



Courtesy

Sturbridge Rotary President Klaus Hachfeld presents checks to the 2025 scholarship recipients (left to right) Anthony Fazzuoli, Ethan Parker, Jocelyn Mrotek, Jackson Landline, Rachel Salisbury, Charlotte Ardis, Samantha Baker, and Griffin Harold.



Courtesy

Recently graduated Tantasqua Regional High School Interact officers (back row) Jackson Landline, Rachel Salisbury, Jocelyn Mrotek, Charlotte Ardis, and Samantha Baker passed the torch, and the gavel, to the incoming slate of officers (front row): Emmett Deatte, president; Mailead Fairbrother, secretary, Evie Spencer, Treasurer; and Julie Anne Petersen, publicist. Vice president Ethan Zhu is not pictured.

# Sturbridge Rotary Club honors local youth at annual celebratory dinner

STURBRIDGE — The Sturbridge Rotary Club proudly hosted its annual Youth Celebratory Dinner on July 15 at the Publick House Historic Inn, bringing together students, educators, Rotarians, and local leaders for an evening recognizing exceptional youth achievement and service. The event took place in Paige Hall during the Club's regular meeting, combining tradition with celebration.

Led by Master of Ceremonies David M. Zonia, PsyD, the evening featured remarks from Club President Klaus Hachfeld, who opened the program with the Pledge of Allegiance and Rotary's Four-Way Test. Special guests included Peter Dufresne, Principal of Tantasqua Regional High



Courtesy

Sturbridge Rotary Youth Leadership Award recipients Ben Landline and Nia Warren accept their awards from Sturbridge Rotarian Linda Langevin Zonia.



School (TRHS) Academic; Mark Wood, Principal of TRHS Technical; Jean Bubon, Sturbridge Town Planner; Lynn Duffy O'Shea, President of the Brookfield Rotary Club; and Rotary District 7910 Governor Johnny Ahern.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) by Rotarian Linda Langevin Zonia. RYLA is a signature program of Rotary International that empowers young leaders through workshops and collaborative experiences. This year, the Sturbridge Rotary Club awarded RYLA scholarships to eight local students selected to join over 150 Massachusetts high school sophomores at the RYLA Conference, Tum To **ROTARY** page 14

## Southbridge native collecting immigration stories for new book

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — For years, Joe Lenti has lived 3,000 miles away, in Washington state. But he's never let his fondness for his hometown fade.

After spending time writing about Costa Rica and Mexico, he let that blossom into the idea of research-

Tum To **BOOK** page 9

## Charlton sees results of ADA self-evaluation

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The Town of Charlton has released the finding from a grant-funded study of ADA compliance throughout the town buildings with recommendations set to go before the Select Board for ratification at a future meeting.

The study was conducted using around \$43,470 in Massachusetts Office of Disability grant money meant to spearhead the updates and designs for Charlton's ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan. On July 8, the Select Board hosted a presentation by several individuals involved in the study which concluded numerous needs for the town to ensure ADA-mandated accessibility for all and will serve as a blueprint for the town's

Tum To **ADA** page 9

## Brimfield celebrates Old Home Day this weekend



BRIMFIELD — Brimfield invites everyone to join them at the fourth annual Old Home Day, Saturday, July 26 on the grounds of Brimfield Auction Acres at 35 Main St. The event begins at 4 p.m. and continues until 9 p.m., when an amazing display of fireworks will light up the night sky. Admission is free until 7 p.m., and then it is \$5/carload. The gate will close at 8:30 p.m.

The day includes a stellar line up of music. Time Stretchers Band performs 4–6 p.m. The Band is known for strong lead vocals and for their impressive vocal harmonies. The group features Barry Searle on guitar, Clark Howell on drums, Sarah Miller on vocals and percussion, Pete Rzasa on pedal steel guitar, Paul Racicot on keyboards and Mark Nevue on bass.

The repertoire is an enjoyable

mix of songs from many artists and a variety of genres from the '50s to now! They are constantly expanding the song list, but frequently featured artists include the Beatles, Linda Ronstadt, Tom Petty, Johnny Cash, Badfinger, The Pretenders, Steely Dan and more. Immediately following from 6 – 7 p.m. will be a Community Drum circled led by Tim Kane.

Tum To **OLD** page 14

AUGUST EVENTS AT CHARLTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

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

**Movies @ The Library**

All showings are on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. only Unless noted - Dexter Hall - No registration required.

Aug. 5: "Thunderbolts." A world without Avengers doesn't mean there's not a

group of superheroes. There is a group and they're called the Thunderbolts. 2025. Rated PG-13. Runtime 126 minutes. Starring Florence Pugh, Sebastian Stan, David Harbour, Wyatt Russell, Olga Kurylenko.

Aug. 12: PADDINGTON IN PERU. Paddington in Peru follows Paddington and the Brown family as they visit Aunt Lucy in Peru. A thrilling adventure ensues when a mystery plunges them into an unexpected journey through the Amazon rainforest and to the mountain peaks of Peru.

2024. Rated PG. Runtime 106 minutes. Featuring Ben Whishaw, Hugh Bonneville, Emily Mortimer, Antonio Banderas, and Olivia Colman.

August 19: THE BALLAD OF WALLIS ISLAND. Old tensions resurface when former bandmates who were former lovers reunite for a private show at the island home of an eccentric millionaire. As tempers flare and old tensions resurface, the stormy weather traps them all on the island. 2025. Rated PG-13. Runtime 99 minutes. Starring Tom Basden, Tim Key, Sian Clifford, Akemnji Ndifornyen, and Carey Mulligan.

August 26: DROP. When a normal drop goes horribly wrong, a young man finds himself on the run from a mysterious woman. 2025. Rated PG-13. Runtime 100 minutes. Featuring Meghann Fahy, Brandon Sklenar, Violet Beane, Jacob Robinson, and Jeffery Self.

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

Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 pm - Sibley Reading Area - no registration required

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

Exploration Corner

Fridays, August 1 and 8, 10:00-11:00 - Storytime Room - registration required

Join facilitator Alexis Moore for Exploration Cor-

ner: a series of fun classes for kids! Alexis will teach kids important life skills about germs, body systems, breathing, nutrition and exercise through fun activities and crafts. For ages 3-6. Limited spaces available. Register for each session you can attend.

**LEGO Club**

Friday, August 1, 2:30-3:30 - 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 LEGO's 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.

**Me & My Mini**

Mondays, August 4 and 11, 10:00-10:45 - Community Meeting Room - registration required

A 45-minute creative movement group for ages birth through 2.5 with a grown-up led by Katelyn Cramer from Sunflower Movement Therapy. The group is focused on adult and baby spending quality time together, fostering attachment, and baby interacting with others their age. Get groovy to upbeat music with props, instruments, and a story! Registration is required. Space is limited.

**One-on-One Visit with Olive the Therapy Dog**

Tuesday, August 5, 5:30-

6:00 - Storytime Room - registration required

Tuesday, August 26, 6:00-6:30 - Storytime Room - registration required

This is a one-on-one session with our Therapy Dog, Olive. Olive is trained and licensed through Bright Spot Therapy. Turn To **BOOK** page 9

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Friday: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

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

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

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

Individual offices may vary

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

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**STURBRIDGE 508-347-6463**  
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**BRIMFIELD:** 413-245-3451  
Weekdays: 9:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

**WALES:** 413-245-9808  
Weekdays 8:30 – 12:30 and 2:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 – 12:00

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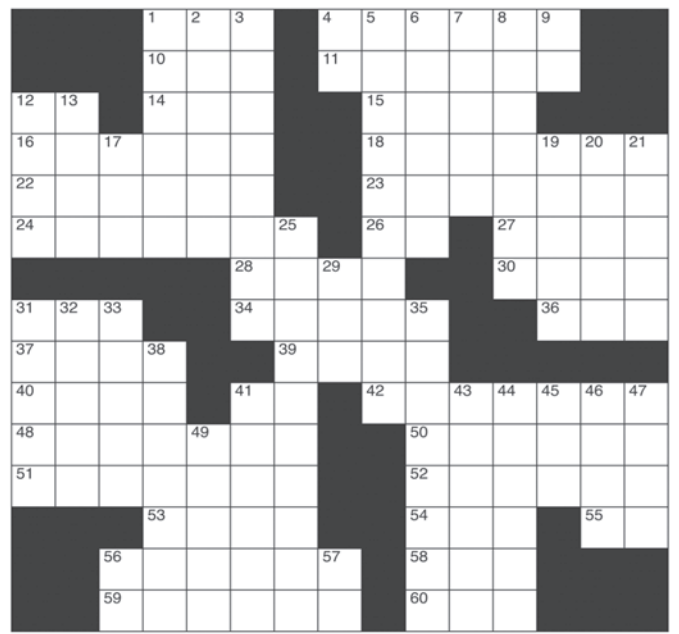
- **Central Baptist Church**  
256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550  
Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.
- **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 508- 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer worship is 9:30 a.m. [www.fed-church.org](http://www.fed-church.org)
- **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, [www.charltonbaptist.org](http://www.charltonbaptist.org), Sunday worship 10 a.m.
- **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: [CharltonCityUMC.org](http://CharltonCityUMC.org)  
Sunday worship and Children's church 10am
- **St. Anne St. Patrick Church**, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338  
[www.stannestpatparish.com](http://www.stannestpatparish.com)  
Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am
- **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, [www.stjosephscharlton.com](http://www.stjosephscharlton.com), Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
- **Wayside Church**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144
- **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, [snedag.org](http://snedag.org), Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor; Charlton, MA 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349  
Sunday Service 10:00am.  
[www.livingwordhcarton.com](http://www.livingwordhcarton.com)  
[info@livingwordcharlton.com](mailto:info@livingwordcharlton.com)
- **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
- **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale**- 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021  
[www.sturfed.org](http://www.sturfed.org)  
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
- **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**- 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566  
Phone 508-347-7297  
Web: [www.bethlehemsturbridge.org](http://www.bethlehemsturbridge.org)  
Services - Sunday 9:00 am  
Pastor Dan Purtell
- **Holland Congregation Church "Where the Bible is preached."**  
11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926  
[Hollandchurch.org](http://Hollandchurch.org)  
Sunday Service @ 10:00 am  
Pastor Dan Maketansky
- Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**  
446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550  
Phone: 508-765-9559  
Web: [www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org](http://www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org)  
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Pastor Dan Purtell

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Pacific standard time
  - 4. Extracts through heating and melting
  - 10. Express delight
  - 11. More curvy
  - 12. Expression of uncertainty
  - 14. Indicates before
  - 15. Daughter of Hera and Zeus
  - 16. Southwestern CA city
  - 18. Unified
  - 22. Less attractive
  - 23. Base of jellies
  - 24. A large and noisy party
  - 26. He was traded for Luka
  - 27. Wolverine genus
  - 28. "Happy Days" actress Moran
  - 30. Root of taro plant
  - 31. Student environmental group (abbr.)
  - 34. Silk garments
  - 36. Unique power
  - 37. Ray Liotta cop film
  - 39. Leak slowly through
  - 40. Notion
  - 41. Atomic #55
  - 42. Fixed in one place
  - 48. About heat
  - 50. Type of baseball pitch
  - 51. Seedless raisin
  - 52. Large wading birds
  - 53. Similar
  - 54. Time zone
  - 55. Atomic #34
  - 56. Program
  - 58. Old world, new
  - 59. Contrary belief
  - 60. "To the \_\_\_ degree"

- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Plain-woven fabric
  - 2. Classed
  - 3. Suppositions
  - 4. Midway between south and west
  - 5. Tropical American trees
  - 6. Leveled
  - 7. Published false statement
  - 8. Adolescent
  - 9. Junior's father
  - 12. Aurochs
  - 13. Not low
  - 17. Boxing's GOAT
  - 19. Short musical composition
  - 20. Small immature herrings
  - 21. Eavesdropper
  - 25. Parcels of land
  - 29. Anger
  - 31. Irritations
  - 32. Hindu holy man
  - 33. Wicker basket for fish
  - 35. Natural object
  - 38. Transporting in a vehicle
  - 41. A dog is one
  - 43. Smaller portion
  - 44. Sew
  - 45. Belonging to a thing
  - 46. Horsley and Greenwood are two
  - 47. Scottish language
  - 49. Producer
  - 56. Exclamation of surprise
  - 57. Russian river

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| S | E | S | I | B | I |   | V | N | V | I | T | N | S |   |   |   |   |
| H | E | I | I | N | O |   | T | V | W | H | E | H | I |   |   |   |   |
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\$544,000, 284 N Sturbridge Rd, Dicenso, Carmine A, and Dicenso, Elizabeth F, to Donovan Rt, and Donovan, Anne-liese.

\$439,900, 81 Number 6 Schoolhouse Rd, Appleton, John, and Appleton, Diane P, to Macleod, Alexander, and Macleod, Jennifer T.

\$435,777, 54 Number 10 Schoolhouse Rd, Larosa, Mark A, and Larosa, Lisa M, to Kirkpatrick, Kacie, and Werner, Jeremy.

**Holland**

\$200,000, 8 Julia Ann Dr, Keith R Bazinet RET, and Bazinet, Keith R, to Johnny East LLC.

**SOUTHBRIDGE**

None

**STURBRIDGE**

\$625,000, 66 Westwood Dr, Palmer Ft, and Palmer 3rd, Thomas W, to Algoo, Shante, and Algoo, Parbhudai.

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# School Committee considers policy changes

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — The Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee is examining policy updates regarding fundraising and student admissions for non-residents which are expected to be finalized later this year.

Five separate policies were examined by the school committee on July 10 that could replace or alter existing language or are completely brand new to the district. The first three policies are an update to student fundraising rules and facilities use as well as a new document

pertaining to public solicitations in schools. The remaining two policies are updates to the school admissions residency restrictions and a new policy in advance of the district’s potential move to allow foreign exchange students to pay to attend local schools.

The policy changes regarding student fundraising clean up some language and incorporate the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s requirements into the documents. The updates also make clear that the district doesn’t support door-to-door fundraising, breaks

down different types of fundraising that would be conducted in the schools, and clarifies the application process and supervision requirements among other changes.

Another update to the policy regarding facilities use adds nonprofit and charitable organization terminology and requiring proper liability insurance where applicable among other small adjustments. The brand-new policy in the mix involves public solicitation in schools relating to limitations the school committee would place on commercial activity from companies such as

Coca-Cola or Amazon.

The School Committee shared some concerns if these changes or additions would impact organizations like the PTO or solicitations for yearbook and class ring sales. Superintendent Steven Lamarche confirmed that the organizations are their own entity and are not governed by the limits of the district concerning fundraising and that the sales of items like yearbooks and rings

might involve third parties at times but are organized and initiated by the schools rather than a

t third-party commercial retailer.

All three of these policies turn to **SCHOOL** page 16

## July 27 Blueberry Festival opportunity

CHARLTON — You may have noticed the beautiful wildflowers popping up all over the newly-established ‘Cathy’s Memorial Wildflower Meadow’ on Meadowview Drive, at the Housing Authority grounds, in Charlton!

This year, at the Blueberry Festival, you will have an opportunity to purchase an eight by four inch custom memorial stone which includes 39-space (13 characters per line, including spaces x three lines) inscription of your choice to remember a loved-one for \$300, installed in the meadow sitting area. Or, if you wish, keep it in a place of your choice; perhaps in your garden.

Please visit our booth at the Blueberry Festival on Sunday, July 27 to purchase your memorial stone.

Our Web site is <https://cathys-wildflower-meadow.yolasite.com/>.

There will soon be an order form on our website that you can use to purchase your memorial stone with template to inscribe your message. So be on the lookout!

## All ages drum circle to be held at Brimfield Winery

BRIMFIELD — A free-for-all-ages family drum circle will be held from 6-7 p.m. on Saturday, July 26 at Brimfield Winery during Old Home Day.

The drumming event is sponsored by the Brimfield Cultural Council. Come learn about rhythms from around the world using our vast variety of djembes and other hand drums.

This program is sponsored through a grant from the Brimfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, and in partnership with the Brimfield Old Home Day Committee and Hitchcock Free Academy. RSVP recommended. For more information, text (774) 757-7636 or visit [kaneschoolofdrums.com](http://kaneschoolofdrums.com).

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# Martha Moore remembered



Gus Steeves  
Ingrid Swenson holds two of Martha Moore's chicken bags.



Gus Steeves  
Martha Moore's "Fruit Box Quilt" bursts with flavor and 3D-illusion, especially when the contrast is enhanced.



Gus Steeves  
A closeup of the intricate neck design of a sweater.



Gus Steeves  
An undated Southbridge News photo of Martha Moore by Don Cadoret, probably from the 1990s based on text on the back, was among many articles on display about her.

SOUTHBRIDGE — Last weekend, the Ruth Wells Arts Center paid tribute to local artist, gardener, horticulturist and Arts Center founding member Martha Moore (1951-2024) with a display of her detailed works. Its walls and other surfaces were festooned with many quilts, sweaters,

hats, chicken bags, and various other samples of Moore's decades of work. Her online obituary from Morrill Funeral Home summarized her work well, stating: "A gifted fiber and textile artist, Martha made her own wedding gown, including the lacework. She was a

prolific knitter, always working with natural fibers, and often starting with raw wool to hand wash, card, spin, and dye, before creating exquisite sweaters, hats, shawls, and slippers. These creations and Martha's whimsical, meticulously hand-stitched quilts will

warm her loved ones for generations."

Gus Steeves  
(Right) Larry Day and Laurel Wolfe talk to other visitors while seated in front of one of Moore's more complex pieces. (Each square has its own title and year.)



## Opacum Land Trust selected as 2025 TerraCorps Service Site

B RIMFIELD — The Opacum Land Trust is excited to announce that they have been selected as a 2025 TerraCorps service site. TerraCorps places AmeriCorps members in 11-month service terms across a network of land-based community nonprofits working towards equitable land use, food justice and environmental sustainability. Opacum Land Trust is now recruiting for a Land Stewardship Coordinator position. Land Stewardship Coordinators (LSC) build the long-term capacity of their Service Sites by creating networks of volunteers to support hands-on stewardship

of community lands. TerraCorps service members receive a stipend for their service.

TerraCorps is an environmental nonprofit working at the intersection of land conservation, sustainable agriculture, and food justice to grow the next generation of environmental leaders. They operate as an AmeriCorps program intermediary and administrator, facilitating access to federal resources that are often out of reach for small, community-based nonprofits. TerraCorps helps community nonprofits leverage the AmeriCorps national service

model. Each year, they recruit a new cohort of up to 60 AmeriCorps Service Members and place them at a service site organization within their network of 40+ nonprofit partners throughout Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Service members are paired with a site supervisor, an experienced professional, who provides them guidance and mentorship while they learn to manage community programs and projects throughout their service term.

TerraCorps cultivates an ecosystem of people and organizations that center community land own-

ership, access, and stewardship to support a diversity of interests that benefit human health and environmental sustainability. They value the power of local nonprofits to best understand and serve their communities. TerraCorps's goal is to help them succeed by providing them access to the AmeriCorps national service model to build organizational capacity. The program is funded in part by a grant provided by AmeriCorps, a federal agency, and administered in Massachusetts by the Massachusetts Service Alliance.

Do you love being outdoors? Are you in-

terested in gaining valuable experience in land stewardship, volunteer coordination, and education? Interested candidates can apply today to be a Land Stewardship Coordinator through the TerraCorps Service Program and help Opacum Land Trust to expand our stewardship program.

Land Stewardship Coordinators (LSC) build the long-term capacity of their Service Sites by creating networks of volunteers to support hands-on stewardship of community lands.

Some potential LSC projects might include:

1. Set up Landscape software to track stewardship needs on Opacum properties, including migrating data into LandScape, establishing property monitoring protocols with staff, and completing/coordinating monitoring needs with volunteers on 30 properties.
2. Coordinate educational walks on our properties about environmental stewardship or nature education, with a focus on families and youth.
3. Set up a volunteer stewardship program to assist with property monitoring and coordinating volunteer property workdays for

Turn To **OPACUM** page 16



# Community Connection



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# “Getting people to relate to forms in Nature”

## Kassirer show explores the spirit in clay

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT  
S O U T H B R I D G E  
—One ancient meta-physical concept is that words can take form. That fuels the sculpture of Sue Kassirer, with the words and ideas coming from the work of Joy Harjo, Rachel Carson, Robin Wall Kimmerer and similar people. All of them explore ecology and/or express “the mindset of Native American spirituality and storytelling.” So does Kassirer, crafting such themes into sculptures on display at Jacob Edwards Library this month.

Called “The Garden of Shadow and Smoke,” her visions come in all kinds of forms, from laughing grass blades and dancing trees to how the media affects the heart and spirit, from spiky and anger-infused pottery to calm and meditative pieces, all side by each. She displayed most of them alongside a few lines of poetry.

They all were “made with the idea of getting people to relate to forms in Nature on a more human level,” Kassirer said. It’s akin to the Native philosophy that “everything is in-spirited and to have respect for things around you.”

In some cases, those spirits express themselves in uncommon ways. One of her pieces has several black balls representing seeds and fertility, but she noted it reflects “my feelings about the non-binary nature of Nature. ... It’s time for all of us to be aware of and embrace that, drop all of the ‘type’ categories—female, male, right, wrong.”

In others, she tried to depict the complementary nature of those things – for example, spring awakening and winter sleep – as creating stories

and relating to them. To her, spring is a time that puts her “in awe” of birds hatching into new life and “the work (their parents) do to feed them.” “I love bird forms, but sometimes feel the Native Americans do it best. I can’t quite capture it,” she said. She later noted modern culture doesn’t do that well in many respects, in part because we’ve literally paved over Earth in so many places. Over many years, our economy has driven various species to extinction, or nearly so.

One of those is highlighted in the show – a pangolin with a grenade. Pangolins, she noted, have become endangered because of overhunting – and not even for food. “They’re harvested for their scales for aphrodisiacs,” she said. (The piece makes me think of Crocodile Dundee’s kangaroo with a shotgun going after poachers.)

The show features dozens of pieces, some of them small enough to fit in the glass case. Those are mostly pottery, and she noted she doesn’t “focus on functional ware” but prefers “the exotic.” Some, like her mugs, she sees as “personal therapy,” others were chances to try out new methods. One’s a Japanese Raku pot, made by smoking the clay in a closed pot so the smoke seeps into the natural cracks and leaves designs. Another used a Hopi-style horsehair fire method, where the hairs burn right into the clay.

Kassirer said a lot of her work is inspired “by living in farm country” and seeing “the potential in the seed an potential of what we’re capable of.” For eight years, she’s lived in Leverett with her husband Rich, having



Gus Steeves  
Sue Kassirer talks about her clay-working methods.



Gus Steeves  
Sue Kassirer is framed by her dancing trees as show attendees listen to her talk.



Gus Steeves  
A visitor gets a close-up look at one of the show’s pieces.

fallen in love with the region while a student at UMass. “In this show, I speak to an awareness of the beauty and the mystery that exists in the world around me,” she wrote in the show’s online de-

scription. “I am sharing poems that I have written, based on my thoughts and the ongoing conversation I hold in my mind as I move through the woods and wild places around me. They are my reactions

to nature, open-ended and fueled by curiosity. I share them with you in the hope that you too will connect with and think about your own relationships with the wild. I truly believe this will be the key to humans finding a

more balanced place in the world.”

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

# Community’s help sought to rebuild pet memorial

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE — Community assistance is requested in the effort to rebuild a beloved pet memorial that was destroyed during a winter storm.

For years, Wolfie’s Legacy Memorial Gazebo at Juno’s Place served as a comforting space where grieving pet parents could honor the memories of their furry friends. Tags, collars, photos, handwritten notes, and keepsakes sent from across the country—all placed with care in remembrance—were left at the site by guests from throughout the area.

In January, a strong storm brought a tree crashing down on the gazebo, destroying the one-of-a-kind memorial structure that housed hundreds of heartfelt mementos.

“There was no other place like it,” read a statement released by the Juno’s Place leadership team. “Wolfie’s Legacy was a deeply personal space for so many people.”

The memorial began as a tribute to Wolfie, a small dog who was abandoned and left to survive in a Worcester junkyard for 18 months. When he was finally rescued by Juno’s Place, Wolfie was severely ill, suffering from heartworm, Lyme disease, and renal failure.

Though his remaining time was short, Wolfie’s final days were filled with love, joy, and a bucket list of meaningful experiences. His story inspired residents throughout the area, leading to the creation of Wolfie’s Legacy Memorial. “This isn’t just a memorial—it’s a place of healing,” read the state-



Courtesy  
The Wolfie’s Legacy Memorial Gazebo at Juno’s Place was destroyed during a winter storm.

ment released by Juno’s Place representatives. “There’s nothing like it in New England. The loss of a pet is life-changing, and people need a place to remember, reflect, and feel understood.”

In the wake of the storm, the Juno’s Place team remains committed to rebuilding the memorial—this time in a safer and more accessible area. Plans include a more durable cedar-shingled structure where visitors can sit in comfort, protected from the elements.

After months of grassroots efforts, supporters raised funds needed for work on the site. This includes the installation of a rock foundation to prevent future water damage.

The next step was securing a new memorial structure worthy of the memories it would hold, project leaders said.

A cedar shelter was found, offering shelves, cubbies, benches, and

other features needed to create a lasting tribute. After extensively researching the unit, the team was prepared to purchase it when the next round of adversity struck. The seller inexplicably stopped responding to messages, forcing the team to move in another direction.

“The team has found a potential replacement, but its cost is beyond current fundraising levels,” the statement read. “They’re reaching out to the public for help: donations, connections, ideas, or even a generous hero who might make the dream possible.”

“No stone can go unturned,” the statement continued. “This memorial isn’t just for our pets. It’s for every heart that’s ever loved and lost. And we’re committed to making it happen.”

To support the rebuilding of the Wolfie’s Legacy Memorial Gazebo, please send an email to: Junos-place@yahoo.com.

Juno’s Place (5 Allen Rd., Sturbridge) is a grassroots pet advocacy dedicated to the memory of beloved pets and the lives of those still with us. Working alongside Burt’s Brigade, the team supports education and compassionate remembrance efforts.

“We’re looking for sponsors, donors, carpenters, or anyone who can donate materials, time, or expertise,” the statement read.

As land clearing continues, the team is also restoring the symbolic “Rainbow Bridge” entrance and designing a new “Whisper Phone Booth,” offering a private space for visitors to speak their final words to their beloved pets.

# The biggest and best cards & collectibles show in Central Mass. coming to Charlton

CHARLTON — The goal of Dynamic Card Collectors is to bring a show to Central Massachusetts that truly has the entire family in mind. By designing a show with a truly unique variety of vendors, we feel we succeeded in bringing a unique family friendly event close to home.

Just minutes from Worcester—the second-largest city in New England—don’t miss out on Central Massachusetts’ biggest quarterly Cards and Collectibles Show! Now with nearly 90 tables featuring Sports Cards & Memorabilia, Trading Card Games like Pokémon and One Piece, Anime Collectibles, Funkos, and so much more, this event is a must-attend! You’ll find some of the top vendors in the state, exciting door prizes, and food and beverages available for purchase. It’s an event you won’t want to miss! The cost to enter is \$5 at the door; kids 12 and under are free.

The excitement kicks off Aug. 2 at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph’s Church, located at 10 H Putnam Rd. Ext., Charlton, and runs until 4 p.m. Each event will feature fantastic door prizes for both Sports and TCG enthusiasts! Door prize tickets will be drawn at 3:00 PM, and winners do not need to be present to claim their prizes!

A big thank you to our amazing sponsors—Best Flippin’ Card Show, Mana Springs TCG, and the volunteers from Charlton City UMC—for making this event possible, as well as for providing delicious breakfast and lunch options!

# Charlton resident Dylan DeJesus named to Dean’s List at Virginia Tech

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Dylan M. DeJesus, a rising sophomore majoring in Mechanical Engineering in the College of Engineering, is among the Virginia Tech students named to the Dean’s List for the Spring 2025 semester.

Undergraduate stu-

dents who complete a minimum of 12 credit hours and earn a grade point average of 3.4 or higher are recognized on the Dean’s List.

Virginia Tech, located in Blacksburg, Va., is a prominent public research university known for its strong academic

programs, innovative research, and commitment to community engagement. Founded in 1872, the university offers more than 110 undergraduate majors and more than 120 Master’s and doctoral degree programs. Virginia Tech’s vibrant campus

life is characterized by a diverse student body, active student organizations, and a strong emphasis on leadership and service. Driven by the motto Ut Prosim (That I May Serve), Virginia Tech Hokies are committed to being a force for positive change.

# UTampa student Alyssa Renaud of Sturbridge earns Dean's List honors

TAMPA, Fla. — Alyssa Renaud, of Sturbridge, earned dean’s list honors at University of Tampa as a Senior in the Spring 2025 semester. Renaud is majoring in Criminol-


ogy and Criminal Justice BS. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.75 or higher to be eligible for the dean’s list.

The University of Tampa is a private, comprehensive uni-

versity located on 110 acres on the riverfront in downtown Tampa. Known for academic excellence, personal attention and real-world experience in its undergraduate and grad-

uate programs, the University has about 200 programs of study and serves approximately 11,450 students from 50 states and most of the world’s countries.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

Make it a summer of no regrets

As the final days of summer approach, we find ourselves standing at a crossroads. The days grow shorter, the evenings cooler, and the carefree essence of summer seems to slip away. It's time to seize the moment, to cherish every opportunity, and to make August a summer of no regrets.

Living in the picturesque region of New England, we are fortunate to be surrounded by a breathtaking landscape. From majestic mountains to serene lakes, our backyard is a playground of adventures waiting to happen. The time has come to embark on those road trips we have been postponing and explore the hidden gems that lie within our reach.

Whether you're an avid hiker or a casual nature lover, our region's mountains offer an escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Take a day to venture into the wilderness, breathe in the crisp air, and marvel at the natural wonders that lie before you. The memories forged amid the towering pines and breathtaking vistas will last a lifetime.

Equally enticing are the serene lakes scattered across the area. Pack a picnic, gather your loved ones, and head to the waterside. Be it swimming, kayaking, or simply basking in the sun's warmth, lake-side retreats provide a tranquil refuge to unwind and savor the joys of summer.

For those who seek a taste of city life, why not take a drive to the vibrant metropolises of Boston and Portland? These urban centers share a rich cultural heritage, bustling streets, and delectable culinary scenes. Lose yourself in the museums, explore the historic landmarks, and indulge in the local cuisine – each moment a treasure to hold on to.

However, amid our grand adventures, we must not forget the simple joys that have brought us together year after year. Backyard barbecues offer a nostalgic charm that fills the air with laughter and the scent of sizzling goodness. Gather family and friends for a fun filled evening, where the flames of the grill light up not only the darkening skies but also our hearts with warmth and camaraderie.

And as the sun sets lower, take the opportunity to relive the carefree days of youth by playing hoops at the local park. Feel the thrill of competition and the joy of teamwork as you shoot hoops and chase the ball. The courts become a canvas for unforgettable moments and lasting memories. August is our chance to make amends for any missed opportunities from earlier in the summer.

As we look back on this summer, we'll be filled with the contentment of knowing that we embraced the season wholeheartedly. We laughed with abandon, explored with wonder, and lived with joy. When we bid farewell to August, we'll do so with hearts full of cherished memories, knowing that we made the most of every fleeting moment.

So, unite in spirit and determination to make August a summer of no regrets. Whether we climb mountains, swim in lakes, stroll through cities, or gather in backyards, seize the remaining days with gusto.

Letter submission policy

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

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

OPINION

A Long Talk



BEYOND THE PEWS  
REV. JOHN H.D. LUCY  
CHARLTON CITY UMC

One of the most famous verses in the Bible is Galatians 3:28. I'll back up and quote from verse 26, too, so we read, "So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith... There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

We could nitpick here and argue that Paul only refers to the baptized community, but I think the idea remains the same regardless: God intends for us to treat one another equally, with love and compassion, no matter our sex, race, ethnicity, country of origin, etc. It's such a basic and frequent message in the Bible that I'm frankly shocked we're still debating whether we should do anything about racism, sexism, and the like.

I'm therefore proud that the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (think of the annual conference as a diocese) partnered with A Long Talk, an organization whose goal is to put an anti-racist at every dinner table in America. St. Paul also says, in 1 Corinthians, "If one part of the body suffers,

all parts suffer with it." It is time, it has always been time, for us to acknowledge that we have a part to play in ending racism.

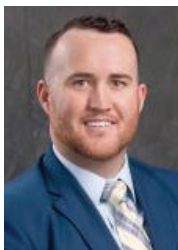
A Long Talk is called an anti-racism activation experience. It's a three-week program designed to inform and train you to act, perhaps in small ways. Because as Kyle Williams, one of the co-founders of A Long Talk, says, "Anti-racism is a verb, not a vibe." We can't just talk about racism or claim to be not racist. We need to act. And while I often hear from people that they are tired of talking about racism, well, being an anti-racist and dismantling the systems and of oppression and tools of prejudice is the fastest way to end the conversation. Erase racism, there's nothing else to talk about.

Even as a well-informed, educated, non-racist, A Long Talk still pushed my comfort boundaries. I am Hispanic but can pass for white and, like most

white people, I want to think racism is "out there" somewhere and not my problem. The power of A Long Talk lies in conversation. You have to listen to the stories and suffering of our neighbors. I was taught, inspired, motivated, and equipped to do more than just not be biased. I had such a meaningful experience that I have incorporated what's called the CPR Protocol in my life and encouraged everyone in my church to participate. I encourage all of you reading to go to alongtalk.com and see how you might participate. Maybe your workplace, your church, or other community group can all register together. I invite you as well to urge the Town of Charlton to register and require employees to participate. I've already sent the town and the Selectboard registration information and you can help ensure that our town is not only dementia friendly (Dementia Friendly Charlton does great work!) but people friendly, generally.

It's time to do the work together. Black or white, male or female, gay or straight, American or Mexican, we are all people. Living, breathing people of worth.

Does the 4 percent rule still make sense for your retirement?



FINANCIAL FOCUS  
TREVOR NIELSEN

You may have heard of the "4 percent rule" when it comes to retirement. The idea is simple: After you retire, you withdraw 4 percent of your investment portfolio each year. In theory, this helps ensure your savings last for your lifetime. While this rule can be a helpful starting point, it's not a one-size-fits-all — and it's not a substitute for a plan tailored to your specific needs, wants and wishes.

The truth is, how much to withdraw in retirement depends on factors like when you retire, if you'll work part time, how long you expect retirement to last, your lifestyle goals, inflation and whether you want to leave a financial legacy to heirs. So, the 4% rule should be viewed as more of a guide than a strict rule.

Let's start with age. The 4 percent rule is often based on someone retiring at 65 and expecting to live until about 92. But if you retire earlier, you may want your portfolio to stretch further. In that case, you might need to start with a lower withdrawal rate, maybe closer to 3 percent. And if you retire later, you might safely withdraw a little more — perhaps 4.5 to 5 percent — depending on your financial situation.

Your retirement lifestyle also plays a big role. Are you planning to travel the world or spend more time at home? If you expect higher spending in the early years of retirement, you may need to adjust your withdrawal rate or plan to reduce spending later to balance things out.

Your financial flexibility matters too. If you have less wiggle room with your expenses, rely heavily on your portfolio for income or want to preserve wealth for your heirs, a more conservative approach might be wise. In this conservative scenario, your portfolio withdrawals may be met from interest and dividends. Think of your withdrawal rate as existing on a spectrum from more conservative to less conservative, with your personal situation determining where you land.

Then there's inflation. A well-built strategy usually includes small annual increases in withdrawals to keep up with rising costs — about 2.75 percent per year. But you don't need to take a raise just because the calendar says so. If the markets have had a tough year or you don't need the extra income, it might be smart to skip an increase. Being flexible can improve the chances your money will last.

It's also important to understand what's known as your "portfolio reliance rate" — how much of your retirement income comes from your investments versus other sources like Social Security or pensions. The higher this percentage, the more conservative you may want to be with withdrawals.

And don't forget the IRS. If you're drawing from a traditional IRA or 401(k), you'll need to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) once you reach age 73. Your RMD for any year is the account balance as of the end of the prior calendar year divided by a life expectancy factor according to the IRS. These RMDs need to be accounted for in your strategy.

The bottom line? The 4 percent rule is a useful starting point, but it's just that — a starting point. A good financial advisor can help you build a strategy that reflects your age, your goals, and your full financial picture. By revisiting your plan regularly and staying flexible, you'll give yourself the best shot at turning your savings into a secure, fulfilling retirement.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Trevor Nielsen, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com. Edward Jones, its employees, and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.*

To the Editor Dale's Corner

To the Editor:

"Look up! This is still a job for Superman!"

The recent release of "Superman" (2025) has reignited excitement, interest and even resentment among the general populace. Is it because we have forgotten how a man can fly? Or perhaps it is because we needed a jolt of excitement to break up the doldrums of everyday occurrences? Just maybe it could be because it has awakened a new feeling of hope?

This new incarnation has certainly stirred emotions and opinions, mine included. I am a fan of Superman films and comics and I have seen my hero go through so many changes of the times. As a boy, I saw him on TV portrayed by George Reeves and in the cinema with Christopher Reeve. He was a real boy scout, "save the day" warrior always making us believe that good will triumph at the end of the day. In more recent times, the comics have taken a dark and gritty path. Death, killing, and gore. Now, don't get me wrong, I do understand not everything can be neat and clean and wholesome, but perhaps we have had too much of that? "Superman Returns" and "Man of Steel" were a mixed bag for me. I was fine with Brandon Routh and Henry Cavill as the hero, but it was darker and it made me feel...well...uncomfortable. In the "old days" we would read or watch Lex Luthor plan an attack on Superman, loom over him as Kryptonite was hurting him. This is in opposition to seeing Luthor stab Superman with a shard of Kryptonite. Let's remember, adults are not the only ones reading and watching. Perhaps we just let children suffer the reality factor? After all, school shootings are a regular thing now.

It seems much of our media and entertainment has gone this route. Also, the loss of civility and kindness, compassion and love. I guess we would call those things "Woke" today. "Woke" began in the 1930's as a warning about social injustice. It has always been as-

sociated with knowledge and insight. Later in the 2000's, it seemed attached to the "Black Lives Matter" movement, signifying social injustices, sexism, inequality. Today, this term is being used as a weapon, trying to mark or describe people as overly politically correct or too progressive. Being aware of racial prejudice and any discrimination of others is an ideal which many would like to make wrong or outdated. It becomes an excuse and a justification to discriminate and act against certain people they do not like or agree with.

In many ways, this new Superman film tackles much of that, but does it in a subtle way. Here, Superman is back as the goody-two-shoes, boy scout hero. He even rescues a squirrel! The villain is trying to paint our hero as the invader, the real villain. He uses tools to influence the public, or "fake news." He has trolls on social media slowly and effectively planting the seeds of doubt and prejudice. How easily the public can be swayed! They don't need proof that something is wrong, but rather proof that it is right! Everything gets twisted and turned around. Sound familiar?

I watched the reactions in my first viewing of "Superman," and I was amazed that not only was I feeling these things, but it was affecting many. Just read the social media on this film and look at the opinions and feelings it is stirring up. That isn't happening by coincidence. The hero is portrayed in a true, good versus evil scenario. The film is inspiring and generates hope. That is what the character was designed to do back in 1938.

Go see the film and enjoy it. You may find it will stir some feelings and emotions and take you back to when you were younger. Maybe you may feel you look at things a touch differently after it. I think it's great that the character is doing what he was created to do. Entertain, amaze, inspire and make us think. Look up!

Dale Gonyea  
Sturbridge

# Reduce maintenance and boost your garden enjoyment

Every gardener has personal reasons for gardening whether it be the hope that their garden brings joy, productivity, beauty, or peace throughout the growing season. Embrace what makes you happy as you tend, view, and enjoy every aspect of your garden.

Weather, busy schedules, and life in general can interfere with the best laid plans for any garden and landscape. Take some time now to evaluate what is working so you can do more of that and decide what needs changing in your garden plantings, designs, and maintenance.

If you are feeling



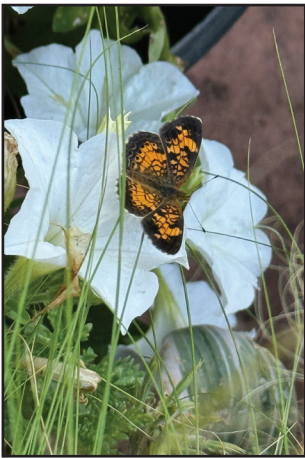
GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA  
MYERS

overwhelmed with the maintenance but still want seasonal interest, consider filling garden beds with shrubs. Look for low maintenance varieties suited to your growing conditions and climate. Select those with multiple seasons of beauty from flowers, foliage, fall color, and interesting form and bark. Include some that provide birds with food, shelter, and protection

from predators. You'll appreciate the beauty and motion these winged visitors provide.

Consider using fewer species of low-maintenance perennials and more of each. You'll have fewer plants to try to identify as the garden comes to life in spring and as you weed throughout the growing season. Look for those that are disease and insect-pest resistant, need minimal or no deadheading and pruning, and attract and support pollinators as well as provide winter interest and food for songbirds in the winter.

Then add season-long color with pockets or



Melinda Myers  
A Pearl Crescent butterfly on a firefly petunia.

containers of annuals. With fewer to buy and maintain you may decide your schedule and budget will allow you to change them out as the seasons change.

Accept and embrace the beauty of a less-than-perfect garden. Most visitors won't notice the imperfections unless you point them out. Plus, faded flowers and seed pods can provide unique texture and food for songbirds.

Do minimal clean-up that is better for the plants, pollinators and songbirds. Do remove or cut back diseased and insect-infested plant material as needed. Leave fall leaves in the garden to serve as mulch, a home for some beneficial insects, and insulation for toads, queen bumblebees, and others that overwinter underground. Allow perennials to stand for winter, increasing har-

Turn To **GARDENING** page 13

## Latest auction news



ANTIQUES,  
COLLECTIBLES  
& ESTATES  
.....  
WAYNE TUISKULA

In my next column, I'll discuss number 1 on our top 10 list. It's been well over a month since I shared the latest auction news, so I'll bring you up to date on that today. A book from the early 1600s and a handbag from the 1980s are two of the things that recently made auction news.

Galileo Galilei's first book from 1604, "Dialogo in perpuositio de la stella nuova" recently sold at auction in the United Kingdom. The book discussed a "new star," which was very controversial when the heavens were considered perfect and unchanging, according to the Antique Trader. Only eleven other editions are known to exist, and all are owned by institutions. It brought £1,129,000 (\$1,535,400 U.S.).

Moving ahead late into the 20th century, Hermès designed and created a handbag for the late actor and singer Jane Birkin in 1984. The Hermès Birkin bag became a symbol of luxury and status. The first Birkin bag originally owned by Jane Birkin that was



"scuffed, scratched and stained" recently sold for 7 million (\$8.2 million), according to CNN.

An antique toy also recently brought good results at auction. The circa 1904 Marklin Ferris Wheel was manufactured by the German company Marklin, known for their precision model trains. The Ferris Wheel retained "its six original gondolas, attractive stained glass, and original figures," according

to WJW TV in Cleveland, Ohio. It went for \$156,000.

Moving later in the 20th century, the 1941 film "Citizen Kane" is considered one of the best films ever made. The film was hailed both for its plot and cinematography. It used a film technique known as deep focus where the foreground, background, and middle are all in sharp focus. Low angled filming and innovative

Turn To **ANTIQUES** page 13



TAKE  
THE  
HINT  
.....  
KAREN  
TRAINOR

intense summer heat can take a toll on your lawn. If you find your grass is scorched and stressed, read on. The following golden rules of watering, as well as a few tried and true lawn tips can help revive your lawn to make it lush once again!

\*\*

Golden Rules of Watering:

1. Water early in the day – before 10 a.m. is best. On days when temps are expected to be higher than usual, water before the dew dries. Watering at this time allows time for the water to soak into the ground, and keeps the lawn cooler throughout the day.
- Can't water during the day? Early evening between 6 and 8 p.m. is the next best time. Avoid watering later at night when

## Tips for a Great Summertime Lawn

- the lawn doesn't have enough time to dry off. Keeping well-watered lawns wet overnight can encourage fungus.
2. Lawns need approximately one inch of water per week (including rain). In the hot days of summer, two inches of water per week should be the goal.
- Not sure if you lawn is watered enough? Try the simple screwdriver test. Push a long screwdriver into the soil. If it's hydrated enough it should go all the way down into the soil. If it is resistant to push down, you likely need to water:
- \*\*
- Read on for some trouble shooting lawn tips, courtesy of Turf Masters Lawn Care:
- Overwatering and Underwatering: Did you know that overwatering can cause more damage to your lawn than underwatering? Watering your lawn every day or even every other day can ruin your turf as the result of overwatering. The soil underneath your grass contains porous spaces containing oxygen vital to plant growth. Daily watering will push the air out of those spaces,

- filling the pores with water. This can cause the roots to suffocate and die. And this can result in a shallow root system and more susceptibility to weeds, disease and insect damage.
- Signs that you are overwatering
- Development of thatch—A layer of decomposed plant material that builds up when overwatering prevents beneficial soil bacteria.
- Fungus—Thin or weak grass that has a reddish-orange color could be a sign of fungus from overwatering.
- Weeds—Overwatered lawns will develop weeds that are harder to control such as nutsedge and crabgrass.
- Insects—Too much water creates a conducive habitat for pests. Damage from armyworms, cutworms or other insects could be the result of overwatering.
- On the other hand, if your lawn is being underwatered, it can experience drought damage, weeds and other symptoms.
- Signs that you are underwatering

Turn To **HINT** page 14



# Family Dining & Gift Guide

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# For every ending, there is a new beginning

**BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE**  
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Saturday, July 19, the upper parking lot of Westville Dam recreational area in Southbridge was filled with cars from Masonic family members from the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge and the Doric Chapter of Southbridge for its summer cookout gathering. Both highly respected organizations have been organizing this great family event since 1991.

There was a great turnout on this beautiful summer day for this gathering of Masonic family



Courtesy

Members of the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge, the Doric Chapter and their families, and friends. Next year's cookout will be with the new Masonic Lodge, Major General Salem Towne Lodge.

and friends. All enjoyed the walking trails. The scenic beauty and the beauty of the Westville Dam area has been the go-to recreation area for our lodge for the past 34 years. We must reserve

the large pavilion area at least a year in advance. The children were running around laughing, and games were played by young and old. Most pleasant of all were the tasty food and the comradery felt by all.

For every ending, there's a new beginning. On Oct. 4 of this year, the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge and the Webster Masonic Lodge will be merging. Our new Masonic Lodge name will be "Major General Salem Towne Lodge." If you are interested and would like more information about Freemasonry, go to [www.massfreemasonry.org](http://www.massfreemasonry.org) and find a lodge nearest you.

## Charlton gets in some "Good Trouble"

CHARLTON — A few dozen people came out for Thursday's "Good Trouble" rally on Charlton Common, maybe a third of the previous "No Kings" event, but again expressed their objections to the current administration in Washington.

The thoughts on display ranged from some overt references to Nazi Germany, several "8647" and "no kings" signs, to more subtle things like "why target workers?" and a Big Bird reference. Among them were a few US flags, various signs seeking national unity, and passersby often honked in support (although a handful indicated opposition).

One participant not-



Gus Steeves

ed turnout might have been suppressed by AI. Although the Good Trouble Web site had Charlton's event accurately as 5-7 p.m., she'd seen an AI listing as 1 p.m. and turned out by herself then. (It's possible AI was confusing Charl-

ton with related events in towns nearby, which were scheduled at various times the same day. Among them were West Brookfield, Worcester, Leicester and Killingly.)

The event drew people from several nearby towns.

## Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director serves as National SkillsUSA EAP judge for second consecutive year

ATLANTA, Ga. — The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy proudly announced that its esteemed Academy Director, Dr. Gretheline Bolandrina has once again served as a volunteer judge for the SkillsUSA National Employment Application Process (EAP) competition. This marks the second consecutive year that Dr. Bolandrina has lent her expertise to this prestigious national event, underscoring a deep commitment to fostering professional development among future skilled professionals.

Dr. Bolandrina's continued involvement with SkillsUSA highlights her dedication to preparing students not only for clinical excellence but also for the crucial professional skills required for successful careers. The EAP competition evaluates students' abilities in crafting compelling applications, demonstrating interview readiness, and showcasing the overall professionalism essential for entering the workforce.

With an impressive and diverse educational background, including a Doctor of Health Administration from the University of Phoenix (2021) and a Master of Science in Nursing / Ed from the University of Phoenix (2013), Dr. Bolandrina brings a wealth of academic rigor and leadership acumen to her judging role. Her extensive qualifications also include dual Registered Nurse (RN) licensure (Philippines 1987, Massachusetts 1989), Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurse (CRRN) certification (1994), and even coursework in Crea Journalism from Harvard University (2001), showcasing a unique blend of clinical and communication expertise.

Prior to leading the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in 2015, where she also served as a Full-Time Faculty member (2013), Dr. Bolandrina held various impactful roles across the healthcare spectrum. This includes significant experience as a Clinical Instructor at Massachusetts Bay Community College, and numerous nursing leadership and direct patient care positions at facilities like Milford Care and Rehabilitation Center, UMass Memorial Health Care, and St. John of God Hospital. Notably, her roles as Nurse Manager and Director of Quality Improvement demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of healthcare operations and patient advocacy.

Dr. Bolandrina's commitment extends beyond the campus, evidenced by her active involvement in numerous professional affiliations and volunteer activities. She was a past board member and language teacher for Iskwelahang Pilipino ([www.ipbahay.org](http://www.ipbahay.org)) and contributes/d her time to organizations like On Board for Kids, Pan-Mass Challenge, Chef Feed Kids, Medical Reserve Corps, and Special Olympics Massachusetts.

This consistent dedication to SkillsUSA, coupled with a distinguished career in nursing, education, and community service, reflects Dr. Bolandrina's dedication and the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy's commitment to producing highly competent and well-rounded healthcare professionals under exemplary leadership.

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MORE INFO:

## Hear the music of the Eagles at the Overlook Aug. 12

CHARLTON — The Long Run: Songs Of The Eagles will be the featured band for the Summer Concert Series at The Overlook on Tuesday, Aug. 12 at 6 p.m. The concert is free. Rain location is inside the Overlook Performing Arts Center.

The Long Run: Songs of the Eagles covers the music of this top band of the 1970s---from their country-influenced beginnings to some of their later hard rock songs and deep cut ballads, into their reunion years of the mid-1990s. The Eagles' greatest hits album continues to be one of the best-selling albums of all-time, appealing to two generations of music listeners from their 30s into their 70s. This band is composed of veterans of the Massachusetts music scene, and delivers the music with authenticity and high energy. Audiences are sure to enjoy the recognizable guitar riffs and the layered harmony vocals

Follow the band at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/thelongrun-massachusetts>.

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Book

continued from page 1

ing “academic articles or books about Southbridge.” Last week, Lenti brought a team of colleagues who call themselves “the Opticons” (after AO) to town to pursue that project, spending several days interviewing people about their family immigration to town, work history, local businesses and various other things.

One of those sessions brought Lorraine Reilly, Donna Besse and Luz Espino together representing a couple key facets of Southbridge's ethnic history. Reilly and Besse both trace to the French Canadian influx of the 19th and earlier 20th centuries, while Espino was the first Puerto Rican-born person to graduate from Southbridge High.

Espino said she arrived when her uncle Angel Rivera brought her mother and other siblings to Massachusetts in the 1960s. At the time, Espino was about seven, and went into first grade at Charlton Street School, which had no bilingual program yet.

“It was just sink or swim,” so she learned English fast. Her father had died in Puerto Rico, and her mother worked at Russell Cutlery (now Dexter Russell), while her stepfather worked in Fiskdale.

As Espino got older, she spent time in a band that practiced in the



Gus Steeves

Joe Lenti looks over a painting of Lorraine Reilly's mother as an infant.

Town Hall and a dance studio that met under today's Savers' Bank, went to college, worked for the schools and Social Security, became president of the local branch of Aspira, and was involved in church activities.

In the 1970s, while she was in high school, some Puerto Ricans started coming to town by way of New York (“Newyoricans”). Espino said they generally didn't mingle much with those who'd come directly from the island; many of the direct-arrivals came from Manati and Orocovis, but the “Newyoricans” often came from other island towns.

Espino recalled that Manati people tended to be darker than Orocovis folks, and her dad was “all white” while her mom was “my color” (brown). Her own children are mixed, with some being very light and others being fairly dark.

“I didn't acclimate, I assimilated, but we

kept our culture,” while some today don't, she observed.

Reilly had a similar story in a different language, noting her grandparents “only spoke French on both sides.” The family hailed from Quebec by way of Stafford Springs, with her grandfather Adelard St Jean born in Southbridge. She said he worked for Wells Co as a “driver of the horse and buggy for Mrs Wells.”

When her own mother Belva St Jean was born in 1911, “they treated her like gold” because three prior babies had “all passed away,” Reilly said. When her grandmother had mental health issues, her mother went to live with relatives in North Oxford.

“She was immersed very quickly into the English language,” in part by befriending the family of the guy who'd become her husband, Harry Morin, which spoke both languages, she said.

The Morin clan was



Gus Steeves

Donna Besse brought a large pile of family historical texts and photos to share with the research team.

also Quebecois, farmers who were then working in the textile factories.

Reilly's father came from a large family (nine girls, one boy), and lived on a large farm with “cows, horses, chickens, the whole bit.” By the time Reilly was a child, she had “lots of relatives in Southbridge,” so she spent a lot of time in town at the theater, bowling alley, skating at the Rez, biking and other youthful activities.

As she grew up, she worked at AO for four years as a keypunch operator (paid \$55 a week with annual raises of 5 cents an hour) before having children. She later spent 28 years in the Dudley-Charlton school system as high school guidance secretary. Her husband Daniel stayed at AO 32 years and worked his way up to being in charge of the buildings. Some of the people walked from Spencer to Southbridge for work



Gus Steeves

Luz Espino shares a family document with Joe Lenti.

then. One vivid memory was of the Flood of '55, when her father was one of those who went around in his boat to rescue people trapped atop their houses. “That was very powerful for a six- or seven-year-old seeing that,” Reilly said.

Besse recalled many of those things, too, noting her grandparents came from Canada to work at AO. They lived on Cross Street and had seven kids; she recalled having “a lot of nuns in the family” and going to Notre Dame parochial high school.

She presented the research team with a lengthy family history compiled by Lorraine DesLauriers, noting it also talks a lot about DesLauriers' own romances (“she was in love, like, instantly, all the time,” Besse said), JFK's assassination and various other things.

Her parents met while her father was in the Navy at the Groton sub-

marine base and married in 1948. Once out of the Navy, he opened Besse Products on Pleasant Street, a bakery and variety store that's now a bar. He later worked for the Palmerino family (founders of Big Bunny) as a salesman supplying goods to other stores in town.

Besse herself did a brief stint at AO after high school graduation in 1977. She said she started by making lenses, but “I'd break out in a rash from the chemicals” and switched to inspecting them. “I was only there maybe a year, but the money was really good for a young person then,” she said. She made about \$2 an hour, and later went to Paquette's Stationery on Main Street.

Lenti said he plans to return to town periodically while working on this project, and hopes to finish it within a year.

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

ADA

continued from page 1

path forward.

Leading the discussion were Jim Mazik of Jim Mazik Consulting Services and Mike Kennedy of the Center for Living & Working. They were joined by Connor Robichaud, a representative from the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC). Mazik, who was also involved in Charlton's previous ADA report in 2007 which were later updated in 2012, was the first to present his findings where he explained that Charlton lacks sufficient ADA compliance in areas

ranging from parking signage to playgrounds and simple issues like obstacles in foot traffic spaces in the town hall.

“We have a very detailed description of the areas of noncompliance. We have the federal code then we provide the citation in the state code, and then a very detailed description of what exactly needs to be undertaken to address that issue. Then we have a priority, a feasibility, and a rough cost estimate,” Mazik said of the study.

The report examines both ADA and state code 521 CMR requirements with the strictest requirement from

either report being considered the target for resolving noncompliance resolution.

Mike Kennedy provided more details about the self-evaluation with up to eleven points examined during the process. Among the recommendations were designating an ADA Coordinator, ensuring adoptions and distribution of public notices on the ADA policies are added to the town website, adoption and notification of ADA grievance procedures, and representing ADA appropriate language in all job descriptions where necessary among oth-

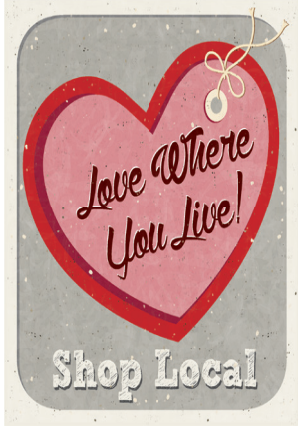
er recommendations. He also recommends Charlton create a Commission on Disability which would help the town keep up with the recommendations in tandem with the ADA coordinator.

Connor Robichaud concluded the presentation informing the Select Board that the self-evaluation documents are significant to procuring state monies that could offset the cost of recommended ADA updates in the reports.

“This puts you in a really good position for grant applications moving forward. There's going to be another round from the Massachusetts Office of Disability for capital project next year. Those are up to \$250,000,” he said.

The Select Board did not act on the document during the meeting. The matter was tabled so that it could be posted for the public to see and for Select Board Members to compile any questions

they may have before ratification. The Select Board is expected to address the document again as early as next month.



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# OBITUARIES



## Larry E. Hafer, 84



Charlton: Larry E. Hafer, 84, of Peaceful Lane, passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, July 15th, with his loving family by his side, after a brief illness.

He leaves his beloved wife of 64 years, Carolyn J. (Abraham) Hafer; his son, Frederick L. Hafer and his wife Casey of Norfolk, VA; three daughters, Diana J. Ijams and her husband, Andrew of Charlton, Pamela A. Renzoni and her husband, John of Grafton and Rita L. Draper and her husband, Matt of Bellevue, NE; his ten grandchildren, Christine, Richard, Scott, Nicole, Ryan, Katherine, Emily, Sarah, John, and Samuel, ten great grandchildren, longtime family friend Andrew Borer, and many nieces and nephews. Larry is predeceased by his loyal Boston Terriers, Daisy and Annie.

Larry was born in Akron, Ohio, the son of Lloyd E. and Mildred J. (Mumper) Hafer. He proudly served as a Lieutenant in the United States Navy for over 20 years. During his years of service, Larry was honored to serve aboard the USS Wasp (1958-66), USS Compass Island (1966-67), USS Blackwood (1967-68), USS Intrepid (1970-73), USS Waterford (1974-77), and USS Eisenhower (1977-78). In addition, he performed recruitment enlistment in Cleveland (1968) and attend-

ed Officer Indoctrination School (1969), where he was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer. During his service, Larry was awarded commendations, including the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Navy Expeditionary Medal for his service during the Congo Crisis, a Defense Service Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal. Following his military career, Larry worked as Maintenance Department Supervisor for Nuclear Metals Inc. in Concord for 20 years.

Following retirement, Larry enjoyed gardening and woodworking, and spent countless summers boating and fishing with his grandchildren. Larry enjoyed travelling with his adventure partner, Carolyn, and was always ready for mischief and a good joke.

His funeral with Navy honors was held on Sunday, July 20th at 2:00 pm in the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge. A calling hour in the funeral home was held on Sunday, July 20th, from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm prior to the service. Burial in Northside Cemetery, Charlton will be private at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Larry's honor to the Wounded Warrior Project: [www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org)

[www.morrillfuneralhome.com](http://www.morrillfuneralhome.com)

# From criminal justice to nursing care

## Southbridge resident explores correctional nursing

SOUTHBRIDGE — For Johanna Marrero, a Southbridge resident with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and years of experience as a Direct Service Worker, the intersection of law and healthcare is more than an academic concept. A recent experience at VitalCore Health Strategies inside MCI Shirley offered her a firsthand look at the unique and demanding world of correctional nursing.

Marrero, who currently works for the Commonwealth as a Direct Service Worker, brought a unique perspective to the high-security environment. Her background, which includes an associate's degree from Quinsigamond Community College and a bachelor's from Worcester State University, both in Criminal Justice, provided a foundation for understanding the facility's complex social and safety dynamics.

Her time with Kristy Mannion, RN, Director of Nursing, and the corrections nurses in the prison setting revealed that the job requires a delicate balance of medical skill and constant vigilance.

"The nurse's job goes beyond medical care; it also requires situational awareness," Marrero noted. "Being mindful of personal safety and maintaining clear boundaries with patients is extremely important."

She observed the vital partnership between healthcare staff and correctional offi-



Courtesy

Johanna Marrero pinned by Doris Segrain, LPN at the Graduation and Pinning Ceremony.

cers, which ensures safety and adherence to strict regulations. This collaboration is crucial in a fast-paced environment where attention to detail is paramount. One procedure, in particular, highlighted the difference between correctional healthcare and other settings.

"During med pass, I noticed how strictly items being given out were kept track of and documented—syringes, sharps, and even batteries," Marrero shared. "This highlights how different this setting is... You don't think about these things until you're in a place where they can be abused."

The experience un-

derscored the importance of empathy and cultural sensitivity when providing care to an incarcerated population. While the high-stress environment was not one she envisioned for her long-term career, the observation left a lasting impact.

"This experience helped me see a different side of nursing and reminded me that everyone deserves proper care, no matter their circumstances," Marrero concluded. "While I don't see myself working in this type of environment, I'm glad I had the opportunity to observe it firsthand."

# Lizza Vega named to Goodwin University's Dean's List

EAST HARTFORD, Conn. — Lizza Vega has earned a spot on Goodwin University's Dean's List for the spring 2025 semester.

Lizza, a student from Southbridge, is one of 440 students to make the Dean's List, reserved for those who demonstrate exemplary academic performance. Dean's List inclusion requires a student to earn a minimum 3.5 GPA, the equivalent of an A- average, during a given academic session. The student must also be enrolled in a minimum of six academic credits to qualify.

Goodwin University congratulates Lizza on making the Dean's List and demonstrating such a high standard of excellence in the classroom and beyond!

Goodwin University in East Hartford, Conn., is an innovative learning community that empowers hard-working students to become sought-after employees. We tailor our programs to address the needs of employers, and we shape them to fit the lives of students. Classes are conveniently offered year-round - days, evenings, weekends, and online. Degrees may be flexibly layered across certificate, associate, bachelor's, and master's programs in a variety of in-demand fields. Better still, we surround our students with the personal support and the professional guidance they need - not just to earn degrees, but to change lives for themselves, their families, and their communities. For more information, please visit [www.goodwin.edu](http://www.goodwin.edu).

# Brimfield resident graduates from Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

ALBANY, N.Y. — More than 220 undergraduate, graduate and PharmD students crossed the stage at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences' 145th Commencement on May 17, including Alexis J. Plumley of Brimfield. The ceremony was hosted at the Albany Capital Center in Albany, New York.

Of the students in the Class of 2025, the youngest student was age 19 and the oldest student was age 50. Graduates hailed from 19 states including: California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas and Virginia. Graduates also come from one US territory - Puerto Rico, one US military installation in Italy, and 10 countries, including Canada, Costa Rica, Ghana,

Jamaica, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, the United States and Vietnam.

Among these students, degrees conferred including 50 received undergraduate degrees, four BS/MS dual degrees, 42 Master's degrees, and 134 PharmD degrees, with 79 of those candidates also receiving a Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Several of these graduates will remain at the College to pursue further study in one of ACPHS' degree programs, whose portfolio saw a nearly 50% expansion since 2024 in areas such as nursing, health data sciences, and new online and hybrid modalities.

Founded in 1881, Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences is a private college dedicated to edu-

cating the next generation of leaders to improve the health of society. ACPHS offers 19 undergraduate, graduate and doctorate programs including online and hybrid options. Students have opportunities to extend what they are learning in the classroom at The Stack Family Center for Biopharmaceutical Education and Training (CBET), at student-supported pharmacies in underserved communities, and at The Collaboratory, a public health resource serving Albany's South End neighborhood. The College holds a Carnegie Foundation Research Colleges and Universities designation for its research expenditures. ACPHS is ranked #1 in New York state and among the top five in the country for return on investment by Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce, as well as earning an A+ for value by Niche.com.

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

# Charlton nursing graduate eyes career as school nurse

CHARLTON — Katelyn Smith, a Charlton resident and graduate of the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Class of 2025, was honored with two significant scholarships recognizing her academic diligence and career ambitions. Smith was the recipient of the 2024-2025 Horatio Alger National Career & Technical Scholarship and the Cynthia & Harrison Taylor Scholarship from the Greater Worcester Community Foundation.

A 2018 graduate of Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School's cosmetology program, Smith is now pursuing a future in healthcare. Her recent clinical rotation in a school nurse's office solidified her career path, offering a firsthand look at a vital side of school nursing.

"This clinical rotation was an overall great experience for me," Smith shared. "Experiencing this rotation opened my eyes to a whole other side of nursing, and I can absolutely see myself becoming a school nurse!"

During her rotation, Smith identified three key roles that stood out: direct student care, health screenings, and meticulous documentation. She observed nurses providing face-to-face care for everything from headaches to menstrual cramps, noting that the care went beyond simple fixes.

"The nurses asked whether the student had eaten breakfast in the morning or had a good night's rest before giving Tylenol," Smith observed, highlighting the holistic approach to student wellness.

She also gained experience with essential health screenings for vision, hearing, and growth patterns, as well as the critical task of documen-



Katelyn Smith with the Practical Nursing Faculty at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy.

tation.

"Documentation is critical," Smith explained. "It provides legal protection for the nurse and the school. When a student visits the office, the nurse has to document the reason for the visit, assessments and observations, and interventions performed."

The Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School's school nurse, Lynn Coleman, BSN, RN, provides valuable feedback regarding the

nursing students' experiences at the School Nurse's Office.

Smith's dedication was recognized by two separate foundations. The Horatio Alger Association, which honors individuals who have succeeded despite adversity, awarded her its CTE Scholarship. This competitive national award requires good academic standing, Pell Grant eligibility, and enrollment in a career or technical program at a not-for-profit institution.

Locally, the Greater Worcester Community Foundation awarded Smith the Cynthia & Harrison Taylor Scholarship. Established in 1997, the scholarship supports "diligent students who need financial assistance to pay for college," with a preference for adult students pursuing their first degree.

With the support of these awards, Smith is moving confidently toward her goal of providing compassionate and comprehensive care to students in her community.



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**BROOKFIELD**  
Brookfield Ecumenical Food Pantry  
St. Mary's Church  
4 Howard Street, Brookfield, MA 01506  
Distribution: Wednesday 9:30 AM-11 AM:  
Saturday 9:30 AM-11AM

**CHARLTON**  
Chip - In Food Pantry  
McKinstry Building  
37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507  
Distribution: 3rd Saturday 9 AM-12 Noon

St. Joseph's Church, Charlton  
Tuesday 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday 9-11 a.m.  
Everyone is welcome.

**LEICESTER**  
Leicester Food Pantry  
St. Joseph-St. Pius X Parish  
759 Main Street, Leicester, MA 01524  
Distribution: Tuesday 5 PM-7 PM

**NORTH BROOKFIELD**  
St. Joseph's Food Pantry  
Located in the church hall at 296 North  
Main St. North Brookfield  
Distribution is the 1st Thursday of the  
month from 5:00-6:30PM  
the 3rd Thursday of the month from 12  
Noon-1:15PM  
Any questions should be directed to the  
Rectory office 508 867-6469.  
St. Joseph's Food Pantry is a community  
partner affiliated with the Worcester County  
Food Bank.

**OXFORD**  
Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf  
Oxford Community Center  
4 Maple Road  
Oxford, MA 01540  
Distribution: Thursday 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

**ROCHDALE**  
The Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry  
Greenville Baptist Church  
674 Pleasant St.  
Rochdale, MA  
Distribution: Every Monday from 12:00 -  
2:00 p.m. Open to everyone.

**SOUTHBRIDGE**  
Saint Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry,  
Located in the St. Anne Church basement,  
16 Church Street, Fiskdale, MA 01518  
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Contact: 508-347-6398

**SPENCER- EAST BROOKFIELD -  
RESIDENTS ONLY**  
Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry  
60 Maple St, Spencer, MA 01562  
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**STURBRIDGE**  
Saint Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry,  
Located in the St. Anne Church basement,  
16 Church Street, Fiskdale, MA 01518  
Stocked by donations  
Contact: 508-347-6398

**WEBSTER**  
Webster-Dudley Food Share  
4 Church St #2  
Webster, MA 0570  
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8:30 -11:00 am. Open to Webster and  
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**WEST BROOKFIELD**  
Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry  
First Congregational Church  
36 North Main Street,  
W.Bookfield, MA 01585  
Distribution: Wednesday 10 AM-11:30 AM  
Thursday 7 PM- 8 PM



UMass Amherst announces  
Dean's List

AMHERST — The following students were named to the Spring 2025 Dean's List at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Students are appointed to the Dean's List at the end of a semester in which they have completed a minimum of 12 graded credits and have earned a grade point average of 3.500 or better.

Brimfield  
Ethan Eroh  
Ella Petersen  
Elizabeth Shaw  
Libby Sheldon

Charlton  
Callie Cahn  
Olivia Cloutier  
Samantha Cox  
Christian Figueroa  
Hanna Gamelli  
Michael Gard  
Caylee Goulet  
Abbigael Hill  
Andrew Kania  
Harry Kennan  
Leah Leclair  
Shawn Maple  
Luke Miller  
Joseph Montville  
Eliana Owusu-Ansah  
Madelyn Parker  
Adrien Roach  
Anna Thomas  
Francisco Torres Torres

Fiskdale  
Camden Foley  
Brodie Hemingway  
Drew Howard  
Laurel Ives  
Vanessa Joyner

Holland  
Alexis Carson  
Clement Carson  
Abigail Grillo  
Alexa Knight  
Kassandra Knight

Southbridge  
Juliana Beaudry  
Isabella Colangione  
Kirsten Congdon

|                    |                     |                  |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Kierce Jarvis      | Zachary Christenson | wubueke          |
| Lauren Lemire      | Carol DeRose        | Allison Parker   |
| Aaron Mancaniello  | Aidan Folger        | Olivia Rizzo     |
| Samantha Nordstrom | Luke Goodwin        | Jake Rosen       |
| Manav Patel        | Rita Goodwin        |                  |
| Emma Pelloni       | Jillian Gore        | Wales            |
| Emily Quental      | Owen O'Connor       | Joseph Adams     |
|                    | Olivia Olson        | May Adams        |
| Sturbridge         | Theodora            | On- Claire Godek |

HINT  
continued from page 7

Dry patches—If you notice your lawn has developed patchy areas of straw colored grass, this could be a result of too little water.

Visible footprints on grass—If your turf is not springing back up when you step on it, this could be a sign that the grass blades are dehydrated.

Slowed growth—If you notice you are not having to mow as often, your lawn's growth may be stunted as a result of too little water.

To help prevent drought damage in cool-season grasses like Fescue, a professional core aeration and seeding treatment every fall is imperative.

Here are some lawn mowing minders:  
Experts say a common mowing mistake is cutting your grass too short, particular for cool season grasses. Higher heights usually provide for a deeper root system, looks better, and is less likely to have weeds invading, particularly crab-grass.

Lawn pros advise adjusting your blade so that you never remove any more than one third of the grass leaf at any one cutting. By doing so, you can safely leave clippings that will quickly decompose and add valuable nutrients back into the soil.

The direction you mow your lawn is also important. For best results, your lawn in a different direction with each mowing... Altering the direction gives you an even cut and will prevent your grass growing in a set pattern.

To ensure a good cut, make sure your lawn mower blade is sharp, which may translate into sharpening it at least three times during mowing season.

Want to up your odds of a lush lawn? Try mowing during the moon phases. Here's how: If you want your lawn to grow, mow it during new or first quarter moon. If you want your lawn to grow more slowly, mow it during a full or last quarter moon.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House  
Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (or whenever enough submissions are received) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

CYMATICS  
continued from page 7

In early Chinese tradition, the philosopher Confucius taught that the key to harmony in the kingdom was to "rectify names"—to speak words that accurately reflected truth and order. If names became distorted, if language no longer matched reality, society would unravel. Disorder in words meant disorder in the world.

And this idea? It's not foreign to Christian tradition.  
The Apostle James called the tongue "a small part of the body, but it's like a spark that can set a whole forest ablaze. The tongue, he warned, carries disproportionate power.

Paul compared it to a rudder on a ship—tiny, yet able to steer the entire vessel. In other words, your words guide your direction.

But the most striking example comes from the prophet Isaiah.  
In a vision, Isaiah finds himself in the throne room of the Almighty. He sees the Lord, high and exalted, surrounded by seraphim.

It is a scene of perfect glory. But Isaiah doesn't feel worthy to join in. He falls to his knees and cries,

"Woe is me! For I am a man of unclean lips..."  
He doesn't say, I am unclean because of what I've done.  
He says, I am unclean because of what I've said.

In that moment, a seraph flies to him with a burning coal, taken from the altar. And touches Isaiah's mouth. In this divine encounter, it's not Isaiah's actions that are purified—it's his speech.

It all seems to point in one direction:  
What we say has power.

Today, in the field of modern psychology, we've rediscovered the same truth. The language we use—especially the words we speak about ourselves—shapes our perception, our emotions, even our identity.

Say "I'm worthless" enough times, and it becomes more than a thought—it becomes a worldview.

Say "I'm loved. I'm here for a reason." You carry yourself differently, with a spring in your step. You begin to live into the shape of the words you've spoken.

Just as sand arranges itself under sound, your life begins to align with your language.

Your words do not vanish. They echo. Speak with care, for what you say becomes a reality.

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Friday's Child



Alanna  
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Alanna is a bright, easygoing, and adventurous young lady who enjoys exploring new experiences. She is often described as a “great kid”—easy to talk to, helpful, and kind-hearted. Alanna loves staying active and dreams of joining a gymnastics team one day. Taking gymnastics lessons is something she's very excited about. Creative and thoughtful, Alanna enjoys arts and crafts, especially making origami. She also has a deep love for babies and often says she would babysit for free just to be around them. Her nurturing side really shines through in moments like these. Alanna is also an animal lover—though she'll pass on snakes, worms, and bees! One of her favorite activities is visiting the library

and picking out books to read, showing her curiosity and love for learning. Alanna would thrive in a supportive, active, and loving family that encourages her many interests and gives her space to grow and express herself.

https://www.mareinc.org/child/24476869950

Can I Adopt?

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

The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with. To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org . 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.



**GARDENING**

*continued from page 7*

diness, providing homes for beneficial insects, food for songbirds, and adding winter interest. Leave some of these stems standing throughout the upcoming growing season to serve as homes for some of the

native bees.

Ask for or hire help if needed. As much as you love gardening, securing help for some of the larger tasks or those that just aren't getting done can help boost your enjoyment. It can be hard to find gardening help so you may need to get creative. Consider sharing

your gardening space with someone who loves to garden but lacks a garden. Barter your knowledge and skills for help in your garden. Or plan a round robin of fun and gardening with a few friends. Take turns visiting and tending each other's gardens. You'll enjoy the time spent to-

gether in each other's gardens as you tackle a gardening task or two. Then top off the visit with a favorite beverage and snack or meal.

Don't let your list of unaccomplished tasks or weeds stop you from enjoying your garden and what you have accomplished. Relish every

bloom, fresh tomato, or visiting bird or butterfly. Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video series and

the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

**ANTIQUES**

*continued from page 7*

lighting also contributed to the film's acclaim. Orson Welles directed and acted in the film about a newspaper magnate Charles Foster Kane, who resembled William Randolph Hearst. Kane's dying word "Rosebud"

was the name of his childhood sled. It was "a nostalgic callback to the days before wealth and power ultimately ruined the mogul's life," according to Parade Magazine. It was anything but tough sledding at a recent auction when one of the original sleds

showcased in the film sold for \$14.75 million, making it the second highest price paid for a Hollywood prop. As I mentioned in a previous column, a pair of Judy Garland's ruby red slippers from the "Wizard of Oz" set a record when it sold for \$32.5 million in

December.

We are still working on multiple online auctions including a Civil War auction, Laurel and Hardy memorabilia auction and a Pennsylvania transportation museum. Other auctions will have gold jewelry, sterling silver, art, and advertising

signs, along with a wide variety of other items. We are always accepting valuable pieces and collections for upcoming sales. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign

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

**LEGALS**

**SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

Under G.L. c.255 Sec.39A Notice is hereby given by Cruise Control Transportation Inc. Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A. that on or after JULY 11,2025 at Cruise Control Transportation Inc. the following motor vehicle/s will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle: VEHICLE MAKE: 2003 CHEVROLET CAVALIER VIN:1G1JC12F737228259 LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER : Warny Weymar Gamez 80 Fairway Ave Riverhead NY,11901

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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. WO25P2428EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Sonja Carr**  
**Date of Death: 03/27/2025**

To all interested persons: A **Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Amy Beth Briggs of Fiskdale 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:

**Amy Beth Briggs of Fiskdale 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 08/12/2025.**

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: July 11, 2025  
Stephanie K. Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
July 24, 2025

**CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

In accordance with the Town of Charlton Stormwater Management Rules & Regulations, the Charlton Conservation Commission will be accepting comments on the following application:

The applicant, Chris and Krystal Hansen, has submitted a Land Disturbance/Stormwater Management Permit on July 17, 2025, for stormwater infrastructure associated with the construction of a single-family home.

The project site is located at Lot 5 Hiland Road, Charlton, MA 01507, and is also known as: Parcel ID 1A-G-6.

Copies of the Land Disturbance Application are available at the Charlton Conservation Commission office during business hours.

Thomas O'Malley  
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission  
Thursday, July 24, 2025

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE - AMENDED**

In accordance with the provisions of MGL Ch. 40A, the Southbridge Zoning Board of Appeals will **hold a public hearing on Thursday, August 7, 2025, at their 5:00 PM meeting**, in the Rice Conference Room, First Floor, Southbridge Town Hall. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider the variance application, as filed by Albert Soto-Serrano and SueJay Perez, for a reduction of the side setback to construct a garage per Section 5, Table 2 of the Southbridge Zoning Bylaws located at 12 Hartwell Terrace; Map 53; Lot 175 (Albert Soto-Serrano and SueJay Perez, Owner). The application and plan are on file for

review during normal business hours with the Town Clerk. This notice is also published electronically on [www.telegram.com](http://www.telegram.com) and on [www.ma.mypublicnotices.com](http://www.ma.mypublicnotices.com).

Any person interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

Patrick Spinelli  
Chair, Southbridge Zoning Board of Appeals  
July 24, 2025  
July 31, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts Worcester Probate & Family Court WO25E0081**

Petition to Partition Citation (A.C.92A)

To **The Estate of Tammy Mitchell (Mark Mitchell Personal Representative)** and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Richard W. Stearns of Fiskdale in the County of Worcester representing that he hold as tenant in common undivided part of share of certain land lying in Charlton in said County Worcester and briefly as follows:

The land in Charlton, Worcester County, Massachusetts, with the buildings thereon and all privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, consisting of two (2) parcels of land, bounded and described as follows:

**Tract I:**

BEGINNING at the southwesterly corner thereof on the easterly side of the State Highway leading from Southbridge to Charlton City and at point of intersection of the easterly line of said State Highway with the line of Snake Hill Road, so-called; THENCE northerly by the easterly line of said State Highway, 421 feet to an oak tree;

THENCE turning at a right angle and running easterly by land now or formerly of S. Warren Clark, 190 feet and 6 inches to a pine tree;

THENCE continuing easterly by said Clark land in the same court, 109 feet and 6 inches to the westerly line of a brook;

THENCE southerly by the westerly line of said brook to the northerly line of Snake Hill Road; THENCE westerly by the northerly line of Snake Hill Road 136 feet, more or less, to the easterly side of said State Highway at the point of beginning.

Containing about 2 1/4 acres, more or less.

**Tract II:** the land and buildings thereon situated on the easterly side of the State Highway leading from Charlton City to Southbridge bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at the southwesterly corner thereof on the westerly side of said Highway and at the northwesterly corner of land conveyed by deed of S. Warren Clark to Edward F. Stearns et ux dated April 25, 1938 and recorded with Worcester Registry of Deeds in Book 2789, Page 159;

THENCE northerly by the easterly side of said Highway, 368 feet, 6 inches, more or less, to an iron post in the ground;

THENCE S. 44 1/4° E., by other land now or formerly of said Clark, 312 feet, more or less, to a stone wall;

THENCE in a general easterly direction by a stone wall and other land now or formerly of said Clark, 25 feet, more or less, to the westerly line of Cady

Brook;

THENCE southerly by the westerly line of said Brook to an iron post in the ground at the northeasterly corner of land now or formerly of Edward F. Stearns;

THENCE in a general westerly direction by the northerly line of said Stearns land, 109 feet, 6 inches, to a pine tree;

THENCE continuing west-

**CYMATICS**

*continued from page 7*

erly by said northerly line of

said Stearns land, 190 feet, 6 inches, more or less, to the easterly side of said Highway at the point of beginning. BEING the same premises conveyed to the late Edward Francis Stearns, Jr. and the land Irene Stearns by deed of Donald R. Stearns, Sr. et alii dated May 15, 1975 and recorded with said Deeds in Book 5743, Page 315.

setting forth that he/she desire that all the aforesaid described part of said land may be sold at private sale not less than Five Hundred Forty Thousand (\$540,000.00) dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the 29th day of July, the return date of this citation.

Witness, LEILAH A. KEAMY, Esq., First Judge of Said Court, this 27th day of June.

Stephanie K. Faltman  
Register of Probate

July 10, 2025  
July 17,2025  
July 24,2025

**TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE DPW Invitation to Bid for Road Improvements Paving**

The Town of Southbridge Department of Public Works invites qualified contractors to submit bids for road improvement paving 2025. Copies of the Bid documents are available as of 12:00PM, on 07/16/2025. Bid documents are available by email at [lmorrell@southbridgemass.org](mailto:lmorrell@southbridgemass.org) or can be picked up at the Department of Public Works, 185 Guelphwood Rd., Southbridge, MA. Questions may be directed to the Southbridge Project Manager, Butch Jackson, at 508-304-2450 or [lmorrell@southbridgemass.org](mailto:lmorrell@southbridgemass.org).

All bids for this project are subject to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30 Section 39M and Chapter 30B section 5. Prevailing Wage Rates, and subsequent Certified Payroll with proof of OSHA, are required on this project. The current wage rate schedule is attached to the bid specification package.

The deadline for sealed bids is 08/14/2025 at 10:00AM. The sealed bid shall be clearly marked Road Improvement 2025. Bids are to be addressed to the Department of Public Works, 185 Guelphwood Road, Southbridge, MA 01550. Late bids will not be opened.

July 24, 2025

Rotary  
continued from page 1

held at Fitchburg State University in June. The conference aims to develop the leadership potential of young men and women through interactive leadership labs, dynamic guest speakers, and mentally and physically challenging activities. Sessions focus on decision-making, critical thinking, effective communication, ethics, and public service. Recipients were selected based on demonstrated leadership potential, strong citizenship, and a compelling desire to benefit from the experience—qualities confirmed through a competitive interview process. RYLA award recipients Nia Warren and Ben Landine were on hand to receive their awards in person. Additional awards were made

in absentia to Madeline Guertin, Sophia Bochicchio, Alexis Baker, Eliza Jaeger, Radisson Jumawan, and Victoria Lockhart, who were unable to attend due to summer commitments. The Club also celebrated the transition of leadership in the Interact Club at Tantasqua Regional High School, Rotary’s youth service organization. Outgoing officers—Jackson Landine, president; Rachel Salisbury, vice president; Charlotte Ardis, treasurer; Jocelyn Mrotek, secretary; and Samantha Baker, publicist—were on hand to formally pass the torch to the incoming board. The new slate of officers, all rising seniors, includes Emette Deatte, president; Ethan Zhu, vice president; Evie Spencer, treasurer; Maired Fairbrother, secretary; and Julie Anne

Petersen, publicist. District Governor Johnny Ahern officiated the swearing-in ceremony, followed by the presentation of officer pins and the gavel. Guests were invited to view displays of the Interact Club’s successful community service projects from the past year, along with informational tables on Rotary programs and initiatives. Another centerpiece of the evening was the awarding of eight scholarships totaling \$8,000 presented by Club President Klaus Hachfeld. Seven scholarships were given in memory of longtime Rotarian Dorothy Wright, and an additional scholarship was awarded in memory of the late Dr. Otto Prohaska. This year’s scholarship recipients are: Charlotte Ardis, Sturbridge – attending

the College of William and Mary, majoring in math and economics · Samantha Baker, Monson – attending the University of Connecticut, majoring in nutritional science · Anthony Fazzuoli, West Brookfield – the Otto Prohaska Scholar, attending the University of Massachusetts Amherst, majoring in biology with a pre-med focus · Griffin Harold, Fiskdale, Bridgewater State University, majoring in geography and urban planning · Jackson Landine, Brookfield – attending the University of Rhode Island, majoring in finance and accounting · Jocelyn Mrotek, Sturbridge – attending Dickinson College, majoring in political science · Ethan Parker, Sturbridge – attending

Pennsylvania State University, majoring in geography and urban planning · Rachel Salisbury, Sturbridge – attending Marist University, has not chosen a major Community Appreciation Awards were also presented to individuals who have supported the Rotary mission and youth programs, including Principal Peter Du Fresne, Principal Mark Wood, Interact Advisor Amy Willard (recognized in absentia), and Publick House Director of Catering Catherine O’Brien (recognized in absentia). Newly elected Rotary District 7910 Governor Johnny Ahern offered his reflections on the values of Rotary and the importance of fostering youth leadership. In his closing remarks, President Hachfeld en-

couraged the new slate of Interact officers to consider doing a joint international project with Interact members in Stourbridge, UK, the club’s sister organization, and offered his assistance in facilitating that process. The meeting concluded with the traditional Rotary toast by President Hachfeld: “To Sturbridge USA, Stourbridge UK, and Rotary International. Hear-hear!” About the Sturbridge Rotary Club The Sturbridge Rotary Club is committed to “Service Above Self.” As part of Rotary International, the Club supports local and global projects in education, health, and community development, and invests in the next generation of leaders through programs like RYLA and Interact.

OHD continued from page 1 Learn about rhythms from around the world using our vast variety of djembes and other hand drums. The final musical act from 7 – 9 p.m. is local favorite, Larry Simonetti, whose extensive repertoire of music spans several genres and is always a crowd pleaser. The day also offers a variety of activities for kids of all ages. Activities include carnival games, bounce house, face painting, Hitchcock

Academy will create a playground that will include Badminton, Volleyball, Cornhole and the extremely popular Gaga Ball, among others. Local artisans will show their wares along with non-profit organizations, many who will be offering information and interactive games. The Brimfield Fire Department is on hand to show their interactive display. The Sheriff’s department will bring their therapy dog and triad Unit. What is a celebration

without food? Vendors will be on hand with popcorn, ice cream and cotton candy. St. Christopher Church will have the grills fired up cooking hamburgers & hot-dogs throughout the day. They have also been selling tickets for the Chicken Bar B Que, which is taking place from 4 to 6 p.m. Tickets were pre-sold, but a limited quantity will be available that day. Dennis McCurdy of McCurdy Insurance, who is celebrating 50 years in business, has

been the presenting sponsor since the event’s inception, and said “I believe in community, community building and giving back and Old Home Day has proven to be a wonderful opportunity to do just that. I have countless memories of my youth in Brimfield and am happy to be able to support a community that has meant so much to me.” Volunteers are a key element to help pull the day off and keep everything running smoothly. There is always room for

more volunteers to help at the bounce house, game area and parking. If you are interested and able to help, please email brimoldhome-day@gmail.com This day would not be possible without the support of the community and the committee is for their support. They are Presenting Sponsors, McCurdy Insurance & Green Acres Antiques and Flea Market. Platinum sponsor, Ardizzoni Plumbing & Heating. Gold level sponsors are New England Motel &

Antique Shows, Precise Paving, RPM Heating & Air, Soper Construction, Francesco’s Restaurant, Value Mechanical, Elite Heating & Air, the Brimfield Athletic Association and Auction acres. For additional details check the Brimfield Old Home Day Facebook page or the events page at Hitchcockacademy.org. The rain date for the event is Sunday, July 27. Information will be posted there.

CPL continued from page 2 apy Dogs, Inc. Registration is required. Drop-In Visit with Olive the Therapy Dog Tuesday, August 5, 6:00-6:30 - Storytime Room - no registration required Tuesday, August 26, 5:00-5:30 - 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. Puzzle Race Tuesday, August 5,

6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall -registration required Can your team complete a jigsaw puzzle faster than your friends and neighbors? Each team will receive the same 300 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 perryb@cwmmars.org and we'll put together a team of interested folks! Author Storytime: Farmer Todd Lost His Way Home Wednesday, August 6, 10:30-11:00 - Storytime Room - no registration required Join us for a special

storytime with local author Scarlett Webb! All ages are welcome to attend. Includes a story and coloring activity. Registration is not required. Exploring the Bay Path Thursday, August 7, 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required Join Don Duffy for his presentation on the Bay Path, a fascinating tidbit of local history. Some people have heard of the path itself and many know of Bay Path University in Longmeadow or Bay Path Vocational School in Charlton. Few understand the local significance of the Bay Path and its course through Monson, Brimfield, Sturbridge, and the surrounding area. Native Americans needed to move about from the rich soils of the Connecticut River Valley to central woodlands filled with game

and to the abundant fish and shellfish at the coast. Sponsored by the Friends of the Charlton Public Library. Wingmasters: The World of Owls Friday, August 8, 11:00 am -12:00 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required The Charlton Public Library and Charlton Garden Club are pleased to present Wingmasters: The World of Owls. Owls are not evil spirits, wise little philosophers or Walt Disney creations. Nor do they wing about carrying messages, despite the way they're depicted in the Harry Potter books. In fact, owls are probably more misunderstood than any other kind of bird. This program shows how owls use their specialized powers of sight, hearing and flight to survive and thrive. A wealth of fact and folk-

lore about these masters of the dark explains the natural and unnatural history of owls. A variety of live owls provides the focus of the presentation. THIS PROGRAM IS FOR THOSE AGES 10+. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Drop-In Visit with Jack-Jack the Therapy Dog Mondays, August 11, 18, and 25, 11:30-12:00 - Storytime Room - no registration required This is an open session to visit with our Therapy Dog, Jack-Jack. Jack-Jack's breed is Coton de Tulear and he is a licensed therapy dog. Registration is not required. All ages are welcome. If you are interested in having a private visit with Jack-Jack for a reading session or any other reason, please register for one of our Private Visit sessions.

Fiber Arts Club for Tweens & Teens Monday, August 11, 2:30-3:30 - Storytime Room - registration not required Are you interested in knitting, crocheting, needle felting, or other fiber art? Join us to practice your craft, learn from more experienced friends, or teach others! Don't forget to bring your current projects! This group is best for tweens and teens ages 9 -18. Registration is not required! Toe Jam Puppet Band Wednesday, August 13, 1:00-1:45 - Dexter Hall - registration requested Get ready for some BIG FAMILY FUN! Join us for one of the zaniest concerts you'll ever experience. All ages are welcome to attend. Please sign up so we know how many people to expect. Turn To CPL page 16

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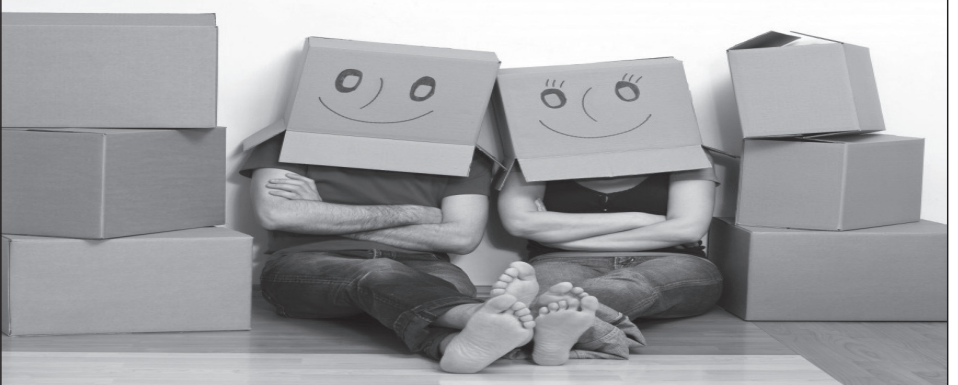
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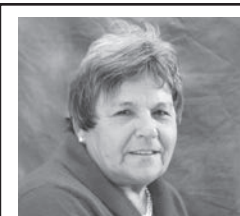
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