



Dudley-Charlton School District issues statement on teacher arrest

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — The Dudley-Charlton Regional School District Superintendent has issued an official response following the arrest of a teacher for child endangerment.

Dudley and Taunton police confirmed the arrest of Shepherd Hill Regional High School music teacher Thomas Wilson on child endangerment charges on Oct. 3, including possession of child pornography. The incident stemmed from an interaction in September when, according to news reports from Wilson’s court appearance, Wilson approached a 14-year-old Taunton woman at her home after meeting her online and believing she was 18. The school district had not issued any official written statement after the arrest, but on Oct. 8 Superintendent Steven Lamarche presented a statement to the School Committee seeking to ease any concerns regarding the incident and the district’s hiring process.

In the statement Lamarche acknowledged the arrest and assured parents and students that the district has processes in place to properly vet and hire. He also stated that the minor involved in the incident is not believed to be a Dudley or Charlton student.

“To our knowledge, based on our direct and ongoing collaboration with law enforcement, there is no indication of any connection between the current, ongoing investigation and our students or staff,” said Lamarche. “As a parent of teenagers myself, I relate to the fear, the worry, and the questions that moments like this bring. I carry the same profound weight of concern that many of you feel

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Courtesy

CCUMC FAITH WARRIORS WALK FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

On Sept. 27, the Faith Warriors from the Charlton City United Methodist Church walked in the Out of the Darkness Walk in Worcester. They raised \$680 to help the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. with its suicide prevention research delivering evidence-based programs to local communities across the country. AFSP is dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide, including those who have experienced a loss Their work impacts millions of people. Pictured are Tiffany, Tom and Grayson Howland, Jennifer Wheeling, Katie Curtis, Kayla Perez-Kilmonis. Missing from the picture is Samantha.

Sturbridge Historical Society presents “Strolling Through Concord with Louisa May Alcott”

STURBRIDGE — On Thursday, Oct. 23 at 7 p.m., the Sturbridge Historical Society is hosting local resident Ellen Duzak who will present the program “Strolling Through Concord with Louisa May Alcott” at the Publick House.

It is amazing to reflect upon the remarkable women and men who inhabited 19th century Concord, Mass. Henry James referred to that town as the “biggest little place in America.” Using the lens of Louisa May Alcott’s young experience of living with all the literary greats of the American Renaissance as her neighbors and friends, this lecture will explore the town and its vibrant and innovative cultural revolution. Visits to the homes and lives of Emerson, Thoreau,

Hawthorne and wife Sophia Peabody, and visiting guest Margaret Fuller, and of course Louisa’s own Alcott home, are highlights of the town-wide stroll.

Ellen Duzak is a retired Professor of Psychology at Becker College. For a decade after retiring, she taught courses on historical and literary giants of the New England area

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Keep Charlton Beautiful celebrates continued success

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The Keep Charlton Beautiful Committee continues its mission to preserve and protect Charlton’s natural beauty after a successful year that saw the group earn significant financial backing through the Department of Environmental Protections Recycling Dividends Program.

Committee Chair Debbie Marquis provided an update to the Board of Health in September where she touted the group’s continued work to promote recycling, antilittering, and beautification initiatives in Charlton. The main takeaways from the meeting were a desire to produce more awareness and buy in for the town’s pay as you throw agreement with Spencer and that the community received thousands from the Recycling Dividends Program that will help continue the committee’s mission.

Marquis first discussed how the organization received credit through the Recycling Dividends Program which translates to funding. The town can reach certain requirements that result in points that the state uses to determine money payouts that then support further Keep Charlton Beautiful initiatives. Marquis said the last year was extremely successful for Charlton.

“Our point total has increased every year, and we believe this year we’ll be receiving around \$6,500 which is almost double what we got last year,” said Marquis.

The discussion then moved to the pay as you throw program, an agreement that allows residents of Charlton to dispose of trash in Spencer provided they purchase a sticker from the Spencer Water Board. Marquis said many citizens have benefited from the program, but they would like to see

Turn To **SUCCESS** page **A11**

Local songwriters return to Southbridge for live concert

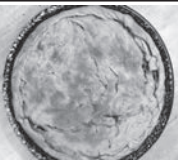


SOUTHBRIDGE — Thursday, Oct. 23 at 6:30 p.m., singer-songwriters and walking troubadours Mark Mandeville & Raianne Richards will perform with their studio band sharing songs and stories plus new songs from their 2024 album release “Making Promises.” Southbridge Cultural Council generously sponsored this concert so it is free to the public and will also be taped and made available on public access Southbridge Community TV.

Mandeville and Richards are a married couple who entertain with unmistakable vocal harmonies, poetic lyrics and down-to-earth personae. These musically talented artists have contributed over seventeen albums within their first decade and toured consistently throughout the US and Canada. These artists blend distinctive voices with rich tantalizing harmonies and a wide range of accompaniment (guitar, mandolin, banjo, harmonica, ukulele, clarinet, penny whistle, electric bass, pedal steel, dobro, piano and upright bass) featuring original and traditional acoustic Folk/Americana songwriting. Their live performances are both musically captivating and spiritually uplifting as audiences are carefully balanced between serious songs and humorous commentary.

In addition to writing and performing, Mandeville and Richards have founded the Massachusetts Walking Tour . Since 2010, the annual tour raises awareness of local greenspace throughout their home state, organizing daily public hikes and free community concerts each June. www.mass-walkingtour.org

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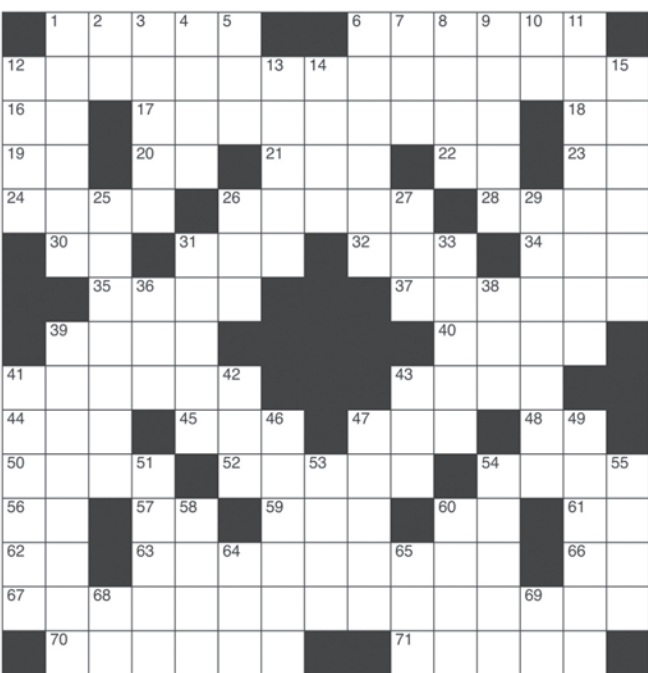
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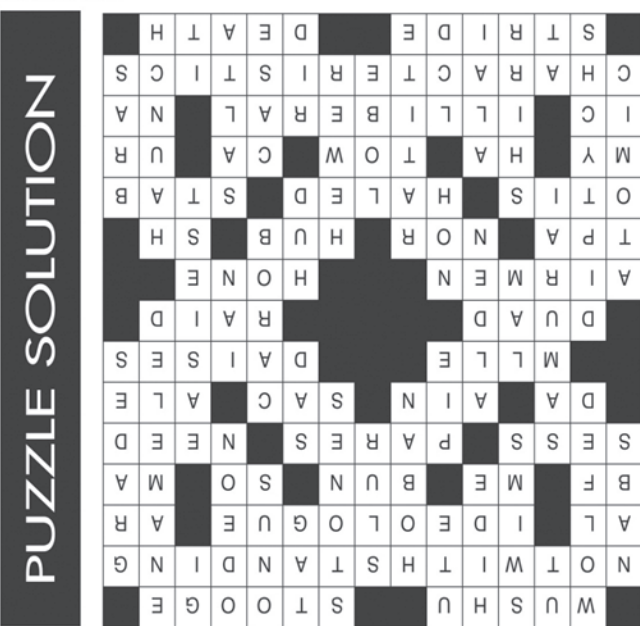


CLUES ACROSS

1. Martial arts in China
6. The butt of jokes
12. Nevertheless
16. Sportscaster Michaels
17. A firm believer
18. Atomic #18
19. One's bestie
20. Of I
21. Hamburger accessory
22. Thus
23. Partner to Pa
24. Scottish tax
26. Cuts away
28. Require
30. Government lawyer
31. Own (Scottish)
32. Body cavity
34. Brew
35. Young woman (French)
37. Platforms
39. Pair of points in mathematics
40. Attack suddenly
41. Aviators
43. Make perfect
44. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
45. Neither
47. The center of a city
48. Sacrifice hit in baseball
50. Singer Redding
52. Dragged forcibly
54. Puncture with a knife
56. Belonging to me
57. Expresses surprise
59. Haul
60. The Golden State
61. Biblical Sumerian city
62. Integrated circuit
63. Opposed to certain principles
66. Sodium
67. Qualities
70. Walk
71. It awaits us all

CLUES DOWN

1. Ate quickly
2. Peyton Manning's alma mater
3. Moves through water
4. Run away from
5. Utah resident
6. Natural objects
7. Children's game
8. Obligation to prove
9. Ancient Greek building for performances
10. Soldier
11. Decorated
12. Catches
13. Russell __, author
14. Speak indistinctly
15. Students get them
25. Japanese warrior
26. Dessert
27. Doleful
29. Most cushy
31. Moon crater
33. Small evergreen Arabian tree
36. Something fugitives are "on"
38. 007's creator
39. Paintings on hinged panels
41. Type of bomb
42. Japanese classical theater
43. U.S. gov't department
46. Flightless bird
47. One who cuts wood or stone
49. Buttock and thigh together
51. A way to gather
53. Body part
54. Argentinian city
55. Undergarments
58. Jai __, sport
60. Container for shipping
64. Type of screen
65. Get free of
68. Indicates position
69. Business department



DA to host upcoming event on
holistic approaches to substance use
disorder treatment and recovery

SHREWSBURY — Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. is hosting a free event for the public focused on holistic approaches to substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and recovery on Thursday, Oct. 23, from 8 a.m. to noon at Veterans Inc., 59 South St., Shrewsbury.

This event, presented by the Prevention and Support Network, will feature keynote speaker Linda Geraghty, a trauma-informed yoga instructor and dedicated family recovery specialist prominently featured in the award-winning documentary “Our American Family.”

Ms. Geraghty will share insights into the role of mindfulness, movement, and self-compassion when exploring generational addiction and trauma. Her work emphasizes the importance of integrating mind-body practices into traditional recovery pathways to promote long-term healing for individuals and families impacted by substance use disorder.

The event will also include a panel discussion featuring professionals in wellness, nutrition, and fitness, further exploring how holistic strategies can complement traditional recovery supports. Refreshments, networking, and resource tables will take place from 8 – 9 a.m. The program will begin promptly at 9 a.m.

District Attorney Early is dedicated to addressing the root causes and impacts of the polysubstance use crisis, as well as the effects of trauma, especially on children. In 2015, he formed

the Central Massachusetts

Opioid Task Force, now known as the Prevention and Support Network, which has more than 800 members in the network. Additionally, Mr. Early launched the Critical Incident Management Systems (CIMS) software in 2020, which allows police throughout Worcester County to track overdose incidents as they occur and promptly follow up with survivors to assist them in obtaining treatment. In 2021, Mr. Early also established the Worcester County Drug Endangered Children's Alliance to identify and support children who have experienced a traumatic event. Federal grant funding was awarded in 2022 to support the expansion of the Alliance and the implementation of the Handle With Care programs in schools throughout the county, through which schools are notified by local police when a student has experienced a trauma such as viewing a drug overdose, enabling the school to reach out to the affected child.

Please register using the QR code provided on the flyer or visit the following link: <https://forms.office.com/g/sUPeVKYdBx>

Elm Street Congregational hosting
ham and bean supper

SOUTHBRIDGE — Elm Street Congregational Church will be holding a delicious Ham and Bean Supper on Saturday, Oct. 25 at 6 p.m. at 61 Elm St. in Southbridge. Enjoy great food, warm fellowship, and a welcoming community. Supper will also include Salad, Rolls, Beverages and Dessert. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$8 for children 13 and under. For more information or questions, contact the church office at 508-764-8058, or David Curboy at 774-232-4390.

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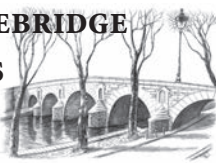
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• Charlton Federated Church, 64 Main St.,
508- 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer
worship is 9:30 a.m. www.fed-church.org

• Charlton Baptist Church, 50 Hammond Hill
Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday
worship 10 a.m.

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

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• Assemblies of God Southern New Eng-
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• Living Word Church of Charlton, 10 Main
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www.livingwordcharlton.com
info@livingwordcharlton.com

• New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel,
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\$365,000, 123 City Depot Rd, Yaede Sr, David J, and Yaede, Roslin S, to Edmonds, Khaleel M, and Edmonds, Montague.

\$95,000, Sandersdale Rd #1, Meagher, Katherine G, to Kendall Homes Inc.

\$ 7 5 , 0 0 0 , Northside Rd #8, Compton Property Dev LLC, to 13 Gables Inc.

Holland

\$285,000, 8 Heritage Dr, Holdcraft, John D, to Kraner, Gretchen R.

SOUTH-BRIDGE

\$422,000, 44 Highland St, Gagne Jr, Denis, and Royal, Patrick A, to Tchanang, Raoul, and Tchanang, Gaelle A.

\$410,000, 15 Woodland St, Thibodeau, Roy D, and Bellerose, Lorraine M, to Chan, Tony.

\$380,000, 20 Tillyer Ave, Ortiz, Jose J, and Ortiz, Karymil, to Torres, Julio E.

\$310,000, 567 Ashland Ave, Malboeuf, Samantha L, to Claudio, Rose L, and Gonzalez, Victor V.

STUR-BRIDGE

\$380,000, 51 Fiske Hill Rd, Ohlund, Robert, to Central City Prop LLC.

\$380,000, 598 Main St, Millionaire Map Co, to 16 Water Street LLC.

United Way of South Central MA kicks off 2025 Campaign, “United is the Way”

REGION — More than 130 years ago, a small group came together with the big idea that sparked the first United Way: communities get more done when we work as one. United Way Worldwide has once again been recognized on the Chronicle of Philanthropy’s America’s Favorite Charities list, which ranks the U.S. nonprofits that raise the most in gifts of cash and stock. The list identifies cause-driven organizations that most successfully earn direct financial support from individuals, foundations, and corporations.

This year, United Way Worldwide was ranked first on the list. As a member of United Way Worldwide, United Way of South Central MA carries the vision of communities working together forward, creating pathways to better health, education, and job opportunities for all. We connected more than 19,000 people to resources and opportunities this past year alone. We are inviting you to take action because United is the Way to a better tomorrow. It’s the way we support our neighbors facing challenges today. It’s the way we create lasting change for all the residents of Charlton, Dudley, Southbridge, Sturbridge, and Webster. When people like you come together, your generosity is multiplied by the power of community. Together, we can improve access to quality health insurance, education and care, support youth success from childhood through college and career, open pathways to financial freedom for individuals and families, and connect people to urgent resources, from social services to disaster relief.

Join us in shaping a thriving future for South Central MA. For more information or to donate, please visit our Web site, www.uwscm.org.



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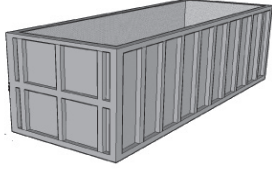
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Collect and save some heirloom vegetable seeds

Be a part of history and save money when planting next year's garden. Collect and save the seeds from your favorite heirloom tomatoes, peppers, beans and peas this fall.

Seeds of heirloom plants have been collected and passed along for generations, producing offspring identical to the parent plant. Hybrids on the other hand involve crossing different plants to create a unique or improved variety. Saved seeds from hybrid plants do not grow into plants with all the same characteristics as the parent plant.

Heirloom peas and beans are generally self-pollinated, so they form seeds that will grow into plants like the parent plant. Allow the peas and beans you plan on saving to dry on the plant. Once the pods turn brown and the seeds rattle inside, they are ready to harvest. This is about six weeks after you harvest snap beans for eating and about four weeks after the normal picking stage for peas.

Protect plants from frost or pull them out of

the ground and hang them in a cool dry location, so the pods can finish drying if needed. Remove the pods from the plants, spread them out and allow them to further dry indoors for about two weeks.

Remove the seeds from the dried pods, store in an airtight opaque container in a cool dark location. You may want to store different varieties separately in paper packets and all the packets in one large airtight container. Label the seeds with the varietal name and date they were collected. Store in a cool location.

Saving seeds from tomatoes requires a bit different preparation. Once the fruit is fully ripe scoop out the gelatinous center. Place this in a container of water set in a warm location to ferment. Swirl or stir the contents twice a day. After about a week the good seeds will sink to the bottom of the container.

Remove and compost the layer of fermented tomato waste and the inferior seeds floating on the surface. Pour the



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

remaining water and the good seeds sitting on the bottom of the container through a fine mesh strainer. Rinse the seeds, removing any of the gelatinous material that may remain. Spread the seeds on a piece of paper to dry.

Once dry, place the seeds in an envelope labeled with the date and variety and set in a sealed jar or plastic container. Store in the refrigerator or other consistently cool location until it's time to start them for next season.

Use your saved seeds the following year for the best results. Then repeat each season.

Start with these and then consider trying other open-pollinated vegetables, flowers and even tree and shrub seeds. You'll find helpful

information in books, online and on the Seed Savers Exchange website. Saving your own seeds can help you save money while preserving and planting a bit of gardening history.

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" streaming courses and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor



Melinda Myers
The disease-resistant Abe Lincoln heirloom tomato was introduced in Illinois in 1923.

for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Friends of Charlton Public Library to celebrate National Friends of Libraries Week in October

CHARLTON — The Charlton Public Library will be spending the week of Oct. 19-25, celebrating its Friends of the Library group as part of the 20th annual celebration of National Friends of Libraries Week.

The Friends of the Charlton Public Library have raised significant funds for the library and will celebrate the year-round dedication of its members. Made up of engaged, passionate and committed community members, the Friends are a major factor in the library's progress, advocating for funding and volunteering their time to assist with fundraising efforts that include a yarn sale, coffee sales, Trivia Night and other events.

"The Friends are committed to supporting the mission of the library, a community treasure of cultural, educational, and social activity," said Phyllis Hanlon, Friends' president. "We are

dedicated to helping the library fulfill its important role in the community."

The Friends invite the general public to visit the library and to view its display that highlights the organization's activities and accomplishments.

Please visit <https://charltonlibrary.org/friends-of-charlton-library> to learn more about the Friends, and to find out how to become a member.

National Friends of Libraries Week is coordinated by United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association. United for Libraries supports those who govern, promote, advocate, and fundraise for libraries, and brings together library Trustees/board members, advocates, Friends Groups, library Foundations, and those who work with them into a partnership that creates a powerful force for libraries. For more information, visit www.ala.org/united.

Cannery Cabaret comes to revived Southbridge venue

SOUTHBRIDGE — A world of glitz and glamour is coming to Southbridge. After eight years of hiatus, Cannery Music Hall has officially reopened and is welcoming a brand new burlesque production on Nov. 8 at 8 p.m.

Dolores Sweet, a burlesque performer and resident of Central Massachusetts, is producing the show and bringing in a cast hailing from all over New England. Sweet has produced a number of burlesque and drag shows throughout Worcester and

Boston, and is excited to bring a blend of culture and sultry dance artistry to Southbridge.

Tickets range from \$20 - \$40, and are available for purchase at

<https://www.simplerix.com/e/cannery-cabaret-tickets-239735>.

Southbridge Water Department to perform hydrant flow test

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Water Department will perform a hydrant flow test on their hydrant on Thursday, Oct. 16 at approximately 9 p.m. The location tested will be at 22 Worcester St. in Southbridge. The procedure will include testing the operation and capacity of the hydrant on the property.

The Department requests that during this period customers check their water before washing clothes. Customers may also get accumulated sediments in their house laterals the next morning. This will clear after a brief run of water at the tap.

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STATEMENT
continued from page A1

tonight. Please know that I approach these responsibilities not only as a Superintendent, but also as a father who wants every child in this community to be safe, supported, and able to thrive. I understand the public's concern. I share that concern and I want to reassure you that our protocols are in place, that they worked as designed."

The district puts all employees through background checks, including fingerprinting, CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) checks, and SORI (Sex Offender Registry

Information) checks, in accordance with Massachusetts law. There has been no report that Wilson had any prior criminal arrests or had any violations on records at his time of hire. The district also provides oversight, training, and monitoring regarding potential incidents. When situations do arise, the district has its protocols and Lamarche said they responded accordingly putting Wilson on administrative leave.

"When a personnel matter arises, particularly one that involves the safety or well-being of students, the district acts swiftly, methodically, and in accordance with both state law and School Committee policy," said Lamarche. "We immediately collaborate with law enforcement, take steps to remove staff from active duty when appropriate, and implement continuity measures so that student learning is not disrupted. These are not decisions taken lightly, but they are taken firmly and decisively."

Police have confirmed that the investigation into the incident is ongoing. During his court appearance, Wilson was ordered held on \$10,000 bail and, if released, must wear a GPS monitoring device in public, and is not to interact with anyone below the age of 18 unsupervised.

OBITUARY

Christine S. Berard, 74



Southbridge: Christine S. (Szumilas) Berard, 74 of Grandview Drive, passed away peacefully with her loving family by her side on Saturday, Oct. 4th, in UMass Memorial Hospital, University Campus, Worcester; after a long hard fought battle with cancer.

She leaves her longtime companion and best friend, William K. Bishop of Southbridge and her brother, Andrew A. Szumilas of Sturbridge. Christine was predeceased by a brother, Daniel J. Szumilas in 2000.

She was born in Southbridge the daughter of the late Alphonse K. and Irene M. (Cisek) Szumilas. Christine graduated from Tantasqua Regional High School in Sturbridge. She

worked for more than 30 years in the insurance industry as a claims auditor for Hanover Insurance company in Worcester before retiring last year. Christine loved the Arts and was an active member of the Quinebaug Arts Center as well as the Gateway Players Theater in Southbridge. She enjoyed watching a good "Murder Mystery", sometimes over and over.

Calling hours for Christine will be held on Friday, Oct. 10th, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm in the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a funeral service to follow in the funeral home at 7:00pm. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 1120 Framingham, MA 01701. www.morrillfuneralhome.com

CCUMC Faith Warriors at it again

CHARLTON — The Charlton City United Methodist Church Faith Warriors will be walking for Abby's House on Oct. 18.

The Abby Kelley Foster House, Inc was founded in Worcester in 1976. It is a non-profit organization that provides shelter and affordable housing, as well as advocacy and support services, to homeless, battered, & low-income women, with or without children. Abby's House is a safe and welcoming place that values people of diverse backgrounds and experiences. They provide a home to residents and quests, not just a place to live.

For more information or to donate to Abby's House, check out their Web site abbyshouse.org.

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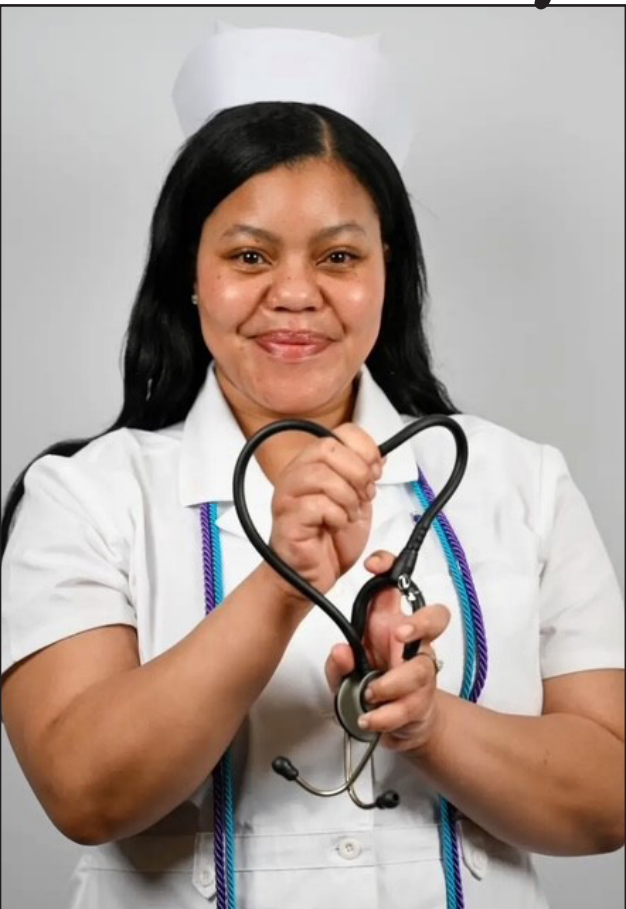
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Bay Path LPN launches new chapter after 17 years of compassionate care



Delene Sarsfield

CHARLTON — For longtime Charlton resident Delene Sarsfield, the journey to becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) has been one of perseverance, passion, and purpose. A 2025 graduate of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Sarsfield brings 17 years of hands-on experience as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) into this next chapter of her professional life—one defined by dedication to both her patients and her family.

Sarsfield recently passed the NCLEX-PN on her first attempt—a milestone she describes as “the greatest reward for all the hard work throughout nursing school.” Her success comes after completing Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy’s intensive ten-month program, all while navigating the challenges of being a first-time mother.

“My biggest challenge besides the rigorous curriculum... was ‘mom guilt,’” she shared. “As a new mother to a very young baby, I felt so guilty leaving her behind... but I had to do this for her, as well as for myself.” Sarsfield says her daughter remains her strongest motivation: “She is fiercely my driving force behind anything that I do—to set an example that any goal is achievable with honesty, diligence, and never giving up on your dreams.”

Before entering the practical nursing program, Sarsfield built a solid foundation in patient care, working at local facilities including CareOne at Millbury and Sterling Village. Her nearly two decades as a CNA deepened her empathy and commitment to providing the highest standard of care.

At Bay Path, Sarsfield stood out as a student leader and academic achiever. She was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society,

elected as Student Representative and Commencement Speaker, and nominated for the prestigious Dr. Adelina Healy Clinical Excellence Award. She also held a leadership role in the UNICEF Club and served on the school’s Mock Code Team, demonstrating her commitment to both global and clinical health initiatives.

Sarsfield credits her success to a strong support system. Her mother, a nurse with nearly 30 years of experience, has been a guiding light. She also expresses deep gratitude to her in-laws and her husband, Daniel.

“I’m especially thankful for my wonderful, faith-filled husband, Daniel,” she said. “He’s always shown me integrity, kindness, patience, and love. He believed in me even when I struggled to believe in myself, and we’ve walked this journey hand in hand.”

As she prepares to begin her nursing career at The Overlook, Sarsfield brings clinical expertise in medication administration, wound care, and tracheostomy care—along with a deep sense of humility and an eagerness to continue learning. Her faith remains central to her path forward: “I enter this new profession with utmost humility, eagerness to learn, and always trusting in God and my faith.”

Sarsfield isn’t stopping here. She’s already planning her next step: enrolling in an LPN-to-BSN bridge program, reflecting her commitment to lifelong learning and professional growth.

Her message to others is simple but powerful: “It’s never too late to go back to school or learn something new. As long as you put in the effort, dedication, and hard work—you can achieve anything.”

Brett Lovett joins Savers Bank as Business Banking Officer

SOUTHBRIDGE — Savers Bank is pleased to welcome Brett Lovett as its new Business Banking Officer. In this role, Lovett will be responsible for creating new business opportunities, strengthening relationships with existing clients, and supporting the Bank’s continued growth across its service area.

Lovett joined Savers Bank in September and brings over a decade of experience in the banking industry. He most recently served as AVP Branch Manager at Jewett City Savings Bank’s Putnam office, where he oversaw branch operations and provided leadership in customer engagement and financial solutions. His background in both management and relationship development positions him well to support Savers Bank’s mission of delivering a “Simply Better” banking experience.

A graduate of the Connecticut Bankers

Association School of Finance & Management, Lovett has developed strong expertise in banking leadership, strategic planning, and financial management.

“We’re very pleased to welcome Brett to our team,” said Chris Wszolek, SVP Chief Lending Officer. “His depth of experience and dedication to building meaningful client relationships make him an excellent fit for this role and for the future of Savers Bank.”

Lovett shared, “I’m excited to step into this role and work with both new and longtime customers. Savers Bank has a great reputation for putting people first, and I look forward to contributing to that tradition.”

About Savers Bank
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Wales Community Pantry Walk with Friends for Food Walk-a-Thon has a goal of 10,000 steps for team members and individuals to raise \$10,000 this month! Your canine can even help. The pantry also provides pet food for those in need.

Wales Community Pantry announces Friends for Food Walk-a-Thon

WALES — The Wales Community Pantry announces our Oct. 19 - 31 Walk with Friends for Food Walk-a-Thon! Sign up to walk with some friends, coworkers, dog walking buddies, folks pushing strollers, seniors with friends, kids with families, teen teams, or as an individual! You choose the place, time and goals. The Community Pantry has moved to Brimfield, and the number of folks served has ballooned from 400 a month to nearly 500 a month since we moved. The need is growing, and with that comes increased expenses. With 200 people pledging \$50 each, we can meet our goal of \$10,000 by Oct. 31. A donation of \$10 can mean 500 pounds of food for the pantry to distribute! We are open Tuesdays 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Thursdays 4-7 p.m. so monthly shoppers in need can obtain food to supplement their groceries.

Charlton Land Trust leads hike through cow tunnel

CHARLTON — Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust (CHPT) will offer a free hike along the Midstate Trail and through the cow tunnel under Route 20 in Charlton on Saturday, Oct. 25, starting at 10 a.m., with a rain date of Nov. 1. The hike will start at the CHPT Little River property on Fulling Mill Drive in Charlton and continue to Fay Mountain Farm on Cemetery Road. Fay Mountain Farm will be open and have bakery items and cider available for purchase. The two-and-a-half-hour hike is approximately five miles in length with roughly two miles of the trail being on town roads. The hike is rated moderate, as this part of the trail is hilly and there are areas of uneven footing. All are welcome at no charge. Hikers should meet at Fulling Mill Drive Trail Head Parking Lot at 9:45 a.m. to be ready to leave for the hike at 10 a.m. This is archery season, so please wear orange blaze. Hikers are encouraged to bring tick protection, water and snacks. People will meet at a property called Little River, which is one of 19 parcels of land owned and maintained by CHPT. Shuttle rides back to the Little River Property will be offered by CHPT at the end of the program. For further information please call CHPT board member Karin Johnson at 774-230-5322.



About CHPT
Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust acquires and maintains open space properties and conducts programs to enlighten and entertain people of all ages about protecting and enjoying the natural world. CHPT owns 19 conservation properties in Charlton, totaling over 200 acres of natural land open to the public. CHPT works with landowners, developers, and the town to balance healthy economic growth with conservation of important natural resources and historically significant places. CHPT relies on donations of land and funds to make new conservation projects possible and on the volunteer help of its members and friends to preserve conservation areas for the public benefit. For more information and to check out all our properties, go to CharltonTrust.org or follow up on Facebook (Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust) and Instagram (CharltonTrust).

Winter Coat Closet returns for 18th year of helping people stay warm

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Winter Coat Closet, an ecumenical project, sponsored by local churches and located at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, will be open Saturdays from Nov. 1 to Dec. 20. The hours are 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. We offer gently used warm winter coats for men, women and children. We also have some brand-new coats for children. There is no charge and nothing to sign. All are welcome to come browse our racks. We also have a limited number of scarves, hats and mittens. Donations are accepted at the Coat Closet on Saturdays when we are open. Several churches have collection boxes which will be picked up by our volunteers. All are welcome! For more information, call Chris at Holy Trinity Church at 508-765-9559.

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The season of small kindnesses

Autumn doesn’t shout here—it sighs. It moves softly across the hills, through the maples of Sturbridge, the quiet woods of Charlton, the narrow streets of Southbridge. And with it comes a slower rhythm, the kind that asks people to look around and notice what’s near.

In small towns, that noticing matters. A neighbor struggling with their leaves or their heat bill. A veteran down the street who could use a ride to an appointment. A local business hoping for a few more faces before the holidays hit. These are the moments when a community either tightens together or drifts apart.

October is full of reminders that we belong to one another. It’s harvest time at our local farms, craft-fair season at churches and libraries, and budget-planning season in every town hall. Each depends on people showing up—just showing up—to talk, to vote, to volunteer, or to buy a pie.

Kindness here rarely comes wrapped in ribbon. It’s the librarian staying late to help a student print an essay. It’s the firefighter checking a smoke detector at a senior’s home. It’s the family that drops a coat in the box by the post office because winter is on its way. These acts never make headlines, yet they keep towns like ours livable.

The big debates will always rage elsewhere, loud and endless. But the real character of our community is written in smaller letters—on hand-painted signs, handwritten thank-you notes, and the faces of people who still wave to one another in traffic.

This fall, as the nights stretch longer and the air sharpens, maybe the best resolution isn’t about what we argue over but what we build quietly together: a habit of small kindnesses, carried out close to home.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



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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

Prayer boxes confirm you matter

Last Tuesday, during our Bible exploration session (1 to 2 p.m. at CCUMC – open to any who wants to experience and explore the Bible), our facilitator started the session by reading some of the prayer requests that were submitted into prayer boxes by members of the Charlton area community.

The range of needs presented on the various prayer request cards reminds us how many burdens our fellow townspeople and neighbors shoulder – financial challenges, health issues, loss of loved ones, all manner of abuse, concerns about loved ones – the list is long.

The cards in each box give us at our church the opportunity not only to pray for each person, whether named, or associated with the request, but gave pause to think about the level of trust each individual has placed on us – taking it at face value that we will as a church honor our commitment to pray for, think about, and feel for that person.

And make no mistake about it – we do honor that commitment. It is a powerful statement of trust when someone – anonymously or face to face – asks for prayer, for help, and in the process admits grief, a loss, need.

It gives those of us who do and will pray for others the opportunity to affirm to that individual and those we pray for that they matter – to God and to us. Whether we say it directly, or by inference as evidenced by our regularly tending to the prayer boxes, prayer emails, or verbalized in church prayer requests – we want to help make lighter the load of those who are hurting.

Prayer is always one of the ways. But other outreach efforts exist as well – our food pantry, thrift shop, donations to local outreach efforts – a church primarily exists to share what God wants us all to know....that we matter to Him and to our faith family. And that includes you the reader.

Perhaps you may not be aware that there are pray boxes around the Charlton area in various businesses. Next to them are blank cards where you can fill in what you would like our church, which is to say our prayer warriors and prayer ministry members to pray on your behalf. It can be anonymous, or first name or however you wish. Regardless how you ask, just know you will be prayed for.

So if you place a prayer request in our prayer box be assured you matter to us, to God, and we will pray on your behalf.

Does prayer matter?

Ask the many people who have filled our prayer boxes over the many months we have been doing this ministry. Ask the people who feel a blessing from being prayed for or with.

To be sure, for some, perhaps folks trying to figure out God and faith, prayer may be a “hail Mary” a here goes nothing from a place of desperation. That’s ok. Reaching out to our Creator is a good thing. Next step might be sitting in the back of the sanctuary in one of the good houses of worship in our area, or walking the nature prayer trail at CCUMC.



BEYOND THE PEWS
BY DR. RB MCFEE
CHARLTON CITY UMC

Yes there are those who have scoffed at the offer people of faith provide when coming across someone who has experienced a loss, as if saying “I will pray for you,” or “may I pray for you,” are mere polite reflex responses. Nothing could be farther from the truth. It is an offer of much value – a gift, a promise that you matter, and that you are cared about, and that time will be expended to pray on your behalf.

Make no mistake about it – prayer is powerful, and a gift. It is also something most religions teach. It is a practice as old as history can record.

As a physician I know from my patients – some of whom have asked me to pray with them – that prayer is comforting, powerful.

Science shows that people who pray, who rest their hope on their Creator, often enjoy improved mental health, blood pressure, and are calmer, more at peace.

Medically – God may answer the prayer with a cure, or with the peace to handle the illness even if the person doesn’t recover. And sometimes it is in the praying that people come together, and families strengthened.

Sometimes, prayer helps us focus and quiet the noise of chaos that can envelop us; whether we pray alone or with others.

Prayer also gives us the opportunity to focus less on our selves, and more on the needs of others, and to let them know they matter.

Most of all, prayer is about relationship – calling our Heavenly Father on the ultimate 5 G network. It is a means of restoring that relationship, much as we do when we regularly communicate with friends and family.

Jesus gives us many examples throughout His ministry the power of prayer. Jesus often prayed and for many different reasons and in a variety of situations – sometimes for help from Above, sometimes for clarity, and always with gratitude.

Too often, we think prayer is just to ask for stuff, as if God were a celestial ATM machine doling out what we ask for. No doubt God does provide blessings to us on a daily basis if we take the time to look for them. But prayer in its simplest form is a phone call between us and God, a means to grow and keep the relationship as we would with anyone we cared about – we’d regularly communicate.

If you could experience the heart and feelings, the shared joy and anguish in our church prayer time, or the exchanges between our prayer warrior team – yes our church has a dedicated group ‘on call’ that can in fact be called upon to pray throughout the week – the help, love and support for those who reach out to us in times of need....you would know prayer is much more than a reply or group of words. It is a very deep and personal connection, and commitment to care.

In a world that is ever increasingly being made impersonal, how often are any of us made to feel like we matter? Perhaps that is one of the powers

Turn To **BEYOND** page **A9**

Open enrollment: What to know before you enroll



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For many people, fall brings an important opportunity: open enrollment. While it may not sound as exciting as planning for the holidays, taking a careful look at your workplace benefits now could save you hundreds or even thousands of dollars next year.

Open enrollment is the period when you will choose your medical and other workplace benefits for the year ahead. Most employers hold it in the fall, with elections taking effect in January. Once the window closes, you usually can’t make changes unless you experience a major life event like marriage, divorce, the birth of a child or when a dependent has become an emancipated adult.

While it may be easy to simply renew last year’s choices, that could be a costly mistake. Your employer’s plans, providers or costs may have changed. It’s also possible your own circumstances are different than they were a year ago—for example, if you had a baby, got married or expect new medical needs. Taking a fresh look helps ensure your benefits match your life today.

Here are a few tips for navigating open enrollment.

Compare health plans carefully. Employers often offer more than one health, dental or vision option. Look at differences in provider networks, prescription coverage and premiums. If you and your spouse both have coverage options, compare plans across employers. Just be mindful that some companies charge a fee if you enroll a partner who has their own workplace coverage. Many plans offer wellness discounts on monthly premiums based on your personal health condition.

Check your life insurance. Many employers provide a base level of life insurance, with the option to buy more. If your family has grown or your financial responsibilities have increased, now is the time to make sure you have enough coverage to protect your loved ones.

Consider disability coverage. A short-term disability plan can help cover income gaps for up to 12 months during recovery from surgery, illness, or childbirth. Long-term disability insurance offers protection if you’re unable to work again for an extended period up to age 65. Ideally, coverage should replace up to 60% of your pre-tax income.

Understand supplemental options. Some employers also offer accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance. While it can provide peace of mind, remember that it’s not a substitute for life or disability insurance, since it only covers specific accidents.

Take advantage of tax-friendly accounts. Flexible spending accounts (FSAs) and health savings accounts (HSAs) let you use pretax dollars for eligible medical expenses. If you have young children or other dependents, ask whether your employer offers a dependent care FSA to help offset care costs. Note that these are use-it-or-lose-it, so contribute only what you expect to spend every year. HSAs, available with high-deductible health plans, are more flexible since unused funds roll over from year to year and can even serve as long-term savings.

Review your retirement savings. While your retirement plan usually isn’t part of open enrollment, this is a good time to revisit it. Make sure you’re contributing enough to earn your employer’s match. Small increases can make a big difference over time.

Open enrollment may not be the most thrilling item on your fall to-do list, but it could be one of the most important. Taking a little time now to review your employee group benefits could give you greater financial security and extra savings throughout the year.

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.

Idea in the mind!

Andrew Carnegie was born on Nov. 25, 1835, in Dunfermline, Scotland. In 1848, his family crossed the Atlantic and squeezed into a single rented room near Pittsburgh. Machines had wiped out his father’s weaving trade. His mother took in mending and sold bread to keep them alive.

No money. No connections. Schooling cut short. Odds of success? Near zero.

At 13—before child labor laws or safety nets—he was expected to earn a living. He worked from dusk till dawn for \$1.20 a week. Just enough to keep the rent paid.

He clawed his way to a telegraph office—first as a messenger, then as an operator, sending messages across the wire faster than any train.

It opened a door to the Pennsylvania Railroad. There, for the first time, he saw the inner workings of power. He watched the men at the top. He took notes. And somewhere along those tracks, he made a quiet decision: He wouldn’t just ride the rails—he’d own them.

He moved forward with that idea, built a steel empire, and became the

wealthiest man alive.

Carnegie then turned to a bigger question: What creates success?

In 1908, he met a young reporter named Napoleon Hill and dared him to find the answer. He opened doors to tycoons and inventors, told Hill to study them, and to write the playbook.

Years later, Hill delivered it—first in “The Law of Success,” then in “Think and Grow Rich.” That book went on to sell over 70 million copies—and it’s still reprinted and read around the world.

Of all the ideas Carnegie gave Hill, one grips me most. He reportedly said: “Any idea that is held in the mind—emphasized, feared, or revered—begins at once to clothe itself in the most convenient and appropriate form.”

Burn that into your mind! Let’s break it down. “Any idea held in the mind...”

What does it mean to hold an idea? It means you keep it alive. You see it in your mind every day. You write it down. You say it out loud. You paste it on your fridge. You carve time for it. You take small, doable steps now—not later.

“...Emphasized, feared, or revered...”

To emphasize means to want it deeply. You think about it often. You’re willing to give up comforts and distractions to chase it.

To fear it means the right kind of fear—the voice that whispers, “If I don’t act, this dream will die.” It gets you out of bed. It drives you to do the hard thing first.

To revere it means to honor it. You treat it like a calling. You protect it from doubt, from cynics, from your own excuses.

“...begins at once to clothe itself in the most convenient, appropriate form.”

What happened to Carnegie when his dream began to clothe itself? The world began to respond. A skill put him near railroad men. A boom in demand met him on the tracks. A new way to make steel found him. Partners appeared. Doors opened. Setbacks drove him forward.

The idea became motion, then matter. It put on names, places, timing, and tools—until it wasn’t an idea anymore. It was his life.

Now you ask: When will my dream

happen?

When farmers plant seeds, they don’t demand a harvest tomorrow. They water. They weed. They walk the rows before sunrise. They fight off the pests, mend broken fences, pray for rain, and rise again.

When a child is conceived, no mother asks, “Why isn’t the baby born yet?” She nourishes it for nine months, knowing its time will come.

So it is with your dream.

One of the great teachers of human potential, Bob Proctor, taught that you may not know a dream’s gestation time, but you can shorten it through focus and concentration.

Show up when it’s boring. Work when it’s hard. Believe when no one sees. Be patient like a farmer. Fierce like a parent. Steady like the sun.

If you hold the picture in your mind, and you move your feet—

If you believe through the silence, Work through the doubt, Stay lit by a desire that doesn’t dim—Then one day, your dream, dressed in real life, will walk out to meet you.

TO THE EDITOR

Your support for a senior center is vital at Charlton’s Town Meeting

To the Editor:

“No action on Senior Center Assessment”; Really! Younger generations have better thinking and decision making skills than this. Charlton selectpersons took valid and reliable information from a study and a special committee and literally threw it out the window when they said no to furthering progress on a new senior center.

As older adults and the elderly in Charlton reach around 40 percent by 2030, they will have the power and the numbers to make a difference in this community. An adequately equipped modern senior center not only serves independent older adults, but the homebound and disabled. Soon, a new Tri-Valley employee will not only serve lunch to older adults at the senior center, but volunteers will deliver meals to the homebound in the vast area of Charlton.

A new modern senior center can serve as a hub for crisis and emergency preparedness. According to the National Council on Aging (2024), senior centers serve as part of emergency responses and were crucial during the Covid pandemic. Senior centers are reinventing themselves for three generations with new programming to meet the needs of future elders.

I invite senior center supporters to attend the town meeting on Oct. 20, 7 p.m., at the Charlton Middle School. Your presence is vital!

Thankyou,

DEBBIE RENHOLM
CHARLTON

Thrift shop finds



Many readers of this column enjoy attending estate sales or stopping when they see a “yard sale” sign. Some of you also like hunting for bargains at estate sales. In today’s column, I’ll share some exciting thrift shop, estate sale, and yard sale finds that took place this year, along with some shipwreck treasures that were recently discovered.

Some thrift shop buyers post their finds online on Reddit, and Yahoo! News recently shared a few. One buyer paid \$40 for a gold ring that was estimated to be worth \$162. Elsewhere, a Canadian woman found a diamond and pearl ring in a “store grab bag” from a Canadian thrift store which could also sell in the low hundreds of dollars. Another thrift store buyer found a diamond ring in a “bulk trash pile.” The diamond ring could sell in the low to mid-hundreds.

An estate sale buyer recently found the sale of their dreams, according to a “Newsweek” article. The estate sale buyer/dealer posted live on social media when they were allowed inside the garage door at an estate sale. They said they were the third person to enter the sale and there were about 200 people waiting to come in. The dealer posted images of a statue which was titled “Dying Gaul” priced at \$8. There was what looks to be a Victorian era figural incense burner marked for \$5. The buyer said that they bought a Chinese vase for \$1 and had already been offered \$2,500 for it. The dealer estimated that their \$3,000 in purchases would yield \$30,000.

An Ohio couple had a great unexpected find when they decided to stop at a thrift shop while driving home. As they were leaving the shop, a gold frame caught the woman’s eye, according to the “U.S. Sun.” She purchased it for \$2.90. When she got in the car, she noticed a label that said “Johann Berthelsen.” She at first thought Berthelsen was a local painter, but her

research later showed he was a well-known artist. She consigned it to a local auction house, and it brought \$2,267.

Switching gears to the seas, coins from a 1715 Spanish shipwreck were just discovered in Florida, according to NBC News. Over 1,000 gold and silver coins were aboard the ship when a hurricane sank it off “Florida’s Treasure Coast.” The coins include pieces of eight, which could be broken into eight pieces and then spent individually. The coins are estimated to be worth \$1 million. Other items like a gemstone and gold necklace were also pulled from the wreck. Whether you’re diving 100 feet down into the ocean or diving into a thrift store jewelry box, you may be lucky enough to find some treasures too.

Our single-collector Civil War memorabilia auction will be online later this month. There is still time to consign for our major auction that will follow. We are accepting consignments of gold, platinum, diamonds, and other fine jewelry, sterling silver flatware and holloware, paintings, statues, gold and silver coins, and other valuable antiques and collectibles. Please visit our Web site, <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 or (508-612-6111)

Every dollar counts when it comes to keeping kids warm

To the Editor:

It’s that time of the year again, fall is here, the nights are getting cooler, and before we know it the white stuff will be covering the ground.

For the last few years, our Knights of Columbus Council 199, in Southbridge, has been raising money to purchase and donate new children’s winter coats to Holy Trinity’s coat closet to be given away free to local children. Since 2022 we also donated 48 coats each year to Charlton St. School and 48 coats to West St. School, and coats are donated, as needed, to Catholic Charities, because of all these needs our supply of coats, once again, has been badly depleted.

This year, the cost for kids’ coats went up from \$248 per case of 12 to \$284 per case, the teen size coats went from \$304 per case of 12 to \$340 per case, despite the increase we already purchased 12 cases of kid size coats and two cases of teen coats. The total cost to purchase 13 cases of coats last year was \$3,387; this year, the 14 cases cost \$4,081 and we will need your help, even more, to cover the expense. If you’re a business or civic group, maybe you could donate \$284 and we could pay for one case; if

that’s too much to ask for, two donations of \$142 will cover a case, a person or a family could donate \$23 which we could put towards purchasing 1 coat. Maybe we won’t hit our goal of paying for the 14 cases, but whatever we do raise will put a new coat on someone’s child that might otherwise go cold this winter if we don’t.

We will also be holding a pasta & chicken dinner, raffles, and a turkey shoot on Nov. 8 at 5:30 p.m. at the La Salle Tuscan room to help defray the cost, tickets are just \$15 each with kids under 10 free. Raffles and the turkey shoot will be at a small additional cost.

These kids could be a neighbor’s child or most likely be someone you’ll never know or meet, but we could all get a warm feeling if we pitch in and help keep our kids warm this winter.

If you can help, checks would be payable to K of C Council 199 and can be dropped in the collection basket at St John Paul II Parish with a note on the envelope saying “Coats for Kids” or just mail them to us, our address is PO Box 176 here in Southbridge. Please don’t think that you won’t make a difference because every dollar counts, and it just takes \$23 of them to buy a coat.

THANK YOU FROM COUNCIL 199,
RAY FOURNIER
2025 COATS FOR KIDS CHAIR
SOUTHBRIDGE

BEYOND

continued from page A8

inherent in the act of prayer, and when someone takes the time out of their own busy schedule to think about and pray with or for someone, that very act underscores others matter. That is a gift.

“Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”
— Matthew 11:28

Jesus’ invitation requires nothing more than a prayer, which can be the one He taught us to pray – The Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 3: 6 – 9), or as simple as “Jesus please help me.” It can also be as simple as placing a prayer request into one of our prayer boxes. Either way, just know you matter, to God, to us.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



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LEGALS

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on October 22, 2025, at 7PM on the application of Nelson Burlingame. The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for the construction of a house, driveway, and septic. Address: 0 Prindle Hill Road, Charlton, MA, 01507. Parcel ID: 50-C-5 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 October 16, 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. WO25P3431 EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate Of: Sidney C Hazzard Jr Also known as: Sidney Cyril Hazzard Jr Date of Death: 08/10/2025

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Delores M Larochelle of Southbridge 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: **Delores M Larochelle of Southbridge 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 11/04/2025.**

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: October 02, 2025 Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate October 16, 2025

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Sec 40, a public hearing by the Holland Conservation Commission will be held on Tuesday 10/28/2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room, first floor, in the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA. This meeting is to review a Notice of Intent (NOI) filed by Jacqueline Hoell for repair of a failing stone lake wall at 6 Vinton Way (Map R09-A-12). To comply with the Open Meeting Law, all public hearings are scheduled for 6:30 PM and, barring unforeseen circumstances, will be taken in the order in which they appear on the agenda. This meeting will be held in person and virtual; for virtual meeting login information contact Holland Conservation at conservation@hollandma.org or call (413) 245-7108 x114. Conservation Commission Town of Holland October 16, 2025

NOTICE OF SALE Pursuant to Mass General Laws Chapter I 05A, the contents of the following space: H41 (Joseph Lemay) located at 25 Brimfield Road, Holland, MA will be sold to satisfy the owners lien of Storage Plus. Sale date is October 28, 2025 @2:00 PM, Inspection between 1:30 PM and 2:00 PM on October 28, 2025. Sealed bids must be hand delivered by 2:00 PM on October 28, 2025. All goods must be purchased with cash as is, and must be removed within 48 hours of sale. Owner has the right to bid to protect his lien and to withdraw any unit upon settlement by the obligated party up for sale. For further information call (413)245-4388. October 9, 2025 October 16, 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, P&G Realty Trust, has submitted a Land Disturbance/ Stormwater Management Permit on October 7, 2025, for land disturbance associated with the planting of Christmas trees. The project site is located at 246 Worcester Road, Charlton, MA 01507, and is also known as: Parcel 36-C-16 Copies of the Land Disturbance Application are available at the Charlton Conservation Commission office during business hours. Thomas O'Malley Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission October 16, 2025

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 October 22, at 7PM on the application of PMZ Development LLC. The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for the construction of a single-family home, driveway, and associated site work within the 100-ft buffer zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The project location is: Lot 1-4 N Sullivan Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 28-A-3.3. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request. Copies of the NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours. Thomas O'Malley Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission October 16, 2025

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 October 22, at 7PM on the application of James and Mia Decelles. The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for the construction of a single-family home and associated grading and utilities within 100-ft of Baker Pond. The project location is: 79 Baker Pond Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 80-A-15.5. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request. Copies of the NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours. Thomas O'Malley Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission October 16, 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. WO25P3387EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate Of: Clifford J Shaw

Date of Death: 12/07/2017 To all interested persons: A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Douglas H Shaw of Worcester 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: **Douglas H Shaw of Worcester 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 10/28/2025.** 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: October 01, 2025 Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate October 16, 2025

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket Number: 25 SM 003040 **ORDER OF NOTICE**

TO: **William H. Collins, II and Mary Collins** and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (*et seq*) **TD Bank, N.A. f/ka TD Banknorth, N.A.** claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Sturbridge, numbered 131 New Boston Road, given by Williams H. Collins, II and Mary Collins to TD Bank, N.A., dated December 28, 2006, and recorded in the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 40534, Page 215, has filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendants' Servicemembers status. 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 on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **11/17/2025** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 10/6/2025. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder October 16, 2025

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 October 22, at 7PM on the application of PMZ Development LLC. The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for the construction of a single-family home, driveway, and associated site work within the 100-ft buffer zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The project location is: Lot 1-3 N Sullivan Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 28-A-3.2. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request. Copies of the NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours. Thomas O'Malley Chair, Charlton Conservation

Commission October 16, 2025

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 October 22, at 7PM on the application of PMZ Development LLC. The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for the construction of a single-family home, driveway, and associated site work within the 100-ft buffer zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The project location is: Lot 1-2 N Sullivan Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 28-A-3.1. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request. Copies of the NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours. Thomas O'Malley Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission October 16, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO APPEAL TOBACCO FINE On Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., the Southbridge Board of Health will hold a Public Hearing at the Town Hall, Veterans' Room (main level) to discuss the fines that were issued during a routine inspection of M&S Smoke Shop as well as Stop and Save. Pursuant to Chapter 1, Section 10.1 of the Tobacco Regulations. Community members are invited to attend and provide input. October 16, 2025

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 October 22, at 7PM on the application of Judy and Tara Butler. The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for home/landscaping improvements associated with the repair of an existing driveway and boat ramp, the installation of a patio and a beach area, and tree removal and planting within the 100-ft buffer zone to South Charlton Reservoir. The project location is: 216 Partridge Hill Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 73C-A-12. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request. Copies of the NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours. Thomas O'Malley Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission October 16, 2025

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Sec 40, a public hearing by the Holland Conservation Commission will be held on Tuesday 10/28/2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room, first floor, in the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA. This meeting is to review a Notice of Intent (NOI) filed by Gary Naples for demolition and removal of abandoned structure at 43 Lake Drive (Map R31-D-3). To comply with the Open Meeting Law, all public hearings are scheduled for 6:30 PM and, barring unforeseen circumstances, will be taken in the order in which they appear on the agenda. This meeting will be held in person and virtual; for virtual meeting login information contact Holland Conservation at conservation@hollandma.org or call (413) 245-7108 x114. Conservation Commission Town of Holland October 16, 2025

For Legal Advertising Information Call 508-909-4127 email: legals@stonebridgepress.news

CONCERT

continued from page A1

In 2024, the duo established a board and helped form a 501(c)3 non-profit entity Blackstone Valley Music and Performing Arts Collaborative (BVMPAC) where they also serve as music educators for local community music school Blackstone Valley Music located in Uxbridge, leading one-on-one private lessons, yearly rock band camps for teens, a monthly community coffeehouse and open mic, a new student orchestra and community ukulele groups.

For more information on Mandeville and Richards, concert dates, music, and video, please visit www.markandraianne.com. Follow them on social media: @markandraianne.

“Making Promises” (2024)

is the fourth eponymous studio release by contemporary folk songwriters Mark Mandeville & Raianne Richards. This album replete with poetic lyrics, sophisticated musical arrangements, and mellifluous vocal harmonies will be a welcome addition to your collection from their twenty-year partnership. Much of the material inspired by their recent marriage in 2021 reflects on themes of love, desires, perseverance and promises, with much of the music sparsely arranged as duets with upright bass accompaniment by long-time friend Zack Ciras (see indie-folk trio the accident that led me to the world). Two compositions recorded between 2021-2023 include bandmates Doug Williamson (piano) and Peter Hart (pedal steel), with the majority recorded in Northfield Massachusetts during December 2023.

STROLLING

continued from page A1

at the Worcester Institute for Senior Education at Assumption College. Recently, she has given lectures in local libraries and civic organizations. She has had a passionate love of the Concord area, its political and literary history and its people, since first visiting Louisa May

Alcott’s Orchard House as a child. With her husband, she has been a colonial re-enactor in the Concord area as well as in Sturbridge. She is active in the Joshua Hyde Public Library and has been a part of their book discussions for more than 30 years.

Duzak will challenge the audience to imagine living in Concord in the 1840s, when this

first truly American literary voice and ethos bloomed. Then, she will ask the group to imagine how 1840’s Sturbridge area residents would have responded to these radical ideas that were forming our American voice in literature and ethics.

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

SUCCESS

continued from page A1

more buy-in.

“It’s nice that it’s a transfer station so there’s a lot more they can bring there like wood, cardboard, and plastic. It’s a great deal, but Charlton is a big town, so if you live on the Webster side, a lot of those people want to go to the Webster station, or if you’re a big family and you want to have barrels at your

house, I understand that, but we keep trying,” said Marquis.

She admitted that the service may only be convenient or suitable for a certain part of the Charlton population and while they want to see more usage, the average number sits at around 80 to 90 users showing that at least part of the population is benefiting from the option. Pay as you throw also helps contribute to the points total that earned Charlton that estimated

\$6,500.

Soon Keep Charlton Beautiful is hoping to have the town included in North Brookfield’s Hazardous Waste Day after failing to join Southbridge’s program. The committee is also hoping to recruit new volunteers, especially younger individuals, who can help Keep Charlton Beautiful continue to grow its mission towards preserving the beauty and image of their town.



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Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island PANORAMIC VIEWS!



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

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THE VILLA'S at SNUG HARBOR! ** END UNIT** IS TRULY A RARE FIND! ONE of ONLY 6 UNITS > Custom Built THIS 4000+/- SF w/Special Features & Upgrades. Offers 4 BRs - 3 are Primary BR Suites w/private baths, 4-1/2 Baths Total!! The Outstanding direct lakefront location provides exceptional Southern panoramic views across Middle Pond, a boat dock, & full recreation activities - whatever Floats Your Boat :-)! Perfect setup for entertaining family, friends & guests! It's more than a home - it's a Life Style! **NEW PRICE \$1,050,000**

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

WEBSTER- 4 PERRYVILLE RD

Hip Roof ranch! Move In Ready. Updated Kitchen. Formal Dining Rm, Living Rm.(18x13) Great Rm. 3+ BRS & full updated Bath w/Tub. Hardwood floors. Fireplace.Quality Owens-Corning finished basement system. 3 large LL rooms & 2nd Full Bath, kitchen area w/cabinets & refrigerator. Morton Barn Style Garage .39 acre **\$435,000**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT LISTING! KILLDEER RD

ON DEPOSIT



Ready for your year round enjoyment. 4 bedroom, 2 bath home. Open floor plan. Garage w/ enclosed entry to mudroom. Open living room with spectacular view! 2 bedrooms - 3/4 bath, on main level. Central air. Lower level, additional 2 bedrooms, bath, bonus family room, summer kitchen! Boathouse! 51' of sandy beachfront! **\$799,000.**

Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!

ON DEPOSIT



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

Webster Lake - 53 Colonial Rd

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Webster Lake Waterfront 8 Long Island

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER 17-24

Thursday, Oct. 17

When clocks strike six and shadows creep, Southbridge Town Council will meet—25 Cole Ave., their chamber bright, Discussing bylaws deep into night.

Friday, Oct. 18

At seven bells, beneath the steeple's glow, The Charlton Federated Fair will show—Crafts and pies, with fiddles to play, 64 Main St. leads the way.

Saturday, Oct. 19

From ten 'til two, where pumpkins gleam, Jacob Edwards Library hosts a dream—A book sale vast, a reader's delight, 236 Main St., pages take flight.

At dusk, when

autumn's chill begins, Fiskdale's Bethlehem Church calls friends within—A harvest supper, warm and sweet, Roast and cider, community meet.

Sunday, Oct. 20

At noon in Brimfield's open air, Hitchcock Academy welcomes all there—Yoga on the green, serene and free, Stretching limbs beneath the maple tree.

Monday, Oct. 21

When school bells fade and daylight wanes, The Heritage PTO convenes again—At six o'clock in Charlton's hall, Parents and teachers answering the call.

Tuesday, Oct. 22

At seven sharp the singers rehearse, Sturbridge Chorus lifts its verse—Federated Church on Maple Lane, Harmony drifting like soft autumn rain.

Wednesday, Oct. 23

Morning light through library glass, Story time for toddlers shall amass—Ten a.m., laughter rings clear, Tiny voices you'll want to hear.

Thursday, Oct. 24

Pumpkins grin at dusk once more, Southbridge Rotary's treat in store—Trunk-or-treat at West Street's park, Five to eight before it's dark.

Karina Ortiz named to Goodwin University's Dean's List

EAST HARTFORD, Conn. — Karina Ortiz has earned a spot on Goodwin University's Dean's List for the summer 2025 semester.

Ortiz, a student from Southbridge, is one of 408 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 Karina 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.

Pasta dinner to benefit Wreaths Across America

HOLLAND — The town of Holland will once again be taking part in the Annual "Wreaths Across America" campaign on Dec. 13. Our local group is raising money to purchase 200 wreaths to lay on the graves of our military men and women in the Holland cemetery.

On Friday, Nov. 7, we are hosting a pasta dinner at the Holland Community Center (40 Brimfield Rd., Holland) to raise funds to purchase the wreaths.

Tickets (\$15) are on sale now by calling Kathy at 413-265-3640, or stopping by

the Holland Community Center Monday thru Thursday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. This event has been sold out in past years, and we cannot guarantee that we will have tickets available at the door.

The mission of "Wreaths Across America" is to: "Remember the Fallen. Honor those who serve. Teach the next generation the value of freedom." On Dec. 13, there will be 5,200 locations in all 50 states, at sea and around the world taking part in the wreath laying ceremony.

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