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Thursday-Friday, November 12-13, 2026

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Meet Monty

Charlton resident shares experience with Marfan syndrome

CHARLTON — Students living with Marfan syndrome are more than their diagnoses – they are vibrant young people working hard to thrive alongside their peers. But understanding can be hard to find in classroom settings – not just when it comes to connecting with fellow students, but also sometimes among educators who have never heard of Marfan syndrome.

Like most young people, kids and teens with genetic aortic and vascular conditions have diverse interests, hobbies, concerns, and experiences. That's why it's so important for educators to know that Marfan syndrome can impact the whole person – and that means it can also impact what students experience during an average school day, both physically and emotionally.

Student Monty LaBelle of Charlton – who lives with Marfan syndrome – and teacher Lindsey Massey teamed up to spread awareness and created a new quick resource with the aim of helping more educators understand everything from the potential for emergency situations to common vision issues and more complex aspects of Marfan like fatigue. The resource also points out that kids with Marfan are unique: some will present with obvious physical signs like tall stature and long thin limbs, but others like Monty may have less visible outward signs, yet live with multiple body systems impacted by the condition.

Massey knew that for most educators, time is at premium. She wanted to create something real teachers could use to get up to speed on Marfan syndrome. The document she and Monty created is deliberately short and sweet: educators can use it as something of a "quick start" supplement to the Marfan Foundation's full information for families and educators.

"I wanted Monty's future teachers to understand not only how Marfan syndrome may impact her as a student, but also who she is beyond her diagnosis—a girl who loves activities and experiences just like her peers," said Massey.



Courtesy Photo

Monty LaBelle with her doctor, whom she brought to school to educate students.

LaBelle spreads awareness among her peers and her teachers in ongoing ways. She has presented during Marfan Awareness Month alongside her doctor to help more people her age understand that she's a kid who loves doing many different things – but she also has to find specific and safe ways to thrive alongside Marfan syndrome during school and related activities.

"I was also excited that my school recognized Marfan Awareness in February and had it on the Friday Funday dress up day," said LaBelle.

Her presentations to her peers got the attention of her school's superintendent, which resulted in him allowing a flyer for the Marfan walk to be shared across her school district.

"I was nervous, excited and scared to present to him. But he made me feel at ease and asked me a lot of questions," said LaBelle. "I was excited and happy when he said that he would approve the flyer for the Marfan Walk to the entire district."

Likewise, she was really proud and excited to go to Boston and receive a Marfan Awareness proclamation, which she shared with her classmates and teachers.

The Marfan Foundation is working with Massey, LaBelle, and her family to expand the awareness they've created to reach educators, school nurses, parents, and peer students around the country. We are so grateful for all that Monty, her family, and Lindsey have done – and continue to do – to ensure every young person with Marfan has the chance to enjoy optimal experiences at school.

"Teachers don't need to be experts in Marfan syndrome, but they do need to understand how it can impact a student's school experience. I want teachers to see the child first—not the diagnosis—and to understand that with the right knowledge, communication, and support, students with Marfan can thrive in the classroom alongside their peers," said Massey.

The preceding article was provided courtesy of the Marfan Foundation and Monty's mother, Stefanie LaBelle.

WCAC Head Start and Regional Environmental Council bring six garden beds to Southbridge preschool

SOUTHBRIDGE — Worcester Community Action Council (WCAC) Head Start and the Regional Environmental Council (REC) are partnering to install six raised garden beds at WCAC's Head Start center in Southbridge at 25 Cole Ave. The beds will create an outdoor classroom where children ages three to five plant, tend, and harvest fruits, vegetables, and herbs alongside their teachers and families.

The installation date is scheduled for Nov. 13.

At the heart of the project are the children. Planting seeds, watering, and harvesting give 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds a direct connection to where their food comes from, at the age when eating habits first take shape. The garden also becomes a

Turn To **GARDEN BEDS** *page* **A10**

Sturbridge to hold Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 10

STURBRIDGE — The community is invited to attend a Veterans Day ceremony on Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 10 a.m., in front of the historic Old Burial Ground, adjacent to the former Center School building in Sturbridge.

This longstanding local tradition honors the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces, recognizing their service, sacrifice, and dedication to our country.

The ceremony will include remarks by local and state officials, participation by members of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Sturbridge militia, and a traditional musket salute.

Students from Mr. Dan Kay's fourth-grade class at Burgess Elementary School will also participate, helping to place American flags in remembrance of veterans.

For many years, Sturbridge veteran Robert "Bob" Briere helped preserve and carry forward this meaningful community observance. The tradition continues in recognition of his dedication to honoring those who served.

The organizers also extend their sincere appreciation to the Publick House Historic Inn for its generous and continued support of this annual ceremony. Its longstanding commitment to this community tradition has helped make the observance possible year after year.

Parking information: Parking near the entrance to the Old Burial Ground is limited. Additional parking is available at the Publick House Historic Inn, including the parking area behind the burial ground. Those choosing to walk through the cemetery to reach the ceremony are encouraged to arrive well before 10:00 a.m. to avoid disturbing the observance once it begins.

The public is warmly encouraged to attend. The ceremony offers an opportunity for residents of all ages to come together in remembrance, gratitude, and respect for America's veterans.

Early deadlines for Thanksgiving

With the offices of the Charlton Villager to be closed Thursday, Nov. 26 in observance of Thanksgiving, the submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication that week has been moved up to Thursday, Nov. 18 at 4 p.m.

Submissions can be e-mailed to news@stonebridgepress.news.

The staff of the Villager thanks our readers for their cooperation with this change in our usual schedule, and wishes one and all a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Restoration work underway on Southbridge Town Clock

BY JAY ZEBRYK
SOUTHBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SOUTHBRIDGE — In 1866, at the end of the Civil War, the Town of Southbridge installed a turret clock in the steeple of the then brand-new Baptist Church on Main Street. It has been the official Town Clock for 160 years, and rang out the hours until abandoned around 1995.

Restoration work has already started with the belfry. The bronze bell, which was cast in Boston, weighs about 2,000 pounds. Its support bearings were lubricated this spring, and its clapper was taken down and greased this summer.



Courtesy Photo

(Right) Historical Commission member Jay Zebryk with the clapper from Southbridge's Town Clock.

The old, cracked rope pulley was re-created from hard maple. The last operational Bell in Southbridge, it is now rung every Sunday and can be heard from Globe Village to Sandersville.

The clock works, the actual time mechanism, is in relatively good shape except for the obsolete motors. The clock was made by E. Howard of Boston, and was electrified in 1951. These were installed to automate the ringing the bell every hour which eliminated manual winding by Town employees. The most expensive part of the restoration, these motors can be replaced by modern ones.

The dial works, which rotate the hands of the four clock faces, are the most labor-intensive part of the restoration. Fortunately, the gears were frozen in time when the motors burnt out. Still functional, what is needed is disassembly, cleaning and lubrication.

Finally, the town disconnected the electric meter in 2016. The steeple is now dark without power.

The estimated monthly electric bill is $6.05.

As the clock is the property of the Town of Southbridge, the restoration project needs formal authorization in order to proceed.

Jay Zebryk is a member of the Historical Commission and the Historical Society of Southbridge.

For more information, Email: Jay@Zebryk.com.

Sturbridge announces 2027 Hometown Heroes banner program

Applications accepted Nov. 1 through Feb. 14

STURBRIDGE — The Town of Sturbridge Memorials, Monuments, and Markers Committee announces the 2027 Hometown Heroes Banner Program, honoring veterans and active-duty military personnel who have a connection to the Sturbridge community.

The program recognizes the service and sacrifices of military personnel through commemorative banners displayed on utility poles throughout town, including Main Street and other prominent locations.

The 2027 program includes expanded eligibility. Veterans and active-duty service members who currently live or previously lived in Sturbridge may be honored, including those who grew up in town and later moved elsewhere. Military service may have occurred before, during, or after their residency in Sturbridge. Both living and deceased veterans are eligible.

Each banner measures 30 by 48 inches and features the honoree's photograph and military service information. The cost is $250, payable by check, or Money Order made payable to the Town of Sturbridge. The cost includes the banner, mounting bracket, and installation. Installation is anticipated in May 2027, with banners expected to remain on display for approximately three years.

Applications will be accepted beginning Nov. 1 through Feb. 14, 2027.

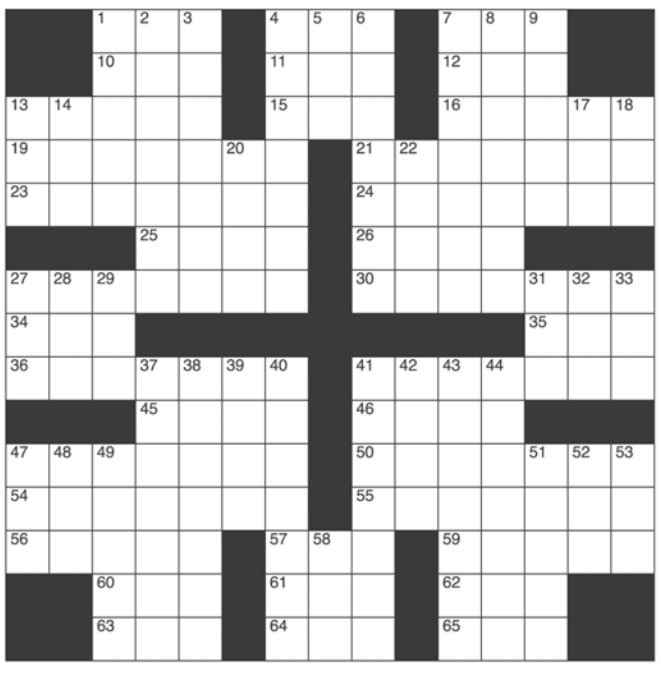
Applicants must submit a completed participation request form, documentation of military service, a digital photograph of the honoree in uniform, and payment.

Application forms and additional program information are available at the town Hall, and through the Town of Sturbridge Web site at www.sturbridge.gov/memorialsmonumentsmarkers-committee.

The Town also accepts voluntary contributions to the Hometown Heroes Revolving Fund to assist eligible veterans who may be unable to afford the cost of a banner.

For additional information, contact Robin A. Grimm, Ph.D., Town Administrator, at (508) 347-2500 or rgrimm@sturbridge.gov.

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Located at Cornerstone Bank
200 Charlton Road (Suite B), Sturbridge, MA
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Tire pressure metric
4. Request
7. Clairvoyance
10. 007's creator Fleming
11. Male adult
12. Norse mythological figure
13. Coffin cloths
15. Breeze through
16. Ladyfish genus
19. We all take them
21. Nobleman's jurisdiction
23. Members of U.S. Navy
24. Rummy-like card game
25. Unable to move
26. Type of horse
27. Parted
30. Woman's cloak
34. South American plant
35. Prohibit
36. Something one takes
41. Dish detergent manufacturer
45. Romanian river
46. Personification of pity
47. Makes upset
50. Discuss again
54. Medical instrument
55. Support
56. Informal term for money
57. Catch doing something wrong
59. Prehistoric people
60. Large African antelope
61. Automobile
62. "Losing My Religion" rockers
63. High-resolution scientific instrument
64. A major division of geological time
65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

1. Indoor plant
2. Fit to be sold
3. Rather
4. Collected
5. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
6. Irish rap group
7. Ageless
8. Lists indicating curriculum
9. Pokes at
13. Public television station
14. They __
17. Cooking tool
18. Separately managed account
20. Iron-containing compound
22. Swiss river
27. Former French coin
28. Electronic countermeasures
29. Taxi
31. Helps little firms
32. Unhappy
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Glowing
38. Lists of items to be discussed
39. An informal body of friends
40. Indispensable quality
41. Neural structures
42. Brews
43. A place to dock
44. Festive singer
47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
48. Northernmost point of mainland Wales
49. Most worthless parts
51. Type of "bear"
52. Take or consume
53. Defunct European organization
58. Swiss river

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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		S	T	M		E	R	A		T	R	Y		

CCUMC offers mouthwatering turkey dinner Nov. 21

CHARLTON — Charlton City United Methodist Church is hosting their delicious annual Turkey Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 5-6:30 p.m. On the menu will be their famous turkey dinner with all the fixings! Turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, peas with pearl onions, stuffing, butternut squash, cranberry sauce and dinner rolls with butter, followed by homemade pumpkin pie topped with whipped cream!

$15.00/adult, $8.00/children six to 12, free for children five and under with a $50 max per family. Always a sell out so reservations or take out are recommended by calling 508 248-7379. Please leave your name and number in case we need to reach you. CCUMC is located at 74 Stafford St., Charlton. Our building is fully handicap accessible with ample parking.

Real Estate

Charlton

$780,000, 90 Berry Corner Rd, Quickly Way Construction, to Barry, Lisa, and Barry, Joseph.

$550,000, 112 Bond Rd, Collado, Elvis, and Collado, Rossy, to Washington, Kristena, and Smajkiewicz, Sandra.

$450,000, 119 Depot Rd, Rodriguez, Nelson, and Rodriguez, Zucannette, to Wolanski, Ashlee, and Obrien, Annette Marie.

$300,000, 69 Main St, Pilling, Darlene, to Quaiel, Patrick M.

$270,000, 98-H Foote Rd, Rauktis Sr, Kenneth C, and Rauktis, Ellen E, to Everhome Legacy Fund LLC.

HOLLAND

$97,300, 16 Pine Tree Dr, Flannery, Jesse J, and Heitman, Chelsea L, to Flannery, Jesse J.

SOUTHBRIDGE

$415,000, 595 Lebanon Hill Rd, Larochelle, Amanda M, to Mattson, Brett Andre.

$405,000, 47 West St, Henry Holdings LLC, to Miranda, Alma.

$329,900, 138 Charlton St, John & Darlene Johnson Ft, and Johnson, John, to Davison, Andrew, and Davison, Brittany.

$252,000, 191-121 Dresser St, Snow, Brian J, to Royal House Inv LLC.

STURBRIDGE

None

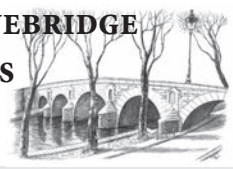
Town of Sturbridge
Department of Public Works
Laborer / Equipment Operator

The Town of Sturbridge is seeking qualified applicants for a full-time position in the Department of Public Works Highway Division. The position will be filled as either a Laborer or Light Equipment Operator based on the successful candidate's experience, skills, and licensing. Competitive wages, union benefits, and advancement opportunities available.

For complete job details, qualifications, and application materials, visit:
www.sturbridge.gov/1200/Job-Volunteer-Opportunities

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Villager Almanac

Open to Close

Southbridge 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, 1**6 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.livingwordhcarlton.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 8:45 a.m., St. Mary's Church
(508) 765-3701

Community Fridge offers free food at Charlton Federated Church

CHARLTON — The Federated Church of Charlton (FCC) has opened a community fridge or refrigerator and shed to provide food and other household items to anyone in need. The concept is simple: people take what they need and share what they can. The main purpose of community fridges is to reduce food insecurity, while also mitigating food waste. The FCC Community Fridge is in a grey shed next to the church parking lot. It is open 24 hours, seven days a week.

"Our community fridge complements other food programs in our community, such as the Charlton Chip-In Food Pantry. Our program allows people to access free, nutritious fresh foods, and household items at any time," said Elizabeth Moran, chair of the FCC diaconate. "We understand that people can feel embarrassed when they are in need. Our program allows people to acquire resources anonymously. There is no sign-in or registration. Simply come and take what you need, when you need it."

The Federated Church of Charlton hopes to work with organizations, businesses and individuals to fill the community fridge and shelves. Acceptable foods include: all produce, unopened frozen foods, breads and pastries, prepackaged frozen dinners, milk, cheese, eggs, non-perishable goods, home cooked meals. Please label each meal with the ingredients. Clear packaging is preferred. Foods that are unacceptable include: moldy fruits, vegetables, and bread and previously opened foods. The FCC also accepts household items such as canned goods, boxed foods, soap and shampoo, paper supplies, toothpaste, and shaving supplies.

For more information, please call the church at 508-248-5550 or email emoran3@charter.net or office@fed-church.org.

About the Federated Church of Charlton (FCC)

The Federated Church of Charlton is a federation of the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association in Christian worship together. The Church descends from several churches active in the Charlton community over the centuries starting in 1761. Worship services are held on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. The church also has an active Sunday School and youth program. The church is located at 64 Main St., at the northern end of Charlton's town common.

Helping Hand Society invites community to Christmas Fair

CHARLTON — Charlton Helping Hand Society Inc. invites all to their Annual Christmas Fair on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Dodge Chapel, 81 Hammond Hill Rd. in Charlton.

Our members, friends and businesses have been very generous this year with donations. Our "Santa's Village" is loaded with festive bargains and our popular "Cookie Table" will offer dozens of holiday choices. We also have raffle tables with "too many to mention" prizes, but something for everyone. Prizes will be drawn the day of the fair.

Come one, come all on this fun day and help the Charlton Helping Hand Society help others in our community.

Music Bingo at Holland Community Center

HOLLAND — The Friends of the Holland Community Center will be hosting a Music Bingo event with Mackenzie from Wise Guys Trivia on Saturday, Nov. 14 from 6-8 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The Community Center is located at 40 Brimfield Rd. in Holland.

This fundraising event has been a huge success in the past, so we suggest you purchase your tickets ahead of time by calling 413-245-3163 or stopping by the Community Center Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (We are open most evenings, you may call for evening hours). We will have a limited amount of tickets available at the door at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets are $ 10 and you will automatically be included in the door prize drawing.

We will have a table with raffle baskets and gifts. Our local baker "Laniecakes Homemade Desserts" will be on hand selling her delectable treats as well. All proceeds benefit programs and events for all ages held at the Holland Community Center.

Charlton City UMC welcomes Voices of the Master

CHARLTON — Charlton City United Methodist Church will be hosting an afternoon of uplifting music by the well known artists, Voices of the Master, on Nov. 14 from 2-4 p.m. They are a music ministry of the Greenville Baptist Church. Admission is free but there will be a free will offering. The music starts at 2 p.m., followed by a time of fellowship, conversation with the artists and light refreshments.

Charlton City UMC is located at 74 Stafford St., Charlton, and is handicapped accessible with lots of free parking. For any questions, please call 508 248-7379.

Local students enroll at College of the Holy Cross

WORCESTER — The College of the Holy Cross is excited to welcome the following area residents as a member of the College's Class of 2030.

Andrew Henault of Charlton

Nicholas Jalbert of Charlton

Phoebe Lawendowski of Charlton

Haley Truax of Fiskdale

Frances Dyer of Southbridge

At 860 students, the Class of 2030 includes students from 39 U.S. states and territories and 5 different countries. This incoming class represents one of the most academically accomplished classes in the College's history.

Admission to the Class of 2030 was more competitive than ever with a record-breaking more than 10,600 applications received and a highly-selective 17 percent acceptance rate.

The new Crusaders have distinguished themselves through community service, leadership roles, and diverse participation in areas like the arts, music and athletics.

"Welcome, Class of 2030!" College President Vincent D. Rougeau told the class during First-Year Convocation. "As you settle into your residence halls, find your way around campus, meet new people, and experience college life here on the Hill, know that you are joining a global community of learners and educators and that your education is meant to serve not only you, but society as well."

About Holy Cross

The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester is among the nation's leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,200 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

Troop 163 to hold drive-thru baked potato fundraiser

STURBRIDGE — Troop 163 of Sturbridge will hold its annual drive-thru baked potato fundraiser on Sunday, Nov. 15 at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Sturbridge from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

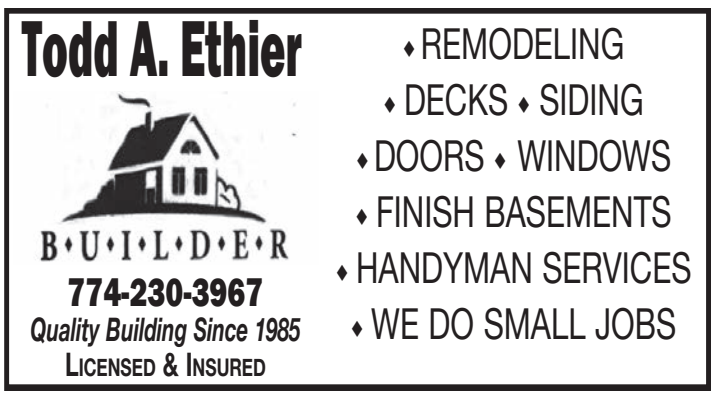
Each meal will include a baked potato with assorted toppings (sour cream, cheese, bacon bits, and green onions), a cup of soup or chili, and a dessert. Tickets are $12 each; a family pack of four meals is $44.

Tickets must be purchased in advance, and can be ordered by contacting a scout in the troop or by emailing Troop163 Sturbridge@gmail.com.















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OPINION

Seeing the child, not the diagnosis

Every child deserves to walk into a classroom feeling accepted, understood and capable of succeeding. For most students, that means having teachers who recognize their strengths, encourage their interests and help them overcome challenges. For children living with rare medical conditions, however, it can also mean having to explain aspects of their lives that their classmates and even their teachers may know very little about.

A young Charlton student is helping change that, and her efforts offer an important lesson about compassion, understanding and the power of speaking up.

Monty LaBelle lives with Marfan syndrome, a genetic condition that can affect multiple systems in the body, including the heart, blood vessels, eyes and skeleton. Although some individuals have recognizable physical characteristics, others may show few outward signs of the condition. The challenges they face are not always visible to those around them. That can make an ordinary school day more complicated than most people realize.

Working with teacher Lindsey Massey, Monty has helped create a concise educational resource designed to give teachers a better understanding of Marfan syndrome and how it can affect students in the classroom. Their goal is not to turn educators into medical experts, but to provide practical information that can help them recognize potential difficulties, respond appropriately and support students without allowing a diagnosis to define them.

It is a thoughtful approach to a problem that extends well beyond one medical condition. Teachers are asked to do an extraordinary amount. They must manage classrooms, deliver lessons, meet academic standards, communicate with families and respond to the individual needs of students. Even the most dedicated educator cannot reasonably be expected to arrive with extensive knowledge of every rare disease or medical condition.

What educators can do, however, is remain willing to learn. Sometimes, that means understanding why a student may tire more easily than classmates. Sometimes it means recognizing that a child who appears perfectly healthy may be dealing with physical limitations that are not immediately apparent. Other times, it means knowing when an activity requires modification or when a medical concern needs immediate attention.

Most importantly, it means remembering that a student's medical history is only one part of who that student is.

Monty's efforts are particularly meaningful because she has chosen to become an advocate rather than remain silent about her experiences. She has spoken to classmates, helped raise awareness during Marfan Awareness Month and even met with her school superintendent to encourage broader recognition of the condition.

For a young person, standing before adults and explaining something so personal takes considerable courage. Doing so while hoping to make life easier for other children demonstrates a maturity that deserves recognition.

There is also something especially encouraging about the partnership between Monty and Massey. Too often, discussions about educational accommodations focus exclusively on policies, procedures and requirements. Those are important, but meaningful inclusion also depends on relationships. It requires teachers who listen, students who feel comfortable expressing their needs and families who know their concerns will be taken seriously.

The collaboration in Charlton illustrates what can happen when those relationships work as they should. It also raises a broader question for schools throughout Southbridge, Sturbridge, Charlton and neighboring communities: How many students are navigating challenges that others cannot see?

Some live with chronic illnesses. Others have learning differences, sensory difficulties or physical conditions that require adjustments throughout the school day. Their experiences vary widely, but they share a basic need to be understood without being singled out or underestimated.

Creating that environment does not always require expensive programs or sweeping institutional changes. Sometimes it begins with a conversation, a short informational document or a teacher willing to ask a thoughtful question.

The Marfan Foundation's interest in sharing Monty and Massey's work more broadly suggests that a practical idea developed in one local school community may eventually help students far beyond Charlton. That possibility is worth celebrating.

But perhaps the most important achievement has already occurred. A student recognized an opportunity to improve understanding, found an educator willing to help and turned her personal experience into something that could benefit others.

Monty LaBelle is helping teach a lesson that belongs in every classroom: Understanding begins when people are willing to listen, and inclusion becomes meaningful when every child is recognized for the person they are, rather than the challenges they face.

Put your finances in position for 2027



Financial Focus

Trevor Nielsen

As 2026 comes to a close, now is a good time to look for opportunities to strengthen your financial plan before the new year. A year-end review can help ensure your financial decisions remain aligned with your long-term goals, identify potential planning opportunities, and help you enter 2027 with greater confidence.

Here are several planning opportunities:

Reflect on your progress. Start your review by evaluating how the past year impacted your long-term plan. Consider how any life changes may have affected your goals and update your strategies, as necessary.

Consider your tax situation. Work with your financial advisor and tax professional to understand your tax situation and identify year-end opportunities that may benefit you. If you're 73 or older, be sure to take any required minimum distributions (RMDs) if necessary.

Increase contributions to your savings goals. Consider increasing contributions to your health savings account (HSA), workplace retirement plan or, if you're saving for education, a 529 plan. These accounts can help build financial security and may offer tax advantages. Even small increases today can make a meaningful difference over time.

Maximize your impact. If giving to others is one of your goals, consider charitable giving or annual gifting strategies to help support the people and causes you care about while also providing potential tax benefits. And note that tax rules have changed for charitable donations: with a standard deduction, you can deduct up to $1,000 of cash donations ($2,000 for couples filing jointly) and if you itemize, you can only deduct aggregate donations that exceed 0.5% of your adjusted gross income, up to the applicable limit. These donations must be made to a qualified charitable organization.

Monitor your long-term strategy. If you haven't done so this year, now is as good a time as any to review your portfolio for the year to make sure it is still in line with your goals, time horizon, and comfort with risk. If need be, you can rebalance. You might also want to check beneficiaries on your financial accounts, investments, and insurance policies, especially if your family or circumstances have changed.

Work with your professionals. Making necessary year-end moves in ways that benefit your situation can feel complicated. Your financial advisor and tax professional can help you identify opportunities and avoid pitfalls.

A few proactive steps before 2027 can help you enter the new year with greater confidence and a clearer understanding of where you stand financially. By reviewing your progress, evaluating tax and savings opportunities, and confirming your long-term strategy remains on track, you can start the year focused on what matters most to you.

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

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors, cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

The trouble with being a regular

Lanterns Along Main Street

By CHARLES

There's a certain comfort in being a regular somewhere. A diner, a coffee shop, a barbershop, even the little store where you stop for a newspaper or a gallon of milk. After enough visits, the people behind the counter recognize your face, maybe remember your name, and occasionally know what you want before you open your mouth.

That last part can be a blessing or a curse.

I remember walking into a place one morning, fully intending to order something different for breakfast. I was feeling adventurous. Maybe I'd have an omelet instead of my usual eggs and toast. Perhaps even pancakes, although I wasn't quite ready to throw caution completely to the wind.

Before I could sit down, the woman behind the counter spotted me and announced, "The usual?"

Well, what was I supposed to say?

She seemed so pleased with herself for remembering, and I didn't have the heart to disappoint her. So I nodded, sat down and ate the same breakfast I'd been eating for years.

My brief flirtation with excitement was over before it began.

That's the thing about becoming a regular. Eventually, you develop a reputation, and once you've got one, people expect you to live up to it.

The fellow who always orders his coffee black had better not suddenly ask for cream and sugar. The woman who buys the same lottery ticket every Friday might cause genuine concern if she switches numbers. And heaven help the man who decides to get his hair cut somewhere different after visiting the same barber for 20 years. He'll have some explaining to do.

I suppose there's something old-fashioned about all this, and I mean that in a good way. We live in a world where so much of our business is conducted with machines. We order things from websites, pay bills without speaking to anybody and occasionally find ourselves arguing with automated telephone systems that insist they understand what we're saying.

They don't, by the way.

I've spent enough time shouting "representative!" into a telephone to know that artificial intelligence still has a few things to learn about human patience. That's why I appreciate walking into a familiar place and having an actual person look up and say hello.

It doesn't have to be a grand conversation. A little talk about the weather, a complaint about the price of groceries or a question about how the family is doing will do nicely. And there's usually a fair amount of gentle teasing involved.

If you show up wearing a new jacket, somebody's bound to ask whether you've come into money. If you arrive ten minutes later than usual, they'll want to know if you overslept. And if you happen to bring your wife along, they'll probably tell her something embarrassing about you.

That's the price of membership.

Of course, being a regular also means people notice when you're missing.

Years ago, I knew a fellow who stopped at the same place every morning on his way to work. Same time, same coffee, same seat if it was available. One morning, he didn't show up, and by the next day, somebody had started asking around to make sure he was all right.

Turned out he'd taken a couple of days off and gone fishing. He returned to find that his absence had caused more excitement than his presence ever did. We laughed about it, but I've thought about that story more than once. There's something reassuring about knowing that somewhere in the world, somebody might notice if you don't turn up. Not because you're important or famous or particularly interesting, but because you've become a familiar part of somebody else's day.

I think that's one of the things we sometimes overlook about small-town life. We talk about the big events, the celebrations and the changes taking place around us, but a good deal of what makes a place feel like home happens in those ordinary little encounters.

The cashier who remembers you prefer paper bags. The barber who asks about your wife. The waitress who knows you like your toast dark, even though you've never understood why that's such an unusual request.

None of these things will make the evening news, and that's probably as it should be. Still, they count for something.

As for me, I've decided that the next time somebody asks whether I want the usual, I'm going to surprise them.

I'm going to look them straight in the eye and order something completely different. Maybe pancakes. Although, now that I think about it, the eggs and toast are pretty good. And I wouldn't want anybody worrying that I'd lost my mind.

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.

Lydia Julian of Holland appointed to Nichols College Senior Advisory Council

DUDLEY — Lydia Julian of Holland is one of 14 students appointed by Nichols College President Bill Pieczynski to the 2026-2027 Nichols Senior Advisory Council (NSAC).

The students selected are accomplished seniors who bring a range of experiences, perspectives and contributions to the Nichols community. They will meet monthly with the president and members of the President's Council, serving as an advisory group as the College plans for the future.

"The Nichols Senior Advisory Council is one of the opportunities I look forward to most each year. What makes NSAC particularly valuable is that it gives students a seat at the table while challenging them to think about Nichols beyond their individual experiences," said Pieczynski. "Their perspectives help inform our decisions and strengthen the College. At the same time, we're giving these students a firsthand look at leadership and decision-making. It's a two-way learning experience, and I'm excited to work with this year's cohort."

Upcoming NSAC meetings will include discussions on the College's new initiatives as well as broader trends and issues in higher education. In addition to helping Nichols enhance the overall experience for all members of its community, the meetings are also intended as an opportunity for students to further strengthen their communication and presentation skills, which are critical to career advancement.

Each year, one NSAC member also has the opportunity to be selected to serve a two-year term on the Nichols College Board of Trustees following graduation, providing an important continuation of student leadership at the College's highest level of governance.

About Nichols College

Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association of Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols transforms today's students into tomorrow's leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu

Come to give blood, experience the magic of Trans-Siberian Orchestra

WORCESTER — The American Red Cross and Trans-Siberian Orchestra invite eligible donors to make an appointment to give blood, platelets or plasma and enjoy a special opportunity to experience the magic of the holiday season while helping save lives.

When donors hurry in to give blood, platelets or plasma, they can earn at least 100 points through the Red Cross Donor Rewards program, which can be used to redeem two tickets to select performances of Trans-Siberian Orchestra's The Ghosts of Christmas Eve: The Best of TSO and More, while supplies last. Trans-Siberian Orchestra will perform in Worcester on Nov. 28, for the 7:30 p.m. show at the DCU Center. (To learn more about Donor Rewards, visit RedCrossBlood.org/rewards.)

"The Red Cross is in constant need of blood donations, and it's so important that we all step up," said Trans-Siberian Orchestra's Al Pitrelli. "You give blood to support a wonderful cause and in exchange, you come spend the holidays with us. It's a win-win!"

Quantities are limited! To make an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS or download the Blood Donor App.

The holiday season can be a challenging time to ensure the blood supply remains stable, even as busy schedules may prevent regular donors from giving. "Blood donors make a profound difference in the lives of patients every day," said Darren Irby, executive director of brand partnerships for the Red Cross. "This special Donor Rewards offer is a meaningful way to thank those who come to roll up a sleeve to help others while giving them the chance to enjoy an unforgettable holiday experience, thanks to the generosity of TSO."

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information about our work, please visit redcross.org/MA or CruzRojaAmericana.org, or follow us on social media.

Gateway Players presents a new take on a holiday classic

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge presents "The Spirit of Christmas, or The Story of Ernestina Scrooge," written by Tom Fuller. Performance dates are Dec. 4 and 5 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 6 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 Lou-Ellen Corkum and Alex Gardner, and produced by Stephanie Ruggiere. Presented by permission from Dramatic Publishing.

Tickets are $18 for adults and $15 for seniors and youth under 18. Tickets may be reserved by calling Gateway at 508-764-4531. Online credit card ticket sales are available at https://events.ticketleap.com/tickets/gateway-players/the-spirit-of-christmas-or-the-story-of-ernistina-scrooge

The cast consists of Sarah Tonkin, Nathan Goulart-Pasco, Jonathan Martin, Emily Betty, Greta Thompson, Jim Douglas, Mikaila Baca-Dorion, Hannah Bilis, Lillian Benoit, Maritza "Mari" Cordero, Chris McTigue, Lucas Betty, Evelyn "Evie" Alesbrook, Lola Rabitor, Lynn Boucher, Reilly Ireland, Linda Bouthillier, Peter Cooper, Tiffany Betty.

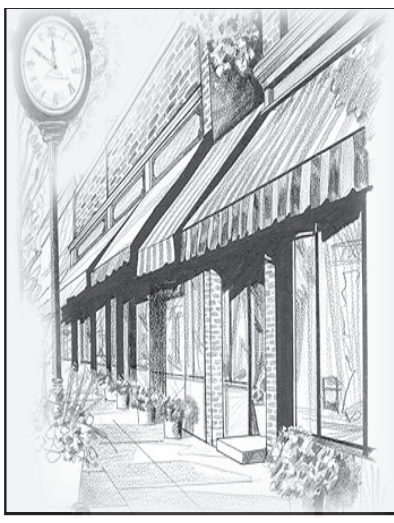
This adaptation of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" was selected by the Playwrights' Center of Minneapolis. What happened to Ebenezer Scrooge after the immortal Christmas Day? It seems he married and had a son, who had a son, who moved to America and had a daughter, who is the leading lady of this play. The story follows Ernestina Scrooge, the cold-hearted and miserly great-granddaughter of Ebenezer Scrooge, who runs the family's loan company office. Much like her ancestor, Ernestina is visited on Christmas Eve by the ghost of Ebenezer Scrooge along with the Spirits of Christmas Past, Present, and Future, who guide her through a path of redemption.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church announces Bluegrass Services

STURBRIDGE — The Rev. Dan Purtell will officiate two upcoming Bluegrass Services to be held on Sunday, Nov. 8, and Sunday, Dec. 13.

Both Bluegrass Services will begin at 9 a.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 345 Main St., Sturbridge (Park and Ride). Coffee and refreshments will follow in the fellowship hall. All are welcome!

Services are also livestreamed on Bethlehem's Facebook page. Please visit bethlehemsturbridge.org.



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Grade 5 students at Saint Joseph share stories of the saints

WEBSTER — On Friday, Oct. 30, Saint Joseph School's fifth-grade students marked the approaching Solemnity of All Saints with presentations during the school's weekly Mass at Saint Joseph Basilica. The students had learned about the lives of saints and other important figures in the Church, then shared their chosen subjects with the school community.

Under the guidance of fifth-grade instructors Mrs. Susan Gallivan and Miss Norah Brennan, students explored how examples of holy men and women can inspire people to live with faith, courage, service, and compassion. Rev. Richard Polek, pastor and headmaster of Saint Joseph School, was the celebrant.

Students also took part in the liturgy. Addison Goulet, Maya Jackson, Kenny Maurer, Mila Androlewicz, Maksymilian Bujala, Callum Bergman, Jackson Lovett, and Nella Copland served as readers. Tamara Giteru, Logan Derry, Kelsey Cormier, Oliver Smith, Joanna Thrun, Oliver Delgaudio, Patrick Deptula, and Quincy Middleton led the Prayer of the Faithful. Olivia Perry, Olivia Guito, Paulina Piascik, and Keziah Anobah presented the offertory gifts.

Among Mrs. Gallivan's students, Mila Androlewicz portrayed Mary, Undoer of Knots; Avery Benson portrayed Pope Saint John Paul II; Callum Bergman portrayed Saint Damien of Molokai; Maksymilian Bujala portrayed Saint John Neumann; Nella Copland portrayed Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton; Oliver Delgaudio portrayed Saint René Goupil; Patrick Deptula portrayed Blessed Fulton J. Sheen; Olivia Guito portrayed Our Lady, Star of the Sea; Quincy Middleton portrayed Saint Joseph; Olivia Perry portrayed Our Lady of the Rosary; Oliver Smith portrayed Saint Junípero Serra; and Joanna Thrun portrayed Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In Miss Brennan's class, Jamarion Pierre portrayed Saint René Goupil; Jackson Lovett portrayed Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos; Logan Derry portrayed Saint Damien of Molokai; Kenny Maurer portrayed Saint John Lalande; Addison Goulet portrayed Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini; Kelsey Cormier portrayed Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne; Tamara Giteru portrayed Saint Marianne Cope; Paulina Piascik portrayed Saint Catherine of Bologna; Maya Jackson portrayed Saint Teresa of Ávila; Keziah Anobah portrayed Saint Rose of Lima; Edie portrayed Saint Hildegard of Bingen; and Amalina Khozami portrayed Dorothy Day.



Courtesy Photo

Saint Joseph School's fifth-grade students gather with Rev. Richard Polek, pastor and headmaster, on the altar of Saint Joseph Basilica after sharing their All Saints presentations during Mass on Oct. 30.

The presentations helped students see that these stories are more than accounts of the past. They offer examples of faith and service that can guide people in their own lives. As the Saint Joseph School community prepared to celebrate All Saints Day, the fifth graders' work reminded everyone to keep learning from these examples and to put faith into action through daily acts of kindness and care for others.

QCC receives nearly $2 million to support parenting students and their children

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College was recently awarded a Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program (CCAMPIS) grant of more than $1.9 million. The College will use the grant to fund its Parent Success at QCC (PSQ) program, which will provide access to childcare for eligible students.

"At QCC, over 30 percent of students are parents, many of whom work full-time and part-time jobs," QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja said. "Due to the high cost of living and low availability of childcare, these students are often in the difficult position of missing classes to take care of family responsibilities. The PSQ program will help alleviate this challenge for many parents by providing childcare assistance and support services, enabling them to remain enrolled, complete their studies, and graduate. In turn, they will be better positioned to advance their careers, improve their families' quality of life, and contribute meaningfully to their communities."

PSQ is a collaborative initiative that brings together many areas of QCC such as Parenting Student Support Services, The Children's School: Early Childhood Education Lab School, and various other departments of the college. The program will also work with licensed childcare providers in the community to subsidize care for eligible students.

"Having to be in two places at the same time has been difficult," a recently surveyed QCC student said. "…I have to drop my child off at school and be at clinical during my nursing rotation at nearly the same time."

Associate Director of Parenting Student Support Michelle Brennan has seen studies showing that more than 50 percent of student parents who don't receive proper support



end up leaving school without a degree. However, at QCC, 80 percent of students Brennan has supported have continued their education.

"Our goal is to empower these students who are working incredibly hard to improve the lives of their families," Brennan said. "We've seen that quality childcare and education promote upward mobility and increased earnings for parents, and eventually for their children as well. "

The PSQ program will utilize a case management approach to connect students with community resources, build peer support networks, and provide workshops covering topics such as child development and time management.

According to Brennan, services will be integrated to benefit the entire family. She described the "whole-family" model used in education and social services, which offers support to both parents and children to foster educational success and financial security.

"When we run a workshop on a topic such as financial literacy, children will have a parallel activity and then come back together for a family conversation on the topic. We're helping them build the skills to plan for their families together," Brennan said.

Brennan also noted that funding the PSQ program through CCAMPIS will help fill in the gaps that are often present between the K-12 and higher education schedules.

"Finding childcare when QCC is in session and my daughter does not have school is super hard, whether that be school vacations, professional development days, or snow days. I have missed several days of school as a result," said another QCC student.

The four-year CCAMPIS grant is issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (HHS/ACF) on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education (ED).

Seeing is believing

More than 100 people get free eyeglasses and prescriptions from QCC, Eyebot and 39Dollar glasses



Courtesy Photo

QCC student Daniela Lora (left) received free prescription glasses at QCC and Eyebot's event, then brought back her mother, Lucia Garcia, also a QCC student, to get a pair as well.

WORCESTER — More than 100 members of the Quinsigamond Community College community received free vision tests, prescriptions, and glasses last week through a partnership between QCC and vision care technology company Eyebot.

The event was part of Eyebot's Seeing is Believing Tour, which partnered with online retailer 39Dollar Glasses to provide free vision care services to more than 175people across multiple states. QCC served as the tour's final stop and drew its largest turnout.

Participants underwent a brief vision screening using an Eyebot kiosk and received a doctor-reviewed prescription within 15 minutes. Additionally, prescription glasses will be shipped directly to their homes within two to three weeks.

According to Heather Lukas, director of health and wellness at QCC, the event was particularly impactful for individuals who were unable to take time off work to go to an eye doctor, or who can't afford the cost of prescription eyewear.

"Witnessing more than 100 individuals receive vision screenings, prescriptions and glasses in a single day was incredible," Lukas said. "As a nurse, moments like this are especially meaningful because you get to see firsthand the difference that access to care can make in someone's life."

For one student, the experience was worth sharing. After completing her vision screening at the kiosk, Daniela Lora went home and returned with her mother, Lucia Garcia, also a QCC student. Both successfully completed the screening and left with new glasses on the way.

"It's events like these that help us get one step closer to our mission of making vision care accessible to everyone, equally," said Nick Leonard, head of marketing at Eyebot. "And the QCC team just played a huge role in making that happen."

Data from Eyebot showed that many participants had gone without eye care for long periods of time. Approximately 70 percent had not had an in-person eye test in a year or more, and 39% had not seen a doctor in two years or more.

"For many participants, this was more than just a vision test," Lukas said. "It was an opportunity to address a need that may have otherwise gone unmet, and being able to help make that happen was incredibly rewarding."

The program is aimed at adults ages 18 to 64 who face barriers such as cost, time off work, distance or a lack of local providers. The test does not replace a comprehensive eye exam and at this time, is not for contact lens prescriptions.

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St. Anne and St. Patrick Parish to celebrate 140th anniversary with special dinner



STURBRIDGE — St. Anne and St. Patrick Parish invites the public to celebrate its 140th anniversary at a special dinner on Wednesday, April 14, 2027, at the Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge. The event runs from 5 to 9 p.m., with cocktail hour from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. A cash bar will be available.

Tickets are $75 per person and include a plated dinner and dessert. Tickets are available online at stannestpatrickparish.com/event-tickets or by calling the parish office at 508-347-7338.

The dinner menu includes a mixed green salad with house-made maple vinaigrette dressing and the Publick House's famous pecan sweet rolls and dinner rolls. Guests can choose from three entrée options: butter crumb scrod with lemon-dill sauce; orchard chicken with cornbread-sausage stuffing and a velvety cider-cream sauce; or butternut squash ravioli with julienne vegetables and a creamy Amaretto sauce, a vegetarian option. Dessert will be deep-dish apple pie with ice cream.

"We are grateful to celebrate 140 years of faith, prayer, and community at St. Anne and St. Patrick Parish," said Father Sal Musande, pastor. "This anniversary dinner will be a wonderful opportunity to bring people together in celebration of our parish's rich history and continued mission. We are also pleased to welcome special guests who will join us for this milestone occasion. We invite parishioners, former parishioners, friends, and members of the wider community to celebrate with us."

For 140 years, St. Anne and St. Patrick Parish has served as a place of worship, prayer, and community in the Sturbridge area. The anniversary celebration honors the generations of parishioners, clergy, and supporters who have helped shape its history and sustain its mission. The dinner offers an opportunity to reflect on this legacy while looking forward to the parish's future.

St. Anne and St. Patrick Parish offers daily Mass, religious education, and a variety of community ministries. Visitors are welcome to explore St. Anne Shrine, the Memorial for the Unborn, the Hall of Saints, the Russian Icon Exhibit, the Votive Chapel, the Generations Statue, and the Angel of Hope Monument. The Daily Rosary is recited at 3 p.m. in St. Anne's Church, and weekend Masses are celebrated in the parish's outdoor pavilion during the summer. The parish's religious gift shop is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Charlton City UMC hosting Seasons of Joy Fair



CHARLTON — The Seasons of Joy Fair at Charlton City United Methodist Church is happening Saturday, Dec. 5 at 74 Stafford St. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Visitors are welcome to this warm and festive affair where you will find unique gifts for everyone. You will find all kinds of things from cookies by the pound and baked goods to handmade crafts and Christmas items galore. You'll find gifts for all ages at Gramma's Attic, the jewelry boutique, and our Silent Auction. Don't forget to stop and enjoy a delicious lunch at our café.

We hope you will join the festivities to kick off your holiday season. The church is handicapped accessible, and plenty of free parking is available.

LOCAL FOLKS
Locally owned businesses here to serve you!

Friday's Child



Paul
Age 1
Registration #9291

Paul is an adorable baby with a sweet, easy-going temperament. He enjoys teething toys and toys that he can spin with his hands. Paul loves sensory bubble timers and listening to nursery rhymes, and music is one of his favorite activities. His favorite songs are from "Super Simple Songs" on YouTube. When Paul likes a song, he will wave his hands around as if he is conducting an orchestra. Paul is easily soothed, enjoys engaging with others, and feels comfortable in new environments. His gentle personality and love of music make him a joy to be around.

https://www.mareinc.org/child/32358211403

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.

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Sturbridge Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, November 24, 2026 at 6:20** on the 2nd Floor of the Center Office Building, 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and via GoTo Meeting, to consider a **Request for Determination of Applicability** filed by Katy Wilkins, of Tighe & Bond, pursuant to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c. 131, §40) and the Town of Sturbridge Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

The applicant seeks approval to conduct a single geotechnical exploratory boring at **378 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.

Ed Goodwin
Conservation Commission Chairman
November 13, 2026

Notice of Public Hearing Charlton Water & Sewer Commission

The Charlton Water and Sewer Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 2, 2026, at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held via Zoom Meeting ID: to discuss and consider increasing the Sewer Rates.

For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen/watch the meeting may do so in the following manner

Video participation:

Meeting ID:

Phone Access:

Anyone wishing to be heard on this matter should participate via remote at the time and date designated or submit concerns in writing to Jennifer Cournoyer at the Temporary Sewer Office located at the Charlton Town Hall, or email at jennifer.cournoyer@townofcharlton.net

November 13, 2026
November 20, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Sturbridge Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, November 24, 2026 at 6:40** on the 2nd Floor of the Center Office Building, 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and via GoTo Meeting, to consider a **Request for Determination of Applicability** filed by Mark Farrell, of Green Hill Engineering, pursuant to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c. 131, §40) and the Town of Sturbridge Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

The applicant seeks approval to replace a dug well with a drilled well at **1 Leno Road, 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.

Ed Goodwin
Conservation Commission Chairman
November 13, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Sturbridge Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, November 24, 2026 at 6:30** on the 2nd Floor of the Center Office Building, 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and via GoTo Meeting, to consider a **Request for Determination of Applicability** filed by Samantha Robinson, of Robinson Tree Service, pursuant to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c. 131, §40) and the Town of Sturbridge Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

The applicant seeks approval to conduct pruning/cutting and removal of several trees at **1 Kelly Road 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.

Ed Goodwin
Conservation Commission Chairman
November 13, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Sturbridge Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, November 24, 2026 at 6:00** on the 2nd Floor of the Center Office Building, 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and via GoTo Meeting, to consider a **Request for Determination of Applicability** filed by Erica Larner, MassDOT pursuant to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c. 131, §40) and the Town of Sturbridge Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

The applicant seeks approval for a project that includes resurfacing and associated roadway maintenance, including vegetation clearing, drainage structure repairs, and guardrail replacement along Interstate 84, **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.

Ed Goodwin
Conservation Commission Chairman
November 13, 2026

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on November 18, 2026, at 6:30PM on the application of Ryan DesRoches.

The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability to cut and grind the stumps of 17 trees within the 100-ft buffer zone to Glen Echo Lake. Address: 3 Sunset Drive, Charlton, MA, 01507. Parcel ID: 12A-D-61

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 remotely can access the meeting 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
November 12, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of MGL Ch. 40A, §11, the Southbridge Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the G.A.R. Hall, lower level, Town Hall, 41 Elm St, Southbridge, MA.

The purpose of the public hearing is to consider the special permit application, as filed by Rich Clemence, to allow for multifamily residential, per Table 1 of the Schedule of Uses of the Southbridge Zoning Bylaw, located at 70 Foster Street; Map 36; Lot 84 (70 Foster Street LLC, owner).

The application and plan are on file for review during normal business hours with the Town Clerk. This notice is also published electronically on www.telegram.com and on www.ma.mypublicnotices.com.

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

David V. Payeur
Chairman, Southbridge Planning Board
November 5, 2026
November 12, 2026

Legal Advertisement
Invitation for Bid (IFB)

Sealed bids will be received by the Town Administrator, Town Hall, 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566, until 1:00 p.m. on November 24, 2026, for the collection, transport and disposal of Leachate from the municipal landfill off Breakneck Road. Prices will be received for two disposal solutions: Item (A) disposal at the Town of Sturbridge Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) off New Boston Road, and Item (B) if the WWTP is not available, disposal shall be at a permitted wastewater facility selected by the vendor. For a copy of the IFB go to the Town of Sturbridge website: https://www.sturbridge.gov/1207/Bids-RFQs

The Town reserves the right to waive any informality or reject in whole or in part any and all bids as may be in the best interests of the Town. All bids will be in accordance with Chapter 30B. Sturbridge is an AA/EOE.

November 5, 2026
November 12, 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. WO26P0196EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ALLOWANCE OF ACCOUNT

In the matter of: Joann P Sapunka Miller
Date of Death:05/20/2020
A Petition has been filed by: Arthur J Broadhurst of Methuen MA requesting allowance of the First and Final account(s) as Personal Representative and any other relief as requested in the Petition.

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 12/08/2026.

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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 02, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 12s, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE - Package Store Liquor License

In accordance with MGL 138 § 15A, the Sturbridge Select Board will hold a public hearing on the application of Drake Petroleum Company, Inc., d/b/a Heritage Xtra Mart, located at 215 Charlton Road, Sturbridge, MA, for a Change of Officers, Change of Manager, and Change in Ownership Interest associated with its Package Store Liquor License.

The public hearing will be held on Monday, November 23, 2026, at 6:35 p.m. in the Veterans Memorial Hall, 2nd Floor, Sturbridge Town Hall, 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA.

All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard.

STURBRIDGE SELECT BOARD
November 12, 2026

Public Hearing Notice – Timber Harvest – Breakneck Road

In accordance with MGL Chapter 132, § 40-46, the Sturbridge Select Board will hold a public hearing on the petition of Ross P Hubacz for a forest cutting plan for land off Breakneck Road in the vicinity of South Road and Taylor Road MA, 01566 owned by Town of Southbridge. The hearing will be held on Monday, November 23, 2026 at 6:45 p.m. at Sturbridge Town Hall, Veterans Memorial Hall, 2nd Floor, 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA.

Sincerely,
TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
November 12, 2026

Public Hearing Notice – Timber Harvest – Breakneck/Cross Road

In accordance with MGL Chapter 132, § 40-46, the Sturbridge Select Board will hold a public hearing on the petition of Christopher Emery for a forest cutting plan for land off Breakneck Road in the vicinity of Cross Road owned by Breakneck Ridge Inc. The hearing will be held on Monday, November 23, 2026 at 6:55 p.m. at Sturbridge Town Hall, Veterans Memorial Hall, 2nd Floor, 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA.

Sincerely,
TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
November 12, 2026

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on November 18, at 6:30 PM on the application of PMZ Development LLC.

The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for the construction of a single-family residence, driveway, and associated site work within the 100-ft buffer zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland and the riparian zone of a perennial stream. The project location is: 0 Nugget Drive, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 20A-E-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 remotely can access the meeting 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
November 12, 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. WO26P3670EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:
Geo Laurino Bernardone
Date of Death: 05/10/2023

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Jennifer Jo Bernardone of Charlton MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: .

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/08/2026.**

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: November 05, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 12, 2026

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on November 18, at 6:30 PM on the application of Lisa Maloney.

The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for the construction of a single-family residence, driveway, and associated utilities within the 100-ft buffer zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The project location is: Lot 4 Daniels Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 82-B-7

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 remotely can access the meeting 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
November 12, 2026

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on November 18, at 6:30 PM on the application of Linda Dinnocenzo.

The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for the construction of a paver patios, steps, fire pit, and landscaping within the 100-ft buffer zone to Glen Echo Lake. Also proposed are shoreline improvements to replace existing eroding cobbles along the bank. The project location is: 38 Stevens Park Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 17A-G-19

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 remotely can access the meeting 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
November 12, 2026

LEGALS

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of MGL Ch. 40A, §11, the Southbridge Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, at 6:45 PM in the G.A.R. Hall, lower level, Town Hall, 41 Elm St, Southbridge, MA.

The purpose of the public hearing is to consider a special permit application, as filed by Tammy Jones, to allow for livestock on a property under 5 acres, per Table 1: Schedule of Uses of the Southbridge Zoning Bylaw, located at 681 Charlton Street; Map 9; Lot 35-C (Tammy Jones, owner).

The application and plan are on file for review during normal business hours with the Town Clerk. This notice is also published electronically on www.telegram.com and on masspublicnotices.org.

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

David V. Payeur
Chairman, Southbridge Planning Board
November 5, 2026
November 12, 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. WO26P0515EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
Estate of:
Eleonore Guertin
Date of Death:04/24/2025

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Donald Guertin of Charlton MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

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 12/01/2026. 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.

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 02, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 12, 2026

A.C. 78A
Docket Number WO24P1459PM
THECOMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WORCESTER, SS
PROBATE COURT

To all persons interested in the estate of Helen Xanthakos of Southbridge, in the said county, person under conservatorship. A petition has been presented to said Court for authority to sell - private sale -certain real estate of said Helen Xanthakos for maintenance - and

praying that the petitioner may become the purchaser of said real estate.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the twenty-fourth day of November 2026, the return date of this citation.

Witness Kathryn M. Bailey, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this twenty-ninth day of October 2026.

Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
November 12, 2026

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on November 18, 2026, at 6:30PM on the application of Wayne and Patricia Fitchett.

The applicant has requested an Amendment to the Order of Conditions DEP #128-1990 for shoreline improvements and stabilization, and the replacement of an existing patio. The project location is: 211 Sunset Drive, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 12A-D-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
November 12, 2026

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, Property Solutions, has submitted a Land Disturbance/ Stormwater Management Application on November 4, 2026, for land disturbance associated with the construction of a single-family home and site work.

The project site is located at Lot B1 Partridge Hill Road, Charlton, MA 01507, and is also known as: Parcel ID: 84-A-11.3

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

Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
November 12, 2026

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on November 18, 2026, at 6:30PM on the application of Boston Outdoor Living.

The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for the addition of a cobblestone apron to the driveway, two stone pillars for the driveway gate, and the replacement of three existing light posts within the 100-ft buffer zone to a resource area. Address: 102 City Depot Road, Charlton, MA, 01507. Parcel ID: 17-B-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 remotely can access the meeting 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
November 12, 2026

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, Lisa Maloney, has submitted a Land Disturbance/ Stormwater Management Application on November 4, 2026, for land disturbance associated with the construction of a single-family home and site work.

The project site is located at Lot 4 Daniels Road, Charlton, MA 01507, and is also known as: Parcel ID: 82-B-7

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

Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
November 12, 2026



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OBITUARIES

Jacquelyn A. Koslowski, 73



Dudley- Jacquelyn A. (Coderre) Koslowski, 73, of Meadow Lane, passed away on Friday, Nov. 6th, in the Rose Monahan Hospice Home, Worcester, after a brief illness.

She leaves her husband of 53 years, Louis L. Koslowski; her three daughters, Liz L. LaFrance and her husband Garrett of Charlton, Tracy Cool and her husband Raymond of Smyrna, DE and Emily Koslowski of Dudley; her two sisters, Elaine Rizner and her husband Kenneth of Southbridge and Nancy Coderre and her husband Bruce Desrosier of Southbridge; her three grandchildren, Madelynn Cool, Louis Cool, and Aiden LaFrance; and nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her sister, Jane Garceau. Jacquelyn was born in Southbridge, the daughter of the late Robert E. and Georgette T. (Pinsonneault) Coderre.

Jacquelyn dedicated her life to raising her family while working in the Dudley and Putnam School Districts. Throughout her daughters' youth, she actively supported and managed their sports teams, booster clubs, and local activities. Later, she and her husband Lou owned and operated the catering services at Cohasse Country Club in Southbridge. Following her retirement several years ago, she focused on her passion for crafting—specializing in making beautiful quilts, seasonal decorations, and handmade bags—while spending quality time with her family and friends.

Jacquelyn's funeral services will be private. There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, her request was that donations be made to the Rose Monahan Hospice Home.

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, is directing arrangements.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Open Sky honors staff, individuals served, and community partners at annual awards reception



Courtesy Photo

Libby Lit (center), Director of Adaptive Art at Hopkinton Center for the Arts, receives the Community Champion Award at the fourth annual Open Sky Awards on Oct. 28 at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. Ken Bates (left), Open Sky President and CEO, and Kelley Gamble (right), Open Sky Vice President of Community Engagement, join Lit for a photo.

WORCESTER — Open Sky Community Services, a nonprofit behavioral health and human services organization, honored the winners of its Open Sky Awards at its fourth annual reception on Oct. 28 at the College of the Holy Cross.

The Open Sky Awards recognize staff, individuals served by the organization, and community partners who help sustain the agency's mission. Volunteers evaluated nearly 250 nominations for this year's honors, submitted by both employees and individuals served.

"While the human services sector faces increased obstacles, we are so pleased to celebrate and recognize our professionals, who have dedicated their lives to the betterment of others," said Ken Bates, Open Sky President and CEO. "We are equally proud of the individuals we serve and how far they've come on their journeys in overcoming complex challenges, and so grateful to our external partners who help make this progress possible."

Libby Lit, Director of Adaptive Art at Hopkinton Center for the Arts, was honored with the Community Champion Award. In launching the Unified Theater Program at the Hopkinton Center for the Arts, Lit created an accessible environment for people of all ages and abilities, including individuals served by Open Sky, to take advantage of the healing powers of performance art. The program fosters creativity and inclusion while addressing a critical gap for adults with disabilities who no longer qualify for school-age day programs.

The following 2026 Open Sky Awards winners, including employees and individuals served by the agency, are:

- Achievement Award – Joel Arsenault, Owen Hawley, Joseph Kosewicz, Stephanie Lewis, Allie Ohman, Brianna Oroszko, Evan Platek, Tiana Williams, and Jenni Young
- Barent W. Walsh Award for Clinical Excellence – Ryan Zenevitch
- Biggest Cheerleader Award – Rachel Harvey
- Collaboration Award – The Haven Strategy Team
- Dennis H. Rice Award for Community Membership – Maria Torres
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Award – Utsav Shrestha
- Erica Robert Award for Humanity – Betty Bragdon
- Leadership Award – Ben Brouillette, Jodie Brower, Shane Jones, Peter Quinn, and Virginia Stockwell
- President's Award – Joan Mercer
- Program of the Year – Tradewinds Clubhouse
- Rookie of the Year – Melanie Mervyn

About Open Sky Community Services

Open Sky Community Services is a 501(c)3 nonprofit agency based in Worcester that has been helping individuals in our community achieve more than they imagined possible for over 50 years. The agency provides a wide range of services throughout Central Massachusetts for children, adults and families with mental health challenges, intellectual and developmental disabilities, substance use disorders, brain injury, homelessness and other complex challenges. Open Sky Community Services has more than 1,300 dedicated employees and nearly 150 programs throughout the region, supporting more than 8,000 individuals annually. Open Sky is committed to equity and belonging and promotes a trauma-informed, whole-person care culture. For more information, please visit www.openskycs.org.

GARDEN BEDS

continued from page A1

natural extension of the classroom, where children count seedlings, watch plants change week to week, and build new words to describe what they see, touch, and taste.

That learning reaches beyond the children themselves. For teachers, the beds offer an outdoor space that brings lessons to life, backed by REC's school gardens program, which supports partner sites with garden-based lessons, volunteer help, compost, and seedlings. The garden also gives families a new way to take part in their children's education. Head Start considers parents their children's first teachers, and the garden opens the door to family planting days, harvest celebrations, and conversations about healthy food at home. Produce will be used in the classroom while also sending additional produce home with the children. Coupled with the curriculum will be a carefully crafted list of book recommendations for the children, families and staff.

Beyond the classroom, the partnership connects Southbridge with one of Central Massachusetts' longest-standing food justice organizations. Since 1972, REC has worked for environmental sustainability and social justice in the region, and its UGROW network now supports more than 60 community and school gardens.

"Our children learn best when they can touch, dig, and discover. These garden beds give them a place to see where food comes from and to be proud of something they grew themselves — and they give our families one more way to be part of that learning. Allowing our families to build a relationship with food is the goal and has been proven to increase a positive relationship with food for growing children. Learning happens inside and outside of the classroom," said Kathleen Dow, Head Start Director at WCAC.

"Economic mobility starts early, and it starts with healthy, curious, confident kids. Partnerships like this one with REC show what's possible when local organizations bring their strengths together for Southbridge families," said Marybeth Campbell, CEO of WCAC.

"REC works with students of all ages to build and maintain school gardens. We see firsthand the many positive impacts of incorporating gardens into schools, particularly for our littlest learners who are eager to explore the world around them. School gardens help foster curiosity and exploration, build excitement around healthy foods, and encourage connection and community. We're happy to help amplify the good work of Head Start in Southbridge and support their students," said Grace Sliwoski, Associate Executive Director of the Regional Environmental Council.

About Worcester Community Action Council

Worcester Community Action Council (WCAC) helps people move to economic self-sufficiency through programs, partnerships, and advocacy. Serving 46 communities across Central and South-Central Massachusetts, WCAC offers early education and care, energy assistance, financial empowerment, youth development, and career pathways programs. WCAC's Head Start and Early Head Start programs provide early education and family services from the prenatal period through kindergarten. Learn more at wcac.net.

About the Regional Environmental Council

The Regional Environmental Council is a Worcester-based food justice organization working for environmental sustainability and social justice since 1972. Its programs include community and mobile farmers markets, the YouthGROW youth employment and urban agriculture program, and the UGROW community and school gardens network.

Learn more at recworcester.org.

November 2026 interpretive programs at Blackstone River Greenway Visitor Center at Worcester

WORCESTER — All programs are free and open to the public. Registration is not required. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear. Meet at the Visitor Center unless otherwise stated. Programming is subject to change or cancellation. For the most up to date programming information, call (508) 373-7056.

Reasonable accommodations available upon advance notice. To make a request, please contact Moneesha Dasgupta at (617) 645-0358 or moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov.

The Blackstone River Greenway Visitor Center at Worcester is located at 3 Paul Clancy Way, Worcester MA 01607.

Visitor Center Exhibit Tour

Saturdays, 11 – 11:30 a.m.

Join us on a tour of the Heritage Center's exhibit hall! Learn how the Blackstone Canal helped transform Worcester from a sleepy county seat to a thriving industrial city and hub for immigration and innovation. Appropriate for ages 6 and up.

Mill to Meadow

Saturdays, Nov. 7 & 21, 2 – 3 p.m.

The land on which the Visitor Center stands was once the largest factory complex in Worcester — and now not a single building remains! In this short walk, find out about "brownfield" reclamation on site and how it fits into the Blackstone Valley's environmental renaissance. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. About ¼ mile over paved surfaces.

Woodlands and Waterways

Saturday, Nov. 14, 2 – 3 p.m.

Walk along the banks of the Blackstone River and learn about the life that it supports. We'll look for signs of wildlife as we discuss the ways we can keep our watershed clean! Appropriate for ages 12 and up. The walk is roughly one mile over a paved surface with slight inclines. Meet 205 North Main Street, Millbury. Bathrooms and water are not available at this site.

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Scouting America to host family safety and community outreach event

WORCESTER — Families throughout Worcester County are invited to attend a free community safety event hosted by the Massachusetts State Police, Worcester State University, and the Heart of New England Council, Scouting America, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 10, at Worcester State University.

Designed as both a fun family experience and a valuable community outreach opportunity, the event will bring together public safety professionals, community partners, Scouts, and local families for a day focused on child passenger safety, community engagement, and education.

A key feature of the event will be free child car seat inspections and installations conducted by certified Massachusetts State Troopers. Families will have the opportunity to ensure that their child safety seats are properly installed and appropriately fitted to help keep children safe while traveling.

The Massachusetts State Police will also showcase specialized equipment and resources used in their public safety efforts, providing attendees with a unique opportunity to learn more about the role of law enforcement in protecting and serving communities across the Commonwealth.

One of the day's most anticipated attractions will be the Massachusetts State Police rollover simulator, an interactive demonstration that vividly illustrates the importance of wearing a seat belt. The simulator provides participants with a memorable, hands-on experience that reinforces safe driving practices and highlights how seat belts can save lives.

Scouts and volunteer leaders from local Packs and Troops throughout Worcester will assist with activities, welcome attendees, and share information about the many opportunities available through Scouting. Families interested in learning more about Scouting will have the chance to meet current Scouts and leaders and discover programs that promote leadership, citizenship, service, outdoor adventure, and personal growth.

"This event represents the power of community partnerships," said Jason Pigg, Scout Executive and CEO of the Heart of New England Council, Scouting America. "By bringing together the Massachusetts State Police, Worcester State University, and local Scouts, we can provide an important public service while introducing families to the positive impact Scouting has throughout our communities."

Organizers hope the event will strengthen connections between families and community organizations while promoting safe transportation practices and highlighting resources available to local residents.

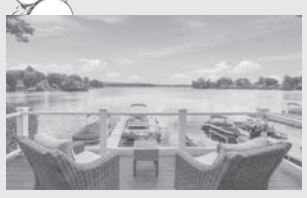
The event is free and open to the public. Families are encouraged to bring their vehicles and child safety seats for inspection and to take advantage of the educational exhibits, demonstrations, and opportunities to engage with community partners.

About Heart of New England Council, Scouting America

Heart of New England Council is a 501(c)(3) organization that serves about 4,000 boys and girls in more than 60 communities in central Massachusetts. We provide the nation's foremost program that teaches young people character, leadership, and citizenship through fun and exciting adventures for the entire family. We foster a culture of diversity and inclusion that makes it enriching to participate, volunteer and work in the Scouting program. Visit www.hnescouting.org for more information.

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Webster Lake ~ 93 Birch Island Rd

Expansive water views! Beautiful, completely remodeled home on scenic Webster Lake! Combines effortless modern luxury with lakefront living. It boasts a spacious, sunny open-concept layout, designed for both relaxation & entertaining! Swim off your private dock, warm up in your personal sauna, share stories around the firepit on chilly nights ~ everyday feels like a vacation!
MLS# 73589032 $1,199,000

* June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan* Lori Johnson-Chausse * William Gilmore II * Maureen Cimoch * Bryan Pelletier

Webster - 106 East Main St (Rte 12) Commercial Opportunity!


Corner Lot, 275' +/- Road Frontage, Extremely High Traffic Count, 6,200 SF (75x80) Commercial Building, Currently 2 Units -> Potential for More. Economical, Efficient Natural Gas FHA Heat & Cooling. Its close proximity to Successful National Franchised Businesses generates Significant Commerce at this Location. Convenient Access. MLS #73512426 $ 615,000

24 Laurelwood Dr Webster Lake Waterfront

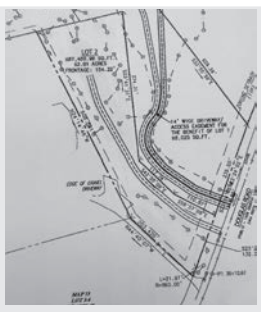

On the shores of prestigious Webster Lake! Experience ultra-luxury lakefront living with direct water access. This young modern craftsman lake home is masterly designed to maximize panoramic Western views through a two-story architectural tower. The home boasts 3,790 +/- square feet of sophisticated, three-story living space, complete with multilevel waterside decks, a radius stone faced patio, and a tiered landscape with its own waterfall. The living room 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


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 $464,900

Thompson CT ~ 303 Riverside Dr


Country Cape Style Home set back about 120' from the road! 4 bedrooms, 1600 sq ft of living area. 2 story barn. 4 Acres surrounded by wide field stone walls.
MLS# 24196428 $415,000.


Webster - Douglas Rd (Rt 16) ANR Lot # 2
Building Lot, 2.01 +/- acres, 154' road frontage, Surveyed and portioned out of a larger tract of land, Zoned ASFR (Agricultural Single Family Residential) Located near State Land
~ A Great Value at $69,900.

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

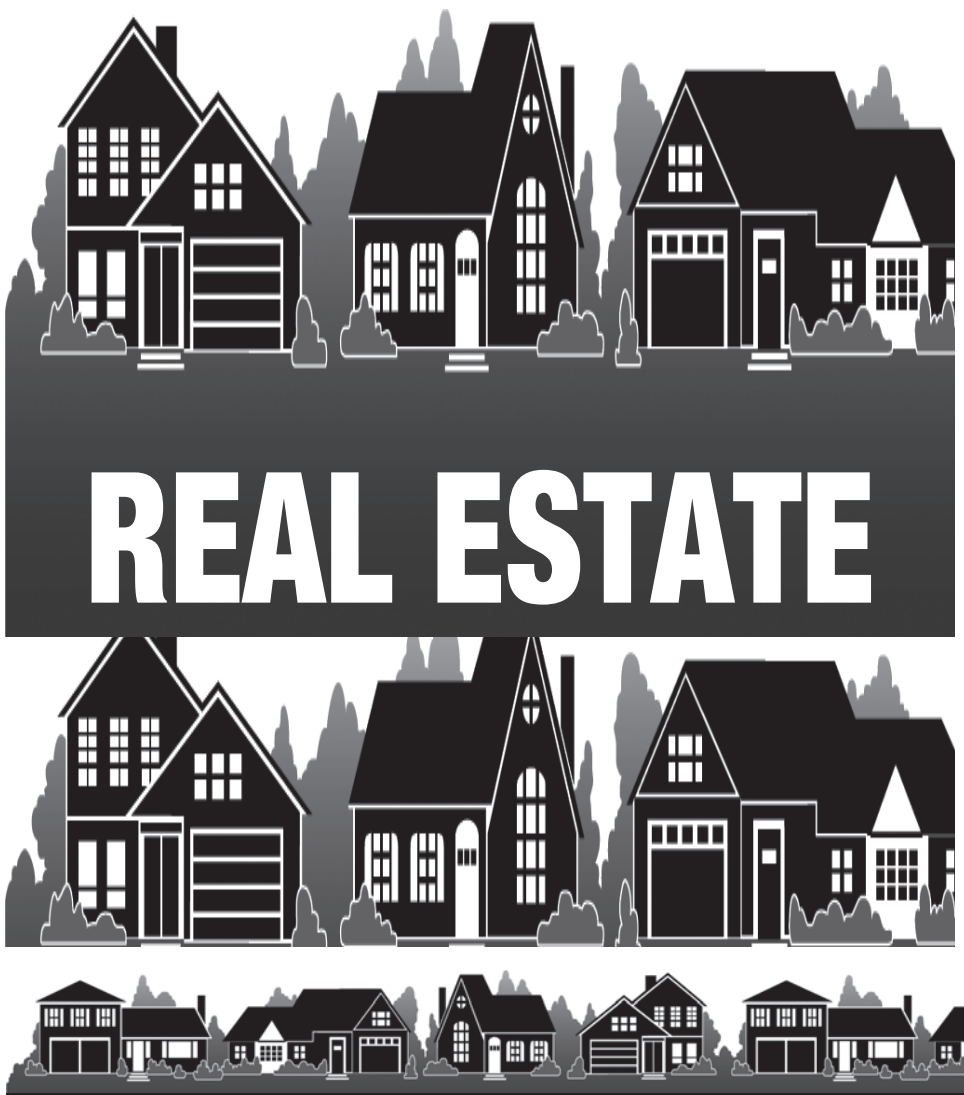

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Webster Lake ~
60 Wakefield Ave ~ Corner Lot!
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Go To MLS # 73582966 $277,500.

Webster Lake ~0 Wakefield Ave

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Master Masons install new officers for 2027



Courtesy Photo

Doric Chapter members left to right: Companion Joshua Kirkwood, comp. Damien Travernier, The High Priest comp. Dean Cook, comp. Steven LaVergne, comp. John Shaw, comp. Ken Pierce. 2nd row left to right Companion Clay Tull, comp. Gary Clifford, comp. Josh Jezerski, comp. Richard Clark and comp. Eric Willard. Doric Chapter 2027 new line officers.



Courtesy Photo

The Blue Lodge members of MGSTL left to right: Brother Rick LaVergne, bro. Damien Travernier, bro. Joel Reich, Master Bro. Charles Lamarche Jr. holding gavel, bro. Gordan Forsberg, bro. Paul Davidson, bro. Clay Tull. 2nd row left to right: bro. Jean Lefebvre, bro. Paul Horan, bro. Joshua Jezerski, bro. Will Proper, bro. Joshua Kirkwood and bro. Jason MacGillivery. MGSTL 2027 new line of officers.

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Tuesday, Oct. 20, Master Masons, their families, and friends gathered at Major General Salem Towne Lodge in Southbridge to witness and celebrate the installation of Doric Chapter's officers for the 2027 Masonic year. Members of Doric Chapter are Royal Arch Masons within the York Rite. Founded in 1867, Doric Chapter is the third-oldest Royal Arch chapter in Massachusetts.

Later that week, on Saturday, Oct. 24, Blue Lodge Master Masons gathered with their families, fellow lodge members, and friends at Major General Salem Towne Lodge's (MGSTL) Webster building to celebrate the installation of officers for the 2027 Masonic year. Chartered in 1859, the lodge has served the community for 168 years and continues to thrive through Masonic fellowship and the dedication of its family-oriented members.

After 168 years, MGSTL and Doric Chapter continue to uphold the traditions of Freemasonry and its mission of making good men even better. Our members take great pride in these enduring traditions and in the next generation of officers who will serve both organizations with honor and preserve their legacy for the future. To learn more about Freemasonry or find a lodge near you, visit www.massfreemasonry.org.





St. Christopher's Craft Fair — a tradition not to be missed



BRIMFIELD — On Saturday, Nov. 21 and Sunday, Nov. 22, St. Christopher Church will hold its annual craft fair. Located at 20 Sturbridge Road (Route 20) it has easy access and plenty of parking. The hours of the fair are Saturday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Admission is free.

The craft fair showcases unique handmade items and offers a wide variety of items created locally by your friends and neighbors. Many long-standing vendors are returning with unique pieces of handcrafted jewelry, Christmas decorations & ornaments, organic lotions & soaps, tinctures, wellness products, resins, one of a kind watercolors, stained glass, sea glass, honey products, handmade cards, quilted, knit & crochet clothing & items, stone and shell art, wooden décor, upcycles vintage items with a farmhouse flair, tie dye garments and so very much more!!

The Women of St. Christophers organize the fair as a fundraiser that supports both their mission of faith, charity, and service along with defraying costs for building maintenance and repairs. Members of the group will be working in the kitchen that is open throughout the day and invite you to stop in for a delicious breakfast or lunch. French meat pies and baked goods will also be available for purchase to take home. A cookie walk on Saturday starts at 9 a.m. It always sells out quickly, so it is recommended to arrive early for the best selection.

The club also holds raffles during the event. One features unique handmade items donated from the vendors, another features a variety of prizes from local businesses and restaurants, themed gift baskets, tickets to entertainment venues and much more. For those on a budget the club also features their bargain tables offering great stuff at fantastic prices!

Club President Cindy Skowyra says, "this fair has a special hometown feel to it that sets it apart from others and it really is a community event and at a perfect time setting the tone for the holiday season."

Reverend Jack Brennan, pastor of St. Christophers says "I am grateful for the work of this group. They consistently give of themselves for the betterment of our parish, and I am grateful for their unwavering support."

Masses at St. Christophers are on Saturday at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Weekday masses are Monday and Wednesday at 9 a.m. Holy Day masses vary. All are invited. For more information about the fair or St. Christophers Church, contact the parish at 413-245-7274 or email stchrisbrimfield@gmail.com or check out their Facebook page St. Christophers Parish.

Charlton Public Library announces digitization of local high school yearbooks

CHARLTON — The Charlton Public Library is pleased to announce the digitization of historic yearbooks from three local schools: Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, and Charlton High School.

These yearbooks are now available online through the Charlton Public Library's website, making these valuable pieces of Charlton's history accessible to former students, families, researchers, and community members from anywhere.

The digitized collections offer an opportunity to revisit school traditions, classmates, activities, accomplishments, and everyday life from earlier generations. By making these materials available digitally, the library hopes to help preserve and share the community's history for years to come.

Library Director Betsy Perry said "We are excited to make these yearbooks more accessible to the community. These publications provide a wonderful glimpse into the people, places, and memories that have shaped Charlton and the neighboring communities."

Whether you are looking for your own school memories, researching local history, or simply curious about Charlton's past, the library invites you to explore the newly digitized collections.

The yearbooks can be accessed through the Charlton Public Library Web site at https://charltonlibrary.org.

Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St.