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Thursday-Friday, July 10-11, 2025

Charlton Police Department celebrates new appointees

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The Charlton Board of Selectmen celebrated the appointments of three new senior members of the Charlton Police on June 10, with two new sergeants and a new lieutenant starting this month.

Selectmen accepted the appointment of Timothy Smith to Sergeant while also acknowledging prior promotions of Det. Jason White to Sergeant and Sgt. Anthony Gribbons to Lieutenant. All three are expected to have a pinning ceremony later this year. Police Chief Daniel Dowd said he wanted to make

sure the appointments were recognized before the three officers began their duties at the start of July.

The first appointment was Timothy Smith, who served as a patrolman until his promotion as well as a firearms instructor and SWAT operator. He has worked with the Charlton Police Department since 1997. He said his appointment to Sergeant is just the next chapter in his service to the community.

“It’s my pleasure to serve this town and I’ll continue to service it as I have for the last 28 years,” Smith said in a short statement to selectmen.

The other two appoint-



Courtesy
(Left) Sgt. Anthony Gribbons, who was promoted to Lieutenant, Det. Jason White and Patrolman Timothy Smith, who were each promoted to sergeant, begin their new roles in the Charlton Police Department this month.

tees recognized were Jason White and Anthony Gribbons who had previously been promoted in April after the retirement of Lt. Keith Cloutier. Gribbons was promoted to Lieutenant after serving the police department since 2020, bringing more than 20 years in law enforcement to the role. White was subsequently promoted to fill Gribbons’ role as Sergeant after serving the depart-

Turn To **CHARLTON PD** page 10

“I hope we continue to change the narrative” *Metzger joins Southbridge schools as Receiver*

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — As a new fiscal year rolls in, and a new school year in about two months, the Southbridge schools have a new captain at the helm.

Back in April, eight-year Receiver Jeff Villars resigned to take a new job elsewhere, leaving Southbridge in the hands of someone who originally thought he’d become a lawyer. But several years in the legislature as an aide to senators and representatives gave Bill Metzger a “strong interest in educational issues.”

He switched gears into teaching social studies and English at Minnechaug Regional High School, found he loved and “had a knack for working with some of the harder-to-reach students,” and eventually had someone ask if he had any interest in administration. That led him up the chain of command – dean of students and



Bill Metzger

assistant principal before becoming Monson High’s principal. His eight years there included the “challenging time” of Covid, and prompted a desire for a change. He heard about staff needs in Southbridge – initially, human resources, then in the business office – before Villars told him he was leaving and “thought I’d be a good fit for the role.”

So now Metzger’s here – and said he hopes to earn a permanent role as superintendent when the district transitions back to self-rule.

“We have to be closer to the end than the beginning of this model of governance,” he observed.

“I hope we continue to change the narrative here in Southbridge ... to overcome some of these public perceptions,” he added later. “The system has come a long way. We have really excellent teachers, excellent leaders in our buildings who are really committed to

their work.”

Metzger said he came into the job with some experience dealing with high needs, both personally and professionally. His own four public school kids in Wilbraham are “very different kids with different needs,” from “high honors and high flyers” to those who have IEPs and “challenging” teacher conferences.

Turn To **METZGER** page 10

Charlton's Delene Sarsfield, P.E.O. grant recipient, inspires Bay Path PN graduates

CHARLTON — The graduating class of 2025 at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy gathered at the Performance Arts Center of the Overlook on June 20 for their graduation and pinning ceremony, where they were inspired by graduation speaker Delene Sarsfield, a fellow student and a 2024-2025 recipient of a prestigious P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) grant.

Sarsfield, a Charlton resident and a distinguished member of the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy community, was honored by members of Chapter AA of the P.E.O., receiving not only the grant but also a certificate and thoughtful gifts in recognition of



her promising future in nursing, and tremendous support as she navigated the rigorous ten months of nursing education.

With more than 15 years of experience as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Sarsfield brings a wealth of hands-on knowledge and a deep commitment to patient-centered care to her nursing journey. Known for her multifaceted skills, efficiency, and ethical approach, she has consistently demonstrated exceptional compassion and empathy in her interactions with patients. Her collaborative spirit and openness to constructive feedback have also made her a valued colleague. Sarsfield

Turn To **SARSFIELD** page 10

St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish hosts annual Novena to Saint Anne

STURBRIDGE — St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish and Shrine invites the public to participate in its cherished tradition: the 138th annual Novena to Saint Anne. Held annually since 1887, this nine-day spiritual event offers a powerful opportunity for prayer, reflection, and connection with the patroness of mothers, grandmothers, and all those in need of comfort.

This year’s Novena begins on Friday, July 18, and concludes on Saturday, July 26. Each evening offers a time for confession, a rosary procession, and a special Novena Mass celebrated by a diverse group of priests representing various cultures and traditions.

“There is power in praying together,” said Fr. Luc Martel, pastor of St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish. “Since the first healing at this holy site, people have come seeking peace and grace. We invite everyone to join us for one or more evenings during this sacred time.”

Evening Schedule:
5:30 p.m. – Sacrament of Penance (Confession)
6:30 p.m. – Rosary Procession (starting at the Generations Statue near the gift shop)
7 p.m. – Novena Mass (held in the outdoor pavilion)
On the final day, Saturday, July 26, a special Mass for the Anointing of the Sick will be held at 11 a.m.

Each evening of the Novena to Saint Anne will be celebrated by a guest priest, highlighting the rich cultural and spiritual diversity of the universal Church. St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish is honored to welcome the following celebrants:

Friday, July 18 – Rev. Donald Ouellette, representing the Diocesan Cursil-

Turn To **NOVENA** page 10

SOUTHBRIDGE POLICE LOG

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of June 23-30.

Vladimir Devil, age 37, of Southbridge was arrested on June 23 in connection with a warrant.

A 31-year-old female from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on June 24 for Simple Assault & Battery.

Damon Shayne Gosselin, age 24, of Spencer was arrested on June 24 for Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon (To Wit, a Motor Vehicle), Leaving the Scene of Personal Injury, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and a Marked Lanes Violation.

Jesse Jerome Lloyd, age 27, of Whitinsville was arrested on June 24 for a Marked Lanes Violation, Possession of a Class A Drug, Operating Under the Influence of Drugs, and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

Kevin Joseph Mondor, age 37, of Southbridge was arrested on June 25 for Domestic Assault and Battery.

Dante T. Blake, age 26, of Southbridge was arrested on

June 25 in connection with a warrant for Operating a motor vehicle after suspension of license.

Nikko-Tomas Onil Letendre, age 20, of Southbridge was arrested on June 27 for Possession of Ammunition Without FID Card, Reckless Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Possession of a Class B Drug, Possession of a Large Capacity Firearm Used in a Felony, and multiple counts of Carrying a Firearm Without a License, Carrying a Loaded Firearm Without a License, Possession of a Large Capacity Feeding Device, Improper Storage of a Large Capacity Firearm Near a Minor, Possession of a Large Capacity Firearm, and Possession of a Large Capacity Firearm in a Motor Vehicle.

Dakota Douglas Seay, age 22; Kristina Marie Trifone, age 31; Luis Miguel Zayas, Jr., age 23; and a juvenile, age 15, all of Southbridge, were arrested during the same incident on the same charges.

A 29-year-old male from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on June 28 for Leaving the Scene of Property Damage and a Marked Lanes Violation.

An 18-year-old male from Lunenburg received a summons in lieu of arrest on June 29 for Failure to Stop for Police, driving at a rate of speed greater than was deemed reasonable and proper; a Marked Lanes Violation, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Reckless Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Failure to Signal, a Miscellaneous Motor Vehicle Equipment Violation, a Motor Vehicle Lights Violation, Weaving Between Lanes, an Unlawful Yellow Line Crossing, and multiple counts of Failure to Stop or Yield.

Kenneth Jaquan Best, age 19, of Southbridge was arrested on June 29 for Domestic Assault and Battery.

Derek Matthew Patricks, age 41, of Southbridge was arrested on June 29 in connection with a warrant for Larceny in an amount under \$1,200.

of a Class A Drug (subsequent offense).

Jamil A. Rivera, age 44, of Southbridge was arrested on June 30 in connection with a warrant.

A 20-year-old male from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on June 30 for a Moped violation, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Failure to Stop for

Turn To PD page 10



ARTHRITIS?

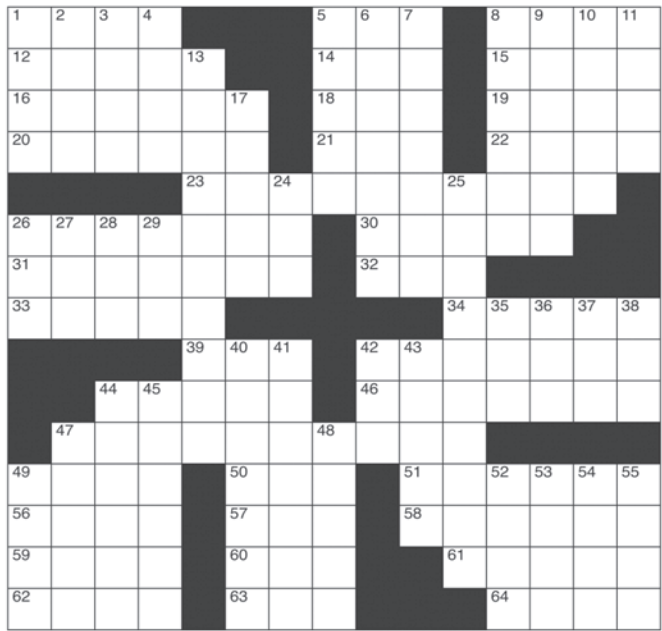
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. 50 percent
- 5. Records electric currents
- 8. Charlize Theron flick “__ Flux”
- 12. More frosty
- 14. Disfigure
- 15. Sky color
- 16. A thoroughfare in a town or city
- 18. Actress de Armas
- 19. Spend time in a relaxed way
- 20. California peak
- 21. Lodging option
- 22. Small amount of a thing
- 23. Expresses sorrow
- 26. Keeps an ear warm
- 30. Babies (Spanish)
- 31. A conceited and self-centered person
- 32. No seats available
- 33. Pouches
- 34. Hip joints
- 39. A place to bathe
- 42. Evading
- 44. Minute, one-celled unit
- 46. Losing one’s hair
- 47. A country in W Africa
- 49. One point north of northeast
- 50. Pointed end of a pen
- 51. Extreme
- 56. Norse personification of old age
- 57. Doctors’ group
- 58. Member of U.S. Navy
- 59. Mens’ fashion accessories
- 60. A way to allow
- 61. Gloomy
- 62. Grads wear one
- 63. Between south and southeast
- 64. Jaguarundi cat

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Snakes do it
- 2. Hormone
- 3. The standard monetary unit of Turkey
- 4. Fixed charges
- 5. Electronic communication
- 6. Artilleries
- 7. “Strangers on a Train” actor
- 8. Burning
- 9. Makes ecstatically happy
- 10. Greek liqueurs
- 11. Tropical Old World tree
- 13. Someone who takes vengeance
- 17. Style of cuisine
- 24. Select
- 25. Immunized against disease
- 26. Old world, new
- 27. Honorable title (Turkish)
- 28. Court case: __ v. Wade
- 29. Supervises interstate commerce
- 35. Not divisible by two
- 36. Twelve
- 37. Commentator Coulter
- 38. Encourage
- 40. Plumbing fixtures
- 41. Early
- 42. One point north of due east
- 43. King of Thebes
- 44. Short-tailed martens
- 45. Impose a penalty on
- 47. Consort of Poseidon
- 48. A way to lessen
- 49. Brooklyn hoops team
- 52. Female of a horse
- 53. Do as one is told
- 54. A way to prepare meat
- 55. Unit of measurement



SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of June 30 to July 7.

A 40-yr-old female from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on June 30 for Malicious Destruction of Property valued at less than \$1,200.

Felix J. Resto, age 36, of Southbridge was arrested on June 30 for Possession of a Class B Drug (subsequent offense) and multiple counts of Possession of Ammunition Without FID Card.

Troy L. Souto, age 27, of Southbridge was arrested during the same incident in connection with multiple warrants.

A 31-year-old from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest during this incident for Trafficking in 18 Grams or More of Crack Cocaine, and a 37-year-old from Southbridge also received a summons for Possession

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Charlton

None

Holland

\$610,000, 33 Pine tree dr, costa, david m, and costa, depina a, to flaherty sr, thomas p, and flaherty, maureen a.

\$309,000, 335 Mashapaug rd, guskey, marianne e, to hussey, adam a, and hussey, katherine a.

Southbridge

\$450,000, 398 Durfee st, lang, james, and qu, daoning, to lima, estenio l, and lima, vanuse e.

\$439,900, 646 Lebanon hill rd, emily l cormier rev t, and cormier, shawn p, to packard, dylan, and ortiz, celina.

\$355,379, 379 Whitetail cir, craig, erin r, to stuart, marissa.

\$300,000, 11 Sayles st, mathieu, cheyenne c, to delacruz, juan.

Sturbridge

\$640,000, 28 Woodlawn dr, tan, yi, and yu, xunjie, to chen, sherry, and chen, xia.

\$100,000, 12 Summit ave, talbot ft 2015, and talbot, patriacia a, to hebert, gregory.

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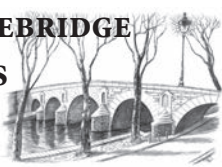
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- Central Baptist Church 256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550 Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.
- Charlton Federated Church, 64 Main St., 508- 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer worship is 9:30 a.m. www.fed-church.org www.charltonfedchurch.org
- 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.stannestpatparish.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
- 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

Building community with “courageous conversations”

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — In a time where social media and other “communication” outlets seem geared to promoted conflict rather than communication, Michelle Chalmers is still focused on building common ground.

For years, the Charlton resident has been a racial justice educator; largely because her own family is biracial – her husband and two sons are black. While she went into marriage thinking our society was equal, she said she's come to see it's not, and the people who have the most influence on her children are white teachers and police officers.

“We all need to understand the system in

which we live,” Chalmers told a recent meeting of the new Central Mass Common Ground, a group aiming to bridge political and social differences in the area.

It meets at Charlton Library, and has members from Charlton, Sturbridge, Southbridge and Woodstock, among other towns.

For her, that exploration led to seeing a need for ways to build common ground among people who might not see it at first. That's not something widely taught in schools or other public settings; she said we're “not taught how to actively listen,” but that's “a skill we can learn in all of our relationships.”

“Sometimes, these courageous conversations can be triggering

and difficult,” she added.

Chalmers has been doing it for years, mostly using a system she calls “transformational conversations.” The basic goal is to help people find common interests that will enable them to maintain (or create) relationships with the people they might disagree with.

It's mostly based on the ideas of Dr. David Camp, whose website dubs him “The Dialogue Guy.” The site describes its goal as helping people who “know that they have the internal wisdom to better address complex problems but also know they are not operating at their highest potential” to unlock “the power of dialogue for improving inclusive decision making.”

“Dialogue in a small group of people is a critical process for exploring the power of group intelligence, and we are certainly passionate advocates of this approach to engaging groups,” a different page states. “But we also believe that an organization's or community's problems sometimes require the engagement of more diverse voices than can be in one small group.”

Chalmers said Camp uses the acronym RACE as his method's core concept to promote “engaging with empathy.”

The R is for “reflect and relax” – taking a moment to assess how you feel when someone says something you dislike. She noted people often get defensive, but don't know why, and it helps a

lot to “get more comfortable being uncomfortable in such situations.”

Chalmers encourages using a basic deep breathing exercise “when we want to freak out” – inhaling for a count of five, holding it for two, then exhaling for seven – a few times in succession. While doing so, consider whether you should really respond now, later, or ever.

If you do so, Camp's A is for “Ask for understanding.” The speaker might be using terms in a way that's different from how you'd use them, or you might have missed a key point. Ask them how they came to see its meaning that way – did they experience something that taught it to them, or did they hear it from others?

common ground. (As Chalmers' handout describes it, this step is to “find the chocolate in the trail mix.”)

Finally, the E means “Expand” on those experiences, to promote wider understanding.

Chalmers asked participants to think about what they can agree on that will enable a shared next step. The key is to try to understand the other person's story before expressing your own, and she noted “try not to use the word 'but,' and replace it with 'and.'” But “negates all you just said,” while and continues the thought and adds to it, she noted.

After her summary of the concept, a couple people came forward to roleplay scenarios of disagreements from their personal experience. The group decided they'll have brief roleplay sessions in future meetings.

Ruth Wells Center displays local student’s art

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts is honored to display art by Sophia Metcalf until July 13. The Center is located at 111 Main St. in Southbridge, and gallery hours are Saturday and Sunday, noon-4 p.m.

We are pleased to welcome Metcalf, the Southbridge High School Unified Arts Honors Award Recipient for Visual Arts. She's been exploring art avenues for just a few years, and currently works in any media which takes her fancy. Her discovery of refuge in art reflects the wrestling match everyone has experienced to some degree in the post-COVID social world. We can all relate in some fashion.

Metcalf tells us, “It was my yearning for some sort of belonging after COVID had hit, that whole time made my social anxiety 1,000 times worse than it was, making finding my own niche of people very difficult. Art was just something that had no limits to what you could create, and



I found that amazing. Ever since then, art has just been a big part of my life.”

This gallery show is open to all, admission as always is free, and Sophia's work can be seen July 5, 6, 12 and 13 from noon to 4 p.m., or by appointment during the week. For more information, go to ruthwellscenter.com or call 508-764-3341.

Southbridge Lions Club seeks sponsors for Cornhole Tournament

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Lions Club is proud to announce the return of its annual Cornhole Tournament, scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 20. This much-anticipated community event promises a day filled with spirited competition, camaraderie, and fun for all ages. Full event details will be released in the coming weeks.

In preparation for the tournament,

the Lions Club is seeking sponsors for the cornhole board sets used during the event. Each \$500 sponsorship includes a custom-designed board featuring the sponsor's logo, offering local businesses and individuals a great opportunity to support a community cause while receiving prominent visibility. Sponsors are asked to submit a high-resolution PDF of their logo along with payment. As of now, eight

board sponsorships remain available. To become a sponsor or learn more, please contact: Mike Comeau at 774-431-0768 or Chris Colon at 774-230-6944.

Please note that board orders must be finalized within the next couple of weeks, so prompt responses are appreciated. Let's work together to make the Southbridge Lions Club 2025 Cornhole Tournament the most successful one yet!

Charlton Public Library presents “Local Food Matters” with Central Mass Grown July 15

CHARLTON — Do you know where your food comes from? Have you met the farmers that grow your food? Is local food really healthier?

Come learn about local food, the farmers that grow it, and how to support farms here in Central Massachusetts. See how eating local benefits you, helps your neighbors, and is good for the planet! Presented by David Reed, Executive Director of Central Mass Grown. Registration is appreciated but not required and can be done by visiting our website/event calendar at charltonlibrary.org.

Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St. in Charlton.



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Ruth Wells Center

announces upcoming workshops

Cornerstone Bank promotes Elizabeth Dunn to vice president of benefits

SOUTHBRIDGE — Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, 111 Main St. in Southbridge, is very pleased to announce a series of workshops for adults and kids- all taking place at the Center.

On Thursday Aug. 14, from 6-8 p.m., Simone Germain will teach a canvas tote painting workshop for adults. Participants will learn to paint a summer scene on a bag- just in time for summer outings. All materials will be provided. Cost is \$35 for members, \$40 for non-members. Registration may be found on the website, ruthwellscenter.com.

Annual membership is only \$20 for individuals, \$30 for family membership. Membership forms are also on the Web site.

On Saturday, July 12, 10 a.m. to noon, kids will make rainbow twirlers.

Aug. 9 is a t-shirt tie dye workshop, noon to 2 p.m.

The September workshop is Saturday, Sept. 13, 10 a.m. to noon to make backpack charms. All workshops for kids are free for paid family members or \$5 per workshop per child. For \$30 a year, this is a good opportunity for kids to be creative, learn new skills and have fun. Registration is required in order to plan for materials.

For more information, go to Web site, ruthwellscenter.com or call 508-764-3341.

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, is pleased to announce the promotion of Elizabeth Dunn to vice president of benefits. She previously served as assistant vice president, HR business partner. In her new role, she will lead the development, implementation and management of Cornerstone’s employee benefits programs, ensuring compliance, cost-effectiveness and employee satisfaction, while also advising on strategic planning and vendor relationships.

“Lyz has more than a decade of valuable experience in her field, and is intimately familiar with our culture,” said Cornerstone CEO Todd Tallman. “She has demonstrated expertise in administering and overseeing comprehensive benefits programs, ensuring compliance with federal and state regulations while monitoring the effectiveness of our health and welfare offerings.”

lege graduate and a member of the Society for Human Resource Management. She also volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and the Community Harvest Project.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank’s local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone, which is a subsidiary of PeoplesBankCorp, MHC, operating independently under its own name and brand, provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities



through a broad range of deposit and loan products and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on

the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.



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Ruth Wells Center spotlights works by Martha Moore

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, located at 111 Main St. in Southbridge, is very pleased to offer a collection of works by Martha Moore. Her quilts and knitted creations will be on display in the galleries from July 19-26. For more information, go to ruthwellscenter.com or call 508-764-3341. The Ruth Wells Center, also known as Quinebaug Valley Council for the Arts and Humanities is a non-profit organization promoting art and culture and always welcomes new members.

An opening reception for this exhibit, titled “Martha Moore’s Life and Art,” will be held July 19 from noon to 4 p.m. The exhibit will be open for viewing through July 26.

For many years, Moore owned her own business, Moore Garden and Landscape, creating countless gardens and planting trees. Her two- or three-person crews were often all women.

A gifted fiber and textile artist, she made her own wedding gown, including the lacework. She was a prolific knitter; always working with natural fibers. and often starting with raw wool to handwash, card, spin and dye before creating exquisite sweaters, hats, shawls and slippers. She also made whimsical hand-stitched quilts.

Moore was a charter member of QVCAH, the Ruth Wells Center for the Arts and taught classes here and at the Hitchcock Free Academy in Brimfield. She was also a member of the Southbridge Garden Club.

Whether you knew Martha or not, stop by and see an enchanting exhibit of her work, arranged with love by her children.

If you own a Martha Moore original, please bring it to be photographed.

Limited items will be on sale.

As always, refreshments will be served at the opening. Gallery hours are Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. throughout the month.

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Officials denounce conservation cuts

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — The Healey-Driscoll Administration joins officials statewide in condemning the Trump Administration’s cancellation of more than \$45 million in funding to accelerate conservation efforts across Massachusetts. The cuts include a \$20.8 million award from

the U.S. Department of Agriculture to Massachusetts that would have provided long-term protections for farmlands, forests, and wetlands. State officials said the funding was slated to assist farmers and forest landowners, particularly in small, rural communities. Funds would have been used for projects carried out by a coalition

of state agencies, land trusts, and municipalities. Additionally, the Trump Administration has canceled a \$25 million grant to Mass Audubon that was set to protect more than 10,000 acres of forests and wetlands along the Connecticut River. “President Trump is yet again taking action

that will hurt Massachusetts’ rural communities, farmers, and economy,” said Gov. Maura Healey. “This is funding that would have been used to ensure clean water, provide access to fresh local food, and support our agricultural economy. President Trump is making us less healthy and weakening our economy. He should reverse these cuts immediately.” The cuts will have several negative financial impacts on rural communities, officials warn. “These grants are essential for preserving farmland, protecting wetlands to reduce flooding risks, and maintaining forests that attract tourism and outdoor activities,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. “Cutting these funds puts extra pressure on local budgets, threatens rural jobs, and leaves our com-

munities more vulnerable to disasters.” With Bay Staters having faced emergencies resulting from floods, droughts, and wildfires in recent years, state and local officials are calling for increases in municipal preparedness initiatives and other protections, not cuts. “When we stop protecting natural lands, we lose clean air, flood protection, and the ability to slow climate change,” said Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. “These places absorb carbon, shield our homes from extreme weather, and keep nature in balance. Without them, we all feel the impact.” Members of agricultural communities are also concerned by the cuts. “Canceling this fund-

ing strips farmers of critical tools to keep their land in agriculture through voluntary conservation easements. These agreements help make farmland more affordable for the next generation while allowing farmers to stay on the land and keep it productive,” said Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Commissioner Ashley Randle. “Without this support, farmers lose options – and some may be pushed to sell, putting local farming at risk.” Added David O’Neill, President and CEO of Mass Audubon, “When we terminate grants that conserve our forests, keep working lands working, act as a flood protection buffer for communities, and leverage millions from other funding sources, we all lose.”

New trucks spark Council debate among many purchases

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — Besides handling (re)appointment of dozens of people to boards and other town posts, the Council transferred over \$1 million to balance the books to close out fiscal 2025 on June 30. That’s pretty routine for June every year. Several vehicle purchases sparked some debate, delaying trucks for the schools although very similar vehicles were approved for the DPW. At issue were F350/450 pickups with plows. Town Manager Jack Jovan said the schools requested one of each to replace 2011 trucks, which they use for parking lot plowing and assisting the DPW on streets near the schools. Joe Daou asked if they’d checked vehicles for safety issues, and alleged that the DPW has many vehicles just “sitting around.” Jovan replied that the schools had provided the council with maintenance records, photos of “body rot” and other details. He noted the DPW doesn’t have enough staff itself to plow everything and routinely calls on school and sewer staff to help. Although the town used to hire several plowing contractors each winter, most of them no longer do it due to high insurance requirements and better pay from the state. (This has become an issue in several towns.) After a little back and forth, Jovan suggested the council could withdraw those two trucks, putting the funds into the Capital Stabilization account to get them later, and have the schools “articulate farther for their needs.” Mike Marketti noted the last time the council did that, they “ended up voting for it anyway.” The council voted to delay those trucks (\$190,000), but approved buying two Chrysler Pacificas (\$106,000) to use for special ed transport. Chair Scott Lazo said the council will undertake “an inventory of all vehicles” the town owns, what replacements are needed and where he replaced vehicles go sometime after the new council’s sworn in July 7. Several items later, the council approved buying two F350s with plows for the DPW despite discussing delaying that purchase for the same reasons the school purchase was. During that discussion, there was some objection to the size of the trucks, with Daou saying he’d like to see smaller ones with

plows because the big ones require CDL licences. “I don’t believe we have enough vehicles,” Jovan said then, without specific details. “Maybe the school does, but the DPW does not.” He said the town needs to look more generally at “vehicle fleet maintenance” and should have a “fleet manager” for its “millions of dollars in vehicles.” Outside vehicles, the schools did get \$450,000 in capital repair spending they sought. Charlton Street School will get an oil tank and line, plus roof work (\$100,000 each); Cole Ave’s getting \$100,000 in masonry work; and the middle/high school’s getting \$150,000 in driveway paving. Jovan said the latter will be included in the DPW’s three-year paving bid, due to be sent out soon. Steve Kelly questioned the wisdom of putting more money into the oil system. Jovan said it’s needed now, but a to-be-created facilities committee will look into that issue among other school needs. One concern now is that it’s uncertain which buildings the district intends to keep using long term, and any state grant funding will require use for at least 20 years, Jovan said. Another major project approved was \$600,000 to line the East Main Street sewer line, which can be done from manhole to manhole now, rather than having to reopen the new road if there’s a serious leak later. That came up when workers on the ongoing road project “found the sewer line would break” and hit it a few times while doing other work, in part because the existing plans didn’t show its location quite accurately, Lazo noted. Other items resulted in purchase of a police cruiser and “electronic control devices;” a solid waste department pickup truck; redesignating sewer funds from a septage building project to a compost screener; buying \$86,000 in fire department gear; setting aside \$300,000 for downtown TIP project right-of-way needs; \$100,000 to match an airport hangar project grant; \$450,000 for a new ambulance; and a lot of smaller items. Jovan said the total would leave \$541,021 remaining in free cash, which will go to the state to be certified for use next fiscal year.

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

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Laren
Age 10
Registration # 8313

Laren is a friendly, fun-loving, and energetic young girl who brings joy and enthusiasm to everything she does. She thrives in a structured environment where routines are clear and consistent, as this helps her feel safe and supported. Laren loves being creative and often spends her time drawing and expressing herself through art. Music and dance are also some of her favorite outlets—she enjoys moving to the beat and letting her personality shine. Active and adventurous by nature, Laren enjoys outdoor play and being on the go, whether it's exploring new places or simply running around outside. She has a deep love for animals, especially turtles and other aquatic creatures, and enjoys learning about them whenever she can. Her interest in sea life is a special part of who she is and brings out her sense of wonder and curiosity. With the right support, encouragement, and structure, Laren continues to grow and shine. She would do best in a nurturing, active family that can provide consistency, patience, and plenty of opportunities to explore her interests.

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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.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Some of the best memories are made in flip flops

Summer is in full swing, with everyone walking around with a sun kissed glow. Apart from mild weather, lush green forests, swimmable rivers and lakes and beautiful flowers, there are significant health benefits to these summer months.

Sunlight aids in regulating our systems. During the summer months, there is a reduced rate of heart attacks. One study revealed that those who suffered a heart attack during the summer had survival rates increase by 19 percent. Vitamin D is said to play a role in protecting the heart as well as regulating calcium and phosphorus absorption.

Individuals tend to eat lighter and healthier in the summer, consuming more fruits and vegetables, which boosts our immune system. Produce is in abundance, whether it's at the local farmer's market or in our own back yards. Bring on the watermelon! The sun can also cure many skin issues, such as psoriasis, dermatitis and acne; however, this doesn't mean we can skip the sunscreen.

Summertime encourages us to get out and exercise. Getting the blood pumping creates endorphins and initiates and improves the flow of oxygen to the brain, which in turn lowers stress, and can aid in productivity in other areas of our lives. The longer days also afford us zero excuse to get out and get it done.

Because of the warmer temperatures, we automatically increase our water intake. This promotes digestion and flushes the toxins from our bodies.

Sleep disorders tend to fall by the wayside or improve during the summer due to the sun's early morning exposure. Experts say getting sunshine between 7 and 9 a.m. every morning will help you sleep better at night.

Spending time with friends, family and community increases in the summer which is key to our mental health. During summer months there are more outdoor activities that bring folks together such as band concerts, farmer's markets, campfires, which are all great places to catch up with our neighbors.

Most people tend to go on vacation during the summer, reducing stress and burnout. More and more people are realizing just how important it is to take a breather.

Summertime helps us to feel more footloose and fancy free. There is also an overall feeling of relaxation and joy, over simple things like reading a book on the front porch, sipping sun tea or the smell of fresh cut grass.

The rivers flow wildly in the mountains and the lakes remain calm for fisherman to drop a line and float about, letting all cares melt away as the sunlight dances off the small ripples and waves. Mountain summits are picture perfect with blue skies, white clouds, vibrant green trees with glistening rocks, oftentimes creating scenes that don't even look real.

Take advantage of the season and savor every moment. In the words of the great Henry James, "Summer afternoon-summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language."

OPINION

Bring the garden to your next gathering



Melinda Myers
Edible nasturtium blossoms brighten up this salad.

Make every dining experience fun and flavorful by including garden fresh herbs, vegetables and flowers in your meals. Allowing guests to harvest and season their drinks, entrees and sides from the garden or container creates an interactive experience they are sure to remember.

Start your gathering with a review of the menu and a tour of the gardens. Provide guests with a harvest basket and snips so they can collect all their favorite ingredients. Or gather an assortment of herbs and vegetables in advance and display them in containers for your family and guests to make their own selections.

Include a few herbs and vegetables that can be blended, muddled or added to yours and your guests' favorite beverage. Use the hollow stems of lovage as a straw for tomato juice or bloody Mary. You'll enjoy the celery flavor this edible straw provides. Provide mint, basil or rosemary leaves to flavor iced tea and lemonade. Just set the herbs near the beverage table for easy access, provide needed utensils, and herbal cocktail recipes.

Bring the garden to the party by placing a few containers of herbs, edible flowers and vegetables on your balcony, patio, deck or near the grill. Use small herb containers as edible centerpieces and add a pair of garden scissors or snips. Label the plants, offer seasoning suggestions, and allow your family and guests to season the meal to their taste when it arrives. Remind guests to adjust the quantity of herbs used to allow for the difference in flavor intensity of fresh vs. dried herbs. In general, you will need two to three times more fresh than dried herbs.

Add a bit of color and unique flavor to the meal with edible flowers. Pick the flowers early in the day when they are at their peak and taste best. Wash them by dipping the flower in a bowl of water and gently shaking. Remove the bitter tasting base of the petal and the reproductive parts from larger flowers before preparing.

Make sure the flowers you select are edible and free of pesticides. Let your guests know they can eat the flowers, or you'll end up with a pile of petals on the side of every plate. Try nasturtium and daylily blossoms stuffed with cream cheese; calendula, pansy, and borage petals sprinkled on salad; chive flowers for baked potatoes; and mint leaves on top of a slice of chocolate cake.

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.

Stress-test your retirement portfolio in volatile markets



FINANCIAL
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NIELSEN

If you're planning to retire within the next few years — or you've recently retired — market volatility may feel especially unsettling. After years of saving and planning, you're now entering a stage where your portfolio may shift from growth to providing income. The five-year window before and after your retirement date is especially critical — when market downturns can have an outsized impact on your long-term financial security.

While you can't control the markets, there are meaningful steps you can take to "stress-test" your retirement income, so it is not consumed entirely by market drops before you stop working.

Explore your short- and medium-term income needs. One of the most important steps to take is to understand how much of your portfolio you'll need to rely on for income. It depends on your other income sources such as Social Security, IRAs, 401ks, pensions and wages if you work in retirement. You'll want to avoid taking too much from your portfolio in response to a decline because that could increase the likelihood that your money may not last through retirement. A financial advisor can help you determine your threshold for monthly withdrawals, based on your income needs, long-term outlook, inflation and risk tolerance.

Review your emergency fund. Are you able to set aside at least three to six months' worth of essential expenses in cash or very low-risk investments? That could allow you to avoid digging too deeply into your portfolio or selling stocks or other volatile assets at a loss if the market drops. The income bridge from an emergency fund gives your longer-term investments time to recover and can reduce stress during down markets. You may even find you want more than six months in this fund to help weather emergencies, depending on your risk and your comfort level.

Review your mix. As you approach or begin retirement, does your portfolio reflect your need for stability and income? You may need to reduce exposure to riskier assets such as stocks and increase holdings in more stable ones, like bonds or cash equivalents. Your ideal allocation depends on your risk tolerance, spending needs and other income sources. The goal is to shield your savings from major losses just as you begin drawing from them.

Consider market swings. If the value of your portfolio dropped 20% tomorrow and stayed there for a period of time, would you need to change your lifestyle or spending immediately? Would you need to go back to work? If your answer is yes, revisit your asset allocation or spending plan. A more conservative approach may offer less upside but can provide greater confidence during the early years of retirement.

Assess your spending. Even small budget adjustments can make a big difference, especially early in retirement. Do you need to consider postponing a major purchase or trimming discretionary spending? If you're still working, directing extra income into savings can help build a cushion. If you're already retired, keeping withdrawals as low as possible during market downturns can help support long-term sustainability.

Stay grounded — and get support. Market swings are inevitable, but emotional reactions and risky investing can lead to costly mistakes. Don't abandon your investment strategy. Instead, focus on what you can control: your asset mix, spending and flexibility. A financial advisor can help you stress-test your retirement plan, evaluate your options and stay focused on your long-term goals — even when the markets are anything but steady.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Honoring the work of honeybees

To the Editor:

Hi, I'm Riley from Auburn Troop 101. I've been a resident of Charlton since January 2024, and recently, I've been working towards becoming an Eagle Scout. I'm writing today to discuss my thoughts on a subject which matters to me a lot — the challenges honeybees face in modern day.

Honeybees are by far my favorite animal, and my grandparents work extensively with them which has brought to my attention the different threats to bees such as pesticides or habitat loss. I believe that in order for us to combat the issues bees face, we should come together to support them once a year on May 20, which is World Bee Day. On World Bee Day, we should host an event where we help create a more friendly environment for bees by doing things such as planting small gardens, planting flowers, and educating people on how to create a safe environment for bees, as well as their importance to our ecosystem.

Riley Rodriguez
Charlton



Estate jewelry, gold, diamonds, and gold watches

We’ve neared the top of our top 10 list with number 2 today, which is estate jewelry, gold, diamonds, gold watches.

I’ll start by discussing estate jewelry, vintage and antique jewelry. Estate jewelry is generally meant to be any jewelry that was previously owned regardless of age. Antique jewelry uses the same timeframe as most antiques, that they must be 100 years or older. Some consider any jewelry less than 100 years old to be vintage. Others say it must be at least 50 years old while others consider 20- or 30-year-old jewelry to be vintage. Some nicely designed, scarce, signed costume jewelry brooches have sold in the low thousands of dollars but I’ll be discussing jewelry with precious metals



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES

• • • • • WAYNE TUISKULA

and gemstones in this column.

As with coins, the gold or platinum is worth at least the scrap value of the metals. Platinum jewelry is typically 85 to 95 percent platinum with the rest being alloys. The platinum price is around \$1,400 per ounce as of July 5. With gold, the

number of karats indicates is purity. 10k gold is 41.7 percent gold, 14k is 58.3 percent gold, 18k is 75 percent gold, and 24k is 99.9 percent (or nearly pure gold). Gold price is well over double the price of platinum as I write this at \$3,346.50.

While gold and platinum prices are strong, diamond prices have been declining. Reasons being cited are fewer weddings, less demand for luxury goods, and lower demand in China. The biggest reason for the decline though is the decreased price of lab-grown diamonds. Reports show lab grown diamonds have dropped in price between 75 and 85 percent over a 10-year period.

There are several factors to consider if you



are selling precious metals or diamonds. Most of us are familiar with the 4 Cs of diamonds; cut, clarity, color and carat weight. The size, weight,

age, percentage of gold, and design all play a factor in gold jewelry value.

Auction has proven to be a great method to sell gold jewelry, watches, and other valuables, especially when you are unsure of its value. In 2021, we sold a Rolex Oyster perpetual wristwatch with box for \$3,600. Last year we auctioned an antique 14K gold necklace with three black opals and two mine cut diamonds for over \$11,000. In October 2024, an 18K gold Tiffany & Co. necklace with green tourmaline stones brought \$27,600 in one of our auctions. In 2016 we sold a three and a half carat diamond ring for \$30,000.

Although diamonds may have lost a little of their sparkle, gold is shining brighter than

ever making fine jewelry prices remain strong.

We will be offering gold jewelry, some with diamonds, in our fall/winter sale. We continue to work on a Civil War auction, Laurel and Hardy memorabilia auction, and will be announcing another major auction soon. We also continue to accept consignments for future sales. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

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

Let Heaven and nature sing

For those of us who grew up singing carols, the lyrics “Let Heaven and nature sing” should be quite familiar (“Joy to the World”). That said, I’m really not trying to rush Christmas back into our midst quite this soon, although I am sure many among us were dreaming of winter, or at least a cool breeze these last few days.

Actually, I was thinking about worshipping in the great outdoors.

Generally speaking, this is something that occurs regularly in the summer across the Commonwealth at various denominations and houses of worship – from prayer on the beach, ocean and lake, to full services in amphitheaters, seaside chapels, and cathedrals in the woods.

But specifically my thoughts have turned towards a couple upcoming Sundays in July where yours truly, who is inherently an “indoor cat,” except for sailing and other boating, will be leading some worship services and preaching - outdoors. Images of Simon’s Cat® loom large!

Although I have



BEYOND THE PEWS

• • • • • BY DR. RB MCFEE

CHARLTON CITY UMC

preached a fair amount of times indoors, even worshipped often outside at our church, and others across New England, leading worship outdoors is a new experience; one that can be daunting, especially with acoustics, logistics and weather dependence.

But then again, aren’t all new experiences potentially daunting? Isn’t that why we say “yes,” to such opportunities – to face the challenges, to learn something in the process, to grow? And these challenges offer us an opportunity to test drive our faith, to trust in God.

Even for an indoor cat, there is something sacred about a chapel in the woods. Put differently, there’s something profoundly beautiful worshipping outdoors.

In the midst of God’s creation, surrounded by birds singing their own forms of hymns and praise, seeing butterflies decorating the bushes, watching the sunshine dance between the leaves of tall trees as a gentle breeze blows the branches. Each one in its own way celebrating right along with us!

Jesus knew that, which is why He is often most remembered for His outdoor preaching.

Throughout the Gospel of Matthew, and elsewhere in the New Testament we read where Jesus taught on a boat, from a boat, near the water, on a hillside, and in open air areas of villages throughout the Holy Land.

Why did God meet His people in the outdoors – whether Moses or Abraham or so many others? Why did Jesus teach and do many of His miracles outdoors? It can’t be just

for the space when addressing large crowds. Even some of His most profound small group and One on one healings, teachings and miracles happened outside.

20 For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made Romans 1:20

Perhaps it is as simple as mixing humans with God’s other creations – from sky to sea. Perhaps it rests upon the relaxation we tend to feel from a beach chair instead of a pew, opening our minds and hearts to the basics of our faith- loving God, loving each other; paying attention to who we share some space with, that matters?

Perhaps in our informality, being outdoors makes us feel like we are at ‘church recess,’ –having some liturgical play time! In the process we allow ourselves to see worship can be fun (trust me we will be having some fun!).

Perhaps being in a more simple setting we can focus on the profound

issues of our faith? Perhaps in an environment that stimulates more than sight and sound, but includes touch and smell, we become more fully aware of the unseen yet always Present Spirit that fills our faith?

If this sounds like a great way to worship in the midst of God’s Creation, meet friendly people who are all finding their way at different places on their faith journeys, in a welcoming, relaxed, beautiful atmosphere, consider outdoor worship.

In the Charlton, Spencer, Green Valley area there are several houses of worship drawn from several denominations that will be holding at least some services outdoors.

Speaking of which, The Good Neighbor Church– Charlton City UMC (74 Stafford St.) has a beautiful chapel in the woods! Surrounded by a floral prayer trail, and complete with wood pews and space for beach chairs. Lots of free parking and within an easy walk to indoor bathrooms at our church, round out the experience!

Starting July 6, weather permitting, we will be worshipping outdoors at 10 a.m. Come join us!

And if it is a first time for you, that’s OK! We can share the first time experience together. After all, the Lord challenges us to grow in faith, to help, affirm, support and care about others, and that worship can be done anywhere – in the pews, under the stars, and amidst the trees!

Hoping you find a place to worship our Creator in the midst of His creation, and may you be blessed by the experience. See you soon! God bless.

1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.

Psalms 19: 1,2. For more information about CCUMC: <https://www.charltoncityumc.org>

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Tricks of the trade



Brady, age eight, “floats” after Saterial pulls one of the two supporting chairs out from under him.

SOUTHBRIDGE —Holden’s George Saterial knows performance magic is mostly jokes, wordplay and distraction. But his “Magic by George” kept his young audience roaring last Tuesday at Jacob Edwards Library as he showed a couple dozen kids and their parents illusions involving doves in a cage, balloons, ropes, aliens and even a floating boy.

Gus Steeves

Ben, age six, practices his magical handwaving over the cage that doesn’t yet seem to have doves in it.



Gus Steeves

Saterial shows a finished moon drawing that’s supposed to be his psychic vision of the card Selena, age nine, picked from a deck. (She’d actually picked an alien, which he later popped out of the moon’s “canyon.”)



Gus Steeves

Most of the kids watching get in on magical hand gestures.



Gus Steeves

Some of the parents did so, too.



Gus Steeves

Three kids check out Saterial’s doves, Hocus and Pocus, after the show.



Gus Steeves

Queen, age eight, tests her grip.

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Master Mason pursues his dream

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

STURBRIDGE — On July 1, the Rapsallion Pub in Sturbridge was an exciting evening for a local artist. This artist just happens to be a Master Mason Brother Clay Tull of Southbridge. Brother Tull has been a Mason for 4 years now and his journey in Freemasonry has brought him so much joy in all his goals and accomplishments. Brother Tull has been painting for many years. Being around his second family, his brethren, and their comradery has

given him a positive outlook on life. He can do anything he sets his mind to.

Brother Tull’s art delves deep into perspective, inviting viewers to truly engage and pay attention- sparking a dynamic conversation between the observer and the artist, in each unique painting on display. Brother Tull leaves his creations untitled, encouraging you to explore the work and assign your own titles. Brother Tull has told me that being a person with high anxiety has taught him how to talk to people about his painting and



having conversations to give him the confidence to succeed. If you would like to see more of Brother Clay Tulls artwork, paintings go on Facebook and Instagram just type in “Tulls Dancing Colors.” If you would like more information about Freemasonry and to find a lodge nearest you, visit our Web site at www.massfreemasonry.org

Courtesy

(Left) Brother Clay Tull is all smiles, sitting in front of one of his many paintings that was on display at the Rapsallion Pub. Notice the different identities you can see if you let your imagination take over. Amazing.

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

Everybody has dreams they wish they could accomplish. It could be to find the perfect job, an ideal partner, or a beautiful home. Launching a business, scoring the game-winning shot, or maybe even standing on stage with the crowd roaring. Dreams are a part of being human, and we all know there’s a big difference between dreaming and doing. Between wishful thinking and what Napoleon Hill called “Applied Faith.”

He thought that most people have a passive hope when it comes to their dreams. They wish for better circumstances but never move toward them. They believe, sort of—but they don’t demonstrate that belief by taking action. It’s like saying you trust the parachute but still refusing to jump.

Those who achieve extraordinary results don’t just wish—they move. They practice applied faith. That means they believe so strongly in the outcome that they start living like it’s already on the way. That kind of faith doesn’t sit still. It works.

Hill thought that applied faith is not something you have or don’t have; it’s something you grow, like a muscle. So, how do you develop applied faith?

It starts here: have absolute belief in your definite purpose. Not a vague hope but a precise, focused goal that sets your soul on fire. Once you lock in a purpose that you’re passionate about, you’ll find it much easier to take the following steps.

Build a plan. Faith needs a blueprint. It requires a calendar, a checklist, and a schedule. Applied faith isn’t just saying, “I know it’ll happen”—it’s saying, “Here’s how I’m making it happen.” Even small steps become acts of faith. Faith without a plan is just fantasy, but

faith with a plan—that’s how dreams take form.

Next, you need to take immediate action despite uncertainties. Waiting for the perfect moment is wishful thinking because that moment never arrives. Move forward while the path is still foggy. Every step you take—even the wobbly ones—sends a message that you’re serious. Courage isn’t the absence of uncertainty; it’s the decision to act despite uncertainty.

You’re going to suffer defeats and setbacks, but even when the storm hits, keep going. That’s when the real test shows up—not when everything’s smooth, but when your plans hit a wall when doors close, and when nothing seems to be working. Most people quit there. But applied faith says, “This is just part of the process.” It doesn’t crumble under pressure—it doubles down.

Temporary defeat isn’t a failure. It’s feedback. It’s training. It’s proof that you’re on the field. Stay in the game, and your breakthrough will come.

It’s crucial to surround yourself with believers and supporters. Faith multiplies in the presence of people who see your vision, even when it’s just a seed. You don’t need a crowd, just a few who remind you of your capabilities. Doubters drain you. But believers? They lift you. Applied faith grows stronger in the company of good people.

F a i t h needs fuel. Read scripture or uplifting books. Watch videos of people who’ve walked

through fire and come out shining. Listen to podcasts that keep the fire burning inside. Put quotes on your bathroom mirror. Fill your space with reminders that your dream is on the way. When doubt knocks, let inspiration answer the door.

Express gratitude as if success is already yours. Speak it out loud—daily, confidently—as if the breakthrough has already happened. Say things like, “I’m so thankful for the opportunities lining up for me right now,” or “It feels so good to be living in alignment with my calling.” Begin each morning with, “Thank you for letting me achieve my dream.”

Gratitude doesn’t wait for results—it calls them forward.

When you apply faith directly, something powerful happens—doubt disappears. Fear dissolves and transforms into courage. And the obstacles? They start to look like stepping stones.

Applied faith doesn’t sit around hoping

Applied Faith

things work out. It expects success and plans accordingly. It’s not blind optimism; it’s belief with a backbone.

The next time you catch yourself dreaming, turn that vision into a plan. Turn that plan into action. And back it all with unshakable faith—not the kind that waits for a miracle, but the kind that moves like the miracle’s already on its way.

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OBITUARIES

Laury L. Applegate, 65

Sturbridge: Laury L. (Frankosky) Applegate, 65, of Walker Pond Rd., passed away peacefully at home with her family by her side on Sunday, June 15th, after a long illness. She leaves her beloved husband of 40 years, Nicholas A. Applegate; her son, Alexander J. Applegate and his wife Abbie of South Windham, CT; a daughter, Bailey L. Applegate of Sturbridge; her brother, Gary Frankosky and his wife Lori of Litchfield, SC; a sister, Holly Cramer and her husband Bob of Basking Ridge, NJ; her cherished grandson, Nicholas M. Applegate and many nieces and nephews. Laury was born in Morristown, NJ the daughter of the late Joseph J. and Barbara M. (Otten) Frankosky. She graduated Ridge high school and went on to obtain her Associates degree from Quinsigamond. She worked at Ridge Chevrolet in Basking Ridge, where she met her husband Nick. She moved on to ATT in Bedminster NJ before



working for several years for Carlin Charron and Rosen, LLC as a bookkeeper in Southbridge and Worcester, and most recently as a private bookkeeper for LGPA Swedish Professional Golfer, Annika Sorenstam prior to becoming ill. She donated her time as a Girl Scout leader, Treasurer for the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Library in Sturbridge as well as a book sorter. Laury loved long walks with her friend Linda Dragon and hosting big dinners for the whole family at her home in Sturbridge on Walker Pond. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, August 16th at 11:00 am in the Sturbridge Federated church, 8 Maple St, Sturbridge. A calling hour for Laury will be held on Saturday, August 16th from 10:00 am to 11:00 am in the church prior to the service. Burial will follow in North Cemetery, Sturbridge. www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Daniel Johnathan Ryan Sr.

July 25, 1938 - July 1, 2025



Putnam - July 1st, 2025, Daniel J. Ryan Sr., passed away at home holding hands with his loving wife of 55 years, Jean (LaMotte) Ryan, and surrounded by his family at age 86.



many nieces and nephews. A man of few words but much wisdom, Dan served in the U.S. Navy Air from 1956 to 1959 and received accommodations and honorable discharge. After completing his service, he continued servicing his community by joining the Southbridge Auxiliary Fire Department. He continued his education in Computer Programming and Technology. He had a wide variety of interests both in work and personal, including shipping logistics and printing. At home he enjoyed camping, fishing, stamp and milk bottle/caps collecting and cryptograms. Dan strove each day to be his best self, including being a friend of Bill's for 43 years. Relatives and friends are invited to Saint Mary's Church of the Visitation at 218 Providence Street, Putnam CT, where they may visit with family from 1pm to 2pm, followed immediately by a Funeral Mass. Flowers can be accepted by Gilman Funeral Home. Dan gave to many charities. Donations can be made to your favorite charity in his name. For his memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Richard L (Dick) Orsini, age 83

Richard L (Dick) Orsini, age 83, of Dudley died Wednesday, July 2, 2025 at Harrington Memorial Hospital with his loving family at his side. Richard was born December 1, 1941 in Southbridge. He is the son of the late Antonio and the late Mary(Martino) Orsini. He was predeceased by his brother A. Robert Orsini. He is survived by his wife of 65 years Barbara (Dellomo) Orsini two sons: Richard L. Orsini Jr. (Charlene) of Flower Mound, TX and David Orsini of Dudley and his brother Leonard Orsini (Eloise) of Burlington, MA Beloved Grandfather to Jillian M. Conant (Joshua), Matthew D. Orsini (Kathryn) Rebecca Baldyga (Brandon) and Devon Orsini. Great Grandfather to David, Travis, Arianna, Colton, Finnegan, Myles, Graham, Ruth and Lucy. He was employed by American Optical as Plant Engineer for many years, also worked at Genpak Corporation, Cranston Print, Spirol International, Triangle PWC, Al's Antique Auto Restoration, and Sturbridge Auto Body.



He owned and operated Dick's Guns & Ammo and Dick's Consignment Shop. Member of Knights of Columbus Council 228 where he served as Financial Secretary and Grand Knight, and of John Cardinal Wright Assembly where he served as Worthy Navigator. He was also a State District Deputy. Former Captain of the Dudley Police Auxiliary and Special Police Officer. Dick was very proud of his family and loved hosting family gatherings. He was an avid ballroom dancer, competitive target pistol shooter, loved long motorcycle rides with Barbara, restoring antique autos and attending car shows. A Mass of Christian burial will be held 11:00 am on Wednesday, July 9 at St. Anthony of Padua Church, 24 Dudley Hill Rd., Dudley. Burial will follow in Corbin Cemetery. Calling hours will be Wednesday, July 9 from 9:30-10:30 at Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, MA. www.bartelfuneralhome.com

Charlton PD

continued from page 1

ment since 2007. All three officers were commended by the board of Selectmen for their continued service to the town. Selectman David Singer specifically welcomed the appointees while complimenting the department as a whole. "It's a point of pride at the Charlton Police Department. It really is the finest, I think, not only in the Commonwealth, but period. Our first responders are the best and our police department is just head and shoulders. Every member, these gentlemen and their promotions, they are very well deserved. This town could not be in better hands than it is with the (department)," said Singer. All three appointees officially begin their new roles this month rounding out the new leadership for the Charlton Police Department.

Metzger

continued from page 1

"I feel this gives me perspective ... [about] what would I want this to look like in my child's classroom," Metzger noted. If things are going well, "terrific," but if not "that's a big deal. I feel strongly people need notice and opportunity to be heard." As the district's most recent business manager, he got a chance to see how the finances work, and notes the system is not "one size fits all." While every educator wishes the government would reconsider it's funding priorities to favor schools, "I like to think I live in the real world, too." He promised to "live within our means" with the town's budget at minimum net school spending, with the goal of more clearly expressing how the money links to improving student outcomes. But he also noted that the larger community needs to know that inflation in all kinds of costs in recent years has been "mind-boggling," and when some call for level-funding the schools, that actually means a cut. To some degree, that's something Metzger has considered since he taught history. In class, he had an exercise where he wrote \$1 million on the board (the rough amount a middle class taxpayer pays over their lifetime) and had the kids tell him how they'd spend it. In that regard, he said he feels the Student Opportunity Act has helped boost funding "especially for districts like Southbridge," but "all schools are walking a tightrope" over how to balance the various student needs. Some need more time to ensure "their diploma really means something to them" and to potential colleges, employers and/or the military. "Our students have a very high level of need across a number of metrics," he said. Villar put many things in place to address those issues, and Metzger said he feels "the system is really stabilizing and poised to turn the corner in terms of academic achievement." When asked about councilors' complaints about the district having too many administrators, Metzger said back in May he sees it as "too early to determine what I think is superfluous or not," but will look at the issues to "continue making sure we're maximizing our resources for the students." Among other things, he's been talking to the teachers' union, administrators, Town Manager Jack Jovan, Juan Rodriguez (the state's school committee trainer here and "a frequent thought partner" for Metzger), and plans to spend time at community events over the summer to get public input on what he acknowledged is "an urgent topic for the community." Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

Sarsfield

continued from page 1

was elected as one of the class representatives and was the elected commencement speaker. During her address, Sarsfield shared insights from her extensive career, emphasizing the human connection at the heart of nursing. Her adaptability and ability to thrive under pressure, honed through years in healthcare, resonated deeply with the new graduates embarking on their own professional paths. Sarsfield's long-term aspirations include becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) through her Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy education, with the goal of bridging into a Registered Nurse (RN) program. Her specific passion lies in hospice and palliative care nursing, a field that demands profound compassion and specialized knowledge. This dedication to continuous growth and specialized care will undoubtedly make her a significant asset to the healthcare community. A graduate of Holy Name Central Catholic Jr./Sr. High School in Worcester, Sarsfield is also BLS/HCP CPR certified and has obtained her certificate in Stop the Bleed, demonstrating her commitment to crucial emergency skills. She recently represented Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy at the Worcester Women's Leadership Conference. Her journey, marked by dedication to patient care and a clear vision for her future, served as a powerful testament to the transformative power of education and unwavering commitment

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to service for the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Class of 2025. About P.E.O. International The P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) has been celebrating women's advancements since 1869. What started with a bond of friendship among seven women in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, is now a global sisterhood of more than a half a million members with chapters in the United States and Canada. P.E.O. has helped more than 122,000 women pursue their educational goals by providing over \$415 million in financial assistance. The organization also owns and supports Cottey College, a four-year independent liberal arts and sciences college for women in Nevada, Mo.

PD

continued from page 2

Police. A 63-year-old male from Southbridge was taken into protective custody on June 30. Heather I. Ford, age 47, of Southbridge was arrested on June 1 for Domestic Assault & Battery. A 36-year-old from Webster was taken into protective custody in connection with a warrant on July 3. Jaden Carlos Tucker, age 19, of Southbridge was arrested on July 4 for Speeding, operating an Unregistered and Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Failure to Stop for Police, Failure to Stop or Yield, a Marked Lanes Violation, and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle. A 19-year-old male from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest during the same incident for Speeding, operating an Unregistered and Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Failure

to Stop for Police, Failure to Stop or Yield, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Operating a Motor Vehicle in Violation of License Class. Another 19-year-old male from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest, also for Speeding, Operating an Unregistered and Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Failure to Stop for Police, Failure to Stop or Yield, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Operating a Motor Vehicle in Violation of License Class. Raymond J. Wachtarz, Jr., age 36, of Colchester, Conn. was arrested on July 5 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license for OUI and a Motor Vehicle Lights Violation. A 56-year-old male from Holland was taken into protective custody on July 6. A 25-year-old from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on July 7 for operating an Unregistered and Uninsured Motor Vehicle and a Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID.

Novena

continued from page 1

lo Movement Saturday, July 19 – Rev. Alex Castro, A.A., with the Filipino Community Sunday, July 20 – Rev. Peter Tam Bui, with the Vietnamese Community Monday, July 21 – Rev. Luc Martel, A.A., serving the Parish Community Tuesday, July 22 – Rev. Richard Polek, with the Polish Community Wednesday, July 23 – Rev. Dario Acevedo, with the Brazilian Community Thursday, July 24 – Rev. Enoch Kyere-mateng, with the Afri-

can Community Friday, July 25 – Rev. Hugo Cano, with the Latino/Hispanic Community Feast Day of Saint Anne – Saturday, July 26 11 a.m. – Rev. John Franck, A.A., with the Lay Assumptionists | Mass with Anointing of the Sick, followed by lunch 7 p.m. – Rev. Chi Ai Nguyen, A.A., Provincial of the Augustinians of the Assumption, North American Province Rooted in Scripture and tradition, the practice of a novena—nine days of prayer—echoes the time the Apostles spent in prayer between

the Ascension of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 1:12-14). It is a time to deepen faith, offer thanksgiving, and seek the intercession of the saints. As the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary and grandmother of Jesus, Saint Anne is known for her compassion and spiritual strength. She is the patroness of women, expectant mothers, educators, and caregivers, offering comfort to all who call upon her. For more information about the Novena and the parish, please visit: <https://stannestpatrickparish.com/>.

Nichols College board elects new chair, vice chair, trustees

DUDLEY — At its May 2 meeting, the Nichols College Board of Trustees elected David G. Bedard as the new Chair and Jaime Paris Boisvert as the new Vice Chair of the 27-member board. During the academic year, the board also elected Edmond J. (E.J.) Landry and Taylor Cornell as new trustees.

Bedard is a 1986 graduate of Nichols and has been a member of its board since 2011, serving on the Executive and Finance committees and as chair of the Audit Committee. He succeeds Randy Becker, a member of the board since 2006, and chair for the past three years. Bedard is a retired financial services executive with 35 years of experience, most recently as senior vice president and head of New York Life's Finance Services Organization, the company's global shared services group in New York City. A native of Shrewsbury, he cur-

rently resides in Estero, Fla.

Paris Boisvert, a 1998 graduate of Nichols, was elected to the board in 2021 and has served on the Executive and Finance committees and as chair of the Academic & Faculty Affairs Committee. She succeeds Carolyn Burke, a trustee since 2015 and vice chair for the past three years. Paris Boisvert is the executive director for global development in the Sustainable Infrastructure division of Johnson Controls, which is known for delivering outcome-based infrastructure solutions. She resides in Woodstock, Conn.

New trustees Landry and Cornell began their terms in the 2024-2025 academic year.

Landry is a 1986 graduate of Nichols and a retired partner at Deloitte. He is a seasoned financial expert, and risk and controls expert, with significant experience auditing and

consulting with companies in the life sciences (med device), technology and manufacturing industries. Prior to his role on the trustees, Landry served a three-year term as co-chair of the college's Board of Advisors. He resides in Franklin, New Hampshire.

Cornell graduated from Nichols in 2024 with a degree in general business and minors in psychology and criminal justice. As a student, she founded the Bison Pantry to help address food insecurity on campus, played a key role in establishing the Equestrian Club, was an inaugural member of the women's golf team, and served as vice president of student advocacy on the Student Government Association. Currently, she is a financial aid officer at Keiser University in Sarasota, Fla., and vice president of the Haiti Plunge program board of Berkshire County. She resides in North Port, Fla.

About Nichols

Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols College transforms today's students into tomorrow's leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu



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

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 JULY 11,2025 at Cruise Control Transportation Inc. the following motor vehicle/s will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle:
VEHICLE MAKE: 2003 CHEVROLET CAVALIER
VIN:1G1JC12F737228259
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER : Warny Weymar Gamez
80 Fairway Ave
Riverhead NY,11901

VEHICLE MAKE:2002 TOYOTA COROLLA
VIN:1NXBR12E12Z598300
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER : DO Carmo Santos, Gleisson
6 Gates St. APT 2R
Worcester Ma,01610

VEHICLE MAKE : 2007 TOYOTA CAMRY
VIN:4T1BE46K77U096704
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER : Kelley, Richard A
44 Kenton Rd
Jamaica Plain Ma, 02130-3319

VEHICLE MAKE: 2008 NISSAN ALTIMA
VIN:1N4AL21E18C191848
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER : Cesar Rincon
16 Catherine St ,APT 2R
Worcester MA, 01605

VEHICLE MAKE : 2004 Honda CR-V
VIN:SHSRD78854U217266
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER: Naquan Ojae Bowens
46 w Sharpnack St
Philadelphia PA, 19119

VEHICLE MAKE: 2008 Toyota Camry
VIN:4T1BE46KX8U246600
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER: Danny S Lloyd
347 Dennison LN
Southbridge Ma 01550

VEHICLE MAKE: 2012 Ford Escape
VIN:1FMCU9D73CKC84435
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER : Laura A Tighe
28 Stafford St.
Charlton MA 01507-1901
JULY 11, 20205
JULY 18,2025
JULY 25,2025

The Brimfield Zoning Board of Appeals will host a public hearing on July 21, 2025, at the Hitchcock Academy, 2 Brookfield Rd, Brimfield MA at 5:00 pm on behalf of Timothy Pratt for the property located at 8 Woodhill Rd, assessor's parcel 5C-A-37. The applicant wishes relief on setback requirements due to topography issues with a proposed 24x24 garage. Abutters are encouraged to attend and offer feedback. The Brimfield Zoning Board of Appeals will host a public hearing on July 21, 2025, at the Hitchcock Academy, 2 Brookfield Rd, Brimfield MA at 5:15 pm on behalf of Robert Ardizzoni for the property located at 55 Paige Hill Rd, assessor's parcel 17-C-19. The applicant wishes to build a single-family home, and it is looking for relief for the time frame allowed for rebuilding and the lot size requirements. 1.37 acre instead of 1.5 due to existing foundation. Abutters are encouraged to attend and offer feedback. The Brimfield Zoning Board of Appeals will host a public hearing on July 21, 2025, at the Hitchcock Academy, 2 Brookfield Rd, Brimfield MA at 5:30 pm on behalf of Paul Vandal and Kristen Surozenski for the property located at 49 Seventh St, assessor's parcel 5A-B2. The applicant wishes to add a 14x24 addition to the west side of the existing home and extend the deck to match the additional. The applicant is asking for relief on the setback and side requirement. Abutters are encouraged to attend and offer feedback. The Brimfield Zoning Board of Appeals will host a public hearing on July 21, 2025, at the Hitchcock Academy, 2 Brookfield Rd, Brimfield MA at 5:45 pm on behalf of Kimberly Fleming for the property located at 94 Five Bridge Rd. The applicant wishes to appeal a rejection letter from the Zoning Enforcement Officer letter, dated June 10, 2025. The applicant wishes to convert an accessory dwelling unit on her property to conform with the recent amendments to the State Zoning Act (GL c.40A, s.3) and regulations adopted by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities as authorized in the Act, (760 CMA 71).
July 11, 2025
July 18, 2025

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 July 16, 2025, at 7PM on the application of New England Power.
The applicant has filed for a Notice of Intent for the proposed installation of approximately 1.75 miles of fiber to existing transmission lines within the 100-foot buffer zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland as well as a new fiber structure within the wetlands. The project location is: W175 - Existing electric transmission Right-of-Way, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: Various Parcels.
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 can access the meeting remotely 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
July 10, 2025

Public Notice
Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138, Section 12 of Massachusetts General Laws of a public hearing to be held in the George Parent Meeting Room, second floor of the Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA, on Thursday, **AUGUST 7, 2025 AT 1:00 p.m.** during the regular scheduled Liquor Licensing Board Meeting in regard to an application for a Transfer of an All Alcohol Liquor License. This hearing pertains to Merry Pizza, Inc., (formerly Bravas Inc.) 78 Pleasant St., Southbridge, MA, 01550, Transfer of All Alcohol Liquor License. Anyone wishing to speak will be given the opportunity to be heard. This notice is also published electronically on www.stonebridgepress.com and on www.masspublicnotice.org Town of Southbridge Liquor Licensing Board
July 10, 2025

Public Notice
Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138, Section 12 of Massachusetts General Laws of a public hearing to be held in the George Parent Meeting Room, second floor of the Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA, on Thursday, August 7, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. during the regular scheduled Liquor Licensing Board Meeting in regard to a Violation of M.G.L. 138 S-12. This hearing pertains to Maqui Inc. d/b/a Maqui's, 61 Chestnut St., Southbridge, MA Violation of M.G.L. 138 S. 12 on May 18, 2025 – 204 CMR 2.05 (2) Permitting an illegality on the licensed premises to wit: Violation of the Town of Southbridge MA Liquor Licensing Board regulations 1.08 Environs of Licensed Premises (a), (c) and (e) 1.11 Illegal Activity of the Licensed Premise (a)(5), (b) and 1.19 Service Training (f). This notice is also published electronically on www.stonebridgepress.com and on www.masspublicnotice.org Town of Southbridge Liquor Licensing Board
July 10, 2025

Sturbridge Planning Board Public Hearing Application for Site Plan Review & Special Permit Old Road Realty, LLC
In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, July 28, 2025 at 6:40 PM** in the **Center Office Building 2nd Floor, located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and/or by virtual means** if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law; on the application of Haley Ward, LLC. (**Representing Old Road Realty, LLC for the property located at 660 Main Street.** The applicant requests Site Plan Approval as required by the Sturbridge Zoning Bylaws Article XIX, Site Plan Review to construct a 40,150 square foot manufacturing building with ancillary office space with associated site improvements as shown in the plans and application submitted. The applicant also requests a Special Permit as required by the Sturbridge Zoning Bylaws Article V §300-5.6 C (6) Groundwater Protection District, which is required for any use that will render impervious more than 15% or 2,500 square feet of any lot, whichever is greater. This proposed use will result in an increase in lot coverage of approximately 54,150 square feet. A copy of the site plan and application can be inspected on the Sturbridge Town Website at <https://www.sturbridge.gov/planning-board/pages/recent-filings-or-arrangements>

[sturbridge.gov/planning-board/pages/recent-filings-or-arrangements](https://www.sturbridge.gov/planning-board/pages/recent-filings-or-arrangements) can be made to view the application packet by contacting the Sturbridge Planning Department at (508) 347-2508 or by email at jlacy@sturbridge.gov. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted in person and may be conducted via remote means if circumstance warrant, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the public body as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means.
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/472675877>
Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post of the Town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.
Charles Blanchard
Chairperson
July 10, 2025
July 17, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508)831-2200 Docket No. WO25C0347A CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

In the matter of:
Lodewicus Du-Preez Botha A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by **Lodewicus Du-Preez Botha of Charlton MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Dupreez Bond**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10 a.m. on the return day of 07/29/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding. WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 23, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
July 10, 2025

Sturbridge Planning Board Public Hearing Application for Special Permit Dollar Tree
In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, July 28, 2025 at 6:35 PM** in the **Center Office Building located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and/or by virtual means if circumstances warrant**, in accordance with applicable law; on the application of **Viewpoint Sign & Awning (representing Dollar Tree)** for the property located at **178 Main Street.** The applicant requests a Special Permit as required by the Sturbridge Zoning Bylaws Article XVII §300-17.5E regarding the erection and maintenance of signs in excess of what is specifically allowed in the Bylaw. In accordance with the plans and application submitted, the applicant is proposing an 89.57 square foot wall mounted sign, where 30 square feet is allowed under the sign bylaw.

A copy of the site plan and application can be inspected on the Sturbridge Town Website at <https://www.sturbridge.gov/planning-board/pages/recent-filings-or-arrangements> can be made to view the application packet by contacting the Sturbridge Planning Department at (508) 347-2508 or by email at jlacy@sturbridge.gov. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted in person and may be conducted via remote means if circumstance warrant, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the public body as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means.
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/472675877>
Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post of the Town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.
Charles Blanchard
Chairperson
July 10, 2025
July 17, 2025

Town of Sturbridge INVITATION FOR BIDS FY2026 – For DPW, Trails, and Landfill Materials
Sealed bids for furnishing the Annual Materials for DPW, Trails, and Landfill will be received at the Office of the Town Administrator, Sturbridge Town Hall, 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 until the time specified below, at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read.
Specifications and bid forms may be obtained at the Office of the Town Administrator during office business hours or online on the Town of Sturbridge website, <https://www.sturbridge.gov/bids>. Bids will be opened in the Sturbridge Town Hall, Veteran's Memorial Hall, Second Floor at 308 Main Street by the Office of the Town Administrator on July 23, 2025, at 1:00 pm.
All bids for this project are subject to applicable public bidding laws of Massachusetts, including, but not limited to MGL c.30B. Payment Bonds will not be required due to the material being stockpiled and not part of any specific project. **Multiple contracts will likely be awarded.**
Selection of the contractor will be based upon bidder qualifications, including evidence of past performance in similar projects, and bid price. The contract will be awarded to the bidder deemed by the awarding authority to be the lowest responsible and eligible bidder, and the second lowest bidder per item. Multiple contracts will be awarded for asphalt bid, landfill material, trails materials, and suppliers for gravel materials to DPW, including material type (including appearance). Town reserves the right to request a sample of materials to be provided and select materials suitable based on appearance and meeting MassDOT standard specifications. The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of 30 days, Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays excluded, after the opening of the bids.
The Town reserves the right to waive any informalities, to accept or reject, in whole or in part, any or all bids, or take whatever other action may be deemed to be in the best interest of the Town. The Town of Sturbridge
By:Robin Grimm, Town Administrator
July 10, 2025

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE Select Board Office Public Hearing
National Grid has made a petition to the Sturbridge Select Board to install one (1) JO Pole on Arnold Road beginning at a point approximately 260 feet North of the centerline of the intersection of Main Street and Arnold Road. National Grid to install pole 2-50 in public way for commercial service upgrade. Sturbridge MA. The pole hearing will take place on **Monday July 21, 2025 at 6:35 p.m.** at the Sturbridge Town Hall, 2nd floor, Veteran's Memorial Hall located at 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566.
July 10, 2025

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket Number: 25 SM 001971 ORDER OF NOTICE
TO:
Scott A. Bokor; Cynthia J. Bokor and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*): Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Southbridge, numbered 557 Charlton Street, given by Scott A Bokor to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for MetLife Home Loans, a division of MetLife Bank, N.A., dated July 23, 2010, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 46092, Page 368, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before August 18, 2025 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on July 2, 2025. Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
July 10, 2025

Annual Guide to Pick Perfect Produce



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

Gardens are in full bloom and many crops are ripe for the picking – that means offerings of local veggies and fruits are plentiful. That also means it’s time to once again publish our annual guide to choosing the freshest produce. Whether you’re shopping at an outdoor market or local grocery store, the following tips will help you pick perfect produce from early crops through the end of the season.

Beans, snap: Look for small seeds inside straight, fleshy pods. If you can see large seeds through the skin than the beans are probably too old. Avoid beans with dry-looking, rusty, wilted or damaged pods.

Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cauliflower: Look for tightly compacted flower clusters on broccoli and cauliflower, and compact, uniform sprouts. Avoid wilted, yellow, or dirty heads, and avoid loose, open sprouts or those that are yellow or pale green.

Cabbage and head lettuce: Look for firm compact heads that are heavy for their size. On leaf lettuce, choose unwilted, compact, crisp-looking compact plants.

Carrots: Look for deep orange colored and smooth skinned roots. Avoid carrots with purple or green shoulders or pale in color, or ones with forked or crooked roots. Oversized roots usually mean they are woody. If tops are still attached on carrots,

they should be fresh.

Celery: Choose large, firm stalks with uniform stalk and a white bottom. Avoid spindly, wilted stalks.

Chard: Look for fresh, dark green leaves with bright, tender stalks. Avoid wilted, poorly colored leaves.

Collards and kale: Check for tender, green, full-sized leaves with tender tips; avoid wilted, tough or overly large leaves.

Corn on the cob: Choose for well-filled cobs with plump, straight rows of kernels. Avoid large, wrinkled kernels.

Cucumbers: Pick long, slender cukes that are medium to dark green.

Peppers: Look for firm, darkly colored fruit with uniform size, color, and number of lobes. Avoid wrinkled or shriveled ones or fruits that are sunburned (contrasting color spots).

Radishes: Choose medium-sized, firm, crisp roots. Avoid wilted or soft roots or those with growth cracks or insect damage. Oversized roots will be pithy. Sunburned crowns are also not desirable.

Summer squash: Choose ones that are uniform in size, color, and shape. Avoid large fruits (over mature) or ones with scarred skins, missing stems, or that are soft or wilting.

Tomatoes: Look for smooth skinned, firm fruits with uniform color. Avoid fruits with growth splits, sun scald, or overripe (soft) fruits.

Apples: Choose firm, well-colored fruit that

feels crisp.

Blueberries: Pick plump, firm, deep blue berries with their natural waxy silver coating.

Cantaloupe: Look for a smooth shallow base; thick, coarse, corky netting that stands out from skin. Should yield slightly when pressed on non-stem end and have the slight scent of cantaloupe.

Cherries: Should be dark in color; glossy, plump, with fresh looking stems.

Nectarines: Fruit should be plump, slightly soft along "seam"; either orange-yellow or greenish between red-blushed areas depending on variety.

Oranges: Choose firm oranges, heavy for its size; smooth-textured, with bright-looking skin.

Peaches: Should be somewhat firm, becoming slightly soft; red with creamy, orangy base color.

Pears: Look for firm fruit, just barely beginning to soften. Bartletts: pale to rich yellow; Boscs: green to brown yellow.

Pumpkin: Look for a pumpkin with an even orange hue. Give it a thump; if it sounds hollow, it is ripe and ready to be picked. Look for hard skin and a hard stem. Leave several inches of stem when you harvest a pumpkin. Doing so will slow

down the rotting process

Watermelon: Should be symmetrical with bright green rind with a creamy yellow underside. Choose a watermelon that’s heavy for its size.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (or whenever enough submissions are received) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because

I’m in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I’m counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

Where ideas take shape QCC's Fab Lab offers cutting-edge tools

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College’s Fab Lab has become a hub of innovation, learning and collaboration. Open Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., this state-of-the-art facility welcomes anyone with an idea and a desire to create. The lab isn’t simply about access to advanced technology; it’s about fostering a collaborative learning environment.

"My purpose is to make the next generation more prepared," explained Coordinator of Engineering Technology Laboratories R. Webster, who became the full-time coordinator in the spring of 2025.

With experience at Apple and Petracore, and adjunct teaching at QCC, Webster brings both industry knowledge and educational passion to the role.

The Fab Lab has a primary focus on practical applications. The 3-D printing process has been used for projects such as a rear differential, a boat mounting system for a fish-finder and components of a jet turbine. Participants can test multiple iterations of designs that mirror professional manufacturing processes, a process that QCC’s engineering students often utilize.

Projects can range from academic to personal, but skills gained in the Fab Lab can lead to professional benefits as well. Webster shared that local employer SMC Inc. in Devens has noted familiarity with equipment like the waterjet cutter, can translate to a substantial wage increase for new hires.

"It’s one thing to be interested in something, but to actually be doing it makes all the difference," Webster said. "All of these machines are directly applicable to current industries."

The facility maintains close relationships with local businesses. QCC staff conduct regular outreach to ensure the lab’s capabilities align with workforce needs. This connection benefits students preparing to enter the job market, as well as companies looking for skilled employees.

"I gained both technical and soft skills here," said engineering student and Fab Lab assistant Abigail Gumlaw, who came to QCC after technical high school with experience working in a machine shop.

"I’ve learned to manage expectations and communicate effectively—skills I never developed in purely technical settings," she said.

Majoring in robotics engineering and computer science, Gumlaw plans to transfer to WPI and credits the lab with providing daily learning opportunities.

"I get to apply theoretical concepts in practical ways," she added.

From vinyl printing and screen printing to embroidery machines, the lab also supports creative projects alongside technical ones.

"You can make anything; the only limit is your imagination," said Gumlaw.

For more information, visit QCC.edu/FabLab.

LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO23P1864EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF
SUCCESSOR PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
Estate of:
Eugene Peter Sullivan
Date of Death: 03/22/2023**

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by
Michael E Sullivan of Florence MA
requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order that:
Michael E Sullivan of Florence MA
be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before:
10:00 a.m. on 07/22/2025.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without super-

vision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 24, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
July 10, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Worcester Probate & Family Court
WO25E0081**
Petition to Partition Citation
(A.C.92A)
To The Estate of Tammy Mitchell (Mark Mitchell Personal Representative) and to all other persons interested.
A petition has been presented to said Court by Richard W. Stearns of Fiskdale in the County of Worcester representing that he hold as tenant in common undivided part of share of certain land lying in Charlton in said County Worcester and briefly as follows:
The land in Charlton, Worcester County, Massachusetts, with the buildings thereon and all privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, consisting of two (2) parcels of land, bounded and described as follows:
Tract I:
BEGINNING at the southwesterly corner thereof on the easterly side of the State Highway leading from Southbridge to Charlton City and at point of intersection of the easterly line of said State Highway with the line of Snake Hill Road, so-called;

THENCE northerly by the easterly line of said State Highway, 421 feet to an oak tree;
THENCE turning at a right angle and running easterly by land now or formerly of S. Warren Clark, 190 feet and 6 inches to a pine tree;
THENCE continuing easterly by said Clark land in the same court, 109 feet and 6 inches to the westerly line of a brook;
THENCE southerly by the westerly line of said brook to the northerly line of Snake Hill Road;
THENCE westerly by the northerly line of Snake Hill Road 136 feet, more or less, to the easterly side of said State Highway at the point of beginning.
Containing about 2 1/4 acres, more or less.
Tract II: the land and buildings thereon situated on the easterly side of the State Highway leading from Charlton City to Southbridge bounded and described as follows:
BEGINNING at the southwesterly corner thereof on the westerly side of said Highway and at the northwesterly corner of land conveyed by deed of S. Warren Clark to Edward F. Stearns et ux dated April 25, 1938 and recorded with Worcester Registry of Deeds in Book 2789, Page 159;
THENCE northerly by the easterly side of said Highway, 368 feet, 6 inches, more or less, to an iron post in the ground;
THENCE S. 44 1/4° E., by other land now or formerly of said Clark, 312 feet, more or less, to a stone wall;
THENCE in a general easterly direction by a stone wall and other land now or formerly of said Clark, 25 feet, more or less, to the westerly line of Cady Brook;
THENCE southerly by the westerly

line of said Brook to an iron post in the ground at the northeasterly corner of land now or formerly of Edward F. Stearns;
THENCE in a general westerly direction by the northerly line of said Stearns land, 109 feet, 6 inches, to a pine tree;
THENCE continuing westerly by said northerly line of said Stearns land, 190 feet, 6 inches, more or less, to the easterly side of said Highway at the point of beginning.
BEING the same premises conveyed to the late Edward Francis Stearns, Jr. and the land Irene Stearns by deed of Donald R. Stearns, Sr. et alii dated May 15, 1975 and recorded with said Deeds in Book 5743, Page 315.
setting forth that he/she desire that all the aforesaid described part of said land may be sold at private sale not less than Five Hundred Forty Thousand (\$540,000.00) dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof.
If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the 29th day of July, the return date of this citation.
Witness, LEILAH A. KEAMY, Esq., First Judge of Said Court, this 27th day of June.
Stephanie K. Faltman
Register of Probate
July 10, 2025
July 17, 2025
July 24, 2025

Local residents named to Dean's List at Saint Anselm

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Saint Anselm College has released the Dean's List of high academic achievers for the second semester of the 2024-2025 school year. To be eligible for this honor, a student must have achieved a grade point average of 3.4 or better in the semester with at least 12 credits of study which award a letter grade. This semester there were a total of 674 students from 22 states and 4 countries.

Mark W. Cronin, Dean of the College, announced that the following students have been named to the Dean's List for the spring 2025 semester at Saint An-

selm College, Manchester, New Hampshire:

Brimfield
Samantha McGlinchy, Politics Major
Caraline Stewart, Mathematics Major

Charlton
Jessie Calkins, Behavioral Neuroscience Major
Summer Chaffee, Community and Public Health Major
Nathaniel Sarette, Politics Major

Southbridge

George Karamanakos, Politics Major

Founded in 1889, Saint Anselm College is a four-year liberal arts college providing a 21st century education in the Catholic, Benedictine tradition. Located in southern New Hampshire near Boston and the seacoast, Saint Anselm is well known for its strong liberal arts curriculum, the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, a highly successful nursing program, a legacy of community service and a commitment to the arts.



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On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

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From Naval Engineman to Licensed Practical Nurse

Patrick Njunge, LPN, embarks on new chapter of service and compassion

CHARLTON — Patrick Njunge, LPN of Worcester, a dedicated United States Naval Engineman with a background in electrical engineering, has successfully transitioned to a career in nursing, graduating from the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton, MA, with the Practical Nursing Class of 2024 and earning his Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) credentials by passing the NCLEX-PN.

Njunge's journey into healthcare is deeply rooted in personal inspiration. "One person who inspired me to pursue a career in nursing is my Aunt, who worked as a nurse for over five decades," Njunge shares.

His aunt's stories of comforting patients during long nights, her ability to connect with individuals on both a medical and emotional level, and her lifelong commitment to continuous learning in healthcare profoundly shaped his aspirations.

"Her passion for nursing was not a job but a calling," he states, "and it instilled in me the importance of continuous growth and education in this field."

During his time at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy (Aug. 21, 2023 – June 21, 2024), Njunge distinguished himself through active participation and academic excellence. His activities included volunteering for Charlton Middle School Screenings, serving on the Mock Code Team, and being inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. Demonstrating a strong com-



mitment to public health and emergency preparedness, he became Certified in Dementia Care and Mental Health First Aid. His exceptional skills in First Aid/CPR were recognized at the SkillsUSA competitions, where he earned

both a Gold (District Champion) and a Silver (State Champion) medals.

Njunge's experience as a Naval Engineman from 2022 to the present (United States Naval Service, Bremerton, Wash.), where he is responsible for ensuring safety protocols, training new sailors, and supervising junior personnel, has equipped him with invaluable skills in leadership, attention to detail, and a commitment to well-being – qualities that seamlessly transfer to his new nursing career.

Recalling a pivotal moment in his nursing education, Njunge highlights his first clinical rotation in the Geriatric ward. "It's a great memory that stands out because it was the first time I truly felt like a nurse, understanding the holistic nature of patient care," he reflects.

He vividly remembers connecting with a war veteran recovering from surgery, learning the profound impact of kindness and empathy.

"This experience taught me the profound impact that kindness and empathy can have on a patient's healing process," he added.

Having previously pursued Electrical Engineering at NIBS College in Kenya (2013-2017) and earning his High School Diploma from Elyon High School in Kenya (2009-2012), Njunge brings a unique blend of technical expertise, discipline, and a heartfelt dedication to service to the nursing profession.

Patrick Njunge, LPN is now ready to carry forward his aunt's legacy of compassion, commitment, and dedication, aspiring to be a beacon of hope in his own nursing career and make a tangible impact on people's lives.

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MORE INFO:

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Mark Fields graduates from Rhodes College

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Mark Fields of Charlton has graduated from Rhodes College with a Bachelor of Arts in Business.

The 176th Commencement Exercises of Rhodes College took place on campus May 17, 2025. The college awarded more than 500 degrees, including the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Master of Science in Accounting, and Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Health Equity.

Any additional graduation distinctions/honors earned by Fields are listed here:

Founded in 1848, Rhodes College is a nationally ranked liberal arts and sciences college in Memphis, Tennessee, and one of the few liberal arts colleges located in an urban setting. Its students have myriad ways to immerse themselves in a major metropolitan area through service and internship opportunities in addition to exploring the world through study abroad. The rigorous classroom experience integrates faculty-mentored student research and fellowships.

Xander Cook named to Siena College Dean's List

LOUDONVILLE, N.Y. — Xander Cook has been named to the Siena College Dean's List for the Spring 2025 semester. Xander is from Uxbridge.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student's grade point average for the semester must be between 3.5 and 3.89.

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