

STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

©2026, Issue #36

Free by request to residents of Sturbridge and Holland

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Thursday-Friday, September 3-4, 2026

Muster Day returns this weekend at Old Sturbridge Village

STURBRIDGE — Old Sturbridge Village is hosting their annual Muster Day this coming Saturday, Sept. 5. This year, they are adding a 250th twist to their programming.

Old Sturbridge Village will be reenacting the militia musters that occurred in 19th-century America. These musters were a grand spectacle, with townspeople coming out to view visiting militia companies in their uniforms. Old Sturbridge Village is inviting visitors to come and cheer on their

favorite militia company.

To honor those who fought in the American Revolution, the Village will be recreating a military wake and funeral for Captain Simeon Fiske, a veteran of the American Revolution. Visitors will also be able to talk to members of volunteer militia companies to learn how the militia of the early 19th century connected directly back to the American Revolution.

Guests will be able to watch musket and cannon firing demonstrations, lis-



Charlton Police to host 'Barks, Badges & Boots' community event

CHARLTON — The Charlton Police Department will give residents an opportunity to meet local first responders and learn more about several specialized police units during its upcoming Barks, Badges & Boots community event.

The free, family-oriented event will be held Saturday, Sept. 12, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church, 10 H Putnam Rd. in Charlton.

Members of several Charlton Police Department units will be on hand to meet residents and provide a closer look at the equipment and services they use while serving the community.

Among those scheduled to participate are members of the department's K9 unit, drone team, detective unit, motorcycle unit and 911 communications team.

The event is designed to give children and adults an informal opportunity to meet local first responders while learning more about the different responsibilities within the Police Department.

Residents will be able to meet members of the K9 unit and learn more about the role police dogs play in law enforcement. The department's drone team will also be represented, giving visitors a chance to learn about the technology available to officers during police and public safety operations.

Detectives, motorcycle officers and members of the 911 communications team will also participate, offering residents a broader look at the people and specialized services involved in local public safety.

In addition to the public safety displays and activities, free ice cream will be available from Suzy Qu's ice cream truck.

The Charlton Police Department is encouraging families and other community members to stop by, meet their first responders and enjoy the afternoon.

The event runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, at St. Joseph's Church, 10 H Putnam Rd., Charlton.

ten to 19th-century martial music, learn about militia reform, purchase gingerbread, and more! There will also be an opportunity for young visitors to take up a toy musket and learn

early 19th-century drill and marching with the militia officer's instruction.

This event is included with standard daytime admission or Village membership. This September, we're offering a

special 50% savings on standard daytime admission for seniors aged 60 and over, making standard daytime admission \$14 for seniors.

Standard daytime admission is \$30 for adults, \$15 for

youth (ages four to 17), \$15 for college students (with a valid college ID), and free for children 3 and under.

Please visit OSV.org for more information and to purchase tickets for Muster Day.

Explore the legacy of the Declaration of Independence with Southbridge Historical Society

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Historical Society will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 9 at the Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, 111 Main St., at 7 p.m.

Continuing with our theme for the 2026 Semiquincentennial, Roger Desrosiers of Millbury will present "The Importance of the Declaration of Independence, Then and Now."

Desrosiers' talk will center on three areas:

1. Why was the Declaration of

Independence necessary?

2. What's in the Declaration?

3. What was its legacy then, and since then? In other words, why do we celebrate a document written 250 years ago, and how has it influenced not only our country, but the world?

Desrosiers spent most of his 32-year career at Millbury High School teaching American History and Government. In 1987, he introduced a civics program called "We the People," and later became the Massachusetts state coor-

dinator for this program from 2006 through today. In 2015, he created a nonprofit called the Massachusetts Center for Civic Education, which supports the We The People program and the Project Citizen program.

Desrosiers has also served Millbury on several committees, and was co-chair of the Millbury Bicentennial in 2013, and is a lifetime member of the Millbury Historical Society.

This free program is open to the public.

Master Mason Degree ceremony held at Old Sturbridge Village

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

STURBRIDGE — On Thursday evening, Aug. 20, Major General Salem Towne Lodge (MGSTL), together with the Colonial Craftsman Club Masonic Degree Team of Massachusetts, held a 3rd Degree ceremony on the common at Old Sturbridge Village (OSV).

The parking area near OSV's bright blue Security and First Aid building was filled with cars bearing license plates from across New England, reflecting the strong turnout for this special event commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation. A security attendant directed Master Masons to the main OSV common area. Although the evening was warm, cloudy, and muggy, with scattered showers, the weather did not discourage Master Masons from attending and participating in the degree. Brethren from across New England, along with representatives from the Grand Masonic Lodge in Boston, gathered to take part in and witness this historic ceremony. MGSTL members and volunteers



Master Masons from across New England gather before the Salem Towne House for a special event marking the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding. Behind the cannon stands Most Worshipful Timothy S. McGavin, Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, holding a white gavel and wearing a colonial hat and purple-and-gold tassel apron, accompanied by his suite. Also pictured in period clothing are members of the Colonial Craftsman Degree Team, cannoneers from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts Noble Train Artillery, and members of the Sons of the American Revolution Team.

conducted the special 3rd Degree in front of the Salem Towne House, where Master Masons met 230 years ago.

The Salem Towne House was built in 1796 in Charlton for the Towne family, who were prominent members of the community. It was moved to Old Sturbridge

Village in 1952. General Salem Towne was active in local affairs, and both he and his son, Salem Towne, Jr., were Master Masons. A dedicated Mason, General Towne later brought honor to his hometown through his skill and knowledge. According to research

from Masonic genealogy, Masonic meetings were held in the Towne family home from about 1796 to 1804, drawing Master Masons from surrounding communities.

MGSTL members and volunteers set up part of the OSV common in front of the

Salem Towne House with tiki torches, illuminating the area and recreating the atmosphere experienced by Master Masons of that period. MGSTL also provided pop-up tents for shelter in the event of heavy rain. As part of the special degree, cannoneers from the Grand

Lodge of Massachusetts Noble Train Artillery fired a Revolutionary War-era cannon, accompanied by a musket volley from the Sons of the American Revolution musket team. Before the 3rd Degree work began, dinner was served at the nearby

Shepherd Hill students hosting Tackle the Stigma 5K to promote mental health awareness

Shepherd Hill students hosting Tackle the Stigma 5K to promote mental health awareness

CHARLTON — The Shepherd Hill Regional High School cheerleading program, in partnership with the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District community, is inviting residents to lace up their running shoes and help break down barriers surrounding mental health during the annual Tackle the Stigma 5K and 2.5K Walk/Run on Saturday, Sept. 27. The event will begin at 10 a.m. at the Shepherd Hill football field and is designed to raise awareness about mental health and mental wellness while encouraging open conversations throughout the local community.

Organizers hope participants of all ages will come together to demonstrate support for those facing mental health challenges and reinforce the message that no one has to struggle alone.

"This event is very important to us as we work to raise awareness about mental health and mental wellness throughout our local community," organizers said in announcing the event.

The walk and run carries the theme, "Run toward awareness, stand up for support, and tackle the stigma one mile at a time," reflecting its focus on education, compassion and community involvement.

Mental health advocates continue to emphasize the importance of reducing the stigma surrounding anxiety, depression and other mental health conditions, which can often prevent individuals from seeking help. Community events such as Tackle the Stigma aim to create a welcoming environment where conversations about mental wellness are encouraged and support resources are highlighted.

In addition to providing an opportunity for exercise and community engagement, the event serves as a reminder that mental health is an important part of overall well-being. Organizers hope the day will inspire participants to check in with friends, family members and neighbors while promoting a culture of understanding and acceptance.

The Shepherd Hill cheerleaders have made mental health awareness a priority, using the event to unite students, families, educators and community members around a common cause. By bringing together participants from across Dudley, Charlton and surrounding communities, they hope to build momentum for ongoing conversations that extend well beyond race day.

Whether participants choose the full 5-kilometer course or the shorter 2.5-kilometer walk/run, organizers say every step represents a commitment to supporting mental wellness and reminding those who may be struggling that help is available.

VILLAGER ALMANAC

OPEN TO CLOSE

SOUTHBIDGE TOWN HALL
Monday-Wednesday: 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Thursday: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

JACOB EDWARDS PUBLIC LIBRARY
Monday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Tuesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (May 25 will be our last open Saturday until Labor Day) Sunday: Closed

CHARLTON TOWN HALL (508) 248-2200
Office Hours:
Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesdays 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday Closed
visit www.townofcharlton.net or more information.

Individual offices may vary
PUBLIC LIBRARY (248-0452)
For library hours please check www.charltonlibrary.org
POLICE DEPARTMENT (248-2250)
Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
For emergencies, dial **911**

FIRE DEPARTMENT (248-2299)
Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Charlton City (01508) (800) 275-8777

SCHOOLS
Dudley-Charlton Regional School District (508) 943-6888
Charlton Elementary School (508) 248-7774 or (508) 248-7435
Heritage School (508) 248-4884
Charlton Middle School (508) 248-1423
Shepherd Hill Regional High School (508) 943-6700
Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326

HOLLAND: 413-245-7108
Mon – Thurs 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

FISKDALE: 508-347-6486
Weekdays 9:00-4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

STURBRIDGE 508-347-6463
Weekdays 8:30 – 5:00 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

BRIMFIELD: 413-245-3451
Weekdays: 9:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

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

WALES PUBLIC LIBRARY
Mon, Tu & Th 2-6, W 12-6, Sat 9-12 closed Fri & Sun

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
Phone 508-347-7297
Web: www.bethlehemsturbridge.org
Services - Sunday 9:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell

• **Holland Congregation Church**
"Where the Bible is preached."
11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926
Hollandchurch.org
Sunday Service @ 10:00 am
Pastor Dan Maketansky

• **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**
446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Phone: 508-765-9559
Web: www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org
Sunday Service 11:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell

• **St. John Paul II Parish**
279 Hamilton St., Southbridge
Rev. Carlos Ardila, Pastor
Weekend services Saturday 4 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon
Weekday masses 8:30 & 8:45 a.m., St. Mary's Church (508) 765-3701



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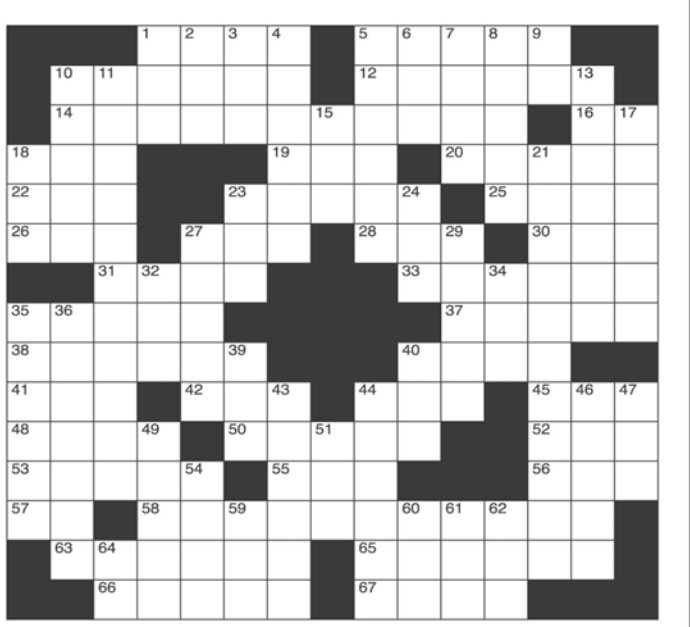
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Longtime *Vogue* editor Wintour

5. A Spanish title of respect

10. A way of looking

12. Properly

14. Rolled steel

16. Not down

18. Law degree

19. Consume food

20. Intermediate ecological stage

22. Old world, new

23. Dispense justice

25. Stiff hair-like structure

26. Ethiopia

27. Cool!

28. Father

30. An enthusiastic devotee of sports

31. Holm oak

33. Be united

35. Rattling breaths

37. Supermarket chain
38. Provided with a quality

40. Samoan monetary unit

41. Swiss river

42. Hill (Celtic)

44. Have already done

45. ATM company

48. Syngman __, Korean president

50. Very willing

52. Arctic explorers (abbr.)

53. Food listings

55. Bachelor's place to crash

56. Big Blue

57. Sports magazine

58. Relating to a place north of south of the equator

63. Female follower of Bacchus

65. A type of laugh

66. Slovenly women

67. Large jug

CLUES DOWN

1. Boxing's GOAT

2. Zero

3. Midway between north and northeast

4. Concurred

5. Added flavor

6. Amount of time

7. Eggs of parasitic insects

8. S-shaped moldings

9. Atomic #45

10. __ d'art: small artistic item

11. A godparent's "kids"

13. Nocturnal burrowing lizard

15. Hit lightly

17. Aircrafts

18. Witness

21. Alluding to something

23. Take to the limit

24. Baglike structure in a plant or animal
27. Start over

29. Administered

32. Romanian monetary unit

34. Unit of liquid capacity

35. Equips with weapons again

36. Disney town

39. Female deer

40. Title of respect

43. A place to go rafting

44. A way to conclude

46. Type of television

47. Georgia rockers

49. Leonhard __, Swiss mathematician

51. Slang for gun

54. River in Bosnia and Herzegovina

59. Bar bill

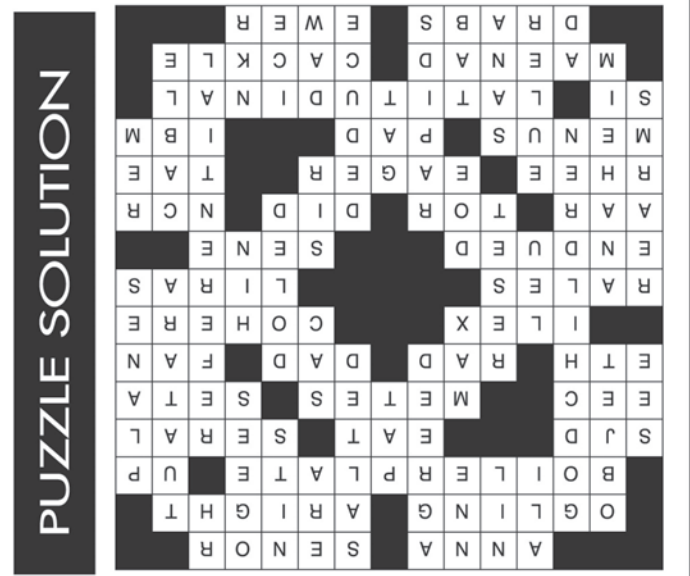
60. Small, gray-headed crow

61. Frozen water

62. Norwegian krone

64. Commercial

PUZZLE SOLUTION



REAL ESTATE

Charlton

\$600,000, Masonic Home Rd, Cayer, Richard, to Trolley Crossing Road LLC.

\$599,000, 39 Hycrest Rd, Bahary, Shapiullah, and Farooqui, Fatima, to Sessa, William A, and Sessa, Annalicia.

\$564,900, 6 Marrissa Cir, Popsuj, Paul J, and Popsuj, Christy, to Maraglia, Tyler, and Dunnell, Selena.

\$560,000, 65 Old Spencer Rd, Bowlin, Robert J, and Bowlin, Renee J, to Monk, Martin, and Monk, Amber.

\$385,000, 94 City Depot Rd, Slipp-Punches, Victoria B, and Punches, John L, to Boehnke, Olivia, and Blake, Dale A.

\$310,000, 8 Pumpkin Ln, Guertin Eleonore L Est, and Guertin, Donald, to Whiteacre Properties LLC.

HOLLAND
none

SOUTHBIDGE
\$368,000, 220 Marcy St, Nunez, Pamela, to Otfinoski, Nathan.

\$334,000, 119 Dennison Cross Rd, Owaka, Brian, and Lemieux, Jennifer, to Cabrera, Gilmarie O, and Garcia Jr, Luis.

\$10,000, 127 Cliff St, Lee Holdings Rt LLC, to Elm St Holdings Rt LLC.

STURBRIDGE
\$520,000, 66 Steeple Vw #66, Rogalski, Andrew T, and Rogalski, Sandra A, to Louis M Sugrue 2011 T, and Sugrue, Lois M.

\$410,000, 27 Valley Rd, New Boston Road Rt, and Jolin, Brian P, to Voellings, Carl, and Voellings, Linda.

\$360,000, 516 Leadmine Rd, Campbell, Bradford L, to Rennie, Cheryl A.

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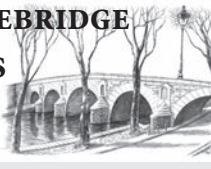
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Joshua Hyde Public Library

306 Main St., Sturbridge
508-347-2512
mayent@cwmars.org

The Library will be closed Monday, September 7 for Labor Day.

Basic Tech Help - Wednesdays from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Free tech assistance. Bring your own device or use our available computers. Making an appointment is encouraged.

STORY TIMES

Fall Baby Time - Mondays at 10:45am. September 14 through November 23. A story time designed specifically for children 2 years and under.

Fall Toddler Time - Tuesdays at 10:45am. September 1 through November 24. A play-based story time where each week brings something different.

Fall Story Time - Fridays at 10:45am. September 4 through November 27. Stories, songs, rhymes, and a craft. Designed for children ages 3 to 5 but open to all kids.

BOOK GROUPS

Armchair Travelers Book Group - Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30pm. This month's book is "The Searcher" by Tana French. The discussion will be led by Sandra Gibson-Quigley. Books are available at the library.

Afternoon Book Group - Tuesday, September 22 at 1:00pm. This month's book is "The Astral Library" by Kate Quinn. Books are available at the library.

World Building Book Club - Tuesday, September 22 at 6:30pm. This month's book is "The Night Circus" by Erin Morgenstern. Books are available at the library.

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Back to School Scavenger Hunt - Stop by the Children's Room any time during the month of September, complete the scavenger hunt and earn a small prize.

Make-It Mondays - Toadstool Lantern. Monday, September 14 at 3:30pm. We will be transforming a simple jar into a glowing toadstool with tea lights and

wiggle eyes. For children ages 7 to 12. Registration is required. Children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver.

Pokemon Club - Thursday, September 17 at 6:00pm. Themed activities and fun! Kids can bring their cards if they would like.

Author Manisha Sinha: The Rise and Fall of the Second American Republic: Reconstruction, 1860-1920 - At the Senior Center. Thursday, September 24 at 7:00pm. From the University of Connecticut, historian Manisha Sinha has written major books on American history, slavery, abolition, and Reconstruction.

Make-It Mondays - Monday, September 28 at 3:30pm. Join the Library for a fun an creative craft. For children ages 7 to 12. Registration is required. Children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver.

"Death on Mount Washington" with Author Randy Minetor - Virtual. Monday, September 28 at 7:00pm. Author Randy Minetor will discuss her book "Death on Mount Washington: Stories of Accidents and Foolhardiness on the Northeast's

Highest Peak". Registration is required.

Spark Notes: A Couple's Guide to Menopause, Intimacy, and Communication. Virtual. Tuesday, September 29 at 6:00pm. Midlife brings real physical changes, and if you are only talking about them with your doctor or friends, you are missing half the picture. Join Kelly Tull, WHNP-BC, menopause and sexual health specialist, and her husband Adam for a couples-focused evening. Registration is required.

AI Literacy for All - Wednesday, September 30 at 6:30pm. What is AI and how is it being used today are just a few of the topics that will be covered. Presented by Tim Hagberg. Registration is required.

Town of Charlton accepting applications for Opioid Settlement Funds Grant Program

CHARLTON — The Town of Charlton is accepting applications for funding through the Town's Opioid Settlement Funds Grant Program. The purpose of this program is to support initiatives that prevent opioid misuse, expand access to treatment and recovery services, reduce the harms associated with substance use disorders, and improve the health and well-being of

Charlton residents. Funding is made available through the Town's allocation of national opioid settlement funds and must be used for eligible purposes consistent with applicable settlement agreements and guidance. Funding may be requested to a maximum of \$2,500 per applicant. Final awards will be distributed based on available funding as well as demonstrated need and

community impact. Eligible applicants may include:

- o Nonprofit organizations
- o Educational institutions
- o Healthcare providers
- o Community-based organizations
- o Other organizations serving Charlton residents

Projects may include, but are not limited to:

- o Prevention and education programs
- o Treatment and recovery support
- o Harm reduction initiatives
- o First responder or public safety initiatives related to opioid response
- o Behavioral health and mental health services
- o Community outreach and support programs
- o Data collection, evaluation, and other evidence-based strategies that address opioid use disorder

Applications

will be evaluated based on demonstrated community need, alignment with eligible opioid settlement uses, measurable outcomes, organizational capacity, and the anticipated impact on Charlton residents. Completed applications and all required supporting documentation for the first round of this grant program must be submitted by Aug. 31. Late or incomplete applications may not be considered.

Charlton student enrolls at James Madison University

HARRISONBURG, Va. — Emily Brodeur of Charlton has enrolled at James Madison University for the fall 2026 semester. Brodeur plans to

major in Nursing - BSN. Founded in 1908, James Madison University is a public university located in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley.

JMU is one of the nation's leading lights in higher education, where students enjoy engaging relationships with world-class faculty who drive

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Friday's Child

Jacob
Age 16
Registration #9468

Putting them back together. He is currently in the process of fixing his scooter, which is one of his favorite activities. If Jacob could ride his scooter every day, he absolutely would! When he's not out riding, Jacob enjoys a variety of activities that keep him entertained and active. He loves playing video games, listening to rap and hip-hop, playing sports, and going hiking. Jacob enjoys being on the move and having opportunities to explore and try new things. His determination and hands-on nature shine through in the way he approaches projects and hobbies that interest him. With his resilience, sense of humor, and wide range of interests, Jacob is a unique and engaging young man who brings plenty of personality to everything he does.
<https://www.mareinc.org/child/54938075946>

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.

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EDITOR

Building trust beyond an emergency call

Most interactions with police officers and other first responders happen when something has gone wrong.

Someone has been involved in an accident. A family needs help. A crime has occurred. An alarm has sounded. Someone calls 911 because there is an emergency and assistance is needed immediately.

That makes events such as the Charlton Police Department’s upcoming Barks, Badges & Boots gathering particularly valuable.

The Sept. 12 event at St. Joseph’s Church gives residents an opportunity to meet the people behind local public safety services without an emergency providing the introduction. Families can meet members of the department’s K9 unit, drone team, detective unit, motorcycle unit and 911 communications team while getting a better understanding of what each does for the community.

That type of familiarity matters. For children especially, meeting a police officer in a relaxed environment can help establish an important connection. Instead of a uniform representing something unfamiliar or intimidating, there is a person behind it. A child can ask questions, see equipment up close and perhaps meet a police dog while learning that first responders are people they can approach when they need help.

Adults can benefit from the same opportunity. Modern police departments perform considerably more varied work than many residents encounter during their daily lives. Specialized units, communications personnel and new technology all play roles in responding to emergencies, investigating incidents and protecting the public.

The inclusion of the 911 communications team is particularly worthwhile. Dispatchers are often the first people residents encounter during an emergency, even though they may never see the person on the other end of the telephone. Their ability to gather information, calm callers and coordinate the appropriate response is an essential part of the public safety system.

Likewise, opportunities to learn about tools such as police drones can help residents better understand how technology is being incorporated into emergency response and law enforcement.

Community policing is sometimes discussed as though it were a complicated philosophy. At its foundation, however, much of it comes down to relationships.

Residents should know the people who serve their community, and police officers should have opportunities to interact with residents outside of traffic stops, investigations and emergencies.

Those relationships cannot be created by a single afternoon event, of course. Trust develops over time and depends upon professionalism, accountability, communication and consistent service. But informal gatherings can contribute to that process by creating opportunities for conversations that otherwise might never occur.

There is also something distinctly appropriate about making such an event family-oriented.

Public safety is a community responsibility, and introducing younger residents to the people who provide those services can foster greater understanding of how a town works. A child who comes primarily to see the K9 unit or enjoy some free ice cream may leave knowing a little more about the people who answer emergency calls in Charlton. That is a worthwhile outcome.

Barks, Badges & Boots will offer plenty of equipment to examine and specialized units to learn about. There will also be free ice cream, which rarely hurts attendance at a community gathering.

But the most important part of the afternoon will probably be considerably simpler: residents and first responders having conversations, asking questions and getting to know one another.

Strong communities are built through those small connections. Sometimes, they can begin with a badge, a police dog and an ice cream cone.

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

How can you plan for incapacity?

We all hope to enjoy long, healthy lives, retaining the ability to think clearly and make our own decisions. But life doesn’t always work out that way — which is why you need to prepare for a potential incapacity that could affect your independence and possibly create financial problems for your family.

- So, in thinking about incapacity planning, you may want to consider the following arrangements:
- Health care power of attorney – When you establish a health care power of attorney, you name someone, such as a spouse or adult child, to make medical decisions on your behalf, should you become incapable of making them on your own due to disability or illness. These decisions include choosing doctors, treatments, and care facilities.
 - Financial power of attorney – With a financial power of attorney, you designate someone to assume a variety of duties for you in case you become incapacitated. These tasks include investing, selling property, paying bills and debts, collecting Social Security benefits, and adding or changing insurance policies.

When establishing a health care or financial power of attorney, you may need to decide whether it’s “durable” or “springing.” A durable power of attorney typically takes effect immediately after you sign it, have it notarized and witnessed. So, the person you’ve chosen to have power of attorney — sometimes called an “agent” — can act on your behalf whenever you choose. On the other hand, you could select a power of attorney that “springs” into effect only when you become incapacitated — hence, the “springing” designation.

One issue affecting a springing power of attorney involves the speed with which it can be enacted. Generally,



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it won’t go into effect until a licensed physician declares in writing that the person granting the power of attorney is indeed incapacitated. This could cause a problem if your chosen agent needs to act quickly on your behalf. It’s because of this potential delay that a durable power of attorney is often favored over a springing power of attorney. However, everyone’s circumstances are different, so if you have a choice between a durable or springing power of attorney, you may want to consult with an estate-planning professional for guidance.

Apart from the health care and financial powers of attorney, you may also want to consider one other incapacity-related legal document — a living will. When you establish a living will, you describe the steps you would or wouldn’t want taken to keep you alive, along with other medical decisions, including pain management and organ donation. Obviously, the decision to create a living will is highly personal, involving your feelings about self-sufficiency and the circumstances that define the quality of life you wish to have. But the mere fact of having a living will can relieve your loved ones of having to make potentially agonizing decisions.

Planning for an incapacity may not be the most pleasant task — but it’s an important one. Of course, you may never become incapacitated at all, but by making the proper arrangements, you can make things easier for yourself and your family — just in case.

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 disappearing art of knowing how to get there

I have reached the age when I occasionally give directions that are completely useless to anyone under 40.

“Go down past where the old hardware store used to be, take a right at the building that was the bank, and if you get to the old gas station, you’ve gone too far.”

Perfectly clear. At least to me.

The problem is that the hardware store has been gone for 15 years, the bank became a dentist’s office and the gas station is now an empty lot. This is how directions used to work in small towns. Nobody needed a street address. You needed landmarks. Turn by the white church. Go past the cemetery. Take the second left after the school. If you see the pond, you missed it.

Some directions required an advanced understanding of local history. “Take the road behind Johnson’s.” Johnson’s had closed in 1987, but everybody still called the building Johnson’s because nobody could remember what had replaced it.

Today, of course, we have GPS. You type an address into your phone and a pleasant voice tells you exactly where to go. Usually.

I have developed a complicated relationship with this woman. I appreciate her assistance, but I question some of her decisions. She occasionally attempts to send me down roads that no sensible Massachusetts resident would voluntarily travel. I have looked at certain suggested turns and thought, “You clearly aren’t from around here.”

There are roads in New England that technically qualify as roads but should not be treated as such. They might appear on a map as perfectly reasonable shortcuts. What the map does not explain is that the pavement ends halfway through, there is a bridge that looks as though Calvin Coolidge personally inspected it, and the final mile is wide enough for approximately three-quarters of a Subaru.

A local knows better. The GPS does not.

What fascinates me most is how quickly I have surrendered my own sense of direction. There are places I have driven to several times, yet I could not find them again without my phone. That bothers me.

Years ago, if I drove somewhere once, I paid atten-

LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET By CHARLES

tion. I remembered the turns. I noticed the landmarks. I built a little map in my head. Now I follow the blue line. Turn left in 500 feet. Turn right at the light. Continue for 2.3 miles. I obey without learning anything.

Sometimes, I wonder what would happen if the satellites disappeared tomorrow. I suspect millions of Americans would simply remain wherever they happened to be. There would be people stranded at supermarkets three miles from their houses.

“Do you know how to get home?”

“No, but I think I live northeast of here.”

My generation likes to complain that younger people cannot get anywhere without GPS, but we should probably be careful with that accusation. We are becoming equally dependent. The difference is that we remember when getting lost was part of going somewhere. You could make a wrong turn and drive five miles before admitting something wasn’t right.

This inevitably led to one person in the car saying, “I thought you knew where you were going.” That sentence has probably ended more pleasant Sunday drives than flat tires. Naturally, nobody wanted to stop and ask for directions. That would have required admitting defeat. Instead, we drove around confidently while having absolutely no idea where we were. Eventually, you found a convenience store, a police station or somebody standing beside a mailbox. The directions you received might include three roads that had changed names, a barn that had burned down and somebody named Earl. Yet somehow, you got there.

I don’t want to give up GPS. It is one of those inventions that is undeniably useful, and I have no desire to return to unfolding a road map across the steering wheel while traveling 55 miles per hour. But every once in a while, when I am heading somewhere familiar, I leave the phone alone. I make myself remember. Past the church. Left at the common. Over the little bridge. Right where the old store used to be.

Somewhere along the way, I usually realize that I still know where I am. And I rather like that feeling.

Southbridge Public Schools offers meals at no cost for students

SOUTHBRIDGE — Southbridge Public Schools participates in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. As part of this program, all schools offer healthy meals every school day at no cost to the students due to the implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision for school year 2026-2027. Students receive breakfast and lunch at school without having to pay a fee or submit a household application.

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To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's

name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

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2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
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University of Rhode Island celebrates new graduates during 2026 Commencement

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island celebrated more 4,000 of its newest alumni during the University's 2026 Commencement. Approximately 3,800 undergraduate degrees and 900 graduate degrees were conveyed to students during the ceremonies which took place May 15-17.

Among the graduates were:

Haley Willitts of Fiskdale graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Animal and Veterinary Science

Elise Mazeika of Sturbridge graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Affairs

Vanessa Ricci of Brimfield graduated with a Doctor of Pharmacy

Yetzabeth Beltre Colon of Southbridge was among the graduates, receiving a Bachelor of Arts, Public Relations

Cristina Sage of Charlton graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Animal and Veterinary Science

Kyle Norberg of Charlton graduated

with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering

About the University of Rhode Island

The University of Rhode Island is a diverse and dynamic community whose members are connected by a common quest for knowledge. As a global education leader and the state of Rhode Island's flagship public research institution, URI offers distinctive opportunities designed to meet the global challenges of today's world and the rapidly evolving needs of tomorrow. Founded in 1892, URI now enrolls more than 18,000 students and offers more than 200 degree programs across nine schools and colleges. As a land-and sea-grant institution, URI is a key driver of economic development in Rhode Island and contributes significantly to the health and vitality of the state, the New England region, and the nation. To learn more, visit: uri.edu.

Applications welcome for Southbridge Cultural Council grants

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Cultural Council announces that applications for the 2027 grant funding cycle will become available only online to www.massculturalcouncil.org.

The official submission cycle for 2027 begins on Sept. 1, and ends on Oct. 15 at 11.59 p.m. No applications are accepted after the official deadline established by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Boston. Officially required is that all 2027 applicants review and understand the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Southbridge Cultural Council specific criteria online before submission of the grant application.

The Southbridge Cultural Council

(SCC), a local agency, is part of the overall grant program of the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), a state agency, providing grant allocations to each of the 351 cities and towns of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in support of cultural activities in their respective areas. The Massachusetts Cultural Council is funded by the Massachusetts Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For questions of the 2027 grant cycle, please call Michelle LeBoeuf, SCC Chairperson at 508-764-4803 or Ted Bartlett, SCC Treasurer at 508-764-7909.

Bay Path Continuing Education's fall catalog available

CHARLTON — We are excited to announce that the Fall 2026 catalog is now available at www.baypath.net/bpce. There is something for everyone, featuring offerings in trades exam preparations, continuing education, professional development, health & wellness, art, food & entertaining, financial wellness, and much more.

Here are some of the new classes available:

- Basket Weaving
- Breadmaking and more
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- and more

Additionally, we have returning favorites including:

- Line Dancing
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- Classes for Two People to Take Together

Registration Opens on July 20 – Make sure to sign up early for the classes that

catch your interest so you don't miss this opportunity! You can reach us at www.baypath.net/bpce or call 508-248-5971, ext. 1715. Bay Path has been providing engaging adult continuing education classes for the past 30 years, conveniently located at 57 Old Muggett Hill Rd., Charlton.

Plant with Purpose, design with nature: Native plant garden design with Southbridge Garden Club

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Garden Club is delighted to host Nikki Howell of Lady Fern Farm for a special presentation on Tuesday, Sept. 15, at 1:30 p.m. at the Jacob Edwards Library in Southbridge.

In her talk, "Plant with Purpose, Design with Nature," Howell will explore how to cultivate beautiful, resilient landscapes that support local pollinators and restore vital ecosystems. Attendees will be introduced to the core principles of ecological garden design, including native plant selection, structural layering, and site-specific planning—skills applicable to home gardens, community spaces, and large-scale restoration projects alike.

Lady Fern Farm is a woman-owned nursery dedicated to cultivating Northeast native plants and offering enriching educational workshops. Howell, the owner and founder, brings a wealth of experience to the field with a degree in Sustainable Agriculture and years spent farming in the landscapes of

Tuscany and Long Island. After returning to Worcester, she turned her passion for organic gardening into a mission to preserve biodiversity. Her work at Lady Fern Farm champions the ecological resilience of native species, emphasizing their co-evolution with local wildlife and their essential role in our environment.

The Southbridge Garden Club is a regional organization that welcomes members from across the local community. The Club meets monthly for horticultural programs, garden tours, and seasonal events, including its popular annual Plant Sale in May and Holiday Greens Sale in December. Their mission is "to share an interest in horticulture and to expand our knowledge of gardening for our mutual benefit and that of our local communities."

This program is free and open to the public, though registration is required. To reserve your spot, please visit jacobedwardslibrary.org or call the library at 508-764-5426.

Wales Community Pantry announces first-ever fundraising golf tournament

FISKDALE — The Wales Community Pantry today announced its first annual fundraising golf tournament, inviting the community to swing for a cause that hits close to home. The event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 3, with a 9 a.m. start at Hemlock Ridge Golf Course in Fiskdale.

This is more than a day on the course. It is a chance to stand with neighbors and families who face the stress of not knowing whether there will be enough food for dinner. Or breakfast. In just the past two years, the number of people the pantry serves has roughly tripled. Hundreds of families across Brimfield, Holland, Wales, and more than 20 surrounding communities now rely on the pantry for nutritious food provided with dignity. The pantry also sends weekend food home with 85 elementary students through its Backpack Program and delivers to more than 40 homebound neighbors.

In the immediate area there are no grocery stores and limited public transportation, making the pantry a critical lifeline. Rising costs of food, housing, and healthcare continue to push more households to seek help. The tournament will feature food, prizes, and the chance to make a tangible difference.

"Golf is fun, but this day is about something bigger," said Dave Sweeney, Executive Director of the Wales Community Pantry. "Every player, sponsor, and volunteer helps us keep food on the shelves for families who need it. We're grateful for the community's support and excited to grow this

event into an annual tradition."

Event Details

- Date & Time: Saturday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m. start
- Location: Hemlock Ridge Golf Course, Fiskdale
- Includes: Golf, food, and prizes
- Registration: <https://bit.ly/WalesGolfFundraiser>
- Sponsorships: Available at multiple levels. Contact WalesCommunityFoodPantry@gmail.com or visit the golf tournament registration page for more details.

Players, sponsors, and volunteers are encouraged to sign up early. Sponsorship opportunities offer visibility while directly supporting the pantry's mission. For more information or to discuss sponsorship, email WalesCommunityFoodPantry@gmail.com or visit the golf tournament registration page for more details.

About the Wales Community Pantry

The Wales Community Pantry provides nutritious food with dignity to families, seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, working households, and children in Brimfield, Holland, Wales, and surrounding communities in western Massachusetts. Through open pantry hours, home delivery, and a Weekend Backpack Program, the pantry serves as a vital resource in an area with limited access to grocery stores. For more information, visit the pantry's Facebook page or email WalesCommunityFoodPantry@gmail.com.

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Annual members show on display at Ruth Wells Center



SOUTHBRIDGE — We are very excited to present our annual members show at the Ruth Wells Center in September for the Arts,



BUILDING

continued from page A1
Bullard Tavern and enjoyed by those in attendance.

The degree included several unusual and memorable elements, including a wagon and cemetery scene. The walk to the cemetery was eerie yet exciting, with tiki torches providing the only light along the cart road. The final portion of the degree was completed inside the nearby Meeting House. With its soaring steeple, large front pillars, traditional pews, echoing acoustics, and creaking floorboards, the building captured the feel of an old New England meeting house and helped transport attendees back in time. One Master Mason called it one of the most memorable



Members of the Noble Train of Artillery fire a Revolutionary War-era cannon in front of the Salem Towne House before the ceremony begins.



The cart road and cemetery, lined with tiki torches, with the Meeting House visible just before dusk.

ceremonies he had ever witnessed, noting that the execution and atmosphere could not have been better. From the cannon and musket fire and chiming steeple bell to the candlelit



Most Worshipful Timothy S. McGavin, Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, fires one of the cannon volleys that opened the ceremony.

tiki torches and illuminated cemetery, every detail added to a hauntingly beautiful and historically fitting setting. We extend our sincere appreciation to Brother Sean LeBlanc of Major General Salem Towne Lodge for leading and coordinating this outstanding event, and to all the Master Masons who volunteered and participated in this special degree. Special thanks also go to Sandie and Derek Heidemann, Directors of Research, Curatorial, and Preservation at OSV, for their assistance in making this a memorable occasion. For more information about Freemasonry or to find a lodge near you, please visit our official Web site at www.massfreemasonry.org.

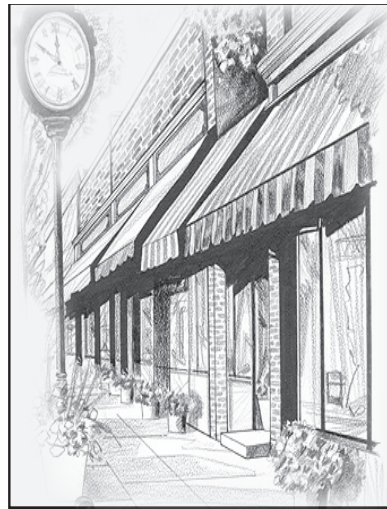
111 Main St. in Southbridge.

The Ruth Wells Center has been promoting the arts since 1997 as the Quinebaug Valley Council for the Arts and Humanities.

Opening reception with refreshments is Saturday, Sept. 5 from noon to 4 p.m. This is free and open to the public. The exhibit will run through the month of September. This is an all-media show, featuring fabrics, textiles, collage, sculpture, mobiles.

We are very fortunate to have so many talented artists in the area. The exhibit will feature many styles and mediums. Be sure to stop in. Artists participating include Helen Boyle, Joshua Boyle, Liz Carroll, Laura Cenedella, Heather Croteau, Niko Day, Barbara Day, Michele Fontaine, Art Furtado, Charlie Gaulin, Corey Klein, Tiffany Lamothe, Barbara O'Brien, Kevin Provost, Robert Siciliano, Lauria Tiberii, Clay Tull, Jim Wilton and Laurel Wolfe.

The Ruth Wells Center has changing monthly exhibits— all free and open to the public.



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St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish introduces family-friendly schedule for 2026–2027 Faith Formation program

FISKDALE — St. Anne–St. Patrick Parish is making it easier for families to participate in both Faith Formation and Sunday Mass with a newly redesigned class schedule for the 2026–2027 program year. By intentionally centering its Faith Formation schedule around the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass, the parish hopes families can more easily worship together while also having more time back in their Sundays.

“At St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish, we want to remove obstacles that make it difficult for families to practice their faith together,” said Fr. Salvator Musande, Pastor of St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish. “Our new schedule allows children to grow in their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith while making Sunday Mass something families can attend together. We warmly invite both returning and new families to join us.”

Registration is now open for Faith Formation for students in Kindergarten through Grade 11. Families are encouraged to register online by September 6, 2026, which will help with class planning, although registration will remain open after that date.

The new class schedule is:

- Grades K–6: Sundays, 8:45–9:45 a.m., before the 10 a.m. Mass.
- Grades 7–11: Sundays, 11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m., after the 10 a.m. Mass.

Faith Formation provides children and teens with age-appropriate instruction in the Catholic Faith, Sacred Scripture, Prayer, Christian living, and preparation for the Sacraments. Online registration is the preferred registration method and is available on the parish website. A paper registration form is also available for families who need one.

For more information or to register, visit



Faith Formation students with leaders in the Parish Center.

www.StAnneStPatrickParish.com or call 508-347-9353.

St. Anne St. Patrick Parish & Shrine is an active parish community serving the Sturbridge area and beyond, offering daily Masses, religious education, and community ministries. The shrine grounds welcome thousands of visitors each year and feature St. Anne Shrine, Stations of the Cross and Crucifix, Hall of Saints, Russian Icon Exhibit, Generations Statue, Angel of Hope Monument, Memorial for the Unborn, Votive

Chapels, weekend Masses celebrated in the outdoor pavilion during the summer, and a religious gift shop open daily from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts names new Director of Strategic Initiatives

WORCESTER — The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts has announced the appointment of Courtney Pelley as the organization’s first director of strategic initiatives.

In this role, Pelley will support the organization’s advocacy, capacity building, communications, and community engagement activities, building on The Health Foundation’s position as a trusted leader on issues affecting the health and wellbeing of Central Massachusetts residents.

“Courtney has spent her career working to advance health equity and address social determinants of health, which are core to The Health Foundation’s mission to improve health in the region,” said Amie Shei, president and CEO of The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts. “Her expertise will be invaluable as we leverage our full suite of philanthropic tools to respond to critical health challenges and implement a new strategic plan aimed at deepening our impact.”

Pelley previously served as senior vice president of external affairs at the Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center where she supported board governance and led strategic partnerships, government relations, and advocacy efforts. She served as an administrative fellow in the Mass General Brigham system, where she worked closely with the Center for Community Health and Health Equity at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and is also a Teach for America alumna.

“Born in Worcester and raised in Leicester, I am proud to call Central Massachusetts home,” said Pelley. “It is an honor to join The Health Foundation team and a privilege to contribute to its mission. I look forward to working alongside our partners and communities to strengthen connections, navigate evolving needs, and advance special initiatives that create meaningful, lasting impact across the region.”

Pelley earned a Bachelor’s degree in neuroscience from Wellesley College and a master’s degree in interpreting and translation studies with a focus in intercultural services in health care from Wake Forest University. She was the recipient of Worcester Academy’s Young Alumni Award in 2019 and was named one of the Worcester Business Journal’s 40 Under Forty in 2018.



Courtney Pelley

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Gateway Players present Paul Slade Smith’s “The Outsider”

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge presents “The Outsider,” written by Paul Slade Smith. Performance dates are Oct. 9, 10, 16, and 18 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 18 at 2 p.m.

The performances are held at Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. in Southbridge. Entrance is on Park Street (around the corner). Directed by Patrick Bracken, Produced by Ed Humphries. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Concord

Theatricals, A Dramatists Play Service Title.

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

ticket sales are available at <https://events.ticketleap.com/tickets/gateway-players/the-outsider>

The Cast features Jordan Miller, Billy Bolster, Eric Hart, Elyssa Miller, Nicole Rawdon, and Peter Amaral.

Ned Newley doesn’t even want to be governor. He’s terrified of public speaking; his poll numbers are impressively bad. To his ever-supportive Chief of Staff, Ned seems destined to fail. But political consultant Arthur Vance

sees things differently: Ned might be the worst candidate to ever run for office. Unless the public is looking for the worst candidate to ever run for office... A timely and hilarious comedy that skewers politics and celebrates democracy.

LEGALS

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES
Under G.L. c.255 Sec.39A Notice is hereby given by Cruise Control Transportation Inc. Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A. that on or after **September 12th, 2026** at Cruise Control Transportation Inc. the following motor vehicle/s will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper’s lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle:

Vehicle: 2009 Chevrolet Express
Vin: 1GCGG25C691132180
Last Registered Owner: Andreia Soaresdos S
708 W Fourth St
Plamyra Nj 08065

Vehicle: 2007 Honda Civic
Vin: 1HGFA16527L057715
Last Registered Owner: Enver Jose Pauline Brito
27 Vernon St
Worcester MA 01608

Vehicle: 2015 Nissan Altima
Vin: 1N4AL3AP1FN906362
Last Registered Owner: Thomas Steidinger
5 Brackett Terr
Plympton MA 02367

Vehicle: 2007 Honda Accord
Vin: 1HGCM56777A114313
Last Registered Owner: Hector Manuel Rodriguez
76 Old Southbridge Rd
Oxford MA 01540

Vehicle: 2007 Infiniti G35
Vin: JNKBV61F47M823869
Last Registered Owner: Brayan J Crisanto Soza
237 W 167th St #8A
Bronx NY 10452

Vehicle: 2013 Ford Focus
Vin: 1FADP3F29DL258521
Last Registered Owner: Maddalena Murray
40 Carriage Path
North Milford CT 06460

Vehicle: 2000 GMC Yukon
Vin: 1GKEK63R7YR206036
Last Registered Owner: Mark E Meleski
19 Rt 197
Woodstock CT 06281

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Last Registered Owner: Adauto Jose De Sousa Filho
94 Hunthill Rd
Waterbury CT 06705-3454

Vehicle: 2001 Suzuki Katana 600
Vin: JS1GN79AX12100269
Last Registered Owner: Gabriel Colon
23 Wilson St Apt 2
Worcester MA

Vehicle: 2002 Honda CR-V
Vin: SHSRD684X2U001286
Last Registered Owner: Natscha Ojeda
3845 Bay Shore Cir
Tavares FL 32778

Vehicle: 2000 Chevrolet Suburban
Vin: 3GNFK16T5YG108978
Last Registered Owner: Tomas A Henriquez
53 Chase Ave 2E
Yonkers NY 10703
August 28, 2026
September 4, 2026
September 11, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
The Sturbridge Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, September 10, 2026 at 6:10pm** on the 2nd Floor of the Center Office Building, 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and via GoTo Meeting, to consider a **Notice of Intent and Stormwater** Permit filed by Ronald Mendez of Graves Engineering, Inc., pursuant to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c. 131, §40) and the Town of Sturbridge Wetlands Protection Bylaw. The applicant NBM Realty, LLC, seeks approval to construct two multifamily residential buildings with associated

appurtenances at **152 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA.** Remote participation information and application materials will be posted at least 48 hours prior to the hearing on the Conservation Commission webpage at www.sturbridge.gov/conservation-commission.
Ed Goodwin
Conservation Commission Chairman
September 4, 2026

Public Notice
Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138, Section 12 of Massachusetts General Laws of a public hearing to be held in the Seaver Rice Meeting Room, first floor of the Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA, on Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. during the regular scheduled Liquor Licensing Board Meeting in regard to an application for a new Liquor License.
This hearing pertains to the Airport Seafood and Grill, LLC., 220 Access Rd., Southbridge, MA, 01550. Anyone wishing to speak will be given the opportunity to be heard.
This notice is also published electronically on www.stonebridgepress.com and on www.masspublicnotice.org
Town of Southbridge
Liquor Licensing Board September 3, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P251 0EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Mary R. McCormack
Date of Death: 05/31/2026
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy** has been filed by **Kerry H. McCormack of Sturbridge 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: .
Kerry H. McCormack of Sturbridge 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 09/22/2026.** 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: August 24, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
September 3, 2026

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL/
SOUTHBRIDGE PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
In accordance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Southbridge Town Council and Southbridge Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the

MacKinnon Council Chambers, 41 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA. The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comments and consider modifying the Southbridge Zoning Bylaw Sections 8.5: Solar as of Right and 8.6: Battery Energy Storage Systems, as well as adding a temporary moratorium for data centers.
A copy of the proposed bylaw changes can be inspected at the Town Manager’s Office from 8:00am to 4:00pm Monday through Wednesday, 8:00am to 8:00pm Thursday, and 8:00am to 12pm on Friday. Anyone wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated.
David Adams, Chair
Southbridge Town Council
David Payeur, Chair
Southbridge Planning Board
August 27, 2026
September 4, 20263

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Christine Diane MacDonald, Deilya Nap to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Geneva Financial, LLC, dated July 31, 2023 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69461, Page 191, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:
Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Geneva Financial, LLC, its successors and assigns to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, recorded on March 8, 2024, in Book No. 70264, at Page 198
JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as Owner Trustee of the Residential Credit Opportunities Trust IX-B, recorded on November 28, 2025, in Book No. 72896, at Page 34
for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on October 2, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 46 and 48 New Boston Road, Sturbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT:

The land in said Sturbridge with the buildings thereon situated on the easterly side of the New Boston Road, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the southwesterly corner thereof, at an iron pipe in the ground at the northwesterly corner of land of Walter L. Szolusha et ux.; THENCE N 0° 20’ W. along the easterly line of New Boston Road 76.01 feet to an iron pipe in the ground; THENCE N. 80° 16’ E. by land of grantor 101.27 feet to an iron pipe in the ground by fence at land of Clifford F. Chamberlain; THENCE Southeasterly along fence by said Chamberlain land about 112.23 feet to an iron pipe in the ground at said Szolusha land; THENCE S. 80° 16’ W. by said Szolusha land 197.17 feet to the point of beginning. ALONG WITH; The land in Sturbridge, situated on the easterly side of New Boston Road, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the southwesterly corner thereof, at an iron pipe in the ground on the easterly side of the New Boston Road at land of grantees; THENCE N. 0° 20’ W. along the easterly line of New Boston Road about 83 feet to the line of a fence at land of Clifford G. Chamberlain; THENCE Southeasterly along the fence of said Chamberlain land about 119. 74 feet to an iron pipe in the ground by fence at land of grantees THENCE S. 80° 16’ W. by land of grantees 101.27 feet to the point of beginning.

For mortgagor’s(s’) title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69461, Page 187.
These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments,

any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.
TERMS OF SALE:
A deposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.
Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, AS OWNER TRUSTEE OF THE RESIDENTIAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES TRUST IX-B
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
27691
September 3, 2026
September 10, 2026
September 17, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P3593EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Donna Louise Dionne
Date of Death:03/02/2025
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Michelle M LaPlante of Southampton 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: .
Michelle M LaPlante of Southampton MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/22/2026.** 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: August 21, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
September 3, 2026

Gateway Players offer new take on “A Christmas Carol”

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge is hosting auditions for “The Spirit of Christmas, or The Story of Ernestina Scrooge” written by Tom Fuller. Audition will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 15 and Thursday, Sept. 17 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St., Southbridge.

Auditions will consist of cold-readings from the script. Each auditioner should come prepared to sing one of their favorite Christmas carols as well. Show dates are Dec. 4, 5, and 6. Rehearsals will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays in September, then Monday and Wednesdays in October and November. All rehearsals will begin at 6:30 p.m. This is an adult and youth production. Directed by Lou-Ellen Corkum and Alex Gardner, and produced by Stephanie Ruggiere. For more information, please contact Gateway at 508-765-4531, or Lou-Ellen Corkum at lcorkum14@gmail.com. Presented by permission from Dramatic Publishing.

This adaptation of Dickens' “A Christmas Carol” was selected by the Playwrights' Center of Minneapolis. It is especially suited to the needs of high schools and community theatres, since it has an assortment of fine roles for women. What happened to Ebenezer Scrooge after the immortal Christmas Day? It seems he married and had a son, who had a son, who moved to America and had a daughter, Ernestina, who is the leading lady of this play.

Cast:
Principle roles:
Ernestina Scrooge – the great-granddaughter of Ebenezer, 40 years old
Bob Kravachic – Ernestina's clerk, father of 3, 30 – 40 years old
Bill McDougal -Ernestina's former boyfriend, 40 years old
Young Ernestina – 15-17 year old girl, appears in Christmas past as a high school student, she also has a solo that she sings
Little Bob – 6-8 year old boy, appears in Christmas present similar to the Tiny Tim character from A Christmas Carol
Ensemble: will have multiple roles including carolers, narrators, Spirit of Christmas Past, Present and Future, students, Kravachic family members, party guests, etc.
6 women - age range of 25-60ish
6 Men - age range of 25-60ish
6 Teens – age range of 12-17

Tantasqua Class of '76 to hold 50th reunion

STURBRIDGE — Tantasqua class of 1976 is celebrating its 50th reunion this year. We want to reach out to all former students.

The big event happens on Sept. 26 at 5 p.m. at Rapsallion Pub, 3 Arnold Rd., Sturbridge.

Fifty years have passed since we walked the halls of Tantasqua Regional HS. We hope to reunite and reconnect with as many fellow classmates/ friends as possible.

Please help us spread the word. If you were a member of the THS Class of '76 or if you know how to reach a classmate, please get in touch.

You can visit our THS Class of '76 Facebook page for more details and to buy tickets. If you are not a Facebook member, you can reach out to Kathy Thompson at katherinethmp@aol.com.

Charlton Lions to serve up popular sausage sandwiches at Old Home Day

CHARLTON — The Charlton Lions Club will again serve their always popular sausage, pepper and onion grinders at Charlton's Old Home Day celebration, which is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (In case of rain, the event will be held on Monday, Labor Day.)

In addition to the grinders, the Lions' booth on the town common will offer breakfast sandwiches and hash brown patties (as long as they last!), hot dogs and sauerkraut, chips, soft drinks and water.

Proceeds from the booth will support The Charlton Lions Club's many contributions to its community – scholarships for local scholars, holiday gifts to needy families, youth programs, support for disaster victims, diabetes camperships, eye research, handicap ramps, and more.

Lions Clubs International is the largest service organization in the world. The Charlton club meets the second and fourth Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Great Room at The Overlook (door 62) and welcomes visitors and potential members. For more information, visit www.charltonlionsclub.com or call Membership Chair Kathy Gallant at 508-248-6479.



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United Way of Central Massachusetts supports Girls on the Run Worcester County

WORCESTER — Girls on the Run Worcester County is pleased to be the recipient of a grant from the United Way of Central Massachusetts Women’s Initiative. This grant aligns with the United Way of Central Massachusetts Women’s Initiative mission of addressing violence in the lives of middle school age girls.

Girls on the Run Worcester County inspires girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident through an evidence-based curriculum that creatively integrates running. The afterschool program teaches girls healthy habits and critical life skills such as positive self-talk, teamwork, and navigating big emotions. Volunteer coaches undergo training to effectively create welcoming environments, support individual growth, and deliver lessons that help girls improve competence, confidence, caring, character, and connection.

Each eight-week season culminates with a team-led Community Impact Project and celebratory 5K event. The end-of-season Girls on the Run 5K provides participants with a tangible sense of confidence that comes through accomplishment and a framework for setting and achieving life goals.

“Girls on the Run Worcester County is incredibly grateful to the United Way of Central Massachusetts Women’s Initiative for this generous investment in our girls and our mission. This partnership allows us to create spaces where girls can build confidence, form meaningful connections, discover their strengths, and develop the skills they need to navigate life with courage and resilience. We are proud to partner with an organization that shares our belief in the power and potential of every girl,” said Karen Spencer, Executive Director, Girls on the Run Worcester County.

United Way of Central Massachusetts Women’s Initiative is dedicated to igniting positive change for adolescent girls (ages nine to 15) through philanthropy, women’s leadership, and advocacy. By supporting Girls on the Run Worcester County, the United Way of Central Massachusetts Women’s Initiative will directly impact girls by helping Girls on the Run Worcester County provide scholarships and high-quality programming for girls who may otherwise be unable to participate due to financial barriers. This funding ensures that more girls have access to a safe, supportive environment where they build confidence, strengthen social and emotional skills, and discover the power of believing in themselves. Together, the non-profit and the United Way of Central Massachusetts Women’s Initiative are excited to continue empowering the lives of young girls throughout Worcester County.

“The United Way of Central Massachusetts Women’s Initiative is proud to partner with Girls on the Run in creating opportunities for girls to build meaningful relationships, connect with positive role models, and develop skills that will serve them throughout their lives. Their work reflects our shared commitment to helping girls across Central Massachusetts thrive,” said Anabelle Santiago, Manager, Women’s Initiative United Way of Central Massachusetts.

Since, 2014, Girls on the Run Worcester County has served and inspired thousands of girls to cross the 5K finish line. In a recent end-of-season survey, caregivers and coaches alike confirmed the power of the program. Ninety-six percent of parents/caregivers agree that Girls on the Run was a valuable experience for their child, and 95 percent of coaches felt that they were making a difference in participants’ lives.

Additionally, a third-party study that surveyed coaches and program site hosts showed that Girls on the Run (GOTR) supports a positive school climate. Of the current teacher coaches surveyed, 99% said that GOTR supports their school climate by encouraging physical activity and health among students and by fostering an environment where students’ thoughts, feelings, and ideas are valued. Ninety-five percent of current program site hosts said GOTR supports their school climate by supporting mental health by building students’ social-emotional capacities and by fostering feelings of connectedness among students.

To learn more about the organization’s mission or how to get involved, please visit www.gotr-worc.org.

About Girls on the Run Worcester County
Girls on the Run Worcester County creates and offers empowering after-school programs designed for girls in grades 3 to 8. The non-profit helps participants build confidence, increase physical activity, and develop life skills like managing emotions, resolving conflicts, and forming friendships. With the support of trained coaches, team members activate their limitless potential through a blend of physical activities and engaging lessons. The research-based curriculum explores topics relevant to eight- to 13-year-old girls, such as expressing empathy and standing up for oneself and others. The program includes a Community Impact Project and culminates with a celebratory 5K. Discover more at www.gotr-worc.org.



Courtesy Photos

A DREAM YEARS IN THE MAKING!

The dream of a new Bobcat Park is finally coming to life! Trinity Catholic Academy recently celebrated the groundbreaking of our new playground—a project made possible through the incredible generosity, dedication, and support of our TCA community. We are so grateful to everyone who has donated, volunteered, spread the word, and believed in this longtime dream. What began as an idea has grown into a project that will bring countless years of play, laughter, and memories to our students.

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Boat America Safe Boating Certificate course offered at Bay Path Oct. 13 & 15

CHARLTON — The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts will be instructing the Boat America course that meets current state mandated educational requirements offered in a two-night format developed to provide the skills and confidence needed to explore the coast and inland waters by boat. Basic knowledge and skills are needed to have safe and enjoyable boating experiences. This course is perfect for families that have

just purchased any type of boat or are planning to in the future, and for the boater keeping up with changes to boating regulations and laws.

The Hanson-Milone Boater Safety Act, signed into Mass. Law, now requires all Mass. motorboat operators over 12 years of age to complete an approved Safe Boating Certificate course before April 1, 2026 for anyone born after Jan. 1, 1998, and by April 1, 2028 for boaters born before Jan.

1, 1998. Enforcement of the new law began on Sept. 1. Personal Watercraft / Jet Ski operators are required to be at least 16 years of age also included. A certificate, required to be carried onboard, will be issued by the state to resident motorboaters.

Successful completion of this BA course offered meets this requirement and inclusion into the Mass. Environmental Police Boating Safety Database, Approved by National

Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) it will also cover the requirements to operate a vessel in most other states & many countries where boating safety education is mandatory including NH, RI and CT. You will receive the additional USCG Auxiliary certification and a possible discount on premiums for most boating insurance companies for successful completion of this course. Some basic marlinespike seamanship (knots etc.) will

also be included as part of the course. Participants 16 years old and under must be accompanied, in person, by a registered parent/guardian. SPACE IS LIMITED so register soon.

Register online at via www.baypath.augusoft.net Personal Enrichment – Sports& Leisure – More recommendations - Class ID 43489 or by calling Sheri Dreitlein (508) 248-5971 email sdreitlein@baypath.net You can also contact our Flotilla Commander Kyle Cimochowski (860) 227-7274 or Marc French at (508) 318-7152 for additional information.

To locate these and other USCG Auxiliary courses go to: https://www.cgaux.org/boatinged/class_finder/index.php

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, please visit www.cgaux.org



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Webster- 18 DiDonato Ave



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MLS #73534105 \$333,000

Featured New Listing!
24 Laurelwood Dr
Webster Lake Waterfront



On the shores of prestigious Webster Lake! Experience ultra-luxury lakefront living with direct water access. This young modern craftsman lake home is masterly designed to maximize panoramic Western views through a two-story architectural tower. The home boasts 3,790 +/- square feet of sophisticated, three-story living space, complete with multilevel waterside decks, a radius stone faced patio, and a tiered landscape with its own waterfall. From morning coffee to sunset gatherings, you will enjoy every minute overlooking your waterfront. The 1,735 +/- square feet main level features a spacious open floor plan, welcoming you flows seamlessly onto an expansive open deck and into an exquisite sun-drenched sitting room. A magnificent primary bedroom suite offers a private full bath, double sink vanity, walk-in closet and dressing room. The purposely designed lower level delivers effortless, large-volume entertainment, featuring a full second kitchen and a sprawling recreation room that opens to a substantial lakeside patio. With 2 additional bedrooms and bath, this level easily serves as a private guest floor. This Lake property is designed to create long-lasting memories! **MLS#73563787 \$1,750,000**

Webster ~ 33 Slater Street



Open House Saturday 12-2

Sprawling fieldstone faced Ranch! Located on a +/- 0.5-acre, 2 car garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths! 2 stone fireplaces/FHW BB heat. Open floor plan kitchen, living rm, dining rm, breezeway w/sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom **MLS # 73500183 NEW PRICE \$464,900**

Webster - 24 Cooper Rd
New Construction- Craftsman Style home



OPEN HOUSE FRIDAY 4 - 6:30

Tucked away on Cooper Rd. Webster Lake with access at Lake-side beach/boat ramp. 3rd of 4 homes being built at this site. Offers 2,155 sq. ft +/- of living area, 7 rms, 4 brs, 3 1/2 baths, 9ft ceiling, wood flooring throughout with ceramic tile baths. Spacious main BR Suite w/ walk-in closet, and private full bath, double sink vanity, finished lower level walk-out w/ slider. Central AC, garage **MLS # 73534271 \$649,000**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



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22 Union Point Snug Harbor Villa
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Charlton Garden Club meets Sept. 14



CHARLTON — Come and join us! The Charlton Garden Club's Monday, Sept. 14 meeting will feature Kate Donovan, owner and consultant of Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens, who will be speaking on 'Canning, Freezing and Dehydrating.'

Do you have an abundant harvest this year? Come find out the easiest and best ways to preserve your bounty. Donovan is a Master Gardener and organic gardener who assists clients on growing food sustainably through lectures, garden planning and development. She continues to experiment each

year with new varieties and preservation techniques.

Charlton Garden Club meetings are free and open to all interested in gardening and related themes. Whether you're a novice or accomplished gardener, the Charlton Garden Club is a great place to meet other gardening enthusiasts, learn about plants and planting, and to share your gardening tips and experiences. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the Charlton Public Library. For more program or for Charlton Garden Club information, email us at charltongardenclub@gmail.com.

Key to the City awarded to QCC employee Rocky Knight



WORCESTER — Rocky Knight, a business leader, nonprofit founder and advocate for youth education, was presented with the Key to the City of Worcester during a ceremony held Thursday, Aug. 27 at Quinsigamond Community College in recognition of her commitment to empowering and educating communities locally and abroad.

The honor continues a Worcester tradition that began in 1924 under Mayor Michael O'Hara and has been maintained by successive administrations. Mayor Joseph Petty presented Knight with the city's symbolic honor in recognition of her leadership, community service and educational impact.

"Rocky's energy and commitment can be felt across every corner of Worcester," said Petty. "Through her educational initiatives and her steadfast support for our small business community, she has continually opened doors for students and aspiring entrepreneurs alike. Presenting Rocky Knight with the Key to the City is our way of saying thank you for her extraordinary leadership and heart for our community."

Knight is the founder of the For One Child Foundation, a nonprofit that has impacted over 1,500 students across Massachusetts and rural Jamaica through educational resources and infrastructure development.

Through the foundation, Knight also runs the SATE program, a weeklong summer camp focused on science, art, technology and entrepreneurship. The program equips teenagers with skills in business planning, marketing, artificial intelligence awareness and public speaking. Program leaders said many students arrive shy and reserved but leave the camp with newfound confidence and leadership skills.

"I believe business and education can build community, solve problems, create opportunities and leave something behind," Knight said. "This is a community story. Everyone in this room, this key to the city has your fingerprints on it too."

In addition to her nonprofit work, Knight is the director of the Auxilium Center for Entrepreneurship at QCC, which provides mentoring and resources to students who are launching or growing a business. She has also served as Director of the CWE-Central MA Women's Business Center and Founder/CEO of Own Your Legacy Ventures LLC, an organization that helps entrepreneurs establish sustainable businesses through branding, consulting and strategic planning.

QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja praised Knight's commitment to service and community development.

"Rocky brings so much energy to everything she does," Pedraja said. "Her entrepreneurial spirit has served the community for so long and we are fortunate that she now brings that spirit to our students through the Auxilium Center at QCC."

Knight was nominated by Maria Lawson, a teacher, clinician, and advocate who serves on the board of the For One Child Foundation. Lawson described Knight as a tireless community leader whose presence can be felt throughout Worcester.

"Seeing how far she's come is an inspiration to us all," Lawson said. "She constantly lifts up others, and this community is blessed to have her. She's a powerhouse."

Her commitment to community empowerment has earned her numerous accolades, including the Worcester Business Journal's 40 Under 40 Award (2024), Worcester Magazine's Woman to Watch (2025) and recognition as a Massachusetts Commonwealth Heroine (2025).

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