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Whatever will be, will be."
- sung by Doris Day*

STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

©2026, Issue #15

Free by request to residents of Sturbridge and Holland

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Thursday-Friday, April 16-17, 2026

Autism learning center opens doors with ribbon cutting celebration

STURBRIDGE — Behavioral Concepts (BCI), a provider of LEARN Behavioral, officially opened its doors with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its new Sturbridge Learning Center, 179 Main Street, Suite 2, Sturbridge.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce was held on March 26.

During the ceremony, State Rep. Todd Smola and Amanda Hellyar, District Director for Senator Ryan Fattman, shared greetings and remarks. Erika Burrows, President of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Town Administrator Robin Grimm also shared remarks.

Members of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce and other guests were in attendance.

Ribbon-cutting attendees were able to tour the facility, enjoy light refreshments, and



Courtesy

Left to right: State Rep. Todd Smola; Robin Grim, Town Administrator; Annaleisa Delgado, Regional Clinical Director of the Sturbridge Learning Center (cutting the ribbon); Britney Catron; Amanda Robitaille; Irene Barajas; Tiffany Zayas; Makenzie Holm-Brien; Amanda Hellyar, District Director for Senator Fattman; and Erika Burrows, President of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce

meet BCI's leadership team, Annaleisa Delgado, BCBA, LABA, Regional Clinical

Director, and Tiffany Zayas, M.S., BCBA, LABA, Senior Regional Clinical Director.

"We're proud to bring compassionate, high-quality ABA therapy to families in the greater Sturbridge area," said Annaleisa Delgado. "At BCI, we tailor our services to each child and family—offering age-appropriate, engaging learning experiences rooted in science and guided by care."

BCI is Sturbridge's premiere contemporary applied behavior analysis (ABA) provider of center-based

autism services for children ages one to 12. The Sturbridge Learning Center provides center-based ABA therapy, parent education, diagnostics, Early Intervention, and Social Skills Programs. Outside of the center, the Sturbridge team offers in-home ABA therapy.

Delgado continued, "Our new space was designed to support both individual growth and peer collaboration. It's a place where children can gain essential skills—and where their jour-

ney toward success in school and life begins. We're honored to be part of this community and grateful to offer life-changing services right here in Sturbridge."

The Sturbridge Learning Center offers after-school treatment hours to accommodate busy family schedules. There is no waitlist. The center is conveniently located near Old Sturbridge Village, I-84, and US-20, and easily accessible for families in the region.

For more information or to enroll a child at the

Sturbridge Learning Center, call 508-363-0200 or visit <https://bciaba.com/locations/sturbridge>

About BCI
BCI, part of the LEARN Behavioral network, is one of the nation's leading providers of compassionate autism care. For more than 20 years, BCI has been delivering evidence-based services, helping children with autism find success and reach their unique potential.

In addition to the Sturbridge Learning Center, BCI has existing Learning Centers in Beverly, Brockton, Fitchburg, Framingham, Lawrence, Littleton, Lowell, New Bedford, Newton, Springfield, Taunton, Wilmington, two locations in Worcester, and one location in Nashua, NH.

About LEARN Behavioral
LEARN Behavioral is a national leader in autism treatment, offering comprehensive diagnostic services and contemporary applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). With a nationwide network of ABA providers and more than 100 Learning Centers across the country, LEARN delivers the highest standard of evidence-based care—customized to meet the unique needs and interests of each child and family. For more information, visit learnbehavioral.com.

Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust to hold Annual Meeting

CHARLTON — The Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust has announced that it will hold its annual meeting on April 29 at the Charlton Public Library Community Room, located at 40 Main St. in Charlton. The starting time is 6:30 p.m., and is scheduled for an hour.

Every year, CHPT invites members of the trust to come together to elect a Board of Trustees. Trust officers will be elected from the board. The board sets the vision and goals for the upcoming year. The general public is invited to attend with an opportunity to become members.

CHPT is a 501(c)3 non-profit land trust that relies on the dedication of volunteers. The organization is committed to conserving open space in Charlton. It currently stewards 19 parcels covering over 200 acres. Recently, CHPT has collaborated with the Charlton Historical Society for talks about mill life at their Little River mill ruins site, sponsored a birding in Central Massachusetts talk by Mass Audubon and led a hike on the Midstate Trail through the storied cow tunnel.

Members of the current board of trustees will be representing CHPT on Saturday, April 25 for Charlton's Earth Day Fest on the town commons from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please stop by to learn more about the annual meeting and what CHPT is involved in.

CHPT offers an opportunity to help protect open spaces and continue to bring programming that showcases Charlton's heritage and ecology. We welcome all who are interested. For further information, please visit our Web site at www.charltontrust.org or our Facebook page.

Friends of Sturbridge Trails announces upcoming Spring events

STURBRIDGE — The Friends of Sturbridge Trails (FrOST) releases its list of free spring events for 2026.

Saturday, April 18 is our Annual Earth Day trail clean up event 8 am to 12 noon, any time you can help, we will meet at Riverlands, 52 Stallion Hill Rd. to start and disperse from there. This event was made possible by a grant from The Last Green Valley.

Saturday, April 25 is Celebrate Trails Day, sponsored by the National Rails to Trails Org. We are planning a hike on the GTT starting at 9 am from 9 River rd. Come join us to learn about the Grand Trunk Trails' history,

and the plans for trail completion. Handicapped accessible, and child friendly, dogs on six-foot leash OK.

Saturday & Sunday, May 9 & 10, FrOST will have an information booth at OSV at their "move" weekend. This is part of a month-long event of OSV where they have invited area businesses & groups in the focus area of Eat, Move, Work & Play, each week a focus, Display will include trail construction tools, and a xxx bike. OSV entrance fee.

Saturday, May 30, at 10 a.m., our "Yoga on the Trails" returns, Join Jen Songer for a short walk along the

Arbutus trail to the field and enjoy an all-levels yoga session. 10 a.m., meet at the Leadmine trail parking lot, 10 Old Sturbridge Village Rd. Bring your mat and a water bottle.

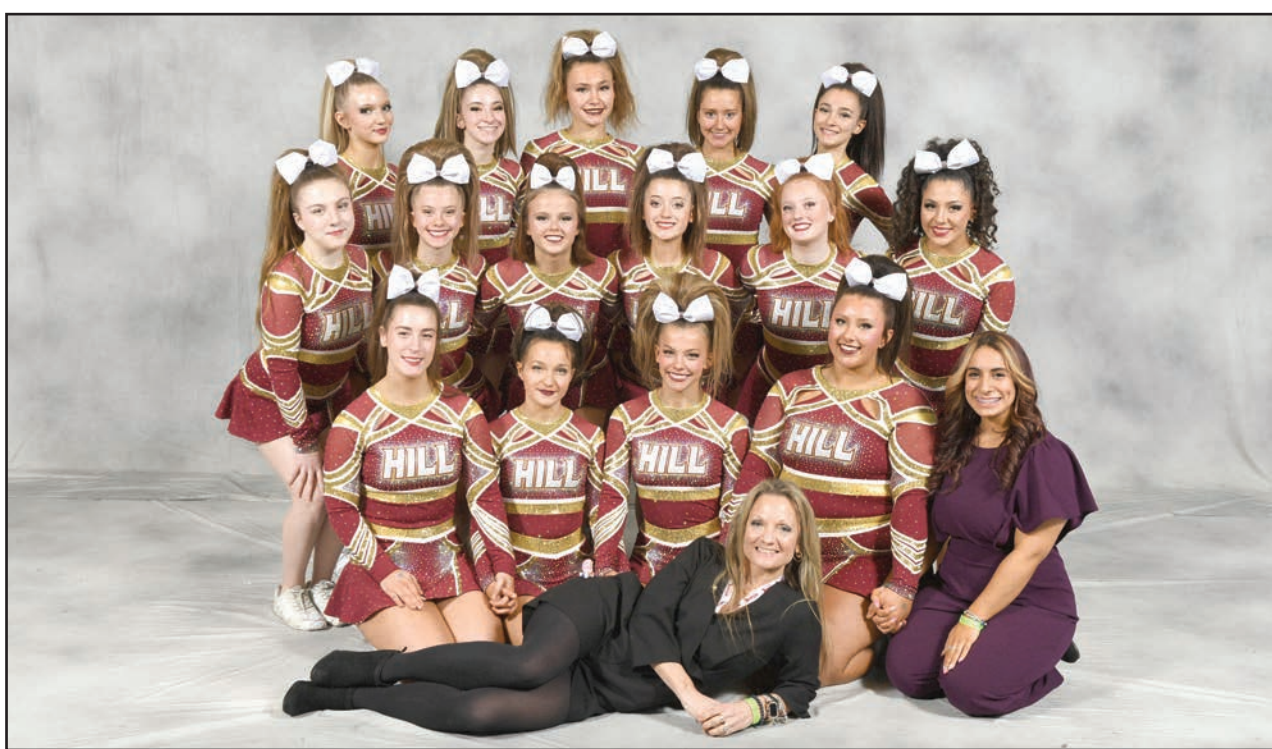
The Friends of Sturbridge Trails can offer these events free of charge as we are a member supported 501(c)3non-profit. Please consider joining us with your membership that starts at just \$15. Please visit us at www.treksturbridge.org click about, >Friends of Sturbridge trails. While you are there check out the rest of our Web page and events. Email us at Froststurbridge@gmail.com

Shepherd Hill Varsity cheerleaders celebrate championship season

DUDLEY — The Shepherd Hill Varsity Cheerleading Team delivered an outstanding and memorable season, exemplifying pride, unity, and excellence at every level of competition.

This talented 15-member team captured the Mid-Wach League Championship, earning the highest score of the event. They continued their dominance at the Central Massachusetts Regional Championship, once again achieving the top score among all competing teams.

Capping off their remarkable season, the team secured an impressive third-place finish at the Massachusetts State Cheerleading Championship, competing against the top Division 2



teams in the state.

Through dedication, resilience, and countless hours of hard work, these student-athletes proved themselves to be among the finest in Massachusetts.

Team members (pictured above) include:

Front: Head Coach Loretta Andre

Second Row: Captain Luci Tryba, Captain Paige Warner, Captain Maddie Blake, Captain Savannah Lachance, and Assistant Coach Karian Ortiz

Third Row: Emmy Lotter, Lily Faucher, Caelynn Harty, Shannon Kelly, Madi Lotter, and Lilliana Diaz

Fourth Row: Amber Otton, Ashley Jerome, Delaney Navin, Amelia Westbury, and Lily Kavorkian

Southbridge Community Center presents Magic by George

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Community Center, 153 Chestnut St., Southbridge, is excited to present Magic by George. This multi-generational presentation and parents and grandparents are encouraged to bring their children and grandchildren to enjoy this fun-filled afternoon. All are welcome to join.

With exciting magic, nonstop audience participation, and laugh-out-loud family-friendly humor, Magic by George will do the

trick! George's fun-filled performances keep audiences of all ages on the edge of their seats. Whether young or old, everyone is guaranteed to have an amazing time.

George travels across Massachusetts and throughout New England performing for audiences large and small, sharing his unique blend of astonishing illusions and upbeat comedic energy. His talent and showmanship have earned him widespread recognition, including appearances on the CBS Early Show, Sesame Street's "Fun to Be One" celebration, and recurring performances at Universal Studios' CityWalk. His reputation for excellence has also earned George some of the highest honors in the world of magic. In addition to receiving multiple awards, he has been voted "Boston's Favorite Family Entertainer" two years in a row by The Boston Parents' Paper.

Magic by George will be demonstrating his skills on Monday, April 23 at noon at the Southbridge Community Center. All ages are welcome. This fun and exciting program is supported by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

The Southbridge Community Center and Senior Center is a multi-functional facility providing social and recreational opportunities for all citizens of Southbridge and the local area. We hope to see you soon.



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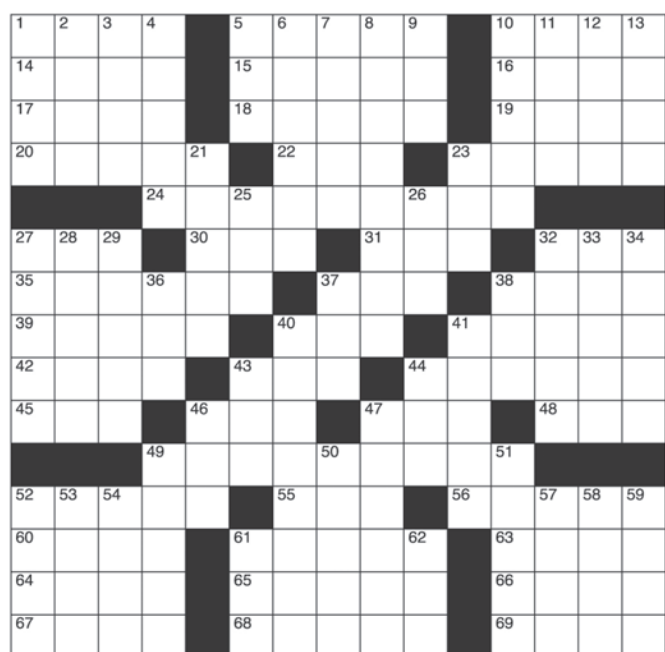
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CLUES ACROSS

- Greek goddess of marriage
- Tropical American blue jay-like bird
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Dark olive black
- Light, crinkled fabric
- Notre Dame has a golden one
- Leaked blood
- Confronted
- Negligible amount
- Facilitated
- Hill or rocky peak
- Minneapolis suburb
- Songs to one's beloved
- Brake horsepower
- Angry
- Children's game
- Spelling is a type of one
- Obtained in return for labor
- Indicates center
- Chinese dynasty
- Old World buffaloes
- Slang for time off
- Fabric
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- Defunct regional economic organization
- Philly footballers
- Female sibling
- Peter Griffin's daughter
- Digital audiotape
- Insecticide
- Scientific instrument
- Pages may be dog-__
- Israeli city __ Aviv
- Type of sword
- Middle Eastern military title
- Wise individuals
- French Polynesian island Bora __
- Popular shoe type
- One of 50
- Divulge a secret
- Dish of cooked meat mixed with potatoes
- Actress Zellweger
- Romanian city

CLUES DOWN

- Greek cupbearer of the Gods
- Ancient Syrian city
- Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
- Range of mountains
- One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
- Spoke
- City in Georgia
- Theatrical
- CNN's founder
- Icelandic poems
- Bjorn __, tennis player
- Bowfin genus
- One point north of northeast
- Political divisions in ancient Greece
- Electroencephalograph
- Cool!
- Male parent
- Where some gymnasts work
- Capital of Vietnam
- Sailboats
- Shelter (Scottish)
- Completed
- Discharge
- Arrest
- Partner to cheese
- Coffee receptacle
- Stagnate
- Satisfies
- Snakelike fish
- Consume food
- Type of school
- Erase
- Inform
- Girl's given name
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- Every one of two or more things
- Northern India city
- Seventeenth stars in a constellation
- Weapon
- Amounts of time
- Isodor __, American Nobel physicist
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Witness

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Upcoming fundraiser will support Relay For Life

FISKDALE — The Relay For Life of Southern Worcester County is having a fundraiser on Saturday, April 18 at 2 p.m. at Brush It Off Art & Pottery Studio, 559 Main St., Suite 103-104, Fiskdale. Please sign up in advance on the Brush It Off website, <https://brush-it-off.com>

No painting experience needed, just a sense of humor. Come join us and see how differently a group interprets art, all while raising funds to fight cancer. A portion of the money from every painting goes to the American Cancer Society.

The Relay For Life of Southern Worcester County will be held Saturday, June 20, 9 a.m.- 9:30 p.m. at McMahon Field, 25 Cole Ave., Southbridge.

If interested in participating, please check out our Web site at secure.acevents.org and search for Relay For Life of Southern Worcester County.

REAL ESTATE

Charlton
\$629,000, 8 A Vinton Rd, Lyman, James, to Butler, Brianna.

\$450,000, 167 Nugget Dr, Griffin, Mandy D, and Gigna, Jacob P, to Griffin, Mandy D.

\$505,000, 15 S Sullivan Rd, Shanahan Michael J Est, and Shanahan, Gary, to Kanz, Mary J, and Kanz, Christopher.

\$315,000, 28 Southbridge Rd #308, Cogoli, Katelyn, to Bakerlis, Danielle N.

SOUTHBRIDGE
\$674,771, 475 E Main St, Petrillo, David J, to Plaza Holdings Group LLC.

\$400,000, 151 West St, Kalinowski-Laramie, I, and Kalinowskilarame, Izabel, to Merzozian, Aleen M.

\$400,000, 24 Mary Ellen Ln, Williams, John P, and Williams, Teresa K, to Lyons, Sean M.

\$315,000, 37 Hook St, Tasse Properties LLC, to Sotar, Yuri I, and Sotar, Nicholas J.

\$307,500, 768 Ashland Ave, Wmsurplus Ret 2020, and Macneal Jr, Edward H, to Ferraro, Anthony J.

\$360,000, 16 Dean St, S&D Thomas LLC, to Phillip Carlson LLC.

\$350,000, 168 Dresser St, Dipaolo, John J, to Fernandez,

Julyris, and Fernandez, Carlos E.

\$221,000, 389 Breakneck Rd, Henrickson Cynthia R Est, and Lacerte, Troy, to A&C Home Renovations LLC.

\$100,000, Lebanon Hill Rd, Ross, Andrew, to Rivemider, Samantha L, and Anderson, Sandra A.

\$67,000, 26 Dennison Ln, Soper, Mark, to Crb Development Corp.

\$67,000, 27 Dennison Xrd, Soper, Mark, to Crb Development Corp.

STURBRIDGE
\$1,035,000, 43 Mountain Brook Rd, Kane, Ryan Z, and Lennon, Michelle L, to Reidy, Deborah, and Reidy, James.

\$705,000, 19 Old Towne Way, Eliason, Thomas F, and Eliason, Kendra C, to Pepe, Anthony, and Pepe, Alison.

\$599,000, 69 Farquhar Rd, Maher, David J, and Maher, Pamela A, to Johnson, Ehmil, and Deroche, Lani.

\$545,000, 8 Blueberry Ln, Chairman Capital LLC, to Lico, Sidorela, and Temple, Christopher.

\$495,000, 40 Bentwood Dr, Muenzberg Jr, Robert B, and Muenzberg, Susan D, to Horniak, Nancy.

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STONEBRIDGE PRESS
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
FRANK C. CHILINSKI
FRANK@SALMONPRESS.NEWS

BUSINESS MANAGER
RYAN CORNEAU
860-928-1818 EXT. 102
ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JIM DINICOLA
508-764-6102
jim@stonebridgepress.news

EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
508-909-4101
news@stonebridgepress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
508-909-4105
julie@villagernewspapers.com

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Sat. 9:00 – 12:00

CHURCH LISTINGS

• **Central Baptist Church**

256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550

Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.

• **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 508- 248- 5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer worship is 9:30 a.m. www.fed-church.org

• **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org.

Sunday worship 10 a.m.

• **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248- 7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org

Sunday worship and Children's church 10am

• **St. Anne St. Patrick Church**, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338

www.stannestpatparish.com

Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am

• **Elm Street Congregational Church**, 61 Elm Street, Southbridge, Ma 01550

Phone: 508-764-8085 • Sunday service 10:00 am

Pastor Kathryn Light

• **Faith Baptist Church**, 515 Dennison Drive, Southbridge

Phone number 508-764-6132,

Worship Service: Sunday 10:00 a.m.

• **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.

• **Wayside Church**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144

• **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

• **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349

Sunday Service 10:00am.

www.livingwordcharlton.com

info@livingwordcharlton.com

• **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

• **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale** - 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021

www.sturfed.org

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

• **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**- 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566

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Services - Sunday 9:00 am

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• **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**

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Phone: 508-765-9559

Web: www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org

Sunday Service 11:00 am

Pastor Dan Purtell

• **St. John Paul II Parish**

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Rev. Carlos Ardila, Pastor

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Sunday 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon

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St. Michael Romanian Orthodox Church benefit turkey dinner coming May 18

STURBRIDGE — The Publick House Historic Inn and Restaurant will host another of its community dinners on Monday, May 18, this time benefiting St. Michael Romanian Orthodox Church in Southbridge.

These dinners are part of the Publick House's ongoing effort to support local organizations. A portion of each ticket sold will go directly to the church.

"We're grateful to be included in this program," said event organizer Spiro Thomo.

Hydrant flushing underway in Southbridge

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Water Department started its semi-annual hydrant flushing program on Sunday, April 12. The program will continue during overnight hours for approximately six to eight weeks between the hours of 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. Flushing will start in the Westville area and continue easterly throughout the town.

The procedure will include the cleaning of the reservoir intake screens, flushing accumulated sediments from the water mains and testing the operation of each hydrant.

The Department requests that during this period customers check their water before washing clothes. Customers may also get accumulated sediments in their house laterals and experience some discolored water. This will clear after a brief run of water at the tap. Please contact the Southbridge Water Department at (508) 764-3207 if you have any questions or comments.

"It's a simple way for people to come together, enjoy a good meal, and support the church at the same time."

Two seatings are available: 4:30-6 p.m. and 6:30-8 p.m. The buffet menu includes oven-roasted turkey, cornbread-sausage stuffing, mashed potatoes, butternut squash,

and cranberry sauce.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$5 for children ages four to 11. All tickets must be purchased in advance—no sales at the door. The deadline is Friday, May 15.

For tickets or information, contact Spiro Thomo at 774-200-8043, or by email to

spirothomo@gmail.com. Payment is by cash or check made payable to The Publick House.

The mission of St. Michael Romanian Orthodox Church is to experience the grace of God and to share it with others.

Bring your favorite book to life with Wales Library

WALES — Wales Library patrons of all ages are welcome to join the library friends in the USA 250 anniversary parade on June 13 in Brimfield.

Bring your favorite book, by an American

author, to life!

Costume creation sessions will take place at the Wales Library 77 Main St., Wales, on April 21, 22 & 23, 2:30-4 p.m. Please register to join us by calling 413

245-9072.

Anyone wanting to dress up as a favorite character or decorate a stroller... are also welcome to do so on your own and join the parade with us.

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EDITOR

A season to celebrate at Shepherd Hill

There are many ways a community measures success in its schools. Test scores matter. Graduation rates matter. College acceptances matter. But there is another kind of achievement that is sometimes harder to quantify and just as important to recognize: the kind that grows from teamwork, discipline, and shared purpose.

The Shepherd Hill Varsity Cheerleading Team gave our area a powerful reminder of what that kind of success looks like this season.

Winning the Mid-Wach League Championship with the highest score in the competition would be an accomplishment in its own right. Following that performance with another top score at the Central Massachusetts Regional Championship showed something more than momentum. It showed consistency, preparation, and confidence. Then, to finish third in the Massachusetts State Cheerleading Championship among the best Division 2 teams in the state confirmed what many already knew. This was a team competing at the highest level.

Beyond those results are hours that most people never see.

Competitive cheerleading demands strength, precision, timing, and trust. Athletes lift one another, quite literally, and rely on teammates to do the same. A routine succeeds only when every participant performs their role exactly as planned. There is no shortcut to that level of coordination. It comes from repetition, resilience, and a willingness to support one another through mistakes as well as victories.

That kind of effort deserves attention.

In towns like Dudley and Oxford, school teams often serve as a shared point of pride. They bring families together in gymnasiums on winter evenings and create common memories that last long after the season ends. When a local team advances through league, regional, and state competition, it becomes something the entire community can celebrate.

It also sends a message to younger students watching from the stands.

They see what commitment can achieve. They see older students representing their school with confidence and determination. They begin to imagine themselves in those roles one day. That sense of possibility is one of the quiet strengths of school athletics and activities of every kind.

The Shepherd Hill cheerleaders also demonstrated something else worth noting. Their success did not come from a single standout moment. It came from steady progress across an entire season. Championship performances at multiple levels do not happen by accident. They reflect coaching, planning, and a team culture built on accountability and encouragement.

Those qualities extend beyond competition.

Students who learn how to work together under pressure, set goals, and support teammates carry those lessons into classrooms, workplaces, and communities. They become the neighbors and volunteers who help keep small towns strong.

That is why achievements like this matter.

The Shepherd Hill Varsity Cheerleading Team has given our community a season to remember and a performance record that stands among the best in the state. Their accomplishments reflect not only talent, but dedication and teamwork of the highest order.

They have represented their school, and all of us, with pride.

OPINION

Sustainable investing means investing with purpose

When you think about investing, you probably want your money to grow. But maybe you also want it to make a positive difference in the world while you continue pursuing your financial goals. That's the foundation of sustainable investing — an approach that considers environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors alongside traditional financial analysis.

Sustainable investing allows you to support better business practices through your investment choices. It looks at how companies address issues ranging from climate change to worker well-being to corporate ethics. At its core, it's about aligning investments with personal values while still focusing on long-term financial outcomes.

Here are the three main areas of sustainable investing:

- Environmental considerations include how companies respond to climate change, use natural resources, and manage pollution.
- Social factors address workforce well-being, product safety, and efforts to reduce social inequities.
- Governance focuses on corporate behavior, ethics policies, and financial transparency.

You may wonder whether investing sustainably means sacrificing returns. Research suggests it doesn't. New York University's Stern Center for Sustainable Business



reviewed more than 1,000 studies from 2015–20 and found that incorporating ESG factors does not inherently diminish returns, and in many cases is associated with improved financial performance. As with any investment approach, it's important to focus on high quality investments that help support more consistent long-term returns.

Sustainable investing can take several forms:

- ESG intentional strategies spread out your investments and have clear goals for choosing companies that follow strong environmental, social and governance practices.
- Sustainable thematic strategies focus on specific issues, such as clean energy or water conservation.
- Impact investments go a step further, targeting measurable environmental or social outcomes. Because they prioritize more narrow, specific objectives, they may carry higher volatility and potentially lower returns.

One concern you may hear about is "greenwashing," which happens when companies or funds exaggerate their environmental efforts. To help prevent this, the U.S. Securities and

Exchange Commission created a rule in 2023 that requires any fund with "ESG" in its name to keep at least 80 percent of its assets in ESG aligned investments.

Another challenge is data consistency. Today, 99 percent of S&P 500 companies report ESG metrics, according to the Center for Audit Quality, but different rating providers still use different methods. Looking at relative rankings can help you compare companies and mutual funds in a more consistent way.

Deciding whether to include sustainable investments in your portfolio really depends on your values and financial goals. You can build a well-diversified portfolio with or without them. A qualified financial advisor can help you understand whether adding sustainable investments fits your overall strategy and makes sense for your situation.

As more companies disclose ESG data and more funds offer sustainable options, investors have increasing opportunities to align their portfolios with their values — without sacrificing their financial objectives.

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@edward-jones.com. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.

The old road map in the glove compartment

The other afternoon, I went looking for my car registration and found something I had not touched in years.

It was an old paper road map.

Folded the wrong way, of course. I do not even remember when I put it there. The edges were soft from being opened too many times, and there were little pen marks along Route 20 and Route 9 from trips I must have taken when my children were younger and every ride somewhere counted as an adventure.

These days, most of us travel with a calm voice coming from the dashboard telling us exactly when to turn left and exactly when to turn right. It is efficient. It is helpful. It is also a little lonely compared to the way we used to get around.

Paper maps required cooperation.

Someone had to hold the map. Someone had to read it. Someone had to admit when the map was upside down. And someone had to say, "I think we missed that turn about two miles ago."

Usually that last person was me.

There was a time when every glove compartment in Massachusetts seemed to hold at least one folded map of the state, sometimes two if you counted the one that covered the Berkshires and the one that covered the eastern half where the roads never seem to go quite the way you expect them to.

LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET

By CHARLES

You could tell how old a map was by which highways were missing.

Route numbers changed.

Interchanges

appeared where nothing had been before. Whole bypasses arrived that made you feel as if the world itself had shifted slightly while you were not paying attention.

Still, we trusted those maps.

They helped us find county fairs we had never visited before. They helped us get to Little League games in towns we could not pronounce. They helped us discover ice cream stands that were never advertised anywhere except by the number of cars already parked outside.

A map did not simply tell you where to go. It invited you to notice where you were.

I remember sitting in the passenger seat while my wife drove through towns neither of us knew very well, tracing the road ahead with one finger and announcing each turn like it was part of an expedition. The children in the back seat always seemed to believe we were traveling somewhere important, even if it was only the next town over for a school concert or a Saturday errand.

There was a sense that we were figuring

things out together.

Today, when the dashboard voice tells me to turn, I turn. When it says I have arrived, I believe it. There is nothing wrong with that. It gets me where I am going every time.

Still, finding that old map reminded me how much of small-town life used to depend on learning the roads slowly.

You learned where the river crossed under the highway. You learned which towns had the best shortcut when traffic backed up near the rotary. You learned which back roads felt longer in winter and shorter in June.

Most of all, you learned how close everything really was.

Massachusetts is full of places that seem far away until you discover they are only twenty minutes down a road you had never taken before. A folded map used to make that clear in a way a glowing screen never quite does.

I put the map back in the glove compartment when I finished looking at it. I do not expect I will need it again. The car already knows how to get me where I am going.

But I am glad it is still there.

It reminds me that for a long time, getting somewhere was not only about arriving. It was about paying attention to the turns along the way, and sometimes even missing one or two and finding something better because of it.

TO THE EDITOR

Lisa Aube for Charlton Library Trustee

To the Editor:

Lisa Aube knew the moment she visited the Charlton Public Library that Charlton was the place she needed to raise her family. Frequent trips with her kids to the library children's room and it was not long before her kids soon inherited mom's passion for reading and learning.

Lisa worked for many years as an enthusiastic manager at Barnes and Noble bookstore, but nothing could match the charm, depth and programming of our own Charlton Public Library.

Without hesitation, Lisa joined the Friends of the Library and quickly became a very active member in their quest to support its

programs. Always with a thirst to learn, she began attending Library Trustee meetings, gaining a stronger understanding of a Trustee's role and the decision making that goes into library policy.

Lisa believes strongly that libraries are for everyone in the community and that they play a significant role in the character and heart of a town like Charlton. Lisa will work to strengthen Charlton Library policies and the availability of its incredible book collection, materials, and enriched programming.

*Anthony M. Aube
Charlton*

Vote for Bruce on May 2

the Vice-Chair. He demonstrated a strong ability to adapt to working with different superintendents, mayors, and fellow committee members.

I especially admired Bruce's ability to ask

probing questions and disagree with others in a way that was respectful, productive, and didn't lead to heightened conflict. The town of Charlton would be very fortunate to have an experienced, dedicated leader like

Bruce Menin serving on their Select Board. I encourage you to cast a vote for Bruce on May 2.

*Sarah Hall
Newburyport*

Be informed on who you're voting for

To the Editor:

Southbridge is facing many issues this year, and it's important for residents to be informed where our candidates stand on every one of these issues!

The Town Election Forum Committee is hosting a Candidates Forum on May 9 at 6 p.m. in the Southbridge Town Hall, Council Chambers, where voters in Southbridge can meet the candidates and hear their views on a variety of issues including their stand on the regional dispatch center, possible changes to our town charter, including term limits, and a variety of other important issues facing our town.

The forum will be broadcast live on Southbridge Cable Channel 192, as well as shown live on YouTube, and Facebook live.

Southbridge residents can also submit questions in advance to: richmerrill20@gmail.com for possible inclusion in the forum on May 9. It's vital that residents become familiar with the candidates and they turn out and vote in the upcoming town election in June! Be aware and informed, and then vote for the future of our town.

*Rich Merrill
Southbridge*

Charlton deserves the best

To the Editor:

Are you looking for broad experience in municipal governance, transparency, civility, and a proven track record of working collaboratively with all stakeholders? Someone who will listen, and bring questions before the people for a vote? In short, do you want someone who can move the needle forward? Then please join me in voting for Bruce Menin for Charlton Select Board.

Charlton has transitioned from a farm town to a fast-growing country suburb that deserves smart, experienced leadership who can manage decisions and guide us to affluence for all. Like many

towns in Massachusetts, we face challenges with schools, water and sewer infrastructure, affordable housing, economic development and a large senior population with growing needs.

So, if you would like to know more about Bruce and his ability to meet these challenges, visit his Facebook page at Bruce Menin for Charlton Select Board or alternatively, Bruce would love to chat with you at one of his many standouts on the Town Common between now and election day!

Vote for Bruce Menin on May 2 at the Charlton Heritage School.

*Pat Stockwell
Charlton*

Sturbridge deserves a Selectman with a proven record

To the Editor:

This is to request that you vote for Bruce Menin for the Charlton Select Board on Saturday, May 3 at the Heritage School. It is an important election in that the direction our town takes will be strongly affected by the results.

I know Bruce to be a man of integrity and determination to correct

any injustices. He has a great deal of experience with local politics and a great understanding of conflict resolution. Bruce will bring a fresh outlook along with a significant ability to listen to differing points of view. He is the kind of person we want to be leading this town.

*Kathleen Walker
Charlton*

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.

Spring can bring balance to body & bowl

BRIMFIELD — Spring is a time of new beginnings. For many of us, that means shaking off the winter doldrums and introducing more movement. It can also mean seeking to improve our nutrition, perhaps influenced this year by recent trends in protein bowls.

Hitchcock recently restored its regular Tai Chi offering to a sold-out crowd, and has also added plant-based eating workshops with educator Jill Ahlstrand, founder of Harvesting Flavor. Each are accepting new signups for sessions taking place later this month – Tai Chi is offered in six-week sessions on Tuesdays at 6 p.m., and newly on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m., starting April 21 and 22, respectively, and Harvesting Flavor’s latest offering – “Building a Better Bowl: Plant-Forward Bowls That Satisfy” – will take place on April 30 at 6 p.m.

Tai Chi Chuan, sometimes called “moving meditation,” offers a low impact path to

healthy benefits including improved flexibility, stress reduction, and better balance.

“It is a path to self-development that can be entered by anyone wherever you are at,” says instructor David Porter, of the 45 minute class that is open to individuals of all abilities. “The journey starts with a single step. As long as you persevere, you will continue to learn and improve.”

Porter trained at The Tai Chi Center in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., and is certified in Yang Style Short Form by William C.C. Chen Tai Chi Chuan who was among the first people to bring it to the U.S.

“Bowls are one of the easiest ways to eat plant-forward—but only when they’re built well,” says Harvesting Flavor’s Jill Ahlstrand. “Food needs to taste good first – nourishment and flavor should always go hand in hand.”

In her workshop, participants will learn

how to create balanced, satisfying bowls using simple components like grains, vegetables, proteins, and sauces - focusing especially on how sauces bring everything together so bowls are flavorful, filling, and easy to repeat at home.

Through a cooking demo and tasting, you’ll learn how to balance texture, flavor, and nourishment, utilizing simple bowl-building templates and sauce-forward strategies for better bowls. You’ll take home a bowl-building guide and sauce ideas.

Ahlstrand’s work grew out of her own journey into plant-based eating and a desire to make it approachable rather than restrictive. She focuses on helping people understand how to meet their nutritional needs on a plant-based diet – especially protein, energy, and long-term health – through meals that are practical, flavorful, and deeply enjoyable. Through talks, classes, and coaching,

she supports people who are curious about eating more plant-forward and want guidance that fits everyday life.

For more information, visit www.hitchcockacademy.org. Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Rd. in Brimfield, serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming.

Auction Acres to host Seventh Annual Pioneer Valley Wine Festival

BRIMFIELD — Brimfield Auction Acres, birthplace of the world-famous Brimfield Antique Shows, will host the sixth annual Pioneer Valley Wine Festival Saturday and Sunday, June 6 & 7, from noon to 5 p.m.

2026 Marks the 7th year of the Pioneer Valley Wine and Food festival. This exciting event brings together New England Wineries, Cideries, Distilleries, and Meaderies from across the Pioneer Valley and Farmers of many sorts selling their wares.

The event started in 2018 by the collaboration with farm wineries throughout New England and local farmers to create a festival to highlight the magnificent products Massachusetts provides all in unison and support of Massachusetts Agricultural Department.

The Festival will feature local vintners and craft brewers ready to spill their secrets, Live Art demonstrations, sizzling chef panel starring culinary celebs - to be announced soon. Last year celebrity guests include; Brynn Gibson, the youngest Black Jacket finalist from Fox’s Hell’s Kitchen with Gordon Ramsay. We also have Jared Forman, the culinary mastermind behind Deadhorse Hill, who brought the heat on Food Network’s Beat Bobby Flay.

Charlton Lions Club offers scholarships

CHARLTON — The Charlton Lions Club invites 12th-grade students (in high school, technical school, private or a home school) who plan to continue their education beyond high school to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship offered by the Club.

Applicants must be Charlton residents who are accepted at an accredited college or other post-secondary program. They must submit a completed application form along with two letters of reference and a transcript of their academic achievement from their school. The application form asks for family and financial information, extracurricular activities, career goals, and community

service/volunteerism.

The application form is available online. For a link to the form, visit thecharltonlions.com or email thecharltonlions@gmail.com. If you prefer to fill out a paper form and submit the completed form by mail, please contact your guidance counselor for a copy of The Charlton Lions Club scholarship application. All applications must be received by April 30.

Three applicants will be selected from the pool of candidates; applications that do not include all required material or are received after the deadline will not be considered. Winners will be notified by May 31. To receive the scholarship, win-

ners must then complete their first semester of study in a post-secondary program, submit a transcript of that work, and be enrolled in their second semester (or the equivalent in a non-academic program).

In addition to its annual scholarship program, The Charlton Lions Club raises funds for holiday gifts for needy families, youth activities, disaster relief, diabetes programs and assistance dog organizations. They also help install handicap ramps and conduct vision and hearing testing at local events. For more information about the club, its projects, and how to become a member, please visit: thecharltonlions.com.

Traveling petting zoo coming to Southbridge Community Senior Center

SOUTHBRIDGE — Records and Burpee will be presenting a Traveling Petting Zoo at the Southbridge Community Center, 153 Chestnut St., Southbridge, on Tuesday, April 21 at 2 p.m.

Records and Burpee offers a variety of first-class educational programs and attractions. Their animals appear at fairs, parks, schools, libraries, museums, special events, promotions, television programs, and in advertising. Their animal family is seen live by more than a million

people annually. Husband and wife team of Lawrence Records and Alexandra Burpee founded Records and Burpee animal shows in 1987. Their experience in animal care, exhibition and training goes back to 1971. Today, along with sons, Ben and Harrison, they are based at their private 28 acre farm in Dudley.

The Records and Burpee Traveling Petting Zoo is supported by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the

Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. All are welcome to enjoy this fun filled event.

The Southbridge Community Center is a multi-functional facility including the Casaubon Senior Center, Recreation

& Veterans Departments providing social and recreational opportunities and services for all citizens of Southbridge and the local area. The Senior Center is very active and publishes the Casaubon Chronicle which

details all the month. We hope happenings each to see you soon.

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New member joins Fraternal family



Left to right: new member Brother Matthew Card and Brother Paul Davidson.

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE
MASONIC LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

WEBSTER — On Monday, April 6, brethren from all around the 24th Masonic District, gathered at the Major General Salem Towne Lodge (MGSTL) Webster Masonic Apartments in Webster to witness and

congratulate a local young man.

Brother Matthew Card of Webster completed his Fellowcraft Degree. This man, along with other men, have followed this path and joined this great fraternity because of "Who We Are." We're men, each trying to be the best version of ourselves. We find

it's easier to do that when we're with other men who share the same values. We're there for our brothers no matter what life may bring, and our brothers are there for us. We help others, not just because it's the right thing to do, but also because it helps us grow. We value Honor and Integrity. We believe



Courtesy

Left to right: Holding his 60 year Lapel Pin, Brother Steven LaVergne, center Brother Paul Davidson and holding his 60 year Lapel Pin Brother Rick LaVergne.

there's always more to learn. As Freemasons we thrive to make good men even better. Also, this evening two local Master Masons from Sturbridge Brothers Rick and Steve LaVergne both received their 60 years Masonic Lapel Pins and both brothers were raised in 1966 to the Sublime Degree of

Master Masons.

Major General Salem Towne Masonic Lodge was Chartered in 1859. What we do know is that after 167 years, the Major General Salem Towne Masonic Lodge and Freemasonry have continued to grow and make good men better. This is because we value

our old traditions, and we think this is what attracts this younger generation of men. These men want to see and learn how it used to be and what it is like to value honor and integrity. For details about Freemasonry or to locate a nearby lodge, visit www.massfreemasonry.org.

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Charlton celebrates Earth Day April 25

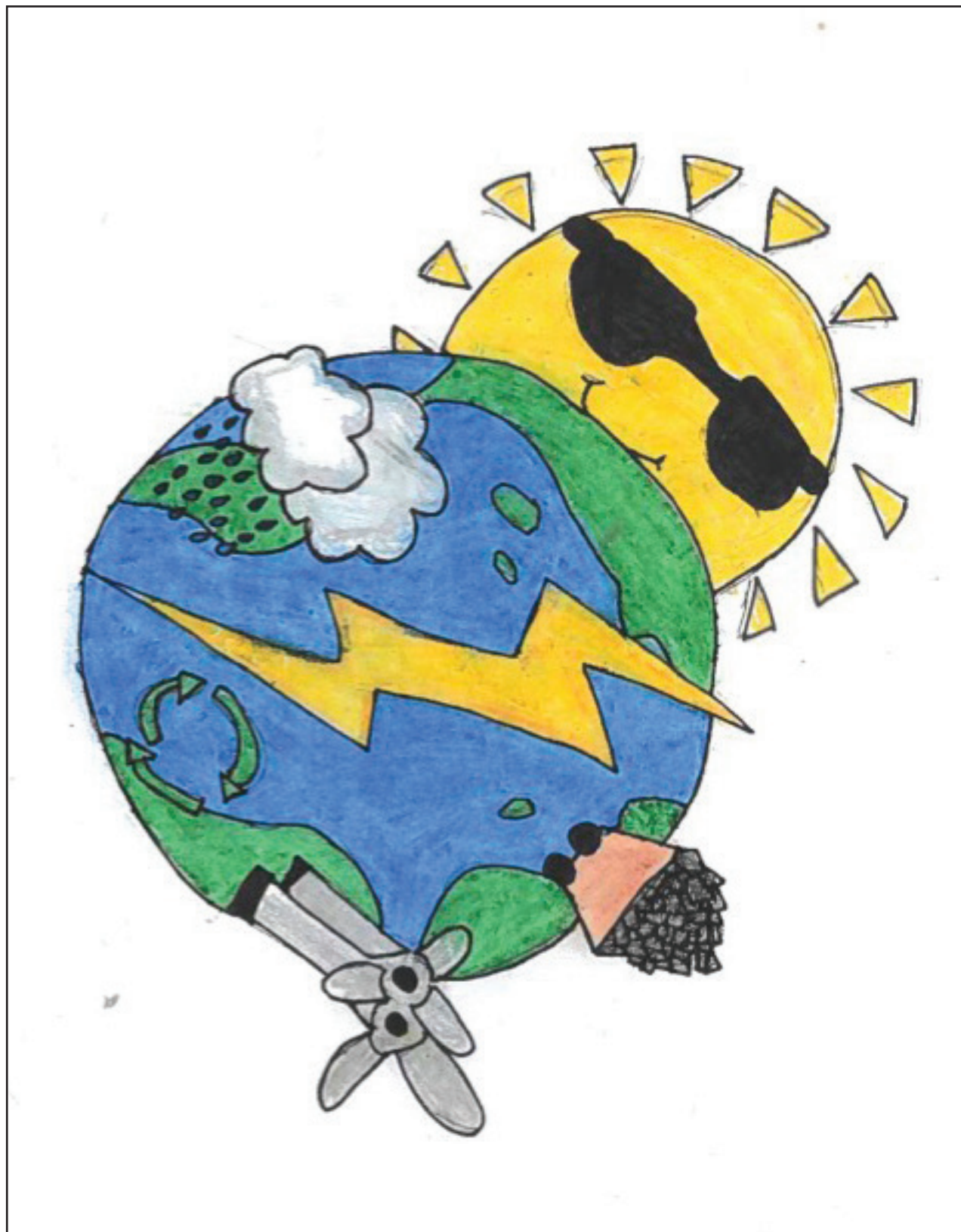
CHARLTON — Charlton residents of all ages are invited to participate in a town-wide road clean-up and fest in celebration of Earth Day on Saturday, April 25 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Residents may sign up online at <https://www.townofcharlton.net/238/Earth-Day-Committee> to claim a road, or portion of a road to clean. Online registration begins April 1; residents may also sign up in person at the event.

Residents who commit to a road will receive sturdy yellow plastic bags, protective gloves, grabbers, safety vests, tick prevention kits and tick removal kits. These items will be distributed on the Town Common beginning at 8 am the day of the event. Grabber supply is limited; please reuse grabbers from previous years if you have them. Collected trash should be brought to a dumpster, donated by Casella Waste, located behind Town Hall. The Charlton DPW is available to pick up bags for residents who are unable to deliver them to the dumpster; residents need to notify the Earth Day Planning group at cjolicoeur64@yahoo.com of the exact location of these bags.

Residents are urged to use gloves to protect themselves from sharp objects and to wear bright clothing or a safety vest so drivers can see them easily. Residents are cautioned to never open containers of unknown substances. Contact the Police to dispose of any needles or syringes – do not touch or place them in bags with other refuse.

While most roads in town need cleaning,



The winning entry for the Earth Day tee shirt contest created by Riley Boland.

some of the worst are the most traveled and therefore more dangerous to address. If you are up for the task, but not for children, these roads are hot spots: Route 31,

Brookfield Road, Route 20 traffic lights, and Saundersdale Road.

To encourage participation from children, Erin Anderson, fifth-grade science teacher at

Charlton Middle School, held a contest for students to design a tee shirt based on this year's Earth Day theme: Our Power, Our Planet. The winning design was sub-

mitted by seventh-grader Riley Boland. Millenium Power Company has generously donated tee shirts with the winning design, available on a first come, first serve

basis, one per person.

In addition to a town-wide clean-up, Charlton will hold an Earth Fest on Saturday, April 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will feature live music, food trucks, and vendors promoting environmentally sustainable lifestyle choices. The Earth Day Planning Group invites residents to enjoy the festivities, while learning ways to help the earth, its animals, and plants.

Earth Fest vendors include AnnieMike's Honey, Buffumville Army Corps of Engineers, Charlton Business Alliance, Charlton Conservation Commission, Charlton Garden Club, Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust, Charlton Public Library, Eric's Aviaris, Local 4 Life, Keep Charlton Beautiful Committee, The Last Green Valley, the Opacum Land Trust, Swampdog Native Plants, and more.

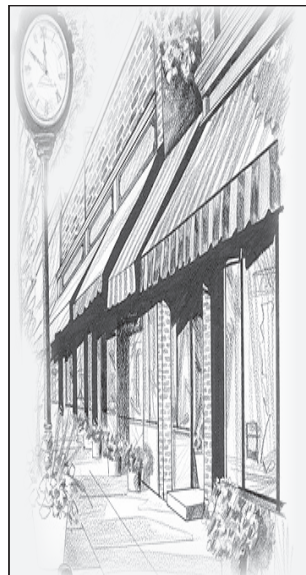
Cara Smick Photography, Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust, The Last Green Valley, and Millenium Power Company have generously agreed to sponsor the event.

The Wormtown Mugwumps, Worcester's premier purveyors of jug band music, and Acoustic Ruckus, formerly known as Grey Whisker Pickers, will provide entertainment. The event will also feature food trucks 3 Kings BBQ, Suzy Q's Ice Cream, and Toasted Roasters.

Funding for Charlton Earth Day is generously provided by The Last Green Valley.

For more information, email pmhanlonwriting@gmail.com.

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OBITUARIES

Irene (Szczygiel) Desrosier, 91

Charlton - Irene (Szczygiel) Desrosier, 91, died Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at UMass Memorial Health Harrington.

Born in Enfield, CT, on March 15, 1935, Irene was the daughter of the late John F. and Mary E. Szczygiel. She was a graduate of the class of 1952 from the former Mary E. Wells High School in Southbridge.

Irene was a member of the Harrington Memorial Hospital's Auxiliary group, volunteering her time and services to the hospital for many years. She enjoyed playing cribbage, being challenged by crossword puzzles, and watching Jeopardy each weeknight.

Irene was predeceased by her husband of 70 years, Edward D. Desrosier, who passed away August 7, 2024. She is survived by her sons: Edward Charles "Chuck" Desrosier and his wife, Karen, of Lake Wales, FL; and Bruce J. Desrosier and his wife, Nancy Coderre, of Southbridge; her daughter, Gail A. Desrosier and



her partner, Joseph Venie, of North Haven, CT; 7 grandchildren: Melanie Beck and her husband, Kai; Andrew Kaczmarek, Abigail Kaczmarek, Leah Kaczmarek, Paige Kaczmarek, Lindsey Cruz and her husband, Juan; and Shannon Huffman and her wife, Rebecca; 7 great-grandchildren; and her sister, Cheryl Ryan and her husband, Billy, of Southbridge. Irene was predeceased by her daughter, Jan Lenzotti, who passed away in 1997, as well as by her brother, John F. Szczygiel, Jr. of Charlton.

Irene's funeral services were held on Monday, April 13, from Sansoucy Funeral Home, 40 Marcy Street, Southbridge, MA. In lieu of flowers, the family asks you to consider making a memorial donation in Irene's name to either The Harrington Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, 100 South Street, Southbridge, MA 01550, or to the American Cancer Society, 3 Speen Street, Framingham, MA 01701. www.sansoucyfuneral.com

Daniel J. Girard, 59

Dudley: Daniel Girard, 59, of Dudley, passed away on March 31, 2026. Born and raised in Southbridge, he was the son of Pauline (LaFleche) Girard and the late Joseph "Sonny" Girard.

Danny was the beloved husband of Michelle (Hall) Girard for 33 years. In addition to his mother, Pauline Girard of Sturbridge, he is survived by his children, Hunter Girard of Dudley and Abigail (Girard) Rose and her husband, Tayler of Fitchburg; his siblings, Deborah (Girard) Desforges and her husband Peter of Southbridge, and David Girard and his wife Lorraine of East Moriches, NY; and his cherished granddaughter, Arev Rose, of whom he was an immensely proud Pèpère, affectionately known as "Chicken." He was predeceased by his father, Joseph "Sonny" Girard.

Danny was a graduate of Southbridge High School and proudly served his country in the United States Army. Following his military service, he attended Worcester



State University, earning a degree in Occupational Therapy. He went on to dedicate many years to helping others through his work in Occupational Therapy, most recently serving as Deputy Director of MassHealth Home-Based Services for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Outside of his professional life, Danny was a man of many passions. He was an avid gardener (aka Farmer Dan the Pickle Man) and found great joy in the craft of blacksmithing. A familiar face in the local cycling community, he participated in numerous fundraisers for the MS Society and the Pan-Mass Challenge. Danny will be remembered for his unwavering presence, his strength as a leader and provider, and his gift for making others laugh. Guided by his devotion to family, he was always working to grow, improve, and set an example for those he loved, including his nieces and nephews he held close to his heart. He was the kind of man who was always there when he was needed most, and his love and laughter will live on in all who knew him.

Calling hours for Danny will be held on Sunday, May 3rd, from 1:00 to 4:00pm in the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a service to follow in the funeral home at 4:00pm. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Danny's memory to the following organizations that were close to his heart, the National MS Society online at www.nationalmssociety.org or to the Pan-Mass Challenge online at www.pmc.org.

Southbridge Lions Club announces 15th Annual Al DiPetro Memorial Golf Tournament

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Lions Club is preparing to host its 15th Annual Al DiPetro Memorial Golf Tournament on Friday, May 15, at Heritage Country Club in Charlton. The annual event, known for combining friendly competition with community spirit, is expected to draw golfers of all skill levels for a day of recreation and fundraising.

Registration will begin at 7 a.m., with a shotgun start scheduled for 8:30 a.m. The

tournament will follow an A, B, C, D scramble format, making it accessible and enjoyable for both experienced golfers and casual participants.

The entry fee is \$150 per player, which includes greens fees, a golf cart, lunch and refreshments, tournament prizes, and a steak or chicken dinner. Prizes will be awarded to the top three finishing teams, and a variety of raffle prizes will also be available.

Advance registration is required. Those interested in participating can contact Gary Fontaine at 774-230-1412 or Steve Stella at 508-989-1974, or reach out to any Southbridge Lions Club member.

Organizers say the tournament promises a full day of golf, camaraderie, and support for local initiatives, continuing a long-standing tradition of giving back to the Southbridge community.

LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P1153EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

Estate Of:

Robert W Hall

**Also known as: Robert William Hall
Date of Death: 02/06/2026**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Josephine L Veglla of Oxford 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:

Josephine L Veglla of Oxford 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 05/12/2026**.

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

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

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 08, 2026

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

April 16, 2026

**Town of Holland
Zoning Board of Appeals
Notice of Public Hearing**

In accordance with M.G. L Chapter 40A Section 9, the Holland Zoning Board of

Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, April 29 at 7:15 P.M.** at the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Rd, 1st Floor Community Room, Holland, MA 01521.

If dial in access is needed, please contact the Town Hall at 413-245-7108 x101.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider a request for a **Variance on setbacks** according to Holland Bylaw section 9. **Relief requested:** Build a new garage

The property located at: **2 Vinton Way Parcel ID # R09/A /10 – R09/A/14**

Don Beal, Chairperson

Zoning Board of Appeals

Date: 4/9/2026

April 16, 2026

April 23, 2026

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on May 13, 2026, at 7PM on the application of Matthew Brady.

The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability to request confirmation of the boundaries of the Resource Area and to determine whether the activities are subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The request is associated with the construction of a single-family home with an ADU potentially outside of the 100-ft buffer zone. Address: Lot 2 Smith Road, Charlton, MA, 01507. Parcel ID: 6-A-4.16

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request.

Copies of the RDA may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.

Thomas O'Malley

Chair, Charlton Conservation

Commission

April 16, 2026

Notice of Public Hearing

Notification is hereby given that an application has been filed by Rapsallion at Pine Lake for a Change of License Classification Seasonal Liquor License from Beer & Wine to All Alcohol at Pine Lake RV Resort at the premises currently located at 30 River Road MA with the Sturbridge Select Board. In accordance with MGL Ch. 138, a public hearing will be held Tuesday, May 4, 2026 at 6:45 p.m. This hearing will be held at Veteran's Memorial Hall, Sturbridge Town Hall,

308 Main Street, Sturbridge MA 01566
April 16, 2026

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **174 HAMILTON STREET LLC to Alpha Real Estate Lending LLC**, dated April 11, 2024 and recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 70392, Page 189 of which mortgage **Alpha Real Estate Lending LLC** is the present holder for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 174 Hamilton Street, Southbridge, MA will be sold at a Public Auction at 1:00 PM on April 27, 2026, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land, with all buildings and improvements thereon, situated in Southbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

The land in said Southbridge with the buildings thereon, situated on the easterly side of Hamilton Street, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at the northwesterly corner thereof, at a drill hole in the stone curbing on the easterly line of Hamilton Street at land of Southbridge & Webster Plumbing Co., Inc., formerly of Elizabeth A. Bourdelais; THENCE easterly by land of said Southbridge & Webster Plumbing Cop., Inc., about 193 feet to an iron pin in the ground at the westerly line of the locate in of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad; THENCE southerly by said Railroad location about 80 feet to land of Tetreault, formerly of John J. O'Shaughnessy; THENCE westerly by said Tetreault land 200 feet more or less to the easterly line of Hamilton Street; THENCE northerly by the easterly line of Hamilton Street 80 feet to the point of beginning. The premises will be sold subject to and with the benefit of all outstanding real estate taxes, municipal liens, assessments, rights, easements, restrictions, and other encumbrances of record, if any, which are in force and applicable.

Terms of the Sale: Cash, cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$10,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable in cash or current funds in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Taft & McSally, LLP, 21 Garden City Drive, Cranston, RI 02920 or such other time as may be designated by

mortgagee.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Alpha Real Estate Lending LLC
Present holder of said mortgage, by its attorney

John V. McGreen

Taft & McSally, LLP

21 Garden City Drive

Cranston, RI 02920

(401) 946-3800

April 2, 2026

April 9, 2026

April 16, 2026

ORDER OF NOTICE

BY PUBLICATION

DOCKET NUMBER 2685CV0491D

TRIAL COURT OF

MASSACHUSETTES

THE SUPERIOR COURT

WORCESTER COUNTY

CLERK OF COURTS

CASE NAME: MidFirst Bank v. Donald W. Altiery

TO: Donald W. Altiery

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

MidFirst Bank

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Southbridge, numbered 187 Fiske Street, given by Donald W. Altiery to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Baycoast Mortgage Company, LLC., its successors and assigns, dated September 18, 2023, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69656, Page 174, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated March 18, 2025, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 71867, Page 304 and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has filed with this court a complaint to foreclose said mortgage by entry and exercise of the power of sale.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this Court at 225 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608 on or before 05/11/2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, MICHAEL D. RICCIUTI Chief Justice of this Court, at Worcester, Massachusetts, this 30th day of March, 2026

Attest: Dennis P. McManus, Esq. Clerk of Courts

April 16, 2026

Gateway Players announce auditions for Jimmy Buffett's "Escape to Margaritaville"

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge is hosting auditions for "Jimmy Buffett's Escape to Margaritaville," with book by Greg Garcia and Mike O'Malley and music and Lyrics by none other than the late Jimmy Buffett. Auditions will be held on Monday, May 4 at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesday, May 5 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm Street, Southbridge.

For auditions, please prepare a Jimmy Buffett song. There will also be cold readings from the script, and simple dance routines. Tap dance experience a plus. Performance dates are July 31, and August 1 & 2 at the Southbridge Middle/High School Auditorium. Rehearsals are tentatively scheduled for Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6-9 p.m. Directed by Patricia Haddock, Produced by Kathi Grenier, and the musical director is Chris Rubenacker. For more information, please contact Gateway at 508-764-4531. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals. This musical-comedy has lead roles for two women ages 20-30, and two men in their 30's, and featured roles for 1 female in their 40's, 1 male in the 40-50 range, and one male or female 20-30, and various ensemble roles.

On a small island in the Caribbean, vacation goes and the laid-back staff of the Margaritaville bar flirt, unwind and sip drinks under the sun. When an ambitious tourist named Rachel arrives with her friend Tammy for a much-needed vacation, she finds an unexpected romance with Tully, the island bartender and musician. As paradise

collides with real life, both are faced with deciding what they want beyond the sandy beaches of Margaritaville. This tropical romantic comedy has plenty to laugh at and a sweet love story – all underscored by Jimmy Buffett's classic tunes, including "Cheeseburger in Paradise," "Margaritaville," "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere,"

"Fins," "Volcano," and many more. With a book by Emmy Award winner Greg Garcia ("My Name is Earl," "Raising Hope") and Emmy nominee Mike O'Malley ("Survivor's Remorse," "Shameless"), this hilarious, heartwarming musical is the party you've been waiting for!

Speech-language pathologist opens new private practice for local families

STURBRIDGE — A new private speech therapy practice has opened in Sturbridge, offering services for children with a range of communication needs and providing families another local option for evaluation and support.

Alyssa O'Leary, M.S., CCC-SLP, a licensed speech-language pathologist based in Sturbridge, recently launched her independent practice to serve children experiencing speech sound disorders, language delays, social communication challenges and those who may benefit from augmentative and alternative communication, known as AAC.

O'Leary said the practice was designed to provide individualized, family-centered care in a setting that supports both children and parents.

Her approach emphasizes play-based therapy and personalized treatment plans aimed at helping children develop

confidence alongside practical communication skills. In addition to direct therapy, she offers screenings, comprehensive evaluations, AAC programming and school consultations.

The practice is currently accepting new clients for the summer and provides free consultations for families who are uncertain whether services may be appropriate for their child.

Insurance coverage includes MassHealth, Harvard Pilgrim and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. Credentialing with Mass General Brigham Health Plan is pending. Families who choose private pay may also receive superbills for reimbursement purposes, according to O'Leary.

More information about services or consultation requests is available through O'Leary's Web site, www.aslyssaolearyslp.com.



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Burgess third graders kick off Sturbridge celebration of America 250

STURBRIDGE — One-hundred and twenty “Happy Birthday America” cards created by Burgess Elementary School third graders are now hanging in the Senior Center. This project was developed in collaboration with the Sturbridge America 250th Anniversary Committee, established in January 2025. In the coming months, residents and visitors will enjoy a number of community programs created by and coordinated with this Committee.

Expect to see special commemorative banners featuring an historical flag posted on poles along Routes 20 and 131. Look for programs focusing on the history of America at the Joshua Hyde Public Library, and from the Sturbridge Historical Society.

Old Sturbridge Village is hosting Revolutionary Game Nights at the Ox & Yoke Café. Participants will have the chance to win prizes such as special event tickets, Village crafts, and more! Check out “Revolutionary Bingo” March 27 and May 29 and “Revolutionary Trivia” Feb. 27, April 24, and June 26. For more information about these events and the many other new 250th events that the Village will be hosting, go to: osv.org.

Additional events sponsored by the Committee include an essay program for Grade 5 students titled “What Does America Mean to You?” with an option for students to voluntarily submit essays to a Town-wide recognition contest. Local

restaurants will participate in a “Taste of Sturbridge” event during March and April featuring patriotic-themed offerings. Opacum Land Trust will incorporate Sturbridge historical landmarks into its April 2026 Vacation Scavenger Hunt. Also planned for May at the Senior Center are a tree planting and the burying of a time capsule.

Events will culminate in May and June. A Family Fun Day on May 16 features a Children’s Bike Decorating and Parade, followed with activities on the Common including: a Mini Big-Top Circus, face painting, T-shirt decorating, yard games, potato sack and 3-legged races, music and more. A hot dog

cart will also be available. The Committee’s signature event will be held on June 27, 2026 and will feature a parade along Route 20 and Route 131, followed by a community festival on the Town Common. More information on these events will be forthcoming.

Volunteer recruitment and community engagement have been central to the Committee’s work. The Committee extends its appreciation to all residents, volunteers, nonprofit organizations, and local businesses supporting the

America 250th Anniversary celebration. If you are interested in participating in either/both the Family Fun Day and the Parade, or simply wish to find more information, please contact the Sturbridge250 Committee by email at Sturbridge250@gmail.com.

Gateway Players brings “Charlotte’s Web” to life with youth production

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge presents the children’s production of “Charlotte’s Web.” Adapted by Joseph Robinette. Based on the book by E.B. White. Performance dates are May 1 and 2 at 7 p.m., May 3 at 2 p.m., and May 8 and 9 at 7 p.m. The performances are held at Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. in Southbridge. Entrance is on Park Street (around the corner). Directed by Lou-Ellen Corkum, Produced by Stephanie Ruggiere. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing.

Tickets are \$18 for adults

and \$15 for seniors and youth under 18. Tickets may be reserved by calling Gateway at 508-764-4531. Online credit card ticket sales are available at

The Children’s Literature Association named this “the best American children’s book of the past two hundred years,” and Joseph Robinette, working with the advice of E.B. White, has created a play that captures this work in a thrilling and utterly practical theatrical presentation. The costumes and unit set may be simple or as colorful and elaborate as you wish; it’s the story and relationships that make the show. All the enchanting characters are here: Wilbur,

the irresistible young pig who desperately wants to avoid the butcher; Fern, a girl who understands what animals say to each other; Templeton, the gluttonous rat who can occasionally be talked into a good deed; the Zuckerman family; the Arables; and, most of all, the extraordinary spider, Charlotte, who proves to be “a true friend and a good writer.” Determined to save Wilbur, Charlotte begins her campaign with the “miracle” of her web in which she writes, “Some pig.” It’s the beginning of a victorious campaign which ultimately ends with the now-safe Wilbur doing what is most important to Charlotte.

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Casaubon Senior Center announces upcoming trips

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Casaubon Senior Center is sponsoring these up and coming trips from And Away We Go Travels and Best of Times Travel. For more information contact Jeanne Dupuis at jtd1154@yahoo.com or visit the senior center to pick up a flyer. A \$25 deposit is needed at sign up.

June 20 —Newport Flower Show-Visits the Rosecliff Mansions gardens and lunch the Wyndham Newport Hotel. Lunch choices are Chicken, scrod or pasta primavera \$129 at person.

July 19 —Day In Maine

Clambake-Short stops along the way for shopping and a feast on Foster’s New England Clambake. A chicken meal and vegetarian meal are offered. \$119. a person.

Aug. 29—Charles River Cruise-Great two-hour cruise, lunch at the Cheesecake Factory and a trip to Quincy Market.\$145 a person

Sept. 30 — Turkey Train-A turkey dinner with all the trimmings on the Winnepesaukee Scenic Railroad-\$149. a person and there are no meal substitutions.

Nov. 29 — Holiday

Jamboree at Ivoryton Playhouse-First stop is at the Scotch Plains Tavern for lunch. Your choice of chicken, scrod or vegetable primavera is offered. The Jamboree plays homage to the Grand Ole Opry holiday music. \$169 a person for a wonderful way to start the holidays.

We have one overnight trip to New York City sponsored by Best of Times Travel

Sept. 3 & 4. \$899 for double, \$1,099 for single and \$869 for triple or quad. This includes a Broadway Show, 911 Memorial and a trip to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

Friday’s Child



Izabella, who also goes by Izzy, is a wonderful girl with an inquisitive, outgoing, and confident personality. She loves exploring the outdoors, whether through community activities or gardening, and approaches new experiences with curiosity and enthusiasm—especially when it comes to trying new foods. Izzy enjoys creative activities like arts and crafts and loves visiting the library to pick out books to read. With a vivid imagination, she plays well both independently and alongside her peers, bringing creativity and energy to everything she does. One of Izzy’s greatest strengths is her strong voice—she confidently advocates for herself and isn’t afraid to ask questions when something is unclear. Her self-assurance and curiosity make her a bright and engaging young person.

Izabella Age 10 Registration #6966

she does. One of Izzy’s greatest strengths is her strong voice—she confidently advocates for herself and isn’t afraid to ask questions when something is unclear. Her self-assurance and curiosity make her a bright and engaging young person.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22539845673>
 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.

Applications welcome for Ronald J. Denault Memorial Law Enforcement Scholarship

CHARLTON CITY — A \$1,500 scholarship, honoring the memory of Ronald J. Denault, a highly respected police officer at both the state and local levels, will be awarded again this June to a student in the Class of 2026.

To be eligible for consideration for this award, preferably, a student must be a Charlton resident who is planning to further his/her education in pursuit of a career in law enforcement or criminal justice. Applicants may be graduating from a public or private high school or from a home schooling program that has been

approved formally by the School Committee. Ideally, applicants will show evidence of scholarship, leadership, and community service.

Any interested person should complete and submit an application packet no later than April 30, 2026. The application packet will include the following: an application form; a one-page essay summarizing why the applicant is interested in a career in law enforcement; two letters of reference; and documentation of academic scholarship. Details regarding all requirements will be included with the application

form. Application forms can be obtained at the Charlton Public Library, at the Charlton Police Station, or through the guidance offices at either Bay Path Regional or Shepherd Hill Regional High School. Further questions may be directed to Dr. Linda E. Denault, who can be reached via email at ledenault@aol.com or by calling 508-248-7711.

Completed application packets should be mailed to the Ronald J. Denault Law Enforcement Scholarship Committee c/o P.O. Box 352, Charlton City, MA 01508.

Sturbridge Historical Society presents “Dragon, Musketeer, Prisoner: The Hessians of the Revolutionary War in Western Massachusetts”

STURBRIDGE — Were the Hessian soldiers of the Revolutionary War period blood thirsty mercenaries purchased by King George III to fight in the rebellious colonies? Or were they draftees and recruits in a foreign land?

On Thursday, April 23, at 7 p.m. at the Publick House, join Dennis Picard, a “living history” interpreter, to learn more about this poorly understood chapter in the American Revolution. Even though there were no battles during the Revolution in Western Massachusetts, there were, in fact, Hessians

here. Many of these troops passed through the area after their surrender at Saratoga and several worked as POWs on area farms. Hear how these men got to our area, why they were here, who they really were, and in the end, why some stayed.

Dennis D. Picard has been a museum professional in the “Living History” field for over forty years. He began his career at Old Sturbridge Village and worked there for 12 years, filling various positions including “lead interpreter” where he researched and designed many public programs that are still

offered by that institution today. He was the director of Storowton Village from 1990-2017. He also is the recipient of various grants that allowed him to serve as project coordinator for research and implementation of programs and events at different sites. Since his retirement he has enjoyed his role as consultant historian/independent scholar. Dennis has presented various programs to the Sturbridge Historical Society, and is always a popular speaker.

This program, graciously hosted by the Publick House, is free and open to the public.



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Webster - 24 Cooper Rd
New Construction - Craftsman Style home



Tucked away on Cooper Rd. Webster Lake with access at Lakeside beach/boat ramp. 3rd of 4 homes being built at this site. Offers 2,155 sq. ft +/- of living area, 7 rms, 4 brs, 2 1/2 baths, 9ft ceiling, wood flooring throughout with ceramic tile baths. Spacious main BR Suite w/ walk-in closet, and private full bathr, double sink vanity, finished lower level walk-out w/ slider. Central AC, garage

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



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Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island



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Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!



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



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Charlton Lions Club & Overlook Tree Advisory Committee join forces

CHARLTON — The Charlton Lions Club and The Overlook Independent Living Tree Advisory Committee will join forces in April to improve their town. The two groups will host a booth at Charlton's Earth Fest, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Saturday, April 25 on the Charlton Town Common where they'll give away 100 sweetgum trees. As they do each year, the Lions will also participate in the town's roadside cleanup effort, which starts at 8 a.m. and the trees will be available at that time.

Each small sweetgum tree will come with instructions for planting and caring for it as it grows. Sweetgums (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) are large, decorative deciduous trees native to eastern North America.

Their star-shaped leaves turn red and gold in the fall. The baby trees will be given to the first 100 Charlton residents who commit to planting and caring for the trees on their property. The trees will be donated by Bartlett Tree Experts.

The Overlook Tree Advisory Committee is comprised of residents and staff of the Independent Living community as well as representatives of Bartlett Tree Experts and Babe's Landscape & Construction. The Committee's mission is to advise on ways to protect and maintain the trees on The Overlook Campus and to educate the community about trees and the importance of trees to our environment and wellbeing. Through the work of the

Committee, The Overlook was recently named a Tree Healthcare Campus by the Arbor Day Foundation.

One focus of Lions Clubs International is protecting the environment to create

healthier communities and a more sustainable world. The worldwide service organization encourages planting and caring for trees to contribute to cleaner air as part of their mission.



Courtesy Photo

Students in the All Saints Academy Extended Day Program recently showcased their creativity in the Monster Madness Art Competition. Student designed and titled their own unique monster, with imaginative creations ranging from "JJ the Two Tooth Monster" to the "Desk Monster" and "Mr. Potato Monster." The activity gave students a chance to explore their artistic talents while having fun designing, coloring, and naming their monsters. Selected entries were even featured in the "Monster Madness" book, making the experience especially exciting and memorable for participants.

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