



Free by request to residents of Sturbridge and Holland

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Thursday-Friday, January 8-9, 2026

# Southbridge Rotary bids farewell after nearly a century of service

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Rotary Club of Southbridge held its final meeting on December 18, 2025, at the Wellsworth Hotel and Conference Center, marking the close of an organization that has served the Southbridge community for nearly 98 and a half years. Current and former members gathered to bid farewell and reflect on the club’s long legacy of service, fellowship, and community impact.

The evening included a final tribute delivered by past president and longtime member Constantino “Dino” Tata, who spoke on behalf of the club’s membership. Tata reflected on the club’s founding nearly a century ago, its commitment to Rotary’s Four-Way Test, and the changing realities that ultimately led to the decision to dissolve the club just 17 months short of its 100th anniversary.

“At this time our club does not appear to be fulfilling the mission of Rotary, that is to provide service above self,” Tata said. “With insufficient membership to carry out that



Courtesy

From left: Patrick Morrill, Betsy Peppel, Jeff Caniff, Bob Knight, Terri Colognesi, Dino Tata, Gerry Maldonado, Jim Waddick, Mary O’Coin and Ron Carlson.

mission, the directors and membership voted to end the club’s existence with today’s meeting.”

Rather than focusing solely on the closing, Tata emphasized the decades of positive impact the Rotary Club of Southbridge made throughout the region. Since its founding, the club awarded thousands of dol-

lars in scholarships, supported leadership training programs such as RYLA, honored student scholars and athletes, sponsored Rotaract Clubs, and contributed time and resources to countless local causes. The club also organized major community events, including one of the few fireworks displays ever

held in Southbridge, and raised significant funds through its annual golf tournament benefiting both charitable efforts and the local hospital.

The Southbridge Rotary Club also played a role in expanding Rotary’s presence in the region by sponsoring the formation of the Sturbridge Rotary Club

in 1972. Tata noted that Rotary International’s 1987 decision to admit women strengthened the organization and contributed to the club’s longevity.

“This club leaves behind a great legacy of care, involvement, and concern,” Tata said. “The town and our students will be poorer for the loss of this great club,

but we are deeply grateful to have been part of nearly a century of service.”

As part of its closing actions, the Rotary Club of Southbridge is ensuring its mission continues through philanthropy. A high school scholarship fund is being established for the 2026–27 academic year and beyond through the Greater Worcester Community Foundation. Remaining funds are also being donated to several local organizations, including Southbridge FoodShare, St. John Paul II Food Pantry, Our Bright Future Inc. (to support its new Southbridge location), United Way of South Central Massachusetts for future Days of Caring, and the YMCA of Central Massachusetts Southbridge Tri-Community Family Branch for Camp Foskett.

Though the Rotary Club of Southbridge has formally concluded its operations, its nearly century-long legacy of “Service Above Self” will continue to be felt throughout the community for years to come.

## Charlton Lions welcome visitors and questioners

CHARLTON — It’s a new year with new possibilities for friendship, service, learning, giving and helping – some of the goals of The Charlton Lions Club, which invites Charlton residents to learn about Lionism at an informational meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 28. Come at 6:30 p.m. to the Great Room at The Overlook. Refreshments will be served. You will not be pressured to join. The meeting will finish by 8 p.m.

Come learn what Lions do – in the Charlton area and the world. Get acquainted with local Lions. Hear about their service projects and the fun they have raising funds to support their work.

The Charlton Lions Club, which was chartered in 1975, is part of Lions Clubs International, an association made up of 1.4 million members in 49,000 clubs who bring hands and hearts to the communities in which they serve in nearly every country on earth.

If you plan to come on January 28, please contact Membership Chair Jennie Frisella at 508-434-2527. Then come to Door 62 off the Rose Garden at The Overlook. Use the service road off Masonic Home Road, stay to the right, park on the left across from the car sheds.

If you can’t attend this meeting, come any second or fourth Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. to the same location. Regular meetings are held on those dates each month, September through June.

## Sturbridge trekkers enjoy First Day Hike

SOUTHBRIDGE — The annual Friends of Sturbridge Trails (FrOST) First Day Hike was held on Jan. 1 and enjoyed by 21 participants who braved the chilly winds and freshly fallen snow, traveling the easier trails on the Leadmine Mt. Conservation Lands.

The hike was led by Dave Peterkin, an avid hiker and member of the Trails Committee, and assisted by Trail Committee members Dave Vadnaise and Jen Scherer.

This Friends of Sturbridge Trails event is the first of several that will be held throughout 2026. Upcoming events include our annual meeting on Tuesday Jan. 20, 7 p.m. at the Public House and our always fun ice sculpture contest in



mid-February.

To learn more about join-

ing FrOST, our upcoming events and the Sturbridge

Trail system, visit: [www.treksturbridge.org](http://www.treksturbridge.org).

# Houle named MSAA Middle School Principal of the Year

SOUTHBRIDGE — Sarah Houle, Principal of Southbridge Middle School, has been named the 2026 MSAA Middle School Principal of the Year. She has served at Southbridge Middle School for the past seven years. Sarah earned her Bachelor’s degree from Boston University and holds Master’s degrees from UMass Boston and Endicott College. She is currently pursuing her Ed.D. at Clark University in Transformative Education.

Prior to her work in Southbridge, Houle was a high school social studies teacher with a passion for developing critical thinkers and active citizens who can chart their own course. She started her career at Cathedral High School in Boston, teaching a diverse population of often first

generation high school graduates. After spending a few years in a suburban district, she followed her heart back to urban education and has been in Southbridge working with stakeholders to improve the Middle School. She is most proud of the team of committed, passionate, and pragmatic educators she works with. They pour so much into the work, and persevere together to find ways to overcome the obstacles that often impede progress in urban settings.

A teacher and an administrator provided the following statements in Houle’s Principal of the Year application:

“Sarah has shaped Southbridge Middle School’s culture to foster the emotional and physical well-being and the safety for both staff



Courtesy Photo

Sarah Houle

and students by leading by example. Ms. Houle is warm, fair, and consistent in her approach

to all people within our school. She has a clear understanding of the developmental needs of

the students and is committed to providing a balance of rigorous learning opportunities that are complemented by structured time daily to foster community building for students. Likewise, Ms. Houle understands how to manage and relate to staff members in effective and supportive ways. Her skill set, combined with her warmth and ability to lead by example have resulted in a positive school culture, one in which all people in the building feel both emotionally and physically safe at all times.

“Sarah ensured the pathway for any staff who want to be involved in making decisions and giving feedback to the administration leadership team through the Instruction Leadership Team or ILT. This team focused initial-

ly on tracking data and homework habits, to now being involved in instructional rounds that help colleagues collect data that pushes teaching and learning forward. By creating collaboration, we, as teachers, can bring these ideas to a space that allows for staff ideas to be fleshed out.”

Houle grew up in Massachusetts and currently lives on a farm in Douglas with her husband and best friend, Eric, and their three children, Emalie, Trevor, and Tucker.

In her free time, she most enjoys doing anything with her family, but especially camping in their vintage Airstream (named Peggy). She also enjoys reading, watching her kids play sports, and volunteering at her church.



# Community Calendar

## January 9-16

Friday, Jan. 9

- Senior Center Exercise Class — 9–10 a.m., Community Room, Southbridge Community Center. Senior fitness and movement session.
- Senior Center Bingo — 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m., Community Room, Southbridge Community Center. Open social game day.
- Mindfulness Meditation with Iris Fridays — 2–3 p.m., Mills Room, Jacob Edwards Library, Southbridge. Certified instructor leads a guided mindfulness session; participants can bring yoga mats.

Saturday, Jan. 10

- Southbridge Chess Club — 10–11:30 a.m., Reading Room, Jacob Edwards Library, Southbridge. Casual and inclusive chess gathering.
- Grassroots Central Mass (Library Event) — 3–4:30 p.m., Joshua Hyde Public Library, Sturbridge (meeting room). Community group session.

Monday, Jan. 12

- Senior Center Exercise Class — 9–10 a.m., Community Room, Southbridge Community Center.

- Senior Center Veteran’s Social — 10:30–11:30 a.m., Community Room, Southbridge Community Center.
- Senior Center Cornhole — 1–2 p.m., Community Room, Southbridge Community Center.
- Friends of the JHPL Board Meeting — 2–3:15 p.m., Joshua Hyde Public Library, Sturbridge.
- Picasso Style Self Portrait (Library Arts & Crafts) — 3:30–4:30 p.m., Joshua Hyde Public Library, Sturbridge (registration required).
- “In Conversation with Author Heather B. Moore: ‘Julia’” (Virtual Event) — 7–8 p.m., online through Joshua Hyde Public Library.

Tuesday, Jan. 13

- Latino Group (Senior Center) — 9 a.m.–noon, Community Room, Southbridge Community Center.
- Senior Center Foot Clinic (RSVP, fee) — 9 a.m.–noon, Community Room, Southbridge Community Center.
- Senior Center Pitch — Noon to 1:30 p.m., Community Room, Southbridge Community Center.
- Senior Center COA Board Meeting — 2–3 p.m., Community Room, Southbridge Community Center.
- Winter Toddler Time (Library) — 10:45–11:30 a.m., Joshua Hyde Public Library, Sturbridge (ages babies/toddlers).
- Wooden Spoon Carving (Library) — 6–8 p.m., Joshua Hyde Public Library, Sturbridge (adults/teens).

Wednesday, Jan. 14

- Senior Center Exercise Class — 9–10 a.m., Community Room, Southbridge Community Center.
- Senior Center Brain Games — 10–11 a.m., Community Room, Southbridge Community Center.
- Senior Center Tap Dance — 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Community Room, Southbridge Community Center.
- Senior Center Scrabble — 1–3 p.m., Community Room, Southbridge Community Center.
- Zentangle Landscape for Adults (Library) — 6:30–7:30 p.m., Joshua Hyde Public Library, Sturbridge (arts program).

Thursday, Jan. 15

- Latino Group (Senior Center) — 9 a.m.–noon, Community Room, Southbridge Community Center.
- Senior Center Sing-a-Long with Sue Caplette — 1–2 p.m., Community Room, Southbridge Community Center.
- Emily Dickinson: The Poet and Her Gardens (Library Lecture) — 6:30–7:30 p.m., Reading Room, Jacob Edwards Library, Southbridge.

Friday, Jan. 16

- Senior Center Exercise Class — 9–10 a.m., Community Room, Southbridge Community Center.
- Senior Center Blood Pressure Screening — 9:45 a.m.–noon, Community Room, Southbridge Community Center.
- Senior Center Bingo — 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m., Community Room, Southbridge Community Center.
- Mindfulness Meditation with Iris Fridays — 2–3 p.m., Mills Room, Jacob Edwards Library, Southbridge.



### ARTHRITIS?

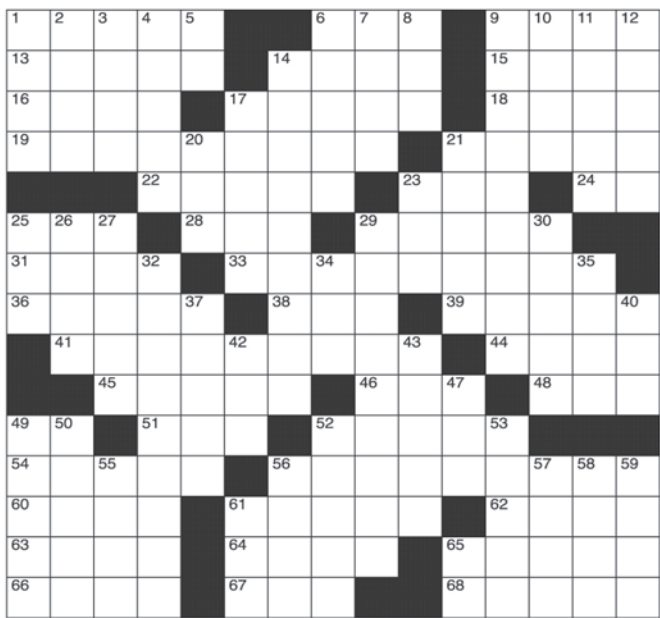
Is your arthritis care all that you would hope it to be?  
If not we may be able to help.

**Osteoarthritis  
of Hands - Knees- Hips.  
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#### CLUES ACROSS

1. Lakes

6. Electromotive force

9. Invests in little enterprises

13. Longtime Utah Jazz coach

14. Small sailboat

15. Actor Idris

16. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls

17. System that detects objects under water

18. Harsh, grating noise

19. Steward

21. A fencing sword

22. Infections

23. Actress Ryan

24. Sodium

25. Swedish castle

28. A lump of slime

29. African antelope

31. Insurance providers

33. Choosy

36. Ringworm
38. Unpolished

39. Drenches

41. Pant style

44. Son of Noah

45. Spiritual being

46. Upton Sinclair novel

48. Journalist Tarbell

49. Popular sports highlight show

51. Born of

52. Rich tapestry

54. S. China seaport

56. State of being unclothed

60. Surrounded by

61. Residue

62. Away from wind

63. Dried-up

64. Visionary

65. A very large body of water

66. Garden tools

67. Screen type

68. Ancient Scandinavian poet

#### CLUES DOWN

1. Millisecond

2. Spanish city

3. A sudden very loud sound

4. “The Indiana Jones of beer”

5. Tin

6. Sea eagles

7. Volcanic crater

8. Type of coat

9. Women’s apartments in Ottoman palace

10. Divulge a secret

11. Norwegian playwright

12. “It’s a Wonderful Life” director

14. Poisonous perennial plant

17. 18-year astronomical period

20. Clothes

21. Places to sit

23. Family of regulator genes

25. New York ballplayer

26. Impressive in size or scope

27. Jacques \_\_\_, French biologist
29. One from the Big Apple

30. Genus of woolly lemurs

32. Songs to one’s beloved

34. Indigenous person of N.E. Thailand

35. Supplemented with difficulty

37. Farewell

40. Investment account (abbr.)

42. One from Utah

43. Begets

47. A male child

49. Break apart

50. Brief appearance

52. Partner to “oohed”

53. A light informal meal

55. Fabric with smooth, shiny surface

56. One billionth of a second

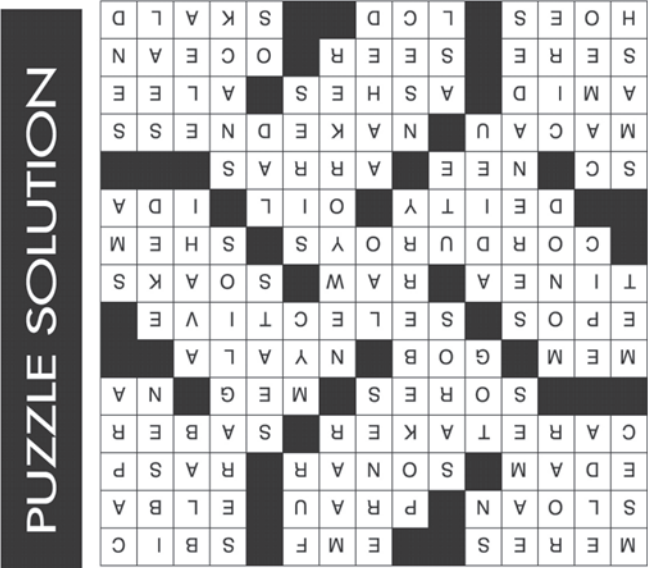
57. Ancient Italian-Greek colony

58. Close tightly

59. Mail out

61. Language

65. Computer characteristic



## REAL ESTATE

Charlton  
\$616,390, 81 Jennings Rd,  
Prop Soln Re & Contractin, to  
Bousquet, Caryn M.  
\$446,900, 216 Brookfield  
Rd, Robert J Crear RET, and  
Crear, Philip D, to Reumann,  
Wallace, and Reumann, Megan.  
\$375,000, 5 Carpenter Hill  
Rd, Welch Ronald R Est,  
and Wojciechowski, Mary L,  
to Gluchacki, Hannah, and  
Westberg, Dane.  
\$60,000, Brookfield Rd #5,  
Jennings, Iris A, to Prop Soln  
Re & Contractin.  
\$15,000, N Sturbridge Rd,  
Morse, Kenneth R, and Morse,  
Belinda, to Saxena, Ridhima.  
Holland  
\$289,900, 9 Chandler Rd,  
Pope Ft, and Pope Jr, Alvan H,  
to Orszulak, David.

\$37,500, Old County Rd #11,  
Cormier & Sons Const & Hm,  
to Yarrowes, Sean S, and Caliri,  
Makayla J.

SOUTHBRIDGE  
\$336,000, 39 Belmont St,  
Mcfarland, Dorothy A, and  
Mcfarland, Craig D, to Trudeau,  
Sarah M, and Trudeau, Nicholas  
D.  
\$310,230, 227 South St,  
Land Home Fincl Svcs Inc, to  
Martins, Fernando C.

STURBRIDGE  
\$595,000, 10 Orchard Rd,  
Gorman, Peter G, and Gorman,  
Teresa M, to Mckearney 3rd,  
Robert.  
\$310,000, 24 Camp Rd,  
Allen, Lisa L, and Chase, Scott  
R, to Lussier, Chance E.

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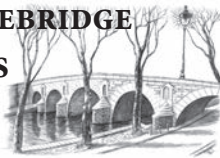
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Wednesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Thursday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (May 25 will be our last open Saturday until Labor Day) Sunday: Closed

#### CHARLTON TOWN HALL (508) 248-2200

##### Office Hours:

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..... 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Tuesdays ..... 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Friday ..... Closed

visit [www.townofcharlton.net](http://www.townofcharlton.net)  
or more information.

Individual offices may vary

**PUBLIC LIBRARY (248-0452)**

For library hours please check  
[www.charltonlibrary.org](http://www.charltonlibrary.org)

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT (248-2250)

Monday to Friday ..... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
For emergencies, dial **911**

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT (248-2299)

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Charlton Elementary School  
..... (508) 248-7774 or (508) 248-7435  
Heritage School ..... (508) 248-4884  
Charlton Middle School ..... (508) 248-1423  
Shepherd Hill Regional High School  
..... (508) 943-6700  
Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical  
High School  
..... (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326

#### HOLLAND: 413-245-7108

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#### FISKDALE: 508-347-6486

Weekdays 9:00-4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

#### STURBRIDGE 508-347-6463

Weekdays 8:30 – 5:00 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

#### BRIMFIELD: 413-245-3451

Weekdays: 9:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

#### WALES: 413-245-9808

Weekdays 8:30 – 12:30 and 2:00 – 4:30 and  
Sat. 9:00 – 12:00

### 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  
Sunday Service 10:00am.  
[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)  
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
- **Bethlehem Lutheran Church-** 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566  
Phone 508-347-7297  
Web: [www.bethlehemsturbridge.org](http://www.bethlehemsturbridge.org)  
Services - Sunday 9:00 am  
Pastor Dan Purtell
- **Holland Congregation Church**  
“Where the Bible is preached.”  
11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926  
[Hollandchurch.org](http://Hollandchurch.org)  
Sunday Service @ 10:00 am  
Pastor Dan Maketansky
- **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**  
446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550  
Phone: 508-765-9559  
Web: [www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org](http://www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org)  
Sunday Service 11:00 am  
Pastor Dan Purtell
- **St. John Paul II Parish**  
279 Hamilton St., Southbridge  
Rev. Carlos Ardila, Pastor  
Weekend services Saturday 4 p.m.,  
Sunday 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon  
Weekday masses 8:30 & 8:45 a.m., St. Mary’s Church (508) 765-3701



# Joshua Hyde Public Library

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m a y e n t @  
cwmars.org

W I N T E R  
TODDLER TIME  
- Tuesdays at  
10:45am  
A play-based  
story time where  
toddlers will  
work on valuable  
skills with their  
caregivers and  
socialize with  
kids their own  
age. January 6  
through February  
24. Sponsored by  
the Friends of the  
JHPL.

W I N T E R  
BABY TIME -  
Wednesdays at  
10:45  
Join Ms.  
Meredith for  
songs, rhymes,  
fingerplays and  
stories. For chil-  
dren 2 years and  
younger with an  
adult caregiver.  
Sponsored by the  
Friends of the  
JHPL. Through  
February 25,  
2026.

F R I D A Y  
WINTER STORY  
TIME - Fridays at  
10:45  
Stories, songs,  
rhymes and a  
craft. Designed  
for children 3-5  
years old but  
open to kids of  
all ages with an  
adult caregiver.  
Through February  
20, 2026.

Wednesdays  
from 5:00pm to

7:00pm  
W E E K L Y  
TECH HELP  
Free hands-on  
tech assistance!  
Bring your own  
device or use our  
available comput-  
ers. We can assist  
with: Printing,  
E - m a i l i n g ,  
Microsoft Office  
Suite, Google  
Suite, word pro-  
cessing, digitiz-  
ing photos and  
scanning docu-  
ments, setting up  
eBooks and audio  
books through  
Libby onto your  
tablet or smart-  
phone, device  
setup and updates,  
basic smart-  
phone and tablet  
use, accessing  
Library databas-  
es and resources,  
and more. Need  
help with some-  
thing else? Just  
ask! Please note:  
This is BASIC  
tech assistance.  
We cannot repair  
broken devic-  
es, recover lost  
passwords, or  
enter your pri-  
vate information  
(such as a bank  
number) online.  
Please have your  
passwords ready.

M o n d a y ,  
December 15  
through January  
31 - All day  
W I N T E R  
R E A D I N G  
C H A L L E N G E  
FOR KIDS  
Stop by the  
Children's Room  
and pick up a  
Winter themed  
reading chal-

lenge! Complete  
each task and earn  
the ultimate prize:  
a coupon for a  
FREE COOKIE  
from The Bake  
Shoppe at The  
Publick House!  
Completed read-  
ing challenges  
can be turned into  
the Children's  
Room through  
Saturday, January  
31st. Limit of one  
coupon per child.  
A huge thank you  
to The Publick  
House for spon-  
soring this fun  
reading chal-  
lenge!

M o n d a y ,  
January 5 -  
3:30pm to 4:30pm  
F A M I L Y  
CRAFT TIME:  
STARRY NIGHT  
CARDS  
Families are  
invited to join  
us as we make  
starry sky cards  
with watercolor  
paints! This pro-  
gram is intend-  
ed for children  
ages 5-12 with  
their caregiver(s).  
Registration is  
required.

Friday, January  
9 - 3:30pm to  
4:30pm  
N E O N  
PAINTING FOR  
KIDS  
Let's fill our  
new Little Free  
Art Gallery! Kids  
ages 5-12 are  
invited to join us  
for some bright  
and colorful neon  
painting led by  
Eilee Reed, the  
Scout who spear-

headed this proj-  
ect. Participants  
will make a paint-  
ing for home  
and a painting  
for the gallery.  
Registration is  
required.

M o n d a y ,  
January 12 -  
3:30pm to 4:30pm  
P I C A S S O  
STYLE SELF  
PORTRAIT  
We are filling  
our new Little  
Free Art Gallery!  
Artists ages 8  
through adult are  
invited to try their  
hands at self-port-  
raits in the style  
of Picasso, led  
by Eilee Reed.  
Registration is  
required.

M o n d a y ,  
January 12 -  
7:00pm to 8:00pm  
A U T H O R  
H E A T H E R  
B. MOORE:  
"JULIA"

A discus-  
sion with author  
Heather B. Moore  
about her recent  
release, "Julia,"  
the untold story of  
Julia Child before  
she became a  
worldwide cook-  
ing sensation!  
We'll chat with  
Heather about the  
book, her writ-  
ing and research  
process, and if  
she found any  
surprises when  
looking into the  
iconic Julia! This  
is a virtual pro-  
gram and registra-  
tion is required.  
This program is

sponsored by the  
Friends of the  
Ashland Public  
Library and in  
partnership with a  
multitude of MA  
Libraries.

T u e s d a y ,  
January 13 -  
6:00pm to 8:00pm  
W O O D E N  
S P O O N  
CARVING  
Wood carving is  
a meditative activ-  
ity that you can do  
almost anywhere.  
Using simple  
tools, participants  
will be instructed  
on the techniques  
of selecting wood,  
safe carving tech-  
niques, and how  
to care for their  
new utensil. You  
will go home with  
at least one wood-  
en spoon and a  
whole new skill-  
set! All materials  
and equipment  
are provided.  
Eilee Reed for  
Registration is  
required. This is a  
library sponsored  
program.

T h u r s d a y ,  
January 15 -  
6:30pm to 7:30pm  
ZENTANGLE  
LANDSCAPE  
FOR ADULTS  
We're continu-  
ing to fill our new  
Little Free Art  
Gallery. Adults  
are invited to join  
Eilee Reed for  
a relaxing hour  
filled with dood-  
ling and drawing.  
No prior experi-  
ence is needed.  
Registration is  
required.

W e d n e s d a y ,  
January 14 -  
2:00pm to 3:00pm  
"SUPER SPY  
S C I E N C E :  
S C I E N C E ,  
DEATH & TECH  
IN THE WORLD  
OF JAMES  
BOND" WITH  
DR. KATHRYN  
HARKUP

Dr. Kathryn  
Harkup, writer,  
science commu-  
nicator and vam-  
pirologist, will  
be discussing her  
book "Superspy

Science: Science,  
Death and Tech in  
the World of James  
Bond." Learn all  
about The science  
behind James  
Bond's exploits -  
armaments,  
tactics, plots and  
enemy tech. This  
is a virtual pro-  
gram and registra-  
tion is required.  
This program is  
sponsored by the  
Friends of the  
Ashland Public  
Library and in  
partnership with a  
multitude of MA  
Libraries.

T h u r s d a y ,  
January 15 -  
6:30pm to 7:30pm  
ZENTANGLE  
LANDSCAPE  
FOR ADULTS  
We're continu-  
ing to fill our new  
Little Free Art  
Gallery. Adults  
are invited to join  
Eilee Reed for  
a relaxing hour  
filled with dood-  
ling and drawing.  
No prior experi-  
ence is needed.  
Registration is  
required.

S a t u r d a y ,  
January 17 -  
11:00am to  
12:00pm  
L E T ' S  
MEET A...  
VETERINARIAN  
Leah Guidry,  
a veterinarian, is

coming to talk  
about what it's  
like to work as a  
vet. Children will  
have the chance  
to ask questions  
and are invited  
to bring a stuffed  
animal friend with  
them for some  
hands-on learn-  
ing. Registration  
is required.

T h u r s d a y ,  
January 22 -  
6:00pm to 7:00pm  
P O K E M O N  
CLUB  
Young Pokémon  
fans and their  
caregivers are  
invited to join us  
for themed activi-  
ties and fun! Kids  
can also bring  
their card collec-  
tions to play the  
official TCG game  
or simply show  
off their favorites.  
Registration is  
required.

M o n d a y ,  
January 26 -  
7:00pm to 8:15pm  
"CREATING  
A MODERN  
HOMESTEAD"  
W I T H  
HOMESTEADER  
AND BLOGGER,  
V I C T O R I A  
PRUETT

Get a broad  
overview of sim-  
ple life changes  
you could make to  
get closer to nature

and less depen-  
dent on large,  
commercial orga-  
nizations. This  
is a virtual pro-  
gram and registra-  
tion is required.  
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multitude of MA  
Libraries.

S a t u r d a y ,  
January 31 -  
10:30am to  
12:30pm  
N E E D L E  
F E L T E D  
BOOKMARKS  
Discover the fun  
of needle felting  
in our Bookmark  
Workshop! By the  
end of the session,  
you'll take home  
your finished  
piece, a handmade  
reminder of the  
joy of creating  
something your-  
self. Come join  
us and see how a  
simple needle and  
wool can turn into  
something spe-  
cial!

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erwise indicated.  
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## Sturbridge police log

STURBRIDGE — The  
Sturbridge Police Department  
reported the following arrests  
during the week of Dec. 22-28.  
A 21-year-old male from  
Wolcott, Conn. received a sum-  
mons in lieu of arrest on Dec. 22  
for Unlicensed Operation of a  
Motor Vehicle, a Motor Vehicle  
Lights Violation, and speeding  
in violation of a special regu-  
lation.

A 28-year-old female from  
Southbridge received a sum-  
mons in lieu of arrest on Dec.  
22 for Unlicensed Operation of  
a Motor Vehicle, Failure to Dim  
Headlights, and not being in  
possession of a driver's license.  
Michael Thomas Cronin, age  
37, of Southbridge was arrested  
on Dec. 22 in connection with a  
warrant.

A 33-year-old female from

Southbridge received a sum-  
mons in lieu of arrest on Dec.  
23 for Unlawful Deactivation or  
Removal of a Theft Detection  
Devie and Shoplifting By  
Concealing Merchandise valued  
at more than \$250.

Andre Clifford Williams,  
age 42, of Webster was arrest-  
ed on Dec. 26 for Unlicensed  
Operation of a Motor Vehicle  
and a Number Plate Violation.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER  
BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

# A quieter week, a steadier community

The stretch after the holidays often arrives without much fanfare. Decorations come down, routines return, and the calendar looks lighter than it did just a few weeks ago. In our communities, that quieter rhythm can feel almost unfamiliar after December’s rush. But it is also a useful moment, one worth appreciating.

January is when communities reset. Not with sweeping resolutions or grand promises, but with smaller, steadier acts. Meetings resume. Programs restart. Volunteers regroup. The work of local government, schools, and civic organizations continues, often unnoticed, but essential all the same.

This is the time of year when town boards begin looking ahead to spring budgets and capital needs, even as winter still grips the region. It is when school administrators and teachers settle back into classrooms with fresh focus after the break. It is when libraries, councils on aging, and local nonprofits quietly reopen their doors and pick up where they left off.

There is something grounding about that. While the news cycle beyond our borders often feels loud and unrelenting, the work happening here is practical and personal. Roads still need plowing. Fire and police departments remain on call. Teachers keep showing up, and students keep learning. These are the things that hold a community together, regardless of the season.

January also offers a chance to reengage. After the busyness of the holidays, it can be easy to pull inward, to stay home a little more, to let the weeks pass without much connection beyond our own routines. But this is often when local participation matters most. Attendance at meetings is lighter. Volunteer rosters thin out. A familiar face in the audience or an extra set of hands can make more of a difference than people realize.

None of this requires a grand gesture. It can be as simple as attending a meeting, checking in on a neighbor, or bringing a child to a library program. It can mean taking a moment to understand how local decisions are made or how community services are funded. Small towns run on attention as much as they do on budgets.

As the calendar turns deeper into winter, there is value in embracing the steady pace that January brings. It is not a pause so much as a reset. A reminder that community life is not built only during festivals and celebrations, but during ordinary weeks like these, when people quietly do the work that keeps everything moving.

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

## Putting your aging parents’ wishes first

As your parents grow older, it may be time to talk with them about financial and aging issues, which may involve difficult conversations.

You’ll want to be careful how you approach this. Mention ahead of time that you’d like to talk to them about their future plans and reassure them that you want to understand their wishes, so their affairs will be taken care of as they would like.

If your parents are agreeable, choose a comfortable location and ask whom to invite (or not invite). Then, think about how to open the conversation, preferably not with what they want to do with their money, as this could be interpreted as your seeking information about your inheritance or being skeptical about their financial decisions. Instead, build a broader discussion about their vision for their aging years. A series of shorter conversations may allow you to cover topics more comfortably rather than trying to solve everything at once.

Try to address these areas:

- Health care – Seek to learn whether your parents have established appropriate health-related legal documents such as a health care power of attorney, which gives someone the authority to make decisions about their medical care if they become



FINANCIAL  
FOCUS  
TREVOR  
NIELSEN

may or may not want.

- Independence – As people age, they may begin to lose their independence. Have your parent's considered options for long-term care, such as an assisted living community, a nursing home or a home health aide? If they plan to receive support from family members, do your parents’ expectations match yours?

- Financial goals – Focusing on the personal and financial aspects of the legacy your parents want to leave can be a valuable conversation. Have they updated their will or other estate documents, such as a living trust? Have they created a durable power of attorney for a trusted family member to make financial decisions for them if they become incapacitated? Do they have the proper beneficiary designations on their insurance policies, retirement plan and bank accounts? If you position these issues around your parents having control over transferring their assets, rather than curiosity

unable, and a living will, which spells out the extraordinary medical treatments they

over “who will get what,” you’ll more likely have a productive conversation.

- Last wishes – You’ll want to learn whether your parents have instructions in their will about their funerals and last wishes. Express that you or another close family member should know who is responsible for making sure their wishes are met in a timely fashion.

Money, independence, and aging can be sensitive topics. You don't have to go it alone, though — enlist help from another close family member. Or, if your parents work with an attorney, financial professional or other trusted advisor, consider asking if they’re interested in having them participate in your talks. You might even be able to introduce your parents to one of your advisors.

In any case, keep talking. These conversations can be challenging, but if handled correctly can be of great benefit to your parents and your entire family.

*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.*

## Lanterns Along Main Street

LANTERNS  
ALONG  
MAIN STREET  
By CHIPPY

I have walked through town many nights when the sidewalks were quiet and the stores long closed, and I have found myself slowing down without realizing it. There is something grounding about seeing the same lights you saw yesterday, and the day before that, and the year before that. The hardware store sign still glowing. The corner house still lighting the same window. The library’s exterior lamps still shining over the steps, even when the doors are locked.

It is not nostalgia exactly. It is steadiness. So much of life now feels temporary. Apps update overnight. Buildings change names. Businesses come and go so fast that by the time you remember what used to be there, it has already been replaced by something else. In the middle of all that motion, there is comfort in the things that quietly stay put.

Light does that. It doesn’t ask for attention. It doesn’t demand praise. It simply does its job.

I think that is why I have grown more appreciative of routines as I have gotten older. Not exciting routines. Plain ones. The same walk. The same drive. The same chair by the window. These habits act like small lanterns of their own, marking time and place when everything else feels like it is rushing past.

There was a time when I thought routine meant giving up something. Youth, possibility, adventure. Now I see it differently. Routine is what gives those things a place to

do real work. They tell us someone is home. They tell us the day isn’t quite finished yet. They give shape to streets that would otherwise feel empty and unwelcoming.

land. Without it, everything floats.

Even the people we rely on most often show up this way. The neighbor who always waves. The clerk who remembers your name. The librarian who knows where to find what you’re looking for without checking the computer. None of them make speeches. They just show up, day after day, like a porch light at dusk.

I suspect that is how communities really hold together. Not through grand gestures or big announcements, but through small, dependable acts repeated over time. Lights turned on when they are supposed to be. Doors opened when promised. People doing what they said they would do.

There is something reassuring about driving home after dark and recognizing where you are by the pattern of lights alone. The curve in the road marked by three houses close together. The long stretch of trees broken by a single lamp. The center of town announced not by noise, but by glow.

You know where you are. You know you belong there.

I don’t know when I started noticing these things. Maybe it happens slowly, without permission. Or maybe it happens the first time you realize how unsettling it feels when a familiar light doesn’t come on. When a house goes dark for good. When a storefront stays empty longer than expected.

That is when you understand how much those quiet, ordinary lights mattered all along.

So if tonight feels unremarkable, that might be because it is doing exactly what it should. The lights are on. The street looks the way it always has. The town is steady, at least for the moment. And sometimes, that is more than enough.

## TO THE EDITOR Thanks, Dad

To the Editor:  
Thanks, Dad, for keeping me safe.  
— Your daughter, Leane  
Leane Hammond  
Sturbridge

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# Cornerstone Bank, Athol Savings Bank finalize merger

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank today announced the closing of its merger with Athol Savings Bank (ASB), effective Dec. 31, uniting the two long-standing community institutions. The completed transaction results in an expanded banking network that brings Cornerstone Bank’s full suite of digital services to the North Quabbin region while preserving ASB’s trusted local identity and five branch locations.

“As of today, our partnership is officially complete, and we are excited to move forward as one organization,” said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. “This merger strengthens our ability to serve customers with improved technology, expanded products and deeper community investment, while staying true to the values that define both banks.”

With the closing, Daniel J. Zona, former President and CEO of ASB, has begun his new role as President of Cornerstone Bank, succeeding the retiring Randal Webber. The Cornerstone Bank Board of Directors has also expanded to include four new members, including Zona, broadening leadership representation across the regions the combined bank now serves.

“This is a meaningful moment for both banks,” said Zona. “Our teams share a strong commitment to customers, employees and the communities we call home. With the merger now finalized, we can begin fully delivering the enhanced services and opportunities that come with joining forces.”

All ASB employees have been retained, ensuring continuity for customers. Customers can expect ongoing communications and a smooth transition as Cornerstone and ASB align systems and expand access to digital banking tools, financial planning resources and new product offerings.

Luse Gorman, P.C. served as legal counsel for Cornerstone Bank while Piper, Sandler & Co. served as Financial Advisor. Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C. served as legal counsel for Athol Savings Bank.

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



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# Sturbridge police seek help in finding missing person

STURBRIDGE — The Sturbridge Police Department is currently asking for the public's help in locating Steven Lynch, who was reported missing on Jan. 1 at approximately 9:45 p.m., and had not been located as of our press deadline for this week's edition Monday afternoon.

Lynch was last seen on Dec. 29 at approximately 7 p.m. in the town of Sturbridge. At this time, it is believed that he may be located in the City of Worcester, or possibly the City of Springfield.

He was last seen wearing a dark colored coat, no other clothing description has been provided. Lynch is a white male, approximately five feet, four inches tall, 190 pounds, with blue eyes and light brown hair. Steven is described as having a "shamrock" tattoo on right forearm.

Anyone who believes they may have seen someone matching Lynch's description is encouraged to call 911 immediately.



# I don't like the gym. Now what?



Exercise is an important component of overall health. Experts say that adults should aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic exercise or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity aerobic exercise each week, along with muscle-strengthening activities at least two days a week. Some believe heading to the gym is the best way to get the exercise they need, and it very well may be, unless it's not. Some people don't like going to a gym and are therefore unlikely to do so with enough consistency to benefit from a membership. However, the gym is not the only place where individuals can meet fitness requirements.

Those who are not necessarily enamored with the idea of exercising at a gym for a variety of reasons can rest assured that it's still possible to be fit and healthy. In 2023, Civic Science polled thousands of Americans on how they chose to exercise and found that exercising at home is more popular than heading to the gym. Fifty-two percent of respondents said they exercised regularly at home, while 28 percent exercised regularly at a gym. At-home exercisers also were 21 percent more likely than gym-goers to say they worked out once a week or more.

People who want to find ways to stay fit without a fitness club membership have plenty of options.

Get at-home equipment. Setting up gym equipment in a spare room, the basement or the garage can help at-home fitness fans exercise. All it takes is some compact weights, perhaps a treadmill or elliptical and a few additional items to exercise effectively at home.

- Tune into streaming services. Many content providers upload exercise videos online so people can follow along at home or elsewhere. A quick search of YouTube offers a variety of options that fit with the type of exercise one desires. From 30-minute aerobic walking workouts to rebounding to yoga videos, content is there and also may be free to watch.
- Head outdoors. Walking or jogging around the neighborhood or on local trails can be effective. Plus, it exposes a person to sunlight and fresh air, and provides an opportunity to see people in the community.
- Play a sport and/or join a club. Individuals may want to take up a physical activity, like joining a sports team or participating in a club that has physical activity, such as a hiking club. The Better Health Channel says exercising with a friend is a great way to stay motivated, as each person can spur on the other.
- Turn on some tunes. Dancing around to favorite songs is a fun way to engage in physical activity. If other exercise ideas seem uninspiring, upbeat songs that get a person moving can help. Union Health says keeping one's heart rate between roughly 114 to 135 beats per minute is a good workout. Search for songs that will help achieve that rate.

If heading to the gym isn't a person's first choice for exercise, there are several other ways to exercise.

# Bay Path launches in-school Driver's Education program with easy enrollment

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is pleased to announce the launch of its In-School Driver's Education Program, offering students a convenient and flexible opportunity to complete driver education within the school setting. This two week class will run from Monday, Jan. 26 to Feb. 6 from 2:45 - 6 p.m.

Enrollment is quick and user-friendly, allowing families to secure a spot in just a few simple steps:

1. Visit the school's Web site
2. Enter the student's date of birth
3. Select the preferred classroom
4. Choose any optional add-ons
5. Pay in full or reserve a seat with a \$399 deposit

This limited-time offer provides families with flexible options designed to fit busy schedules while ensuring students receive high-quality driver education instruction in a familiar learning environment.

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# 33rd Annual Cartoon Character Breakfast returns to Southbridge

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Lions Club will host its 33rd Annual Cartoon Character Breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 8 at the Southbridge Community Center, located at 153 Chestnut St.

The family-friendly event will run from 7 a.m. to noon, when children are invited to meet their favorite cartoon characters while enjoying an all-you-can-eat breakfast featuring pancakes, French toast, and ham. Adding to the festive atmosphere, a DJ will be on hand playing great tunes throughout the morning.

Proceeds from the breakfast will benefit the Southbridge Lions Club's charity fund and will be distributed within the community to assist local families, individuals, and organizations in need.

Tickets are available in advance from any Southbridge Lions Club member or may be purchased at the door. Admission is \$10



for adults and \$5 for children under the age of 10. Credit and debit cards will be accepted at the door in addition to cash. The Southbridge Lions Club looks forward to welcoming families for a morning of food, fun, music, and community support.



Courtesy

Congratulations to the following students who were selected as November Students of the Month at St. Joseph School — Pre-K 3-year-old: Natalia Santos; Pre-K 4-year-old: Cameron LaFlash; Kindergarten: Robert Thrun; Grade 1: Kaya Sudol; Grade 2: Rayna Parslow; Grade 3: Kamila Biela; Grade 4: Callum Bergman; Grade 5: Luke Zeglen; Grade 6: Cameron Tremblay; Grade 7: Evelyn Macko; Grade 8: Neli Kuznecki. 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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Check out the new Fall/Winter menu



# OBITUARIES

## Carol Theresa Woods, 66

Carol Theresa (Crock) Woods, age 66, passed away on January 1, 2026, in her home in Port St. Lucie, FL, surrounded by family & friend. She was born on February 11, 1959, in Norwood, MA to Joseph & Margaret Crock. Carol was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph & Margaret Crock, sisters, Janet Crock & Elizabeth Berniche & brother, Steven Crock. Carol is survived by her sister, Mary Fontaine. Long time friend Richard Woods, a daughter Lynn Hodgson, a son Richard Woods Jr. & his wife Hayley, granddaughters Alea & Scarlett, grandson Xavier & one great grandson Amari & nieces & nephews. Carol loved her family & friends. She enjoyed driving fast, loud music, beaches



& floating in the ocean at Martha's Vineyard Island. She also enjoyed quiet times in her home. She was an avid pioneer in the research & development of fiber optic scopes for the medical industry & traveled coast to coast teaching others how to build & repair them. A memorial service will be provided by Haisley Tribute Center. You may join us in paying respects to Carol at Haisley Tribute Center at 2041 SW Bayshore Blvd, Port St. Lucie, FL 34984 on January 7, 2026, at 2:00 pm. The service will be at 3:00 pm. There will be an additional service, burial & celebration of life in Holland, MA later this year.

## John “Jack” Fitts, 82

STURBRIDGE – John “Jack” Fitts, 82, of Charlton St. passed away peacefully on November 11, 2025, at Southbridge Rehabilitation and Healthcare. Born on July 7, 1943, in Southbridge, MA, John was the son of the late Venna and Evelyn Fitts. He was predeceased by his brother Robert Fitts. He graduated from Tantasqua Regional High School in 1961. After graduating from high school, he pursued a career as a lens maker, at the American Optical, dedicating his working years to the optical field. Jack was a classic movie buff. He



enjoyed learning about the history of the classic movies. He could often be seen at the Publick House where he enjoyed their food and a drink of spirits. Although John lived a quiet life, those who knew him appreciated his witty and sometimes delightfully quirky sense of humor, a trait that will be fondly remembered and deeply missed. Services for John were private and are entrusted to Belanger Bullard Funeral Home, 51 Marcy St. Southbridge. To sign his online guestbook, please visit [www.BelangerFuneralHome.com](http://www.BelangerFuneralHome.com)

# Southbridge FD battles three-alarm blaze on Cross Street

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Jan. 4 at approximately 11:19 p.m., the Southbridge 911 Dispatch Center received multiple calls

reporting smoke in a residential building located at 60-62 Cross St., a four-family apartment structure. The first-arriving fire

crews encountered fire involving the rear porches, which had extended into the second and third floors of the building. Smoke detectors were actively sounding upon arrival, alerting occupants to the danger. At 11:32 p.m., due to the extent of the fire and the need for additional resources, a second alarm was struck. This brought all off-duty Southbridge Fire personnel back to the station and requested mutual aid fire companies to both assist at the scene and provide station coverage. At 11:54 p.m., a third alarm was requested for additional firefighting resources as crews continued suppression operations. All residents safely self-evacuated prior to fire department arrival due to the activation of fire alarms. Residents were assisted on scene by emergency personnel and were placed in contact with the American Red Cross for temporary housing and support services. One resident transported themselves to Hamrington

Memorial Hospital for evaluation of shortness of breath and was being treated while fire crews remained on scene. One firefighter sustained an ankle injury during operations and was transported to Harrington Memorial Hospital, where they were treated and released. Firefighting operations were conducted in frigid temperatures hovering around 17 degrees, which significantly complicated suppression and overhaul efforts. Crews contended with frozen hose lines and

equipment during cleanup operations while continuing to ensure scene safety. Approximately 50 firefighters were involved in operations at the scene. The fire is currently under investigation by the Southbridge Fire Investigation Unit (FIU). The cause remains undetermined at this time. The Southbridge Fire Department would like to thank our mutual aid partners for their assistance and commend the residents for evacuating quickly after hearing the fire alarms.



# LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate**  
**and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508) 831-2200**  
**Docket No. WO25P3893EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR**  
**FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Steven S Choinski**  
**Date of Death: 10/07/2025**

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

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/27/2026.** 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. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: December 26, 2025  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
January 8, 2026

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Sec 40, a public hearing by the Conservation Commission will be held on Tuesday 01/27/2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the

Conservation Commission Room, second floor, in the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Rd, Holland, MA. This meeting is to review a Notice of Intent (NOI) filed by Michael Burns to build a 22 linear foot wall at 242 Mashapaug Road (Map R29-F-1) Holland, MA 01521. To comply with the Open Meeting Law, all public hearings are scheduled for 6:30 PM and, barring unforeseen circumstances, will be taken in the order in which they appear on the agenda. This meeting will be held in person. The application is available for review by at the Conservation Commission Office, Town Office Building on Mondays (12:30 PM – 4:00 PM) and Tuesdays (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM).  
Conservation Commission  
Town of Holland  
January 8, 2026

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE**  
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Raymond J. Henrickson, Cynthia R. Henrickson to Sovereign Bank, dated March 10, 2009 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 43965, Page 358, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on January 23, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 389 Breakneck Road, Southbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT:  
That certain piece or parcel of land, and the buildings and improvements thereon:  
In the Town of: SOUTHBRIDGE  
County of: WORCESTER  
and State of: MASSACHUSETTS  
and being more particularly described in a deed recorded in Book: 11666 Page 141 of the WORCESTER County, City of SOUTHBRIDGE which property is more commonly known as 389 BREAKNECK ROAD, SOUTHBRIDGE, MA 01550 (“Property Address”);  
For mortgagor’s(s’) title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 11666, Page 141.  
These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having

priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.  
**TERMS OF SALE:**  
A deposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.  
Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.  
**SANTANDER BANK N.A FORMERLY KNOWN AS SOVEREIGN BANK N.A. FORMERLY KNOWN AS SOVEREIGN BANK**  
Present holder of said mortgage  
By its Attorneys,  
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(617)558-0500  
28564  
December 25, 2025  
January 1, 2026  
January 8, 2026

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
**STURBRIDGE PLANNING BOARD PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENT**  
In accordance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Sturbridge Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, January 26, 2026 at 6:35 PM in the Center Office Building 2nd Floor, located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and/or by virtual means** if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law, to consider amendments to the Town’s Zoning Bylaw. The proposal would amend the Zoning Bylaw by inserting a new **Article XXI Temporary Moratorium Large Scale Standalone Battery Energy Storage Systems** which are defined as a system consisting of one or more battery modules for storing electrical energy with an aggregate energy capacity of 250 kWh or greater, and any equipment needed to support the safe and proper function or usage of the battery modules, and one or more physical containers providing secondary containment to any of the above. This shall not apply to storage systems accessory to residential uses or ancillary to other commercial uses. The purpose of this temporary moratorium is to allow sufficient time to engage in a planning process to address the effects of the construction of large-scale standalone Battery Energy Storage Systems and uses in the Town including environmental, fire, health and safety standards of these systems, including but not limited to standards for the placement design and construction, operation, monitoring, modification, and removal of such systems that address public safety, minimize the impacts on the scenic, natural and historic resources and to provide adequate financial assurance for the decommissioning of such installations. Additionally, this moratorium will allow sufficient time to study the impacts of such systems and develop appropriate zoning bylaws that will insure that the installation of such systems will occur in such a way as to insure the protection of groundwater and other natural and environmental resources, and the health and welfare of the residents of the Town of Sturbridge. The Town has a significant watershed protection zone and this moratorium would allow time to see if there are fire suppression options that would allow these systems to be safely allowed in this zone. Presently the Town has no zoning bylaw expressly governing the placement and use of these Systems. During the time of this moratorium the Planning Board will work to develop and enact Bylaws in a manner consistent with sound land use planning goals and objectives. This moratorium shall be in effect through December 1, 2026 or the date on which the Town adopts amendment to the bylaw concerning Battery Energy Storage Systems, whichever first occurs. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted in person and may be conducted via remote means if circumstance warrant, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the public body as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/472675877> Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post of the Town’s website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.  
Charles Blanchard  
Chairperson  
January 8, 2026  
January 15, 2026

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Charles Blanchard  
Chairperson  
January 8, 2026  
January 15, 2026



# Bay Path opens application process For 2026-2027

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is excited to announce that the application process for the 2026–2027 school year is now open!

As a school dedicated to excellence, Bay Path offers students a wide range of opportunities to explore their passions and prepare for future success. With 23 career pathways, rigorous academics, and a variety of sports, activities, and clubs, there is truly something for every student at Bay Path. With that being said, I wanted to provide as much clarity as possible around our admissions policy.

Admissions policy and lottery overview

Bay Path’s Admissions Policy has been updated and approved by the School Committee to fully align with state guidelines.

To ensure equity and fairness, the admissions lottery system—conducted by a third-party organization—gives every eligible student from our ten sending districts an equal opportunity to attend Bay Path.

All applicants who complete the admissions process will be entered into the lottery. Students demonstrating strong attendance and disciplinary records may receive additional lottery entries:

- Students with fewer than 27 unexcused absences and no suspensions or expulsions under M.G.L. c.71, §§ 37H or 37H½ within the past 270

days may receive up to three lottery submissions.

- Students who fall short of these standards will receive one lottery submission.

This process recognizes the importance of commitment and responsibility while maintaining fair access for all applicants.

Waitlist information

Applicants not selected in the initial lottery will be placed on a waitlist organized by town, based on seat allocations. If openings occur, additional lotteries will be conducted using these town-specific waitlists.

All applicants will be notified of their admission status by Friday, April 10.

Admissions Timeline:

- Nov. 1 – Application opens and becomes available online.
- Jan. 16 – Deadline for students to submit all application materials.
- Monday, Feb. 2 – Bay Path requests attendance and discipline data from sending schools to determine lottery weights.
- February–March 2026 – If applications exceed available seats, a public third-party lottery will be held, announced at least one week in advance in accordance with resident student allocations.
- By Friday, April 10 – Offer letters will be sent to accepted resident students.
- April 25 – Deadline for students to accept or decline admission offers.

Bay Path remains deeply committed to providing students with exceptional opportunities that prepare them for college, career, and life success and is open to all students.

## Historic locales across the United States

Americans will celebrate the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the United States in 2026. A semiquincentennial is a notable anniversary, and there's been no shortage of noteworthy events throughout United States history. The places where many of those events took place have been preserved by local and national historical societies, and visiting such sites can make for a great way to gain a greater understanding of American history. The National Trust for Historic Preservation® works to maintain and revitalize historic sites, and that boasts a number of benefits. History buffs may insist there's no experience quite like visiting a historic site and feeling an immediate connection to past eras and peoples. And such sites also provide a boost to local economies while helping to establish a shared sense of civic duty and belonging, which ultimately helps to build strong communities. With so much to gain from visiting historic locales, those celebrating 250 years

of the United States can visit any of these sites across the country to bolster those celebrations.

- Ellis Island National Monument, New York, New York: The National Trust reports Ellis Island in New York Harbor accommodated more than 12 million immigrants seeking new opportunities in the United States. Perhaps the most telling figure regarding the influence of Ellis Island concerns how many current Americans can trace their ancestry to immigrants who were processed at this globally recognized landmark. The National Trust estimates that at least 40 percent of Americans have an ancestor processed at Ellis Island.
- Historic Rural Schoolhouses of Montana, Montana: The National Trust notes that each of Montana's 56 counties still features at least one rural schoolhouse, many of which are one- or two-room buildings where generations of school-aged children were educated. A visit to one of these school-

For more information about the admissions process, please contact Mrs. Tracey Coleman, Assistant Pupil Services Director, at [tcoleman@baypath.net](mailto:tcoleman@baypath.net).

houses provides incredible context to what life in the state of Montana was like in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

- Blandwood Museum, Greensboro, North Carolina: Designed in 1844 by New York architect Alexander Jackson Davis, Blandwood is America's oldest Italianate-style house and museum. John Motley Morehead was the twenty-ninth governor of North Carolina and owner of the house, which was where North Carolina was surrendered during the Civil War, thus ending the conflict in the state. Human rights activist Dorothea Dix was among the many who visited Blandwood over the years, and Dix convinced Governor Morehead to fund a state hospital for people with mental illness.
- Cozens Ranch Museum, Fraser, Colorado: History buffs with a passion for the era of the pioneers will want to add Cozens Ranch Museum to their travel bucket list. The Grand County Historical Association notes that former Central

City sheriff William Zane Cozens moved to the Fraser Valley with his family in 1874 and soon set to building a residence, among other structures. Countless weary travelers who made it through the Berthoud Pass in the nineteenth century visited Cozens Ranch over the years, making this a must-visit site for those looking to experience a taste of pioneering life during a much romanticized era in American history.

- Ford Piquette Avenue Plant, Detroit, Michigan: America has long had a love affair with automobiles, so any tour of historical sites in the United States should include a trip to the Ford Piquette Avenue Plant. The birthplace of the Model T, the Ford Piquette Avenue Plant is among the most significant automotive heritage sites across the globe. The museum features more than 65 rare vehicles and enough original automotive artifacts to impress anyone interested in an industry that helped to reinvent the United States and even the world.

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# People FACT:

This term for restaurant workers typically refers to those who wait on tables.

Answer: Servers

# Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20.  
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.  
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

|    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|
|    |    | 11 | 34 |
| 2  |    | 15 | 27 |
|    | 5  |    | 20 |
| 29 | 18 | 34 |    |

|    |    |    |
|----|----|----|
| 8  | 5  | 2  |
| 51 | 10 | 2  |
| 11 | 3  | 02 |

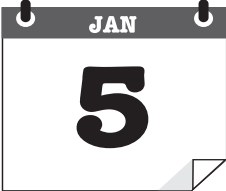
Solution

# Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.  
KMEA A SERVRENOTAI

Answer: Make a reservation

# THIS DAY IN HISTORY



**1781:** Richmond, Virginia, is burned by British naval forces during the American Revolutionary War.

**1875:** The opera house the Palais Garnier opens in Paris.

**1911:** Kappa Alpha, the oldest Black fraternity, is founded.

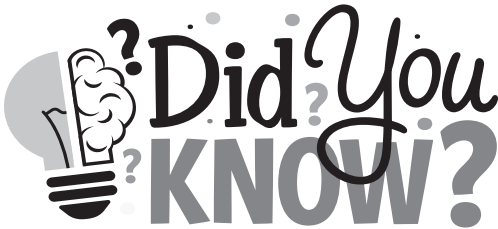
# NEW WORD

# GRATUITY

a tip given for service

# “How they say that in...”

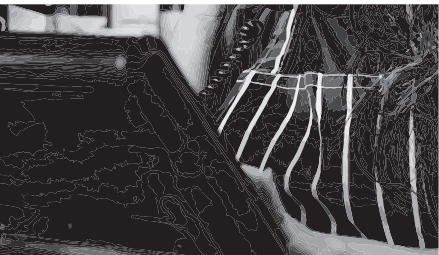
**English:** Food  
**Spanish:** Comida  
**Italian:** Cibo  
**French:** Nourriture  
**German:** Essen



When it comes to the busiest day of the year for the restaurant industry, Mother’s Day tops the list for bookings and footfall.



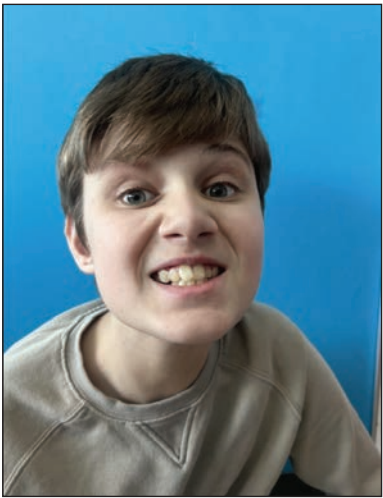
# Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Restaurant host

# Friday’s Child



**Nathan**  
**Age 15**  
**Registration #6472**

Nathan is a happy boy who loves to smile and give high fives! He enjoys Dora the Explorer, Mickey Mouse, and Jake and the Neverland Pirates. Nathan likes watching these shows, looking at books featuring his favorite characters, and having those books read to him. He is a talented young artist who loves to draw and color—especially when an adult joins in and draws with him. Nathan also enjoys sensory play with Play-Doh or putty, and he gets especially excited when adults engage with him during these activities. He has a great time building with blocks and Magnaformers, using his creativity to make all kinds of fun structures.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22554628740>

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

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



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*Featured Listing*  
**DUDLEY - 13 OXFORD AVE**

2 -FAMILY offers 2,354 SF of living area! 2 Large Apartments, 5 Spacious Rms, 2 BRs, 1 Bath each. Beautiful grand front entry foyer with the charm of yesteryear! double French doors & other unique features. Plenty of Natural light that flows into these apartments! 2nd flr apt has a private enclosed rear entry with it's own outside covered porch. Updates were done to electric & roof to accommodate Solar Panels. Property was family occupied \$379,900.

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

*Webster Lake -*  
**302 Killdeer Island**



**SORRY, SOLD!**

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

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



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

**WEBSTER - 24 COOPER RD**

NEW CONSTRUCTION Craftsman Style Home! Tucked away on Cooper Rd, Webster Lake w/Access at Lakeside Beach/ Boat Ramp. 3rd of 4 Homes being built at this Site. Offers 2,155 SF +/- of Living Area, 7 Rms, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 9' Ceilings. Wood Flooring Throughout w/Ceramic Tile Floors in the Baths. Spacious Main BR Suite w/Walk-in Closet & Private Full Bathr, Double-Sink Vanity! Finished Lower level walkout w/Slider. Basement-rough plumbed Central AC! Garage \$649,900.

**WEBSTER - 19 FIRST STREET**




**ON DEPOSIT**

Bring an open mind to this unique property & let your creative design ideas flow! This one level 1,040 sf, 3 BR home is reminiscent of an English Country Cottage! It evokes a cozy, rustic, lived-in vibe. The overall aesthetic is one of practical comfort, collected charm and a relaxed, slightly whimsical atmosphere. Key characteristics include spacious rooms, hardwood floors, a primary BR with sliders to a very private deck, retractable awnings, replacement windows, etc. Move right in! \$304,900

**On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg**

**WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT LISTING! KILLDEER RD**



**SORRY, SOLD!**

Ready for your year round enjoyment. 4 bedroom, 2 bath home. Open floor plan. Garage w/ enclosed entry to mudroom. Open living room with spectacular views! 2 bedrooms - 3/4 bath, on main level. Central air. Lower level, additional 2 bedrooms, bath, bonus family room, summer kitchen! Beachhouse! 51' of sandy beachfront!


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



**SORRY, SOLD!**

Panoramic View, from this absolutely lovely home. 2600 +/- SF, 3+ Beds, 2 full baths, 2 car detached garage! 63' +/- waterfront. .37 Acres! Sandy Waterfront! \$1,100,000


**Webster Lake - 53 Colonial Rd**



**SORRY, SOLD!**

WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT! JUST SIMPLY AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY! OVER 31,000 SQ FT OF LAND! Summer Cottage on 9482 SF of land.. assisted sale \$1,199,900

**Webster Lake Waterfront 8 Long Island**



**SORRY, SOLD!**

Beautifully Updated Circa 1890s Classic Antique Island Cottage, with Rare Boat House Included! Extremely Unique, Clean & Well Maintained, Modern Conveniences w/the Charm of Yesteryear! 1,240 SF, 6 Rms, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, Hardwood Floors! Fireplace w/Wood Pellet Stove, Wrap-Around Screened Porch, Lg Outbuilding w/Full Bath/Shower/Laundry & Workshop, Pallet Town Vtr/Swr + Private Well for Outdoor 2/or Off-Season Water Use! 14,300 SF +/- Level Lot w/105+ of Shoreline. \$595,000



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**DUDLEY- Colonial**

\*Kitchen w/ center island, granite countertops  
\*1st Floor Laundry



**3 FULL BATHS**

143 Charlton Rd. \$595,000

**SPENCER- Fenced in Yard-1.3 Acres**

\*Fireplace \*3 Finished Rooms in Lower Level  
\*Country style eat-in kitchen



\*3 Bedrooms  
\*2 Baths  
\*Sided recently updated Septic System  
\*2 Mini Splits/ AC AUnits

50 Old Spencer Rd. \$525,000

**Dudley- 7 Acres**



\*New Construction \*24' Great Room  
\*Quartz Counters \* 8' Center Island  
\*Move-in Now! \*2.5 Baths \* 2 Car Garage

126 Old Southbridge Rd. \$875,000

**SOUTHBRIDGE / DUDLEY LAND OPPORTUNITY**

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**CHARLTON Szymczak Sells!**



**SOLD!!!**

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\* 1.4 Acres \*2 Fireplaces  
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# Amropali Karmakar makes Academic Achievement List at Georgia Southwestern State University

AMERICUS, Ga. — Amropali Karmakar, a resident of Auburn, made the Fall 2025 Academic Achievement List at Georgia Southwestern State University and was

among 942 students recognized for scholastic achievement.

To be eligible for the Academic Achievement List, a student must previously earn at least 12

credit hours at GSW, be enrolled in 3 to 11 hours of courses, and earn a 3.5 or higher GPA.

Georgia Southwestern State University, located in Americus, Ga., is

a public, four-year unit of the University System of Georgia with approximately 4,000 students. Georgia Southwestern offers outstanding professional programs of

study as well as degrees in the arts, humanities, sciences and graduate programs in business, computer science, education, and nursing. Founded in 1906,

Georgia Southwestern is recognized as one of the best value colleges in the nation. Visit [www.gsw.edu](http://www.gsw.edu) for more information.



The Southbridge High School boys' basketball team took home the trophy at last week's Winter Classic at West Boylston High School! The boys defeated West Boylston 67–52 to bring their record to 3-0 on the season. Justyn Ramos led the way with 24 points, including six 3-pointers, and Diego Martinez followed with 20 points of his own. Both players were named to the All-Tournament Team.



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