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SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO [NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS](mailto:NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS) Thursday-Friday, January 22-23, 2026

# Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation to host Fourth Annual “Heroes Among Us” event

CHARLTON — The Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation (DCEF), which awards thousands of dollars in grants annually, will host its third annual “Heroes Among Us” event on March 28 to recognize and honor the exemplary individuals in our DCRSD community.

This event will be an opportunity to thank the many educators and support services staff who have gone above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of the students of our community. The event will be held at the Wellsworth Hotel (formerly Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center) and will include a dinner and dancing, awards ceremony, and silent auction.

Honorees are:  
Cindy Snow, music teacher, Dudley Middle School  
Michelle Hooper, kindergarten teacher, Mason Road



Laurie Campos, food service worker, Charlton Middle School  
Peter Olson, principal, Heritage School

Heather Bowes, parent volunteer  
Steve Laabs, custodian, Heritage School  
Wayne Tower, custodian, Dudley Elementary School  
Nicole Fossas, girls cross country coach, Shepherd Hill Regional High School  
Len Harmon, cross country & track coach, Shepherd Hill Regional High School  
MaryEllen Cerbone, director of human resource, District Office

“As we celebrate this year’s extraordinary ‘Heroes,’ I continue to be humbled by the depth of their dedication and the lasting impact they have on our community,” shares DCEF President Sabrina Webb. “Their unwavering commitment to our students goes well beyond the class-

room. I offer my heartfelt thanks to each honoree and to everyone who champions the mission of DCEF.”

Tickets for the dinner are \$75 per person, and can be purchased online at <https://dcedfoundation.org/event/4th-annual-heroes-among-us-awards-night/>.

Established in 2008, the Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation (DCEF) Inc. is a nonprofit corporation that unifies efforts among educators, parents, and community members to secure the highest advantages in public education. The DCEF strives to promote continued educational excellence by strengthening community support and by funding programs that encourage innovation and enrichment throughout the district.

## Sturbridge police and fire respond to Main Street crash

STURBRIDGE — On Thursday, Jan. 15 at approximately 2:44 p.m., the Sturbridge Police Department, Sturbridge Fire Department, and members of the Massachusetts State Police responded to the area of 530 Main St. in the Town of Sturbridge following a report of a serious motor vehicle crash.

Upon arrival, first responders located a single motor vehicle that had struck a utility pole. Responding officers observed that the lone occupant and operator of the vehicle was entrapped. Sturbridge Police Officers immediately began assisting members of the Sturbridge Fire Department with patient care and stabilization while extrication efforts were underway.

During the initial response, a Good Samaritan nurse who was in the area stopped and rendered aid,



assisting emergency personnel with the early stabilization of the patient prior to removal from the vehicle. The Sturbridge Police Department commends this individual for their selfless actions and willingness to assist during a critical incident.

Following successful extrication, officers continued to assist Sturbridge Fire Department personnel in safely removing the patient from the vehicle. The patient was transported by ambulance to Harrington Memorial Hospital, and was subsequently airlifted by UMass LifeFlight for further medical treatment.

Chief Earl Dessert would like to thank the men and

women of the Sturbridge Police and Fire Department, the Massachusetts State Police, UMass LifeFlight, and all assisting agencies for their professionalism, teamwork, and coordinated response.

“Incidents such as this demonstrate the importance of interagency cooperation and the dedication of public safety and medical professionals who serve our community each day,” he said.

This incident remains under investigation by the Sturbridge Police Department in conjunction with the Central Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (CEMLEC) Accident Reconstruction Team.

Anyone with information related to this incident is encouraged to contact Officer Marderosian of the Sturbridge Police Department.

## Pack of Paws to host greyhound adoption event

CHARLTON — Have you ever thought about adopting a Greyhound? Greyhound Options Inc, a non-profit adoption group dedicated to finding homes for retired racing Greyhounds after their racing careers are over, will be holding a Winter Social at Pack of Paws in Charlton on Saturday, Jan. 31 and the public is invited.

Greyhound Options (GO) has just entered its 30th year of operations, finding homes for more than 1,800 Greyhounds throughout Massachusetts, northern Connecticut, southern New Hampshire and Rhode Island. An all-volunteer organization, the group relies on foster families to provide a safe home for the dogs to acclimate to life after racing until a permanent home can be found. Greyhounds are known for their calm, gentle nature and are very social, fitting into almost any living situation. Widely known as “30-mile-an-hour couch potatoes”, they do not require as much exercise as people might think. They are happy with walks or a quick run in an enclosed yard.

Come see what a joy adopting a Greyhound can be or to learn more about fostering. The Winter Social is free and will be held from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Pack of Paws, 26A Trolley Crossing Rd., Charlton. For more information, visit [greyhoundoptions.org](http://greyhoundoptions.org).

## Charlton Lions join effort to combat food insecurity across Worcester County

CHARLTON — Members of The Charlton Lions Club were among more than 150 volunteers who packaged 13,002 meals in 35 minutes to help feed area residents who are patrons of local food banks.

The service project, sponsored by District 33A of Lions Clubs International, was held on Sunday, January 11 at the Boys & Girls Club of Worcester and included volunteers from Lions Clubs, Leos Clubs (high school age Lions) and other high school students. The event was a partnership with End Hunger New England.

The Charlton volunteers spent more than 35 minutes on this effort. As early arrivals, they spent at least an hour helping to carry in the cases of food and set up the packing stations before the timed packing began.



Dry ingredients for Spanish rice and minestrone soup were measured, packaged, weighed and sealed and the packets loaded into boxes to be distributed to food banks and com-

munity organizations throughout Worcester County.

“This project reflects the heart of what Lions do – bringing people together to serve our communities in meaningful ways,” said Andrew Keane, District Governor. “By working collectively across Central Massachusetts, we are making a real, measurable impact in combating food insecurities in local communities.”

The Lions of Central Massachusetts are part of Lions Club International District 33A, a network of 45 local Lions Clubs dedicated to serving the communities of Central Massachusetts. Lions focus on addressing critical community needs, including hunger, vision care, youth services, and disaster response. To learn more, visit [www.lionsdistrict33a.com](http://www.lionsdistrict33a.com).



# Cornerstone Bank continues support for WCAC with \$25,000 Fuel Fund donation

WORCESTER — Temperatures are dropping and Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, wants to help make sure residents have the warmth they need to get through the coldest months. Just like last year, Cornerstone is donating \$25,000 to the Worcester Community Action Council’s Emergency Fuel Fund. The Bank contributed \$50,000 in both 2022 and 2023. “Each year, we see how rising fuel costs place real strain on families,” said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. “WCAC continues to be a lifeline for residents who might otherwise have to choose between staying warm or meeting other essential needs. We are grateful to be able to support their efforts again this year.”

## Trinity Catholic Academy announces open house

SOUTHBIDGE — Trinity Catholic Academy invites the community to an Open House for parents of prospective students in Pre-K through eighth grade Sunday, Jan. 25 from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Meet our teachers, visit classrooms, and apply for early registration! The school is located at 11 Pine St. in Southbridge.

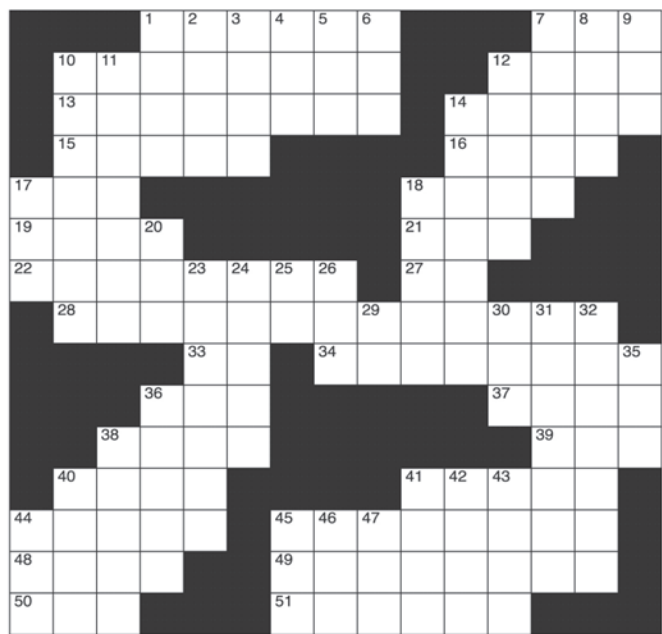


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CLUES ACROSS

1. Mechanical lever

7. Rocky peak

10. Leave a country

12. Discount

13. D.C. ballplayer

14. Partner to “oohed”

15. Engine sound

16. Japanese ornamental box

17. Fido is one

18. Amounts of time

19. DiFranco and Phygo are two

21. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)

22. Make secret plans

27. “Tiny Bubbles” singer

28. “His Airness”
33. Morning

34. Perfected

36. Winger guitarist Beach

37. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician

38. Self-immolation by fire ritual

39. A way to save money

40. Pulpit

41. Make ecstatically happy

44. Once more

45. Works on

48. Nocturnal S. American rodent

49. State again

50. Expression of disappointment

51. Type of door

CLUES DOWN

1. Yugoslavian communist leader

2. Exchange rate

3. High school dance

4. Peter’s last name

5. When you anticipate arriving

6. Israeli city \_\_ Aviv

7. Goat-like mammals

8. Margarine

9. End-of-the-spectrum color

10. Make poisonous

11. Popular beverage

12. Actress Lathan

14. Where planes land and depart

17. Political fundraising entity

18. The distinctive spirit of a people or an era

20. Buffer used in microbiology

23. Light, open carriage

24. Metrical feet
25. Email subject line feature

26. A street with lots of nightmares

29. Rapper Rule

30. River in Scotland

31. One who settles a dispute

32. Most chummy

35. We all have our own

36. Arab tribe

38. Slap

40. Ottoman military commanders

41. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language

42. Emit coherent radiation

43. Sun or solar disk (Egyptian mythology)

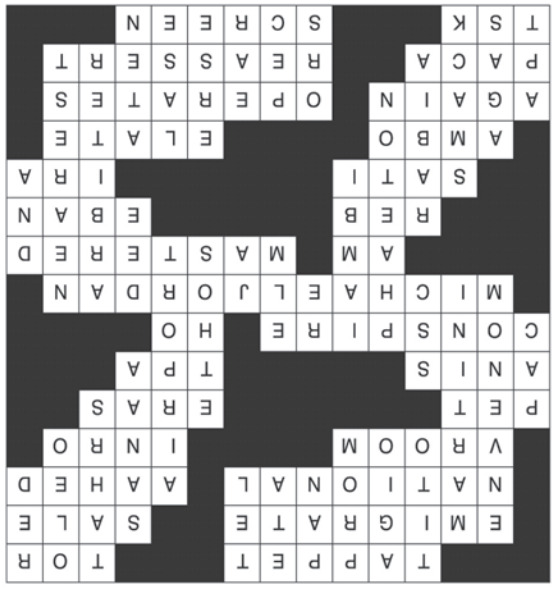
44. Inclined to

45. Olfactory reference syndrome

46. Chest muscle (slang)

47. Body part

PUZZLE SOLUTION



The Emergency Fuel Fund helps homeowners and renters pay home heating bills and past due balances on utility bills incurred from November through April of each year. Income-eligible residents can apply for aid through the agency’s federally funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

“Our mission as a community bank is to support the well-being of the people who live and work here,” Tallman added. “We hope this contribution helps ease the burden for households facing a difficult winter.”

About Cornerstone Bank  
Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank’s local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone, which is a subsidiary of PeoplesBankCorp, MHC, operating independently under its own name and brand, provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities through a broad range of deposit and loan products and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit [cornerstonebank.com](http://cornerstonebank.com) or call 800-939-9103.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR January 23–30

- Southbridge  
Friday, Jan. 23

• Senior Center — Exercise Class, 9–10 a.m., Community Center

• Senior Center — Bingo, 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m., Community Center
- Saturday, Jan. 24

• Southbridge Chess Club, 10–11:30 a.m., Jacob Edwards Library (all ages welcome; boards provided)
- Monday, Jan. 26

• Senior Center — Exercise Class, 9–10 a.m., Community Center

• Senior Center — Paper Crafts with Jeanne, 10:30–11:30 a.m., Community Center

• Senior Center — Cornhole, 1–2 p.m., Community Center
- Tuesday, Jan. 27

• Latino Group, 9 a.m.–noon, Community Center

• Senior Center — Pitch Card Game, noon–1:30 p.m., Community Center

• Winter Playgroup (ages five and under with caregiver), 1:30–3 p.m., Community Center

• Rock Painting with Recreation, 4–5:30 p.m., Community Center
- Wednesday, Jan. 28

• Senior Center — Exercise Class, 9–10 a.m., Community Center

• Senior Center — Brain Games, 10–11 a.m., Community Center

• Senior Center — Tap Dance, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Community Center

• Senior Center — Scrabble, 1–3 p.m., Community Center
- Thursday, Jan. 29

• Latino Group, 9 a.m.–noon, Community Center
- Friday, Jan. 30

• Senior Center — Exercise Class, 9–10 a.m., Community Center

• Senior Center — Bingo, 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m., Community Center

• Mindfulness Meditation with Iris (bring a yoga mat if you wish), 2–3 p.m., Jacob Edwards Library
- Sturbridge  
Saturday, Jan. 24

• Evening of Illumination at Old Sturbridge Village (timed seasonal illumination experience; check with OSV for times and admission details).

## REAL ESTATE

- Charlton

\$199,000, 18 Ramshorn Rd, Revive Commonwealth LLC, to Birch Grove Prop Inc.

\$175,000, 18 Ramshorn Rd, Shaw Development Inc, to Revive Commonwealth LLC.

\$140,000, Smith Rd #3, White Development Corp, to Gillies, James, and Gillies, Tammie.

\$140,000, Smith Rd #4, White Development Corp, to Gillies, James, and Gillies, Tammie.

None
- SOUTHBIDGE

\$492,450, 51 Green Ave, Njuguna, Paul W, and Maina, Tabitha, to Dossantos, Taciso M.

\$375,000, 29 Arland Dr, Grant, Susan, to Torres, Richard, and Berrios, Evelin.
- STURBRIDGE

\$715,000, 52 Wells Park Rd, Wright Dorothy S Est, and Mitchell, Martha, to Kelley, Lisa, and Pina, Emmanuel.

\$715,000, 54 Wells Park Rd, Wright Dorothy S Est, and Mitchell, Martha, to Kelley, Lisa, and Pina, Emmanuel.

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STONEBRIDGE PRESS



STONEBRIDGE PRESS  
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER  
FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
[FRANK@SALMONPRESS.NEWS](mailto:FRANK@SALMONPRESS.NEWS)

BUSINESS MANAGER  
RYAN CORNEAU  
860-928-1818 EXT. 102  
[ryan@salmonpress.news](mailto:ryan@salmonpress.news)

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR  
JIM DINICOLA  
508-764-6102  
[jim@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jim@stonebridgepress.news)

EDITOR  
BRENDAN BERUBE  
508-909-4101  
[news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news)

PRODUCTION MANAGER  
JULIE CLARKE  
508-909-4105  
[julie@villagernewspapers.com](mailto:julie@villagernewspapers.com)

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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

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Office Hours:  
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Tuesdays ..... 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Friday ..... Closed  
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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

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STURBRIDGE 508-347-6463

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

BRIMFIELD: 413-245-3451

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

WALES: 413-245-9808

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

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.stannespaptparish.com](http://www.stannespaptparish.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



# EcoTarium selected for call to International Space Station

## Amateur “ham” radio to connect students with astronauts as the ISS orbits 250 miles above Earth

WORCESTER — The EcoTarium Museum of Science and Nature has been selected to host a live contact with an astronaut aboard the International Space Station (ISS) through ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) in spring 2026. In collaboration with the Central Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association (CMARA) and North High School, hundreds of students will be invited to participate in the event and related education programs, and 10 students will have the rare opportunity to speak directly with an astronaut in orbit.

“The ARISS contact is an exciting opportunity for museum visitors, and school children from across the region,” said Jason Gurtman, manager of educational programs at the EcoTarium. “By giving students the chance to speak directly with an astronaut aboard the ISS, we’re sparking wonder and affirming that there is a place for everyone in space science. This project will serve as a catalyst for curiosity, equity, and lifelong engagement with STEM learning.”

The EcoTarium’s contact with ARISS is scheduled for the week of March 9. NASA will confirm the exact date and time in late February or early March, depending on ISS orbital passes. Recent changes to ISS crew operations may affect the availability of participating astronauts, and the contact schedule remains subject to adjustment. A public community celebration will follow at the EcoTarium on Saturday, March 14, featuring hands-on activities and educational experiences focused on amateur radio and space exploration.

“What a thrill to be able to place a call to outer space using radio waves,” said EcoTarium CEO Noreen Johnson Smith. “For over 125 years, scientists have been expanding the way we use radio waves to communicate and discover distant objects in the universe. Calling the astronauts is an exciting lesson on the power of electromagnetic waves.”

This initiative advances the EcoTarium’s mission of igniting curiosity and inspiring a passion for science, technology, engineering, and math. The Museum offers year-round astronomy programming for visitors of all ages, including the new NASA-funded permanent exhibit Lift Off! Space Explorers, full-dome shows in the Alden Planetarium, newly renovated observatory, and a monthly Astrophysics Speaker Series.

“Space science and wireless communications technology are foundational to our high-tech future,” said Fred Kemmerer, ARISS technical mentor and American Radio Relay League (ARRL) New England Division director. “An ARISS contact gives young people hands-on exposure to these technologies and often sparks a lifelong interest in high-tech communications and related career paths.”

George Gumbrell, a CMARA board member and parent, emphasized the long-term impact of early exposure to amateur radio.

“If you’re interested in science and engineering,” he said, “amateur radio provides a foundation for lifelong exploration.”

Gumbrell’s son, Connor, now in high school, was introduced to amateur radio at age 5 and has since spoken directly with an astronaut aboard the ISS.

“The exposure to amateur radio and hands-on problem-solving showed me what was possible,” Connor said. “It’s why I plan to pursue electrical engineering after high school.”

For more information, visit [ecotarium.org/iss](http://ecotarium.org/iss).

## Nomination papers available for Sturbridge election

STURBRIDGE — Sturbridge Town Clerk, Lynne Girouard, has announced that nomination papers are now available for the Annual Town Election to be held on Monday, April 13.

Candidates must be registered voters and (obtain at least) 42 signatures of registered voters to be placed on the ballot. The following is a list of the positions that are open:

- 2 for 3 years Board of Selectmen
- 1 for 3 years Board of Assessors
- 2 for 3 years Sturbridge School Committee
- 2 for 3 years Tantasqua School Committee
- 1 for 3 years Constable
- 1 for 3 years Board of Health
- 2 for 3 years Recreation Committee
- 1 for 3 years Zoning Board of Appeals
- 3 for 3 years Library Trustees

Important dates:

- Friday, Feb. 20: Last day to take out Papers
- Monday, Feb. 23 (5 p.m.): Last day to submit papers to the Town Clerk/Registrars for certification.
- Wednesday, March 11: Last day to withdraw.
- Friday, April 3 (8 p.m.): Last day to register to vote for the Town Election
- Monday, April 13: Town Election

Also, a reminder that the 2026 Dog Licenses are now available. Male and female dogs are \$15; altered dogs are \$10. Current rabies vaccination records are required to license your dog(s). Applications are available on the Town Clerk’s Web page, as well as on the Town Census. Penalties will be levied after March 31.

## Dog licenses now on sale in Southbridge

SOUTHBRIDGE — Dog licenses are now on sale for the Town of Southbridge for the year 2026.

A one-year license for a non-altered dog is \$20. If the dog is spayed or neutered, the price is \$10 for a one-year license. A certificate of spaying or neutering must be shown for first-time licenses. A current rabies vaccination certificate must be presented when licensing dogs.

Dogs may be licensed through the mail if all the paperwork is in order. For more information, call the office of the Town Clerk at (508) 764-5408. The deadline to license your dog without any late fees is April 30.

## Hofstra University congratulates Fall Dean’s List students

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Hofstra University congratulates the students named to the fall 2025 Dean’s List for their outstanding academic achievements. Students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 during the semester to make the Dean’s List.

Delaney Bodamer of Charlton  
Lindsey Labossiere of Uxbridge  
Calle Merchant of Charlton  
Enaut Garcia Beitia of Vitoria

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

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## Sturbridge Historical Society presents “The Notables & Notorious of the American Revolution: Curious and Infamous Characters from The Last Green Valley”

STURBRIDGE — On Thursday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. at The Publick House, the Sturbridge Historical Society will present Regan Miner, the Development Director for TLGV, speaking about “The Notables & Notorious of the American Revolution: Curious and Infamous Characters from the Last Green Valley.”

Not every hero held a musket. The people living in the area now known as The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor (TLGV) shaped and helped win the American Revolution. They fueled the passion for declaring independence, bravely signed the Declaration, supported the war effort, and were integral in the earliest days of our democracy. TLGV Heritage Corridor, which encompasses 35 towns in south central and eastern Connecticut from Brimfield to Norwich, is a region that spurred the revolutionary leadership of Samuel Huntington and Jonathan Trumbull but also spawned the traitorous Benedict Arnold. As we acknowledge the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, this talk will explore the notable and notorious figures that helped shape the region and the nation in our fight for independence.

With more than 10 years of experience in the history and nonprofit sector, Regan Miner is a public historian and a historic preservation advocate. Currently, Miner serves as the Development Director of The Last Green Valley and enjoys building partnerships to strengthen our cultural, historical, and natural resources within the National Heritage Corridor. Her previous roles included serving as the Executive Director of the Norwich Historical Society and the Executive Director of the Fort Adams Trust in Newport, Rhode Island. In addition to her position at TLGV, Miner volunteers as Chairman of the Norwich Historic District Commission, the Commission of the City Plan, America 250 Norwich Commission, and is a Corporator at the Norwich Free Academy.

The program is free and open to the public, and is generously hosted by the Publick House.

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EDITOR

## The comfort of familiar places

There is a certain reassurance that comes from places that do not change much. In Southbridge, Sturbridge and Charlton, those places are easy to name, even if everyone’s list looks a little different. A favorite diner where the menu is predictable in the best possible way. A library corner where generations have sat with the same view out the window. A stretch of road where the scenery looks nearly identical to how it did years ago, season after season.

In a world that seems to reinvent itself constantly, familiarity can feel like a quiet luxury.

Change is not inherently bad. Our towns have evolved, adapted and grown in ways that reflect new needs, new families and new ideas. Storefronts turn over, technology reshapes daily life, and expectations shift. Progress is part of any living place. But there is also something deeply valuable in continuity, in knowing that some spaces remain steady even as life around them moves quickly.

Familiar places carry a kind of emotional memory. They remember us at different stages of life, even if we don’t consciously think about it. A storefront recalls childhood errands run with a parent. A park bench brings back teenage conversations that once felt impossibly important. A library card connects past readers to present ones, all quietly sharing the same shelves.

These places ask very little of us. They don’t require explanation or adjustment. We know where to park, where to sit, what to expect. That predictability creates a sense of ease that is easy to overlook until it is gone.

Winter, especially, brings this comfort into sharper focus. When weather limits options and travel, people naturally gravitate toward what feels known and reliable. There is something grounding about walking into a space where you already understand how it works, where the rhythm is familiar and the atmosphere feels unchanged. It can be a welcome contrast to the constant updates and notifications that dominate so much of modern life. Familiar places also serve as quiet markers of time. They remind us that while our own lives may change dramatically from one year to the next, some parts of the landscape remain constant. That steadiness can be reassuring, particularly during seasons when everything else feels uncertain or in flux.

There is a temptation to measure progress only by what is new. New businesses, new developments, new initiatives. Those things matter, and they deserve attention. But there is also value in recognizing what has endured. Places that continue to serve the same purpose, in much the same way, year after year, provide a sense of grounding that cannot be replicated by novelty alone.

Small towns are uniquely positioned to offer this kind of stability. Unlike larger cities, where change can be rapid and disorienting, communities like ours often evolve more slowly. That pace allows residents to maintain a stronger connection to place, to feel rooted rather than swept along.

As new ideas and changes continue to shape the region, it is worth appreciating the quiet role familiar places play in everyday life. They offer comfort without fanfare. They hold memories without demanding attention. They remind us not only where we are, but where we have been.

Sometimes, the strongest sense of belonging does not come from what is new or exciting, but from recognizing what has remained — steady, recognizable, and quietly present — through all the changes around it.

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

## Why Social Security matters more for women

When planning for retirement, Social Security isn't just another item on your financial checklist. For women especially, it's often the cornerstone of a secure retirement. The Social Security Administration reports that nearly 55 percent of Social Security benefit recipients are women, and for many, it's their primary source of retirement income.

Unlike investments that can lose value when the market drops, Social Security provides guaranteed income that adjusts for inflation and generally lasts as long as you live. That reliability makes it valuable for helping to address two major retirement risks: rising costs and the possibility of out-living your savings.

Life expectancy. On average, women live about five years longer than men (CDC 2023 Life Expectancy measure. That means they rely on Social Security for a longer period, making the decision of when to start benefits especially important.

Taking Social Security early reduces your monthly benefit. You can claim benefits as early as age 62, but every year you wait increases your monthly payments by two-thirds of 1%, or 8% per year, maxing out at age 70. Given women's longer life expectancy, that patience can pay off.

Building your benefit. Your Social



zero or very low earnings in that calculation, it can reduce what you receive in retirement. Many women step away from work or reduce their hours to care for family members, and that trend is increasing. A 2025 University of Kansas analysis found that the share of mothers with children under age five leaving the workforce fell more in early 2025 than at any point in the past 40 years. The study also noted that rising return-to-office policies may continue to impact working mothers.

While staying in the workforce builds a stronger earnings history and better benefits, that isn't realistic for everyone. Those who can't may need to plan and fund alternative sources for retirement income

Protection for married women. Marriage can provide additional Social Security options. A lower-earning spouse may receive up to 50 percent of their partner's full retirement-age benefit.

If your spouse dies, you can receive the higher of your own benefit or up to 100

percent of your deceased spouse's benefit. However, if you remarry before age 60 (age 50 for disabled widows), you lose eligibility for survivor benefits from your late spouse while the new marriage lasts.

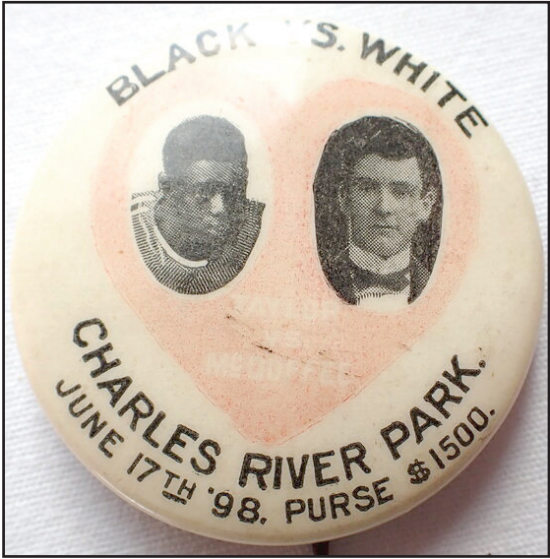
Women divorced after at least 10 years of marriage may qualify for benefits based on an ex-spouse's record. If you remarry, you forfeit spousal benefits while the new marriage continues.

A word of wisdom: Report any name changes following marriage or divorce to the Social Security Administration to ensure your earnings and benefits are correctly credited.

Navigate carefully. Given the complexity of Social Security rules, the unique retirement challenges women face and the lasting impact of claiming decisions, working with a qualified financial advisor can be invaluable. An advisor can help you navigate questions about timing, spousal benefits and how Social Security fits into your overall retirement plan.

*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.*

Pinback buttons



Today's column will focus on pinback buttons. Pinback buttons are usually round metal discs with a pin attached to the back that you can wear on a shirt, jacket, etc. We often associate them with political campaigns, but they were used in advertising, political messaging, and for other purposes.

I'll start by providing some history on pinback buttons. Prior to pinbacks several variations of clothes fastener buttons were created by craftsmen to commemorate George Washington's inauguration in 1789. Mount Vernon has nine different inaugural button versions in their collection, according to their website. One has an eagle

with the date March 4, 1789, when Washington was originally scheduled to be inaugurated. It was rescheduled to April 30. Another popular president's campaign advanced the use of buttons. During Lincoln's 1860 campaign tinfoyle (also known as ferrotype) photographs were made into campaign buttons. The images on thin metal sheets were reproduced and typically inserted inside of brass holders with campaign messages embossed on the brass. In 1896, the Whitehead and Hoag Company began producing brightly colored pinback buttons using a new plastic material called celluloid.

Political buttons are some of the most popular with collectors. The American Political Items Collectors group lists several subcategories of pinbacks. Some are presidential campaigns, focus on a single election year, single political parties, 3D items, local campaigns, Women's Suffrage movement, Prohibition movement, social causes, and Civil Rights.

Other types of collectible pinback buttons include comic characters, events, advertising, funny or serious sayings, entertainment, and sports. You can buy some pinbacks for under a dollar while others can sell well into the thousands,

and we've seen some good results in our auctions. A group of political pinbacks, including McKinley for president, sold for over \$200. A group of 17 advertising, souvenir, Temperance Movement, circus & other pinbacks went for \$330 in 2024. As you might expect, sports related pinbacks are some of the most collectibles. Twelve early 1900s tobacco premium and 1930 Cracker Jack baseball pinbacks brought over \$260. Major Taylor was an African American cyclist who lived in Worcester and is in the U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame. A pinback button labeled "Black vs. White" promoted an 1898 race between Taylor and Eddie McDuffee. It sold in one of our 2022 auctions for over \$1,400.

There is also a Worcester connection to one of the most iconic pinback buttons ever made. Harvey Ball is said to have created the iconic smiley face image that became popular on buttons since the 1960s. An article in the Smithsonian Magazine said that Ball was paid \$45 for what took him about 10 minutes to design the image for the State Mutual Life

Assurance Company. Smiley face pinback buttons with the original State Mutual markings on the back have recently sold between \$10 and \$60 in online auctions. It's not a windfall but still enough to put a smile on your face.

The single-collector Civil War auction we've been working on will begin soon. We're preparing for a major auction with fine jewelry, sterling silver, art, and other antiques and collectibles that will take place after that. We also have been accepting consignments for a major sports and comic book auction that will take place in the summer. It will feature the first baseball Ted Williams signed when he signed a contract with the Boston Red Sox. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

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

## Lanterns Along Main Street

There was a time when every important message in life arrived in an envelope.

You could tell what kind of day it was going to be by the look of the mail. A thick envelope meant paperwork. A thin one with careful handwriting meant something better. Sometimes it was a birthday card. Sometimes it was a note from an old friend who had not forgotten you. Either way, it required a small ritual. You carried it inside. You sat down. You opened it slowly. You read it more than once.

These days, most of our messages arrive silently. They pop onto a screen and vanish with the swipe of a finger. Efficient, yes. Convenient, absolutely. But I sometimes wonder what we lost when we stopped holding words in our hands.

I was reminded of this last week, when I found a small stack of old letters tucked inside a desk drawer. They were not famous letters. No historic figures. No dramatic confessions. They were simple notes from people who mattered to me at different points in life. A thank-you card from a neighbor after we helped move

a couch. A short letter from a relative who has since passed. A postcard sent from a vacation years ago, the handwriting slightly crooked, the ink faded around the edges.

What struck me was not the content alone. It was the care. Someone took time to sit down, choose a pen, and shape each word. Someone thought enough of me to place a stamp in the corner and walk it to a mailbox. That effort carried meaning all its own.

In our Massachusetts towns, we still see glimpses of that slower rhythm. You notice it when someone holds the door at the post office and waits, rather than rushing past. You see it when neighbors exchange Christmas cards that arrive days after the holiday, yet feel no less warm. You hear it when someone says, "I wanted to tell you this in person," and means it.

We live in a world that rewards speed. Faster replies. Faster news. Faster everything. There is nothing wrong with progress. I appreciate being able to check in

on family with a quick message or send a photo across the state in seconds. But speed should not replace intention.

There is something grounding about slowing down long enough to put thoughts on paper. When you write a letter, you tend to choose words more carefully. You pause. You reconsider. You often soften your tone because you know the message cannot be edited after it is sent. That alone might improve a few conversations in modern life.

I am not suggesting we abandon technology or return to quill pens and candlelight. I am suggesting we remember that human connection benefits from effort. A handwritten note does not need to be long. It does not need perfect grammar. It needs sincerity.

Imagine what would happen if more of us sent a simple card to a teacher who made a difference, a neighbor who checked in during a tough week, or a family member who rarely hears how much they matter. Those envelopes would carry more than paper.

They would carry recognition.

Our small towns have always thrived on these quiet gestures. The casserole dropped off without being asked. The wave to a familiar face at the grocery store. The short conversation at the hardware counter that turns into advice about life rather than screws. These are the lanterns along our main streets. They do not blaze. They glow steadily, guiding us back to one another.

This week, I plan to write a few notes and send them the old-fashioned way. No special occasion. No dramatic reason. Simply a reminder to people I appreciate that they are seen and valued.

If you are looking for a simple way to make the world around you feel a little warmer, consider doing the same. Write one letter. Address one envelope. Drop it in the mailbox and walk away knowing you have sent something more lasting than a notification.

In a fast-moving world, choosing to slow down, even briefly, can feel quietly revolutionary. And sometimes, the smallest acts carry the brightest light.



# Final public hearing on CDBG Mini Entitlement grant application set for Feb. 9

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Town of Southbridge will hold public hearings to receive public input on the Town's FY21- FY24 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Mini Entitlement (ME) Program Activities and the FY2025 CDBG ME Grant Application.

Current CDBG activities include code enforcement, street improvements, housing rehabilitation, and commercial façade improvements. Potential activities include downtown beautification, business development, street improvements, and public social services. All activities are based on the FY24 Community Development Strategy.

The final hearing will be held in the Economic Development and Planning Department, Town Hall, 41 Elm St., Southbridge, on Monday, Feb. 9 at 5 p.m.

The Town encourages any member of the public wishing to provide input and be heard to attend any meeting. Comments may be submitted in writing by email to [sttarkey@southbridgemass.org](mailto:sttarkey@southbridgemass.org) or by mail: Attn: Sue Starkey, Economic Development and Planning Office, Southbridge Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA 01550. Written comments will be accepted until Feb. 6 at 11 a.m. Any comments received will be read at the next public hearing.

Funding by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, Massachusetts CDBG Program.

## Brimfield student named to James Madison University Dean's List

HARRISONBURG, Va. — Brimfield resident Grace Timmins has been named to the Dean's List at James Madison University for the fall 2025 semester. Students who earn Dean's List honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of between 3.5 and 3.899. Timmins is majoring in Health Sciences - BS.

Founded in 1908, James Madison University is a public university located in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. JMU is one of the nation's leading lights in higher education, where students enjoy engaging relationships with world-class faculty who drive education innovation and support advanced research. With state-of-the art amenities and facilities, students have access to NCAA Division 1 athletics. JMU also has the highest post-graduation job levels of all Virginia colleges.



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# WPI students complete intensive research projects

WORCESTER — At Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology to addresses an important societal need or issue.

Known as the Interactive Qualifying Project (IQP), this project is a core part of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI. Centered around project-based learning, this hands-on approach offers students opportunities to help develop thoughtful solutions to open-ended problems. These real-world problems affect the quality of life for people in the communities where students work, giving students a chance to make a difference in the world before they graduate. All WPI undergraduates are required to complete an IQP, usually in their junior year, through which they apply science and technology to address an important societal need or issue.

About two-thirds of WPI students complete their IQP at one of the university's 50+ off-campus project centers located in more than 30 countries around the world.

"The WPI project-based curriculum's focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones and into the global community to apply their knowledge and to solve problems," said Professor Kent Rissmiller, professor of International & Global Studies and associate dean of The Global School. "Students are immersed in all aspects of a different culture-from the way people live and work to the values they hold to the foods they eat, all valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today's global marketplace. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference in their host community; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application."

The following students completed projects in the fall of 2025:

Julia Philbrook of Uxbridge, class of 2027, majoring in Biomedical Engineering, completed a project titled "An HRV Biofeedback Educational Application in Iceland."

Connor Daniel of Charlton, class of 2027, majoring in Computer Science, completed a project titled "Legacies of Albanian Emigration."

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) is a top-tier, STEM-focused university with an R1 research classification and global leadership in project-based learning. Founded in 1865, WPI's distinctive approach integrates classroom theory with real-world practice, preparing students to tackle critical challenges through inclusive education, impactful projects, and interdisciplinary research. With more than 70 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments and over 50 global project centers, WPI advances knowledge and innovation in fields such as life sciences, smart technologies, advanced materials and manufacturing, and global innovation. Learn more at [www.wpi.edu](http://www.wpi.edu).

## 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.

## Local students earn President's List honors at Nichols College

DUDLEY — Nichols College is proud to recognize the academic accomplishments of students on the fall 2025 President's List.

President's List recognizes those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. Students whose semester grade point average is 3.85 or higher for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and no grades below B- will receive President's List honors.

The following local students have achieved President's List honors:

Muhammad Abdul Wasay of Charlton  
Cameron Burdick of Uxbridge

Olivia Charette of Charlton  
John Guerin of Charlton  
Ella Haker of Uxbridge  
Matthew Lach of Charlton  
Chloe McDonald of Uxbridge  
Maggie Mullaly of Charlton  
Shane Okenquist of Uxbridge  
Christian Rachiele of Uxbridge  
Matthew Smolski of Charlton  
Emma White of Charlton  
Luisa Henao of Southbridge  
Robert Cleary of Fiskdale  
Lydia Julian of Holland  
About Nichols College  
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 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)

University is a public university located in Oxford, Ohio. With a student body of over 22,600 undergraduate and 2,200 graduate students, Miami University effectively combines a wide range of strong academic programs with faculty who love to teach and the personal attention ordinarily found only at much smaller institutions.

Established in 1809, Miami University is consistently ranked among the top 50 national public universities by the U.S. News & World Report for providing students with an Ivy League-quality education at a public school price. Located in quintessential college town Oxford, Ohio-with regional campuses in Hamilton and Middletown, a learning center in West Chester, and a European study center in Luxembourg-Miami serves more than 22,600 undergraduates across more than 100 areas of study, and more than 2,200 graduate students through 78 master's and doctoral degree programs. At this comprehensive research university, students engage and conduct research with premiere teacher-scholars. Miami adds \$2.3 billion each year to Ohio's economy through innovative partnerships and job creation. Miami is an NCAA Division I school, serving more than 500 student-athletes across 19 varsity sports. For more information, visit [MiamiOH.edu](http://MiamiOH.edu).

## Emma Winkler graduates, makes Dean's List at Le Moyne College

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Emma Winkler of Sturbridge graduated from Le Moyne College in December 2025 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology degree and was named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List. To make the list, students must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or above.

Located in a suburban setting on a picturesque 160-acre campus in Syracuse, N.Y., Le Moyne College is one of only 27 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States. Offering more than 30 majors, Le Moyne provides a values-based education that helps students explore their potential through academics, experience and service. In 2025, for the 13th consecutive year, Le Moyne was ranked by The Princeton Review as one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education, an honor achieved by only 15 percent of the colleges and universities in the nation. A Le Moyne education provides students with the intellectual skills necessary to succeed in the world and the will to use their abilities to promote a more just society.

# WARM UP

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# Courage theme of Faith in Film Series at Charlton Federated Church

CHARLTON — Courage is the theme of the latest Faith in Film series at the Federated Church of Charlton (FCC). On the third Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m. the public is invited to view and discuss movies at no charge. Each showing includes free refreshments and a handout with pertinent and interesting information, key concepts and discussion questions about each film.

The Faith in Film Series this winter and spring includes the following:

Feb. 20 – “Selma” (2014) – This historical drama depicts the 1965 Selma to Montgomery voting rights marches and the courage of the black clergy, including the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., at the heart of that struggle. Directed by Ava DuVernay and written by Paul Webb, the film was nominated for two Academy Awards and four Golden Globe Awards.

March 20 – “Mrs. Miniver” (1942) – This film portrays the courage of ordinary people as it tells the story of one English woman’s struggle to protect her family during World War II. Directed by William Wyler and

starring Greer Garson, Walter Pidgeon and Theresa Wright, the film was a critical and a commercial success, becoming the highest-grossing film of 1942 and winning six Academy Awards. In 2006, the film was ranked number 40 on the American Film Institute’s list of most inspirational movies and was placed on the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress in 2009.

April 17 – “Finding Nemo” (2003) – Created by Pixar Animation Studios for Walt Disney Pictures, this animated movie depicts an epic search for a kidnapped son by his father, both are clownfish and they are aided by a dizzy, forgetful regal blue tang fish named Dory. Featuring the voices of Albert Brooks, Ellen DeGeneres, Alexander Gould, Willem Dafoe, and Geoffrey Rush it was directed by Andrew Stanton, who co-wrote it with Bob Peterson, and David Reynolds. Finding Nemo was the first film to win an Oscar in the category of Best Animated Feature.

May 15 – “The General” (1926) – This silent comedy featuring Buster Keaton who

also co-directed it with Clyde Brickman is based upon an actual locomotive chase that took place during the Civil War. While the film was not a commercial success when it was first released, it is now recognized as one of the greatest films ever made.

June 19 – “Drums Along the Mohawk” (1939) – This is the first color film directed by John Ford. It tells the story of the fight for American Independence along the Mohawk River in upstate New York. Based on a very popular novel of the same name, it stars Henry Fonda, Colette Colbert, John Carradine, and Oscar-winner Edna May Oliver. This film will be a perfect way for us to celebrate our nation’s 250th anniversary a few weeks later.

“While all different in tone, each of these films explore what it means to be courageous and how that attribute displays itself in actions,” said James David Moran, curator of the Faith in Film Series.

He further commented, “This program

explores the concept of faith in all its forms from believing in God, religion, institutions, intellectual concepts, and people. Our aim is to share important works of cinema, engage in a lively conversation, and have fun.”

Faith in Film screenings take place in the Fellowship Hall of the Church at 64 Main St. in Charlton. For further information please call the Church at 508-248-5550 or email Pastor Shannan Hudgins at pastor@fed-church.org.

About the FCC

The Federated Church of Charlton is a federation of the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association in Christian worship together. The Church descends from several churches active in the Charlton community over the centuries starting in 1761. Worship services are held on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. The church also has an active Sunday School and youth program.

## Gateway Players bring “Remedial” to the stage

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge presents "Remedial," written by local playwright Jordan Miller. Performance dates are Feb. 27 & 28 and March 6 & 7 at 7:30 p.m. and March 8 at 2 p.m. The performances are held at Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. in Southbridge. Entrance is on Park Street (around the corner). Directed by Jordan Miller. Produced by Stephen Jean.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors and youth under 18. Tickets may be reserved by calling Gateway at 508-764-4531. Online credit card ticket sales are available at <https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/gateway-players/remedial>.

The cast includes Patrick Bracken (Robin), Tey Ferron (Dr. Hamilton),

Vivian Eliza Nichols (Angel), Katie Walsh (Morgan), Stephen Clarke (Jamie), Greg Glanville (Cameron), Mary Tisdell (Devin) and Asher McCoy (Blake).

Robin is a disillusioned author who reluctantly takes a job teaching remedial English to a group of adult students. Bitter from past trauma and career setbacks, Robin initially struggles to connect with these diverse students, each of whom carries their own burdens. As the story unfolds, the classroom becomes a space for unexpected growth, where Robin and the students challenge each other’s assumptions and learn to confront their insecurities. Through humor, conflict, and shared vulnerability, "Remedial" explores themes of resilience, empathy, and the transformative power of understanding and human connection.

## Assumption students named to Fall Dean’s List

WORCESTER — Assumption University has announced those who have been named to the University's Dean's List for the fall 2025 semester. Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on this prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters.

Mariam Ayoub of Charlton  
Lillian Dolan of Charlton  
Isabella Nolan of Uxbridge  
Kyleigh Sacco of Uxbridge  
Kelsy Brown of Charlton  
Julia Canty of Charlton City  
Olivia Gray of Uxbridge  
Adelaide Greenwald of Uxbridge  
Madison Cantwell of Fiskdale  
Haley Courtney of Sturbridge  
Lilina Shiers of Wales  
Norah Stewart of Brimfield  
Yheraldine Baez of Southbridge  
Elena Jerez of Southbridge

"Earning the right to be named to the Assumption University's Dean's List is an extraordinary accomplishment and we congratulate those students who demonstrated

exemplary academic excellence this semester," said Assumption University President Greg Weiner, Ph.D. "These students have demonstrated a deep commitment to the pursuit of truth in the company of friends that lies at the heart of the Catholic liberal education Assumption provides."

About Assumption University

Assumption University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is a premier New England university for high-quality education, integrating career preparation and education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and centuries-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption's graduates are known for their intellectual seriousness, thoughtful citizenship, and devotion to the common good. The University offers 37 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, nursing, professional studies, and other areas, as well as graduate degrees and professional credentials. For more information about Assumption University, please visit [assumption.edu](http://assumption.edu) or follow us @AssumptionUMA.

## Carissa Allard of Charlton achieves Dean’s List at NECC

HAVERHILL — Congratulations to Carissa Allard of Charlton on being named to the Northern Essex Community College Fall 2025 Dean's List.

To be included, students must attain a grade point average of 3.3 or higher within the term, carry six or more credits within the term, and be matriculated in a degree program.

Northern Essex Community College, the first federally designated Hispanic Serving

Institution in New England, is an education leader for the Merrimack Valley. Through a supportive learning environment and cultural inclusion, NECC embraces all identities and inspires initiative and excellence through top-notch affordable certificate and associate degree programs online and at campuses in Haverhill and Lawrence. NECC offers many bachelor's degree transfer options, workforce development and community education classes, and is host to the NECC Police Academy, MassHire Merrimack Valley, and Gallaudet University's Regional Center for the deaf and hard of hearing. Visit Northern Essex online at [www.necc.mass.edu](http://www.necc.mass.edu).

## Anjolina Claire Fantaroni named to President’s List at Elon University

ELON, N.C. — Anjolina Claire Fantaroni of Southbridge has been named to the President’s List for the 2025 fall semester at Elon University. The President’s List is composed of students with no grade below an A-minus in a minimum of 12 semester hours.

Elon University is a nationally recognized leader in engaged, experiential learning that prepares graduates to be creative, resilient, ambitious, and ethical citizens of our global culture.

At Elon, more than 7,000 students learn through hands-on experiences and close working relationships with faculty and staff whose priorities are teaching and mentoring. The curriculum is grounded in the liberal arts and sciences with emphasis on global experiences and career development. More than 70 undergraduate majors are complemented by professional and graduate programs in law, business, education, and health care. Elon is ranked No. 1 for excellence in undergraduate teaching by U.S. News & World Report.

Elon’s academic divisions include Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences; the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business; the School of Communications; the Dr. Jo Watts Williams School of Education; the School of Health Sciences; and the School of Law, with programs in Greensboro and Charlotte, N.C.



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<b>WHIRLPOOL 21 CU. FT. TOP MOUNT REFRIGERATOR</b> Reg. \$899.99 <b>\$699.99</b>	<b>FRIGIDAIRE 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR</b> Reg. \$699.99 <b>\$599.99</b>	<b>FAMOUS MAKER OVER THE STOVE MICROWAVE</b> Reg. \$249.99 <b>\$229.99</b>	<b>LG #3400 WASHER &amp; DRYER</b> Front Load, Reg. \$1599.99 <b>\$1399.99</b>	<b>MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER</b> Reg. \$699.99 <b>\$549.99</b>	<b>WHIRLPOOL SIDE BY SIDE</b> Reg. \$1499.99 <b>\$1199.99</b>	<b>WE INSTALL TELEVISIONS, MICROWAVES &amp; DISHWASHERS!</b>

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# February events at Charlton Public Library

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

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

The library will be closed Feb. 16.

### Movies @ The Library

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

February 3: REMEMBER THE TITANS. In 1971, Virginia high-school football was everything to the people of Alexandria, but when the school board was forced to integrate an all-Black school with an all-white one, the foundation of football's tradition was put to the test. 2000. Rated PG. 114 minutes. Starring: Denzel Washington, Will Patton, Wood Harris, Ryan Hurst, Craig Kirkwood.

February 10: A BIG BOLD BEAUTIFUL JOURNEY. Two strangers who meet at a mutual friend's wedding have the chance to relive important moments from their pasts, illuminating the path that led them to the present and gaining the opportunity to change their futures. 2025. Rated R. 139 minutes. Featuring: Colin Farrell, Margot Robbie, Hamish Linklater, Jennifer Grant, Jodie Turner-Smith.

February 17: BAD GUYS 2. The Bad Guys are struggling to find trust and acceptance in their newly minted lives as Good Guys, when they are pulled out of retirement and forced to do "one last job" by an all-female squad of criminals. 2025. Rated PG. 104 minutes. Cast: Sam Rockwell, Marc Maron, Awkwafina, Craig Robinson, Anthony Ramos.

February 24: REGRETTING YOU. A mother and daughter must grapple with what's left after a devastating accident reveals a shocking betrayal and forces them to confront family secrets, redefine love, and rediscover themselves. 2025. Rated PG-13. 116 minutes. Starring: Mason Thames, McKenna Grace, Allison Williams, Dave Franco.

### Play Games!

Mondays, February 2 (party games), 9 (Cribbage), 23 (Scrabble), 12:30-2:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required. Beginners and experienced players are welcome! Join us to play an old favorite or learn a new game!

Fiber Arts Club for Tweens & Teens  
Mondays, February 2 & 23, 3:30-4:30 pm - Storytime Room - no registration required  
Do you like to knit crocheting, sewing, embroidery, needle felting, or other fiber art? Join us to hang out, practice your craft, learn from more experienced friends, or share your knowledge with others! Please note that we cannot guarantee the presence of a teacher to instruct specific crafts at every meeting. \*\*Bring your current projects to work on! \*\* This group is best suited for tweens and teens aged 9-18. Registration is not required!

Wiggles & Giggles for Littles (YFCP)  
Mondays, February 2 & 9, 9:45-10:15 am - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Join the YMCA Family & Community Partnership for a free music and movement series created and facilitated by music teacher Laine Hanlon! Children, ages 6-23 months, with a parent/caregiver, will sing, move, play musical instruments, learn rhythm, and listen to stories. "Wiggles and Giggles" fosters physical, cognitive, social, and emotional learning through music and motion. Siblings are welcome. Space is limited, and registration is required each week. This series is sponsored by the YMCA Family & Community Partnership (YFCP) and hosted by the Charlton Public Library. YFCP is a Massachusetts Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE) grant funded by the Department of Early Education & Care and awarded to the YMCA of Central Massachusetts.

Wiggles & Giggles (YFCP)  
Mondays, February 2 & 9, 10:30-11:30

am - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Children, ages 2-5, with a parent/caregiver, will sing, move, play musical instruments, learn rhythm, and listen to stories in this FREE series facilitated by music teacher Laine Hanlon! "Wiggles & Giggles" fosters physical, cognitive, social, and emotional learning through music and motion. Registration is required. Space is limited. This series is sponsored by the YMCA Family & Community Partnership (YFCP) and hosted by the Charlton Public Library. YFCP is a Massachusetts Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE) grant funded by the Department of Early Education & Care and awarded to the YMCA of Central Massachusetts.

Tiny Tots Storytime (ages 0-2.5)  
Tuesdays, February 3 & 10, 10:00-10:45 am - Storytime Room

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

Adulthood 101, Mindfully  
Tuesdays, February 3 & 17, 5:00-6:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Join us for a free, eight-week series for teens presented by Sur-thrive Wellness. Each session covers a different "Adulthood" theme/topic combined with mindful practices. These sessions are best for teens aged 12-16, but older teens are welcome to attend. Please register for each session you wish to attend. Sur-thrive Wellness is a Holistic

Accessibility Expert, specializing in working with those with disabilities, including depression, anxiety, autism spectrum, learning disabilities, and other disabilities.

Intro to ChatGPT  
Tuesday, February 3 from 6:00-7:00 pm - Local History Room - registration required  
Thursday, February 5 from 6:00-7:00 pm - Local History Room - registration required  
Curious about ChatGPT and what it can do for you? Join us for a hands-on introduction to one of today's most popular AI tools! In this beginner-friendly workshop, you'll learn what ChatGPT is, how it works, and how it can help with everyday tasks like writing, researching, organizing ideas, learning new skills, and more. No technical experience is required—just bring your curiosity and get ready to explore the world of artificial intelligence in a simple, practical way.

Baby Storytime (0-12 months)  
Wednesdays, February 4 & 11, 10:00-10:45 am - Storytime Room - no registration required

For infants - 12 months only. Join us for board books, songs, fingerplays, music, shakers, scarves, bubbles & free play! This is a drop-in program. No registration or ticket required.

Better Read Than Dead Book Club  
Wednesday, February 4, 11:00-12:00 - Local History Room - no registration required  
Do you love true crime? So do we! Join us for a monthly meet up to discuss entertaining & fascinating details about true crimes. The book will be available at the adult circulation desk one month prior to the meeting. This month, we will discuss Death in Mud Lick by Eric Eyre.

AI for Seniors  
Wednesday, February 4, 1:00-3:00 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required  
Robots, smart assistants and magic-sounding tech—oh my! If you've ever wondered  
Turn To **EVENTS** *page A10*

# LEGALS

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 166, §22F notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the Town Manager on Thursday, March 5 at 10:00 a.m. in the George Parent Meeting Room, second floor of the Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, in regards to a petition filed by National Grid for the following Order for JO Pole installation: LEBANON HILL RD: National Grid, Inc., requests permission to locate poles, wires and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures along and across the following public way: LEBANON HILL RD. National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on LEBANON HILL RD., beginning at a point approximately 165 feet north of the centerline of the intersection of Lebanon Hill Rd. and Elmwood Rd. Install 1 JO Pole for residential service upgrade. Anyone wishing to be heard regarding this petition will be given the opportunity to speak.  
TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE  
John D. Jovan Jr., Town Manager  
January 22, 2026

**Town of Sturbridge Select Board Public Hearing**  
In accordance with the requirements of M. G. L. Chapter 40A, § 11, and the Votes Act of 2022, and effective June 23, 2022, section 25B. The Sturbridge Select Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 6:45 pm at the Sturbridge Town Hall, 308 Main Street, Sturbridge MA to opt out of offering Vote by Mail and Early Voting for the Local Election in April 2026. Any person interested or wishing to be heard on the issue should appear at the time and place designated.  
January 22, 2026

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 166, §22F notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the Town Manager on Thursday, March 12 at 10:00 a.m. in the George Parent Meeting Room, second floor of the Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, in regards to a petition filed by National Grid for the following Order for JO Pole installation: MOON ST.: National Grid, Inc., requests permission to locate poles, wires and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures along and across the following public way: MOON ST. National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on MOON ST., beginning at a point approximately 364 feet north of the centerline of the intersection of Snow St and Moon St. Install 1 JO Pole P3-50. Anyone wishing to be heard regarding this petition will be given the opportunity to speak.  
TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE

John D. Jovan Jr., Town Manager  
January 22, 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. WO20P1528EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Bessie Michael**  
**Date of Death: 12/27/2017**  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Margaret E. Michael-Ralston of Pittsford NY** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Margaret E. Michael-Ralston of Pittsford NY** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/17/2026.** 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: January 12, 2026  
Stephanie Fatman,  
Register of Probate  
January 22, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester MA, 01608 Docket No. WO26P0080GD CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G. L.c. 1908, § 5-304**  
**In the matter of: Juan Y. Lopez Of: Southbridge, MA RESPONDENT**  
Alleged Incapacitated Person  
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Raiza Rivera of Southbridge, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Juan Y. Lopez** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Raiza Rivera of Southbridge, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **02/10/2026.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.**  
WITNESS, on. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: January 12, 2026  
Pamela Casey O'Brien  
Register of Probate  
January 22, 2026

**MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE**  
By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain

mortgage given by **174 HAMILTON STREET LLC to Alpha Real Estate Lending LLC**, dated April 11, 2024 and recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 70392, Page 189 of which mortgage **Alpha Real Estate Lending LLC** is the present holder for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 174 Hamilton Street, Southbridge, MA will be sold at a Public Auction at 1:00 PM on February 9, 2026, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: The land, with all buildings and improvements thereon, situated in Southbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows: The land in said Southbridge with the buildings thereon, situated on the easterly side of Hamilton Street, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the northwesterly corner thereof, at a drill hole in the stone curbing on the easterly line of Hamilton Street at land of Southbridge & Webster Plumbing Co., Inc., formerly of Elizabeth A. Bourdelais; THENCE easterly by land of said Southbridge & Webster Plumbing Cop., Inc., about 193 feet to an iron pin in the ground at the westerly line of the locate in of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad; THENCE southerly by said Railroad location about 80 feet to land of Tetreault, formerly of John J. O'Shaughnessy; THENCE westerly by said Tetreault land 200 feet more or less to the easterly line of Hamilton Street; THENCE northerly by the easterly line of Hamilton Street 80 feet to the point of beginning. Terms of the Sale: Cash, cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$10,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable in cash or current funds in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Taft & McSally, LLP, 21 Garden City Drive, Cranston, RI 02920 or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. Other terms to be announced at the sale. Alpha Real Estate Lending LLC Present holder of said mortgage, by its attorney John V. McGreen Taft & McSally, LLP 21 Garden City Drive Cranston, RI 02920 (401) 946-3800 January 15, 2026 January 22, 2026 January 29, 2026



# OBITUARIES

## Maureen Anne Ethier, 87

Ware ~ Maureen Anne (Welsh) Ethier, 87, died Sunday, January 11, 2026, at Baystate Wing Memorial Hospital in Palmer surrounded by family, following an illness. She was the beloved wife of 68 years of Richard T. Ethier, whom she married on November 30, 1957.

Mrs. Ethier was born in Holyoke, MA, on March 1, 1938, daughter of the late William and Lorraine (Gelinis) Welsh. She was a graduate with the class of 1955 from Holyoke High School. When she and her husband settled down in Brimfield to raise their family, she owned and operated the former Crystal Brook Dollhouse and Miniatures in Brimfield, MA for 33 years. Mr. Ethier would build the dollhouses, and she would craft the miniatures. Among her many activities, Mrs. Ethier enjoyed crafting, sewing, gardening, and miniaturizing. She was a very involved parishioner of St. Christopher's Church, and she taught Catechism for many years to the church's youth. Her greatest joy was spending time with her family.

She is survived by her husband, Richard T. Ethier Sr. She is also survived by their children: Richard Ethier, Jr. of Tucson, AZ; David Ethier of South Grafton, MA; Christopher Ethier of Johnston, RI, and Cynthia Ethier of Shrewsbury, MA. Mrs. Ethier was predeceased by her daugh-



ter, Michelle Ethier-Lazo, who died September 14, 2020. She is also survived by her four grandchildren: Jennifer Ellison, James (Jay) Ethier and his wife, Lori, Garret Lazo, and Benjamin Lazo; 4 great-grandchildren: Hailey, Taylor, Adelyn, and Blake; and by her brothers Robert Welsh of Puyallup, Washington, and Michael Welsh of East

Longmeadow, MA, as well as by many nephews, nieces, and friends. She is predeceased by her brothers, William Welsh and Richard Welsh, and her sister, Kathleen Welsh.

Calling hours were held on Friday, January 16, from 4-6PM, at Sansoucy Funeral Home, 40 Marcy Street, Southbridge, MA. A Mass of Christian Burial for Mrs. Ethier was held on Saturday, January 17, at 11AM, in St. Christopher's Church, 16 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA. Family and friends were invited to gather at the funeral home from 9-10AM prior to the Funeral Mass. Burial was immediately follow in Brimfield Cemetery, 28 Wales Road, Brimfield, MA. The family requests in lieu of flowers that you kindly consider making memorial donations in Maureen's memory to either St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or to the International Guild of Miniature Artisans, P.O. Box 3643, Hollywood, FL 33083.

## Stanley J. Soltys

1943-2026



Warren - Stanley John Soltys, age 82 passed away on the afternoon of Saturday, January 10, 2026, at Saint Vincent Hospital in Worcester. Stanley was born on September 3, 1943, in Palmer, Massachusetts, son of the late Stanley J. Soltys, Sr. and Genevieve E. (Kosmider) Soltys. Stanley was a 1961 graduate of Palmer High School. On December 27, 1961, Stanley enlisted in the United States Navy, and proudly served his country for four years. Stanley was stationed at the former Chelsea Naval Hospital, where he served as a medical corpsman. He and his unit were put on active alert during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. Stanley was honorably discharged on April 26, 1966, with the rank of HN (Hospital Corpsman). He enrolled in Worcester Polytechnic Institute School of Industrial Management in Worcester and received a 4-year certificate in Industrial Management. Stanley was employed for American Optical in Southbridge for 20 years and in 1987 went to work for E. Osterman Gas Service. While employed at Osterman Gas, Stanley held many titles: Plant Manager, District/Area Manager and retiring as Key Account Manager in 1999. In 2002, Stanley underwent a kidney and liver transplant at the Lahey Clinic. He enjoyed cooking and was especially known for his Bread & Butter pickles and relishes. On November 12, 1966, Stanley entered into Holy Matrimony, in St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Palmer, with Beverly Ann Bradlenski, they have been married for 59 years. Stanley was a member of the former Knights of Columbus in Warren, where he planned several fundraising dinners. For the past 21 years, he was a communicant of St. Mary's Church in Ware. He was also

a past member of the Warren Capital Planning Committee. Stanley and Beverly lived for 38 years in Sturbridge and 21 years in Warren. Stanley leaves behind his loving wife, Beverly Ann (Bradlenski) Soltys, his sisters in law; Carol Ann Soltys and Joan Carol Doleva, nephews and nieces: Debra Ablicki (Tom), Daniel Murphy (April), Mark Murphy, Lisa (Soltys) Navin (Rick), Gary Soltys (Kathleen), and Jennifer (Doleva) Bowser (Jason). He also leaves behind his great nephews and nieces: Jonathan Ablicki, Jennifer Ablicki, Ashley (Navin) Malnati, Erin (Navin) Munro, John Soltys and Andrew Soltys, along with many cousins and friends. Stanley also leaves behind his loving min-

iature schnauzer, Lady. Stanley was predeceased by his father, Stanley J. Soltys, Sr., in 1956, his mother, Genevieve E. (Kosmider) Soltys-Dojka in 2000, and his brother, John J. Soltys and sister Helen Murphy-Hall both on August 28, 2000. Calling Hours for Stanley will be held on Friday, January 23, 2026, from 3 - 5 pm in Cebula Funeral Home, 66 South St., Ware. A Funeral Mass will be offered on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at 11 am in St. Mary's Church, 57 South St., Ware. Military Honors will be rendered following the funeral mass on the plaza in front of the church. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the following: The Warren Fire Fighters Association, P.O. Box 608, Warren, MA 01083 or to Second Chance Animal Service, P.O. Box 136, E. Brookfield, MA 01515, or to a charity of your choice. Funeral Arrangements and Services are under the direction of Cebula Funeral Home, Ware. For more information and an online guestbook, please visit: [www.cebulafuneralhome.com](http://www.cebulafuneralhome.com).



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EVENTS

continued from page A10  
what AI actually is (and what it isn't), this fun, no-pressure class is for you. Explore how artificial intelligence shows up in everyday life, how to use it to make things easier, and why it's not just for the younger crowd. Come with questions, leave with confidence!

**T h r e a d e d**  
Together Fiber Arts Group (formerly Silver Needles Knit & Crochet Group)

**T h u r s d a y s**  
from 1:00-3:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

Bring your current project and relax with friends. All are welcome regardless of skill level.

**Genealogy Group**  
**T h u r s d a y**, February 5, 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration not required

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

**P r e s c h o o l**  
Storytime (Ages 3-5)

Fraturdays, February 6 & 13, 10:00-10:45 am - Storytime Room

For ages 3-5. Join us for stories, songs, fingerplays, scarves, activities, crafts,

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

**Lego Club**  
Friday, February 6, 3:30-4:30 pm - Storytime Room - no registration required  
**LEGO Club** encourages children to learn while having fun! Creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork are some of the skills that "playing" with LEGOS can teach children. Join us on the first Friday of each month to complete a LEGO challenge. All LEGOs will be provided. Try out the Lego Challenge, or create your own design! Bring your friends! This is a drop-in program recommended for ages 5-10.

**Drop-in Tech Help** - Local History Room - no registration required

**Tuesday, February 3 & 24 and Thursday, February 5** from 4:30 - 5:30 pm

**S a t u r d a y**, February 28 from 10 am - noon

Do you have a few quick questions about technology? Would you like to learn how to use apps like Libby

or Kanopy? Drop in and speak with Charlton Library's Digital Skills Instructor and get the dedicated support you need. If you will need more than 15 minutes of tech help, please make a one-on-one appointment in person at the library, online, or by calling 508-248-0452. We cannot assist with setting up a new device; fixing/restoring/repairing a broken or infected device, app, or email account; entering sensitive information for you (e.g. credit card information, social security number, online banking, etc.); keyboarding, typing, or proofreading documents. We cannot provide medical, legal, and business advice or opinions.

**Friends of Charlton Public Library**  
**Tuesday, February 10,** 3:30-4:45 pm - Community Meeting Room  
The monthly meeting of the Friends of Charlton Public Library. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**CPL Book Discussion** - Brave New World by Aldous Huxley  
**T h u r s d a y**, February 12, 6:00-7:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required  
Books are available for checkout at the adult circulation desk one month prior to discussion.

**Galentine's Day**  
**T h u r s d a y**, February 12, 6:00-7:00 OR 6:30-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required  
Join us for a fun evening with crafts, snacks, and a little self care! We'll have a special Galentine's photobooth setup too! We have two sessions scheduled so that we can accommodate more

folks, please sign up for only one session. This program is for adults and teens ages 13 and up. Registration is required.

**iPhone Essentials: Find My, Wallet, and Translate**

**Friday, February 13, 10:30-11:30 am** - Dexter Hall - registration required

This class covers a variety of tools and features built into the iPhone and iPad. We learn to share our locations with our friends and family, make safe, secure payments with our phones, and converse in different languages using the Translate app.

**Personalizing Your Device: Widgets and Apps**

**Friday, February 13, 12:30-1:30 pm** - Dexter Hall - registration required

In this class, we learn to add helpful widgets to our Home Screens, choose which apps can send us notifications, and further explore options for customizing our wallpapers and Lock Screens.

**Kids Yoga with Lindsey**  
Fridays, February 13 & 27, 4:00-4:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

In these classes, we will practice breathing techniques (pranayama), yoga postures (asana), and more to help participants connect with their bodies, minds, and spirits. This focus invites kids to recognize the ability to act and behave mindfully with compassion, to be brave, to know happiness, and to find inner peace and calm. While yoga helps build strength and flexibility, it also helps develop techniques for handling stress. Dress comfortably, and bring water and a mat if you have

one. For ages 5-11. Registration is required for each child. Caregivers may attend with children, but do not need to register. Classes are provided by Lindsey Haantrella at Haantrella Healing.

**Drop-in Needle Felting for Adults**

**Tuesday, February 17, 6:00-7:30 pm** - Local History Room - no registration required

**W e d n e s d a y**, February 18, 10:00-11:30 am - Local History Room - no registration required

This time is just for you to drop-in and work on your projects! There will be needles, wool, and pads for use but no formal instruction or project planned. Feel free to bring a project you've already started or use our supplies to bring your ideas to life. This program is for adults 18 and over due to the nature of the materials being used

**Adult Craft: Paper Roses**

**Tuesday, February 17, 6:00-7:30 pm** - Dexter Hall - registration required

**W e d n e s d a y**, February 18, 11:00-12:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

Valentine's Day lasts only 24 hours, but these roses will bloom all year long! Participants will cut and fold book pages to make a small bouquet of roses. For adults and teens ages 13 and up.

**Dungeons and Dragons for Teens**

**W e d n e s d a y**, February 18, 1:00-3:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Ready yourself for adventure and step into the world of Dungeons & Dragons with this one-shot adventure from Dungeon

Delvers! Up to six players will join together to fight fearsome monsters and brave dangerous landscapes in the world of the Forgotten Realms setting. Players of all experience levels welcome! For teens ages 12-18.

**Writing Workshop for Kids**

**T h u r s d a y**, February 19, 2:00-3:00 pm - Storytime Room - registration required

Join us for this beginner writing workshop for kids! We'll do some fun writing prompts, talk about our favorite types of stories, and share our writing (optional!) If you are currently working on a writing project, please feel free to bring it. Bring a notebook or notepad and something to write with (laptops and tablets are also allowed!)

Best for ages 8-12. Registration is required.

**Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group**

**T h u r s d a y**, February 19, 6:00-7:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

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

**Becoming More Grief Literate**

**T h u r s d a y**, February 19, 6:00-6:30 pm - Dexter Hall - no registration required

Experts in the field of grief encourage people to become "grief literate." When we learn more about grief, how people grieve, and what people need when they grieve, we will be better at supporting those around us in grief and be more prepared for loss ourselves. Come join Laurel Hemmer, JHC Hospice's Bereavement Coordinator and Certified Grief Educator to explore this topic. Stay afterwards for our monthly Death Café discussion from 6:30-7:30 pm.

**Death Cafe**

**T h u r s d a y**, February 19, 6:30-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - no registration required

A Death Café is a group directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives or course of action, no set conclusions and no judgement. Death Cafés provide a safe environment to gather, eat cake, drink tea or coffee, and enjoy open-minded conversation about dying and death. It is an opportunity to share, explore and question our

own perceptions of death. It's not a bereavement session – just an open conversation about a topic that we often find taboo. You are welcome to share as much or as little as you wish. The group meets monthly on the third Thursday of the month from 6-7:30 pm in Dexter Hall. Questions? Email [kwalker4@mac.com](mailto:kwalker4@mac.com). The Death Cafe model was developed by Jon Underwood and Sue Barsky Reid, based on the ideas of Bernard Crettaz.

**Beginner Crochet for ages 9-18**

**Friday, February 20, 10:30-11:30 am** - Storytime Room - registration required

Curious about crochet? This hands-on beginner class invites kids and teens to explore the art of crochet while learning essential skills. Participants will practice basic stitches and start a small project while developing patience, creativity, and fine motor skills. No prior experience required; materials will be provided. (Please feel free to bring your own supplies if you have them!) For ages 9-18. Registration is required. Spaces are limited.

**Staying in Touch Using Phone, Messages, and FaceTime**

**Friday, February 20, 10:30-11:30 am** - Dexter Hall - registration required

This class focuses on using the iPhone and iPad to stay in touch with friends and loved ones. We learn about sending texts in Messages, managing contacts in Phone, and setting up video calls in FaceTime. We also learn to use Siri to make calls and send messages.

**Apple Watch for Beginners**

**Friday, February 20, 12:30-1:30 pm** - Dexter Hall - registration required

This class will teach attendees about the Apple Watch's hardware, including its speakers, screen, and buttons, as well as the basics of navigating the Apple Watch and using its apps for messaging, making and answering calls, and other important functions.

**Crafternoon for Kids**

**Friday, February 20, 3:30-4:30 pm** - Storytime Room - registration required

Drop by the Storytime Room and make a fun craft! Best for ages 5-10. Please register so we know we will have enough supplies!

**Discovering New England Stone Walls**

**S a t u r d a y**, February 21, 11:00-12:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration appreciated

Why are we so fascinated with stone walls? Kevin Gardner, author of The Granite Kiss, explains how and why New England came to acquire its thousands of miles of stone walls, the ways that they and other

dry stone structures were built, how their styles emerged and changed over time, and their significance to the famous New England landscape. Along the way, Kevin occupies himself by building a miniature wall or walls on a tabletop, using tiny stones from a five-gallon bucket.

**Saturday Acoustic Roots Jam-SARJ**

**S a t u r d a y**, February 21, 12:00-1:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

An acoustic only music jam. Open to all 18+. Email Rich at [Cule5632@gmail.com](mailto:Cule5632@gmail.com) for more information.

**Ancestry: Library Edition**

**Tuesday, February 24, 6:00-7:00 pm** - Local History Room - registration required

**S a t u r d a y**, February 28, 1:30-2:30 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Ancestry Library Edition is a free genealogy database available at the library that helps you explore your family's past. Access billions of historical records, including census data, birth, marriage, and death records, immigration documents, and military records. Join our workshop to learn how to search records, build your family tree, and uncover the stories of your ancestors—no experience required.

**CULE- Charlton Ukulele League & Ensemble**

**T h u r s d a y**, February 26, 6:00-8:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

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

**Using the iPhone for Health and Emergencies**

**Friday, February 27, 10:30-11:30 am** - Dexter Hall - registration required

In this class, we explore how the iPhone can help in different emergency situations and offer insight into our health. We learn how to set up emergency contacts, use the SOS feature, turn on voice activation, and use the Health app to find patterns and changes in our physical health.

**Using YouTube, Netflix, and Other Streaming Services**

**Friday, February 27, 12:30-1:30 pm** - Dexter Hall - registration required

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# Nazareth University announces fall Dean's List

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Nazareth University students named to the fall 2025 Dean's List.

Dakota Schantz of Sturbridge. Matthew Schirm of Fiskdale.

A student's grade point average must be at least 3.5 or above, and they must complete 12 credit hours of graded work that semester in order to be included on the dean's list at Nazareth.

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

Impact experiences are at the heart of a Nazareth University 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 change-making leadership in communities and workplaces near and far.

**EVENTS**  
continued from page A10  
YouTube are among many services that allow you to “stream” movies, TV shows, and videos. They offer engaging options and offer an exciting alternative—or addition—to regular cable TV. This class teaches participants how these services work and how users can find interesting content to enjoy.

Critical Thinking Discussion Group  
Friday, February 27, 1:00-2:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required  
No experience with critical thinking discussion groups is necessary. Books/materials are available for checkout one month prior to discussion. Questions? Email [saga3@charter.net](mailto:saga3@charter.net).  
Gentle Flow Yoga

Saturday, February 28, 10:00-11:00 am - Dexter Hall - registration required  
All Levels Welcome! Breathe, stretch, and unwind in this relaxing 60-minute yoga class. Perfect for beginners and experienced yogis alike, this class will blend gentle, mindful movement with calming breathwork and end in a deeply restful savasana. Bring a mat, water bottle and any props. (Some blocks and knee pads available). Led by Erin Anderson – RYT-200 yoga instructor and SEL facilitator. Registration is required. This program is for adults and teens ages 13 and up.

Puzzle Race  
Saturday, February 28, 12:30-2:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required  
Can your team complete a jigsaw puzzle faster than your friends and neighbors? Each team will receive the same 500 piece puzzle provided by the library. The team that finishes first or completes the most before time is called wins! Adults, teens, and families with children aged 8+ are welcome to participate. Registration is required- only one person from each team should register. Teams can have up to six members. Don't have a team? Email Betsy at [peryb@cwmar.org](mailto:peryb@cwmar.org) and we'll put together a team of interested folks!



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**We Want Your Listings!**



**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

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



ASTONISHING 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.



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**to serve our community by helping our Clients navigate the real estate market!**  
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**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! Backhouse 51' of sandy beachfront! \$799,000.

**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 - 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

**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. Patio! Town Wtr/Swr + Private Well for Outdoor &/or Off-Season Water Use! 14,300 SF+/- Level Lot w/105+ of Shoreline. \$595,000



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**DUDLEY- 10 DAVE'S WAY**  
**Great Lot, Great Location, Great Features**  
\*1.5 Baths \*Kitchen with Dining Area  
\*3 Generous bedrooms \*Oversized Deck  
\*Fenced in Yard  
\* Finished Lower Level Familyroom  
\*2 Car Detached Oversized Garage

**WORCESTER- Near UMASS Hospital**



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\* 2 Bed  
\*Garage  
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\*24' Great Room \*2.5 Baths  
\*Hardwood Floors includes Extra Lot  
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**DUDEY- 8 ROOMS**



**\$578,500**  
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\*3 Full Baths  
\*Includes 2 Year Home Warranty Plan  
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**CHARLTON- Featured Home**  
**50 OLD SPENCER RD \$525,000**



\*7 Room Split \* Fireplace  
\*2 Full Baths  
\*Finished Lower Level-  
3 Bedrooms-Bath  
\*Recent Septic System

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# From Uganda to Jamaica

## Visiting priest connects with Saint Joseph students

WEBSTER — Saint Joseph School recently welcomed Fr. James Kandole Saturday, a Catholic priest serving in Jamaica, for a two-day visit on Tuesday, Dec. 2, and Wednesday, Dec. 3. Fr. Saturday is a longtime friend of Rev. Richard Polek, pastor of Saint Joseph Parish, and the two met through Food for the Poor, an international relief and development organization that supports communities in need through emergency aid and long-term assistance, including housing and other basic necessities.

Fr. Saturday began his visit by joining the school community for its Advent Prayer Service on Tuesday morning. Afterward, he spent the day in the school's classrooms, meeting students and staff across every grade level. Teachers noted how naturally he connected with younger children—at times sitting on the floor with them to talk about their interests and questions. In the Pre-K 3 classroom, Fr. Saturday used a small Nativity set as a hands-on way to discuss the birth of Jesus, helping students reflect on the meaning of the season in an age-appropriate, engaging way.

Later that afternoon, students in Grades 5–8 gathered in the parish center for an energetic question-and-answer session. Students asked everything from his favorite foods—such as matoke (green bananas) and Jamaica's well-known jerk chicken—to thoughtful questions about his childhood in Uganda, his decision to become a priest, his favorite Bible verse, and his guiding purpose in life.



Saint Joseph School National Junior Honor Society member Axel Kapitulik (Grade 8) presents a \$500 check to Fr. James Kandole Saturday. The donation will support Fr. Saturday's ministry and help fund repairs to his church following Hurricane Melissa, a Category 5 hurricane that struck Jamaica in October 2025.



Fr. James Kandole Saturday sits with Saint Joseph School's PreK three-year-old students during his classroom visit, speaking about the Nativity and the birth of Jesus as the children listen attentively.

Fr. Saturday emphasized a consistent theme throughout the discussion: his hope is to help others "fall in love with God," encouraging students to live with humility, perseverance, and trust in God.

Middle school students were especially interested

in Fr. Saturday's reflections on his ministry in Jamaica and his community's experience during Hurricane Melissa, a Category 5 storm that struck Jamaica in 2025. He spoke candidly about the fear and uncertainty of the hurricane, the practical steps people took to find safe-

ty, and the lasting emotional impact of the destruction—

while also sharing a message of faith and resilience in the aftermath.

Fr. Saturday returned on Wednesday for a final gathering with the entire student body. Beth Boudreau, Principal of Saint Joseph School, presented him with a school gift bag and Saint Joseph School items as a token of appreciation. During the assembly, the Saint Joseph School National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)—advised by Mrs. Karen Lefebvre—presented Fr. Saturday with a \$500 donation to support his church's work.

NJHS is a national student organization that recognizes middle school students for scholarship, leadership,

service, character, and citizenship. At Saint Joseph School, members commit to service throughout the year and organize regular fundraisers to support a variety of charitable causes—both local and beyond. The donation to Fr. Saturday's ministry is one example of how NJHS students at Saint Joseph School put their values into action through planned giving and ongoing service initiatives.

The assembly concluded with the school community singing "Sto Lat" and taking a group photo with Fr. Saturday. Staff and students expressed gratitude for his visit and shared hope that he will return to Saint Joseph School again in the future.

## Local students earn Dean's List honors at Nichols College

DUDLEY — Nichols College is proud to recognize the academic accomplishments of students on the fall 2025 Dean's List.

Dean's List recognizes those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. To be included on the Dean's List, a student must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and must have received no grades below B- during the semester.

The following local students have achieved Dean's List honors for the fall 2025 semester:

Meghan D'Acri of Charlton  
Alexandria Patterson of Uxbridge  
Tyler Richardson of Uxbridge  
Hunter Schiller of Uxbridge  
Jonathan Martin of Southbridge  
Benjamin Yarter of Sturbridge  
About Nichols College  
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 busi-

ness schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols 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

## Chase Brush of Charlton named to Provost's List at Hofstra University

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Chase Brush of Charlton achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA during the fall 2025 semester, earning a spot on

the Provost's List at Hofstra University. Chase's major is Biology.

Hofstra University's primary mission is to

provide a quality education to its students in an environment that encourages, nurtures, and supports learning. At Hofstra, new

ideas take shape through collaboration, engagement, and interaction. Hofstra students create their success with small classes

and dedicated faculty, alongside a beautiful campus, plus all the opportunities of New York City within easy reach.

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Luciano's  
Cotton  
Club

6pm  
DJ

Saturday, February 14, 2026

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for reservations



The Sturbridge Police Department would like to recognize their high school intern, Natalie Sullivan, as she completes her internship with us this week. During her internship here, Sullivan has played a key role in supporting our department. She contributed to our daily operations by assisting staff with administrative tasks and presentations and gained firsthand insight into law enforcement through her time on ridealongs with our officers. We are proud to share that Natalie was accepted into all 13 schools she applied to. She hopes to attend Westfield State University this fall to pursue a major in Criminal Justice. The department thanks her for her work and service to the Sturbridge community, and wishes her the very best in your academic journey and your future professional career. Congratulations! Photo courtesy of the department's Facebook page.