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Thursday-Friday, December 25-26, 2025

Charlton resident honored at nonprofit gala

EAST PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Aldersbridge Communities, a nonprofit provider of affordable assisted living and independent living housing, assisted living memory care, rehabilitation therapy, and navigator services throughout Rhode Island, announces its 2025 “Adding Life to Years” fundraising gala has raised over \$100,000 in support of the organization’s services.

Held at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick on December 4th and presented by Moss Home Solutions, the event brought 250 attendees together to celebrate Aldersbridge’s mission of caring for the health and living needs of older adults. Mr. T.J. Del Santo, meteorologist at WPRI-TV 12/ FOX, served as emcee for the evening’s programming.

Festivities included a cocktail reception, full-course dinner, a mission-driven speaking program, as well as live and silent auctions. Funds raised will support customized care, specialized activity programs, and operational capital needed to serve the resident population at Aldersbridge Communities’ four locations: Winslow Gardens (assisted and independent living), East Providence;



Charlton resident Mike Cole, president of the Aldersbridge Communities Board of Trustees, was honored at the company’s annual holiday gala in recognition of his strong leadership during challenging times, such as COVID-19 and the sad closure of the organization’s long-time nursing home (Linn Health & Rehabilitation) due to inadequate and unsustainable Medicaid reimbursement funding. During COVID, Cole, a facilities manager by trade with an engineering mind, devised a “hug station” for families of nursing home residents to safely hug their loved ones.

The Loft at Linn (assisted living memory care), East Providence; Arbor Hill (assisted living), Providence; and St. Germain (assisted living), Woonsocket. In addition, funds will be used in support of outpatient rehabilitation services at the Aldersbridge Physical Therapy and Wellness Center (East Providence), and the Aldersbridge Navigator service which helps guide seniors and their families



Courtesy

ognition of his strong leadership; Colleen McMichael (Cumberland, R.I. resident), a family member who led a robotic ‘cat adoption’ initiative at The Loft at Linn where her mother resided before she passed away; and Dawn Perry (East Providence, RI resident), food service director at St. Germain Assisted Living in Woonsocket, in recognition of her exemplary service.

Additional highlights from the event were: a keynote address by Alrie McNiff Daniels, a social impact leader and facilitator who advocated changing the way people think and talk about aging and ageism; a video presentation that chronicled the addiction struggles of former pro basketball player, pro boxer and pro golfer Al Soares who now lives at Winslow Gardens; and when T.J. Del Santo came onto the stage dressed in full quahogging gear to auction off a package to dig with him for quahogs at one of his secret locations.

moon,” to shine a spotlight on the organization’s vision. Major sponsors were: BEACON OF LIGHT/ PRESENTING SPONSOR: Moss Home Solutions; CONSTELLATION SPONSORS: BayCoast Bank, Imperial Distributors,

Starkweather & Shepley Insurance Brokerage, Inc., and Waterson Terminal Services. Honorees for the 2025 gala were Michael Cole (a resident of Charlton), president of the Aldersbridge Board of Trustees, in rec-

Blessing Bags deliver more than comfort

STURBRIDGE — The St. Vincent de Paul chapter at St. Anne – St. Patrick parish in Fiskdale recently implemented a blessing bag initiative designed to bring comfort to those who are unhoused. But, more important, these bags offer physical, emotional and social connection.

The blessing bags contain a variety of seasonally appropriate items, including a hat, gloves, toiletry items, socks, candy, crackers, snacks, lip balm, and a gift card for McDonald’s. The simple act of reaching out to another person amplifies the importance of the gesture and enhances the benefits for both giver and recipient.

John Lynch, long-time parishioner at St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish, introduced the idea of blessing bags after he attended a Catholic men’s conference. The speaker had related his family’s personal experience with homelessness and addiction and how he had created the blessing

bag as a way to reach those in need. Lynch identified with the speaker’s situation and felt compelled to launch a similar program.

Lynch introduced the idea to Father Luc Martel, then pastor at St. Anne – St. Patrick, and the St. Vincent de Paul chapter at the parish agreed to adopt the idea.

“We started with 100 bags,” Lynch said. “Participation has increased and we have given out 200 blessing bags so far.”

According to Lynch, his participation in the blessing bag program has educated him with regard to the plight of homelessness. Like many individuals, he was unaware of the root causes of homelessness but came to understand that some form of addiction triggered by mental illness can have devastating consequences on the individual and the family, including homelessness. The blessing bags have served to raise awareness and understand-

ing as more people become involved in the initiative.

“Most people are not aware that we are doing more than just helping the homeless,” said Lynch.

“The end result is that a lot of people have been educated. They now look at homelessness differently.”

St. Vincent de Paul purchases the contents of the bags and accepts donations from individuals and businesses. Lynch noted that Joe Spadea, owner/operator of a local McDonald’s franchise donated 200 gift cards for the bags.

Lynch keeps extra blessing bags in his car in the event he encounters someone in need. When he gives a bag to an individual, he makes eye contact and engages in conversation.

“I initially thought the blessing bags were helping the homeless, but the spirit of the program is more beneficial for the giver,” he said.

However, Lynch empha-

sizes that providing these bags does not solve the larger problem.

“Life has given these individuals challenges with which they cannot cope,” he noted.

For more information about the blessing bag program, visit svdpfiskdale.org or call 508-347-6398.

St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish is an active parish community. It offers daily Mass for worship, religious education, and community ministries. It welcomes visitors to St. Anne Shrine, the new Memorial for the Unborn, the Hall of Saints, the Russian Icon Exhibit, the Votive Chapel, the Generations Statue, and the Angel of Hope Monument. The Daily Rosary is recited at 3 p.m. in the St. Patrick Chapel, and weekend Masses are celebrated in its outdoor pavilion in the summer. Its religious gift shop is open every day from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Dexter employees unite to fulfill holiday wish lists for 67 children in Charlton School District

SOUTHBRIDGE — In a heartfelt show of community spirit, employees of Dexter-Russell, Inc. came together this holiday season to support children and families across the Charlton School District. Through a coordinated Giving Tree initiative, Dexter employees fulfilled holiday wish lists for 67 children and 36 families at Heritage School, Charlton Elementary School, and Charlton Middle School.

What began as an internal call for volunteers quickly grew into a company-wide effort. Employees from across all departments—manufacturing, administration, customer service, and leadership—personally selected tags, shopped for gifts, and thoughtfully wrapped presents to ensure each child received a joyful holiday experience. The tradition culminated in a special delivery day, where Dexter team members, joined by Santa Claus, visited all three Charlton schools to drop off gifts for distribution. The gifts included winter clothing, books, toys, art supplies, sports gear, and other essentials requested by the families.

“Our employees never hesitate to step up for our community,” said Alan Peppel, CEO/President of Dexter-Russell. “Supporting local families during the holiday season is something we’re incredibly proud of. The generosity shown throughout this initiative reflects the true heart of our company.”

In addition to internal participation, Dexter also received generous outside support. Employees from Old Navy in Sturbridge contributed donations that helped expand the number of fulfilled wish lists, while A Great Notion, a bookstore owned by a former Charlton Middle School teacher, donated a selection of books to accompany the children’s gifts. These community partnerships allowed Dexter to reach even more families across the district.

School administrators expressed deep gratitude for the partnership, noting that the support helped ease the financial burden on families during the holiday season. The impact of the initiative stretched far beyond presents—providing comfort, dignity, and joy to dozens of local children.

Dexter-Russell has a longstanding history of supporting community programs, including food insecurity initiatives, school partnerships, and charitable giving efforts throughout the region. This year’s Giving Tree collaboration marks one of the company’s largest holiday outreach efforts to date.

“This is what community looks like,” added Mike Jenkins, Vice President of Operations. “We’re honored to support Charlton families and grateful to everyone who made this possible.”

The gifts were delivered to the schools on Friday, Dec. 12, ensuring all families had ample time to pick up items before the holiday break.

Friends of Sturbridge Trails announces annual first day hike

STURBRIDGE — The Friends of Sturbridge Trails (FrOST) announces it will again hold its annual first day hike on Thursday, Jan. 1. The hike will start at the main Leadmine Trails parking lot at 10 Old Sturbridge Village Rd. at 1 p.m.

The hike will be easy/moderate trails of about 2 miles in length and last about 1 1/2 hours. The Hike will be led by Dave Peterkin, assisted by Dave Vadnaise. Pets on a six-foot leash are OK. This is a family friendly hike but will cover some moderate topography. Please dress for the weather with good footwear as trails may



be snow covered and icy. Bring a water bottle. Please note that there will be no first Saturday trail hikes on Saturday, Jan. 3.

FrOST is a nonprofit membership supported trail group to support Sturbridge Trails and holds/supports trail events throughout the year. To learn more about FrOST and the Sturbridge Trail system, visit: www.treksturbridge.org.

or follow us on Face Book: <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Sturbridge-Trails-476149822433894/>.

One can join FrOST: <https://www.treksturbridge.org/donate>.

Freshmen named to Bay Path honor roll

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School congratulates the following students in grade 9 on being named to the honor roll for the first quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

High Honors
Jureyn Axel Ambayec, Makenna Rose Anderson, Tyler Michael Beaty, Hope Alexandra Ceppetelli, Chloe Elizabeth Clifford, Nikolas Stephen Coraccio, Nicholas Anthony Cryan, Ashlynn Rose Cuniff, Hunter David Robert Cusson, Arthur Ribas Da Silva, Elyse Kimberly DaSilva, Helen Sofia Defranc, Kelsey Ann Dunn, Camila Isabelle Garcia Montoya, Tucker Hoopes Harrity, Virginia Heybeck, Iyla Lillian Huckins, Brady Larned Jackson, Elise Georgiana Kokoszka, Sophia Rose Lambert, Lev Francis Clemansky, Carrigan Frances Linde, Giavanna Louisa Lussier, Charles James Maglich, Reyxo Xavier Matthews, Abbigail Quinn McClendon, Matthew Joseph Monticelli, Camden John Morgan, Ron Wallace Mosong, Alexys Grace Nault, Finley Ann O’Shea, Irelyn Mackenzie Padden, Elianna Rose Payson, Zachary Ernest Edward Penney, Luke Gibb Pettes, Selina Yvette Piehl, Anthony Raymond Postale, Savannah Rose Pratt, Destiny Rose Purcell, Ayla Grace Reed, Camden Francis Riley, Lilyana Paulina Rivas, Alexandria Anne Romero, Ella Minerva Ruiz-Acosta, Chloe John Skarzenski, Margaret Anne Straw, Nicholas Edward Tod, Juliana Velez, Jayden Francis Warren, Camryn Grace Weagle, Abigail Mae White, Kaiya Faith Zaczek

Honors
Cole Patrick Adams, Caleb Jeffrey Andersen, Jack Robert Angiolillo, Emersyn Sue Bacon, Zachery Michael Barberio, Mia Gracelyn Benoit, Ava Elyse Bernard, Camryn Sophia Jean Boyd, Collin Jacob Brink, Hunter Richard Brodeur, Kaedynce Paige Brown, Brendon Bui, Brady Alexander Camdzic, Alexander Stephen Campbell, Zachary Thomas Carlsen, Mason Robert Case, William

Alexander Cheney, Lilly Sky Connor, Josiah Rafael Grimaldi Corpuz, Vincent Joseph Corriere, Kaylynn Elizabeth Costa, Ethan Denis Crosby, Logan Thomas Curtis, Kendra Lynne Cutroni, Connor William Dalrymple, Chance James Daniels, Dante James Dawkins, Tucker Anthony Dean, Ayala Rose Dennison, Yasmin Jakowatz Dos Santos, Lucas James Dowd, Owen Caine Eckert, Luciana Amelia Edwards, Nathan Charles Ferguson, Gavin Kennedy Fitzgerald, Aiden James Foley, Madilynn Priscilla Foresteire, Olivia Rose Forrester, Caleb Joshua Fowler, Connor Keith Gasco-Albro, Matthew Edward Gaudreau, Ryan Steven Gaylord, Kacey Jean Gemboski, David Anthony Gil, Laycie Adrienne Gordon, Lena Jean Goyette, Joseph Anthony Greska, Emmary Dawn Gustafson, Isaiah Kojo Owuna Hagan, Corinne Allie Harrington, Gabriel Alexander Jebidiah Hayes, Drew Edward Jarvi, Brianna Michelle Judge, Zachary Stephen Kaiser, Eva Isabel Kaminski, Lindsey Elizabeth Karlgren, Brody Neal Kenney, Jacey Lynn Kigar, Victoria Rose LaMountain, Maura Grace Lapriore, Jason Roberto Lareau, Joseph Nils Larson, Anthony Aaron Latour, Leandie Fariella Leandre, Alan August Levkovski, Valerie Abigail Lopez, Stella Grace Lovely, Matthew James Lynch, Brianna Macario, Cailyn Elizabeth Mackenzie, Rebecca Marie Malvey, Jathrian Angel Martinez, Nikolas Wayne Mason, Avery Mathieu, Oliver Patrick Mayotte, Keigan Adori McIlvaine, Vincent Andrew Menzone, Xavier Nikolai Metcalf, Alexander Wane Mikel, Athena Matilda Molnar, Mikayla Rae Moorcroft, Marlo Ann Nashold, Kenzie Macrae Nicoll, Oliver Parker Okolita, McKinnon Michael Pacheco, Matthew Dylan Paquette, Addison Lynne Paradis, Aden Mark Patterson, Max William Patterson, Wyatt Matthew Pelletier, Joseph James Peters, Logan William Pettinelli, Colton Joseph Porter, Kandace Rose Quattrucci, Miguel Lopes Ramos, Callen Michael Reardon, Trey Leonard Reichardt, Layla Sophia Reid, Ryan Paul Reno, Isabelle Louise Richmond, Jadaly Audrey Rivera Rodriguez, Alysmarie Robles Aviles, Gabriela Araceli Rodas, Jherian Emmanuel Rodriguez, Sophia Lynn Rogers, Jayden Manuel Rosado, Michael Clement Salvatore, Sophia Alexis Santa, Alexis Rita Savary, William Frederick Schroeder, Daniel Ray Shirley, Grace Ann Shivick, Nico Adrian Smolynsky, Lilah Ann Soule, Laiza-Michelle Monice Spruill, Carlie Rose St. Cyr, Aslynn Jade St. Laurent, Ethan Daniel Starkus, Michael William Steuer, Brandon Scott Stone, Daniel Edward Sullivan, Brenna Louise Tebo, Brandon Michael Terry, Elin Margaret Thorsen, Noah Eladio Torres, Payton Rose Tremblay, Kourtney Lucy-Lynne Tucker, Peyton Michael Ward, Jacy Olivia Whalen, Landon Ryan Whatsitt, Jude Allen Worden

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QCC strengthens leadership with new trustees

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College announced the appointment of three new members to its Board of Trustees: Max German, Maricelis “Mari” Gonzalez and Jessica Mandes. The appointments were made this October and November by Gov. Maura Healey following recommendations from the Public Education Nominating Council. “We are thrilled to have the new members on board,” said QCC Board Chair Dr. Linda Maykel. “We have a lot of work ahead of us, and it’s great to be working together towards our goals.” German is currently a student at Boston College Law School. A QCC alum, German transferred to Boston College after completing his studies at QCC. He brings experience in labor, politics, and government, and remains deeply connected to Worcester. Gonzalez serves as executive director of El Buen Samaritano Food Program Inc., a Worcester nonprofit combating food insecurity and supporting vulnerable families. Gonzalez has more

than a decade of experience in nonprofit leadership and advocacy. She is a member of Gov. Healey’s Latino Empowerment Council and has earned numerous honors, including Worcester Business Journal’s 2025 Nonprofit Business Leader of the Year and Telegram & Gazette’s “Hometown Hero” recognition in 2021. Mandes, a Worcester native and first-generation college graduate, is the director of multilingual education for Worcester Public Schools. With more than 25 years in youth work and 15 years in public education, Mandes advocates for multilingual learners and serves on several boards, including Worcester Latino Dollars for Scholars. “These new trustees bring a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to education and community,” said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja. “Their leadership will help guide QCC as we continue to serve our students and the region.” For more information about QCC and its Board of Trustees, visit QCC.edu/board-trustees.

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

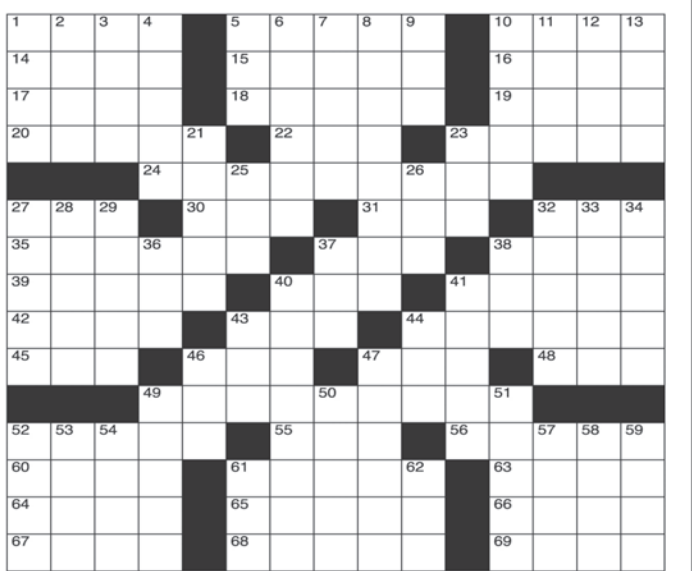


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- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Light cavalry

5. Coconut palms

10. Rounded knob

14. Central Japan city

15. Sandwiches

16. Shape produced by a curve

17. Ancient region in modern-day Syria

18. French modernist painter

19. Grandmother

20. Mammary gland of cattle

22. Rocky peak

23. Secret plan

24. Songs to one's lover

27. More (Spanish)

30. Father

31. Chinese principle underlying the universe

32. Ballplayer's accessory

35. Together

37. A person's brother or sister

38. Evil spirit

39. Monetary units
40. Partner to cheese

41. About Sun

42. Group of like-minded people

43. After B

44. Seaside room

45. Recipe measurement

46. Partly digested food

47. Flat-faced dog

48. People of southern Africa

49. Salts

52. Beard lichens

55. Sanders is one

56. Fencing sword

60. Ethnic group of Albania

61. Metric weight unit

63. Italian seaport

64. Longtime late night host

65. Extremely angry

66. Miami mascot

67. Mid-month day

68. Marked for omission

69. Body part

- CLUES DOWN**
1. Two-toed sloth

2. Fat from a pig's abdomen

3. Romanian city

4. Specifies

5. Rounded, glaciated valley

6. Spoke

7. Collection of sacred books

8. Extravagantly theatrical

9. Very fast airplane

10. Forearm bones

11. Ancient kingdom

12. Legitimate: ___ fide

13. Semitransparent gemstone

21. Counsels

23. Head honcho

25. Cool!

26. Touch lightly

27. Extract money via taxation

28. Dyes

29. Cloying sweetness

32. Sodas

33. Coastal village in Guam
34. Chemical ring

36. The bill in a restaurant

37. Car mechanics group

38. One-time presidential candidate Dole

40. Health care for the aged

41. Wise persons

43. Passage with access at one end

44. Make a wound

46. America's spies

47. Roof of the mouth

49. Plants of the lily family

50. Pinkish-red color

51. Vaccine developer

52. Mottled citrus fruit

53. A place to store garden tools

54. Rare goose native to Hawaii

57. Popular Hollywood pig

58. Musician Clapton

59. A move exposing one to danger

61. Historic Spanish soldier

62. CNN's founder

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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January events at Charlton Public Library

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

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

The library will be closed Jan. 1 and 19.

Movies @ The Library

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

January 6: YES MAN. New Year, New You! A perennial naysayer becomes a guy who just can't say "no" (and won't) after attending a self-help seminar that challenges him to say yes to everything for a year. 2008. Rated PG-13. 104 minutes. Starring: Jim Carrey, Zooey Deschanel, & Bradley Cooper.

January 13: GOOD FORTUNE. An angel named Gabriel tries to help a man who is struggling to make ends meet in Los Angeles, by swapping his life with a super wealthy man, Jeff in order to show him that wealth won't solve all his problems. However, all doesn't go according to plan when the former actually loves his new life. As punishment, Gabriel loses his wings and is sentenced to being a human, along with Jeff, who now lives without means as Arj had before. 2025. Rated R. 98 minutes. Featuring: Aziz Ansari, Keanu Reeves, Seth Rogen, Keke, & Sandra Oh.

January 20: JULIE & JULIA. This film is an adaption of Julie Powell's autobiographical book about an amateur chef who decides to try out every recipe in a cookbook by chef Julia Child and writes about it in a blog over the course of a year. Throughout the story, flashbacks show Child learning about French cuisine while living in Paris. 2009. Rated PG-13. 123 minutes. Cast: Meryl Streep, Amy Adams, Chris Messina, Stanley Tucci, Linda Emond.

January 27: ROOFMAN. Jeffrey Manchester, an inmate on the run, hides in a place no one would look for him — a toy store. When this paradise of fun becomes a prison of loneliness, he falls for the one thing that can stop him from getting away ... love. 2025. Rated R. 125 minutes. Starring: Channing Tatum, Kirsten Dunst, Peter Dinklage, Juno Temple, Uzo Aduba.

Private Visit with Taz the Therapy Dog

Friday, January 2, 11:30-12:00 pm - Storytime Room - registration required

This is a private session to visit with our Therapy Dog, Taz. Taz is a super sweet Chihuahua mix and is a registered Therapy Dog

with Therapy Dogs United. Registration is required. All ages are welcome. Please register one name only, even if you have more than one person attending the session.

Play Games!
Mondays, January 5, 12 (Cribbage), 26 (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!

Henna at the Library
Friday, January 2, 1:00-3:00 pm - Storytime Room - no registration required

Mandy from Wicked Good Henna will be offering henna designs! Drop by the Story Time Room to receive yours before heading back to school! For children of all ages. Please note: because this is a drop in program, there may be a wait time.

Lego Club
Friday, January 2, 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.

Puzzle Race
Saturday, January 3, 10:30-1:00 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 per-ryb@cwmar.org and we'll put together a team of interested folks!

Sonic Pi Coding

Saturday, January 3, 11:00-12:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Welcome to the future of music. Sonic Pi is a code-based music creation and performance tool that is simple enough for computing and music lessons and powerful enough for professional musicians. Come learn

to code creatively by composing or performing music in an incredible range of styles from Classical & Jazz to Grime & EDM. This workshop is aimed towards educating a new generation of programmers and sound engineers. The recommended age for this workshop is 10 and up.

Wiggles & Giggles for Littles (YFCP)

Mondays, January 5, 12, 26, 9:45-10:15 am - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Join 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 on January 5, 12, 26, 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



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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, January 13, 20, 27, 10:00-10:45 am - Storytime Room

For babies and toddlers age 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.

Adulting 101, Mindfully

Tuesdays, January 6 and 20, 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 "Adulting" 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.

Baby Storytime (0-12 months)

Wednesdays, January 14, 21, 28, 10:00-10:45 am -

Storytime Room - no registration required

Better Read Than Dead Book Club

Wednesday, January 7, 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. We will be discussing Blood in the Water by Casey Sherman.

Threaded Together Fiber Arts Group (formerly Silver Needles Knit & Crochet Group)

Thursdays 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.

Private Visit with Olive the Therapy Dog

Tuesdays, January 6 & 27, 5:30-6:00 pm - Storytime Room - registration required

This is a private session with our Therapy Dog, Olive. Olive is trained and licensed through Bright Spot Therapy Dogs, Inc. Registration is required. All ages are welcome. Please register one name only, even if you have more than one person attending the session.

Open Session with Olive the Therapy Dog

Tuesdays, January 6 & 27, 6:00-6:30 pm - Storytime Room - no registration required

This is an open session to visit with our Therapy Dog, Olive. Olive is trained and licensed through Bright Spot Therapy Dogs, Inc. Registration is not required. All ages

are welcome. (If you are interested in having a private visit with Olive for a reading session or any other reason, please register for one of our Private Visit sessions.)

Intro to Chat GPT
Tuesday, January 6, 6:00-7:00 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Saturday, January 10, 1:30-2:30 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.

CPL Book Discussion - The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon

Thursday, January 8, 6:00-7:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

Bullet Journaling 101

Tuesday, January 6, 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

Wednesday, January 7, 11:00-12:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

It's 2026 and we are not going to wait for opportunities—we'll create them! Join us for Bullet Journaling 101 where we will spend the first half of the

class learning about the methodology of Bullet Journaling. Then in the second half, we'll bring out plenty of materials for everyone to get started on setting up your own journal. Each participant is provided a journal for free! Registration is required. For adults and teens ages 13 and up.

Genealogy Group
Thursday, January 8, 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 from 6:30-7:30. Meetings will alternate between general discussion topics and guest presenters. The meetings are free and open to the public.

CPL Book Discussion - The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon

Thursday, January 8, 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.

Preschool Storytime (Ages 3-5)

Fridays, January 16, 23, 30, 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.

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

Saturdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31 from 10 am - noon

Tuesdays, January 6, 13, 20, 27 from 4:30 - 5:30 pm

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,

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OPINION

Take control: Why budgeting doesn't have to feel restrictive

The work after the wrapping paper

A funny thing happens every year right after the last carols fade and the last ribbon hits the trash barrel. The calendar flips, the guests go home, and we look around our living rooms and yards and realize the holiday season has a second act: the cleanup.

It is not the glamorous part. It is not the part with twinkling lights or the good plates. But it is the part that determines whether January feels orderly or chaotic, safe or risky, neighborly or tense. In our local communities, where winter weather does not ask permission and small inconveniences can snowball quickly, the post-holiday stretch is a good time to do a few basic things well.

Start with what is most obvious: the trees, the greens, the packaging, and the leftovers of decoration. Dry Christmas trees are no small matter. A tree that looked lush a week ago can turn into a brittle bundle of kindling once it has been indoors and watered inconsistently. If you have not already done it, keep that tree away from heat sources, unplug lights when you are not home, and do not wait until it is dropping needles like confetti. When it is time to take it out, do it deliberately. One awkward trip down the front steps with a tree can lead to a fall, and winter is not forgiving about slips.

Then there is the less visible debris of the season: the boxes, plastic packaging, and the endless stream of cardboard. Cardboard is a gift in itself if it is managed properly. Broken down and stacked neatly, it takes up less space and is easier to haul, and it does not end up blowing down the street when the wind kicks up. The same goes for wrapping materials. Some can be recycled, some cannot, and when in doubt, taking a minute to sort it out saves everyone time later. A messy pile at the curb is not only an eyesore; it becomes litter in a hurry when the plows come through or a gust sweeps the neighborhood.

Speaking of plows: this is the season when curbside decisions matter. A street that is narrow on a sunny July afternoon is downright tight once snowbanks show up. Parking becomes more than a convenience issue. It becomes a public safety issue. Plows need room, and so do ambulances, fire trucks, and the cars of neighbors who are simply trying to get to work. If a storm is in the forecast, think ahead. Move vehicles off the street if possible. Avoid leaving bins and snowblowers where they create a pinch point. When residents make small accommodations, the whole town moves more smoothly.

The same practical mindset applies to shoveling and sanding. Everyone has their own rhythm for clearing steps and walks, but a lot of winter injuries happen during rushed jobs, especially after a thaw-freeze cycle. A thin sheet of ice can form overnight on a walkway that looked fine at sunset. Taking a few extra minutes to salt or sand, and to keep steps clear, is not only a courtesy to delivery drivers and visitors. It is self-protection, too.

Finally, take the post-holiday week as a gentle prompt to check the basics: batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, flashlights that still work, a charged phone power bank, and a plan for a power outage. This is not alarmism. It is New England common sense. Winter is long, and it is easier to set things up on a calm day than to scramble during a cold, dark night.

None of this is complicated. It is simply a reminder that community life is built as much on small habits as on big moments. The holidays give us the celebration. The days after give us a chance to reset the house, the curb line, and the neighborhood so winter feels manageable.

The wrapping paper is gone. The work remains. If we do it thoughtfully, January has a way of starting clean.

Let's be honest: The word "budget" doesn't exactly spark joy for most people. It can feel restrictive or even generate feelings of guilt about past spending choices. But what if budgeting could feel empowering? When done right, it's simply about understanding your money and making sure it aligns with what truly matters to you.

Who needs a budget? While nearly everyone can benefit from budgeting, it's especially helpful if you're just starting out on your own, if your expenses exceed your income or if you're working toward a big goal like buying a home or retiring. Major life changes — marriage, a new baby, a job change or even retirement itself — are also perfect times to take a fresh look at your finances.

If your spending causes you stress or you simply want clarity about where your money goes each month, budgeting can help. Here are a few tips to help get you started:

Dispense with the dread. Often, the hardest part of budgeting is just getting started. Try breaking it down into small, manageable steps, and dedicate 30 minutes a week to tracking your income and expenses. Pair budgeting with something enjoyable — a favorite coffee or a relaxing activity — to



make it less of a chore. If you have no idea how much you spend, start by simply observing your buying habits for a few months. Review your checking and credit card accounts to see money coming in and going out. You can't change the past, but you can adjust for your future.

Find your level of detail. There's no one-size-fits-all approach to budgeting. You might start by tracking just total income and expenses or by using the popular 50/30/20 rule: 50 percent for necessities, 30 percent for wants and 20 percent for savings and debt reduction. Some people prefer to build detailed categories for everything from groceries to entertainment, while others keep broader categories that work better for their lifestyles.

Technology can be your friend here. Budget apps and Ai-enabled spreadsheets can pull information directly from your bank and credit card statements, making the process much easier.

Make it work for you. Once you've tracked your spending, look for areas to adjust. Can you swap brand-name

items for generics? Are there subscriptions you're not using? Sometimes the biggest impact comes from examining your largest expenses — housing, utilities, transportation, insurance — to find opportunities to save.

If you can't make room in your budget, you may need to revisit and reprioritize your financial goals. A financial advisor can help you understand your options and any trade-offs.

Stay on track. Check in with your budget monthly, quarterly or annually — whatever works for you. When life changes, your budget should too. Salary increases, bonuses, new expenses or significant life events are all good reasons to review and adjust.

Above all, the goal of a budget isn't perfection. It's progress toward financial confidence and peace of mind. A good budget shouldn't limit you — it should free you to spend guilt-free on what matters while saving intentionally for your future.

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

Lanterns Along Main Street

LANTERNS
ALONG
MAIN STREET
By CHIPPY

Knowing about a place is not the same as knowing it.

Real familiarity comes from routine. It comes from walking into the same post office or store often enough that the nod of recognition no longer needs words. It comes from noticing when something is off. A closed sign where there usually is not one. A porch light that stays dark longer than usual.

Those details tell stories that no screen can capture.

I have found, over time, that the strongest sense of belonging comes from modest habits. Sitting in the same seat at a local meeting. Taking the long way home past the center of town instead of the faster route around it. Stopping to talk, even briefly, instead of waving and moving on.

None of this requires deep conversation. Often, it is just a few words exchanged. A comment about the weather, a quick update about a family

member, a shared sigh over the price of groceries. But those small exchanges stack up. They form a mental map of who we are together.

In small towns, this still exists. It has not disappeared. It has simply become easier to overlook. We rush through places that were never meant to be rushed. We treat locations as destinations rather than shared spaces.

I try, when I remember, to slow down enough to notice the ordinary. The same crossing guard, doing the job with care. The librarian who remembers what you checked out last time. The cashier who asks how a relative is doing and genuinely waits for the answer.

These are the threads that hold a town together. They are quiet. They are steady. They do not announce themselves.

And when you take the time to see them, you realize something important. Community is not something you log into. It is something you practice.

One familiar face at a time.

Letter submission policy

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

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

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Webster First Federal Credit Union donates \$25,000 to local food pantries

WORCESTER — Webster First Federal Credit Union announced today a combined donation of \$25,000 to several local food pantries to help ensure community members have access to food throughout the holiday season.

The funds are intended to alleviate food insecurity during a critical time of year, providing much-needed resources to organizations on the front lines of hunger relief. The donations were distributed among three key community partners to maximize their impact across the region.

Food Bank to aid its mission of ending hunger in Eastern Massachusetts. This financial support will help these organizations continue their essential work of providing nutritious food to individuals and families facing hardship.

Friends of Charlton Library team up with Sturbridge Coffee Roasters

CHARLTON — The Friends of Charlton Public Library, a 501(c)3 organization, has partnered with Sturbridge Coffee Roasters for a special holiday offer. While Christmas shopping is currently underway, the Friends are looking ahead to Valentine’s Day!

Place your order throughout the month of December and your coffee will be available in time for Valentine’s Day gift-giving.

The coffee sale features seven different blends from Sturbridge Coffee Roasters. Flavors include a special Library Friends Blend, Black Gold Blend, Mexican Organic Swiss Water Process Decaf, Colombian Supremo Medium, Sumatra Mandheling Organic Dark, Winter Wonderland, and Chocolate Raspberry; all flavors are available in ground and whole bean form. The cost is \$17 per 12-ounce bag. Proceeds from the sale allow the Friends to support the mission of the Charlton Public Library.

Order forms are available at the circulation desk at the Charlton Public Library, 40 Main St., Charlton, and also on the Friends’ Facebook page (facebook.com/charltonlibraryfriends).

Completed forms and payment must be returned to the Library’s Circulation Desk by Jan. 2, 2026. Cash, check, and payment through Venmo (@FriendsofCharltonLib) or Zeffy accepted. Coffee orders will be available the week of Feb. 9 for pick-up at the library.

For every bag of coffee purchased, you’ll receive an entry to win a basket filled with a variety of Valentine-related goodies. Stock up and increase your chances to win!

For questions or more information, please email charltonfriends@gmail.com or call 774-230-1410.

Webster First donated \$10,000 to the Webster Dudley Food Share to support its local efforts. An additional \$10,000 was given to the Worcester County Food Bank, a vital organization that distributed one million pounds of food in November alone. A further \$5,000 was allocated to The Greater Boston

Webster First Federal Credit Union is a community-focused financial institution committed to serving its members and the communities it operates in. With a history of giving back, Webster First actively supports local initiatives and organizations that make a positive impact on the lives of its neighbors.

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From classroom to Commencement stage: A Bay Path mentorship that spanned a decade

WORCESTER — A simple birthday message shared earlier this month quietly revealed something extraordinary: a decade-long mentorship between a Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy alumna and her former instructor—one that has grown into enduring professional collaboration, genuine friendship, and a legacy.

“Happiest of birthdays to you, my friend, mentor, and teacher,” wrote Hannah Lombardo, RN, of Woodstock Valley, Conn., formerly of Webster, in a Dec. 11 post to Gretheline R. Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN. “To many more years of wisdom and knowledge, happiness and fortune.”

What might have appeared to be a warm personal greeting instead underscored a bond forged in the classroom and strengthened through ten years of shared service to students and the broader community.

The celebration itself reflected Dr. Bolandrina’s commitment to service beyond education. She marked her 59th birthday at Kuru Kuru Ramen (<https://www.kurukururamenshop.com/>) in the Worcester Public Market with a fundraiser benefiting Bikes for the World (<https://www.bikesfortheworld.org/>). Continuing that effort, the Bolandrinas will travel in February 2026, driving a U-Haul loaded with hundreds of donated bicycles from Gardner, Massachusetts, to the organization’s headquarters in Rockville, Md.—transforming a personal milestone into an act of global generosity.

Where it began

The connection began in 2014, when Lombardo was a student in the Bay Path Practical Nursing program under Dr. Bolandrina’s instruction. Like many

students, Lombardo graduated—but unlike most, she never truly left.

Soon after earning her LPN, Lombardo began returning to Bay Path as a volunteer skills lab assistant, mock code participant, and guest speaker. As her career advanced—from LPN to Clinical Educator, CPR/BLS Instructor, Nurse Supervisor, and eventually Registered Nurse with an Associate Degree in Nursing—her involvement with the Academy only deepened.

A model of mentorship in motion

By 2017, Lombardo was regularly assisting in skills labs. By 2018 and 2019, she was sharing job opportunities, mentoring students, and helping guide new nurses as they navigated their professional pathways. She became a familiar and trusted presence at community events, often volunteering alongside Dr. Bolandrina



and faculty lead Dr. Adelina N. Healy of Dudley.

Her service extended well beyond the classroom. Lombardo provided onsite medical care at large-scale events, including:

- The Central Massachusetts Show Choir Festival, supporting more than 500 student performers from 24 schools
- The Shepherd Hill Regional High School Festival of Crafts
- Community health screenings and first aid initiatives throughout Webster, Dudley, and surrounding towns

Volunteer shifts frequently stretched

from early morning to late evening—an embodiment of nursing’s commitment to service and care.

Words that defined the bond

In 2021, Lombardo publicly reflected on the influence of her mentor:

“So thankful I met and have learned from you. I aspire to be half the woman you are.”

Dr. Bolandrina’s response captured the essence of meaningful mentorship:

“You were great even before you came to Bay Path. Continue to soar and shine!”

That encouragement proved prophetic.

From student to speaker

In June 2025, Lombardo reached a milestone few alumni achieve when she was selected as Commencement Speaker for the Bay Path Practical Nursing Class of 2025, having also served as an inspirational speaker welcoming the Class of 2024 into Term 2. Standing on the commencement stage, she represented not only personal achievement but the long-term impact of the program itself.

Her journey—from PN student to RN, from volunteer to leader—became a living example for graduating students of what is possible beyond the classroom.

More than colleagues

Beyond their professional collaboration, Dr. Bolandrina and Lombardo share a genuine friendship. They are often seen supporting charitable causes and local music events, including performances by Otan Vargas (<https://www.otanvargas-music.com/>), with Dr. Bolandrina’s husband, Joseph

Bolandrina, frequently part of the gatherings. These shared moments reflect a bond that transcends titles, timelines, and roles.

A lasting legacy

The birthday message that sparked reflection this month was more than a celebration of another year—it was a quiet affirmation of Bay Path’s enduring legacy.

The relationship between Dr. Gretheline R. Bolandrina and Hannah Lombardo, RN, stands as a testament to what happens when education extends beyond graduation and mentorship becomes lifelong.

From classroom lessons to commencement speeches, their shared decade tells a powerful story: at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, education doesn’t end—it evolves.

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WORCESTER — The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts today announced it has awarded \$250,000 in emergency financial assistance grants to three nonprofit organizations serving the region during this time of economic uncertainty and growing need.

The grants were awarded proactively by The Health Foundation in response to rising demand for emergency assistance amid unpredictable federal funding and shifting policies that are threatening safety net programs. The funding will support emergency finance assistance for basic needs such as housing, utilities, and food, with an emphasis on reach-

ing individuals and families who may not qualify for other assistance or who live in communities with fewer available resources. The grants are intended to provide agencies with the ability to respond immediately to urgent needs.

“In this time of great need, The Health Foundation is committed to partnering with three trusted community action agencies to provide financial assistance that will address important basic needs throughout Central Massachusetts,” said Amie Shei, president and CEO of The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts. “These organizations share a commitment to underserved populations, and their expertise and compassion will ensure that critical financial assistance reaches those who are struggling to make ends meet.”

Community action agencies serve as trusted, locally-based organizations that administer federal and state funding programs aimed at helping residents overcome barriers to

economic stability. By working through these agencies, The Health Foundation aims to ensure that funds reach households facing financial hardship.

Allocation of funds between the three agencies is based on a rough estimate of the portion of The Health Foundation’s geographic service area that each agency covers. The grant awards will support emergency financial assistance to individuals and families in the region. The recipient organizations are:

- Worcester Community Action Council – \$100,000
- Making Opportunity Count – \$100,000
- South Middlesex Opportunity Council – \$50,000

“These resources arrive at a pivotal moment for the neighbors we serve,” said Marybeth Campbell, CEO of Worcester Community Action Council. “Rising costs for basic essentials and diminishing public supports have created a perfect storm of economic insecurity. This generous philanthropic investment will

make a meaningful impact when it’s needed most.”

“The need for emergency assistance is especially acute now, and having flexible resources means that we can respond quickly and thoughtfully to what people coming to us need in that moment,” said Kevin Reed, executive director of Making Opportunity Count. “We are deeply appreciative of The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts for recognizing the acute need across the region as costs continue to rise and resources for assistance are threatened,” said Susan Gentili, president & CEO of South Middlesex Opportunity Council. “The stress created by financial hardship can be overwhelming. This emergency assistance grant comes at a critical moment and will

serve as a lifeline for people across our region as they work to meet their basic needs.”

About The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts

The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts is dedicated to improving the health of those who live or work in Central Massachusetts, with particular emphasis on vulnerable populations and unmet needs. Through its unique and impactful approach to grantmaking, The Health Foundation supports community-identified health issues, with health defined broadly to include social determinants of health and with a focus on promoting health equity. As a health conversion foundation launched in 1999 following the sale of the not-for-profit HMO Central Massachusetts Health Care Inc., The Health Foundation’s grants have totaled over \$60 million to more than 240 unique organizations over its history. For more information, visit www.thfcm.org.

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Courtesy

Chief Shane Woodson of the Southbridge Police Department was sworn in last week as President of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association. Photo courtesy of the Association’s Facebook page.

Sturbridge PD takes part in a holiday tradition

STURBRIDGE — On Dec. 16, the Sturbridge Police Department, in partnership with Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (S.A.L.T.), was proud to participate in the annual Christmas Spaghetti Luncheon at the Sturbridge Senior Center—a cherished tradition that continues to bring our community together during the holiday season.

This event would not be possible without Barbara Boiteau, our Lead Dispatcher, who for more than 20 years has selflessly planned and coordinated this dinner. Barbara’s dedication is truly remarkable. She generously donates countless hours of her own time and even some of her own money each year to ensure our seniors feel welcomed, appreciated, and celebrated. Her commitment is the heart of this event, and I am deeply grateful to her for taking on this role year after year.

Police officers, dispatchers, and civilian PD employees proudly stepped into new roles as waiters and waitresses, serving coffee, soft drinks, fresh salad from Hearthstone, rolls (including the Publick House’s famous sticky buns), delicious pasta and meatballs from Village Pizza, and an incredible layered cake from the Publick House. Together, we served approximately 60 seniors, shared a warm meal, and distributed Christmas gifts to everyone in attendance.

Most importantly, we want to recognize and thank the seniors who attended this event. Your presence is what makes this luncheon so special. Seeing familiar faces, sharing stories, laughter, and conversation, and feeling your continued support means more to us than words can express. This event is held in your honor, and we are grateful for the opportunity to spend this time with you each year.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Michael Glick and Edwin Morales of the Publick House, Lenny Petrillo from Hearthstone, and Callie and Jose from Village Pizza. Not only did they generously donate the food for this event, but they also spent the afternoon working in the kitchen to ensure everything ran smoothly. Their continued support year after year is truly appreciated by the Sturbridge Police Department.

We also want to recognize the incredible staff at the Sturbridge Senior Center—Michelle, Suzanne, Leslie,



and Marcia—who consistently assist with setup and breakdown. Thank you for all that you do to help make this event a success.

In addition, police officers, dispatchers, civilian employees, and numerous local businesses donated to this event to ensure every senior in attendance received a thoughtful Christmas gift.

Finally, a very special thank you to Brian Fitzgerald, who once again went above and beyond by dressing up as Santa Claus and personally presenting the gifts. His enthusiasm brought smiles, laughter, and a little extra holiday magic to the room, making the evening even more memorable for everyone in attendance.

Without the generosity, time, and teamwork of all these individuals and organizations—and the wonderful seniors we are honored to serve—this special tradition simply would not be possible. Thank you all for helping make this a memorable holiday event for our seniors.

[Photos and information taken from the department’s Facebook page.]



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2022 BEST OF CENTRAL MASS

Check out the new Fall/Winter menu

Sturbridge police sergeants complete first line supervisor training at Roger Williams



STURBRIDGE — The Sturbridge Police Department proudly congratulates Sgt. Thomas Giordano and Sgt. Richard Tracy on completing the Command Training Series: First Line Supervisor Course at the Justice System Training and Research Institute at Roger Williams University in partnership with the New England Association of Chiefs of Police on December 12th.

This intensive 80-hour course prepares first-line supervisors to lead effectively, make sound decisions, and manage the daily operations of a modern law enforcement agency.

The role of sergeant is a critical leadership position within the department, serving as the bridge between command staff and patrol officers. Sergeants mentor and guide personnel, ensure policies and procedures are applied consistently, and help shape the culture, performance, and professionalism of the entire department. Completing this training equips Sgt. Giordano and Sgt. Tracy with the tools and knowledge to excel in these responsibilities.

The course covered key areas including leadership and management principles, problem-solving, organizational and interpersonal communication, labor relations, disciplinary issues, and ethical decision-making. Graduates represented police departments from across New England.

Thank you to all of our loyal customers this holiday season.

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Raymond J. Henrickson, Cynthia R. Henrickson to Sovereign Bank, dated March 10, 2009 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 43965, Page 358, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on January 23, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 389 Breakneck Road, Southbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT:

That certain piece or parcel of land, and the buildings and improvements thereon:

In the Town of: SOUTHBRIDGE
County of: WORCESTER
and State of: MASSACHUSETTS
and being more particularly described in a deed recorded in Book: 11666 Page 141 of the WORCESTER County, City of SOUTHBRIDGE which property is more commonly known as 389 BREAKNECK ROAD, SOUTHBRIDGE, MA 01550 (“Property Address”);

For mortgagor’s(s’) title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 11666, Page 141.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:
A deposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

SANTANDER BANK N.A FORMERLY KNOWN AS SOVEREIGN BANK N.A. FORMERLY KNOWN AS SOVEREIGN BANK

Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
28564
December 25, 2025
January 1, 2026
January 8, 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. WO25P4300EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Paula Katherine Gidopoulos
Date of Death:08/13/2025

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/13/2025.**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 15, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
December 25, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO25P4233GD
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO
G. L.c. 1908, § 5-304 & § 5-405
In the matter of:
Amanda Giles
Of: Sturbridge, MA
RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Department Of Developmental Serv of Worcester, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Amanda Giles** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Catherine Giles of Webster, 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 **01/06/2026**. 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, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 10, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
December 25, 2025

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE**

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Holly A. Moran to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc., dated September 17, 2003, and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 31726 at Page 52, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by assignment from Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., S/B/M Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc., to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the LB Igloo Series IV Trust, dated May 5, 2021, recorded in Book 65100, Page 244; by an assignment of mortgage from US Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the LB-Igloo Series IV Trust to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the LB-Cabana Series IV Trust, dated July 23, 2021, recorded in Book 65813, Page 83. For breach of

the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 P.M. on the 7th day of January 2026, at 9 Cricket Drive, Sturbridge, MA 01566, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To wit:
The land in Sturbridge with the buildings thereon, situated on the westerly side of Cricket Drive extending from Grasshopper Lane, being lot 11 on a plan of Country Hill Estates by Wayne Morse and Donald Murray, dated February 19,1964 and filed with the Worcester District Deeds, Plan Book 280 Plan 45, bounded and described as follows:
EASTERLY by Cricket Drive 109 feet;
SOUTHERLY by lot 12 on said plan 103.25 feet;
WESTERLY by land of Gervais 109.02 feet; and
NORTHERLY by lot 10 on said plan 102.40 feet.

Subject to restrictive covenants covering the premises and other lots shown on said plan dated April 8, 1964 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 4462, Page 273.

Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

Terms of sale: A deposit of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by wire transfer to Demerle & Associates P.C., 10 City Square, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02129 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
U.S. Bank Trust National Association,
as Trustee of the LB-Cabana Series IV Trust,
Present holder of said mortgage,
By its Attorneys,
Demerle & Associates P.C.
10 City Square, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02129
(617) 337-4444

December 11, 2025
December 18, 2025
December 25, 2025

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE**

Premises: 173 Pleasant Street, Southbridge, MA 01550

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Ronald J Benvenuti Jr and Ronald J Benvenuti to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Guild Mortgage Company LLC, and now held by **Guild Mortgage Company LLC**, said mortgage dated October 7, 2022 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68328, Page 320, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Guild Mortgage Company LLC to Guild Mortgage Company LLC by assignment dated February 8, 2024 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 70191, Page 304; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on January 8, 2026 at 12:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land, together with the buildings thereon, in Southbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, property now known as Parcel B-1 of 173 Pleasant Street, Southbridge, MA, and is more formerly described as follows: BEGINNING at a point at the northeast corner of tract herein described on the westerly sideline of Pleasant Street at the southeast corner of Parcel B-2; Thence S. 37° 37’ 40” W., along the westerly sideline of said Pleasant Street, a distance of one hundred twenty and sixty-one hundredths (120.61) feet to a point; Thence N. 61° 29’ 20” W., along land of Marc A. and Janet M. Cournoyer, a distance of one hun-

dred thirty-three and sixty-one hundredths (133.61) feet to a point; Thence N. 27° 15’ 00” E. along land of Felix Burda, now or formerly, a distance of sixty-eight and eighty-one hundredths (68.81) feet to a point; Thence N. 57° 57’ 00” W. along said Burda land, a distance of four and ten hundredths (4.10) feet to a point; Thence N. 24° 40’ 00” E. along land of Leo Desmarair, now or formerly, a distance of seventy- seven and forty-four hundredths (77.44) feet to a point; Thence S. 52° 02’ 00” E along said Parcel B-2, a distance of one hundred sixty-five and eighty- hundredths (165.80) feet to the point of BEGINNING. The above tract contains an area of 19,670 square feet.

For title, see deed recorded herewith.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor’s Title see deed dated October 6, 2022 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68328, Page 317.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale.
Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Guild Mortgage Company LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
December 11, 2025
December 18, 2025
December 25, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P4238EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Parth S Patel
Also known as: Parth Patel
Date of Death: 12/07/2024

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Sanjay Patel of Charlton MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

Sanjay Patel of Charlton MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/06/2025.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 09, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
December 25, 2025

OBITUARIES

Linda L. Roscioli

Berlin, VT: She was a devoted mother, wife, and daughter whose presence shaped everyone who knew her. She spent her life building a home filled with warmth and connection, and she was happiest when everyone was together.

Linda L. (Miscook) Roscioli, 80, passed away on December 16th, after living with dementia for the past few years.

Linda leaves her loving husband of 54 years, Richard Roscioli of Berlin, VT; her daughters, Gina O’Callaghan and her husband Sean of Nantucket, and Nikki Barran and her husband Andre of Stowe, VT; her sons, Daniel Roscioli and his wife Nicole of Waterbury, VT and Michael Roscioli of Waterbury, VT; her nine cherished grandchildren, Nicolas, Natalia, Brenton, Julian, Charles, Thatcher, Avalene, Roisin and Scarlett, who were a constant source of joy and pride.

Linda was born in Southbridge, the daughter of Alfred and Annette (Lebouef) Miscook.

She attended school in Southbridge, graduating from Southbridge High School, and continued her education at Salter’s Secretarial School and Annhurst College. After dedicating herself to raising her four children, Linda returned to school at American International College, where she earned a master’s degree in education.

Linda devoted many years to teaching special education students at Warren Elementary School, where her patience, kindness, and steady encouragement left a lasting impact. She advocated fiercely for her students with a heart of gold and the patience of a saint, she had a remarkable ability to make others feel seen, valued, and understood.

Beyond the classroom, Linda gave generously of her time as a volunteer



with the Sturbridge Parks and Recreation Department, the Sturbridge Senior Center, and as a longtime softball coach. She served for many years as head of the Sturbridge Girls Softball League, mentoring young people and instilling confidence, teamwork, and kindness. Upon retiring to the Villages in Florida, Linda continued her quiet giving back by volunteering at the soup kitchen at St.

Theresa’s Catholic Church.

Throughout her life, Linda found joy in gardening, golfing, cooking, and skiing, especially when those moments brought family together. She was also a devoted lover of all things Christmas, delighting in the season’s magic and carrying that warmth throughout the year. An avid skier, she spent many years in Vermont during her children’s upbringing, creating lasting family memories on the slopes. She eventually returned to Vermont, where she spent the final years of her life close to her children and their growing families.

Linda’s greatest love was always her family, whom she supported with unwavering devotion, quiet strength. Her home was a place of comfort, gathering, and love. Her legacy lives on in the closeness of her family and the love she gave so freely.

Her funeral Mass will be held on Tuesday, December 30th, from the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton Street, Southbridge, with a Mass at 11:00am in the St. Anne–St. Patrick Parish, 16 Church Street, Sturbridge. Burial will follow in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Southbridge. Calling hours will be held at the funeral home on Tuesday, December 30th, from 9:00 to 10:30 am, prior to the Mass.

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, Southbridge, is directing arrangements.

LEGALS

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on January 14, at 7PM on the application of Melissa Dilegge. The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for the construction of an accessory dwelling unit addition to an existing single-family home within the 100-ft buffer zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The project location is: 101 N Sturbridge Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 12-A-1.16.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request. Copies of the NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.

Thomas O’Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
December 25, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WATERWAYS REGULATION PROGRAM Notice of Simplified License Application pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 91

25-WW-PRE-0091-APP
NOTIFICATION DATE: December 25, 2025
PERMITTEE: Susan Rogers
PROJECT SITE ADDRESS: 208 Hemlock Path Sturbridge MA
Public notice is hereby given of the application for a Chapter 91 Simplified License by Susan Rogers to construct/maintain a dock in the waters of Big Alum at 208 Hemlock Path, Sturbridge, Worcester County.

The Department will consider all written comments on this Chapter 91 application received by within 30 days of the “Notification Date”. Failure of any aggrieved person or group of ten citizens or more to submit written comments to the Waterways Regulation Program will result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with 310 CMR 9.13(4)(c). The group of citizens must include at least five citizens who are residents of the municipality in which the proposed project is located.

Project plans for this Chapter 91 application are on file for public viewing electronically, by request to dep.waterways@mass.gov. If you do not have access to email, please leave a voicemail at (617) 292-5929 and you will be contacted with information on alternative options.

It is recommended that public comments be filed electronically with dep.waterways@mass.gov when possible. Alternatively, comments may be mailed to the Waterways Regulation Program at: 100 Cambridge St, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114.
December 25, 2025



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Demolition bylaw proposed in Southbridge

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Town Council is currently holding readings of a proposed bylaw regarding the demolition of build-

ings. This proposal has been worked on for the past several years with the Historic Commission and Building Department.

This bylaw is is being proposed for the purpose of preserving and protecting significant buildings and structures within the Town of

Southbridge which constitute or reflect distinctive features of the architectural, historical, or cultural history of the Town and to limit the detri-

mental effect of demolition on the character of the town.

A copy of the proposed bylaw is available at the Town Clerk's office as well

as the Town Manager's office. If you wish to provide any comments, please send them in writing to the Town Manager's office.

LIBRARY

continued from page A3

typing, or proofreading documents. We cannot provide medical, legal, and business advice or opinions.

One-on-One Tech Help - Local History Room - registration required

Thursdays, January 8, 22, 29 at 4:30, 5:30, or 6:30 pm

Do you have a more complicated question than we can cover during Drop-in Tech Help? Would you like to learn some basic email or internet skills? Make a one-on-one appointment with the Charlton Library's Digital Skills Instructor and get up to 60 minutes of dedicated support. 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, January 13, 3:30-4:45 - Community Meeting Room

The monthly meeting of the Friends of Charlton Public Library. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Needle Felted Snowman

Tuesday, January 13, 5:30-7:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Learn to make a snowman out of wool! For teens and adults ages 12 and older. Registration is required. What is Needle Felting? Needle felting is a craft where you repeatedly poke loose wool fibers with a special barbed needle, causing the fibers to interlock and tangle, creating a firm, sculpted shape or design. It's like sculpting with wool, using the needle's barbs to mat the fibers together, allowing beginners to easily create 3D figures, add texture to fabrics, or make decorative art, with just wool, a felting needle, and a mat.

Tidying up your Gmail

Tuesday, January 13, 6:00-7:00 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Saturday, January 17, 1:30-2:30 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Is your inbox overflowing with unread messages, promotions, and clutter? Join us for this beginner-friendly workshop on tidying up your Gmail! You'll learn simple, practical tools to organize your inbox, delete unwanted emails in bulk, unsubscribe from mailing lists, create folders and filters, and take control of your email once and for all. Whether you're aiming for "Inbox Zero" or just want to find important messages faster, this session will help you feel more confident and organized online.

Safari, Google, and ChatGPT

Wednesday, January 14, 12:30-2:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

This class covers Safari, the internet browser native to Apple products. We uncover the ways Safari can help with searching for information, including using Google and bookmarking important

sites, and how AI applications like ChatGPT can assist with everyday tasks like writing emails, exploring different topics, and doing research.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group

Thursday, January 15, 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.

Fandom Club: Spiderman

Thursday, January 15, 5:30-6:15 pm - Storytime Room - registration required

Drop by the Children's Room and enjoy exploring a new fandom and participating in related activities/crafts! This month's fandom is Spiderman. For children ages 8+.

Rev. John Lucy on Christianity and Death

Thursday, January 15, 6:00-6:30 pm - Dexter Hall - no registration required

A basic primer on different Christian traditions on what happens after you die, including from theologians who don't believe in a heaven awaiting us. From early Christian scholars to John Wesley and Soren Kierkegaard, we'll briefly explore the wide range of orthodoxy on death. Stay afterwards for our monthly Death Café discussion from 6:30-7:30 pm.

Death Cafe

Thursday, January 15, 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. The Death Cafe model was developed by Jon Underwood and Sue Barsky Reid, based on the ideas of Bernard Crettaz.

Crafternoon for Kids

Friday, January 16, 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!

Gentle Flow Yoga

Saturday, January 17, 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.

Saturday Acoustic Roots Jam-SARJ

Saturday, January 17, 12:00-1:30 - Community Meeting Room

An acoustic only music jam. Open to all 18+. Email Rich at Cule5632@gmail.com for more information.

Intro to Qello Concerts & Classica

Tuesday, January 20, 6:00-7:00 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Saturday, January 24, 1:30-2:30 pm - Local History Room - registration required

In this class, participants will learn about two of the library's Music Video streaming platforms: Qello Concert & Classica. Qello Concerts is a streaming service that brings the live concert experience to your screen. Featuring full-length concerts and music documentaries from legendary artists and today's top performers, Qello offers an extensive collection across every genre—from rock, pop, and jazz to classical and country. With high-quality recordings and exclusive behind-the-scenes footage, Qello Concerts lets music lovers relive iconic performances and discover new favorites anytime, anywhere. Classica is a premium streaming service dedicated to the world of classical music, opera, and ballet. It offers audiences access to stunning performances from renowned concert halls, opera houses, and festivals around the globe. With expertly produced recordings, behind-the-scenes documentaries, and exclusive artist interviews, Classica provides an immersive experience for both lifelong classical music enthusiasts and newcomers alike.

CULE- Charlton Ukulele League & Ensemble

Thursday, January 22, 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

Critical Thinking Discussion Group

Friday, January 23, 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.

Drop-in Needle Felting for Adults

Wednesday, January 21, 10:00-11:30 am - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

Tuesday, January 27, 6:00-7:30 pm - 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.

Winter Sowing

Saturday, January 24, 12:00-2:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Join Lady Fern Farm for a native plant-winter sowing-workshop. This is a hands on, make and take event. Participants will learn the importance of growing native plants, what difference one yard can make, and create mini greenhouses from recycled milk and/or water jugs. Please bring 1 or 2 opaque milk or water jugs (soil and seeds will be provided). Get your gardening fix this winter!

Intro to Universal Class

Tuesday, January 27, 6:00-7:00 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

Saturday, January 31, 1:30-2:30 pm - Local History Room - registration required

In this class, participants will learn how to set up a free account and navigate Universal Class learning platform. Please note: This platform is only free to Charlton residents with a Charlton Library card. Universal Class is an online education experience offering over 540 courses in subjects like Entrepreneurship, Home and Garden Care, Computers and Technology, Health and Medicine, homeschooling, Job Assistance, Law, and many more. It offers a wide variety of step-by-step video classes taught by expert instructors. Whether you are looking to make a career change or pick up a new hobby, Universal class can help, all from the comfort of your home.

Personalizing Your Device

Wednesday, January 28, 10:30-11:30 am - Community Meeting Room - registration required

In this class, we learn about different ways to customize the iPhone and iPad to suit your preferences better. We'll cover reorganizing our Home Screens, creating folders, changing the appearance of our displays, and changing the image used for the wallpapers and Lock Screens.

Back to Basics: An Intro to Smartphones and Tablets

Wednesday, January 28, 12:30-1:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

This introductory class introduces new users to the basics of using the iPhone and iPad. It will cover the hardware of the iPhone and iPad, important areas of the devices, and accessing common tools like the flashlight, alarm, and camera.

Quabbin Wildlife Stories

Saturday, January 31, 10:30-12:00 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

The show "Stories of Wildlife at the Quabbin Reservoir" will include the bald eagle introduction program that took place during the 1980's that introduced the bald eagle back into Massachusetts as a nesting species. This program has since had great results and has grown to 100 bald eagle nests in MA last year as counted by MassWildlife. It will also include the ongoing Quabbin moose survey with short videos of moose, bobcats and deer that have been filmed on trail cameras set to film moose. Also included will be the Quabbin loon survey, the turkey reintroduction in the mid 1960's as well as other animal surveys that have been occurring on the Quabbin watershed since the 1970's.

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





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A portrait of a middle-aged man with a beard and glasses, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and light green tie. He is smiling and standing outdoors next to a dark wooden post, with green foliage in the background.

Courtesy Photo

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the newest members as they begin this special journey: third-grade students Maria Mazzone, Paulina Deptula, and Maggie Belanger, and fourth-grade students Nella Copeland, Olivia Guinto, and Joanna Thrun. May Our Blessed Mother guide and protect each of you as you grow in faith and continue to shine as young leaders in our school and parish community.

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