small Business – January 30th 6:00-8:00PM  
This session is for those starting or planning to start a business. You’ll get ideas for developing your business vision, consider legal structures, and learn more about choosing a name, entity and obtaining necessary EIN, licenses, permits, and insurance. You’ll leave with a clear understanding of resources and next steps to kickstart your business. Presented by the Center for Women & Enterprise. Registration required.

Children’s and Young Adult Programming

Scavenger Hunt--- All Month Long  
What’s more exciting than a scavenger hunt? Come upstairs to the Children’s room to pick up a list of things to find all around the library. Once you’ve completed the scavenger

hunt, check in with the Children’s Librarian to redeem a prize.

TAKE AND MAKE CRAFT-- All month long  
Take and Make craft kits are available for pick up upstairs in the Children’s Room. Each month will feature a different craft to create and instructions will be provided with the supplies. New Take and Make kits will be available for pick up on the 1st of every month, while supplies last, and are limited to one per patron.

PLAY-DOH PLAYTIME – MONDAYS at 10:00AM  
Drop-in to our Children’s Program Room every Monday morning to play, make, and build with our collection of colorful Play-Doh, sculpting tools, and various sets. This is a fun, sensory playtime to foster creativity and exploration. Perfect for ages 2-6. Siblings are welcome.

MAKER MONDAYS – MONDAYS from 3:30-4:30 PM  
Feeling artistic? We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test! In January we’re using Perler Beads!

TODDLER PLAYTIME-- TUESDAYS at 10:00 AM  
Kids 0 to 6 are invited to get their wiggles out with weekly obstacle course and fun.

STUFFED ANIMAL STORYTIME – WEDNESDAYS at 10:00AM  
Join Youth Services Librarian Andrew for stories, songs, and fun with our plush pals! This storytime is geared toward ages birth to 3, but siblings are welcome.

ME AND MY MINI – THURSDAYS at 10:00AM  
A creative movement group for ages 0 through 2.5. Get groovy to upbeat music with fun props and a story.

TEEN VIDEO GAME – THURSDAYS at 3:00PM  
Teens are invited to play games on our Nintendo Switch!

BEGINNER ORIGAMI – FRIDAYS at 3:45PM  
Come explore the art of origami making! A creative and meditative craft. Open to kids of all ages.

SENSORY BIN STORYTIME – FRIDAYS at 10:00AM  
Come join us for a fun filled Storytime as we read together and then let our imaginations fly through different sensory bin activities. Each week will offer a different theme exploration related to the books and bins provided. The 17th is a Construction Zone storytime, the 24th’s theme is Space, and the 31st is Ocean-themed. Perfect for ages 2-5. Siblings are welcome to join.

SNOW MUCH FUN – SATURDAYS at 11:30AM  
We’ll be featuring several fun activities on Saturdays this winter. Saturday, January 25th is Bigfoot Jr. Saturday, February 1st is Teddy Bear’s Picnic.

## SNHU announces Fall 2024 Dean’s List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2024 Dean’s List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer:  
Liam Budic of Dudley  
Nicole Faulkner of Dudley  
Julia Barton of Auburn  
Dylan Nguyen of Auburn

## SNHU announces Fall 2024 President’s List


MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2024 President’s List. The fall terms run from September to December.


Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer:  
Kylie Lambert of Auburn  
Lillian Berry of Auburn  
Colin Lord of Dudley  
Jordan Keefe of Dudley  
Michaela Ebbeling of Dudley  
Nikita Giantsios of Dudley  
Jacquelyn Ricard of Webster  
Lorilei Czesnowski of Webster  
Paige Chaifetz of Webster

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

Meighan McCarthy of Webster  
Eryk Chamberlin of Webster  
Emma Snow of Oxford  
Corben Bowen of Oxford  
Jessica Socia of Oxford  
Krystal Bonafilia of Oxford

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






**Hi! My name is Christian and I love being active!**  
Christian is a sweet boy who loves to be on the go. He loves doing anything outside and being active. Christian recently started gymnastics and loves learning new skills. He likes anything to do with cars and trucks. He is an animal lover, especially when it comes to dogs. He is always helping out in the kitchen with meal preparation or cleaning up. Christian hopes to become a firefighter or a veterinarian one day!

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/6521>

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

The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with.

To learn more about adoption from foster care visit [www.mareinc.org](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.



## Christopher Ordoobadi named to Kettering University Dean's List

FLINT, Mich. — Christopher Ordoobadi of Oxford was named to Kettering University's Fall 2024 Dean's List.

Ordoobadi is majoring in Mechanical Engineering and is a member of the class of .

The Dean's List recognizes overall academic performance based on the student's term grade point average (GPA). To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must satisfy the following requirements: be a degree-seeking student with a minimum term grade point average of 3.5, no grades below B, and a minimum of 16 earned credits for the term.

"Being named to the Dean's List is a testament to the dedication and excellence of our students," Kettering University Provost James Zhang said. "It reflects their hard work and their ability to thrive in a challenging academic environment. Our rigorous programs are designed for driven students to push boundaries and inspire growth. I am very proud that so many of our students have risen to that challenge with remarkable success."

More than 260 Kettering University students were named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List.

### About Kettering University

Since 1919, Kettering University has pioneered unique educational experiences that blend classroom instruction with real-world wage-paying work at cooperative employer partners. The Flint, Mich.-based private nonprofit university is world-renowned for its engineering, mathematics, business, and science programs that produce some of the brightest, most successful entrepreneurs and business innovators. Leaders in the fields of autonomous vehicles and robotics, Kettering is consistently ranked among the country's best universities for return on investment and career preparation. Learn more at [kettering.edu](http://kettering.edu).

## Roger Williams University announces Dean's List

BRISTOL, R.I. — Select students have been named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

Brendan Bowles of Auburn  
Shay Carlson of Auburn  
Kayla Conway of Auburn  
Elexa McFadden of Auburn  
Lauren Smith of Auburn  
Brooklyn Bonczyk of Dudley  
Jason Lavallee of Oxford

### About RWU

Roger Williams University is a comprehensive university with a liberal arts core and professional programs, with campuses on the coast of Bristol and in the state capital of Providence, Rhode Island. Across eight schools of study, we provide real-world learning focused on social and environmental justice, small classes, and direct access to faculty and staff. Our students create powerful combinations of degrees, credentials, research and internship opportunities, study-abroad programs, and involvement in clubs, student organizations, and athletics. Our Northeast location facilitates a strategic network between New York and Boston for community-engaged research and career opportunities for our students and alumni. Graduating with a unique skill set and the passion to make an impact in their careers, our students become the changemakers and leaders our world needs next.

## LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

### BROOKFIELD

Brookfield Ecumenical Food Pantry  
St. Mary's Church  
4 Howard Street, Brookfield, MA 01506  
Distribution: Wednesday 9 AM-11 AM:  
Saturday 9AM-11AM

### CHARLTON

Chip - In Food Pantry  
McKinstry Building  
37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507  
Distribution: 3rd Saturday 9 AM-12 Noon

### LEICESTER

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

### NORTH BROOKFIELD

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

### ROCHDALE

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

### SOUTHBRIDGE

Saint John Paul II Food Pantry  
Saint Vincent de Paul  
279 Hamilton St, Southbridge, MA 01550  
Distribution: Tuesday 3 PM-5 PM,  
Wednesday 9 AM -11 AM

Southbridge Food Share Pantry 79 Elm St., Southridge, Ma. 01550.  
Distribution:  
MWF from 10:00AM - 11:15AM

### SPENCER- EAST BROOKFIELD - RESIDENTS ONLY

Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry  
60 Maple St, Spencer, MA 01562  
Distribution: Thursday 10 AM-12 Noon

### STURBRIDGE

Saint Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry  
Located at St. Anne & St. Patrick Church  
16 Church St.  
Fiskdale, MA 01518  
Distribution: By appointment 508-347-6398

16 Church Street, Fiskdale, MA 01518.  
Located in the Saint Anne Church basement and stocked by donations.  
Open to the public by appointment.  
Contact: Business Office, 508-347-7339, [stannestpatoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stannestpatoffice@gmail.com)

### WEST BROOKFIELD

Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry  
First Congregational Church  
36 North Main Street,  
W.Bookfield, MA 01585  
Distribution: Wednesday 10 AM-11:30 AM  
Thursday 7 PM- 8 PM



# Community Connection



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50-75	\$3.40	500 PLUS	\$2.40	Driver
75-150	\$3.05	Duel Fuel	\$3.75	Discretion
150-300	\$2.75	Drop off Tanks	\$3.00	

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\*prices subject to change




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STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
EDITOR

## EDITORIAL

Staying grounded in the age of social media

It happens to all of us. You're scrolling through your social media feed, and a post grabs your attention — something outrageous, dramatic, or too good to be true. Before you know it, you've shared it, commented on it, or brought it up in a conversation. But how often do we stop to ask ourselves: Is this actually true? Or, more importantly, why is this being shown to me?

Social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Twitter (or X) are marvels of modern technology, but they're also powerful, profit-driven machines. Behind every post, video, or ad you see lies an algorithm, a set of rules designed to keep you engaged. These algorithms know more about you than you might think: your likes, your dislikes, your habits, even the time of day you're most likely to scroll. They're built to serve you content that aligns with your interests, but also content that provokes strong emotions, because emotion equals engagement, and engagement equals profit.

The problem is, emotions like outrage, fear, or excitement can cloud our judgment. This is how misinformation thrives. Social media algorithms aren't designed to prioritize truth, they're designed to prioritize clicks. This means that sensationalized or extreme content often rises to the top, not because it's accurate, but because it grabs your attention. Over time, you might find yourself in an echo chamber, exposed only to ideas that reinforce your existing beliefs while opposing views are filtered out.

This can have real-world consequences. Extremism, divisiveness, and distrust grow when we stop engaging critically with information and simply accept what's fed to us. And it's not just about politics. Think about the misinformation around health, science, or even history that spreads unchecked because it's wrapped in a flashy headline or a viral meme.

So, how do we navigate this algorithm-driven world without losing our grip on reality? The answer lies in slowing down, staying skeptical, and taking responsibility for what we consume and share.

Before hitting that share button, take a moment to verify the information. Check the source: Is it reputable? If it's a website you've never heard of, does it provide evidence or just emotional appeals? Cross-reference with trusted outlets. A quick Google search can save you from spreading misinformation.

Know that your feed isn't a random collection of posts, it's curated for you. If you find yourself feeling angry, overly excited, or even validated after seeing a certain type of content, ask yourself: Is this manipulating my emotions? Algorithms don't care about truth; they care about keeping you scrolling.

Social media platforms often show you content you agree with, which can feel comforting but limits your perspective. Make a conscious effort to follow people or organizations with diverse viewpoints. This doesn't mean you have to agree with everything, but exposing yourself to different ideas helps build critical thinking.

If a post seems overly dramatic, divisive, or paints an entire group of people as "good" or "evil," it's worth questioning. Extremist content often thrives on oversimplifying complex issues, using inflammatory language to provoke a reaction. Real solutions and truths are rarely found in black-and-white thinking.

The online world is just one part of the bigger picture. Building relationships, discussing issues in person, and relying on community engagement can help you stay grounded. Social media is a tool, not the whole world.

Social media is a double-edged sword. It can connect us, inform us, and even inspire us. But it can also mislead, divide, and manipulate us if we're not careful. The algorithms may be powerful, but so are we. By staying wide-eyed, curious, and critical, we can take control of our online experience and ensure that we're not just passive consumers but active participants in seeking truth and understanding.

# VIEWPOINT

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

## Cultivating a spirit of gratitude

Think of someone who is very special in your life. A spouse. A parent. A child. A friend. Now, quietly in your heart offer a little prayer of thanksgiving to God.

Think of a teacher from the past, a mentor, someone who taught you some life lessons that you still carry with you. They may be someone from your childhood, or someone recent. Now, quietly in your heart offer a little prayer of thanksgiving to God.

Think of some opportunity in your life that has really blessed you. It may be a work opportunity. It may be some opportunity in a relationship or in a friendship. Now, quietly in your heart offer a little prayer of thanksgiving to God.

Think of your health, and the wonderful medical advances and the care we have in this country. Even if you have some chronic or serious health issue, think of those who have helped you, been at your side, encouraged you. Now, quietly in your heart offer a little prayer of thanksgiving to God.

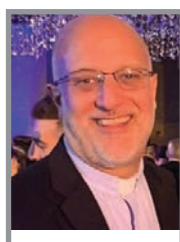
Think of your faith, this beautiful church and our priceless religious heritage. How has God blessed you throughout your life? How has He comforted you in times of fear, encouraged and strengthened you in times of need, filled you with joy and special blessings. Now, quietly in your heart offer a little prayer of thanksgiving to God.

Think of some of the great challenges you have faced in your life. They may not have been pleasant. You may have traveled through some dark times. Yet who was there to support you and help you? How was God present during these darkest times, and how did these times help you grow in character? Even for these difficult challenges, offer a little prayer of thanksgiving to God.

Have we cultivated the spirit of gratitude in our lives? Do we have the eyes to see God's countless blessings all around us, every day of our lives?

In our secular and church calendars, we have at least two times a year when our attention turns to gratitude. Of course, in November, when our country celebrates Thanksgiving, and then in January, we always hear the Gospel reading of the Ten Lepers, when ten desperate men come before Jesus asking for healing, and after Christ heals them, only one out of the ten returns to thank God. And the one with gratitude was a foreigner.

Of course, I shouldn't say we turn our attention to gratitude only twice a year because for all Orthodox Christians who go to Church on Sundays, we gather together as the people of God to celebrate the Divine Liturgy, the Eucharist, a service of thanksgiving. And every day, whenever we stand before God and enter into His Presence through our



### BEYOND THE PEWS

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

morning and evening prayers, or when we offer prayers up to Lord throughout the day, I hope we are expressing words of gratitude and thanksgiving.

As humans, we were created as beings of thanksgiving. This is what makes us unique, children created in the image and likeness of God. Yet, even though we were created as beings of thanksgiving, we have a free choice on whether to express such gratitude or to ignore it. And just like in the story today, often only one out of ten will use their free will properly and say thanks.

Unfortunately, our desire to thank God and to thank those who bless us is sometimes replaced with the vice of complaining, of whining, of focusing on the negative instead of the blessings of life. Too many people focus on what they don't have and what others may have, instead of appreciating all the gifts we've been blessed with.

Our perspective in life will be what we cultivate in our lives, on what we practice every day, on what daily habits we practice. Of course, we have a choice with the attitude we hold and with the worldview with which we look at life — will it be one of thanksgiving or one of entitlement, one of gratitude or one of complaining, one of praising God for all things or one of focusing on what we don't have? Which spirit do we cultivate in our lives?

As I was googling through the topic of thanksgiving, I was pleasantly surprised to see a number of books with the title "365 Days of Thanksgiving." These are books describing the journey of trying to focus on every day different things to be thankful for — every day focusing on something new for which to thank God. The beauty of trying to follow this discipline is that if we look for things to thank God for, if we look at the people all around us for whom we are grateful, if we look at opportunities and challenges with gratitude, it changes our entire perspective of life. It changes the way we encounter life itself. In fact, it changes our lives!!!

Gratitude makes us more positive about life, it helps us to see the good in others, it helps us see the good in life all around us! How many of us love being around people who are constantly seeing the good all around them, and expressing gratitude for life itself, compared to hanging around those who are ungrateful and unhappy.

Let us learn from the one grateful leper, and not the other nine. One out of ten returned to God to say "Thank you." Let us become that one! And may we thank God every day and countless times throughout each day of our lives for the blessings all around us.

## Eight days a week

Sometimes, life feels so busy I dream of having one more day in the week. How great would that be? Eight days a week — just like that Beatles song! It sounds great, but let's think this through.

It could be a day of leisure: no emails, errands, or to-do lists. Just sleep in, read a book, or spend hours binge-watching your favorite show without guilt. It could revolutionize how we approach self-care and mental health.

It could be the day you finally learn to paint, start that podcast, or bake croissants from scratch! Imagine having dedicated time for personal growth—no interruptions, just you and your creative spark.

Imagine the extra family time. You could host family dinners, volunteer in your community, or reconnect with old friends!

You could catch up on everything you didn't finish earlier in the week. Grocery shopping, home projects, errands—you name it. We could call it the "Get your life togeth-

er" day!

POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING

TOBY  
MOORE

It sounds great, but adding an eighth day might plunge the world into chaos.

Holidays would go rogue. Weeks wouldn't align with months, so Christmas might land in February, and New Year's could appear in July.

Imagine singing "Jingle Bells" in a heatwave or explaining to your kids why Thanksgiving dinner now involves sunscreen and barbecue grills instead of turkey and mashed potatoes. Santa might quit in protest!

Payroll would be a nightmare—when is payday? Who knows! HR would give up entirely, and accountants would cry themselves to sleep.

Solstices and equinoxes, those dependable markers of seasons, would go completely out of whack. Farmers wouldn't know when to plant crops. Benjamin Franklin, who started the Farmer's Almanac, might come back to write a pamphlet titled: "Leave the Calendar Alone, You Fools!"

## When is a good time for a Roth conversion?



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In life, you often get second chances — and the same is true with investing. To illustrate: You might not have been able to contribute to a Roth IRA during your working years due to your income level, but you may get that opportunity as you near retirement, or even when you are retired — through a Roth conversion.

Why is a Roth IRA desirable for some people? Here are the key benefits:

**Tax-free withdrawals** — You put in after-tax dollars to a Roth IRA, so you can withdraw your contributions at any time, free of taxes and penalties. And if you've had your account for at least five years and you're at least 59 and a half, you can also withdraw your earnings free of taxes.

**No RMDs** — With a traditional IRA, you'll have to start taking withdrawals — called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — when you turn 73, or 75 if you were born in 1960 or later. But there's no RMD requirement with a Roth IRA — you can essentially leave the money intact as long as you like.

**Tax-free legacy for your heirs** — When your heirs inherit your Roth IRA, they can withdraw the contributions without paying taxes or penalties, and if the account has been open at least five years, they can also withdraw earnings tax free.

But even if you were aware of these advantages, you might not have been able to invest in a Roth IRA for much of your life. For one thing, you might have earned too much money — a Roth IRA, unlike a traditional IRA, has income limits. Also, a Roth IRA has only been around since 1998, so, in the previous years, you were limited to a traditional IRA.

As you approach retirement, though, you might start thinking of just how much you'd like to benefit from a Roth IRA. And you can do so by converting your traditional IRA to a Roth. While this sounds simple, there's a major caveat: taxes. You'll be taxed on the amount in pre-tax dollars you contributed to a traditional IRA and then converted to a Roth IRA. (If you have both pre- and after-tax dollars in your traditional IRA, the taxable amount is based on the percentage of pre-tax dollars.)

If you have large amounts in a traditional IRA, the tax bill on conversion can be significant. The key to potentially lowering this tax bill is timing. Generally speaking, the lower your income in a given year, the more favorable it is for you to convert to a Roth IRA. So, for example, if you have already retired, but have not started collecting RMDs, your income may be down.

Timing also comes into play with the financial markets. When the market is going through a decline, and the value of your traditional IRA drops, you could convert the same number of shares of the underlying investments and receive a lower tax bill or convert more shares of these investments for what would have been the same tax bill.

Finally, you could lower your tax bill in any given year by stretching out your Roth IRA conversions over several years, rather than doing it all at once.

You'll want to consult with your tax advisor before embarking on this conversion — but if it's appropriate for your situation, you could find that owning a Roth IRA can benefit you and your family for years to come.

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

# Transportation memorabilia – Part 2

I recently shared my top 10 list of categories that have been selling well and will be highlighting these 10 in upcoming columns. Number 10 on my list is transportation memorabilia. I discussed ships and trains in my last column and today will focus on air travel and automobiles.



ANTIQUES,  
COLLECTIBLES  
& ESTATES  
.....  
WAYNE TUISKULA

better for us though. A 1970 Plymouth Satellite that needed restoration sold for over \$13,000 in 2023. Another project car, a 1954 Corvette, sold for nearly \$23,000 and a 1962 Corvette in better condition went for over \$30,000 in 2021.

Other automobile memorabilia also has collector appeal. We sold a small metal building that was part of an Auburn, Mass., gas station several years ago. After paying close to \$3,000, the winning bidder relocated it to New Hampshire where he was recreating an old-time gas station. We also sold some signs from the former gas station that brought figures in the hundreds.

Other auto-related pieces can bring even higher returns. A 1920s Wayne Roman Column Five Gallon Pump in restored condition sold for \$18,000 at auction in 2020. I'm sure some readers of this column remember "Flying A" gas stations. The brand was used until 1970 when it became part of Getty. An embossed porcelain 62 inch "Flying A" sign brought \$5,500 last year. Another sign that many of you will be familiar with is the Mobil Oil Pegasus. The Pegasus was part of Mobil Oil's advertising from 1932 into the 1960s. An older Pegasus neon sign went for \$24,000 at auction in 2015.

Some people prefer to get somewhere faster and travel by air. We sold two collections of aviation memorabilia in our January 2024 auction. An Admiral Byrd flights over Arctic & Antarctica commemorative bronze medal sold for \$660. The other collection of airline memorabilia came from a Pan Am flight attendant (then called stewardess) who was on the crew with presidents. Her cap and badges brought over \$400. Three silver appreciation coins she received from President Eisenhower reached nearly \$2,900. A piece of fabric from the Hindenburg with documentation sold for nearly \$800 in one of our auctions last year. Airline travel posters are also desirable. A circa 1940s Pan Am Clipper airplane poster promoting Caribbean travel soared to \$2,500 in a 2023 auction. The winning bidder might have liked the graphics or maybe it was a New Englander dreaming about escaping the cold weather for a Caribbean vacation.



links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services info@centralmassauctions.com or (508-612-6111).

We will be offering some travel posters from a Bosen estate in our late spring/early summer major auction. In the meantime, we are cataloging a Civil War memorabilia auction, a Beacon Hill online estate auction, and a comic book, sports memorabilia, and collectibles auction. We are always accepting consignments of estate jewelry, sterling silver, art, coins, and other items in our top 10 list. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for

## Be a weather watching gardener

Each gardening season seems to offer new growing challenges. Our gardens are exposed to more drastic and variable weather with changing weather patterns. Floods, droughts, wind, temperature extremes, and unsea-



GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
.....

MELINDA  
MYERS

sonable weather episodes can have immediate and long-term impacts on our plants.

Monitoring and noting these occurrences will help you diagnose immediate and future plant and garden problems. It also reminds us to adjust plant maintenance when these stressors occur and watch for potential insect, disease, and plant decline that may appear in the future.

those that appear to be more tolerant of extremes. Visit local public gardens and consult with your University Extension specialists and other plant experts when selecting new plants for your gardens.

Adapt your landscape maintenance and design to reduce the negative impact of flooding, drought, and temperature extremes. Protect plant roots from temperature extremes with a layer of organic mulch. Incorporate organic matter into the soil to improve drainage and increase the water-holding ability of fast-draining soils. Cover the soil with plants and mulch to help protect the soil from compaction and erosion during heavy downpours. Healthy soil is the key to growing plants that are better able to tolerate environmental stresses.



Melinda Myers

Rain barrels can help manage the water on your property and provide water to use in your gardens.

Manage water that falls on your property. Check with your local municipality for any restrictions or support for these efforts. Create rain gardens to capture, clean and direct rainfall to groundwater to help manage water where it falls. These also support pollinators and provide added beauty to your landscape. Enlist the help of rain barrels, if permitted, to capture rainwater to use on ornamental plantings and containers when needed.

Take this interest one step further and volunteer to be part of a network of volunteer weather watchers. The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) is a non-profit community-based network of volunteers that provides daily measurements of rain, hail, and snow that fall in their backyards.

The goal of the Network is to provide more localized weather information to scientists, researchers, resource managers, decision makers and more. The data is used for natural resource, educational and research applications.

Create your own weather station with a rain gauge, snow gauge, and high-low thermometer. These gauges monitor the conditions in your backyard as opposed to those reported for nearby locations. Having information from your yard allows you to make any needed adjustments to watering and care to help your plants thrive.

Record significant weather extremes that can negatively impact plant health and longevity. Check with local nature centers, botanical gardens, and extension services for gardening calendars. Many include information on significant weather events in your area. You can then add your observations for future reference. Refer to this information as needed in the future to help diagnose plant problems that may result from these extremes.

Large trees and other established plantings are often overlooked when weather extremes occur. Extended dry periods, temperature extremes, and flooding can stress and weaken these plants making them more susceptible to insect pests, diseases, and decline in the coming years.

Always select plants suited to the growing conditions and start watching for

Weather watching is a great project for the family or classroom. It helps boost gardening success while increasing our awareness and knowledge of what's happening around us.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, Revised Edition, and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

### POSITIVELY

continued from page A6

would become a desperate need. Perhaps we'd have to find new ways to recharge during the week, taking shorter, more deliberate breaks to avoid burnout.

Losing the seventh day would make finding time for hobbies or creative pursuits even harder. Gone are the lazy afternoons spent painting, writing, or tinkering with a new project. Play and creativity would need to be crammed into the workweek, likely pushed aside by more "urgent" demands.

Family dinners, game nights, and community events would become a rarity. Without the seventh day, many of us would feel perpetually rushed, sacrificing time for relationships, and the value of connection would become clearer, but finding the time for it would be even harder.

Life without that seventh day means laundry piles up, errands get delayed, and "to-do" lists spill into the rest of the week. Chaos would become the new normal as we struggle to fit everything into an already packed schedule.

If the world switched to a six-day week, the chaos would be equally absurd as eight days a week but in reverse!

Einstein might rematerialize to say, "Yes, time is relative, but this is ridiculous!"

Okay, maybe the problem isn't with the number of days. It's not about having more or less time; it's about making the time I already have more meaningful.

If you're like me, wishing for more time in the day or more days in the week, it's not about getting that extra time; it's about making the time we have work better.

The solution isn't in more days—it's in making the ones we already have truly count.

### 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.

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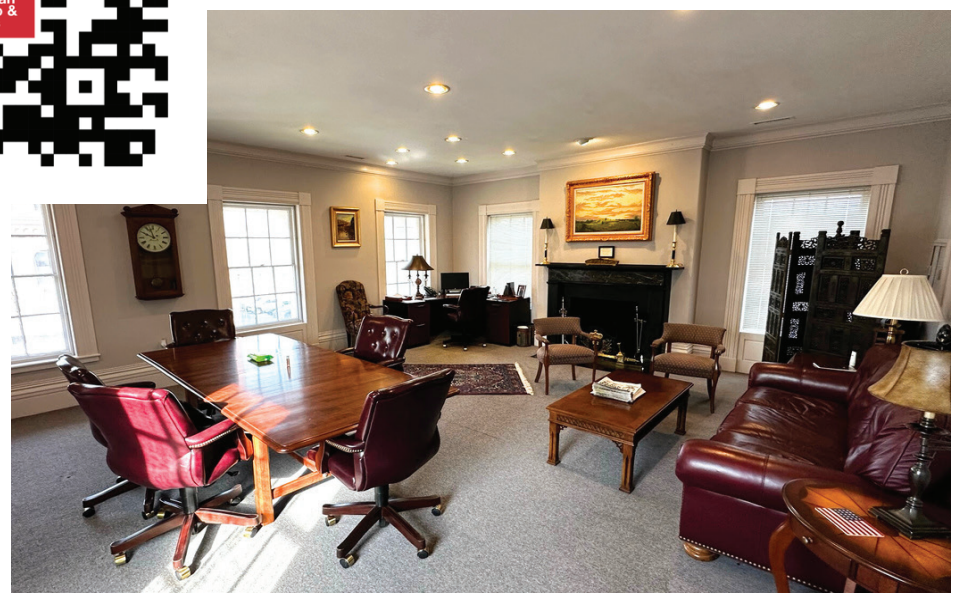


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MORE INFO:



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## Eastern student Gavin May makes Dean's List

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — Eastern Connecticut State University recently released its Dean's List for the fall 2024 semester, in which more than 1,300 students were recognized for maintaining high GPAs.

Among them is Gavin May of Dudley, a junior who majors in Art.

To qualify for Dean's List, full-time students must complete a minimum of 12 credits in letter-graded courses with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher in the semester. Part-time students are eligible if they've accumulated 15 or more credits of letter-graded coursework with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Eastern Connecticut State University is the state of Connecticut's public liberal arts university, serving upwards of 4,000 students annually on its Willimantic campus. A residential campus offering 41 majors and 68 minors, Eastern offers students a strong liberal arts foundation grounded in a variety of applied learning opportunities. Ranked among the top 25 public institutions in the North by U.S. News & World Report in its 2024-25 Best Colleges ratings, Eastern has also been awarded 'Green Campus' status by the Princeton Review 15 years in a row. For more information, visit [www.easternct.edu](http://www.easternct.edu).



## Guidelines for safe sledding

Winter weather is welcomed by some and loathed by others. Some want to hibernate until the mercury rises and the warm sun returns, while others relish in the crisp air, fluffy snow and the absence of insects.

Wintertime activities are numerous and include everything from ice hockey to snowshoeing. However, nothing beats an afternoon of sledding for active families. Believe it or not, the first sleds traveled on sand instead of snow. Historians say the earliest evidence of sledding dates back to ancient Egypt, where carved rock sleds were used for convenience and labor needs. But it was Russian aristocrats who created the first recreational sledding events in the 1650s. Youth would carve large blocks out of ice and traverse hills on wooden tracks. Eventually more modern sleds were used on snow directly, and children from all social classes and around the globe got their thrills from downhill adventures.

On snowy days, scores of children and their parents often take to neighborhood hills to test their sledding skills and feel the breeze blowing by. While sledding can be exciting, it also has the potential to be dangerous. People can follow these sledding safety tips to reduce the risk of sledding injury.

- Pick a safe sled that has brakes and can be steered. Make sure that all sledding equipment is in good condition.
- Choose gently sloping hills with a level run-off at the end so the sled can safely come to a stop.
- Avoid hills with obstacles, such as rocks and trees.
- Sledding participants should always wear helmets.
- Always sled feet-first. Going down a hill head-first is a recipe for serious injury.
- Do not sled around ponds, streams or lakes that appear frozen. They may not be solid and drowning or hypothermia can occur if sledders enter the water.
- Dress warmly and wear thick gloves or mittens and heavy boots. This clothing can protect against frostbite and injury.
- Avoid hills that end near a street or parking lot.
- Everyone should go down the hill one at a time with only one person riding on the sled. The only exception is for adults with young children.
- Don't ever pull a sled with a moving vehicle like a snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle.
- Sled only during the day or in well-lit areas at night. Sledding is an entertaining activity this time of year. All sledders should keep safety in mind before hitting the hills. TF252646

SOCIAL MEDIA TEXT: People can follow these sledding safety tips to reduce the risk of sledding injury.

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## Hofstra University congratulates Dean's List students

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Hofstra University congratulates the students named to the fall 2024 Dean's List for their outstanding academic achievements. Students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 during the semester to make the Dean's List.

Students named to the fall 2024 Dean's List are listed below.

Jacob Caporale of North Oxford  
Cooper Cooke of Dudley  
Trinity Semo of Dudley  
Molly Starczewski of Dudley

Hofstra University's primary mission is to provide a quality education to its students in an environment that encourages, nurtures, and supports learning. At Hofstra, new ideas take shape through collaboration, engagement, and interaction. Hofstra students create their success with small classes and dedicated faculty, alongside a beautiful campus, plus all the opportunities of New York City within easy reach.

## Students named to Dean's List at Fitchburg State

FITCHBURG — Fitchburg State University President Donna Hodge has announced the students who qualified for inclusion on the Dean's List for the Fall 2024 semester:

A student is placed on the Dean's List for the semester if an average grade of 3.20 or better is attained, and the student is attending the university full time.

Fitchburg State University enrolls day and evening students in more than 50 programs of undergraduate and graduate study. The university was established in 1894. Learn more at [fitchburgstate.edu](http://fitchburgstate.edu).

Auburn  
Kaitlyn M. Byington  
Emily R. Gillespie  
Katherine L. Jajliardo

Dudley  
Grace J. Griffin

Oxford  
Susan A. Cicerchia  
Allison N. Hamel

Webster  
William J. Lecuyer  
Kaleigh S. Papierski  
Zachary C. Sargent

\*Shania Rodriguez Acevedo of Webster was also named to the President's List

## Michaela Sampson of Auburn makes Curry College Dean's List

MILTON — Curry College congratulates Michaela Sampson of Auburn, who was named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List.

About Curry College

Curry College, founded in Boston in 1879, is a private, co-educational, liberal arts-based institution located on 131 acres in Milton, Massachusetts. The College extends its educational programs to a continuing education branch campus in Plymouth. The College offers 24 undergraduate majors in specialized and liberal arts programs, as well as graduate degrees in accounting, business, education, criminal justice, and nursing to a combined enrollment of nearly 2,500 students. The student body consists of 1,700 traditional students and nearly 800 continuing education and graduate students. The College offers a wide array of co-curricular activities ranging from 16 NCAA Division III athletic teams to an outstanding theatre and fine arts program. Visit us on the Web at [www.curry.edu](http://www.curry.edu)

## Fort Hays State University announces fall 2024 graduates

HAYS, Kan. — Fort Hays State University recognized approximately 1,014 graduates during its fall commencement ceremonies on Friday and Saturday Dec. 13 and 14, including Desmond Cheetham of Webster, who earned a Bachelor of Arts in Performing Arts-Music.

## Local residents earn Dean's List honors from MassBay Community College

WELLESLEY HILLS — The following local residents have been named to the MassBay Community College Dean's List, achieving this outstanding academic honor for the fall 2024 semester.

Lisa Sage of Auburn, who studies Business Administration

Samantha Keeler of Auburn, who studies Liberal Arts: Political Science

Matthew Frappier of Oxford, who studies Computer Information Systems

To be eligible for the MassBay Dean's List, students must complete at least six credits of college-level courses, be in good standing with the College, and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.



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# OBITUARIES

## Brigitte R. Langlois, 77



Brigitte R. Langlois, 77, of Webster, MA, passed away on Friday, January 17, 2025, at Hubbard Regional Hospital in Webster, after a period of declining health. Born June 17, 1947, in Saint Bernard, Quebec, to the late Napoleon Betty and Dorothy Lemay, Brigitte lived a life filled with love, faith, and a remarkable capacity for nurturing others.

Brigitte will be deeply missed by her devoted husband of 54 years, Richard Langlois; her cherished children, Nicole Kuhn and her husband Tom of Georgia, Veronica Hopkins and her husband Herb, Collette LaFountain and her husband Mathew, and Christian Langlois, all of Webster, MA; and her precious grandchildren, Nathan, Ryan, Herbie, Elena, Thomas, and Stella, as well as her great-grandchildren, Samuel, Brayden, and Emersyn. She was preceded in death by her beloved baby girl, Laura Langlois.

Brigitte came to the United States in January 1964 her life was a testament to her unwavering faith and dedication to her family and friends. She was a proud member of Sacred Heart Church for the past 60 years, where she loved so many. She generously volunteered her time and talents being their sewing angel making baptismal bibs and stoles on a regular basis. She was part of the RCIA program and contributed to many parish events like the fun-filled yearly festivals. She also enjoyed her peaceful visits at the Emmaus Center. Brigitte's faith guided her in everything she did, enriching the lives of those around her.

Beyond her devotion to God and family, Brigitte possessed a vibrant spirit and a multitude of talents. She worked at B&W in Webster and later at Stevens Linen in Dudley. However, her greatest passion lay in caring for children. For several years, she lovingly served as a daycare provider, nurturing, and

cherishing each child as if they were her own. She was a gifted knitter and seamstress, making many beautiful hand stitched quilts, fixing and restoring family favorites and capable of crafting beautiful garments from the most modest materials, a talented baker whose apple squares, strawberry rhubarb pies and chocolate chip cookies were irresistible, and an extraordinary homemaker who found joy in creating a warm and most welcoming home. She was an avid gardener that harvested bigger and better crops year after year, she canned and appreciated her favorites.

Above all, Brigitte was a family-oriented woman. Family always came first. Her infectious giggles, her beautiful French, the broken English, along with her warm presence around the kitchen table will be deeply missed. She treasured simple pleasures like shopping trips to Kohl's, dining at Cracker Barrel, family photos, listening and singing to music, and taking bus trips with her beloved Richard.

Brigitte was one of twelve, she was preceded in death by Bernadette, Francois, Jean-Guy and Jacynthe.

She leaves behind five brothers and two sisters, Rodrigue, Bernardin, Fernand, Normand, Jean-Paul, and Jacqueline all of Canada and Monique of Brimfield MA. She was close and loved deeply all her siblings along with extended family and friends near and far. Her legacy of love and kindness will live on.

The calling hours will be held at Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Ave, Dudley, MA on Thursday January 30, 2025, at 4:00-7:00 PM.

A funeral mass will be celebrated at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Webster, MA on Friday January 31, 2025, at 11:00 AM. Burial will follow at Sacred Heart Cemetery Old Worcester Rd Webster.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Brigitte's name to Sacred Heart of Jesus Church c/o Sacred Heart Rectory 18 East Main St. Webster, MA 01570. www.bartelfuneralhome.com

## Roland A. Baird, 84



WEBSTER - Roland A. Baird, 84, passed away unexpectedly Friday, January 17, 2025 in Saint Vincent Hospital, Worcester surrounded by his family.

He leaves his beloved wife of 44 years, Carol A. (Bonnette) Baird; 7 children, Douglas K. Baird and his wife Amy of Bradenton, FL, Diana J. Fishwick and her husband Thomas of Dudley, Tammy M. Weiss of Palm Harbor, FL, Annette L. Bratica and her husband Stephen of Milford, Kristine A. Place and her husband Steve of Webster, Tracy L. Hakala and her husband John of Dudley, and Jason C. Rohr of Burlington, NC; 11 grandchildren, Kelsey Ryan, Jacob Baird, Thomas and Kyle Fishwick, Samantha Rogers, Anthony and Alexis Bratica, Christopher Place, Anthony and Katelyn Hakala, and Charles Rohr; 7 great-grandchildren, Finley, Eden, Monica, Hadley, Lillian, Lorelei and Ava. He was preceded in death by his son-in-law James Weiss in 2020 and by his brother Leon Smith.

He was born on May 18, 1940 in Gardiner, ME and raised in Westbrook, ME, the son of Walter S. and Ruth (Norcross) Baird and graduated from

Westbrook High School in 1959. He has lived in Webster since 1963.

He served in the United States Air Force as an airman first class where he received medical training during his 4 years of duty.

Mr. Baird worked at the former Hubbard Regional Hospital in Webster for 40 years, retiring as the director of ancillary services in 2003. During his time there he was a medical technologist, laboratory manager and director of different departments.

The highlight of his life was his family. He was a loving, caring and dependable man who was admired by many who knew him. He enjoyed traveling, golfing and cooking.

The family would like to extend its heartfelt appreciation to the wonderful doctors and nurses at Saint Vincent Hospital.

Memorial calling hours will be held in the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street from 2:00 to 4:00 PM on Sunday, February 2, with a prayer service at 3:30 PM. Burial will be held privately at the convenience of the family.

www.websterfunerals.com

## Jane E. Grochowski, 73



WEBSTER - Jane E. (Deary) Grochowski, 73, died Tuesday, January 14, 2025 in Hartford Hospital after a brief illness. She leaves her husband of 51 years, Thomas E. Grochowski, Sr.;

a son, Thomas E. Grochowski, Jr. and his wife Sadye; 2 grandchildren, Caleb J. Grochowski and Emma L. Grochowski, all of Webster; a brother, Mark Deary and his wife Karen of Webster; a sister, Catherine Deary of North Grafton; 2 brothers-in-law, James Paul and James Grochowski, both of Dudley; many nieces nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. She was especially close to her niece Catherine Paul of Dudley. She was preceded in death by her 3 brothers John Deary, Francis J. Deary III and Timothy Deary, and by her sister Mary P. (Deary) Paul.

She was born on March 24, 1951 in Worcester and raised in Webster, a daughter of Francis J. Deary, Jr. and Mary E. (Allen) Deary. She was a 1969

graduate of Bartlett High School. Mrs. Grochowski began employment at Sandlerette Mills before becoming a cashier at Thifty's Market. She was then employed by the Webster First Federal Credit Union in Webster as a teller supervisor. She retired in 2019 as a customer service representative at their call center. She was a member of Saint Joseph Basilica. She was a Red Sox, Patriots and Celtics fan, enjoyed knitting and trips to Mexico. Her greatest treasure was the time she spent with her grandchildren.

Her funeral was held Monday, January 20, from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, with a Mass at 10:00 AM in Saint Joseph Basilica, 53 Whitcomb Street. Burial was in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace. Visitation was held Sunday, January 19, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM in the funeral home. The family requests that flowers be omitted and donations in her memory made to the American Cancer Society, 3 Speen St, Framingham, MA 01701. www.websterfunerals.com

## Mary F. Aldrich

### 1939 - 2025



Webster - Mary Frances (DeNardis) Aldrich, 85, beloved wife of the late Robert M. Aldrich, passed away peacefully on January 9, 2025, at UMASS Memorial Health Care - Lake Avenue, Worcester.

Born in Dudley, Mary was the daughter of Thomas and Angela (Esposito) DeNardis and remained a lifelong resident of the Webster-Dudley area. A proud graduate of Bartlett High School, Class of 1957, she took great pride in organizing her class reunions every five years, keeping her classmates connected through the decades.

Mary worked as a teacher's aide in the Webster School System for many years, where her kindness and dedication left a lasting impression on the students and faculty she supported. She was actively involved in her community as a member of the Catholic League of Women at Saint Louis Church, the Sons of Italy, and Beta Sigma Phi, a sisterhood she joined in 1965 and cherished for its close bonds and biannual trips to Boston.

She loved summers on Cape Cod, a cherished family tradition that inspired her loved ones to carry on her affection for the Cape. Mary also enjoyed traveling with the Webster Seniors, embarking on bus trips to destinations like Montreal, Niagara Falls, Atlantic City, Foxwoods, and Mohegan

Sun. She found joy in life's simple pleasures—knitting beautiful creations, preparing delicious meals, and spending time with her grandchildren, who brought her immense happiness.

Mary is survived by her sons, Ronald Aldrich and Peter Aldrich of Webster, Brian Aldrich and his wife Rocio of Medfield; her daughter, Paula Barbas of Charlton; her grandchildren, Julianne Barbas and her husband David Gamble, Christopher Barbas, Isaac, Ava, and Brynn Aldrich; her great-granddaughter, Lorelai Gamble; her sister-in-law, Donna DeNardis of Dudley; and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother, Thomas DeNardis, and her sisters, Anna Tracey, Bella Siekierski, Josephine Davis, and Christina DeNardis.

Relatives and friends are invited to gather on Friday, January 31, 2025, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm at Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street, Webster. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, February 1, 2025, at Saint Louis Church, Lake Street, Webster, following a 9:30 am gathering at the funeral home. Burial will take place in the spring at Calvary Cemetery in Dudley.

Mary will be remembered for her unwavering love of family, her vibrant spirit, and her strong ties to her community. From summers on Cape Cod to her treasured sorority gatherings and adventurous senior trips, she embraced life with warmth and grace, leaving a legacy of love and cherished memories.

## Tomasz J. Palkon, 59



WOODSTOCK, CT - Tomasz J. Palkon, 59, formerly of Webster and Charlton, died Wednesday, January 15, 2025 in Day Kimball Hospital, Putnam after being stricken ill.

He leaves 2 daughters, Maria A. Palkon and her husband Casey Cann of Belmont, MA, and Victoria A. Palkon and her partner Rebekah Costa of Northborough; his mother, Alicja (Malinowski) Palkon of Poland; his former wife, Jadwiga (Duraj) Wilbur of Dudley; and many friends.

He was born on May 12, 1965 in Bielsko Biala, Poland, son of the late Zbigniew Palkon and after high school earned an associate's degree in telecommunication. He moved to Webster, MA in 1998 and then to Charlton, MA in 2009. He lived in Woodstock for the last year.

Mr. Palkon was currently a train engineer for the Genesee & Wyoming

Railroad (formerly the Providence & Worcester Railroad). His interest in trains led him to travel to see and ride them all over the world. He also owned and operated Palkon, Inc., where he bought and sold antique cars.

Mr. Palkon was a firefighter for Webster Fire Department for 10 years. He was a member of the Waushakum Live Steamers, a founding member of the Samuel Slater Experience in Webster, and a friend to everyone who met him.

He enjoyed watching black and white Polish films and was an avid photographer.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, January 26, from 2:00 to 6:00 PM in the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster; with the recitation of the rosary beginning at 5:30 PM. His funeral Mass and burial will be held later in his hometown in Poland. Donations in his memory may be made to the Webster Fire Department Social Club, 55 Thompson Road, Webster, MA 01570.

www.websterfunerals.com

## John Benkowski, 93



John Benkowski, age 93, of Webster died Saturday, January 11, 2025 at his home in Webster. John was born January 21, 1931 in Webster, MA. He is the son of the late Joseph and the late Anna (Martinek) Benkowski. He was predeceased by his wife, Barbara "Maxine" (Berry) Benkowski in 1991.

He is survived by one daughter: Ramona Kelly and her Husband Richard of Webster. He also has two Grandsons, Rich Kelly and James Kelly both of Webster, M Several nieces, nephews and cousins.

predeceased by his siblings Joseph, Edward, Stephen, Betty, Mary, Helen and Magie

He served in the Air force for 20 years serving stateside and over seas retir-

ing in May of 1968 at the rank of Master Sergeant

John and Maxine owned and operated Maxine's antique store on West Main St. in Dudley from 1970 to 2010. They did antique shows up and down the east coast specializing in depression glass. John was featured in several stories on his knowledge of depression glass.

A graveside service was held 11:00 am on Friday, January 17 at Mt. Zion Cemetery, Worcester Rd, Webster Ma. with the Webster Dudley Veterans Honor Guard providing prayers and Military Honors. Burial will be in Mt. Zion Cemetery, Webster Ma. Bartel Funeral Home 33 schofield Ave. Dudley is assisting the family. www.bartelfuneralhome.com

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# LEGALS

(SEAL)  
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
 LAND COURT  
 DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT  
 Docket No. 25 SM 000109  
 ORDER OF NOTICE TO:**

**The Heirs, Devisees and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Janice R. Ward  
 James F. Ward, Jr.  
 Gary P. Ward  
 Sharon R. Ward  
 Thomas R. Ward  
 The Heirs, Devisees and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Ronald Ward  
 Ronald R. Ward, Jr.**

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

**PHH Mortgage Corporation** claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Auburn, numbered 79 Shore Drive**, given by **James F. Ward and Janice R. Ward to MetLife Home Loans, a Division of MetLife Bank, N.A.**, dated **December 19, 2008**, and recorded in **Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 43629, Page 42**, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before 03/03/2025 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.

11  
 Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 01/15/2025  
 Attest:  
 Deborah J. Patterson  
 Recorder  
 January 24, 2025

Sewer Overflow Advisory  
 Date: 01/13/2025

Incident No.: 01  
 Notice of Sewer System Overflow  
 The Town of Webster is notifying you that a sewer system overflow has occurred in town. This notification is required by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). It is important to note that a sewer system discharge/overflow likely consists of untreated or partially treated sewage and waste. The following provides details on the sewer system overflow. We are repairing a leaky bell joint on a 24" iron pipe sewer main located along the French River.

Discharge/Overflow Location:  
**661 South Main Street**  
 Date and time of discharge/overflow began: **01/13/25 at 01:00PM**  
 Date and time the discharge/overflow ended or ongoing: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ongoing expected to last 4-6hrs**  
 Duration of discharge/overflow: **Expected to last until 6:00PM**

Estimated volume of discharge/overflow: **Approximately 500 gallons**  
 Water and land area affected by discharge/overflow: **French River & Quinebaug Watershed**

Avoid contact with these water bodies for 48 hours after the discharge or overflow ceases due to increased health risks from bacteria and other pollutants. See website for more information on whether specific resource areas, such as bathing beaches, are affected.

The following link to the Webster Town Website can be used for additional information on sewer system discharges and overflows: <https://www.webster-ma.gov/1116/Sanitary-Sewer-Overflow-Public-Notificat>  
 January 24, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
 The Trial Court  
 Probate and Family Court  
 Worcester Probate and Family Court**

**225 Main Street  
 Worcester, MA 01608  
 (508)831-2200  
 Docket No. W025C0011CA  
 CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of:  
**Zachary Rainville Wade**  
 A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Zachary Rainville Wade of Dudley MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:  
**Zoe Rainville Wade**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
 Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an

appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 02/04/2025 at 10 a.m. 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. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.  
 Date: January 08 2025  
 Stephanie Fattman,  
 Register of Probate  
 January 24, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
 The Trial Court  
 Probate and Family Court  
 Worcester Division  
 225 Main Street  
 Worcester, MA 01608  
 (508) 831-2200  
 Docket No. WO22P0917EA  
 Estate of:  
 James Lynn  
 Also known as:  
 James Edward Lynn  
 Date of Death: 02/08/2022  
 CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Donna L. Lynn of Dudley MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, and First Account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

**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 **02/11/2025**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

Witness, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court  
 January 14, 2025  
 Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate  
 January 24, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
 The Trial Court  
 Probate and Family Court  
 Worcester Probate and Family Court  
 225 Main Street  
 Worcester, MA 01608  
 Docket No. WO24P0473PM  
 CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT  
 In the matter of: Marlene P Cashes  
 Of: Dudley, MA  
 Protected Person/Disabled Person/  
 Respondent**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the Temporary and Permanent First and Final account(s) of Diane M Shaw of Dudley, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance. You have the right to object to the account(s) If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M on the return date of 02/04/2025 This day 1s NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court  
 You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.**

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.  
 Date: January 07, 2025  
 Stephanie K. Fattman  
 January 24, 2025

**Citation in the matter of the Adoption of Mary-Jane Jennifer Hall**

To Matthew Lewis Hall and any unnamed or unknown parent or persons interested in a petition for the adoption of Mary-Jane Jennifer Hall: a petition to adopt Mary-Jane Jennifer Hall and to change her name to Mary-Jane Jennifer Carey, has been filed in the Worcester Probate and Family Court. If you desire to object to the adoption, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court, located at 225 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608, on our before 10:00 am on the morning of April 8, 2025.

January 24, 2025  
 January 31, 2025  
 February 7, 2025

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
 LAND COURT  
 DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT  
 DOCKET NO. 23 SM 004472  
 ORDER OF NOTICE**

TO: Donald W. Berry, Sr.  
 and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):  
**Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC**

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Dudley, numbered 14 Central Avenue, given by Donald W. Berry, Sr. and Linnea M. Richert-Berry to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC, its successors and assigns, dated August 7, 2020, and registered at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry District of the Land Court as Document No. 116645 and noted on Certificate of Title No. 12339, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 03/03/2025 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.  
 Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 1/15/2025  
 Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder  
 January 24, 2025

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

Premises: 60 Mason Road, Dudley, MA 01571

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Shaun Blanchard and Lisa Blanchard to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., and now held by **PennyMac Loan Services, LLC**, said mortgage dated December 21, 2007 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 42299, Page 97, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to Bank of America, N.A. successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP fka Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP by assignment dated October 4, 2011 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 47994, Page 266; said mortgage was assigned from Bank of America, N.A. successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP fka Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP to PennyMac Loan Services, LLC by assignment dated December 11, 2013 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 51885, Page 135; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on February 14, 2025 at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

*A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon of every nature and descriptions, and all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated in the said Dudley on the Easterly side of Mason Rd, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a stake in the Easterly line of said Mason Road 300 feet Southerly of the intersection of the Southerly line of Sawmill Rd with the Easterly line of said Mason Rd, and measured along said Easterly line of Mason Rd; Thence Easterly, a distance of 161.15 feet to a stake; Thence Southerly, with an included angle of 82 degrees 27 minutes a distance of 97.75 feet to a stake; Thence Westerly with an included*

*angle of 96 degrees 54 minutes a distance of 180 feet to a stake in the Easterly line of said Mason Road; Thence Northeasterly by a curve bearing to the left and having a radius of 480 feet, more or less, a distance of 100 feet to the point of BEGINNING. Being Lot No. 4 on "Plan of property Konkell Bros., Inc. Mason Rd, Dudley, Mass.," dated September 13, 1960, by A.R. Klebart, Engineer", recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 252, Plan 10. Being the same property conveyed to SHAUN BLANCHARD and LISA BLANCHARD, husband and wife as tenants by the entirety, by deed dated April 11, 2000 of record in Deed Book 22491, Page 17, in the Worcester County Clerk's Office. Commonly known as: 60 Mason Road, Dudley, MA 01571*

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

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated April 11, 2000 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 22491, Page 17.

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

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.  
 Brock & Scott, PLLC  
 23 Messenger Street  
 2nd Floor  
 Plainville, MA 02762  
 Attorney for PennyMac Loan Services, LLC  
 Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701  
 January 17, 2025  
 January 24, 2025  
 January 31, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
 The Trial Court  
 Probate and Family Court  
 Worcester Probate and Family Court  
 225 Main Street  
 Worcester, MA 01608  
 (508) 831-2200  
 Docket No. WO24P4011EA  
 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

Estate Of:  
**Betty Jean Gressak  
 Date of Death: 10/07/2024**

To all interested persons:  
 A Petition for **S/A Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **David E. Makowski of Douglas 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: **David E. Makowski of Douglas MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
 You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/18/2025.**

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

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

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

**WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**  
 Date: January 17, 2025  
 Stephanie K. Fattman,  
 Register of Probate  
 January 23, 2025

**WEBSTER**

continued from page A1

back night shows. They decided to allow three of those on any pair of days except Saturday/Sunday, noting that's "probably not something we want to look at right now," in chair Earl Gabor's words. But they did allow one Sunday show for a holiday Monday weekend, although they did note that some people work on such holidays.

Gabor said they plan to track the shows based on what's advertised, and the permit allows selectmen to drop in to monitor them in progress "just to see for ourselves what the impact is."

After that, they concluded the junk dealer permit process for Lomuscio Trucking at 114 Worcester Rd., which they'd put on hold pending a Conservation Commission decision on their cleanup plan (reported in last week's paper). The firm's lawyer, David Dupont, noted the transfer of property ownership had been completed, so the board did nothing regarding the fact the prior owner had also applied for the permit.

Regarding the ongoing Brian Avenue legal fight, Town Administrator Rick Lafond said the fire department tested the jersey barriers Webster set up there and determined they will admit emergency vehicles. But Webster also got a complaint demanding their removal and spoke to Thompson officials. The town appealed the proposed subdivision's first approval by Thompson Planning Board on the grounds that Webster-residing neighbors didn't get legal notice. Thompson is re-holding the hearing, but Webster plans to file a second appeal on the same grounds against that hearing process.

"There are also other types of tools we may have on disposal" to face this issue, but they might require executive session going forward, Lafond added, later noting "what's going on [there] is wrong" and "sets a bad precedent."

Inside Town Hall, he said the request for proposals for renovating the audi-

torium were due Jan. 17, and there has been some structural testing done. To him, it's "very hard for me to believe now there isn't some form of construction, perhaps significant construction," such a project will require.

Lafond's referring to state law requiring bringing buildings up to current code if a project cost exceeds 30 percent of the building's value; he also noted proponent Christopher Robert has asked the town to look into whether work will require prevailing wages and other things even if done without public funds. (Robert was the idea's origi-

nator, but by law the RFP process has to be open to anyone who can do the work.)

Upstairs, Lafond said the selectmen's room was recently tested for acoustics and found to have "three times the reverb than is healthy for a broadcast environment." The cable committee will look into getting grant money to modify the room for better sound quality.

The board also overruled the library's strategic plan, with Director Sondra Murphy noting they'd recently received a \$20,000 grant to create a small business incubator on the second floor, and a United Way grant to fund three

months of Saturday "Snow Much Fun" events. She said she expects about 62,000 to visit the library this fiscal year, with 14,000 attending the various programs.

Lastly, they commended resident Natalie Blouin for reaching age 105, planned to name the Memorial Beach rain garden after Ernie Benoit, and briefly discussed the fact they'll be seeking people to serve on master plan and community preservation act committees.

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

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**OXFORD**

continued from page A1

The board also heard routine updates from each of the schools, with a focus on the mindfulness social-emotional program at Chafee and how they work to reach the roughly 20 percent who "need a second dose of it." Sometimes, parents ask for specific skills training, and the principal said he feels they've seen less need to go to classrooms for behavioral issues because of having this program for the last few years.

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



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# LEGALS

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

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Eddie Colon, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Seacoast Mortgage Corporation, dated August 8, 2018, and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59230 at Page 134, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Nominee for Seacoast Mortgage Corporation to Plaza Home Mortgage Inc., dated January 30, 2019, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59994, Page 83; by assignment from Plaza Home Mortgage, Inc. to Ocwen Loan Servicing LLC, dated May 20, 2019, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 60531, Page 249; by assignment from Plaza Home Mortgage Inc. to PHH Mortgage Corporation, dated June 27, 2019, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 60644, Page 343; by corrective assignment from PHH Mortgage Corporation Successor by Merger to Ocwen Loan Servicing, LLC to PHH Mortgage Corporation, dated February 14, 2023, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69519, Page 128; and by an assignment from PHH Mortgage Corporation to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee of the RMTP Trust, Series 2021 BKM-TT-V, dated July 26, 2023, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69519, Page 131, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction

at 11:00 A.M. on the 31st day of January 2025, at 76 Myrtle Street, Webster, MA 01570, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, To wit:  
The land with the buildings thereon located at 76 Myrtle Avenue, Webster, Worcester County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:  
BEGINNING at the southeast corner thereof at Valley Street;  
THENCE extending westerly by said Valley Street, one hundred forty (140) feet to a corner;  
THENCE extending northerly, fourteen (14) feet;  
THENCE extending easterly, one hundred thirty-two (132) feet to said Myrtle Avenue;  
THENCE extending southerly by said Myrtle Avenue, sixty-one (61) feet to the point of beginning.  
Property Address: 76 Myrtle Street, Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts  
For title see Book 59230, Page 131.  
Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.  
Terms of sale: A deposit of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by wire transfer to Demerle & Associates

P.C., 10 City Square, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA 02129 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.  
U.S. Bank National Association not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee for RMTP Trust, Series 2021 BKM-TT-V,  
Present holder of said mortgage,  
By its Attorneys,  
Demerle & Associates P.C.  
10 City Square, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02129  
(617) 337-4444  
January 10, 2025  
January 17, 2025  
January 24, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate and Family Court  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
Docket No. WO24P3993PM  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G.L.c. 190B, § 5-304 & § 5-405  
In the matter of: Windell Westbrook Of: WEBSTER, MA RESPONDER  
(Person to be Protected/Minor)  
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Lanessa Extended Care Center of Webster, MA, in the above captioned matter alleging that **Windell Westbrook** is in need of a**

Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Lisa Judkins of Auburn, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.  
**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **02/04/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the abovenamed person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.  
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.  
January 16, 2025  
Stephanie K. Fattman  
Register of Probate  
January 24, 2025





# REAL ESTATE



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

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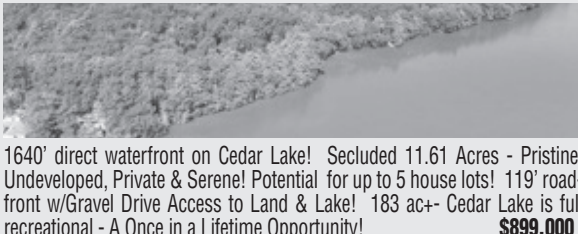
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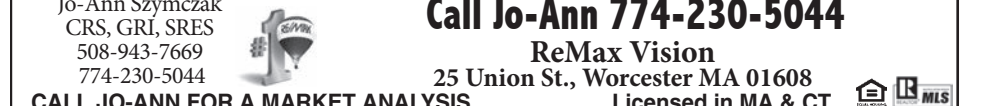
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# Nursing students celebrate 100 days of school

CHARLTON — “Let’s celebrate 100 days!” exclaimed Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director to the PN Class of 2025. So, on Jan. 16, the Nursing Students on campus and at their respective clinical sites celebrated the 100th day of nursing school in their own unique ways.

To commemorate the event, several professors contributed on their own ways. Professor Shannen Sherman brought 100 days cardboard crowns and flowers for her students at Harrington Hospital while Professor Angela McGrath brought healthy snacks.

“Celebrating the 100th day is celebrating the learning and growing and incorporating some fun,” said Bolandrina. “Nursing school is busy, life is busy, but our nurs-

ing students enjoy the build up to this day, and it is amazing to see their progress over the preceding months.”

Originally, the academic premise behind the 100th day is to integrate learning to count with fun activities that encourage young children to explore their environment while applying what they’ve learn in the classroom. This is the first time that the Practical Nursing Academy celebrated the 100th day with the adult learners.

Photo shows members of Team Harrington from left: Elizabeth Achayo of Worcester; Gorret Rusoke of Springfield, Delene Sarsfield of Charlton, Maria De Amorim Hentschke of Worcester; Chalinant Desrosiers of Oxford, and Emily Bamberger of Wales.



# Bay Path Community’s act of kindness featured in Woman’s World magazine

CHARLTON — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, RN, CRRN submitted a story about the Bay Path community’s Act of Kindness to the publication, the national magazine Woman’s World Magazine.

Kindness takes on many meanings. Everyone knows the Golden Rule: Treat others how you would like to be treated and most everyone would like to be treated kindly. Bolandrina believed that sharing the story is likened to telling the world how valuable an act of kindness is. Bolandrina said, “I am in awe at all the acts of kindness of our practical nursing students, alumni, staff, and faculty.” Bolandrina adds, “even the littlest acts of kindness make a difference in people’s lives.”

The submitted work of Bolandrina pub-

lished by Woman’s World Magazine was about

the Bay Path community’s acts of kindness. In

an email to Bolandrina by the Woman’s World

Magazine Circle of Kindness Editor, it was

expressed how they love the story!

Below is the story as it appeared in the December issue of Woman’s World:

“In our small post-secondary practical nursing school, bags and boxes of uniform scrubs, books, feminine hygiene supplies, and non-perishable food are sent by alumni for current students in need- the environmentally challenged, the food insecure, the poor, the hungry, and the vulnerable. There are no public acknowledgments, huge announcements, or videos to capture the acts. It is simply a gesture of kindness, goodwill, and service. Nurses pass forward acts of kindness with compassion and humility. This continued quiet kindness serves as a powerful reminder that true kindness and generosity often, and sometimes go unseen, yet the impact is tremendous and deeply felt.”



# Nicole Gaudette joins Samuel Slater Experience as Museum Program Coordinator

WEBSTER — The Samuel Slater Experience is pleased to announce that Nicole Gaudette has joined the museum as its program coordinator. In that position, she will manage the museum’s operational systems, group and field trip visits, volunteer scheduling, gift shop functions, and social media outreach.

Gaudette’s previous museum appointments include positions at New York City’s Intrepid Museum as a group program associate and visiting services ambassador. She also interned at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage and volunteered at the Berkshire County Historical Society.

Gaudette obtained a BA in Art History from American University and a Master of Library Science from the Simmons University School of Library and Information Science.

A native of Northbridge, she currently resides in Millbury.



Nicole Gaudette

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