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Thursday-Friday, August 27-28, 2026

Ten adults, 200 hours, one new career path

Bay Path's Career Technical initiative graduates third Building Maintenance cohort

CHARLTON — Bay Path's Career Technical Initiative (CTI) celebrated its third graduating class of adult learners on Aug. 12, honoring 10 students who completed the 200-hour Building Maintenance certificate program. The graduation luncheon, held on Bay Path's campus, brings the program's total number of graduates to 30 since its launch in September 2024.

This cohort traveled to Charlton from Worcester, Spencer, South Grafton, Southbridge, Oxford, Shrewsbury and ranged from 22 to 50 years old. Each will leave the program with supports that can lead to job placement, OSHA 10, Bloodborne Pathogens, Asbestos Awareness, Ladder Safety, Scaffolding Safety and Fall Protection certifications; a year of access to Interplay's virtual reality trades training simulations and a fully stocked toolbox of the trade, presented at the ceremony in front of family and friends.

"The goal of this program is really to help people get



Seated, left to right: R. Zhou (Grafton), L. Pena (Southbridge), D. Raczka (Spencer), A. Vasquez (Worcester). From left to right, standing: Y. Mao (Grafton), W. Vega (Worcester), J. Wickens (Worcester), S. Shankara (Shrewsbury), J. Sweet (Worcester), and J. Watler (Worcester).

Courtesy Photo

into good-paying, in-demand careers by removing the barriers that often keep adults from going back to school or getting the training they need," said Jibrael Younis, Operations Manager for Mass Hire, the state agency working with Bay Path to facilitate the CTI program. "We partner with vocational schools like Bay Path to provide industry-focused training that leads directly to employment in fields where employers are actively hiring for jobs that provide sustainable, livable wages."

Demand for the program continues to grow. Bay Path has scheduled cohorts through 2028, and applications for the next Building Maintenance cohort are open now, closing once the program receives 24 applications or by Aug. 26, whichever comes first. The program is open to all Massachusetts residents 18 and older who qualify.

Among this cohort's graduates are adult students charting distinct paths into the trades. One graduate is using the certificate as a springboard toward a career

in building inspection.

"I was previously working in the IT field and that field is shrinking because of AI technology. I needed to develop a different skill set," said Jeff from Worcester. "I feel good, I feel like I accomplished something, taking a first step down a path for a new skill set. Job hunting is my next step; I'm not sure if I'll go back to the IT field or if I'm going to commit to switching over to facilities maintenance. Regardless, having the skillset will be valuable and even if I don't do it for a job, I'll save me thousands in the future with home repair and maintenance."

"I wanted to further my education and knowledge," said Anne from Worcester. "I liked being in the program; it helped me learn more things. I do renovations. I'm proud. It doesn't hurt to do it; you get the knowledge, the experience, and you can go out and further your job opportunities and your resume. My plans after this are to find a job, find a house, and try to find something in

Turn To **BUILDING** page **A10**

Venture Community Services CEO appointed chair of ADDP Board

FRAMINGHAM — The Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers (ADDP), a statewide association representing community-based human services providers, today announced Mike Hyland, president and CEO of Venture Community Services, as its new board chair. His appointment comes after Diane Gould stepped down as board chair following her retirement as president and CEO of Advocates in July.

Hyland brings a deep history of nonprofit leadership to his new role as board chair, including nearly 13 years spent as the president and CEO of Venture Community Services in Sturbridge, which provides community day programs, residential services, and employment opportunities to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

"ADDP will thrive under the direction and guidance of Mike Hyland as our new board chair," said ADDP President and CEO Stephanie Costa. "With disability services facing significant threats due to policy shifts in Washington, it's critical now more than ever to have strong, experienced leaders supporting and defending the valuable work done by our profession. Mike's expertise and core values will help move our mission forward for the providers in our association and the individuals who they support."

"I am humbled to step into this new role and start building on the impactful legacy Diane Gould created within the human services sector," said Hyland. "For decades, Diane paved the way for bold, innovative leadership. It's an honor to follow in her footsteps and continue making strides for the communities we serve."

Serving with Hyland on the board are: Vice Chair Chris Tuttle, president and CEO of Bridgewell in Peabody; Treasurer Brad Howell, CEO of Waystone Health and Human Services in Lawrence; and Clerk Dan Burke, president and CEO of Lifeworks, Inc. in Westwood.

ADDP today also announced the appointment of three new members to its Board of Directors: Jenny Duval, CEO of The Nemasket Group in Mattapoisett; Lauren Solotar, president and CEO of the May Institute in Randolph; and Jean Yang, president and CEO of Vinfen in Cambridge.

As CEO of The Nemasket Group, Duval leads a nonprofit human services organization that empowers individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, autism, acquired brain injury, and complex medical needs to live self-directed and meaningful lives. The agency provides residential, employment, community-based day, and family support services throughout Southeastern Massachusetts. She brings more than two decades of nonprofit leadership experience.

Turn To **HYLAND** page **A9**

Local Mirick attorney recognized in 2027 Edition of "The Best Lawyers in America"

WORCESTER — Mirick is proud to have 21 lawyers recognized in the 2027 edition of "The Best Lawyers in America."

Firm partner Paul W. Carey was named the Best Lawyers 2027 Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law "Lawyer of the Year". The honors are awarded annually to only one lawyer per practice area in each region with extremely high overall feedback from their peers, making it an exceptional distinction.

In addition, 20 Mirick attorneys were recognized in "The Best Lawyers in America" for the 2027 edition, including Kathryn Calo, of Sturbridge, a specialist in Family Law Arbitration, who was selected by her peers for inclusion in "The Best Lawyers in America"® (2027 Edition)



Courtesy Photo

Kathryn Calo

for Family Law Arbitration. Calo is a partner in the Family and Divorce Group at Mirick. She has more than a decade of family law experience and focuses her practice on all aspects of family law, including divorce and child custody litigation, regularly appearing in probate and district courts on behalf of her clients.

Since it was first published in 1983, Best Lawyers has become universally regarded as the definitive guide to legal excellence. Best Lawyers recognitions are compiled based on an exhaustive Purely Peer Review evaluation, drawing on confidential evaluations from tens of thousands of leading lawyers around the world. Lawyers are not required nor allowed to pay a fee to be listed; therefore, inclusion in Best Lawyers is considered a singular honor.

Nipping trash in the bud

Ted's supports nip initiative

CHARLTON — Charlton takes roadside trash seriously. Every year on the last Saturday in April, more than one hundred residents of all ages register for the Charlton Earth Day Roadside Clean Up. Their efforts yield big results. In 2026, residents filled a bin, supplied by Casella Waste Management, with 2.13 tons of trash and cleaned more than 75 percent of the local roads.

The bulk of the trash includes water bottles, soda cans, lottery tickets, coffee cups, cannabis containers, empty cigarette packs, food

Turn To **NIP** page **A10**



REAL ESTATE

Charlton
\$607,500, 67 S Charlton Shore Rd, Hauge Sr, Peter, and Hauge, Lisa, to Menard 3rd, Richard A, and Menard, Katie A.
\$580,000, 5 Eleanor Ln, Edtl, Gary, and Edtl, Anna, to Skerry, Michael, and Pepe, Gina.
\$312,000, 53 Gale Rd, Auger, Christine A, to Auger, Jared Anthony.

\$145,000, N Sturbridge Rd, Pollone, Anthony L, and Pollone, Heidi A, to Lapointe, Zachary.
\$55,000, Prindle Hill Rd, Spritzer, Janice A, to G Kady Builders Inc.
HOLLAND
\$448,500, 15 Craig Rd, 15 Craig Rd Rt, and Asselin, Carole, to Strycharz, Clair.
SOUTHBRIDGE

\$495,000, 50 Fairlawn Ave, Victor, Amerlin, to Kollie, Patience, and Bleh, Tony.
\$450,000, 352 Durfee St, Lawrence Ft, and Lawrence, Richard J, to Aponte, Militza, and Rivera, Kevin.
\$447,000, 28 Margaret St, Munro, Doreen A, and Munro, Timothy A, to Yepes, Natalia Romero, and Agudelo, Juan Mazo.
\$423,000, 119 Chestnut St, Lauretano, Lisa J, to Ettinger, Alex A.
\$398,000, 449 Hamilton St, Pena-Lopez, Carolina, and Penaloquez, Carolina, to Martinez, Ivan.
\$385,000, 11 Glover St, Rodriguez, Gerber, and Hernandez, Irma A, to Gilbert, Dylan, and Dalier, Aliyah.
\$370,000, 93 Chapin St, Ams, Janet M, to Ayala, Katherine O.

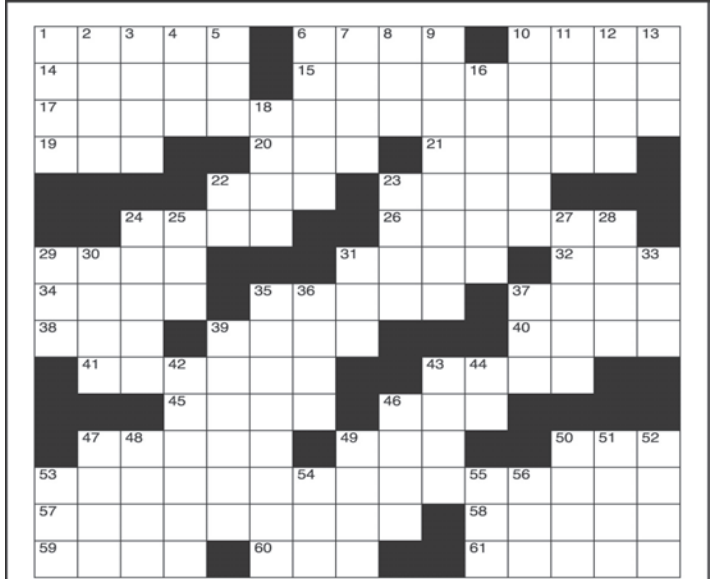
\$355,000, 585 Charlton St, Rodriguez, Mary E, and Rodriguez Jr, Orlando, to Fenderson, Paul, and Fenderson, Casey.
\$270,000, 9 South St, Espino, Ana Mercedes, and Reyes, Jose R, to Baez, Henry, and Baez, Adela.
\$220,200, 11 Stony Brook Dr #1, Quinn, Kimberly A, to Vecchia, Tracy L, and Bergman, Dina M.
\$100,000, 20 North St, Italian Amer Assoc Of Sou, to 70 Foster Street LLC.
STURBRIDGE
\$520,000, 8 Stony Brook Dr, Hart, Elisabeth, to Odell, Donald M, and Gilmore, Samantha.
\$400,000, 74 River Rd, Madel, Roberta S, to Hathaway, Samantha, and Siniscalchi, Angelo.
\$375,000, 62 River Rd, Henk, Linda, to Ferschke, Jarrett.

September Gardening Tips from the Charlton Garden Club

1. Now is the time to de-thatch and aerate lawns to promote root growth if necessary.
2. Remove and compost spent, disease-free annuals and fallen leaves.
3. If frost threatens, bring houseplants indoors.
4. Pot up or propagate herbs to bring indoors for winter use.
5. Fall is a great time to plant trees and shrubs. The new plants will have several months to grow new roots and will be ready to grow early next spring. Consider adding some plants with great fall color.
6. Continue to aerate and moisten compost pile to speed decomposition.

7. Plant peonies now, but make sure the crowns are buried only one and a half to two inches below ground level. Planting them deeper than two inches may keep them from blooming.
8. If pesky seedlings of woody plants, such as maple, elm or hackberry are found growing in your yard, remove them as soon as possible so they won't take over gardens and other landscape plantings.
9. Start thinking about purchasing spring blooming bulbs. Plant them for early color in the landscape.
10. September is a great time to seed or overseed lawns. Limestone can be applied if the pH needs to be raised.

Advertisement for Greendale Physical Therapy. Includes a photo of a woman, a QR code, and contact information: 440 Washington St./Rt. 20, 508-426-8066 • greendalept.com. Text: "Where you don't have to be an Olympic athlete to be treated like one."



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Manila hemp plant
- 6. Turkish river
- 10. Something to read
- 14. In a way, initiated
- 15. Popular Apple TV series
- 17. King Charles is part of it
- 19. Earlier
- 20. Foot (Latin)
- 21. Zodiac sign
- 22. A browning of the skin
- 23. Remain as is
- 24. Turfs
- 26. It's used to slaughter animals
- 29. Volcanic crater
- 31. The mother of Jesus
- 32. One's life story
- 34. One-time Liverpool coach Slot
- 35. Counterparts

- 37. Jacob __, American journalist
- 38. Digital audiotape
- 39. River in South Africa
- 40. Kimono sashes
- 41. Rooting somewhere
- 43. American spy Aldrich
- 45. A way to call for
- 46. Taxi
- 47. Pancakes made of buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Popular type of video game (abbr.)
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal from a union
- 58. Performs spoken improv
- 59. Greek war god
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Helps to evade capture

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Swedish rock group
- 2. "Friday Night Lights" director Peter
- 3. Currency exchange fee
- 4. Feline
- 5. Folk singer DiFranco
- 6. Ghostly pale from distress
- 7. Rapid eye movements
- 8. Monetary unit of Macao
- 9. Lawmakers
- 10. Colorless mineral
- 11. At some prior time
- 12. American protest singer
- 13. Opener
- 16. Seldom
- 18. Relaxing places
- 22. Touchdown
- 23. From end to end
- 24. Kids love him
- 25. Metal-bearing solid
- 27. Skin care product manufacturer
- 28. Thirteen
- 29. Angry
- 30. Member of a Semitic people

- 31. One-thousandth of an inch
- 33. Former CIA
- 35. Most lemony
- 36. Engage in
- 37. Mass of fish eggs
- 39. Food supplies
- 42. Backbones
- 43. American real estate investment firm
- 44. Megabyte
- 46. "Three Coins in the Fountain" songwriter
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Full-grown pike fish
- 49. Emergency prep expert Edwards
- 50. Flute
- 51. Dismissive sound
- 52. Slang term for marijuana
- 53. Young women's association
- 54. Cosmopolitan city
- 55. Narrow isthmus in Thailand
- 56. Pointed end of a pen

Puzzle solution grid showing the filled-in letters for the crossword puzzle.

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (Requester Publications Only). Includes fields for publication title, issue frequency, mailing address, and contact information for Sturbridge Villager.

Continuation of the Statement of Ownership form, including circulation data and tax status information.

Continuation of the Statement of Ownership form, including electronic copy circulation and signature fields.

Stonebridge Press advertisement. Includes contact information for Mikaela Victor, subscription services, and legal notices.

VILLAGER ALMANAC

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Friday: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
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Wednesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
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Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
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Charlton Center Post Office (800) 275-8777
Charlton City (01508) (800) 275-8777
SCHOOLS
Dudley-Charlton Regional School District (508) 943-6888
Charlton Elementary School (508) 248-7774 or (508) 248-7435
Heritage School (508) 248-4884
Charlton Middle School (508) 248-1423
Shepherd Hill Regional High School (508) 943-6700
Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326
HOLLAND: 413-245-7108
Mon – Thurs 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
FISKDALE: 508-347-6486
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STURBRIDGE 508-347-6463
Weekdays 8:30 – 5:00 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00
BRIMFIELD: 413-245-3451
Weekdays: 9:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00
WALES: 413-245-9808
Weekdays 8:30 – 12:30 and 2:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 – 12:00
WALES PUBLIC LIBRARY
Mon, Tu & Th 2-6, W 12-6, Sat 9-12 closed Fri & Sun

CHURCH LISTINGS

• Central Baptist Church
256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.
• Charlton Federated Church, 64 Main St., 508- 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer worship is 9:30 a.m. www.fed-church.org
• Charlton Baptist Church, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 10 a.m.
• Charlton City United Methodist, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org
Sunday worship and Children's church 10am
• St. Anne St. Patrick Church, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338
www.stannespaparth.com
Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am
• Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm Street, Southbridge, Ma 01550
Phone: 508-764-8085 • Sunday service 10:00 am
Pastor Kathryn Light
• Faith Baptist Church, 515 Dennison Drive, Southbridge
Phone number 508-764-6132,
Worship Service: Sunday 10:00 a.m.
• St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862. www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
• Wayside Church, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144
• Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters, Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
• Living Word Church of Charlton, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349
Sunday Service 10:00am.
www.livingwordcharlton.com
info@livingwordcharlton.com
• New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
• Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale- 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021
www.sturfed.org
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
• Bethlehem Lutheran Church- 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566
Phone 508-347-7297
Web: www.bethlehemsturbridge.org
Services - Sunday 9:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell
• Holland Congregation Church
"Where the Bible is preached."
11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926
Hollandchurch.org
Sunday Service @ 10:00 am
Pastor Dan Maketansky
• Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Phone: 508-765-9559
Web: www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org
Sunday Service 11:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell
• St. John Paul II Parish
279 Hamilton St., Southbridge
Rev. Carlos Ardila, Pastor
Weekend services Saturday 4 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon
Weekday masses 8:30 & 8:45 a.m., St. Mary's Church (508) 765-3701

Joshua Hyde Public Library

306 Main St., Sturbridge
508-347-2512
mayent@cwmmars.org

The Library will be closed Monday, September 7 for Labor Day.

Basic Tech Help - Wednesdays from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Free tech assistance. Bring your own device or use our available computers. Making an appointment is encouraged.

STORY TIMES
Fall Baby Time - Mondays at 10:45am. September 14 through November 23. A story time designed specifically for children 2 years and under.

Fall Toddler Time - Tuesdays at 10:45am. September 1 through November 24. A play-based story time where each week brings something different.

Fall Story Time - Fridays at 10:45am. September 4 through November 27. Stories, songs, rhymes, and a craft. Designed for children ages 3 to 5 but open to all kids.

BOOK GROUPS
Armchair Travelers Book Group - Pokemon Club - Thursday, September 17

Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30pm. This month's book is "The Searcher" by Tana French. The discussion will be led by Sandra Gibson-Quigley. Books are available at the library.

Afternoon Book Group - Tuesday, September 22 at 1:00pm. This month's book is "The Astral Library" by Kate Quinn. Books are available at the library.

World Building Book Club - Tuesday, September 22 at 6:30pm. This month's book is "The Night Circus" by Erin Morgenstern. Books are available at the library.

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS
Back to School Scavenger Hunt - Stop by the Children's Room any time during the month of September, complete the scavenger hunt and earn a small prize.

Make-It Mondays - Toadstool Lantern. Monday, September 14 at 3:30pm. We will be transforming a simple jar into a glowing toadstool with tea lights and wiggle eyes. For children ages 7 to 12. Registration is required. Children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver.

at 6:00pm. Themed activities and fun! Kids can bring their cards if they would like.

Author Manisha Sinha: The Rise and Fall of the Second American Republic: Reconstruction, 1860-1920 - At the Senior Center. Thursday, September 24 at 7:00pm. From the University of Connecticut, historian Manisha Sinha has written major books on American history, slavery, abolition, and Reconstruction.

Make-It Mondays - Monday, September 28 at 3:30pm. Join the Library for a fun and creative craft. For children ages 7 to 12. Registration is required. Children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver.

"Death on Mount Washington" with Author Randy Minetor - Virtual. Monday, September 28 at 7:00pm. Author Randy Minetor will discuss her book "Death on Mount Washington: Stories of Accidents and Foolhardiness on the Northeast's Highest Peak". Registration is required.

Spark Notes: A Couple's Guide to Menopause, Intimacy, and Communication. Virtual. Tuesday, September 29 at 6:00pm. Midlife brings real physical changes, and if you are only talking about them with your

doctor or friends, you are missing half the picture. Join Kelly Tull, WHNP-BC, menopause and sexual health specialist, and her husband Adam for a couples-focused evening. Registration is required.

AI Literacy for All - Wednesday, September 30 at 6:30pm. What is AI and how is it being used today are just a few of the topics that will be covered. Presented by Tim Hagberg. Registration is required.

Fall & Holiday Craft Fair

Halloween

Thanksgiving

Christmas

Saturday, September 19, 2026
9:00 am – 3:00pm
St. Josephs Parish Hall
10 H Putnam Rd Ext., Charlton, Mass
SHOP LOCAL ARTISANS
•Handmade Crafts •Knitwear & Textiles
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•Unique Gifts & Decor •Raffles & Live Music
•Fancy Flea Corner • Fall Food to Enjoy!
JOIN US IN A DAY OF COMMUNITY FUN AND HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Applications welcome for Southbridge Cultural Council grants

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Cultural Council announces that applications for the 2027 grant funding cycle will become available only online to www.massculturalcouncil.org. The official submission cycle for 2027 begins on Sept. 1, and ends on Oct. 15 at 11.59 p.m.

No applications are accepted after the official deadline established by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Boston. Officially required is that all 2027 applicants review and understand the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Southbridge Cultural Council specific criteria online before submission of the grant application.

The Southbridge Cultural Council (SCC), a local agency, is part of the overall grant program of the Massachusetts Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For questions of the 2027 grant cycle, please call Michelle LeBoeuf, SCC Chairperson at 508-764-4803 or Ted Bartlett, SCC Treasurer at 508-764-7909.

Local resident named to Dean's List at Dickinson College

CARLISLE, Pa. — Jocelyn Renae Mrotek, a rising sophomore international studies major at Dickinson College, has been named to the dean's list for the spring 2026 semester.

A graduate of Tantasqua Regional High School, Mrotek is the daughter of Douglas and Sharon Mrotek of Fiskdale. All students earning a position on the dean's list—a recognition of academic excellence—must have a grade-point average of 3.7 or above on a 4.0 GPA scale for the semester.

Dickinson is a nationally recognized institution chartered in 1783 in Carlisle, Pa. With an enrollment of 2,100 students, Dickinson emphasizes small classes with extensive opportunities for research, fieldwork and internships in each of our 46 majors. Our distinctive educational approach translates into a competitive edge, leading graduates into a job or graduate school within one year. Dickinson has one of the top off-campus study programs in the nation and was one of the first colleges in the

country to achieve carbon neutrality. www.dickinson.edu

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Bookings Contact: Oceanfront Cottage Rentals, (800) 786-5889
<https://www.oceanfrontcottage.com/rentals/egrets-landing-31a>

Friday's Child

Jeremiah

Age 11

Registration #7400

Jeremiah is a curious, silly, and thoughtful child with a playful personality and a love for exploring new interests. While he may be shy at first, his fun sense of humor and unique personality shine through as he becomes more comfortable with those around him. Jeremiah enjoys staying active and has a strong interest in sports, especially basketball. He is excited to begin playing flag football and looks forward to being part of a team and building new skills. When it is time to relax, Jeremiah enjoys playing video games and expressing his creativity through activities like drawing. With his curiosity, imagination, and positive spirit, Jeremiah continues to discover new passions and grow his confidence. He would thrive with a family who appreciates his individuality, encourages his interests, and supports him as he builds relationships and experiences new opportunities.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22558031716>

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

STONEBRIDGE
PRESS



25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Telephone (800) 367-9898
Fax (508) 764-8015
www.StonebridgePress.com

FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER
BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Training adults for the jobs communities need

For many adults, changing careers sounds simple in theory and daunting in practice.

Going back to school can mean tuition costs, transportation problems, childcare responsibilities and the uncomfortable prospect of entering a classroom after years away from formal education. Even when someone knows a better-paying career may be within reach, the obstacles between the old job and the new one can be enough to keep that opportunity out of reach.

That is why the continued growth of Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School’s Career Technical Initiative deserves attention.

On Aug. 12, Bay Path celebrated the third graduating class of its adult Building Maintenance certificate program. Ten graduates completed 200 hours of training, bringing the program to 30 graduates since its launch in September 2024.

Thirty people may not sound like an enormous number when discussing statewide workforce needs. At the community level, however, those numbers matter.

These are adults from Worcester, Spencer, South Grafton, Southbridge, Oxford, Shrewsbury and elsewhere who arrived in Charlton looking for another opportunity. They ranged in age from 22 to 50, an important reminder that education and career training should not have an expiration date. Their reasons for enrolling are equally important.

One graduate came from the information technology field and saw the training as a way to develop a different set of skills amid changes in his industry. Another already had renovation experience but wanted additional knowledge and credentials that could lead to better employment opportunities.

Those are examples of what workforce development should accomplish. It should meet people where they are and give them practical tools to move forward.

Bay Path’s program goes beyond a certificate. Graduates leave with safety credentials, access to additional virtual trades training and a toolbox stocked for the trade. Through the partnership with MassHire, participants can also receive career coaching, connections with employers and assistance addressing barriers such as transportation and childcare.

That last piece should not be overlooked. An adult with a family and financial obligations cannot necessarily put life on hold for several months to retrain. Successful workforce programs recognize that reality. Helping someone get into the classroom is important. Helping that person remain there long enough to finish the program is equally important.

There is also a broader benefit for Southern Worcester County. Employers continue to need workers who can maintain buildings, repair vehicles, install electrical systems, work in HVAC, weld, manufacture products and perform the many other skilled jobs that keep businesses, schools, municipal buildings and homes functioning.

Bay Path already has the classrooms, shops, equipment and technical expertise necessary to teach those skills. Opening those resources to adults outside the traditional school day makes good use of a public educational institution that has served the region for more than five decades.

The demand speaks for itself. Bay Path has cohorts scheduled through 2028 and offers CTI training not only in building maintenance but also diesel technology, HVAC, electrical, welding, automotive collision repair, automotive technology, culinary arts and manufacturing.

Vocational education has traditionally been viewed as one path available to teenagers deciding what comes after high school. Programs such as this demonstrate that it can be something more. A 22-year-old can need a new direction. So can a 35-year-old or a 50-year-old.

A strong regional workforce depends partly on making sure people have realistic opportunities to learn new skills throughout their working lives. Bay Path and its partners are building that opportunity in Charlton, one graduating class at a time.

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.

OPINION

What does financial fulfillment actually feel like?



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Feeling financially fulfilled means so much more than just the number in your bank account. It’s about being able to take your family out to dinner without calculating whether you can afford it. It means sleeping soundly on a Sunday night, knowing that if the water heater gives out tomorrow, you can handle it. And it’s saying yes to a vacation because you planned ahead, and the money is there.

In short, financial fulfillment is the feeling that your money is supporting the life you want.

Yet true fulfillment is surprisingly rare. Only 16 percent of Americans are financially fulfilled, according to a 2026 study by Edward Jones and Gallup, “Money and Meaning: Understanding Financial Fulfillment.” Those at the other end of the spectrum, the financially stressed (32 percent), often say that money regularly controls their daily decisions. Most Americans (51 percent), however, fall in the middle — the financially conflicted. They manage to get by but often carry a persistent undercurrent of worry.

Notably, where you land on this spectrum has less to do with your income than you might expect. More than half of households earning \$175,000 or more are still financially conflicted.

Building the foundation

So, the question becomes, “What do financially fulfilled people do differently?” Simply put, they tend to have foundational planning structures in place. Five behaviors show up consistently among the financially fulfilled, and they’re simple steps you can take, too.

- Build an emergency fund (98 percent of fulfilled have this). Aim for saving three to six months of living expenses in a liquid, easily accessible account. When you know you can handle the

unexpected, you stop bracing for it, and lower stress gives you a higher quality of life.

- Create a financial plan for retirement (91 percent of financially fulfilled have one). It’s hard to feel in control if you don’t know where you’re going. A retirement plan puts a real number on what you’ll need and lays out a clear path to get there, with built-in protection against life’s unexpected curveballs.

- Save intentionally for major milestones (87 percent of financially fulfilled do). A home renovation, a new vehicle or a child’s education don’t have to feel disruptive. Setting money aside deliberately for the milestones you anticipate means you can say yes without scrambling.

- Put an estate plan in place (66 percent of financially fulfilled have). Estate plans are not just for the wealthy. A will and basic estate plan help ensure that you’ve worked for still reflects your wishes after you’re gone.

- Work with a financial advisor (60 percent of financially fulfilled who sought any guidance have used an advisor in the past year). The internet is great, but real guidance comes from a credentialed person who knows you and your family and what you want your money to do for you.

Knowing that your money is working toward the life you want doesn’t happen by accident. Feeling financially fulfilled is worth the effort and may be more achievable than you realize.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Trevor Nielsen, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

The annual mystery of the missing household scissors

LANTERNS ALONG
MAIN STREET

By CHARLES

There are certain objects in a house that apparently do not belong to anyone. Scissors are one of them.

My wife and I have purchased enough pairs of scissors during our marriage that, mathematically speaking, we should be able to open a small barber shop. Yet when I actually need a pair, there are none to be found.

This happened again recently when I needed to cut the tag off something. Simple job. Thirty seconds, maximum.

I opened the kitchen drawer where the scissors are supposed to live. No scissors.

I checked the other kitchen drawer, even though scissors have never lived there. No scissors.

Then came the junk drawer, which is less a drawer than an archaeological site. I found three expired coupons, several batteries of uncertain strength, a key that nobody can identify, two rolls of tape and a tiny screwdriver apparently designed to repair eyeglasses. But no scissors.

At this point, I asked my wife the question every married person eventually asks. “Have you seen the scissors?” This is different from asking, “Where are the scissors?”

The second question suggests that the other person has some responsibility for their disappearance. After three decades of marriage, you learn these distinctions.

She had not seen them. Or, more accurately, she had not seen “the good scissors.”

That was when I remembered that our house has categories of scissors. There are the good scissors. There are the old scissors. There are the little scissors.

There are scissors that came with some kind of sewing kit and are apparently forbidden for ordinary use.

And somewhere, allegedly, there is a pair of scissors in the garage. I went to investigate.

Anyone who has ever entered a garage looking for one specific item knows how this goes.

You begin with scissors. Ten minutes later, you are holding an extension cord, wondering why you own four nearly empty cans of spray paint and trying to remember when you bought a snow shovel with a cracked handle.

I did find a pair of pruning shears, but even I understood that using those to remove a clothing tag would represent an

unnecessary escalation. So I returned to the house. By now, the original task had become irrelevant. This was no longer about cutting a tag. This was about solving a mystery.

I checked the desk. I checked a basket in the living room. I looked in the drawer where we keep pens, even though the pens themselves rarely seem to be there. Then I spotted them.

The scissors were sitting on a table approximately six feet from where I had begun my search.

I picked them up triumphantly.

My wife looked over.

“Those aren’t the good scissors,” she said.

Apparently, victory has many definitions. I cut the tag anyway.

Later that day, I started thinking about all the other household objects that seem to operate under the same rules. Tape measures vanish immediately after being used. Pens migrate from room to room. Flashlights are plentiful until the power goes out. The one screwdriver you need is always missing from the otherwise complete set.

And socks? I am not even going to discuss socks. Some mysteries are beyond the reach of science.

What fascinates me is that these things never seem to disappear permanently. They merely go somewhere else for a while.

A missing tape measure eventually appears on a workbench. The flashlight turns up in the car. A pen emerges from underneath a pile of mail.

And the scissors will inevitably return to the kitchen drawer.

That is, until the next time I need them.

I suppose every home has its own small ecosystem, with objects circulating mysteriously among rooms and family members. Maybe that is why, after all these years, I have stopped asking who moved something.

There is rarely a satisfactory answer. Besides, I have learned the safest approach.

When you finally find the scissors, use them quickly. Then put them back exactly where they belong.

That way, when they disappear again, you can be absolutely certain it was somebody else.

Wales Community Pantry announces first-ever fundraising golf tournament

ISKDALE — The Wales Community Pantry today announced its first annual fundraising golf tournament, inviting the community to swing for a cause that hits close to home. The event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 3, with a 9 a.m. start at Hemlock Ridge Golf Course in Fiskdale.

This is more than a day on the course. It is a chance to stand with neighbors and families who face the stress of not knowing whether there will be enough food for dinner. Or breakfast. In just the past two years, the number of people the pantry serves has roughly tripled. Hundreds of families across Brimfield, Holland, Wales, and more than 20 surrounding communities now rely on the pantry for nutritious food provided with dignity. The pantry also sends weekend food home with 85 elementary students through its Backpack Program and delivers to more than 40 homebound neighbors.

In the immediate area there are no grocery stores and limited public transportation, making the pantry a critical lifeline. Rising costs of food, housing, and healthcare continue to push more households to seek help. The tournament will feature food, prizes, and the chance to make a tangible difference.

“Golf is fun, but this day is about something bigger,” said Dave Sweeney, Executive Director of the Wales Community Pantry. “Every player, sponsor, and volunteer helps us keep food on the shelves for families who need it. We’re grateful for the community’s support and excited to grow this event into an annual tradition.”

Event Details

- Date & Time: Saturday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m. start
- Location: Hemlock Ridge Golf Course, Fiskdale
- Includes: Golf, food, and prizes
- Registration: <https://bit.ly/WalesGolfFundraiser>
- Sponsorships: Available at multiple levels. Contact WalesCommunityFoodPantry@gmail.com

gmail.com or visit the golf tournament registration page for more details.

Players, sponsors, and volunteers are encouraged to sign up early. Sponsorship opportunities offer visibility while directly supporting the pantry’s mission. For more information or to discuss sponsorship, email WalesCommunityFoodPantry@gmail.com

Southbridge Public Schools offers meals at no cost for students

SOUTHBRIDGE — Southbridge Public Schools participates in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. As part of this program, all schools offer healthy meals every school day at NO COST to the students due to the implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision for school year 2026-2027. Students receive breakfast and lunch at school without having to pay a fee or submit a household application.

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Program information may be made avail-

or visit the golf tournament registration page for more details.

About the Wales Community Pantry

The Wales Community Pantry provides nutritious food with dignity to families, seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, working households, and children in Brimfield, Holland, Wales, and surrounding communities in western Massachusetts. Through open pantry hours, home delivery, and a Weekend Backpack Program, the pantry serves as a vital resource in an area with limited access to grocery stores. For more information, visit the pantry’s Facebook page or email WalesCommunityFoodPantry@gmail.com.

able in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant’s name, address, telephone

number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

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1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax:
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email:
program.intake@usda.gov

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Dudley-Charlton Regional School District sets public information meeting regarding Sept. 29 special election

DUDLEY — The Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee has called a district-wide special election in both Dudley and Charlton seeking voter authorization to borrow \$11,183,735 for capital improvements.

School District officials have set a public

information meeting for 6:30 p.m. Sept. 2 at Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 68 Dudley-Oxford Road. Dudley residents are invited to learn more about the district’s plan for capital improvements and ask questions.

Dudley’s share of the borrowing is \$5 million, with Charlton voters considering

the remaining share in a concurrent district-wide election. A simple majority of the combined ballots cast in both Dudley and Charlton will decide the question.

The Special Election polls will be open at the Dudley Municipal Complex from noon to 8 p.m. on Sept. 29.

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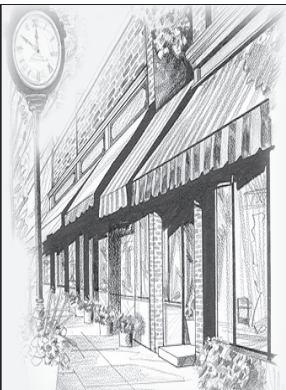
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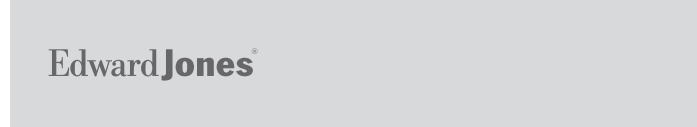
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Ruth Wells Center spotlights life and work of Michel Merle

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, 111 Main St. in Southbridge, is excited to present a retrospective of the life and works of Michel Merle. The galleries will be open throughout the month Saturday and Sunday noon to 4 p.m. Please join us to celebrate his works, meet the artist and share refreshments in this historic setting. All are welcome.

The artwork of Michel Duncan Merle serves as a vibrant and provocative crossroads where legendary artistic heritage meets decades of technical mastery.

A native Parisian born in 1937, Merle spent more than three decades as a Professor of Art at Worcester State University in Worcester, Massachusetts, where he taught generations of students to view creation through an alternative or philosophical lens.

Artistic practice and innovation run deeply in his veins: Merle is the son of artist and gallery owner, Ligoa Duncan, the grandson of artist and philosopher Raymond Duncan, and the great-nephew of modern dance pioneer and virtuoso Isadora Duncan. Merle's extensive studies, from the Akademie Raymond



Duncan in Paris to the Instituto Allende in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, where he earned an MFA in Sculpture and Painting, reflects a global, lifelong commitment to the avant-garde.

Merle has participated in a myriad of artistic organizations and collaborations over the years, including: Grove Street Gallery (co-founder/co-curator); Noh Place Artists Cooperative (board of directors/performer); Forbidden Poets (piano/spoken word); WCUW 91.3 FM (radio show featuring The Stranger and Think Tank Tango); Worcester County Poetry Association (former president); and a variety of performances and contributions as a member of Worcester Artist Group, Invented Thing Quartet, Theater Now, and Kasner Gooch Multimedia.

Merle is also the author of a volume of cut-up poems, "Glass Bedding" (North American Editions) and continues to produce poems/art in this fashion. More recently, he produced collages in response to a series of René Magritte-inspired poems by Stephen Campiglio, as part of a multimedia manuscript, including the work of two other artists, Andres Juarez and Jennifer Forest, entitled "Other Turns."

The Ruth Wells Art Center exhibition invites viewers to experience a brilliant collection that honors Michel's family's historic legacy, while celebrating his own distinct, thought-provoking aesthetic.

Shepherd Hill students hosting Tackle the Stigma 5K to promote mental health awareness

CHARLTON — The Shepherd Hill Regional High School cheerleading program, in partnership with the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District community, is inviting residents to lace up their running shoes and help break down barriers surrounding mental health during the annual Tackle the Stigma 5K and 2.5K Walk/Run on Saturday, Sept. 27.

The event will begin at 10 a.m. at the Shepherd Hill football field and is designed to raise awareness about mental health and mental wellness while encouraging open conversations throughout the local community.

Organizers hope participants of all ages will come together to demonstrate support for those facing mental health challenges and reinforce the message that no one has to struggle alone.

"This event is very important to us as we work to raise awareness about mental health and mental wellness throughout our local community," organizers said in announcing the event.

The walk and run carries the theme, "Run toward awareness, stand up for support, and tackle the stigma one mile at a time," reflecting its focus on education, compassion and community involvement.

Mental health advocates continue

to emphasize the importance of reducing the stigma surrounding anxiety, depression and other mental health conditions, which can often prevent individuals from seeking help. Community events such as Tackle the Stigma aim to create a welcoming environment where conversations about mental wellness are encouraged and support resources are highlighted.

In addition to providing an opportunity for exercise and community engagement, the event serves as a reminder that mental health is an important part of overall well-being. Organizers hope the day will inspire participants to check in with friends, family members and neighbors while promoting a culture of understanding and acceptance.

The Shepherd Hill cheerleaders have made mental health awareness a priority, using the event to unite students, families, educators and community members around a common cause. By bringing together participants from across Dudley, Charlton and surrounding communities, they hope to build momentum for ongoing conversations that extend well beyond race day.

Whether participants choose the full 5-kilometer course or the shorter 2.5-kilometer walk/run, organizers say every step represents a commitment to supporting mental wellness and reminding those who may be struggling that help is available.

Registration information and additional event details are expected to be available through Shepherd Hill Regional High School and the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District as the event approaches.

Overlook residents and team members give back through PB&J Challenge & Food Drive

CHARLTON — For the third consecutive year, teams of Overlook Residents and Team Members came together for a fun-filled PB&J Challenge benefiting children and families in need. Driven by friendly competition, teamwork, and a shared desire to give back, Teams raced against the clock to prepare as many peanut butter and jelly sandwiches in just 30 minutes.

A total of 1,038 sandwiches were donated to Hungry Children, an initiative of St. John's Soup Kitchen and Pantry in Worcester. The organization helps provide food to more than 1,000 individuals each day who are experiencing food insecurity.

The PB&J Challenge brings Overlook Residents and Team Members together for a common purpose.

The Overlook's Director of Community Life, Michelle Boiardi shared, "What makes this event so special is that it brings our Residents and Team Members together in a spirit of fun, teamwork, and compassion. We are proud to turn a little friendly competition into a meaningful opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children and families in our community."

Overlook Residents and Team Members also rallied behind the cause by donating non-perishable food items during The Overlook's Annual Food Drive, further supporting the important work of St. John's Soup Kitchen and Pantry.

In addition to the sandwiches and food donations, The Overlook donated \$500 to St. John's Soup Kitchen and Pantry to further support its efforts to provide food and assistance to individuals and families in need.

The Overlook is a premier senior living community located in Charlton, dedicated to providing vibrant living options, exceptional care, and an active, engaged lifestyle for its Residents. For more information, visit www.overlook-mass.org.

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Troop 163 hosting ice cream social & open house

STURBRIDGE — Do you like camping, hiking, swimming, biking, fishing, kayaking, whitewater rafting, sailing, exploring with friends, and more? You might like being a scout! Come to an ice cream social and open house held by Troop 163, an all-girl troop of Scouting America. Learn about lassoing and how to use a sling shot, and other activities. Families are welcome. Please stop by, have

fun, and learn about scouting and our troop.

The ice cream social and open house will be held on Sunday, Aug. 30 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 345 Main St. in Sturbridge. The troop is open to girls aged 11-17, and while based in Sturbridge, is open to residents of any town. Please email troop163sturbridge@gmail.com with any questions.

Tantasqua Class of '76 to hold 50th reunion

STURBRIDGE — Tantasqua class of 1976 is celebrating its 50th reunion this year. We want to reach out to all former students.

The big event happens on Sept. 26 at 5 p.m. at Rapsallion Pub, 3 Arnold Rd., Sturbridge.

Fifty years have passed since we walked the halls of Tantasqua Regional HS. We hope to reunite and reconnect with as many fellow classmates/friends as possible.

Please help us spread the word. If you were a member of the THS Class of '76 or if

you know how to reach a classmate, please get in touch.

You can visit our THS Class of '76 Facebook page for more details and to buy tickets. If you are not a Facebook member, you can reach out to Kathy Thompson at katherinethmp@aol.com.



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September events at the Charlton Public Library

For further details and to register for programs, please visit our website (charltonlibrary.org).

Additional parking is available across the street at Town Hall and at the Elementary School.

The library is closed Saturday, Sept. 5, and Monday, Sept. 7

Movies @ the Library
All showings are on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm ONLY unless noted - Dexter Hall - no registration required.

September 1: IS THIS THING ON? As their marriage unravels, Alex faces middle age and divorce, seeking new purpose in the New York comedy scene. Meanwhile, his wife Tess confronts sacrifices made for their family, forcing them to navigate co-parenting and identities. 2025. Rated R. 121 minutes. Starring: Will Arnett, Laura Dern, Andra Day, & Bradley Cooper.

September 8: YOU, ME & TUSCANY. When a woman crashes at an empty Italian villa, posing as the owner's fiancée, she discovers an unexpected romance that may transform her life. 2026. Rated PG-13. 105 minutes.

Featuring: Halle Bailey, Regé-Jean Page, Lorenzo de Moor, Marco Calvani, & Aziza Scott.

September 15: THE BREADWINNER. A supermom lands a Shark Tank deal, switching roles with her breadwinner husband. He struggles to adapt as a stay-at-home dad to their three daughters. 2026. Rated PG. 95 minutes.

Cast: Nate Bargatze, Kumail Nanjiani, & Mandy Moore.

September 22: MICHAEL. An in-depth portrayal of Michael Jackson, a complicated man, who became the King of Pop. The biopic brings to life Jackson's most iconic performances as it gives an informed insight into the entertainer's artistic process and personal life. 2026. Rated PG-13. 127 minutes. Starring: Jaafar Jackson, Julianio Valdi, & Colman Domingo.

September 29: POWER BALLAD. Rick, a washed-up wedding singer, and Danny, a fading boy band star, bond over music and a late-night jam session. When Danny turns Rick's song into a hit, Rick sets out to reclaim the recognition he believes he deserves. 2026. Rated R. 98 minutes. Starring: Paul Rudd, Nick Jonas, & Peter McDonald.

Craft Materials Drop-off
From August 24 to September 11, during regular open hours, we will be collecting arts and crafts materials only (fabrics, yarn, paper, patterns, tools, beads, etc.). We will NOT accept office supply donations (binders, file organizers, etc.). Items must be able to be reused (new or gently used, not expired). When in doubt, use the best friend rule—would I give this to my best friend? We cannot accept opened liquids such as paints, chemicals and glue. Items should be brought to the adult circulation desk. PLEASE do not put items in the outside return bins or leave them outside the library. Our very popular Craft Supply Swap will be back on Saturday, September 12 from 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to come and take materials regardless of whether they donated any.

Better Read Than Dead Book Club
Wednesday, September 2, 11:00-12:00 - Local History Room - no registration required

Do you love true crime? So do we! Join us for a monthly meet up to discuss entertaining and fascinating details about true crimes (no meetings in July & August). The book will be available at the adult circulation desk one month prior to the meeting. This month we will discuss A Devil Went Down to Georgia by Deb Miller Landau.

Play Games!
Mondays, September 14 (Cribbage), 21 (party games), 28 (Cribbage), 12:30-2:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required. Beginners and experienced players are welcome! Join us to play an old favorite or learn a new game!

Dementia Friendly Charlton Meeting
Wednesday, September 2, 2:30-3:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required, all welcome.

Threaded Together Fiber Arts Group (formerly Silver Needles Knit & Crochet Group)
Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 pm - Local History Room - no registration required
Bring your current project and relax with friends. All are welcome regardless of skill level.

Genealogy Group
Thursday, September 3, 6:00-7:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

The Charlton Library Genealogy Group is a friendly group of people who share an interest in genealogy. We meet monthly on the first Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:30 in the Community Meeting Room. Meetings will alternate between general discussion topics and guest presenters. The meetings are free and open to the public.

Apple Watch for Beginners*
Tuesday, September 8, 12:30-1:30 pm - Community Meeting Room
This class will teach attendees about the Apple Watch's hardware, including its speakers, screen, and buttons, as well as the basics of navigating the Apple Watch and using its apps for messaging, making and answering calls, and other important functions.

Friends of Charlton Public Library
Tuesday, September 8, 3:30-4:45 pm - Community Meeting Room
The monthly meeting of the Friends of Charlton Public Library. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Crafty Chapter for Tweens & Teens
Tuesday, September 8, 5:30-6:30 pm - Storytime Room - no registration required
Do you like to knit, crochet, sew, embroider, needle felt, or do other fiber arts? Really, any portable craft is welcome! Join us to hang out, practice your craft, learn from more experienced friends, or share your knowledge with others! **Please bring your current projects to work on!!** This group is for tweens and teens aged 9-18. Registration is not required! (Teen Volunteers: You can earn community service hours for attending and participating in this program!)

Book Group at the Senior Center
Wednesday, September 9, 10:30-11:30 am - Senior Center @ Town Hall
The Senior Center Book Group meets at the Senior Center at 10:30 am on the second Wednesday of the month. Everyone is welcome! We will discuss The Alice Network by Kate Quinn. Books are available to pick

up at the library one month prior to the discussion date.

Make an Air Dry Clay Mushroom
Thursday, September 10, 5:30-6:15 pm - Storytime Room - registration required
Make some cute mushrooms out of air dry clay! This program is best suited for children ages 5-11.

CPL Book Discussion - Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel
Thursday, September 10, 6:00-7:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required
Books are available for checkout at the adult circulation desk one month prior to discussion.

Craft Swap
Saturday, September 12, 10:00-2:00 pm - Dexter Hall - no registration required
Members of the community have been donating a variety of new and used craft supplies for the past three weeks! Drop in anytime between 10 am and 2 pm today and take what you need for FREE! This is great for new and experienced crafters, anyone who wants to try a new craft, or teachers that need supplies! Bring your own bags!

Podcast at a Glance
Monday, September 14, 10:30 am-12:00 pm - Local History Room - registration required
Podcasts are an increasingly popular form of entertainment and a great source of information on all kinds of topics. In this lecture, you'll learn more about these audio programs available on the internet: why people listen to them, where you can find them, and what the most popular ones are. This is for people ages 60 and up. This Senior Planet from AARP class is being offered through the Senior Planet licensing program.

Tiny Tots Storytime (Ages 0-2.5)
Tuesdays, September 15, 22, 29, 10:00-10:45 am - Storytime Room - registration required
For babies and toddlers ages 0-2.5 with a caregiver. Join us for songs, fingerplays, board books, shakers, scarves, dancing, motor skills activities, and free play! Due to the high number of attendees, this is now a ticketed program. A certain number of tickets will be given to each child on a first-come-first-served basis. Once all tickets have been passed out, the program will be full. Late Arrivals: Available tickets will be given out until 5 minutes after the program has started. After that time, the program will be closed until free play time. We thank you for your understanding.

Mushroom Growing Workshop
Tuesday, September 15, 6:00-7:30 pm -

Community Meeting Room - registration required
The folks from Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens will be here to show us how to grow mushrooms. Every participant will put together, and bring home, a quart container that will grow mushrooms! For adults and teens ages 13 and up, registration is required.

Baby Storytime (Ages 0-12 months)
Wednesdays, September 16, 23, 30, 10:00-10:45 am - Storytime Room - no registration required
For infants to 12 months only. Join us for board books, songs, fingerplays, music, shakers, scarves, bubbles & free play! This is a drop-in program. No registration or ticket required.

Tiny Tots at Night
Thursday, September 17, 6:00-6:30 pm - Storytime Room - registration required
This is an evening version of our Tiny Tots program! Best for babies - age 3. Includes
Turn To **LIBRARY** page **A10**

Charlton Garden Club meets Sept. 14



CHARLTON — Come and join us! The Charlton Garden Club's Monday, Sept. 14 meeting will feature Kate Donovan, owner and consultant of Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens, who will be speaking on 'Canning, Freezing and Dehydrating.'

Do you have an abundant harvest this year? Come find out the easiest and best ways to preserve your bounty. Donovan is a Master Gardener and organic gardener who assists clients on growing food sustainably through lectures, garden planning and development. She continues to experiment each year with new varieties and preservation techniques.

Charlton Garden Club meetings are free and open to all interested in gardening and related themes. Whether you're a novice or accomplished gardener, the Charlton Garden Club is a great place to meet other gardening enthusiasts, learn about plants and planting, and to share your gardening tips and experiences. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the Charlton Public Library. For more program or for Charlton Garden Club information, email us at charltongardenclub@gmail.com.

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BROOKFIELD ORCHARDS

Join Us

LET'S GET LOCAL

Saturday, August 29 10am-4pm
1 Lincoln Rd., North Brookfield MA 01525
508-867-6858 www.BrookfieldOrchards.com

Local Beer & Wine

Seven Roads, Stone Mill, Deep Roots, Hardwick Vineyard, Oakholm Brewing Company

The Local's Market

Simply Dip-Licious, Candy, Wickedly Wild, Farm, Grand Maple Farms, Whopie-Doo, Sweet Pea Baked

Local Food Trucks

R&R Jerk Chicken, Angry Panda, Minuteman Kettle Corn Inc.

Live Music from 12 to 4

The East Hill Band

Wagon Rides, Face Painting, Corn Hole Games, Cider Donuts, Fudge, Family Memories and more!

SUPPORTING LOCAL IS WHAT THIS EVENT IS ALL ABOUT!!

LEGALS

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES
Under G.L. c.255 Sec.39A
Notice is hereby given by
Cruise Control Transportation Inc.
Pursuant to the provisions of G.L.
c. 255, Section 39A. that on or after
September 12th, 2026 at Cruise
Control Transportation Inc. the follow-
ing motor vehicle/s will be sold at pri-
vate sale to satisfy our garage keep-
er's lien thereon for storage, towing
charges, care and expenses of notices
and sale of said vehicle:

Vehicle: 2009 Chevrolet Express
Vin: 1GCGG25C691132180
Last Registered Owner:
Andreia Soaresdos S
708 W Fourth St
Plamyrna Nj 08065

Vehicle: 2007 Honda Civic
Vin: 1HGFA16527L057715
Last Registered Owner:
Enver Jose Pauline Brito
27 Vernon St
Worcester MA 01608

Vehicle: 2015 Nissan Altima
Vin: 1N4AL3AP1FN906362
Last Registered Owner:
Thomas Steidinger
5 Brackett Terr
Plympton MA 02367

Vehicle: 2007 Honda Accord
Vin: 1HGCM56777A114313
Last Registered Owner:
Hector Manuel Rodriguez
76 Old Southbridge Rd
Oxford MA 01540

Vehicle: 2007 Infiniti G35
Vin: JNKBV61F47M823869
Last Registered Owner:
Brayan J Crisanto Soza
237 W 167th St #8A
Bronx NY 10452

Vehicle: 2013 Ford Focus
Vin: 1FADP3F29DL258521
Last Registered Owner:
Maddalena Murray
40 Carriage Path
North Milford CT 06460

Vehicle: 2000 GMC Yukon
Vin: 1GKEK63R7YR206036
Last Registered Owner:
Mark E Meleski
19 Rt 197
Woodstock CT 06281

Vehicle: 2004 Toyota Camry
Vin: 4T1BE32K14U810337
Last Registered Owner:
Adauto Jose De Sousa Filho
94 Hunthill Rd
Waterbury CT 06705-3454

Vehicle: 2001 Suzuki Katana 600
Vin: JS1GN79AX12100269
Last Registered Owner:
Gabriel Colon
23 Wilson St Apt 2
Worcester MA

Vehicle: 2002 Honda CR-V
Vin: SHSRD684X2U001286
Last Registered Owner:
Natscha Ojeda
3845 Bay Shore Cir
Tavares FL 32778

Vehicle: 2000 Chevrolet Suburban
Vin: 3GNFK16T5YG108978
Last Registered Owner:
Tomas A Henriquez
53 Chase Ave 2E
Yonkers NY 10703
August 28, 2026
September 4, 2026
September 11, 2026

**CHARLTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**
In accordance with the Wetland
Protection Act of the General Laws of
the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton
Conservation Commission will hold a
public hearing on September 9, 2026,
at 6:30 PM on the application of Chris
Hansen.
The applicant has submitted an
Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area
Delineation for review and confirma-
tion of the wetland boundaries. The
site is located at Lot 8 Daniels Road,
Parcel ID: 30-C-16.
Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts
of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton
Conservation Commission will be
conducted in person and via remote
means. Members of the public who
wish to participate remotely can
access the meeting by request.
Copies of the ANRAD may be exam-
ined at the Conservation Office by
appointment during business hours.
Chair, Charlton Conservation
Commission
August 27, 2026

ORDER OF NOTICE BY
PUBLICATION
DOCKET NUMBER: 2685CV01233B
Massachusetts Trial Court

The Superior Court
Worcester County Clerk of the Courts
CASE NAME:
Digital Federal Credit Union
v.
Andrew K. Paradis a/k/a Andrew
Paradis
TO: Andrew K. Paradis a/k/a Andrew
Paradis, all in said Commonwealth;
and to all persons entitled to the ben-
efit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief
Act, 50 U.S.C. c. §3901 (et seq)
Digital Federal Credit Union
claiming to have an interest in a
Mortgage covering real property in
Southbridge, numbered 757 South
Street, given by Andrew K. Paradis
a/k/a Andrew Paradis to Digital
Federal Credit Union, dated February
17, 2023, and recorded in Worcester
County (Worcester District) Registry
of Deeds in Book 68857, Page 132,
has filed with this court a complaint
to foreclosure said mortgage by entry
and exercise of the power of sale.
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, then you
or your attorney must file a written
appearance and answer in this Court
at 225 Main Street, Worcester, MA
01608 on or before 09/25/2026 or you
may lose the opportunity to challenge
the foreclosure on the ground of non-
compliance with the Act.
Witness, Michael D. Ricciuti, Chief
Justice of this Court, at Worcester,
Massachusetts, this 14th day of
August, 2026.
Attest: Dennis P. McManus,
Clerk of Courts
August 27, 2026

TOWN OF CHARLTON DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC WORKS 100 FLINT
ROAD
CHARLTON, MA 01507
(508) 248-2212

**I. ADVERTISEMENT/PUBLIC
NOTICE**
**TOWN OF CHARLTON –
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
INVITATION FOR BIDS
FY2027-03**
**PAVEMENT SURFACING OF
CENTER DEPOT ROAD**
Sealed bids for the Pave-
ment Surfacing of Center Depot Road, Town
of Charlton (hereinafter referred to as
“The OWNER”) will be received at the
Town Administrator’s Office, Charlton
Municipal Offices, 37 Main Street,
Charlton MA, 01507 until 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at
which time they will be publicly opened
and read. No late bids accepted.
Obtaining Bid Packages:
Specifications, general instructions,
and Bid Forms must be obtained at
the Town Administrator’s Office, Charlton
Municipal Offices, 37 Main Street,
Charlton, MA 01507 between the
hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Thursday via pickup
at the Town Administrator’s Office
or via email request to mary.devlin@townofcharlton.net. Bidders are
required to submit on the Bid Forms
provided.
Bid Deposit: All bids over \$50,000
MUST be accompanied by a bid
deposit in the amount of five percent
(5%) of the bid in the form of cash, a
bid bond, or a certified check made
payable to the Town of Charlton. The
bid deposit will be forfeited if the
bidder fails to execute the contract
and satisfactory Bond within ten (10)
days after the contract may have been
awarded to them.
Conditions of Contract: All
awarded contracts shall be subject
to the Special Contract Conditions
that accompany this bid package.
Successful Bidders will be required
to produce a certificate of insurance.
All work being performed requires
100% Performance Bond and a 50%
Payment Bond in accordance with
G.L. c. 30, section 39M. The bidder
shall be able to start work under this
contract and after the acceptance by
the Select Board.
Wage Rates: All wage rates will
comply with those established by the
Commonwealth Department of Labor
and Workforce Development, M.G.L.,
Chapter 149, Section 26-27G as set
forth in the contract documents.
Prequalification: Bidders for all
projects that cost over \$50,000 must
be prequalified by the Massachusetts
Department of Transportation (formerly
Mass. Highway Department). All
bidders shall be subject to Section 34
of Chapter 90, must be prequalified
in accordance with 720 CMR 5.00
“Prequalification’s of Contractors”. This
will apply to horizontal construction
only.
MassDOT prequalification of
contractors with the class of work
as PAVEMENT SURFACING for the
project with an estimated value of

\$420,375.00 will be required.
Award/Rejection: The OWNER
reserves the right to reject any and all
bids, and to waive minor informalities
in the bids, or to accept the bid
deemed best for the OWNER. The
OWNER further reserves the right to
award all portions of the contract to
one bidder. In this case, the price
bid by the bidder for each item as
detailed on the Bid Form shall remain
the same. The contract will be
awarded to the lowest, responsible
and eligible bidder.
August 20, 2026
August 27, 2026

**CHARLTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**
In accordance with the Wetland
Protection Act of the General Laws of
the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton
Conservation Commission will hold
a public hearing on September 9, at
6:30 PM on the application of Caren
Fortin & Deborah Rose.
The applicant has filed a Notice of
Intent for the installation of a new
septic system to replace a failed one
within the 100-ft buffer zone to a
Bordering Vegetated Wetland and the
outer riparian zone to a perennial
stream. The project location is: 55
Oxbow Road, Charlton, MA 01507.
Parcel ID: 22-A-22
Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts
of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton
Conservation Commission will be
conducted in person and via remote
means. Members of the public who
wish to participate remotely can
access the meeting by request.
Copies of the NOI may be examined
at the Conservation Office by appoint-
ment during business hours.
Thomas O’Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation
Commission
August 27, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No.WO26P2323EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
Timothy Gerard Milott
Also known as: Tim Milott
Date of Death: 12/05/2025
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of
Intestacy and Appointment of Per-
sonal Representative** has been filed
by **Kathleen A Brotherton of Holden
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: .
**Kathleen A Brotherton of Holden
MA** be appointed as Personal Rep-
resentative(s) of said estate to serve
With Corporate 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 appear-
ance and objection at this Court be-
fore: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of
09/08/2026.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a dead-
line by which you must file a written ap-
pearance and objection if you object to
this proceeding. If you fail to file a time-
ly written appearance and objection
followed by an affidavit of objections
within thirty (30) days of the return day,
action may be taken without further no-
tice 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 ad-
ministration directly from the Personal
Representative and may petition the
Court in any matter relating to the es-
tate, including the distribution of assets
and expenses of administration.
**WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey,
First Justice of this Court.**
Date: August 10, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
August 27, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608**

**(508) 831-2200
Docket No.WO26P2683EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
Marjorie K. Moniz
Date of Death: 07/12/2026
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will
with Appointment of Personal Rep-
resentative** has been filed by **James
L. Moniz of Sturbridge MA** requesting
that the Court enter a formal Decree
and Order and for such other relief as
requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: .
James L. Moniz of Sturbridge MA
be appointed as Personal Representa-
tive(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 appear-
ance and objection at this Court be-
fore: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of
09/22/2026.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a dead-
line by which you must file a written ap-
pearance and objection if you object to
this proceeding. If you fail to file a time-
ly written appearance and objection
followed by an affidavit of objections
within thirty (30) days of the return day,
action may be taken without further no-
tice 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 ad-
ministration directly from the Personal
Representative and may petition the
Court in any matter relating to the es-
tate, including the distribution of assets
and expenses of administration.
**WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey,
First Justice of this Court.**
Date: August 17, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
August 27, 2026

**Town of Brimfield
Conservation Commission
Public Hearing Notice**
In accordance with the Massachusetts
Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131,
Section 40, the Brimfield Conservation
Commission will hold a public meeting
on Wednesday, September 09, 2026,
at 5:30 PM to review a Notice of Intent
(NOI) submitted by Stephen Roberts,
c/o Donald Robert. The NOI proposes
to replace an existing failing boulder
wall with an engineered block wall.
Project Location: 14 Third Street,
Brimfield, MA 01010, (Assessor’s Map
(5C-19)
Meeting Location: Public
Participation will be In-Person at
Hitchcock Academy at 2 Brookfield
Road, Brimfield, MA 01010 on
September 09, 2026, at 5:30 PM.
Any person(s) interested or wishing
to be heard on this request should
appear at the time and place des-
ignated. A copy of the permit appli-
cation and plan may be inspected
at the Brimfield Town Annex in the
Conservation Commission Office,
Salisbury Annex Building, 2nd Floor,
23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA 01010
or contact the office at 413-245-4100
ext. 1101.
Roger deBruyn & Joseph Venezia
Co-Chairs
August 18, 2026
August 27, 2026

**TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL/
SOUTHBRIDGE PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**
In accordance with the provisions
of MGL Chapter 40A, Section 5,
the Southbridge Town Council and
Southbridge Planning Board will
hold a public hearing on Wednesday,
September 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the
MacKinnon Council Chambers, 41 Elm
Street, Southbridge, MA. The purpose
of the hearing is to receive public
comments and consider modifying the
Southbridge Zoning Bylaw Sections
8.5: Solar as of Right and 8.6: Battery
Energy Storage Systems, as well as
adding a temporary moratorium for
data centers.
A copy of the proposed bylaw chang-
es can be inspected at the Town
Manager’s Office from 8:00am to
4:00pm Monday through Wednesday,
8:00am to 8:00pm Thursday, and
8:00am to 12pm on Friday. Anyone
wishing to be heard should appear at
the time and place designated.
David Adams, Chair
Southbridge Town Council
David Payeur, Chair
Southbridge Planning Board
August 27, 2026
September 4, 20263

OBITUARIES

Richard Warren Cummings, 87

CHARLTON – Richard Warren Cummings, 87, of Masonic Home Road, passed away peacefully with his family by his side, on Sunday, August 16, 2026, at Harrington Memorial Hospital – Southbridge.

He is survived by his three daughters; Cheryl L. Drake, and her husband Calvin of Virginia; Lori M. Pickering and her husband James of Charlton; and Lisa A. Burlingame; his former wife, Linda Healey of Charlton; Six grandchildren, Brandon, Alycia, Caitlin, Amy, Shane, and Ashley; five great-grandchildren, Owen, Harper, Waylon, Case, and Henry; a sister, Maryjane Gillespie; and many nieces and nephews, including Darlene Tully, Daniel Crowley, Debra Mann, Lisa Foskett, Gerry Foskett, and Donald Foskett, who were very special to him. He is predeceased by his wife of three years but beloved companion for 42 years, Marcia (Lane) Cummings who died in 2021; two brothers, Donald and Dan; and three sisters, Judy, Audrey, and Lois.

Mr. Cummings was born in Charlton, son of the late James G. and Bessie (Wolfenden) Cummings and gradu-



ated from Charlton High School in 1956. He was a veteran of the United States Army.

Richard owned and operated Richard W. Cummings Asphalt Paving, prior to his retirement in 2014. He was a very hardworking man, who made a positive impact on everyone he met.

He loved visiting the casino, long road trips, snowmobiling, and freshwater fishing. He always enjoyed visiting the Charlton Center Coffee Shop, where he would socialize with everyone there. He enjoyed meeting new people and talking about anything, which led to his nickname of “The Mayor” throughout the community at Overlook in Charlton.

Services will be held privately at Northside Cemetery in Charlton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the COPD Foundation, PO Box 160112 Miami, FL 33116-0112.

Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

LEGALS

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on September 9, 2026, at 6:30 PM on the application of GM Properties LLC.

The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for the construction of nine (9) duplexes within riverfront area. There is no wetland alteration associated with this project. The project location is: 35 North Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 35-C-9

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate remotely can access the meeting by request.

Copies of the NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.

Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
August 27, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Charlton Select Board will hold a public meeting on their intention to lay-out Ashley Road and Amber Road as submitted by Kenneth P. Kaszowski on Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 6:45pm at the Charlton Town Hall, Meeting Room 1, 37 Main St., Charlton MA. A copy of the proposed plan and legal description is available for viewing in the Select Board Office between the hours of 7:30am and 4:30pm, Monday – Thursday.

Anyone wishing to be heard on this matter should appear on the date and time specified or submit concerns in writing prior to the meeting.

August 27, 2026

HYLAND

continued from page A1

Duval has held several leadership positions throughout her career, including vice president of care coordination at Family Service Association in Fall River.

The New Bedford resident earned a bachelor's degree in multi/interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in public and nonprofit administration from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a certificate in community human service management from Suffolk University.

As President and CEO of May Institute, Solotar oversees an award-winning nonprofit organization offering multi-disciplinary educational, rehabilitative, and Applied Behavior Analysis services to autistic individuals and individuals with developmental disabilities, brain injuries, and neurobehavioral disorders across the lifespan. A licensed and board-certified

experience to this board role.

clinical psychologist, Solotar began her career at May Institute more than 30 years ago, first as chief psychologist and vice president of clinical services, and then as chief clinical officer. She is a strong advocate and leader for human services and has been very active in the industry.

The Newton resident earned her Bachelor's degree from the University at Albany, State University of New York, where she also received her doctorate in clinical psychology.

As the president and CEO of Vinfen, Yang leads a Cambridge-headquartered nonprofit health and human services organization serving 14,000 individuals with IDD, ABI, behavioral health challenges, and mental health conditions per year across Massachusetts and Connecticut. She has an extensive background in health care management, including leadership positions with the Boston Children's Hospital Integrated Care Organization and Tufts Health

Public Plans. She is also a professor at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

The Boston resident earned a bachelor's degree in microbiology and immunology from the University of Michigan and holds a master's degree in business administration from the Harvard Business School.

About ADDP

As a prominent statewide association, the Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers (ADDP) represents 130 human service organizations that provide a wide range of services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), including autism, and to individuals who have brain injuries. ADDP's mission is to promote and ensure the strength of its community-based providers so they can be successful in improving access, quality and the value of services in the community.



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Town of Charlton accepting applications for Opioid Settlement Funds Grant Program

CHARLTON — The Town of Charlton is accepting applications for funding through the Town's Opioid Settlement Funds Grant Program.

The purpose of this program is to support initiatives that prevent opioid misuse, expand access to treatment and recovery services, reduce the harms associated with substance use disorders, and improve the health and well-being of Charlton residents. Funding is made available through the Town's allocation of national opioid settlement funds and must be used for eligible purposes consistent with applicable settlement agreements and guidance. Funding may be requested to a maximum of \$2,500 per applicant. Final awards will be distributed based on available funding as well as demonstrated need and community impact.

Eligible applicants may include:

- o Nonprofit organizations
- o Educational institutions
- o Healthcare providers
- o Community-based organizations
- o Other organizations serving Charlton residents

Projects may include, but are not limited to:

- o Prevention and education programs
- o Treatment and recovery support services
- o Harm reduction initiatives
- o First responder or public safety initiatives related to opioid response
- o Behavioral health and mental health services
- o Community outreach and support programs
- o Data collection, evaluation, and other evidence-based strategies that address opioid use disorder

Applications will be evaluated based on demonstrated community need, alignment with eligible opioid settlement uses, measurable outcomes, organizational capacity, and the anticipated impact on Charlton residents.

Completed applications and all required supporting documentation for the first round of this grant program must be submitted by Aug. 31. Late or incomplete applications may not be considered.

BUILDING

continued from page A1

this career field. Ultimately, I want to join the military but the things I've learned here I can take with me."

Bay Path's CTI Building Maintenance program prepares adult learners for entry-level careers in building and property maintenance through hands-on and classroom instruction. Since launching in September 2024, the program has graduated 30 adult learners and built a growing pipeline of skilled tradespeople for the state. In addition to Building Maintenance, Bay Path's CTI offers additional programs in Diesel Technology, HVAC, Electrical, Welding, Automotive Collision Repair, Automotive

Technology, Culinary, and Manufacturing.

"Bay Path has been such a great partner because they provide excellent hands-on training that's aligned with what local employers are looking for, giving graduates in-demand skills and credentials that make them immediately employable for local jobs that offer great wages," Younis said. "Beyond the classroom, participants also receive support throughout the process including job readiness, career coaching and connecting directly to employers. Through Bay Path and MassHire, we can often help with supportive services, providing free tools and equipment, and funding for transportation and even childcare, so people can focus on completing their

training instead of worrying about those barriers."

About Bay Path
Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School prepares students for both college and careers through a rigorous blend of academic coursework and hands-on technical training. Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Bay Path serves ten Southern Worcester County communities: Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer, and Webster. Opening in 1972 atop Muggett Hill, the school has spent more than five decades offering 23 career areas alongside its academic program.

NIP

continued from page A1

wrappers, and various other waste items. But of major concern is the enormous amount of nip bottles that are collected. This past April the Earth Day Planning Group, in collaboration with the Keep Charlton Beautiful committee, decided to tackle the problem in earnest. Spearheaded by local resident Susan Chanel, the committees asked volunteers to separate nip bottles and alcohol containers from other roadside trash. Volunteers received clear plastic bags, courtesy of the Keep Charlton Beautiful Committee, as a way to highlight the depth of the problem. The Earth Day Planning Group distributed

pickers, gloves, and sturdy trash bags for other roadside trash. A grant from The Last Green Valley helped to cover the cost of some supplies.

While everyone who registered to clean a road was not aware of this new campaign, the results were astounding — an estimated 5,000 nip containers and approximately ten bags of liquor bottles were collected. Photos were sent to local legislators, urging them to support an expansion of the Bottle Bill, specifically to include a deposit and return on nip bottles.

When Terek Mroczkowski, owner of Ted's Package Store, learned of our initiative, he offered his support by installing bins at the four

liquor retailers in Charlton where empty nip bottles may be discarded. Every time a bin is filled at Ted's, they will make a monetary donation to the Keep Charlton Beautiful Committee. These funds will help continue efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle to support Earth Day.

We are grateful for the generosity of the Mroczkowski family and the time commitment of our volunteer citizens. But litter still remains a costly problem. We appreciate those businesses that provide trash receptacles for items purchased at their storefronts, and encourage people to use them. By working together, we can help to Keep Charlton Beautiful and take care of Mother Earth.

LIBRARY

continued from page A7

songs, fingerplays, scarves, shakers, music, books & free play! This is a great opportunity for caregivers to model singing, playing & sharing the early literacy experience with their little learners! Caregivers should plan to sit with their child and participate.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group
Thursday, September 17, 6:00-7:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

The Alzheimer's Support Network Caregiver Support Group is led by Alzheimer's Care Professionals and experienced caregivers. We offer information, resources, and strategies specific to caring for someone with Alzheimer's and other dementias along with support for transitioning to different care settings. Co-sponsored by Tri-Valley and Charlton Public Library.

Death Café
Thursday, September 17, 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - no registration required

A Death Café is a group directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives or course of action, no set conclusions and no judgement. Death Cafés provide a safe environment to gather, eat cake, drink tea or coffee, and enjoy open-minded conversation about dying and death. It is an opportunity to share, explore and question our own perceptions of death. It's not a bereavement session—just an open conversation about a topic that we often find taboo. You are welcome to share as much or as little as you wish. The group meets monthly on the third Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:30 pm in Dexter Hall. Questions? Email kwalker4@mac.com. The Death Café model was developed by Jon Underwood and Sue Barsky Reid, based on the ideas of Bernard Crettaz.

Preschool Storytime (Ages 3-5)
Fridays, September 18 & 25, 10:00-10:45 am - Storytime Room

For ages 3-5. Join us for stories, songs, fingerplays, scarves, activities, crafts, and free play! This is a TICKETED program. A certain number of tickets will be available for each child on a first-come, first-served basis. Once all tickets have been passed out, the program is full. Late Arrivals: Available tickets will be given out until 5 minutes after the program has started. After that time, the program will be closed until free-play begins. We thank you for your understanding.

Puzzle Race
Saturday, September 19, 9:30 am-12:00 pm

Can your team complete a jigsaw puzzle faster than your friends and neighbors? Each team will receive the same 300 piece puzzle provided by the library. The team that finishes first or completes the most before time is called wins! Adults, teens, and families with children aged 8+ are welcome to participate. Registration is required—only one person from each team should register. Teams can have up to six members. Don't have a team? Email Betsy at perryb@cwmars.org and we'll put together a team of interested folks!

Build Your Own Website*
Saturday, September 19, 11:30 am-2:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration appreciated

Quickly design and set up a website without needing to be too technically proficient. With the availability of professionally produced templates, design elements with simple drag and drop, and the ability to easily add and modify both text and pictures it's easy to create a website! A very complete handout will be distributed in class. It contains lots of information and will greatly simplify the process of understanding what's being taught.

Saturday Acoustic Roots Jam - SARJ
Saturday, September 19, 12:00-1:30 pm - Dexter Hall - no registration required
An acoustic only music jam. Open to all 18+. Email Rich at Cule5632@gmail.com for more information.

Listening to Podcasts
Monday, September 21, 10:30 am-12:00 pm - Local History Room - registration required

It's estimated that over 70 million people in the US listen to podcasts monthly. This hands-on workshop provides a general introduction to this popular form of entertainment. You'll learn how to search for podcasts, listen, and share popular audio shows using the Podbean app. This is for people ages 60 and up. This Senior Planet from AARP class is being offered through the Senior Planet licensing program.

Mushroom Tea Towels Craft for Adults - Dexter Hall - registration required
Tuesday, September 22, 6:00-7:30 pm OR
Wednesday, September 23, 11:00 am-12:30 pm

In this month's adult craft, we are celebrating all things mushroom by designing our own mushroom themed tea towels. Participants will use fabric markers and stamps (or free-hand) to create personalized designs on the provided cotton towel. Please note that fabric markers will stain clothing and dress accordingly.

CULE: Charlton Ukulele League & Ensemble
Thursday, September 24, 6:00-8:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

This club is a FREE, fun, low stress and entertaining way for adults 18+ to learn music together. You will be guided by experienced musicians who encourage you to find your own level of achievement. Making music together is the perfect antidote to the feeling that you will never be able to play music. You can! What's more you'll enjoy the company of others. Any questions? Email Rich at Cule5632@gmail.com.

All About Mushrooms
Thursday, September 24, 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration appreciated

Mycologist Jonathan Kranz will discuss the basics of fungal life with insights on foraging for food and a special emphasis on common mushrooms that are likely to be found in our area.

Critical Thinking Discussion Group
Friday, September 25, 1:00-2:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

No experience with critical thinking discussion groups is necessary. Books/materials are available for checkout one month prior to discussion. Questions? Email saga3@charter.net.

Gentle Yoga
Saturday, September 26, 10:30-11:30 am - Dexter Hall - registration required

Breathe, stretch, and unwind in this relaxing 60-minute yoga class. Perfect for beginners and experienced yogis alike, this class will blend gentle, mindful movement with calming breathwork and end in a deeply restful savasana. Bring a mat, water bottle and any props. (Some blocks and knee pads available). Led by Erin Anderson, RYT-200 yoga instructor and SEL facilitator. For adults and teens ages 13 and up.

Learn Microsoft Word Basics*
Saturday, September 26, 11:00-12:30 pm

- Community Meeting Room - registration required

Join us today to learn about Microsoft Word! We'll start at the very beginning and walk you through all the basics.

Learn Microsoft Word Advanced Skills*
Saturday, September 26, 1:00-2:30 pm - Community Meeting room - registration required

Join us today to learn some advanced skills to use in Microsoft Word!

Intro to Spotify
Monday, September 28, 10:30 am-12:00 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Spotify is a great digital music service for enjoying millions of songs, podcasts, and videos for free! In this lecture, you'll learn about Spotify's important features, including how to search for songs and create your own playlists. You'll also learn how to follow your friends and the artists you love. This is for people ages 60 and up. This Senior Planet from AARP class is being offered through the Senior Planet licensing program.

2D Needle Felted Mushrooms for Tweens & Teens

Tuesday, September 29, 5:30-7:00 pm - Storytime Room - Registration required

Learn how to make a 2-dimensional needle-felted mushroom picture! This craft program utilizes very sharp needles and is for older kids and teens, ages 9-18.

Companion Planting in the Garden
Tuesday, September 29, 7:00-8:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - Registration appreciated

Companion planting is planting two different plants together to help at least one of them with nutrients, pollinators, support, and/or pest deterrence. Does it really work? Sometimes. This lecture goes into the science behind companion planting, and discusses a number of pairings that are known to work, some that don't, and some where the evidence isn't clear. The focus is on vegetable and herb gardens.

*These programs are funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the MassTech Collaborative under the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

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Charlton Lions to serve up popular sausage sandwiches at Old Home Day

CHARLTON — The Charlton Lions Club will again serve their always popular sausage, pepper and onion grinders at Charlton's Old Home Day celebration, which is scheduled for

Sunday, Sept. 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (In case of rain, the event will be held on Monday, Labor Day.)

In addition to the grinders, the Lions' booth on the town common will offer breakfast

sandwiches and hash brown patties (as long as they last!), hot dogs and sauerkraut, chips, soft drinks and water.

Proceeds from the booth will support The Charlton Lions Club's many contri-

butions to its community — scholarships for local scholars, holiday gifts to needy families, youth programs, support for disaster victims, diabetes camperships, eye research, handicap ramps, and more.

Lions Clubs International is the largest service organization in the world. The Charlton club meets the second and fourth Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Great

Room at The Overlook (door 62) and welcomes visitors and potential members. For more information, visit www.charltonlionsclub.com or call Membership Chair Kathy Gallant at 508-248-6479.



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Featured New Listing!
24 Laurelwood Dr
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On the shores of prestigious Webster Lake! Experience ultra-luxury lakefront living with direct water access. This young modern craftsman lake home is masterly designed to maximize panoramic Western views through a two-story architectural tower. The home boasts 3,790 +/- square feet of sophisticated, three-story living space, complete with multilevel waterside decks, a radius stone faced patio, and a tiered landscape with its own waterfall. From morning coffee to sunset gatherings, you will enjoy every minute overlooking your waterfront. The 1,735 +/- square feet main level features a spacious open floor plan, welcoming you into a kitchen, dining, and living area tailored for intimate social hosting. The living room flows seamlessly onto an expansive open deck and into an exquisite sun-drenched sitting room. A magnificent primary bedroom suite offers a private full bath, double sink vanity, walk-in closet and dressing room. The purposely designed lower level delivers effortless, large-volume entertainment, featuring a full second kitchen and a sprawling recreation room that opens to a substantial lakeside patio. With 2 additional bedrooms and bath, this level easily serves as a private guest floor. This Lake property is designed to create long-lasting memories! **MLS#73563787 \$1,750,000**

Webster ~ 33 Slater Street

Sprawling fieldstone faced Ranch! Located on a +/- 0.5-acre, 2 car garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 2 stone fireplacesFHW BB heat. Open floor plan kitchen, living rm, dining rm, breezeway w/sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom **MLS # 73500183 NEW PRICE \$479,900**

Webster - 18 DiDonato Ave

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MLS #73534105 \$333,000

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Tucked away on Cooper Rd. Webster Lake with access at Lake-side beach/boat ramp. 3rd of 4 homes being built at this site. Offers 2,155 sq. ft +/- of living area, 7 rms, 4 bds, 3 1/2 baths, 9ft ceiling, wood flooring throughout with ceramic tile baths. Spacious main BR Suite w/ walk-in closet, and private full bathr, double sink vanity, finished lower level walk-out w/ slider. Central AC, garage **MLS # 73534271 \$649,000**

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St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish introduces family-friendly schedule for 2026–2027 Faith Formation program

FIKSDALE — St. Anne–St. Patrick Parish is making it easier for families to participate in both Faith Formation and Sunday Mass with a newly redesigned class schedule for the 2026–2027 program year. By intentionally centering its Faith Formation schedule around the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass, the parish hopes families can more easily worship together while also having more time back in their Sundays.

“At St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish, we want to remove obstacles that make it difficult for families to practice their faith together,” said Fr. Salvatore Musande, Pastor of St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish. “Our new schedule allows children to grow in their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith while making Sunday Mass something families can attend together. We warmly invite both returning and new families to join us.”

Registration is now open for Faith Formation for students in Kindergarten through Grade 11. Families are



Courtesy Photo

Faith Formation students with leaders in the Parish Center.



Courtesy Photos

The Charlton Garden Club will hold its annual Flower Show at Olde Home Day! Come Visit Us at Our New Location on the Common Sept. 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Stop by to take in beautiful and unique floral designs created by members and displayed at our booth on the Common. Chat with Charlton Garden Club members and get a list of our fall meetings and speakers. Everyone is welcome to attend meetings. Drop by to say hello, meet our members and learn about club activities.

encouraged to register online by September 6, 2026, which will help with class planning, although registration will remain open after that date.

The new class schedule is:

- Grades K–6: Sundays, 8:45–9:45 a.m., before the 10 a.m. Mass.
- Grades 7–11: Sundays, 11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m., after the 10 a.m. Mass.

Faith Formation provides children and teens with age-appropriate instruction in the Catholic Faith, Sacred Scripture, Prayer, Christian living, and preparation for the Sacraments. Online registration is the preferred registration method and is available on the parish website. A paper registration form is also available for families who need one.

For more information or to register, visit www.StAnneStPatrickParish.com or call 508-347-9353.

St. Anne St. Patrick Parish & Shrine is an active parish community serving the Sturbridge area and beyond, offering daily Masses, religious education, and community ministries. The shrine grounds welcome thousands of visitors each year and feature St. Anne Shrine, Stations of the Cross and Crucifix, Hall of Saints, Russian Icon Exhibit, Generations Statue, Angel of Hope Monument, Memorial for the Unborn, Votive Chapels, weekend Masses celebrated in the outdoor pavilion during the summer, and a religious gift shop open daily from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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SEPTEMBER 26 & 27

2026

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