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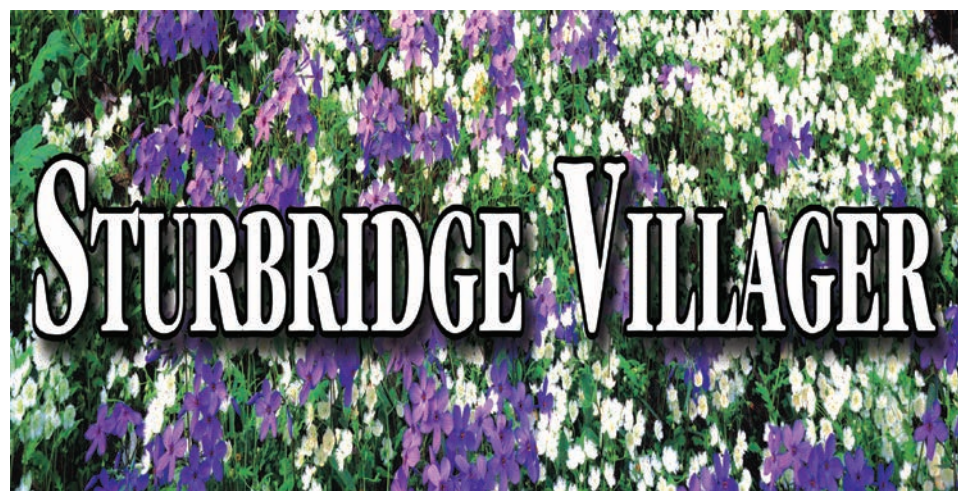
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Thursday-Friday, June 18-19, 2026

## Relay For Life of Southern Worcester County returns for Day of Hope, Remembrance and Community Support

SOUTHBRIDGE — Cancer survivors, caregivers, families and supporters from across Southern Worcester County will gather at McMahon Field on Saturday, June 20, for the annual Relay For Life of Southern Worcester County, a daylong event dedicated to celebrat-

ing survivors, remembering those lost to cancer and raising funds for the fight against the disease.

This year's theme, "From Small Seeds, Hope Grows," reflects the event's focus on resilience, community support and the ongoing effort to fund cancer research, patient

services and advocacy programs through the American Cancer Society.

The relay begins at 9 a.m. with an opening ceremony, followed by the traditional Survivor Lap at 9:15 a.m. Cancer survivors will be recognized for their strength and determination as they lead participants around the track. A Caregiver Lap will follow at 9:30 a.m., honoring those who have provided support and care to loved ones facing cancer.

Throughout the day, teams will participate in themed laps, games, raffles and fundraising activities designed to bring the community together

while supporting a common cause. A Team Banner and Mascot Lap kicks off the morning activities at 9:45 a.m., followed by a Tutu Lap at 10 a.m.

One of the event's featured activities, Plant Bingo, begins at 11 a.m. under the event tent. Other family-friendly activities include Lego Laps at 11:15 a.m., a Hula Hoop Lap at noon, a Bubble Lap at 12:30 p.m. and a Pinwheel Lap at 1 p.m.

Fundraising remains a key component of Relay For Life. Participants will have the opportunity to bid during the One Pound Auction, with a sneak peek scheduled for

10:30 a.m. and the auction beginning at 2 p.m. Raffles will continue throughout the day, with final drawings taking place at 7:15 p.m.

Afternoon activities include a Flower Power Lap at 3 p.m. and a Slime Bucket Challenge at 4 p.m. Survivors and caregivers will once again be recognized during a second Survivor/Caregiver Lap at 4:45 p.m., followed by a Survivor Dinner at 5 p.m.

As evening approaches, participants will take part in additional themed events, including the Freeze Frame Lap at 5:30 p.m., the Fight Back Piñata at 6

p.m. and a Reverse Lap at 7 p.m. Organizers will provide a fundraising update and announce final raffle opportunities at 6:30 p.m.

The event transitions into a more reflective atmosphere after sunset. A Tutu Glow Lap is scheduled for 8 p.m., followed by the final calendar raffle announcement at 8:15 p.m.

One of the most meaningful moments of the day will begin at 8:30 p.m. with the lighting of luminarias. Decorated luminaria bags, often dedicated in honor or memory of loved ones affected by cancer, will illuminate the field as participants prepare for the Luminary Ceremony and Remembrance Lap at 9 p.m.

The event concludes with a Closing Ceremony and Ringing of the Bells Lap at 9:15 p.m., symbolizing hope for the future and the continued commitment to the fight against cancer.

Relay For Life events have raised billions of dollars nationwide since the American Cancer Society launched the program in 1985. Funds raised support cancer research, patient transportation programs, lodging assistance, educational resources and advocacy efforts.

Organizers encourage community members to attend, participate in activities, support fundraising efforts and honor those whose lives have been touched by cancer.

Additional information about the Relay For Life of Southern Worcester County is available at [RelayForLife.org/SWC](http://RelayForLife.org/SWC) or by calling the American Cancer Society at 1-800-227-2345.

### Sturbridge celebrates America250 on June 27 with parade and festival

STURBRIDGE — The Parade steps off at 10:30 a.m. from the intersection of Stallion Hill and the OSV Access Road. Featured are Bob Briere as Grand Marshal, and Guest of Honor Virginia Jalbert, the Town's oldest resident. There are more than 70 units participating — bands, floats by local groups and businesses, scouts, local youth sports teams, dance troupes, vintage vehicles, clowns, a tank, and so much more. Viewing will be along Route 20 and Route 131 starting at Saw Dust Coffee House and ending at the Town Common. Emcee Bill Emrich will have colorful play by play of the entrants.

At 1 p.m., the America250 Festival kicks off on the Town Common. Jenee Lacey will sing the National Anthem, followed by welcoming remarks by State Sen. Ryan Fattman and Representative Todd Smola, and readings from the Burgess Elementary School essay contest winners. Also attending and reading her essay, which has been awarded 2nd place in the National Essay Contest, is Burgess 6th grader, Elizabet Beaupre. The 215th Army Band of the Massachusetts Army National Guard will perform from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Throughout the event, which lasts until 5 p.m., there will be various booths, activities, and demonstrations. These include a militia encampment and military uniforms display, historical activities, a display of Model A cars, axe throwing, a bouncy house, yard games, a photo booth, and food trucks from BT's Smokehouse, Thai Place, Chic-fil-a, and Suzy Q's Ice Cream. The Publick House and Oakholm Brewery will be serving beer, and Deep Roots Distillery will serve lemonade and cocktails. At 2:30 p.m., there will be a cherry-pie-eating contest, followed by a ceremonial cake cutting and serving of a special America250 cake created by the Publick House.

From 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., interpreters will be stationed in the Old Burial Ground to engage visitors in a self-guided tour and discuss the Revolutionary War veterans buried there. At 3:30 p.m., performers from Mass Motion Dance Academy will dance to patriotic music.

Parking around the Common will be available for handicap and accessible needs. There will be parking available behind the Town Hall, in the parking lot off Haynes Street, and at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 345 Main St. Additional parking is available at the Burgess Elementary School and the Sturbridge Host Hotel, with shuttle buses providing service to and from the Common starting at approximately 12:30 p.m. Follow traffic signs for road closures and traffic shifts due to the Parade.



Courtesy Photo

### CONGRATULATIONS TO TRINITY CATHOLIC ACADEMY CLASS OF 2026

Trinity Catholic Academy is proud to celebrate our graduating 8th graders as they complete this important chapter and prepare for the exciting opportunities ahead. We wish them continued success, happiness, and God's blessings as they begin their high school journey. Front row: Ayden Rodriguez & Caius Ovalles. Middle row: Abigail Frazier, Heer Swadia, Carilynne Norris, Sophia Gauthier, & Celia Ladd. Back row: Alexio Yacavace, Zyon Stockley, & Nicolas Gauvin.

## Smola supports funding for municipal road and bridge repairs

REGION — The House and Senate have authorized a \$300 million Chapter 90 appropriation for cities and towns

to assist with municipal road and bridge repairs, with the support of State Rep. Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking

Member, Ways & Means Committee)

The funding was included as part of a \$4.58 billion transporta-

tion bond bill enacted in both branches on June 4.

The bill is now before Governor Maura Healey. Turn To **FUNDING** page **A14**



Courtesy Photo

The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts will host the annual Summerfest on Saturday, June 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the front lawn of 111 Main St. in Southbridge. Featuring more than 25 crafters, Summerfest is a highlight of the Center. Live music will be provided by the Euphoralites, along with a food truck. Admission is free and all are welcome. The galleries will be open featuring the works of June artists David Baggerly, Barbara O'Brien and James R. Wilton. Don't miss this fun event. For more information, go to the Web site, [ruthwellscenter.com](http://ruthwellscenter.com). The Center has been offering art and cultural programs for almost 50 years!

## Gateway Players holding auditions for "The Outsider"

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge is hosting auditions for "The Outsider" written by Paul Slade Smith. Auditions will be held on Sunday, July 12 and Tuesday, July 14 at 6:30 p.m., in Fellowship Hall at Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St., Southbridge.

Auditions will consist of cold-readings from the script. Show dates are Oct. 9, 10, 16, 17 and 18. Rehearsals will be on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., starting Aug. 3. Character information is listed below. This is an adult production. Directed by Patrick Bracken, and Produced by Ed Humphries. For more information, please contact Gateway at 508-764-

4531, or Ed Humphries at [ehumphires72@gmail.com](mailto:ehumphires72@gmail.com). Presented by permission through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals, A Dramatists Play Service Title

Ned Newley doesn't even want to be governor. He's terrified of public speaking; his poll numbers are impressively bad. To his ever-supportive Chief of Staff, Ned seems destined to fail. But political consultant Arthur Vance sees things differently: Ned might be the worst candidate to ever run for office. Unless the public is looking for the worst candidate to ever run for office.... A timely and hilarious comedy that skewers politics and celebrates democracy.

Turn To **AUDITIONS** page **A14**



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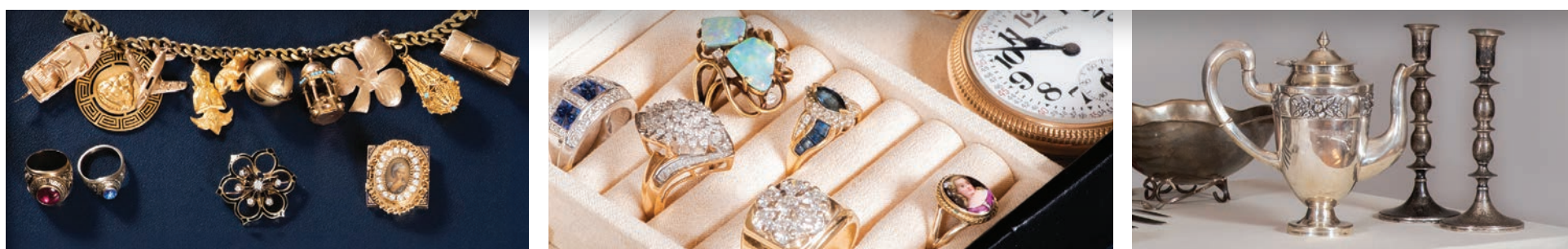
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# Charlton Land Trust, Historical Society team up for talk on land and the American Revolution

CHARLTON — Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust (CHPT) and the Charlton Historical Society (CHS) will collaboratively present a free lecture entitled “Land, Revolution, and Charlton” by James David Moran on Tuesday June 30 at 7 p.m. in the Rider Tavern.

The talk will examine the way people in 18th-century Charlton and Massachusetts understood and used the land, and how these ideas and practices led to rebellion and then revolution from Great Britain. Charlton also played a significant role in Declaring Independence, and this will be described by Moran in his talk. The CHPT and CHS are collaborating on this

program in celebration of the nation’s 250th anniversary. While most Americans today don’t think of land as being a catalyst for the American Revolution, it was a central component in how the British colonist understood their own identities. Owning land was the key to political and economic agency and power and the need for more land put rural Massachusetts farmers on a collision course with King George and his parliament. This talk will demonstrate how Charlton and other rural Massachusetts communities were at the forefront of the fight for independence at the start of the American Revolution. James David Moran served as

the first director of outreach and then as vice president for Programs and Outreach at the American Antiquarian Society for 28 years. He has over forty years’ experience creating award-winning cultural and educational programming. Additionally, he is a writer, director, and producer who has created 14 plays, 12 of which have been produced; most of these have been commissioned and are based on historical themes. These include “The Chains of Liberty” for the Worcester Revolution of 1774; “Preserving All Others” and “Isaiah Thomas-Patriot Printer” for the American Antiquarian Society; and “Portraits Come Alive” and “Portraits of

Freedom” for Mechanics Hall. His innovative radio program, “The History Show,” appeared on 151 public radio stations in 47 states. He lives in Charlton, Massachusetts, with his wife, Elizabeth and cat, Bingo. Copies of “The History Show” will be available for sale at the June 30 program, with the proceeds supporting both sponsoring institutions. “Land, Revolution and Charlton” is free and open to the public. About CHPT Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust acquires and maintains open space properties and conducts programs to enlighten and entertain people of all ages about protecting and enjoying the nat-

ural world. CHPT owns 19 conservation properties in Charlton, totaling over 200 acres of natural land open to the public. CHPT works with landowners, developers, and the town to balance healthy economic growth with conservation of important natural resources and historically significant places. CHPT relies on donations of land and funds to make new conservation projects possible and on the volunteer help of its members and friends to preserve conservation areas for the public benefit. For more information and to check out all our properties, go to CharltonTrust.org or follow up on Facebook (Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust) and Instagram (CharltonTrust).

About CHS The Charlton Historical Society collects, preserves and shares the history of Charlton, Massachusetts. The Society maintains the Number Two Schoolhouse and the historic Rider Tavern, which serves as home to the Society. The CHS regularly offers tours, talks, and activities for all ages in the Rider Tavern, a twenty-two-room turn-pike inn restored to its original 1799 condition. The private, non-profit CHS also offers programs throughout the community. For more information <https://charlton-historicalsociety.com>.

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## Charlton Public Library to host Repair Café

CHARLTON — The Charlton Library is looking for Fixers for our first Repair Café! Are you good with tools? Do your friends often ask you for advice? Do you enjoy building, maintaining, and fixing things? Are you free on Saturday, Oct. 24? Reach out to Betsy

Perry, Library Director, at 508-248-0452 or [perryb@cwmar.org](mailto:perryb@cwmar.org) for more information. What is a Repair Café? A Repair Café is a gathering of volunteers who offer to consult on and possibly fix items that would otherwise go to

landfills. The Repair Café concept is an attempt to reverse our society’s throw away culture. We throw out vast amounts of stuff, even things with almost nothing wrong and which just need a simple repair. The problem is that most people don’t

know how to fix things and often it costs more to have an expert repair something than to simply replace it. But replacing things rather than repairing them wastes raw materials and energy, increases carbon dioxide emissions and expands our overflowing land-

fills. The Repair Café will be held Oct. 24 at Charlton Public Library in partnership with Charlton Business Alliance, Charlton Lions Club, and Keep Charlton Beautiful. Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St.

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## Jack Albright graduates from Marquette University

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — This past spring, Jack Albright of Charlton graduated from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Albright earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism. Albright was one of 3,166 students to graduate from Marquette in May. The university celebrated its 145th Commencement with a series of events, including Graduate Recognition Ceremonies at Fiserv Forum and a Baccalaureate

Mass on campus. Learn more about the weekend. Marquette University is a Catholic, Jesuit university that draws more than 8,000 undergrad-

uate and 3,700 graduate and professional students from nearly all states and more than 60 countries. In addition to its nationally recognized aca-

dem programs, Marquette is known for its service learning programs and internships as students are challenged to use what they learn to make a

difference in the world. Find out more about Marquette at [marquette.edu](http://marquette.edu).



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Richard is an engaging, energetic, and friendly boy with a great sense of humor. He enjoys playing video games, watching movies, and participating in sports. Richard has built many positive relationships with both peers and adults at school and is known for being kind, respectful, and easy to connect with. Those who know Richard describe him as compassionate, intuitive, and exceptionally polite. He cares deeply about others and strongly believes in standing up for people when needed, while also advocating for himself. Richard’s caring nature, strong values, and outgoing personality make him a joy to be around. He would benefit from a supportive and encouraging family that can continue to help him grow and thrive.  
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The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with. To learn more about adoption from foster care visit [www.mareinc.org](http://www.mareinc.org). Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.



# The Cursed Page Bookstore announces soft opening in Sturbridge

STURBRIDGE — The Cursed Page Bookstore, an immersive independent bookstore specializing in Gothic Horror and Dark Academia, has officially opened for a soft launch at 559 Main Street in Sturbridge.

Housed within a historic former mill, The Cursed Page is designed to be more than a retail space; it is a gathering place for readers, writers, makers, and curious minds. As the shop grows, the space will host craft workshops, writing events, seminars, author signings, and book clubs.

At the helm is owner Amy Black, who brings more than 30 years of experience in bookselling, store leadership, author programming, and large-scale literary events to The Cursed Page. Her career includes management roles with Wesleyan RJ Julia and Barnes & Noble, alongside pivotal work on BookExpo, BookCon, and New York Comic Con. Known for her dedication to connecting readers with stories and community, Black has crafted an atmospheric haven for those drawn to gothic fiction, dark academia, folklore, and the strange beauty of the unknown.

"The Cursed Page is my love letter to the book industry, which has been my home and shaped my life for more than three decades," said Black. "Books have never been just objects on a shelf to me. They are doors and windows into other worlds, other lives, and ourselves. They help us feel seen, think differently, and discover something new. I wanted to create a shop where readers can wander in, follow their curiosity, and find a story that stays with them."

Beyond its collection of gothic and dark fiction, The Cursed Page features curated nonfiction including folklore, science and nature, gardening, cooking, and crafts. The store also offers thematic board games, puzzles, and journals for in-store browsing. For those looking to bring the shop's unique atmosphere home, "Inner Sanctum" subscription boxes are available exclusively through the store's website.

As the shop settles into its new space, inventory continues to expand. A grand opening celebration with special events will be held later this year.

For more information, visit [www.thecursedpage.com](http://www.thecursedpage.com) or follow @thecursedpagebookstore.

## Local students named to Colgate graduating Class of 2026

HAMILTON, N.Y. — Members of the Class of 2026 were honored at Andy Kerr Stadium for Colgate University's 205th Commencement, May 17.

Edward Cherry of Charlton graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Natural Sciences Magna Cum Laude. Colin Hughes of Charlton

graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics.

Colgate is a distinctive, leading American university located in the heart of New York State, and known for its intellectual rigor, world-class professors, campus of stunning beauty, and alumni famously loyal to their alma mater. Learn more at [colgate.edu](http://colgate.edu).

## Owen O'Brien of Fiskdale named to Lasell University Dean's List

NEWTON — Owen O'Brien, a Lasell University student from Fiskdale, was named to the Dean's List for their academic performance in the Spring 2026 semester.

To be named to the Dean's List, Lasell students must complete at least 12 credits as a full-time student and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

## Local student named to WestConn spring Dean's List

DANBURY, Conn. — Hannah Philion, a Pre-Nursing major from Charlton, has been named

to the Dean's List for the spring 2026 semester at Western Connecticut State University.



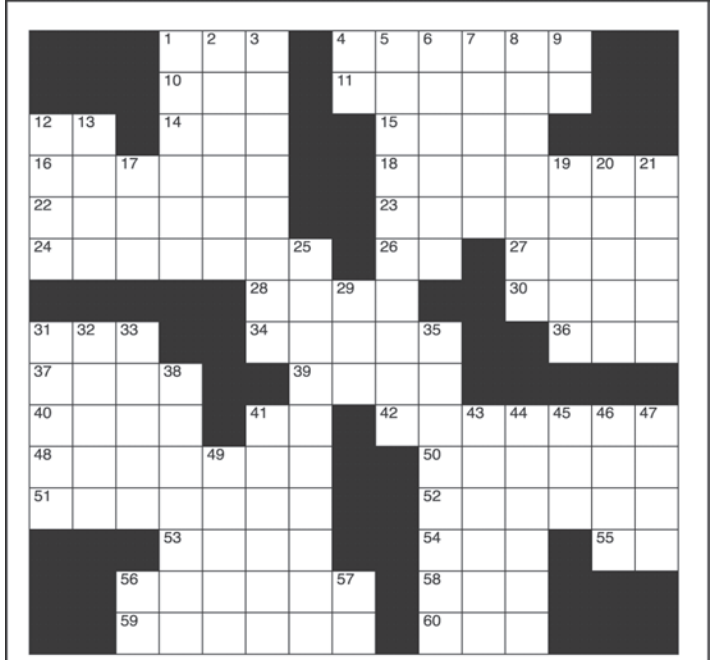
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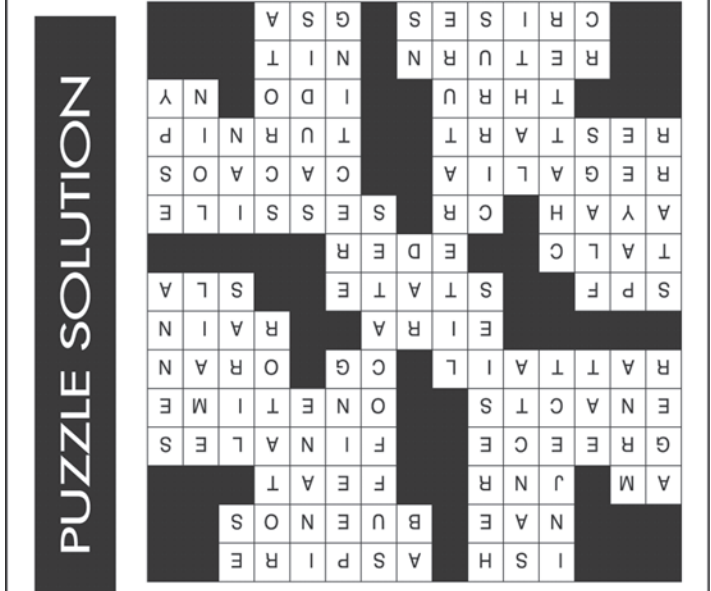


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Similar
- 4. Have an ambitious plan or a lofty goal
- 10. No (Scottish)
- 11. \_\_\_ Aires, city
- 12. Morning
- 14. Senior's son (abbr.)
- 15. A notable achievement
- 16. European nation
- 18. Endings
- 22. Puts into place
- 23. Former
- 24. Grenadier
- 26. Sea patrol
- 27. Algerian port
- 28. Norwegian river
- 30. Precipitation
- 31. Screenshot rating
- 34. New York is one
- 36. Patti Hearst's captors
- 37. Soft mineral with greasy feel
- 39. Retired Brazilian footballer
- 40. An Indian nursemaid
- 41. Atomic #24
- 42. Immobile
- 48. Insignia of royalty
- 50. Seeds from which chocolate is made
- 51. Begin again
- 52. Round root
- 53. Beginning to end (alt. sp.)
- 54. What newlyweds just said
- 55. Empire State
- 56. Give back
- 58. College hoops tournament
- 59. Unstable situations
- 60. Young women's association

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Administer a drug
- 2. Holy places
- 3. Contrary opinions
- 4. Bloody type
- 5. Gags
- 6. Micturating
- 7. Silly
- 8. A type of "cuff"
- 9. Spanish be
- 12. Austrian river
- 13. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 17. Consume food
- 19. California supermarket
- 20. Electronic communication
- 21. Cassia tree
- 25. Written works
- 29. Cool!
- 31. Noteworthy 90s lawyer Kenneth
- 32. One who was compensated
- 33. National symbols
- 35. Raising
- 38. A type of talk
- 41. Cloud
- 43. Middle Eastern peoples
- 44. Pouches
- 45. 007's creator
- 46. A cut of meat
- 47. Sports entertainment award
- 49. Christine \_\_, actress
- 56. Relief organization (abbr.)
- 57. Canadian province (abbr.)



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Charlton \$425,900, 7-L Stevens Rd #A, 7 Ab L Stevens Inc, and Gauthier, Ronald J, to Martin, Kyle.  
\$420,000, 7 Glenmere Rd, Curtis K Abbot Co Inc, and Basel, Joann E, to Innamorati 2nd, Gary J.  
\$420,000, 9-L Stevens Rd #B, Leblanc, Ronald, to Fleitas, Erica, and Fleitas, Juan Manuel.  
\$185,000, Hammond Rd, Thh LLC, and Thomas, Barbara, to Bertrand, Rachel, and Bertrand, Michael S.  
\$24,000, Cranberry Meadow Rd, Lussier Hurlbert 1994 Lt, and Herman, Monique T, to 303-205 T, and Gilmartin, Paul A.  
SOUTHBRIDGE

None \$800,000, 9 Old Towne Way, Arndt, Prescott S, to Labonte, Kayla, and Labonte, Dane.  
\$625,000, 11 Lauren Ln, Wahra, Harjinder S, and Wahra, Satwinder Kaur, to Patel, Samir, and Patel, Parulben.  
\$500,000, 183 Charlton Rd, Watson T, and Swiacki, Jeanne G, to Adam T, and Taylor, Charles E.  
\$410,000, 19 Arnold Rd, Skoglund, Steven, and Skoglund, Shannon, to Roach, Emmilie.  
\$386,000, 8 Village Grn #8, Rodier, Thomas P, to Moynihan, Melissa Anne, and Brosnan, Patrick.

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### CHURCH LISTINGS

- **Central Baptist Church**  
256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550  
Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.
- **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 508- 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer worship is 9:30 a.m. [www.fed-church.org](http://www.fed-church.org)
- **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, [www.charltonbaptist.org](http://www.charltonbaptist.org), Sunday worship 10 a.m.
- **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: [CharltonCityUMC.org](http://CharltonCityUMC.org) Sunday worship and Children's church 10am
- **St. Anne St. Patrick Church**, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338  
[www.stannestpatparish.com](http://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
- **Elm Street Congregational Church**, 61 Elm Street, Southbridge, Ma 01550  
Phone: 508-764-8085 • Sunday service 10:00 am  
Pastor Kathryn Light
- **Faith Baptist Church**, 515 Dennison Drive, Southbridge  
Phone number 508-764-6132,  
Worship Service: Sunday 10:00 a.m.
- **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, [www.stjosephscharlton.com](http://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](http://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  
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[www.livingwordcharlton.com](http://www.livingwordcharlton.com)  
[info@livingwordcharlton.com](mailto: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](http://www.sturfed.org)  
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- **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**- 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566  
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- **St. John Paul II Parish**  
279 Hamilton St., Southbridge  
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Weekend services Saturday 4 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon  
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# Joshua Hyde Public Library

306 Main St., Sturbridge 508-347-2512  
m a y e n t @ cwmars.org

The Library will be closed Saturday, July 4th for the Fourth of July.

## S U M M E R READING KICK-OFF EVENTS

2:00pm to 4:00pm: For all ages.

**E X P L O R E E A R T H ' S T R E A S U R E S WITH THE ECOTARIUM** - Explore fossils and geology with a special guest from the EcoTarium in Worcester. Visitors of all ages are invited to drop by, examine real specimens, and learn about Earth's history through interactive discovery. Come anytime during the program to explore at your own pace.

2:00pm to 4:00pm: For all ages.

**O F F I C I A L O P E N I N G O F THE LITTLE FREE ART GALLERY** - Join us during our Summer Reading Kick-off afternoon to help celebrate the official opening of local Girl Scout Eilee's

Gold Award project, the Little Free Art Gallery. There will be arts and crafts available from 2:00pm to 3:30pm on the front lawn, followed by a brief ceremony to highlight Eilee's accomplishments at 3:45pm. Light refreshments will be provided.

2:30pm: For Kids ages 4 to 12 - "DIG IT" WITH SCIENCE HEROES - Registration is required.

Children and their families are invited to kick off 2026's Summer Reading Program with a fun and interactive program hosted by Science Heroes! Kids will be invited to participate as they experiment with the colorful science that's all around us - while also exploring ways they can use S.T.E.M. to make our world better.

**S T O R Y T I M E S S U M M E R B A B Y T I M E** - Join us for rhymes, songs, and lap bounces. Mondays at 10:45am - 6/29, 7/6, 7/13, 7/20, 7/27 & 8/3

S U M M E R

**T O D D L E R T I M E** - Join us for stories, songs, rhymes, and a craft.

Tuesdays at 10:45am - 6/30, 7/7, 7/14, 7/21, 7/28 & 8/4

**F R O N T L A W N F R I D A Y S** - Join us for stories and outdoor play.

Fridays at 10:45am - 6/26, 7/3, 7/10, 7/17, 7/24 & 7/31

**C H I L D R E N ' S P R O G R A M S** - Registration is required. All children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult caregiver.

**D I N O S A U R P A I N T I N G WITH POP UP ART SCHOOL** Tuesday, June 30 at 2:30pm. For ages 8 to 12.

**D I N O D I G P L A Y T I M E** Thursday, July 9 at 2:00pm. For ages 4 to 12.

**B A T I K A R T FOR KIDS: PART ONE\*** Wednesday, July 15 at 2:00pm

**B A T I K A R T FOR KIDS: PART TWO\*** Friday, July 17 at 2:00pm  
\*Batik Art is for ages 8 to 14. Kids

must attend both parts.

**O W L P E L L E T D I S S E C T I O N** Saturday, July 18 at 2:00pm. For ages 7 to 12.

**G I L B E R T T H E P A R T Y P I G** Saturday, July 25 at 2:00pm. For ages 2 to 12.

**R O C K P A I N T I N G AT THE SENIOR CENTER** Wednesday, July 29 at 2:00pm. For ages 4 to 12.

**P I R A T E P A R T Y** Saturday, August 1 at 11:00am. For ages 3 to 12.

**M A K E I T M O N D A Y S** - At 3:30pm. For ages 7 to 12.

June 29 - 3D Collage Dinosaur July 13 - Clay Dinosaur Eggs July 27 - Ancient Pottery Excavation August 3 - Scroll Painting

**P U P P E T S E R I E S** Monday, July 6 at 3:30pm - DIY Marionettes for ages 5 to 12

Thursday, July 16 at 1:30pm - No-Sew Sock Puppet for ages 7 to 12

Monday, July 20 at 3:00pm - No-Sew Puppet ~ Part One\*

Friday, July 24 at 3:00pm - No-Sew Puppet ~ Part Two\*  
\*No-Sew Muppets is for kids ages 9 to 13. Kids must attend both parts.

**W E D N E S D A Y M O R N I N G M O V I E S** - At 10:30am - All movies are rated PG

July 1 - Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs July 15 - The Good Dinosaur July 29 - The Croods

**S C A V E N G E R H U N T S** - In the Children's Room - Dinosaurs - June 24 through July 7

Archaeology - July 8 through July 21  
Ice Age - July 22 through August 4

**S U M M E R C O L O R I N G C O N T E S T**

Pick up a coloring page at the library and return it by August 5. Entries will be displayed in the stairwell and one winner from each age group (3-5yrs; 6-9yrs; 10-12yrs) will be chosen by

the staff.

**T E E N P R O G R A M S** Registration is required.

**S C I E N C E H E R O E S : E X P E R I M E N T L A B F O R T E E N S** Saturday, July 11 at 1:00pm. For ages 13 to 18.

**T E E N C R A F T E R N O O N S** - For ages 12 to 18.

Thursday, July 2 at 3:30pm - Chainmail Bracelets Thursday, July 16 at 3:30pm - Punched Metal Lantern Thursday, July 30 at 3:30pm - DIY Book

**T E E N & A D U L T P R O G R A M S** Registration is required.

**C O L O R M E C A L M** Wednesday, July 1 and Wednesday, August 5 at 5:30pm. Registration is not required.

**C e l e b r a t i n g A m e r i c a ' s 2 5 0 t h :**

**I R O N I N T H E W A T E R** with Adventurer in History Kiersten Marcil. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Ashland Public Library. Virtual - Monday, July 6 at 7:00pm

**J U N K J O U R N A L C O L L A G E P R O G R A M** Tuesday, July 14 at 6:30pm

**W O O D E N S P O O N C A R V I N G** Tuesday, July 21 at 2:00pm. For ages 16+

**C e l e b r a t i n g A m e r i c a ' s 2 5 0 t h : " T H E E S C A P E S O F D A V I D G E O R G E "** with author Gregory E. O'Malley. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Ashland Public Library. Virtual - Monday, July 27 at 7:00pm

**W O R L D B U I L D I N G B O O K C L U B** - Registration is not required.

This month's book is "His Majesty's Dragon" Tuesday, July 28 at 6:30pm

**B E A D A N I M A L K E Y C H A I N S** Saturday, August 1 at 2:00pm

**S U M M E R T A K E & M A K E S** - For Teens & Adults Week of June 29 - Air Dry Trinket Bowl

Week of July 6 - Mini Adirondack Chairs

Week of July 13 - Macrame Leaf Keychain

Week of July 20 - Connector Charm Bracelet

Week of July 27 - Book Lover Garden Stake

Week of August 3 - Magnolia Leaf Book Page Wreath

All programs are sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.

To register for programs and for more information go to [sturbridgeli-brary.org](http://sturbridgeli-brary.org).

## Students named to Champlain College Dean's List

BURLINGTON, Vt. — The following students have been named to the Champlain College Dean's List for achieving a grade point average of 3.5 or higher in the Spring 2026 semester.

Layne Holcomb of Wales  
Michael Ng of Sturbridge  
Griffin Smith of Fiskdale  
Founded in 1878, Champlain College is a small, not-for-profit, private college in Burlington, Vermont, with additional campuses in Montreal, Canada, and Dublin, Ireland. Champlain offers a residential undergraduate experience from its beautiful campus overlooking Lake Champlain. Additionally, Champlain College Online provides an expansive portfolio of online degrees and cer-

tificates, reaching students across all 50 states and U.S. territories, while fostering strategic partnerships with forward-thinking workforce organizations. The College is known for its distinctive and innovative approach to career-focused education and its Upside-Down Curriculum, which helps students be ready for work, ready for life, and ready to make a difference. Champlain is ranked as one of the "Best Colleges" by U.S. News & World Report for 2025, and was named one of the "Best 390 Colleges" by The Princeton Review for 2025, including among its "Best Northeastern colleges." For more information, visit [www.champlain.edu](http://www.champlain.edu).

## Elms College salutes Spring 2026 graduates

CHICOPEE — Elms College congratulates 279 students who graduated in Spring 2026, including:

Haley Dulmaine of Holland  
Olivia Morin of Wales  
Neetu Singh of Sturbridge  
Allison Read of Charlton  
Tariyaha Morris of Southbridge  
Elms College is a co-educational Catholic college offering a liberal arts curriculum that pre-

pare students holistically for a purposeful life in a diverse and interconnected world. Founded in 1928 by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Elms College has a tradition of educating reflective, principled and creative learners, who are rooted in faith, educated in mind, compassionate in heart, responsive to civic and social obligations, and capable of adjusting to change without compromising principle.

## Dakota Schantz of Sturbridge earns Bachelor's degree from Nazareth University

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Dakota Schantz of Sturbridge graduated Summa Cum Laude from Nazareth University with a bachelor's degree in Musical Theatre during the 99th Commencement ceremony on campus at the Golisano Training Center on Saturday, May 16, 2026.

Nazareth University is an inclusive community of inspired learners, educators, and change-makers who for more than 100 years have been driven by a bold commitment to education, empathy, equity, and leading innovation for the common good.

Impact experiences are at the heart of a Nazareth education, preparing each student to discover within themselves the potential to cultivate positive

change in their life's work, in any career field, and in a world that is constantly evolving and infinitely interconnected. Our broad academic offerings present a range of study options typical of big universities, yet achieved in our supportive campus culture. Nearly 2,100 undergrad and 600 graduate students enroll in degree and certificate programs and engage in collaborative, transformative learning experiences, preparing them for the professions and society of today and tomorrow. In a learning community that purposefully integrates liberal arts and professional programs, Nazareth University graduates launch lifetimes of changemaking leadership in communities and workplaces near and far.

## Local student named to Marquette University Dean's List

MILWAUKEE, Wisc. — Jack Albright of Charlton has been named to the Dean's List for the spring 2026 semester at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisc.

To make the Dean's List, students must have earned at least 12 credits for the spring 2026 semester and have no disqualifying grades. The GPA threshold varies by college - for the College of Education and the Klingler College of Arts and Sciences, undergraduate students must have at least a 3.7 to be named to the Dean's List.

The undergraduate GPA requirement is 3.5 for the following colleges: the Diederich College of Communication, the College

of Business Administration, the College of Health Sciences, the Opus College of Engineering and the College of Nursing. All other programs have a 3.75 GPA minimum.

Marquette University is a Catholic, Jesuit university that draws more than 8,000 undergraduate and 3,700 graduate and professional students from nearly all states and more than 60 countries. In addition to its nationally recognized academic programs, Marquette is known for its service learning programs and internships as students are challenged to use what they learn to make a difference in the world. Find out more about Marquette at [marquette.edu](http://marquette.edu).

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## Hope grows when communities come together

Cancer is one of the few challenges that touches nearly every family. It does not care about age, occupation, income, or background. Most people can name a friend, relative, neighbor, coworker, or classmate whose life has been affected by the disease. That shared experience is one reason why events like the Relay For Life of Southern Worcester County continue to resonate so deeply throughout our communities.

On June 20, McMahon Field in Southbridge will once again become a place of celebration, remembrance, and determination as survivors, caregivers, families, and supporters gather for this year's Relay For Life. The theme, "From Small Seeds, Hope Grows," is a fitting reminder that meaningful change often begins with simple acts of kindness and commitment.

At first glance, Relay For Life may appear to be a fundraiser. It certainly serves that purpose, helping support cancer research, patient programs, transportation services, lodging assistance, and educational efforts through the American Cancer Society. But anyone who has attended a Relay knows it is much more than a fundraising event.

It is a gathering of stories.

The Survivor Lap reminds us that victories over cancer are worth celebrating. The Caregiver Lap honors those who quietly stand beside loved ones through treatments, appointments, setbacks, and recoveries. Throughout the day, participants laugh together, compete in games, bid on auction items, and enjoy family activities. For a few hours, the community becomes united by a common purpose.

Then, as darkness settles over the field, the mood changes.

The luminaria ceremony has become one of the most powerful traditions of Relay For Life. Hundreds of glowing bags illuminate the track, each representing a life touched by cancer. Some honor survivors who continue their journeys. Others memorialize loved ones whose absence is still deeply felt. The soft glow of those lights serves as a visual reminder that every statistic represents a person, a family, and a story.

In a world that often feels divided, Relay For Life offers something increasingly rare: a cause that brings people together. No political affiliation, job title, or personal difference matters when people gather to support neighbors facing one of life's most difficult challenges.

The event also demonstrates the strength of small communities. While national cancer research may happen in laboratories and medical centers hundreds of miles away, the support that helps people endure often begins right here at home. It starts with a friend delivering a meal, a coworker organizing a fundraiser, a neighbor offering a ride to treatment, or a local team walking laps around a track in Southbridge.

Those acts may seem small in isolation. Yet they are the seeds from which hope grows.

The fight against cancer continues. Progress has been made, but there is still much work to do. Events like Relay For Life remind us that every dollar raised, every lap walked, and every luminaria lit contributes to that effort.

More importantly, they remind us that no one should face cancer alone.

As Relay For Life returns to McMahon Field, the community has an opportunity not only to support an important cause but also to demonstrate what Southern Worcester County does best: come together when it matters most.

That spirit of compassion, perseverance, and hope may be the most powerful force of all.

### Letter submission policy

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

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

# OPINION

## Turn your savings into paychecks in retirement

Margaret had saved diligently for decades. Every paycheck, a portion went toward her retirement account. Then, the day finally came: she retired. Suddenly, the hardest part wasn't the saving. It was learning to spend.

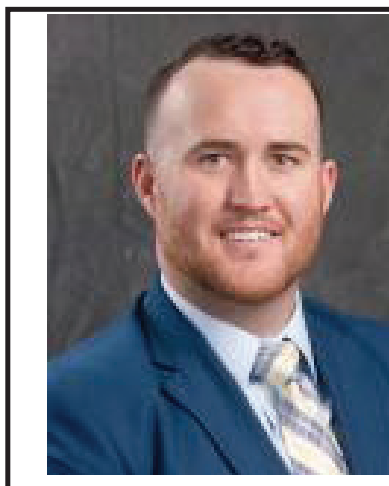
If that sounds familiar, you're not alone. Many retirees find the shift from building savings to living off them emotionally difficult, even when they've planned carefully. Here are five smart strategies that can help you feel more confident about what's ahead.

Give yourself permission to spend conservatively. Your retirement plan likely assumes a certain annual spending amount, with increases each year to account for inflation. All else being equal, the lower those initial withdrawals, the longer your money will last. A financial advisor can help you set up portfolio withdrawals personalized to your goals and situation. Feel free to give yourself permission to spend those amounts, knowing there's intention behind them.

For many retirees, the challenge isn't math — it's mindset. After years of being rewarded for saving, spending can feel like doing something wrong. It can help to reframe withdrawals as a paycheck you've already earned. For example, using your monthly distribution to cover travel, hobbies or time with family isn't indulgent; it's the purpose of the plan you built. Connecting spending to your values can make it feel more natural and sustainable.

Do be sure to review your spending regularly and don't forget to set aside funds for annual expenses like taxes and insurance.

Keep some cash on hand. A general rule of thumb for retirees is to keep about 12 months' worth of withdraw-



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als in a separate account for spending and another three to five years' worth in short-term, fixed-income investments. This cushion can allow your stock investments time to recover from a market downturn, reducing the need to sell investments when markets are down. That said, holding too much cash carries its own risk, as your portfolio may not grow fast enough to keep pace with inflation. So, while some cash is good, you'll

also want to remain invested in assets with more growth potential to help your portfolio last through retirement.

Review regularly. Retirement can last 25 years or more, and even the best-laid plans need updating along the way. Review your financial strategy at least once a year or after any major life change.

Stay flexible. Even small adjustments to your spending can have a big impact on how long your money lasts. Retirees who hold off on spending increases in years when their portfolio declines are often able to stretch their savings further than those who increase withdrawals each year for inflation regardless of market performance.

Making the switch from saving to spending takes both careful planning and a genuine shift in mindset. A financial advisor can help you build out an effective approach to switch from saving to spending, and work with you so you can fully enjoy the retirement you worked so hard to reach.

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

## A handshake, a hammer, and a few quiet lessons

### LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET

By CHARLES

Father's Day arrives every year with a familiar collection of neckties, coffee mugs and backyard cookouts. Those are fine traditions, but as I get older, I find myself thinking less about the gifts and more about the men who shaped us, often without realizing they were doing it.

My father was not much of a talker.

That seems to be a common trait among fathers of a certain generation. They could spend an entire afternoon working beside you and say fewer than a dozen words. Yet somehow, years later, you realize they taught you more during those silent hours than many people could teach in a semester-long class.

My father believed that if a job was worth doing, it was worth doing correctly. He did not need a motivational poster on the wall to remind him. He simply got up every morning and went to work.

As a kid, I didn't always appreciate that philosophy. In fact, I spent a fair amount of time wishing he would hurry up. Whether it was fixing a lawn mower, painting a fence, or repairing something around the house, I wanted the shortest route between broken and fixed. He wanted it done right.

At the time, it seemed unnecessarily slow.

Today, I catch myself doing the exact same thing.

I hear his voice every time I reach for a shortcut. Measure twice. Check your work. Clean up after yourself. Leave things better than you found them.

Funny how those lessons settle in when you're not paying attention.

Fatherhood itself has changed quite a bit over the years. Today's dads seem more comfortable expressing emotions and spending time with their children in ways previous generations often didn't. That's a good thing. Yet many of the fundamentals remain unchanged.

Children are still watching.

They notice how their fathers treat their mothers. They notice whether promises are kept. They notice how a father responds when things go wrong. They notice whether he shows kindness to strangers and respect to neighbors.

Most of all, they notice consistency.

A father does not need to be perfect. No father ever has been. But children remember the man who shows up. They remember the one sitting in the bleachers on a rainy after-

noon. They remember the one helping with homework after a long workday. They remember the one who drives across town when the car won't start or answers the phone at 10 p.m. because a son or daughter needs advice.

The older I get, the more I appreciate those ordinary acts.

My own children are adults now. One is away building her

own. Fatherhood changes as children grow. You spend years teaching them to become independent, and then one day you realize they actually listened.

That can be both rewarding and a little unsettling.

These days, conversations are less about curfews and homework and more about careers, relationships and life decisions. The role changes, but the responsibility never completely disappears. A father never stops being a father. The worries simply evolve.

On Father's Day, many of us will celebrate with our families. Some will be remembering fathers who are no longer here. Others may be thinking about grandfathers, stepfathers, uncles, coaches, teachers or neighbors who stepped into that role when it was needed.

They all matter.

The truth is that some of the most important fathers in a community are not necessarily related by blood. They are the men who volunteer to coach Little League, teach Scout skills, mentor young people or quietly lend a hand when someone needs guidance. Every town in Massachusetts has a few of those men. They rarely seek recognition, but their influence stretches farther than they know.

This Father's Day, perhaps the best gift we can give is a little gratitude.

A phone call. A visit. A handshake. A simple thank-you.

And if your father is still around, maybe ask him a few questions. Ask about his first job. Ask about his childhood. Ask what worried him when he was your age.

One day you'll be glad you did.

The older I get, the more I understand that fathers rarely leave their greatest legacy in bank accounts or buildings. They leave it in habits, values and lessons that quietly travel from one generation to the next.

Sometimes, all it takes is a handshake, a hammer, and a few quiet lessons.

### TO THE EDITOR

## Appreciate the biodiversity around us

To the Editor:

So, how did it go? I saw many patches of wildflowers and ferns and couldn't help but think of all the birds, moths, butterflies, and dragonflies (as well as the soil in general) that benefitted from No Mow May. If you or a neighbor has a garden, think of all the pollinators that will help the garden be more bountiful. Think of the biodiversity that has been unleashed. Think of how much humans are a part of the Earth and its biodiversity! Please consider this when planning new buildings, lawns, highly trafficked areas— can they be placed in a less destructive area, to help our fellow Earthlings?

Here's another tip to work with our fellow beings and plants: use a yellow light bulb for outside lighting at night (or none at all) to create some much needed darkness for

nocturnal insects and wildlife and so we can see the stars.

Biodiversity is all around! Even our town council got diversified last week! On Saturday, members of our own Urban Forestry team Steve, Jeff, and Kevin showed us the types and varieties of recently planted trees downtown. Steve also tied in the vibrant history of our downtown (including a late 19th century picture of tree-lined Main Street). These new trees will give us the shade and habitat for birds and small mammals as well as hold the soil and provide nutrients (not to mention the oxygen they will provide).

Starting today, appreciate all the wetlands, rotting logs, ponds, fields, wildflowers and vernal pools for what they add to our life.

Maureen Doyle  
Southbridge

# Ruth Wells Center spotlights three unique artists this June

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, located at 111 Main St. in Southbridge, is thrilled to feature three unique artists for the June show. Gallery hours are Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. throughout the month. Admission is free and all are welcome to view our local talent.

Found items become flights of fancy, and remind us to be curious.

Elegant watercolors remind us how achingly beautiful this world can be.

Both majestic and fun, wildlife photographs remind that we live alongside the extraordinary.

Stop by, enjoy things worth looking at, have some refreshments, and help welcome three gifted Southbridge artists who will be in the gallery and look forward to seeing you. All are welcome, and admission is free. The artwork is available for purchase.

David Baggarly

David Baggarly was born (1963) and raised in Mattapoisett, graduating in 1985 with a BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art, in Baltimore, Maryland. Previously residing in Baltimore, Providence, R.I., and the New Bedford region, he and his wife have recently been residing in Southbridge MA. David has been a professional artist since 1985.

Baggarly's work has been exhibited around the nation for over 30 years, including most recently his fifth solo exhibit at Colo Colo Gallery, New Bedford; and a solo exhibit at Starlite Gallery in Southbridge.

He has recently exhibited at the Danforth Art Museum, Framingham; the Newport Art Museum, Newport, R.I.; the New Bedford Art Museum; and URI, Providence, R.I. His works hang in numerous public and private collections, including MEDITECH Inc. (Fall River facility), Concordia College (Michigan), Johnson & Wales University (R.I.), and the National Conference of American Bishops (Washington, D.C.). David has also received grants from, among others, the LEF Foundation (CA) and the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. His work is currently represented by Colo Colo Gallery of New Bedford.

Barbara O'Brien

"I began drawing and painting at a young age, inspired by my artistic older sister Margaret. Later, I was greatly influenced by my mother-in-law, the artist and teacher Christine O'Brien, as well as my instructors at the School of the Worcester Art Museum. My husband Tom has also been a constant source of support and remains my most valued critic. After exploring various media, I returned to watercolor painting this past year. My love of nature is a prominent theme in my work, and I am grateful to be able to pursue this passion. I also feel very fortunate to have access to the Open Studio at the Ruth Wells Center for the Arts"

Jim R. Wilton

Self-taught and versatile, Jim Wilton

is well-known in Worcester County and far beyond for his paintings and photography. He's always busy with commission work and has been shown locally several times. Jim has self-published two coffee-table photo books and his work has appeared in magazines. He is also a busy presence on Etsy and Facebook where he loves

talking with the public about the subjects in his work. He's at his happiest when his work connects with people and makes them feel happy too. Wilton is a valued member of our Board here at the Ruth Wells Center and we are pleased to be showing his photography this month.

## Local student graduates from Elon University

ELON, N.C. — Anjolina Claire Fantaroni of Southbridge graduated from Elon University on May 22 with a Bachelor of Arts after majoring in Journalism.

Fantaroni was also named to the President's List for the spring semester of 2026.

Elon University conferred degrees on more than 1,500 undergraduates who participated in ceremonies that featured a Commencement address by Elon University parent, trustee and accomplished Wall Street strategist Patricia Walsh Chadwick, the author of "Breaking Glass: Tales from the Witch of Wall Street," which recounts the transition from a challenging childhood to her successful career on Wall Street.

Elon University in North Carolina is a nationally recognized leader in

engaged, experiential learning that prepares graduates to be creative, resilient, ambitious and ethical citizens of our global culture. Elon's 6,200 undergraduate and 900 graduate students come from 49 states (including the District of Columbia) and 51 other countries.

At Elon, students learn through hands-on experiences and close working relationships with faculty and staff whose priorities are teaching and mentoring. The Elon curriculum is grounded in the traditional liberal arts and sciences with an emphasis on global experiences and career development. More than 70 undergraduate majors are complemented by professional and graduate programs in law, business administration, business analytics, accounting, education, physician assistant studies and physical therapy.



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# Cornerstone Bank donates \$6,000 to support Habitat for Humanity project building playhouses for veteran families

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank has donated \$6,000 to Habitat for Humanity MetroWest/Greater Worcester to support the 2026 Operation Playhouse Build-A-Thon, which took place Thursday, June 4, at Elm Park in Worcester.

The contribution marks the ninth consecutive year Cornerstone Bank has donated to the initiative. In addition to the financial support, bank employees participated in the event as part of an annual volunteer day.

During the Build-A-Thon, teams of



eight to ten volunteers came together to construct custom playhouses for children of veteran and military families. Each structure was designed around a theme selected by the recipient family and was completed in a single day with guidance from Habitat staff and trained volunteers.

“This event brought together teamwork, creativity and community impact in a very meaningful way,” said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. “Our employees look forward to this volunteer day each year and have taken great pride in building something special for local families who have served our country.”

Funds raised through Operation Playhouse support Habitat for Humanity MetroWest/Greater Worcester’s broader mission to provide safe, decent and affordable housing across the 42 cities and towns it serves.

### 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 the addition of Athol Savings Bank, a Division of Cornerstone Bank, in 2026, Cornerstone offers customers access to 17 branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts, the most in Worcester County. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit [cornerstonebank.com](http://cornerstonebank.com) or call 800-939-9103.



Courtesy Photo

Congratulations to the following students who were selected as May students of the Month at St. Joseph School: Pre-K 3-year-old: Carter Healy; Pre-K 4-year-old: Forrest Lovett; Kindergarten: Maeve Haynes; Grade 1: Clark Collins; Grade 2: Harper Quetti; Grade 3: Paulina Deptula; Grade 4: Keziah Anobah; Grade 5: Julia Biela; Grade 6: Giorgios Sgouritsas; Grade 7: Jacob Manzi; Grade 8: Kalleia Agosto. Students are awarded Student of the Month for their outstanding exemplification of Religion, Respect, and Responsibility. Keep up the great work!

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# St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish announces Young Adult Alpha Program

STURBRIDGE — St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish will hold a Young Adult Alpha program for those seeking to explore life's biggest questions and the foundations of the Christian faith in a safe and welcoming space. Young adults between the ages of 18 and 30 are invited to attend this no-cost program.

The program comprises three important components: connection, content, and conversation. Participants share light refreshments, which helps to build friendships. After watching a short video, participants explore core questions about faith, God, and purpose. Small group discussions about the video encourage participants to ask key questions and share opinions in a non-judgmental environment.

Young Adult Alpha will meet on June 22, 23, 29, 30 and July 7, 13, and 14. All meetings take place in the Parish Center at St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish, 16 Church St., Sturbridge, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

To register or for more information, contact [alphasturbridge@gmail.com](mailto:alphasturbridge@gmail.com).

St. Anne St. Patrick Parish is an active parish community. It offers daily Mass for worship, religious education, and community ministries. It welcomes visitors to St. Anne Shrine, the new Memorial for the Unborn, the Hall of Saints, the Russian Icon Exhibit, the Votive Chapel, the Generations Statue, and



## All Saints Academy preschoolers celebrate a year of learning and growth



WEBSTER — The preschool students at All Saints Academy proudly celebrated the completion of a successful school year during their Preschool Celebration 2026. Family members and friends gathered to enjoy a heartwarming program that highlighted the many skills and accomplishments the students achieved throughout the year.

The celebration began with a welcome from the narrator, who reflected on the children's growth, learning, and friendships. The students then processed into the ceremony, enthusiastically waving to their families. Faith played a central role in the program as the children began by reciting the Our Father, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Throughout the year, the preschoolers learned the importance of prayer, respect, kindness, and working together as a classroom community.

The students proudly demonstrated many of the skills they practiced throughout the school year while families smiled as the children showcased their growing knowledge and enthusiasm for learning. Musical performances added to the celebration. The students delighted the audience with a lively rendition of "I'm a Little Teapot" and sang a colorful song highlighting the many colors they learned throughout the year.

Before receiving their certificates, the children recited their lunchtime prayer, demonstrating another daily routine that has been an important part of their preschool experience. A special highlight of the event was the presentation of certificates, recognizing each child's hard work, growth, and accomplishments throughout the year. Proud families applauded as each student was recognized.

The celebration concluded with a farewell message reflecting on the friendships, memories, and learning

experiences shared throughout the year. While saying goodbye to preschool, the students look forward with excitement to the adventures and opportunities that await them next year. The Preschool Celebration served as a joyful reminder of how much the children have grown academically, socially, and spiritually during their time at All Saints Academy. The school community congratulates its preschool graduates and wishes them continued success as they take their next steps in their educational journey.

the Angel of Hope Monument. The Daily Rosary is recited at 3 p.m. in the St. Patrick Chapel, and weekend Masses are celebrated

in its outdoor pavilion in the summer. Its religious gift shop is open every day from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### St. Nicholas Church to hold multi-family yard sale Saturday

SOUTHBRIDGE — St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church will hold its Multi-Family Yard Sale on Saturday, June 20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (no early

birds, please) on the church grounds, 126 Morris St., Southbridge.

Come one, come all. Something for everyone!

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# University of Hartford students named to Dean's and President's Lists

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — The University of Hartford is pleased to announce that 2,332 students have been named to the Dean's List and

President's List for the spring 2026 semester. The Dean's List recog-

nizes students achieving superior academic standing. The requirement, with

some exceptions, is a grade point average of at least 3.0 and no grade below C.

- Courtney Haire - Brimfield - Dean's List and President's List
- Joyce Woodard - Wales - Dean's List

## Area residents named to Dean's List at University of New England

B I D D E F O R D / PORTLAND, Maine — Bridget Hast and Emily LeBrun of Charlton have been named to the University of New England's Dean's List for the spring semester 2026. Dean's List students have attained a grade point average of 3.3 or better out

of a possible 4.0 at the end of the semester.

The University of New England is Maine's largest independent university, with two beautiful coastal campuses in Maine, a one-of-a-kind study-abroad campus in Tangier, Morocco, and an array of flexible online

offerings. In an uncommonly welcoming and supportive community, we offer hands-on learning, empowering students to make a positive impact in a world full of challenges. We are the state's top provider of health professionals and home to Maine's only medical and dental colleges,

physician assistant program, and pharmacy school, in addition to a variety of other inter-professionally aligned health care programs and nationally recognized programs in the marine sciences, the natural and social sciences, business, the humanities, and the arts. Visit [www.une.edu](http://www.une.edu).

The President's List recognizes a select group of students reaching the highest level of academic standing. To be placed on the President's List, students must maintain a GPA of at least a 3.75 and receive grades of C or better.

Please join us in congratulating:

- Grace Grybowski - Strubridge - Dean's List

Congratulations to all our students on their hard work and academic achievements

The University of Hartford blends raw passion with emerging talent, offering intentional preparation across six career-focused schools and colleges so every student can thrive. Located on a 350-acre campus neighboring Connecticut's capital city and positioned midway between New York City and Boston—the University is home to approximately 4,300 undergraduate and 1,700 graduate students from 42 states and 53 countries. Here, students are guided to discover their place, their people, and their purpose.

# Springfield College recognizes Dean's List students

SPRINGFIELD — Springfield College recognized its Dean's List students for the 2026 Spring Semester. The following local students were recognized for academic excellence:

Matthew Cooper from Sturbridge. Cooper has

a primary major of Sports Biology.

Jacob Davis from Fiskdale. Davis has a primary major of Exploratory Studies.

Madison Haffty from Fiskdale. Haffty has a primary major of Health Science /

Pre-PA.

Katherine Wade from Sturbridge. Wade has a primary major of Communication Sci & Disorders.

Morgan Izbicki from Charlton. Izbicki has a primary major of Health

Science.

The criteria for selection to the Dean's List are as follows: The student must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of "P" grades. The student must not have

any incompletes or missing grades in the designated term. The student must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.500 for the term. Student must not have been barred from Dean's List due to disciplinary action.

# 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 **JUNE 27, 2026** 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:

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LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER:  
Amber Rae Pagan  
555 WORCESTER ST ,APT 207  
Southbridge, MA 01550-3300

VEHICLE :2013 Hyundai SONATA  
VIN:5NPEB4AC8DH744888  
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER : Daryll Jason Proto  
93 PAULINE AVE  
WEST HAVEN, CT 06516

VEHICLE:2010 Honda Accord  
VIN:1HGCP2F84AA188696  
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER: Longbao Xing  
16 CROSS ST, APT 303  
NEW CANAAN CT 06840-4841

VEHICLE :2008 Hyundai SANTA FE  
VIN:5NMSH73E28H222102  
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER: Dieubon Charles  
171 MECHANIC ST ,  
SOUTHBRIDGE ,MA 01550-1971

VEHICLE :2011 Acura MDX  
VIN:2HNYD2H26BH532872  
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER: Aldrin D Ocampo  
49 WYMAN ST  
Lynn .MA 01905-1817

VEHICLE:2006 Toyota Corolla  
VIN:2T1BR32EX6C644435  
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER: Amanda DE Oliveira Silva  
38 COLUMBIA ST, APT 1  
WORCESTER MA 01604-4676

VEHICLE :2010 Ford Focus  
VIN:1FAHP3GN7AW141492  
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER: Lisando Perez  
57 Wilkinson St.  
Putnam CT 06260-2142

VEHICLE :2011 Subaru Legacy  
VIN:4S3BMBC69B3246796  
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER: Brian Kevin Connolly  
804 SOUTH ST,  
SOUTHBRIDGE MA 01550-2156

VEHICLE : 2010 HONDA CIVIC  
VIN:JHMFA3F21AS004743  
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Danbury, CT 06810-2757

VEHICLE :2009 Chevrolet Malibu  
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VEHICLE :2020 Toyota RAV4  
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June 26,2026

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**Docket No. WO26P1883EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Heather Jean McElroy**  
**Date of Death: 02/20/2025**

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

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/14/2026**.

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

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
**WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: June 11, 2026  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
June 18, 2026

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**FY2027-02**  
**10% ASPHALT RUBBER SURFACE TREATMENT OF VARIOUS STREETS**

**Sealed bids** for the 10% Asphalt Rubber Surface Treatment of Various Streets in the Town of Charlton (hereinafter referred to as "The OWNER") will be received at the Town Administrator's Office, Charlton Municipal Offices, 37 Main Street, Charlton MA, 01507 until 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 8, 2026 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. No late bids accepted.

**Obtaining Bid Packages:** Specifications, general instructions, and Bid Forms must be obtained at the Town Administrator's Office, Charlton Municipal Offices, 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday via pick-up at the Town Administrator's Office, by email [mary.devlin@townofcharlton.net](mailto:mary.devlin@townofcharlton.net), or call (508) 248-2206. Bidders are required to submit on the Bid Forms provided.

**Bid Deposit:** All bids over \$10,000 MUST be accompanied by a bid deposit in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid in the form of cash, a bid bond, or a certified check made payable to the Town of Charlton. The bid deposit will be forfeited if the bidder fails to execute the contract and satisfactory Bond within ten (10) days after the contract may have been awarded to them.

**Conditions of Contract:** All awarded contracts shall be subject to the Special Contract Conditions that accompany this bid package. Successful Bidders will be required to produce a certificate of insurance. All work being performed requires 100% Performance Bond and a 50% Payment Bond in accordance with M.G.L. c. 149, section 29. The bidder shall be able to start work under this contract and after the acceptance by the Select Board.

**Wage Rates:** All wage rates will comply with those established by the Commonwealth Department of Labor and Workforce Development, M.G.L., Chapter 149, Section 26-27G as set forth in the contract documents.

**Prequalification:** Bidders for all projects that cost over \$50,000 must be prequalified by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (formerly Mass. Highway Department). All bidders shall be subject to Section 34 of Chapter 90, must be prequalified in accordance with 720 CMR 5.00 "Prequalification's of Contractors". This will apply to horizontal construction only.

MassDOT prequalification of contractors with the class of work as PAVEMENT SURFACING for the project with an estimated value of \$336,300 will be required.

**Award/Rejection:** The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive minor informalities in the bids, or to accept the bid deemed best for the OWNER. The OWNER further reserves the right to award all portions of the contract to one bidder. In this case, the price bid by the bidder for each item as detailed on the Bid Form shall remain the same. The contract will be awarded to the lowest, responsible and eligible bidder.  
June 11, 2026  
June 18, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508) 831-2200**  
**Docket No. WO26P1865EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

Estate Of:  
**Wayne T St. Clair**  
**Date of Death: 09/29/2025**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Mary Beth Bryant of West Springfield MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: .  
**Mary Beth Bryant of West Springfield MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the estate in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/07/2026**.

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

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

**WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: June 08, 2026  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
June 18, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508)831-2200**  
**Docket No. WO25C0515CA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of:  
**Avalina Azalea Taylor**  
**A Petition to Change Name of Minor** has been filed by **Avalina Azalea Taylor of Sturbridge MA**

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

**Avalina Azalea Bates**

**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 07/07/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.  
**WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: June 04, 2026  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
June 19, 2026

# Town of Sturbridge kicks off inaugural Kids Market

STURBRIDGE — The Town of Sturbridge and the Sturbridge Recreation Department under Recreation Director Andrew St. George is excited to introduce the very first Sturbridge Kids Market to take place on Sunday, Aug. 30 from 9 a.m. -1 p.m. on the Town Common. Though separate from the Farmers' Market, the event will take place during the Market to ensure a broad audience for these creative young-resident businesses.

St. George describes this as a fun, hands-on opportunity for young entrepreneurs to launch their own small businesses! He added that the goal is, "Giving participating children the opportunity to experience a real market environment while showcasing their creativity and entrepreneurial spirit to the community."

The program is open to children entering grades

3-8 this fall and participants will create and market their own products, learn basic business and financial skills, and interact with customers in a real market environment. St. George says that the goal is to build confidence and entrepreneurship skills as well as experience what it's like to run a business.

Types of businesses that may be represented are those that produce handmade crafts, artwork, jewelry, games, or decorations. Some may showcase inventions or services. St. George says that the goal of the program is to encourage imagination, responsibility, problem solving, and community involvement in a supportive and exciting environment.

Participation is limited to 10 vendors for the first year, and applications will be reviewed to help ensure a diverse and balanced market featuring a variety of products and

ideas. Applications are accepted through June 18, with selected participants notified by July 1st.

**SOUTHBRIDGE** — The Southbridge Recreation Department, in partnership with the Southbridge Cultural Council, is excited to present a lively and engaging performance by Henry the Juggler June 25 at 12:30 p.m. at 153 Chestnut St.

A seasoned professional entertainer, Henry the Juggler has delighted tens of thousands of audiences up and down the East Coast at theaters, schools, libraries, festivals, and community events. With over 40 years of experience, Henry blends physical

Town Administrator Robin Grimm said, "This is a great opportunity for our young residents to become engaged in the community and learn

valuable business skills. I am thankful to our Recreation Department as well as the Recreation Board for this creative initiative."

Director St. George presented this to the Sturbridge Selectboard at a recent meeting where it garnered praise from all of the members.

## Southbridge Cultural Council presents "Henry the Juggler"

comedy, movement, and skill into a one-of-a-kind performance that appeals to audiences of all ages.

Trained at California's renowned Dell'Arte School of Physical Comedy, Henry continues to refine his craft through studies in Tai Chi, Feldenkrais, and Tango. He is an active member of the International Jugglers Association and the Hats Off Performers Guild, and also produces the annual New England Performers' Retreat.

Known for his expressive, mostly nonverbal style, Henry communicates through movement,

gestures, and humor—often with the help of unexpected props and signage. His act features a variety of juggling equipment including balls, clubs, rings, and even torches, along with balancing feats such as wire walking and stilt work.

Audiences are advised: Henry is "armed (and legged) and dangerous" — known to cause spontaneous laughter and may involve unsuspecting volunteers from the crowd!

This family-friendly performance is funded in part by a grant from

the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

For more information, please visit the Southbridge Recreation Department at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthbridgeRec> or <https://www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/532/Recreation>

This program is supported by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency, which is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



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# Central Mass. farmers' market season starts now!

REGION — May marks the semi-official beginning to farmers market season, with many of the seasonal farmers' markets in our region starting their regular schedules, with more starting in June. Central Mass Grown is proud to support more than two dozen farmers markets across the Worcester County area.

Just in the city of Worcester, residents can choose from no less than six different markets, including the markets run by the Regional Environmental Council, both the Beaver Brook Market (306 Chandler St.) Friday mornings starting June 12 and the University Park Market (965 Main St.) Saturday mornings starting June 13, plus

the Out To Lunch Market on the Worcester Common Oval behind City Hall every Wednesday from June 24 to Aug. 26. On Sundays, there's both the Market on Exchange Street starting May 17th and the Brussels Street Market starting June 7. And on Thursdays, check out the Burncoat Center for Arts and Wellness at 78 Burncoat St. for their new farmers market starting May 14th. Some of these markets feel like festivals, while others are farmers markets in the truest sense, focused on offering fresh food and agricultural products directly from local farms.

Throughout the region, there's a market nearly every day of the week: for example, the Sturbridge

Farmers Market on Sunday, Holden on Tuesday, Grafton on Wednesday,

Westborough on Thursday, and Westminster on Friday. And so many, many more markets featuring a wide variety of items you won't find anywhere in supermarkets, including purple cauliflower, celeriac, husk cherries, goat cheese, duck eggs, or alpaca wool socks!

Every farmers' market is important to the farmers and other vendors that are there.

According to Central Mass Grown Executive Director David Reed, "Farmers markets are a vital source of revenue for farmers, because every dollar goes right back to them. And they are an important

way for consumers to see where their food, flowers, wool, and soap all come from. If you usually shop in a big box store or online, you've never had a real chance to know anything about what you are buying."

Most farmers markets in our region have one or more farms that participate in the Healthy Incentives Programs, a benefit connected to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP recipients can use their EBT card to purchase fresh produce from participating farms and receive an immediate refund to their card, up to a monthly limit that is based on household size. The end result? Free farm-fresh fruits and vegetables,

and the reward of knowing you supported your local farm!

So this summer season, visit a farmers' market and take a second to say hi to your local farmers. The farmers want

to meet you. They want to say hi. Because farming is hard work, and they do it because they love it and they want you to love it, too.

Find out more about local farmers markets at [central-massgrown.org](http://central-massgrown.org).

## BHS Class of 1986 seeks community's help locating classmates for 40th reunion

REGION — As the Bartlett High School Class of 1986 prepares to celebrate its 40th reunion on Sept. 26, organizers are asking the community for assistance in locating classmates who have not yet been reached through social media or via text.

To make the process simple, the reunion committee has created a short contact-information form and is encouraging residents, friends, and former classmates to help spread the word. If you know someone on the "missing classmates" list, organizers ask that you text them the link to the form so they can update their information.

Contact Info Form: <https://tinyurl.com/BHS1986-40Years>

If it's easier, you may also complete the form on a classmate's behalf—so long as you have their current contact details. Organizers emphasize that any help tracking them down is truly appreciated, as personal connections often succeed where digital outreach falls short.

A list of classmates the committee is hoping to locate appears below. With the community's support, they hope every member of the Class of '86 will have the opportunity to join this milestone celebration.

Peter Allain  
Beth Antonopoulos  
Marie Aperges  
Andrew Baca  
Austin Bailey  
David Beardsley  
Frank Belanger  
Carolyn Bembenek  
Richard Bernier  
Sheila Bialoncik  
Beth Bialy  
Jason Borski  
Doreen Bourget  
Eric Brisbois  
Kathleen Brown  
Paul Browning

Paul Bugan  
Cindy Bullens  
Sandra Butt  
Mont Canterbury  
Stephen Carlson  
Daniel Chapdelaine  
Kelly Cobb  
Ken Courmoyer  
Timothy Decker  
Tammy Deschenes  
Aaron Dorcas  
Daniel Doyle  
Dorothy DusoSelina Fife  
James Gardner  
Jeffrey Gatto  
Tina Giakoumis  
Alicia Goudreau  
Richard Guerin  
Robert Hamm  
Scott Horanzky  
Jane Houle  
Todd Hufault  
Joseph Hughes  
Melissa Jankowski  
Thor Johnson  
Nena Johnston  
Lisa Kozlowski  
Robert Krasnecky  
Jill Krause  
Michael Kryger  
Rick Lawson  
Deborah Leite  
Linda Lifer  
Patricia Majewski  
Renee Marchand  
Jennifer Marsh  
Jennifer Mason  
John Meagher  
Fumiyo Mochizuki  
Deborah Munsch  
Brett Napierata  
Wayne Parmentier  
Brian Poplawski  
Gary Poplawski  
Edward Powers  
William Radcliffe  
James Remy  
Debra Ross  
Collin Salmon  
Dale Schleis  
Theresa Sengel  
Henry Skiba  
Alan Standrowicz  
Jeffrey Surozenski  
Karen Toukonen  
Joseph Veronick  
Douglas Waldron  
Robert Wheeler  
Edward Zdrok

## Greater Worcester Community Foundation awards \$1.14 million to strengthen local grassroots nonprofits

WORCESTER — Greater Worcester Community Foundation has awarded \$1,140,000 in Facing Change: Sustainable Pathways grants to 15 community-based organizations in Worcester and surrounding areas, providing multi-year support to strengthen operational infrastructure, build long-term sustainability and position organizations to meet growing demand.

The three-year grants, ranging from \$35,000 to \$120,000, are tailored to each organization's annual budget and stage of development. Most of the grantees are founder-led and volunteer-driven, and many have experienced rapid growth in recent years. These investments will help organizations align their internal capacity with that momentum, often by hiring staff, improving systems and developing diversified funding strategies.

"Facing Change: Sustainable Pathways is about meeting organizations at a pivotal moment," said Pete Dunn, President & CEO of Greater Worcester Community Foundation. "These groups are doing vital work in our community, and many have outgrown their current infrastructure. This support gives them the tools and time to build a stronger foundation so they can sustain and expand their impact at a time of significant funding uncertainty."

In addition to financial support, grantees will participate in a cohort experience offering peer learning, mentorship and opportunities to share best practices. The cohort model is designed to reduce isolation often experienced by small, founder-led organizations and to foster collaboration across the region.

Grantees are advancing a wide range of community-rooted work across Worcester and the region. For example, Project New Hope will receive \$100,000 to support its work with veterans and their families; Community Health Awareness Network Grows Equity (CHANGE) will receive \$90,000 to support its work with African immigrant communities; and Adaptive Recovery Teaching Incorporated (A.R.T. Inc.) will receive \$60,000 to support individuals and families affected by substance use, mental health challenges and trauma.

"This investment will help us stabilize our operations and strengthen our infrastructure to meet demand," said Lovo Koliego, President & Founder of CHANGE. "Through the Facing Change: Sustainable Pathways program, we hope to develop a diversified funding roadmap and vetted governance structure, ensuring CHANGE remains a resilient pillar of health equity in Worcester."

A full list of grantees is

available below.

The Sustainable Pathways grants are part of the Foundation's Facing Change initiative, a \$3 million investment announced last year in response to growing financial pressures and shifting federal priorities impacting Worcester County's nonprofit sector.

The \$3 million commitment includes \$2.5 million from the City of Worcester and \$500,000 in additional support from the Foundation's Community Leadership Fund and other sources. These supplemental resources enabled three nonprofits outside Worcester to receive funding: Our Bright Future and The Wellstorm, Inc. in Southbridge and Centro Celeste in Fitchburg.

To learn more about the Facing Change initiative program, visit [greaterworcester.org](http://greaterworcester.org).

About Greater Worcester Community Foundation

Greater Worcester Community Foundation is central Massachusetts' leading community foundation, employing its expertise and resources to address the region's most urgent needs. Since 1975, it has worked in partnership with donors to build a \$270 million endowment composed of more than 650 named charitable funds and award over \$186 million in grants that have helped transform communities and build a strong and vibrant region. For more information on the Foundation's programs and how to give, please visit [www.greaterworcester.org](http://www.greaterworcester.org).

Full List of grantees

- The Village — \$120,000 — Founded in 2020, The Village is an Afrocentric cultural center in Worcester's Main South neighborhood advancing racial and social justice through learning, creativity, community and healing.

- Love Your Labels — \$120,000 — Founded in 2018, Love Your Labels fosters social connection and identity development for LGBTQIA+ youth and community through programs like Threads, a multi-month awareness network grows equity (CHANGE) will receive \$90,000 to support its work with African immigrant communities; and Adaptive Recovery Teaching Incorporated (A.R.T. Inc.) will receive \$60,000 to support individuals and families affected by substance use, mental health challenges and trauma.

- UHAI for Health — \$90,000 — Founded in 2010, UHAI for Health serves African immigrants and refugees with culturally and linguistically appropriate prevention, intervention, education, advocacy and support services.

- Community Health Awareness Network Grows Equity (CHANGE) — \$90,000 — Founded in 2018, CHANGE supports African immigrant communities in Greater Worcester by addressing complex integration challenges and empow-

ering individuals to navigate the healthcare system.

- 508 C.H.E.E.R.S. — \$80,000 — Founded in 2022, 508 C.H.E.E.R.S. is a youth-led Worcester organization providing leadership workshops, advocacy training, community service initiatives and civic engagement opportunities.

- Refugees and Immigrants Cultural Empowerment Massachusetts (RICEMA) — \$80,000 — Founded in 2023, RICEMA is a performance arts and education organization that builds community and preserves culture among immigrants and refugees through cultural arts and learning.

- Her Way Home — \$80,000 — Founded in 2025, Her Way Home is a survivor-led Worcester nonprofit supporting women healing from the violence of the sex trade, homelessness and substance use disorder.

- Adaptive Recovery Teaching Incorporated (A.R.T. Inc.) — \$60,000 — Founded in 2020, A.R.T. Inc. is a Worcester-based grassroots nonprofit supporting individuals and families affected by substance use, mental health challenges and trauma through creative, peer-centered programming.

- Guardians of Tradition — \$60,000 — Founded in 2019, Guardians of Tradition is a nonprofit dedicated to preserving cultural heritage

## Nichols College to expand Bloomberg Finance Lab through grant from Affinity Group, Inc.

DUDLEY — Nichols College has received a six-figure grant from Affinity Group, Inc. to expand its on-campus Bloomberg Finance Lab. The grant will enable Nichols to purchase four new Bloomberg terminals, bringing the total number of terminals available to students to 20. Nichols continues to be a national leader in the number of Bloomberg terminals per student and the number of certifications achieved annually.

Nichols launched its Bloomberg Finance Lab in fall 2018 with 12 terminals and expanded to 16 terminals in 2020, with support from the Affinity Group. In its first semester of use, more than 250 students earned Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC) certification, quickly elevating Nichols to Bloomberg Experiential Learning Partner status. The Bloomberg ELP group comprises institutions that incorporate Bloomberg terminal usage into their curriculum and have at least 100 students who earn certification each year.

Since the Bloomberg Lab's inception, more than 1,500 Nichols students

have achieved Bloomberg certification, including the BMC; the Bloomberg Finance Fundamentals Certification (BFF); and the Bloomberg Environmental, Social and Governance Certification (BESG). All first-year business students are required to complete the BMC certification—a notable professional advantage as they apply for internships and jobs.

The Bloomberg terminals are also vitally important to the success of the student-managed Thunder Fund, an experiential learning opportunity that enables students to manage a stock portfolio. Students enrolled in Thunder Fund I and Thunder Fund II courses serve as associate, junior or senior stock analysts, using Bloomberg financials, analyst reports, Bloomberg Intelligence and other platform features to prepare their own equity research reports and guide their financial decisions.

"We continue to be enormously grateful to Affinity Group for its investment in Nichols College and our students," said Nichols President Bill Pieczynski. "The grant directly supports our institutional

focus to provide a hands-on, experiential education that prepares students for career success. The Bloomberg Finance Lab, Bloomberg certifications and Thunder Fund offer our students the practical experience that employers value most."

There are currently more than 350,000 Bloomberg terminal users worldwide, including student users at the nation's top business colleges and universities. The Bloomberg network also includes financial professionals, corporate executives and government officials who rely on the platform for real-time analytics and financial news and to evaluate companies, monitor markets and make data-driven decisions.

Affinity Group, Inc. includes the Southbridge-based professional cutlery manufacturer Dexter-Russell.

President and CEO Alan Peppel, an MBA graduate of Nichols, added, "As a leading employer in central Massachusetts, including the Southbridge and Dudley communities, the Affinity Group and Dexter-Russell continue to view Nichols College as a worthy investment. Nichols

alumni contribute significantly to the growth and success of our communities, and we see the expansion of the Bloomberg Finance Lab as a means of ensuring that Nichols remains at the forefront of business education."

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](http://www.nichols.edu)

# All Saints Academy sends off Class of 2026

WEBSTER — All Saints Academy proudly celebrated the graduation of its eighth-grade Class of 2026 during a special Mass and ceremony attended by students, families, faculty, staff, and members of the parish community.

The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Lucas LaRoche, who encouraged graduates to continue living their faith as they embrace new opportunities and challenges ahead.

The ceremony marked a significant milestone as students completed their years at All Saints Academy and prepared to begin the next chapter of their educational journeys. It was also a meaningful opportunity to reflect on their academic achievements, personal growth, and the many faith-filled experiences that shaped their time at the school.

As Mrs. Ellen Tagg, Assistant Head of School, announced the graduates, diplomas were presented by Head of School Mrs. Joan Matys, Fr. Lucas LaRoche of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Fr. Javier of St. Louis Church, and eighth-grade homeroom teacher Mrs. Ann Scheffler. Graduates included Noah Beaudette, Kallie Fales, Samantha Gardner, Maggie Keegan, Dominic Kistner, Caleb Latino, Gianna Monticelli, Benjamin Mukuha, Connor Shelburne, and Alanna Yelu-Attigah.

Following the presentation of diplomas, school leaders recognized the graduates for their hard work, dedication, leadership, and commitment to living out the values of the Catholic faith. During their time at All Saints Academy, students not only grew academically but also developed qualities of kindness, compassion, service, and respect for others.

The ceremony continued with special recognition of students who exemplified excellence in academics, leadership, service, and character.

The Bishop Daniel P. Reilly Book Award, established by the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Worcester, is presented annually to a student who best exemplifies the bishop's motto, "In Kindness and in Truth," while demonstrating duty, honor, sacrifice, and accomplishment within the school community. This year's recipient, Alanna Yelu-Attigah, was recognized for her enthusiasm for learning and her commitment to serving her school, church, and community.

The Pearson Memorial Scholarship honors the memory of Deborah Pearson and her dedication to enhancing the quality of life and education of students. Awarded to an outstanding eighth-grade student continuing at a private secondary school, the scholarship recognizes achievement and a commitment to excellence. This year's recipient was Kallie Fales.

The All Saints Academy Award recognizes students who demonstrate outstanding effort, responsibility, honesty, maturity, positive peer relationships, service, and dedication to the school community. This year's recipients, Samantha Gardner and Connor Shelburne, were honored for their commitment to the mission and values of All Saints Academy.

Throughout their years together, the Class



of 2026 shared many meaningful experiences, including classroom learning, school activities, service opportunities, prayer, and celebrations. Faculty members noted the strong bonds of friendship formed among classmates and the support they offered one another through both successes and challenges.

A heartfelt portion of the ceremony was dedicated to the families who supported the graduates throughout their journey. Members of the class shared personal messages of gratitude, thanking parents, grandparents, siblings, and loved ones for their sacrifices, encouragement, and unwavering support. Their reflections highlighted the essential role families played in helping them grow both academically and personally.

The school also expressed its deep appreciation to the parents, families, teachers, staff, and parish community whose guidance and encouragement helped shape the students into confident, faith-filled young adults.

In her address, Mrs. Matys reflected on the Franciscan Jubilee Year, commemorating 800 years since the passing of St. Francis of Assisi, and encouraged students to follow his example by living with humility, courage, and a deep love for God's creation.

She reminded graduates that true peace is not simply a feeling but a way of life.

Quoting Pope Leo XIV, she shared, "Peace is not a formula of courtesy, but the certain proclamation of Christ's victory over death." She challenged students to become peacemakers in their communities by making choices rooted in kindness, compassion, and faith.

Each graduate then received a special keepsake - a St. Francis prayer coin and prayer card - as a reminder of their connection to God, the beauty of creation, and their responsibility to care for others and the world around them. Students were encouraged to be "bridge-builders" who listen, include others, and lead with kindness and integrity, echoing Pope Leo XIV's call to "build bridges where the world raises up boundaries."

As they move on to high school, these graduates leave All Saints Academy

with a strong foundation of faith, knowledge, and character. The school community wishes them continued success and God's blessings as they

pursue their dreams, embrace new opportunities, and serve as peacemakers in the spirit of St. Francis.

Congratulations to the

Class of 2026 and its award recipients. Their accomplishments reflect not only their hard work, perseverance, and faith, but also the steadfast

support of the families, teachers, and community members who have accompanied them along the way.

## Nichols College, Anna Maria College announce partnership to support students' degree completion

DUDLEY — Nichols College and Anna Maria College have announced a partnership to transition Anna Maria's respected public safety and administration programs to Nichols, including its signature fire science program. The two institutions have finalized a proposal outlining the terms of the partnership, which will be submitted to the necessary higher education regulatory agencies, and expect formal approval of the plan soon.

"Nichols College is committed to enabling Anna Maria College students enrolled in its fire science and other vital programs to continue on a clear and seamless pathway toward graduation," said Nichols President Bill Pieczynski. "Our proposal is intended to preserve an important regional pipeline for fire and emergency management professionals across New England. We will also fully support Anna Maria students in other majors we already offer such as business administration, criminal justice, psychology and sport management as they transition from their cherished institution to a new home at Nichols. We share a commitment to active, hands-on learning within a small, close-knit

community and look forward to welcoming these students to Nichols."

Anna Maria announced on April 23 that it would cease academic operations at the end of the spring 2026 semester after 80 years of operation.

Under the terms of the proposal and subject to securing the necessary regulatory approvals, Anna Maria's in-person Bachelor of Science (B.S.) programs in fire science and emergency management; online B.S. degree completion programs in fire science and criminal justice; and online Master of Public Administration and Master of Science in criminal justice would transition to Nichols. The Anna Maria B.S. in fire science program is the largest in New England and boasts outstanding certification exam pass rates. Nichols will adopt their existing Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education Initiative (FESHE)-aligned curriculum to ensure that current Anna Maria students remain on track to graduate and that the popular and well-regarded program continues to thrive. Additionally, Nichols intends to bring on several of Anna Maria's dedicated faculty to support

the transition and provide continuity for students.

To facilitate quick onboarding, any Anna Maria student in good standing is guaranteed acceptance to Nichols. Further, Nichols' tuition is within 1% of Anna Maria's, and Nichols will match each student's institutional grant up to \$32,000. Housing is available for those students who plan to reside on the College's 200-acre campus in Dudley. Anna Maria alumni are eligible for the same 10% discount that Nichols alumni receive for graduate coursework at Nichols.

"Our responsibility is to ensure that our students are able to move forward and complete their education," said Anna Maria President Sean Ryan. "Nichols has an excellent criminal justice program and is a business school widely respected for its career preparedness, leadership outcomes and commitment to students. We are confident that this proposal with Nichols College provides a strong and stable path forward for our students."

Anna Maria students seeking information about transferring to Nichols are encouraged to visit: [www.nichols.edu/annamaria](http://www.nichols.edu/annamaria). The two

institutions will share additional information with students, their families and the public as it is available.

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](http://www.nichols.edu)

About Anna Maria College

Anna Maria College was founded in 1946 by the Sisters of Saint Anne and has operated continuously as a Catholic liberal arts institution in Paxton, Massachusetts, for 80 years. [www.annamaria.edu](http://www.annamaria.edu)

## New Bocce League open to community

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

Bocce is a game that all can enjoy—no special skills or talents are required! If you can roll a ball, you can play! These two community

organizations are thrilled to bring this sport to a wider audience. Both Bay Path Continuing Education and the Southbridge Italian Club are dedicated to offering various events for people to engage, socialize, and have fun. This new league is a perfect fit. Here are the details:

Tuesdays: May 12 – June 30 (eight weeks)  
• Teams of four to eight

players

- \$240 per team
- One game per week at either 6 or 7 p.m.
- Maximum of eight teams – don't wait!
- o Only team captains need to register for their team.
- o A brief informational captain meeting will be held before the season starts.
- o Gather your friends (18 and older), form a

team, and come join us for a fantastic time on the court!

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

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

# OBITUARIES

## Gloria M. Szydluk, 88

Southbridge: Gloria M. (Lehonzak) Szydluk, of Morris St., passed away peacefully at the age of 88 in her home with her loving family by her side on Friday, June 12th, after an illness.

At a young age, she met the love of her life, Chet, and together they built a beautiful life centered on love, family, and devotion. Their bond was extraordinary, and they were truly inseparable throughout the years. Together they created a wonderful family that brought them endless joy and kept their lives full and busy. Through life's celebrations and challenges, they remained steadfast partners, always by each other's side. Their enduring love was a testament to their commitment to one another, and Chet remained faithfully at her side until her final moments.

She leaves her beloved husband of 68 years, Chester S. Szydluk; her four sons, Paul Szydluk and his wife Cathy of North Carolina, John Szydluk of New York, NY, James Szydluk of Southbridge and Theodore Szydluk and his wife, Jami of North Carolina; her daughter, Susan Guerin and her husband David of Charlton; her grandchildren, Rachel Szydluk, David



Szydluk John Guerin, Matthew Guerin ; her cherished great grandchildren, Isabelle Lay, Rowan Szydluk, Alistar Hudson and great great grandchildren Kaia Hammond and Aria Hammond. Gloria was predeceased by a brother, Joseph Lehonzak.

She was born in Southbridge, the daughter of Joseph and Rose Mary (Haras) Lehonzak. Gloria worked for more than 14 years as a store clerk for the Fair department store from the day it opened until the day it closed in Southbridge prior to retiring many years ago. She was member of the Women's Club, the Polish American Club as well as past President of the PAV auxiliary. Gloria enjoyed going on many cruises as well as spending time going out with her group of friends known as the "Golden Girls". Most of all Gloria loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren, great and great grandchildren.

Funeral service and burial will be private. There are no calling hours.

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, is directing arrangements. [www.morrillfuneralhome.com](http://www.morrillfuneralhome.com)

## Jean A. Williams, 101

Jean A. (Cypher) Williams - 101 of Overlook Masonic Home, Charlton, MA, previously of Healy Road, Dudley, died peacefully on Monday, June 1, 2026. Her husband of 55 years, Arthur D Williams, died in 2000. She leaves a son, Richard Williams and wife Pamela (Robertson) of Dudley, a daughter, Jane and her husband Philip Rutledge of Webster, and a daughter-in-law Louise (Croteau) Williams of Dudley, MA. She leaves six grandchildren; Laurie and her husband Steven Schwartz, of Andover, MA, Debra and her husband Damon Styer of San Francisco, CA, Richard Williams and his wife Christina (Herzog) of Chantilly, VA, Kelly and her husband Eyler Santos of Aldie, Virginia, Matthew Williams and his partner Megan Lenhart, of Arvada, CO and Holly and her husband Brian Klee of Chantilly, VA. She also leaves four great-grandchildren, Brian Hubbard and his wife Lizzie (Raabe) of Toronto, OH, Valerie and her husband Zach Maskiell of Weare, NH, Kevin Williams of Chantilly, VA and Holden Klee of Chantilly, VA. She also leaves two great-great grandchildren, James and John Hubbard of Toronto, OH and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her son Brian Williams formerly of Dudley, a brother, George Cypher and a sister, Barbara (Cypher) Morey, both of whom had lived in Homestead, FL. Jean was born on December 19, 1924 in Worcester, MA, daughter of George and Mary (Weeks) Cypher. Her family moved to Oxford, MA before her first birthday where she lived until her marriage to Arthur Williams in 1945. She graduated from Oxford High School. When her children were young, she was a leader in Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts and helped in Boy Scouts. Once her children were older, she went back to school and attended the David Hall Fanning School of Nursing in Worcester and became a Licensed Practical Nurse. She worked as a nurse at both Harrington Memorial Hospital and Heald Machine



Co, retiring in 1987. She was a member of the First Congregational Church of Dudley for almost 80 years where she and Art served a number of terms as Deacons. She served on many committees to include the pastoral search committee and as a mentor for new confirmands. She was the past president of the Ladies Benevolent Society. In 1991 when the church needed a fundrais-

er for an addition to the church, she started having church suppers open to the public which were very successful and continued to work on them for the next 15 years. The church continues to have those suppers. She was a 60-year member of the Dudley Grange #163 and worked at the Strawberry Festival from when they began until she moved to Overlook. She was a Charter Member of the Black Tavern Historical Society and held a number of positions there. She loved to travel and did so all over the world. She and Art enjoyed spending every summer for over 35 years at their camp on Pierpont Pond in Charlton, MA. She moved to the Overlook in 2007 and when she arrived, she continued to be active. In her over 19 years there, she was part of the scholarship committee; she was a floor representative and also delivered the newspapers to residents. For a number of years she took charge of baking for the Craft Fair, where the money made went toward scholarships for the employees' families. One year alone her committee baked 50 pies, 42 assorted sweet breads, 61 bags of cookies and 37 bags of candy. She enjoyed cooking and baking, but most of all, she enjoyed her beloved family. Services will be held at the First Congregational Church of Dudley, 135 Center Rd., Dudley, MA on August 22, 2026 at 11:00. Calling hours are at 10:00. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be directed toward the Tiffany 300 campaign at the First Congregational Church of Dudley, to be used to restore the churches Tiffany-stained glass windows. [www.bartelfuneralhome.com](http://www.bartelfuneralhome.com)

### FUNDING

continued from page A1

for her review, with a June 14 deadline to sign the bill into law.

House Bill 5375, An Act financing long-term improvements to municipal roads and bridges, allocates \$200 million in Chapter 90 funding for Fiscal Year 2027 using the program's traditional weighted formula that is based on a community's local road mileage (58.33%), population (20.83%), and employment levels (20.83%). An additional \$100 million will be distributed to cities and towns based solely on a community's local road mileage as a way to ensure that rural communities with smaller populations receive their fair share of state funding assistance to help maintain their local transportation infrastructure.

"Maintaining safe and reliable roads and bridges is one of the most important responsibilities we have to our residents, businesses, and visitors," said Representative Smola. "Chapter 90 funding provides critical assistance to our cities and towns, helping local officials address infrastructure needs without placing the entire burden on local property taxpayers. These investments will help improve public safety, support economic development, and ensure our transportation infrastructure remains strong for the future."

Established by the Legislature in 1973, the Chapter 90 program offers state funding assistance to cities and towns on a reimbursable basis to help pay for maintaining roads, bridges and sidewalks. Representative Smola said his district is slated to receive a total of \$3,580,690 under the bill.

Brimfield \$487,927

Holland \$265,547  
Palmer \$747,267  
Sturbridge \$687,792  
Wales \$195,355  
Ware \$705,041  
Warren \$491,761

In addition to the Chapter 90 funding, House Bill 5375 also includes:

- \$500 million for the bridge and pavement lifecycle asset management program;
- \$200 million for transportation capital projects;
- \$200 million for the Parkway Resilience Improvement and Safety Modernization (PRISM) program, which provides accelerated deferred maintenance, modernization, and safety improvements for multi-modal transportation infrastructure under the control of the Department of Conservation and Recreation; and
- \$200 million for the implementation of rail improvements, including the design and acquisition of commuter rail locomotives.

Smola noted that House Bill 5375 also reauthorizes \$3 billion in funding for several transportation-related initiatives that were previously approved under the 2022 transportation bond bill. This includes funding for:

- interstate and non-interstate federal highway system projects;
- non-federally aided roadway and bridge projects, and the non-participating share of federally aided projects;
- municipal roadway pavement and surface condition improvements; and
- the public realm improvement program, which supports grants to municipalities for improvements to sidewalks, streets and parking spaces to create additional capacity for pedestrians and cyclists.

### AUDITIONS

continued from page A1

The production is seeking seven actors to fill the following roles:

PAIGE CALDWELL - female 20s to 40s; a professional publisher. A smart, confident woman who sees politics as a series of contests to be won.

DAVE RILEY - male 30s/40s; The Chief of Staff to the new Governor. Very smart but - despite years of experience in government, endearingly earnest and naive on the subject of politics.

LOUISE PEAKES - female 30s to 50s; A temp employee hired as the Governor's executive assistant. Personable, likable, impressively confident AND entirely inept. Without knowing it, she has the air of a politician about her.

NED NEWLEY - male 50s/60s; The

new Governor. A person of impressive ability but a complete lack of confidence. A man awaiting permission to enter a room in which he is already standing.

ARTHUR VANCE - male 50s/60s; One of the most experienced and successful political consultants in the country. He's a showman, but his excitement is 100% genuine and it's contagious.

RACHEL PARSONS - female 30s; A TV reporter. Straight forward and honest, and inquisitive by nature - she's seen enough of life - and politics - to be cynical but she's more apt to make a wry joke.

A. C. PETERSON - male; 30s to 50s. A TV cameraman - a working man who is just fine being the person you didn't notice was there. He has a low tolerance for idiocy and would rather not interact with anyone. This doesn't make him unfriendly - just a mystery.

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

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# Lukas Barbosa crowned 2026 Saint Joseph School Spelling Bee Champion

**WEBSTER** — On Wednesday, May 27, Saint Joseph School held its annual Spelling Bee for students in Grades 7 and 8. The event, which has become a cherished school tradition, provided students with an opportunity to demonstrate their spelling proficiency, vocabulary development, and ability to perform under pressure in a friendly yet challenging academic competition.

After several competitive rounds, Lukas Barbosa, a Grade 8 student, was crowned the 2026 Spelling Bee Champion by correctly spelling the winning word, initiative. Second Place was awarded to fellow Grade 8 student Axel Kapitulik, while Third Place



Saint Joseph School's 2026 Spelling Bee winners are pictured with event judge Mrs. Krystal Kolesnik. From left: Lukas Barbosa, First Place; Axel Kapitulik, Second Place; Quinn Meehan, Third Place; and Mrs. Krystal Kolesnik, President of the Saint Joseph School Home and School Association. Lukas won the competition by correctly spelling the word initiative. honors went to Grade 7. Quinn Meehan of The Spelling

Bee was judged by Mrs. Krystal Kolesnik, President of the Saint Joseph School Home and School Association (H.S.A.). Following the competition, Mrs. Kolesnik presented the awards on behalf of the H.S.A., recognizing the dedication, preparation, and perseverance demonstrated by all participants.

As part of this long-standing tradition, Lukas's name will be added to the school's perpetual Spelling Bee plaque, which proudly recognizes past champions and serves as a reminder of the academic excellence fostered at Saint Joseph School.

Spelling bees offer students far more than an opportunity to compete. They encourage the development of strong language skills, expand vocabulary, improve reading comprehension, and build confidence in public speaking. Participants learn the value of preparation, persistence, and good sportsmanship—qualities that will benefit them both in and beyond the classroom.

Congratulations to all of our student spellers for their hard work and commitment, and special recognition to Lukas, Axel, and Quinn for their outstanding performances in this year's competition.

## QCC invites employers to partner on Cybersecurity Apprenticeship degree program

**WORCESTER** — Quinsigamond Community College is calling on regional employers to partner in its Cybersecurity Apprenticeship Degree Program, a workforce-driven initiative designed to address the growing demand for skilled cybersecurity profes-



Courtesy

QCC's Cybersecurity Apprenticeship Degree Program helps employers reduce onboarding and training gaps.

sionals. In addition to classroom instruction, QCC also handles most administrative responsibilities, making it easy for employers to participate.

The program combines paid, on-the-job training with college-level coursework, enabling participants to earn a degree while gaining

practical experience, without disrupting daily work schedules. Through MassEducate and MassReconnect, many participants qualify for a free degree, significantly reducing or eliminating education costs for employers supporting their workforce.

Designed for both incumbent employees seeking to upskill and new hires entering entry-level roles, the program offers employers a flexible and cost-effective approach to workforce development.

“What sets QCC's Cybersecurity Apprenticeship apart is its adapt-

ability,” said Project Manager of Apprenticeship Degree Initiatives Krista Piazza. “Many participants bring prior education, certifications or professional experience. Through prior learning assessment and competency alignment, we can often accelerate their path to graduation without compromising academic standards.”

This tailored approach delivers measurable benefits for employers, including faster time to fully credential cybersecurity professionals, reduced onboarding and training gaps and debt-free or low-cost degree pathways

for employees. “This talent strategy results in a stronger, more loyal workforce pipeline developed in direct alignment with organizational needs,” Piazza said. QCC collaborates closely with employer partners, while managing program coordination, academic instruction and apprentice support, allowing employers to focus on mentoring and integrating apprentices into their operations.

Employers can obtain more information by contacting Krista Piazza at [kpiazza@qcc.mass.edu](mailto:kpiazza@qcc.mass.edu).

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 Variety includes: Ageratum, Angelonia, Celosia, Coleus, Cosmos, Euphorbia, Erythraea, Fuchsia, Gazania, Geraniums, Heliotrope, Hummingbird lunch, Lantana, Lobelia, Lysimachia, Million bells, New Guinea impatiens, Petunia, Portulaca, Silver Falls, Sunscap daisy, Sweet potato vine, & Verbena.

**11" Hanging Baskets**  
**2 for \$42**  
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 Million Bells, New Guinea impatiens & Fuchsia

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**LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEK!**

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**6/21: KEAGAN STANDRING**  
**6/26: CHUCK CLOUGH**  
**6/28: EVAN COUTURE**

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