

# STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

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Thursday-Friday, April 30-May 1, 2026

## Local Scout and library page unveils Eagle Scout project

STURBRIDGE — While “space fever” is ramping up these days after the groundbreaking Artemis II moon mission, one local astrophile has had her sights set on the cosmos for far longer. Local Scout and Joshua Hyde Public Library page Anna Burns was ready to take on her Eagle Scout project and naturally decided to focus on something skyward.

“I’ve always been fascinated with astronomy and all things space, so it seemed like only second nature for me to make my Eagle project relate to the stars somehow,” explains Burns, a Tantasqua High School senior.

Eagle Scout projects typically benefit local institutions or the community and focus on project management, often including construction, environmental or community outreach efforts. But Burns was able to combine her community-minded project with her work at the library.

Burns’ project is now known as the Joyce E. Sinnott Stargazing Site.

“It consists of a pedes-



tal to mount the library’s telescope or someone’s personal telescope, as well as a sign with an interactive planisphere attached for people to use. Along with the sign is some information on the library telescope lending system and what astronomical objects you can see with your naked eye,” Burns explains. “I worked

closely with Lauren [Vivier], Sturbridge’s Conservation Commissioner. Eventually, after about five months and lots and lots of help from my friends and family, I was able to install it temporarily at the Cedar Lake Recreation Area, where it will stay until it gets moved to its Heins Farm location.”

Not only did Burns choose a project to help the community share her love of astronomy, she helped honor the memory of long-time library Trustee Joyce Sinnott. Sinnott was heavily involved in the library for decades, working as a Trustee and ultimately becoming Chairperson. She also served on the board of the Friends of

the Joshua Hyde Public Library as Treasurer. During that time, she was always looking for the latest books on astronomy and suggesting programs to help others enjoy the stars as well. And no one was more excited than her when the library acquired a telescope to loan out.

After Sinnott’s death in 2024, friends and family made memorial donations to the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library in her honor. Library Director Becky Plimpton was looking for the most effective way to use these funds to best memorialize Sinnott’s memory and interests when she heard of Burns’ upcoming project. Plimpton gave

Turn To **BURNS** page **A10**

## Two-alarm fire under investigation

CHARLTON —Chariton Fire Department responded to a two-alarm house fire on Saturday afternoon that left a home temporarily uninhabitable.

Chariton Fire was dispatched at approximately 3:49 p.m. on Saturday, April 25 to a reported house fire at 44 Gale Rd. Chariton police officers arrived first and confirmed smoke coming from the rear of the home. Chariton Engine 3 requested a second alarm while en route, bringing in additional crews and equipment from surrounding communities. When firefighters arrived, they observed smoke coming from the back of the home and near the roof.

Oxford Fire Chief Ken Sellers arrived on scene along with Chariton Engine 3, established command, and directed incoming resources. After checking the entire structure, crews found heavy fire on the exterior rear portion of the home. Homeowners had attempted to extinguish the fire prior to the tire depart-



ment’s arrival. Firefighters worked from both the front and rear of the house to bring the fire under control. A hose

lime was advanced to time back of the home, while a second crew entered through the front door and encoun-

tered moderate fire spread inside the upper floor. The most significant damage was located on the exterior rear of the structure.

Mutual aid was provided due to the area being outside the hydrant district, with tankers provided from Dudley and Oxford, and engines from Southbridge and Auburn. Leicester EMS responded with an ambulance, and Rehab 78 provided support for firefighter rehabilitation. The Sturbridge Fire Department covered the Chariton station during the incident. No civilians or firefighters were injured. The home sustained significant damage and is not safe to occupy at this time. The fire remains under investigation by the Chariton Fire Department and the Massachusetts State Police Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit assigned to the State Fire Marshal’s Office.

### Relay For Life returns to Southbridge June 20

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Relay For Life of Southern Worcester County will hold its 29th Relay in Southbridge on Saturday, June 20 at McMahon Field from 9 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.

The Relay For Life is the signature fundraiser of the American Cancer Society. 29 years is no small feat! We walk to honor, remember and celebrate all those that we have lost to cancer, those still fighting and the ones that have beat it.

We can’t do it without help from the community and we are thankful to partner with The Duck and Avellino in Sturbridge to hold a fundraiser day on Tuesday May 19th. Dine in or take out at either of these locations all day on May 19, and 20 percent of all food sales will be donated to the American Cancer Society. You must present the attached coupon, either in print form or on your phone. Reservations are strongly suggested. Gather up family or friends, eat great food and help raise funds to fight cancer, one plate at a time.

## Sturbridge America250 celebration invites community to Family Fun Day

STURBRIDGE — The Sturbridge America250 Celebration Committee invites the community to our Family Fun Day on Saturday, May 16, from noon to 3 p.m. on the Sturbridge Common. This is the first of two community-wide events commemorating America’s 250th anniversary. The second, on June 27, features a parade followed by activities on the Common.

The Family Fun Day kicks off at Noon with a Patriotic Costume Parade. Participants can check in starting at noon and will receive a parade number and patriotic goodie bag. The Parade begins at 12:15 p.m. Prizes will be given for: Most Historical, Most Patriotic, and Best Family/Group Theme.

From 1 – 2 p.m., the Mighty Top Big Circus will perform. This is a small but mighty show with aerial silks, hula-hoop acrobatics,

and aerial hoop acts. After the show, kids can jump in and try out hula hoop tricks and other circus skills themselves. By watching and joining in, kids can learn more about coordination, rhythm, and sticking with something new. In collaboration with the Joshua Hyde Public Library, this program is supported in part by a grant from the Sturbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Following the Circus there will be a potato sack race, and a three-legged race, with prizes awarded. Throughout the afternoon families can enjoy yard games, a selfie station, face painting, a balloon artist, and an inflatable double slide. Girl Scout Troop #65394 will have a coloring and crafts table, with the crafts sponsored by the Stephanie Lachapelle Group with Compass. Children can

make a patriotic hat with the Daughters of the American Revolution.

A DJ will be acting as emcee and providing music throughout the afternoon. Free hot dogs, chips, and water will be provided to the first 250 attendees. Food can also be purchased from attending Food Trucks.

The Sturbridge America250 Committee thanks Veolia for providing prizes, goodie bags, and the hot dogs, chips, and water.

On Saturday, June 27, the community is invited to participate in and enjoy a parade starting at OSV and ending on the Town Common, followed by a number of patriotic activities on the Common. Anyone who wishes to participate should go to the Sturbridge Recreation Dept. Web site: sturbridgema.myrec.com. More information on the parade and activities will be coming soon.



Courtesy

For the first time in the department’s history, a shift was staffed this past Saturday by an all-women team of dedicated, highly trained officers & dispatchers from the Southbridge Police Department. This milestone is more than just a first for us, it’s a reflection of the professionalism and commitment they bring to public safety every single day. Their service continues to inspire the next generation who may one day wear our badge or work in our communications center. We are proud to support and celebrate this achievement, and we remain committed to building a department that reflects the community we serve. Please join us in recognizing these outstanding officers and dispatchers for their service and for making history! Pictured, left to right: Officer Ortiz, Officer Patterson, Det. Martinez, Officer O’Brien & Officer Bergeron-Pennachio. Not pictured: Dispatchers Lee, Wilson & Rosario, who were working in the communications center and were not available.

# Charlton Library Friends combine books and blooms

CHARLTON — The Friends of Charlton Public Library will hold a Book Sale on Saturday, May 9, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Dexter Hall, second floor inside the Charlton Public Library. Current members in good standing are invited to a preview on Friday, May 8 from noon to 4:30 p.m. A call for book donations will begin on April 21 and continue until May 8. Donations of cash, check, and Venmo will be accepted during the sale.

“Books & Blooms” will serve as a lead-up to the Friends’ book sale. This collaborative event involves the Charlton Public Library, the Friends of Charlton Public Library, and the Charlton Garden Club as they celebrate reading, the

changing season, and community. “Books & Blooms” aims to draw attention to all three organizations, enlightening the public about our missions, purpose, accomplishments, and benefits to the wider community derived through books.

Members of the Charlton Garden Club and Friends of Charlton Public Library will create floral arrangements tied in some way to a book. The arrangements will reflect the cover image, theme, a character in the book, or some other aspect of the selection. Book titles range from novels, classics, Westerns, non-fiction, poetry, children’s books, and others.

The floral arrangements will be on display in the main room of the Charlton Public Library on May 6, 7, and 8. Those who come to view the displays may enter their name in a drawing to win one of the arrangements at the conclusion of the event.

For more information, email charltonfriends@gmail.com.



## ARTHRITIS?

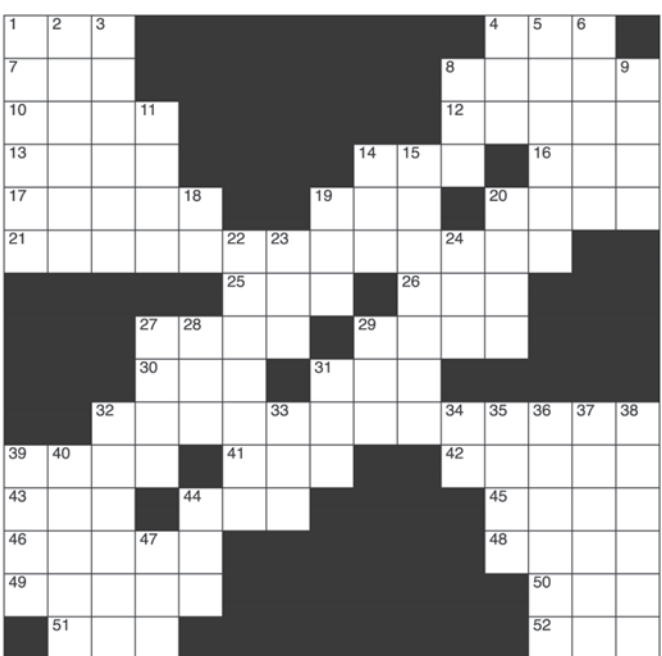
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### CLUES ACROSS

1. Purchase
4. British news organization
7. Midway between northeast and east
8. Language specialist group
10. Fancy automobile
12. Small loop or series of loops
13. Exploiter
14. Don't know when yet
16. Group of languages
17. One who's finished
19. After B
20. Angled
21. A place to adopt pets
25. Swiss river
26. Young boy
27. Unexciting
29. American comedian Vidale
30. Peyton's little brother
31. Corporate higher-up
32. "All in the Family" star
39. Strike something forcefully
41. Up in the air (abbr.)
42. Clay earth pigments
43. Means to record brain activity
44. Small constellation
45. Embraces
46. Brief description
48. Exclude
49. White (French)
50. Insect
51. A major division of geological time
52. Soviet Socialist Republic

### CLUES DOWN

1. Type of whale
2. In tune
3. A citizen of Yemen
4. Actress Ling
5. One who supports
6. Circus performer
8. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
9. Quantitative fact
11. Utah city
14. Where a golfer begins
15. Attendant
18. The ancient Egyptian sun god
19. Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
20. Benedictine monk
22. Not turbulent
23. Car mechanics group
24. Buffer used in chemistry
27. Fall heavily
28. Pie \_\_\_ mode
29. The Brits love it
31. Children's TV channel (abbr.)
32. Jacksonville footballer
33. Helps little firms
34. \_\_\_ and behold
35. A way to resemble
36. Fingers
37. Excessive indulgences
38. You might be an "empty" one
39. "How the West Was Won" writer
40. European river
44. They begin the alphabet
47. The body's messenger



## Tantasqua Drama Club presents "Shrek the Musical"

FISKDALE — The Tantasqua Drama Club will perform “Shrek the Musical” at four showings this weekend. They will be held at Tantasqua Senior High School on Friday, May 1 at 7 p.m., Saturday, May 2 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday, May 3 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$12 for students/seniors, and may be purchased online or

at the door. “Shrek the Musical” was originally produced on Broadway and is an adaption of the Dreamworks movie. Come support the cast and crew as everyone's favorite grumpy green ogre Shrek and his sidekick Donkey rescue Princess Fiona and team up to save the swamp from Lord Farquaad, with lots of laughs and music along the way.

## Sofia Demartino named to Montclair State University Dean's List

MONTCLAIR, N.J. — A local Montclair State University student was recently named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List. Sofia Demartino of Holland

is a Dance major. Demartino was among more than 7,000 students named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List. To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

## REAL ESTATE

Charlton \$600,000, 160 Berry Corner Rd, Savasta Ft, and Anderson, Robert R, to Brunelle, Eric Patrick, and Savasta, Gina.  
\$600,000, 7 King Rd, Nichols, George J, and Nichols, Cynthia A-Hazzar, to Midden, Marshall, and Pagnac Sr, Susan.  
\$401,000, 199 Center Depot Rd, Laplante 3rd, Francis A, to Bacon, Sandra J.  
SOUTHBRIDGE \$630,000, 105 Cross St, 68 Southbridge LLC, to Bessette 3rd, Michael J.  
\$615,000, 128 Elm St, Silveira, Erivaldo, and Silveira, Ieva, to Elm St Holdings Rt LLC, and Lee Holdings Rt LLC.  
\$500,000, 135 Elm St, Silveira, Erivaldo, and

Silveira, Ieva, to Elm St Holdings Rt LLC, and Lee Holdings Rt LLC.  
\$455,000, 406 Lebanon Hill Rd, Ortiz, Antonio Vega, to Waugh, William A, and Waugh, Lisa.  
\$435,000, 29 Fiske St, Castasus, Nolvina, and Castasus, Christopher, to Collazo, Jonathan.  
\$377,000, 41 Dennison Ln, Ella JaneLeBlancRet, and Leblanc, Ella Jane, to Shattuck, Nikki J.  
\$305,000, 127 Cliff St, Silveira, Erivaldo, and Silveira, Ieva, to Elm St Holdings Rt LLC, and Lee Holdings Rt LLC.  
STURBRIDGE \$235,000, 53 Fairview Park Rd, Marcoux, Marie E, to Beaudoin, Lynn S, and Beaudoin, Stephen P.

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

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visit www.townofcharlton.net or more information.

Individual offices may vary

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STURBRIDGE 508-347-6463

Weekdays 8:30 – 5:00 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

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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

### CHURCH LISTINGS

- **Central Baptist Church**  
256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550  
Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.
- **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 508- 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer worship is 9:30 a.m. www.fed-church.org
- **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 10 a.m.
- **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org  
Sunday worship and Children's church 10am
- **St. Anne St. Patrick Church**, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338  
www.stannestpatparish.com  
Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am
- **Elm Street Congregational Church**, 61 Elm Street, Southbridge, Ma 01550  
Phone: 508-764-8085 • Sunday service 10:00 am  
Pastor Kathryn Light
- **Faith Baptist Church**, 515 Dennison Drive, Southbridge  
Phone number 508-764-6132,  
Worship Service: Sunday 10:00 a.m.
- **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
- **Wayside Church**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144
- **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349  
Sunday Service 10:00am.  
www.livingwordcharlton.com  
info@livingwordcharlton.com
- **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
- **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale** - 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021  
www.sturfed.org  
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
- **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**- 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566  
Phone 508-347-7297  
Web: www.bethlehemsturbridge.org  
Services - Sunday 9:00 am  
Pastor Dan Purtell
- **Holland Congregation Church** "Where the Bible is preached." 11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926  
Hollandchurch.org  
Sunday Service @ 10:00 am  
Pastor Dan Maketansky
- **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church** 446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550  
Phone: 508-765-9559  
Web: www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org  
Sunday Service 11:00 am  
Pastor Dan Purtell
- **St. John Paul II Parish** 279 Hamilton St., Southbridge  
Rev. Carlos Ardila, Pastor  
Weekend services Saturday 4 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon  
Weekday masses 8:30 & 8:45 a.m., St. Mary's Church (508) 765-3701

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

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

For auditions, please prepare a Jimmy Buffett song. There will also be cold readings from the script, and simple dance routines. Tap dance

experience a plus. Performance dates are July 31, and August 1 & 2 at the Southbridge Middle/High School Auditorium. Rehearsals are tentatively scheduled for Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6-9 p.m. Directed by Patricia Haddock, Produced by Kathi Grenier, and the musical director is Chris Rubenacker. For more information, please contact Gateway at 508-764-4531. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals. This musical-comedy has lead roles for two women ages 20-30, and two men in their 30's, and fea-

tured roles for 1 female in their 40's, 1 male in the 40-50 range, and one male or female 20-30, and various ensemble roles.

On a small island in the Caribbean, vacation goes and the laid-back staff of the Margaritaville bar flirt, unwind and sip drinks under the sun. When an ambitious tourist named Rachel arrives with her friend Tammy for a much-needed vacation, she finds an unexpected romance with Tully, the island bartender and musician. As paradise collides with real life, both are faced with deciding what they want beyond the sandy beach-

es of Margaritaville. This tropical romantic comedy has plenty to laugh at and a sweet love story – all underscored by Jimmy Buffett's classic tunes, including "Cheeseburger in Paradise," "Margaritaville," "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere," "Fins," "Volcano," and many more. With a book by Emmy Award winner Greg Garcia ("My Name is Earl," "Raising Hope") and Emmy nominee Mike O'Malley ("Survivor's Remorse," "Shameless"), this hilarious, heart-warming musical is the party you've been waiting for!

## McLaughlin, of Charlton, presents research findings during third annual Social Justice Research Symposium

WESTON — Emma McLaughlin, of Charlton, presented their research "Social Justice Symposium" during Regis College's third annual Social Justice Research Symposium on April 16. McLaughlin is a Diagnostic Medical Sonography major.

Cosponsored by the Writing Program and the Center for Student Engagement, the symposium features student research panels, poster presentations, art/music displays and performances, and thesis slams from

students across the university's undergraduate and graduate programs.

More than 200 students participated in the event, highlighting Regis' mission to cultivate students as change agents in their communities, and to encourage them to serve and lead as advocates for a more just and compassionate global society.

"This is the third annual symposium bringing together the research and voices of students, faculty, and staff at Regis to explore unsolved issues in our

local and larger communities," said Associate Professor of the Writing Program and Symposium Coordinator Jennifer Krusinger, PhD. "At a time when AI plays an ever-more dynamic and unpredictable role in many of the professions and our society, this event underscores the power of our mission at Regis and our unique emphasis on the human role in identifying a need, taking responsibility, and developing solutions in a socially just way."



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## Southbridge Food Share adds monthly Saturday hours to expand community access

SOUTHBRIDGE — Residents who rely on the Southbridge Food Share now have an additional opportunity each month to receive assistance, as the pantry expands its schedule to include one Saturday distribution day.

The added weekend hours are intended to make services more accessible for individuals and families who may not be able to visit during the organization's regular weekday schedule. Southbridge Food Share continues to operate on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and will now also open one Saturday each month at its location at 446 Hamilton St.

Distribution hours remain the same on all service days, running from 10 to 11:15 a.m.

Upcoming Saturday dates include April 25, May 16, June 27, July 25, Aug. 22 and Sept. 26.

No appointments are required to receive food, and visitors are not asked to provide income documentation or legal identification.

The pantry serves residents from Southbridge and surrounding communities and operates with support from local partners, including the United Way of South Central Massachusetts. Community donations and volunteer efforts continue to play

a key role in sustaining the program's operations.

Southbridge Food Share has remained a central resource for area households facing food insecurity, particularly as grocery costs and household expenses continue to affect many families across the region.

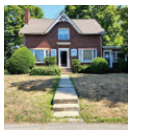
Organizers encourage residents to share information about the expanded Saturday schedule with neighbors and community members who may benefit from the service.

For more information, residents may call 508-765-6583 or visit the Hamilton Street location during operating hours.

What should you do in the new year? Get your "estate needs in order". No one likes to talk about death, that is why you should have everything done in advance. Make sure your hard-earned money and investments are left to those you want. Call me for a free consultation. Also, handling all types of real estate matters.



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

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

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

sold will go directly to the church.

"We're grateful to be included in this program," said event organizer Spiro Thomo. "It's a simple way for people to come together, enjoy a good meal, and support the church at the same time."

Two seatings are available: 4:30-6 p.m. and 6:30-8 p.m. The buffet menu includes oven-roasted turkey,

cornbread-sausage stuffing, mashed potatoes, butternut squash, and cranberry sauce.

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

For tickets or information, contact Spiro Thomo at 774-200-8043, or by email to spirothomo@gmail.com. Payment is by cash or check made payable to The Publick House.

The mission of St. Michael Romanian Orthodox Church is to experience the

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER  
BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

## A small platform with a big view of the future

There are some projects that quietly improve a community in ways that will last for years, even decades. The new Joyce E. Sinnott Stargazing Site in Sturbridge is exactly that kind of effort.

At first glance, it may seem like a modest addition to town resources. A telescope pedestal. An informational sign. A planisphere to help residents identify what they see overhead. Yet the true value of the site is much larger than the materials used to build it. It represents curiosity, education, memory, and the belief that even a small town can keep its eyes on the stars.

Anna Burns, a senior at Tantasqua Regional High School and a page at Joshua Hyde Public Library, chose astronomy as the focus of her Eagle Scout project because it reflects a personal passion. That alone would have made the effort meaningful. But she also connected her work to something deeper by honoring longtime library trustee Joyce Sinnott, whose enthusiasm for astronomy programs and telescope lending helped shape the library's offerings for years.

That decision transformed a student project into a community legacy.

Libraries have always been places where exploration begins. Sometimes that exploration happens through books. Sometimes through conversation. And sometimes through something as simple as stepping outside after sunset and looking up. By creating a permanent site tied to the library's telescope lending program, Burns helped make that experience easier and more inviting for everyone.

Projects like this also remind us what the Eagle Scout rank represents. It is not simply a badge or a title. It is the result of planning, persistence, teamwork, and a commitment to leaving a place better than it was before. Only a small percentage of Scouts reach that milestone, and each one does so through a project meant to serve others.

What stands out especially in this case is how naturally the effort connects generations. A young Scout created something new. A respected community volunteer's legacy was honored. A public library gained another educational resource. And residents of all ages now have an opportunity to engage with science in a direct and memorable way.

That matters.

At a time when so much of modern life happens indoors and on screens, a stargazing site encourages something different. It invites families to step outside together. It encourages children to ask questions. It reminds adults of the wonder they may have felt the first time they noticed constellations overhead.

The placement of the site at Cedar Lake Recreation Area for now, with a future home planned at Heins Farm, also reflects something important about Sturbridge itself. This is a town where conservation land, public spaces, and shared resources still play a central role in everyday life. A telescope platform fits naturally into that tradition.

Perhaps most important of all, the project sends a quiet message to other young people in the community. It shows that individual initiative can make a lasting difference. It demonstrates that local history and personal interests can come together in meaningful ways. And it proves that honoring someone's legacy does not require a monument. Sometimes it only takes a thoughtful idea and the determination to see it through.

A simple place to look at the night sky may not seem like a major civic investment. But it is exactly the kind of thoughtful addition that strengthens a community's sense of connection, curiosity, and shared purpose.

And that is something worth celebrating.

To the Editor:

Bruce Menin, a candidate for the Charlton Select Board, is highly qualified to hold the position for a number of reasons. He has a proven track record of working collaboratively with a variety of community stakeholders, both at his former residence and at his current home base in Charlton.

After spending 22 years serving on the Newburyport School Committee, Bruce has vast knowledge of the challenges faced by any community in providing the best possible education while also being fiscally responsible. As we know in Charlton, that prior knowledge in school finance is a huge asset in budget discussions.

In addition to elected public office, Bruce

If you're a local business owner, a workplace retirement plan can be a powerful tool – helping you manage taxes, strengthen employee retention and build personal financial security.

Many in your situation, however, assume retirement plans are complicated or only suitable for large companies. The reality is quite different. Today's retirement plan options encompass businesses of every size, from solo entrepreneurs to companies with dozens of employees.

The key is understanding which plans work best for different kinds of businesses:

Self-employed individuals or businesses without employees. Three commonly used retirement plans:

- Simplified employee pension (SEP) plans are relatively straightforward, low-maintenance, lower-cost and flexible on how much you contribute each year.

- Owner-only 401(k) plans are ideal if you're willing to accept additional cost and complexity in exchange for benefits like higher contribution limits and borrowing options.

- Owner only defined benefit plans work best for owners with high, steady income who want to maximize their retirement contributions and guaranteed retirement income. These plans come with required annual funding and greater administrative complexity.

Businesses with employees can also consider an SEP plan, although it only allows for employer contributions. Other plan options include:

- The SIMPLE IRA (savings incentive match plan for employees) can work well for companies with 100 or fewer employees seeking a low-maintenance option. Employer contributions are required, and it has lower contribution limits compared to other plan types.

- Traditional 401(k) plans offer maximum flexibility by allowing both employee salary deferrals and employer contributions that can

# OPINION

## Which retirement plan is right for your business?



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be adjusted based on business performance. These plans have added costs and administrative responsibilities.

- Safe harbor 401(k) plans are ideal if you want to maximize your own retirement contributions without complex testing requirements and you're willing to make required employer contributions.

- A cash balance plan is often paired with another plan type, such as a 401(k), to allow greater retirement savings. It works well when you have a smaller company with high-earning employees and consistent cash flow, and you're comfortable making required contributions.

Each plan type involves different eligibility requirements, establishment deadlines, contribution limits, complexity and costs. In determining a workplace retirement plan that's right for your business, you'll want to consider your number of employees, desired contribution levels, comfort with required employer contributions and willingness to handle administrative responsibilities. And, of course, the goals for your business and your own retirement are important criteria.

Fortunately, you don't have to navigate this decision alone. A financial advisor can help you evaluate the trade-offs among different plan types and select the option that best fits your situation. They can explain how various plans work and guide you through the setup process.

Starting a workplace retirement plan is an investment in your future, your business and your employees. With professional guidance, you can find a plan that helps everyone build financial security while positioning your business for continued success.

*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*

## When the porch chairs come back

There is a certain day every year when you realize the town has put its chairs back outside.

Not folding chairs for a parade or a cookout. I mean the ordinary chairs. The ones that live on front porches, at the edge of driveways, beside garage doors, or near the front walk where the afternoon sun lingers the longest. One week they are not there. The next week they are everywhere.

You do not see them arrive. They simply reappear, as if they had been waiting all winter for permission.

I noticed the first one this year outside a house on a side street I drive through often. A plain wooden chair, nothing special about it, set just far enough from the front door that someone could sit comfortably and watch the street without feeling like they were blocking the entrance. Two days later there were three more on the same block. By the end of the week it felt as though the whole neighborhood had quietly decided it was time again.

Porch chairs change the pace of a town.

When people sit outside, they notice things. They see who walks by with a dog that is getting older. They notice which kid has suddenly outgrown last year's bicycle. They wave to someone who has lived three houses down for 20 years, but whose schedule never quite lined up with theirs until now.

You cannot do that from inside.

Winter encourages us to keep moving. We arrive home and go straight indoors. We close the door and settle into the evening. Spring invites us to pause again. Not for long stretches, necessarily. Sometimes just five minutes before supper. Sometimes long enough

LANTERNS ALONG  
MAIN STREET  
By CHARLES

to finish the last of a cup of coffee. Sometimes long enough to watch the sky change color without quite meaning to.

Those chairs make that possible.

When I was younger, it seemed as though there was always someone sitting outside somewhere along the street. Not every house. But enough that you never felt alone walking past. There was usually someone who would nod, or raise a hand, or ask how things were going even if they did not expect a long answer.

That kind of presence is easy to overlook until it returns.

I passed one house the other evening where two chairs had been placed side by side near the front steps. No one was sitting in them at the time, but they faced the road in a way that made it clear they would be used soon. A little farther along, someone had set a single chair near the edge of a driveway where the late sun reached just before disappearing behind the trees. Down the block, another chair rested beside a small table that looked as though it had held a glass of iced tea not long before.

None of these things were remarkable on their own. Taken together, they made the street feel open again.

A porch chair is a small declaration. It says someone plans to be outside for a while. It says the day has stretched enough to make room for sitting instead of hurrying. It says the neighborhood is not only a place we pass through, but a place we share.

I always like the week when the chairs come back. It means the season has turned in a quiet but dependable way. And it means that before long, someone will be sitting in one of them, watching the evening settle over the street the same way people here always have.

## TO THE EDITOR

### I like Mike

was on several boards.

He's open to conversation from everyone on what matters most to them and I honestly feel that he will be an asset to the town as he represents us all. I know he's taking the time to make phone calls to speak to individuals to learn what the important issues are to them because he genuinely cares.

Voting takes place at Heritage School gymnasium from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. I like Mike, and I will be casting my vote for him. Won't you join me?

Jamie Zeveska  
Charlton

## Experience matters on the Charlton Select Board

To the Editor:

Bruce Menin possesses the right balance of experience, creativity, civility, and common sense. Having spent much of his career working in the non-profit sector, Bruce knows the importance of fiscal prudence. He has a long history of collaborating creatively to reach new solutions when others thought it couldn't be done. Rolling up his sleeves, Bruce always steps up when the community has a need. Most recently having served on the Charlton Cultural Council, the Senior/Community Center Feasibility Committee, as a volunteer at Overlook and at our own Senior Center, Bruce always leads the charge to help his fellow neighbors.

Before relocating to Charlton, Bruce served proudly for 22 years

### Bruce will produce!

also has extensive experience in public service. He currently serves on the Charlton Cultural Council and the Senior/Community Center Siting Feasibility Committee. He volunteers at the Charlton Senior Center, facilitating a writer's workshop, and at Overlook, facilitating a playwriting workshop. Why are these endeavors important? Because they are evidence that Bruce not only "talks the talk,"

he "walks the walk." He maintains the belief that we are a community of individuals with many different interests and priorities, but we can do more by respectfully working together.

Someone recently asked Bruce why they should vote for him instead of his opponent. A lesser candidate would have taken that opportunity to bad-mouth his opponent, but Bruce replied that he was running for the

position, not against the other candidate. And he steered him to more information on his Facebook page. (Bruce Menin for Charlton Select Board) That's the kind of leadership I'm voting for! Please join me in voting on May 2 at Heritage School.

Nancy Tully  
Charlton

### Bruce Menin has the goods

the position he seeks. Furthermore, he has the demeanor that allows him to work collaboratively with others. I recommend checking out his Facebook page. It's an impressive read. He's got the goods!

Timothy Dada  
Charlton

## Earth Day is every day

To the Editor:

I did the Earth Day/Arbor Day clean up in town on Saturday, April 25. It was so nice to see the flowers and bulbs blooming around town, to see the leaf buds, and to hear the birds and insects active! It was doubly nice to have a resident come up and thank me. Not only did she thank me, but she said to me, "I have an errand to run and then I am going to help!" And she did!

Seeing nice Spring activity is a good time to encourage you all to participate in No Mow May. Dedicate all 31 days of May to helping our fellow Earthlings get a good start in life! Remember we depend on them to pollinate our crops so let's help them out, too! The butterflies, moths, and insects will thank you! Glance at any catch-basins near you and see if they are full- report to the

town to have them cleared so we don't get flooded by stormwater. Please don't worry about the "weeds" that may grow up. Many folks don't like them because they can spread. Recognize their beneficial uses: dandelions have many medicinal uses and can be dried and used as a tea. If you use the dandelion after it has bloomed but before it goes to seed (that grey-white seedhead that is easily blown or carried by wind), you will avoid that (but provide good nutrition for passing pollinators!). Dandelions have a long taproot that can be harvested, chopped, dried and used as a coffee substitute!

Earth Day is every day! So is Arbor Day! Happy Spring!

Maureen Doyle  
Southbridge

### 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.

# Burgess third graders kick off Sturbridge celebration of America 250

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

Expect to see special commemorative banners featuring an historical flag posted on poles along Routes 20 and 131. Look for programs focusing on the history of America at the Joshua Hyde Public Library, and from the Sturbridge Historical Society. Old Sturbridge Village is hosting Revolutionary Game Nights at the Ox & Yoke Café. Participants will have the chance to win prizes such as special event tickets, Village crafts, and more! Check out “Revolutionary Bingo” March 27 and May 29 and “Revolutionary Trivia” Feb. 27, April 24, and June 26. For

more information about these events and the many other new 250th events that the Village will be hosting, go to: osv.org.

Additional events sponsored by the Committee include an essay program for Grade 5 students titled “What Does America Mean to You?” with an option for students to voluntarily submit essays to a Town-wide recognition contest. Local restaurants will participate in a “Taste of Sturbridge” event during March and April featuring patriotic-themed offerings. Opacum Land Trust will incorporate Sturbridge historical landmarks into its April 2026 Vacation Scavenger Hunt. Also planned for May at the Senior Center are a tree planting and the burying of a time capsule.

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

and 3-legged races, music and more. A hot dog cart will also be available. The Committee’s signature event will be held on June 27, 2026 and will feature a parade along Route 20 and Route 131, followed by a community festival on the Town Common. More information on these events will be forthcoming.

Volunteer recruitment and community engagement have been central to the Committee’s work. The Committee

extends its appreciation to all residents, volunteers, nonprofit organizations, and local businesses supporting the America 250th Anniversary celebration. If you are interested in participating in either/both the Family Fun Day and the Parade, or simply wish to find more information, please contact the Sturbridge250 Committee by email at Sturbridge250@gmail.com.

## Actors sought for living history cemetery tour!

BRIMFIELD — As part of Brimfield’s 250th celebration of the American Revolution, a living history cemetery tour is being planned for June 13. The tour includes powerful stories of the men who left home to serve in the patriot cause and the families they left behind. Registration details to follow.

Organizers are seeking a male actor to portray a notable Brimfield resident whose family sent fourteen men to fight for freedom. Narrators, who will read short graveside scripts, are also needed. Contact Sue DeBruin through the Friends of Historic Brimfield at (413) 239-0288 to lend your talents and make history come alive!

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

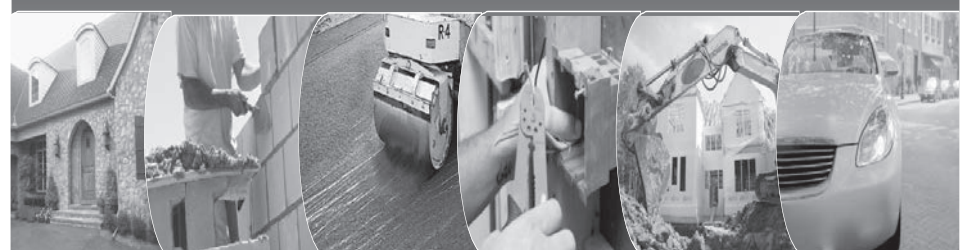
SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge presents the children’s production of “Charlotte’s Web.” Adapted by Joseph Robinette. Based on the book by E.B. White. Performance dates are May 1 and 2 at 7 p.m., May 3 at 2 p.m., and May 8 and 9 at 7 p.m. The performances are held at Fellowship Hall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

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

The Children’s Literature Association named this “the best American children’s book of the past two hundred years,” and Joseph Robinette, working

with the advice of E.B. White, has created a play that captures this work in a thrilling and utterly practical theatrical presentation. The costumes and unit set may be simple or as colorful and elaborate as you wish; it’s the story and relationships that make the show. All the enchanting characters are here: Wilbur, the irresistible young pig who desperately wants to avoid the butcher; Fern, a girl who understands what animals say to each other; Templeton, the gluttonous rat who can occasionally be talked into a good deed; the Zuckerman family; the Arabes; and, most of all, the extraordinary spider, Charlotte, who proves to be “a true friend and a good writer.” Determined to save Wilbur, Charlotte begins her campaign with the “miracle” of her web in which she writes, “Some pig.” It’s the beginning of a victorious campaign which ultimately ends with the now-safe Wilbur doing what is most important to Charlotte.

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# Cornerstone Bank supports EcoTarium's "The Secret World of Elephants" exhibition

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank has donated \$25,000 to the EcoTarium museum of science and nature, to sponsor The Secret World of Elephants exhibition.

The donation will help defray the more than \$600,000 cost of bringing the traveling exhibit from the American Museum of Natural History in New York to Worcester for a six-month stay from March through September 2026. The EcoTarium expects more than 100,000 visitors to experience the exhibit, which will not travel to Boston.

"The Secret World of Elephants" explores the science, behavior and impact of elephants through immersive displays including a life-size woolly mammoth, detailed models of modern elephants, touchable casts, interactive exhibits and video experiences. Visitors will learn how elephants communicate, sense vibrations through their feet, use the 16 powerful muscles in their trunks and shape the ecosystems around them.

"Supporting organizations that expand access to education and science is central to our community mission," said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. "We are proud to help bring this extraordinary exhibition to the region and make it accessible to families, students and visitors across Central and Western Massachusetts."



Courtesy

Sean Duke, Market Manager; Kim Drudi, Commercial Services Officer (ASB); Julie Mann, Executive Assistant (ASB); Jasondre Williams, Customer Relations Specialist Onboarding Ambassador; Todd Tallman, CEO; Nicole Gaylord, Community Relations Manager; Madeline Gronski, Community Relations Assistant; Dan Zona, President.

## QCC leading the way in apprenticeship degrees

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College is developing apprenticeship degrees that combine paid work experience with academic credentials in multiple industries. This includes the first practical nursing apprenticeship degree program in Massachusetts, which launched earlier this year. QCC also offers a medical assistant apprenticeship degree and will expand its offerings this fall to include cybersecurity and early childhood education.

"Apprenticeship degrees bridge the gap between education and real-world expertise. They empower individuals to build skills with purpose, strengthen local industries and create a workforce that is prepared, adaptable and essential to a thriving society," said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja.

QCC offers registered apprenticeship models that similarly follow a learn-and-earn model, but some positions, such as a licensed practical nurse (LPN), still require a degree. QCC's apprentice degree programs satisfy this need and provide pathways for both incumbent workers and new hires. Classroom instruction through QCC is followed by implementing skills in the workplace under the supervision of a journey coach, an experienced professional at the apprentice's current employer.

For students like Lina Un, who has been a medical assistant with Reliant Medical Group, the LPN apprenticeship degree is a way to learn in her existing work environment and advance to her dream job, while continuing to raise three children. Un described healthcare as her calling to give

back, after witnessing the compassion of nurses and doctors during her mother's long battle with cancer.

"We all want to become more, but you can't stop working, especially with a family to support," Un said. "This is a great program for anyone to be able to continue working and learning."

Margaret St. John currently works as a certified nursing assistant for Reliant Medical Group and eagerly accepted the opportunity to join QCC's medical assistant apprenticeship degree program when she heard about it through her supervisor.

"It's life-changing. The fact that this company is willing to invest in its employees means the world to me and makes me feel appreciated and committed," St. John said.

St. John's attitude aligns with current data from the U.S. Department of Labor, indicating that 90 percent of registered apprenticeship participants retain employment after program completion.

Employer SALMON Health and Retirement partnered with QCC's apprenticeship degree program to develop its staff and address the need for nurses in Massachusetts.

"It's a win-win for the company. We're getting vetted staff who we know are great employees, and they are provided continued education in their field. We want our staff to look at this as more than a job, but a career with a lot of opportunity and growth," said SALMON's Chief People Officer, Scott Laakso, adding, "QCC has always been easy to work with and willing to listen to our needs."

## Massasoit Art Guild announces Spring Small Works show at Leicester Public Library

LEICESTER — The Massasoit Art Guild will present its Spring Small Works Art and Photography Show from April 30 through May 27 at the Leicester Public Library, offering visitors a chance to view a wide range of compact-format artwork created by guild members from across the region.

The members-only exhibition will feature original pieces limited to a maximum size of 12 by 14 inches, measured by outside frame dimensions. Artists may submit up to two entries each. Organizers said the smaller format encourages experimentation and accessibility while allowing a broad range of styles and media to be displayed in a shared community setting.

The show will be judged as a single category rather than divided by medium. Awards will be presented for first, second and third place, along with an honorary mention. A People's Choice selection will also be recognized. Ribbon prizes will be awarded to winners.

Artwork drop-off and check-in is scheduled for Thursday, April 30, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the library's ground-floor Community Room. Later that day, the guild will host a public meet-and-greet reception with participating artists from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the same location. Organizers

encourage all participating artists to attend the reception to connect with visitors and fellow exhibitors.

The exhibition will remain on display during regular library hours through May 27. Pick-up for submitted artwork is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, from 9:30 to 11 a.m., again in the Community Room.

Registration for the show opened Feb. 22 and continues through April 15, or until available space is filled. Advance registration is required, and artists must complete the entry process through the guild's website.

Guild representatives said the annual small works exhibition provides an opportunity for artists to present new material while also introducing local audiences to the range of talent within the organization. The show is designed to be approachable for both established artists and newer members interested in exhibiting their work publicly.

Support for the exhibition is provided in part through a grant from the Spencer Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council.

Additional information about show rules and registration is available through the Massasoit Art Guild website. Questions may also be directed to the organization by email at massasoitartguild@gmail.com.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone, which is a subsidiary of PeoplesBankCorp, MHC, operating independently under its own name and brand, provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals,

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## Girls on the Run Worcester County will host 5K event May 17

WORCESTER — Girls on the Run Worcester County will host its 5K event on Sunday, May 17 at Polar Park in Worcester.

This spring season, Girls on the Run Worcester County is supporting more girls than they ever have in a single season, reaching 986 girls throughout Worcester County. Girls on the Run is a physical activity-based, positive youth development program that uses fun running games and dynamic discussions to teach life skills to girls in 3rd to 8th grade. During the eight to ten-week program, girls participate in lessons that foster confidence, build peer connections and encourage community service while they prepare for an end-of-season celebratory 5K event.

Participation in the 5K event on May 17 is open to the public and all proceeds from the event will benefit Girls on the Run Worcester County. This season's 5K event is expected to bring together approximately 4,000 participants including program participants, their family, friends, and community members. Registration is \$55 or \$65 for day of registration and includes a finishers medal. This event is not chip timed as Girls on the Run volunteer coaches coach their girls to run at their "happy pace" and the goal is to cross the finish line.

The doors will open at Polar Park at 8:30 a.m., and the run will begin at

10:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 17 at Polar Park. Early arrival is suggested. For more information about the event, how to register and volunteer opportunities, visit [www.gotr-worc.org](http://www.gotr-worc.org).

About Girls on the Run

Based in Charlotte, N.C., Girls on the Run is a nonprofit organization with local Councils in all 50 states. Founded in 1996 with 13 girls, Girls on the Run has now served over 2 million girls. Over the course of the program, girls in 3rd-8th grade develop essential social, emotional and physical skills to successfully navigate life experiences. The program culminates with girls positively impacting their communities through a service project and being physically and emotionally prepared to complete a celebratory 5K event. With the largest 5K series by number of events in the world, Girls on the Run hosts more than 330 5Ks per year. Girls on the Run is included as a top research-based program in a Social-Emotional Learning Guide developed by researchers at Harvard University and has been recognized by the National Afterschool Association (NAA) as one of the most influential after-school programs. Girls on the Run is offered in more than 13,000 across the US. Visit {council website} to learn how to get involved in your community.

## New Bocce League open to community

SOUTHBRIDGE — Bay Path Continuing Education & the Southbridge Italian Club have teamed up to launch an exciting new bocce league on Tuesday nights throughout May and June.

Bocce is a game that all can enjoy—no special skills or talents are required! If you can roll a ball, you can play! These two community organizations are thrilled to bring this sport to a wider audience. Both Bay Path Continuing Education and the Southbridge Italian Club are dedicated to offering various events for people to engage, socialize, and have fun. This new league is a perfect fit here. The details:

Tuesdays: May 12 – June 30 (eight weeks)

- Teams of four to eight players

- \$240 per team
- One game per week at either 6 or 7 p.m.
- Maximum of eight teams – don't wait!
- o Only team captains need to register for their team.
- o A brief informational captain meeting will be held before the season starts.
- o Gather your friends (18 and older), form a team, and come join us for a fantastic time on the court!
- Games will be held at: Italian American Club 20 North St., Southbridge
- To register your team, call Bay Path Continuing Education at 508-248-5971, ext. 1715. Spots for teams are limited, so don't hesitate—call today!

# Camp Invention's fun, action-packed summer STEM program coming to area

REGION — Camp Invention®, a nationally recognized, nonprofit summer enrichment program, is coming to the following locations.

Auburn: Auburn Middle School the week of July 6 - July 10.

Uxbridge: Our Lady of the Valley Regional School the week of June 22 - June 26.

Regional program sponsors include Johnson Controls Foundation and Overdeck Family Foundation.

A program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame® in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Camp Invention challenges children in grades K-6 to tap into their natural curiosity and use their creativity to solve problems. Through hands-on activities, Camp Invention promotes STEM learning; builds confidence, leadership, perseverance and resourcefulness; and encourages entrepreneurship - all in a fun and engaging environment.

Each year, the program features new curricula inspired by some of our nation's most world-changing inventors - the National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductees. This year's Spark program encourages children to be confident in their ideas and explore their innovativeness through hands-on activities including:

- Space Morphers™: Kids build a DIY rocket and launch an epic mission



to transform a new planet's atmosphere, terrain and ecosystem. After a high-energy Rover Race to collect samples and data, they grow dazzling crystal trees and hatch a mysterious animal egg in a Space Lab.

- Make Waves™: Campers ride the waves of entrepreneurship and invention! Inspired by a surfer's journey, they create prototypes, pitch their innovative products to hook investors and build a billboard boat to set sail and "make waves" in the market.

- Fur-ensics™: Kids sharpen their animal detective skills with Cap E. Bara and a fleet of robotic capybaras. They investigate a trail of footprints, collect bits of fluffy fur and examine suspicious splatters before forensically analyzing evidence that has a surprising twist.

- The Infringers™: Campers use their invention superpowers to solve challenges in their community and around the world. They miniaturize top-secret innovations, safeguard their designs using

cryptography and protect their intellectual property from the Infringers.

"I love that this camp lets my kids step out of the usual roles that they have at home and in school, and explore different parts of themselves," said the parent of 2025 Camp Invention campers. "At camp my son learns to be more creative and my daughter learns to be more independent."

All local Camp Invention programs are facilitated and taught by qualified educators who reside and teach in the community. Camp Invention serves 147,000 students every year and partners with more than 2,600 schools and districts across the nation. For more information or to register, visit [invent.org/camp](http://invent.org/camp).

About Camp Invention

Camp Invention is the only nationally recognized summer program focused on creativity, innovation, real-world problem solving and the spirit of invention. Through hands-on programming, Camp Invention encourages children entering kindergarten through sixth grade to explore science, technology, engineering and mathematics curricula inspired by some of the world's greatest inventors. Since 1990, our education programs have served more than 3.3 million children, and 297,000 teachers and Leadership Interns. Regional program sponsors include the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

## Sophomores named to Bay Path honor roll

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School congratulates the following students in grade 10 on being named to the honor roll for the third quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

High Honors

Madeline Candice Adugyamfi, Davian Alexander Alicea Aponte, Matheus Holanda Antonelli, Nyahlise Lillian Aviles, Isabella Elizabeth Barrell, Caterina Beverlianna Boon, Emerson Hagen Borgeson, Benjamin Robert Brooks, Morgan Lynn Brooks, Julia Rose Bukowski, Claire Elizabeth Calnan, Derek Alexander Campos, Keegan Jack Champlin, Sydney Faustina Chisholm, Noah James Cole, Alyssa Marie Cuevas, Esmee Elizabeth Cyr, Ayla Rose Drisco, Alice Marie Dufault, Christopher Jeremy Feliciano, Brian Thomas Finnegan, Madelyn Helena Frost, Melody Starr Fuentes, Alivia Rose Gauvin, Vanessa Diane Gordon, Yadiel Enrique Hernandez Navarro, Shaylan Rose Hesselton, Emma Mae Jalbert, Veronica Mae Jensrud, Jordyn Kate Labrecque, Isabella Grace Leatham-Wright, Ginely Shantel Molina, Carly Jane Moody, Shea Alfred Mulligan, Teagan Patrice O'Halloran, Michael Thomas Payson, Ava Sophia Reed, Ethan Vance Rodriguez, Alexia Grace Rondeau, Esmerelda Rosario Tirado, Brianna Jingchen Shi, Paul Joseph Skarzenski, Victor Manuel Sobinski, Nelson Tobias Sorto, Victoria Marie Sullivan, Spencer Thomas Wisniewski

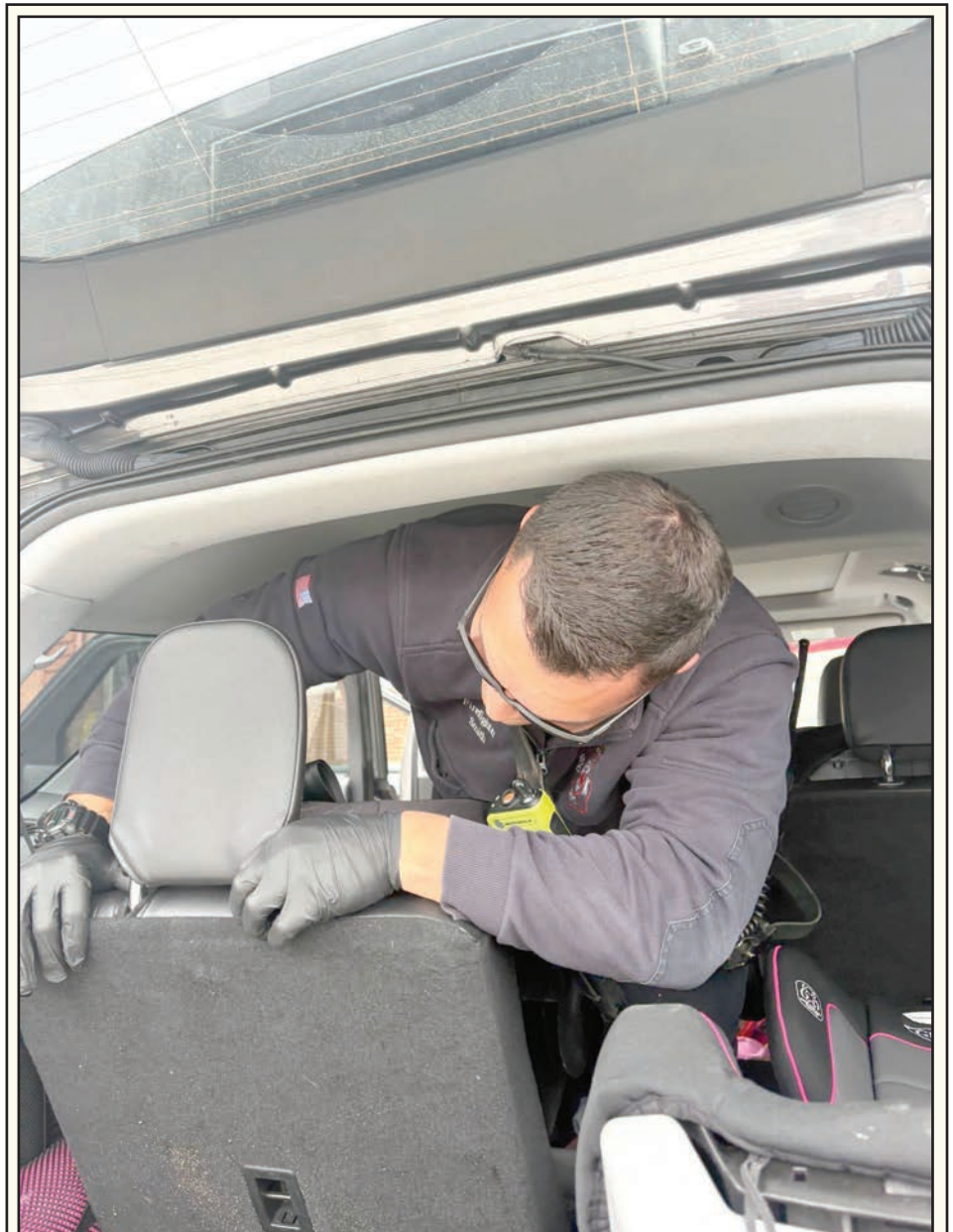
Honors

Arlind Aliu, Chase Michael Anthony, Yaniel Aviles, Gianna Rae Bedard, Elizabeth Susan Bennington Lynch, Addam James Bergeron, Cody James Blair, Brian Bui, Andrew Mason Carter, Julie Elizabeth Chenier, Sadie Ann Cleary, Elijah Gabriel Cormier, Brody James Coughlin, Jackson Murray Coughlin, Addyson Kaeleigh Coutu, Blake Nicholas Curboy, Holly Marie Dailey, Tavis McKinley Davis, Norah Abigail Dean, Arielle Grace Deauseault, Oliver Gage DeLorge, Aaron Justin Desautels, Ava Marie Dufault, Fable Dufresne, Rylie Anne Dwyer, Dominik John Duziubasik, Madysin Riley Fitzgerald, Kylee Marie Fournier, Nikolas William Foustoukos, Anthony Joseph Fredette, Charlotte Susan May Fredette, Ryan James Fuller, Jayden Robert Afolabi Giwa-Bello, Colton Philip Hall, Marcus Roy Hamilton, Addison Katie Harrington, Fatima Edilene Herrera, Chloe Rose Hosley, Colin Henry Joyce, Victoria Rose Kaiser, Brooke Marie Kasprzak, Brayden Albert Kraus, Brianna Ashleigh Laforest, Olivia Corinne LaMountain, Andrew Arthur Lashua, Wesley Patrick Lawless, Valentina Medeiros Lima, Juliano Ligeniale Lopez, Kaitlin Angela Lulu, Emily Ann Macko, Cynthia Kagan Marc, Julia Danielle Marini, Aydan Michael Marsh, Sherlyn Mazariegos Hernandez, Madison Grace McKinstry, John Steven McMahon, Logan James Mondino, Ashlyne Emily Monsen, Derek Omar Morales, Raider Keith Newton, Adalynn Jane Nietsche, Nathaniel Leif Noyes, Landon Spencer Olszta, Giavanna Bella Orsi, Gabriel Armando Ortiz, Julian Thomas Papeirski, Matilda Cecile Paradis, Jocelyn Rose Peck, AJ Jesse Perron, Kurtwood Russell Pettiford, Parke Jonathan Piehl, Joseph Lewis Pretty, Blake Leonard Richard, Christopher Jeffrey Richardson, Shaye Patricia Riley,

Danna Paola Rodriguez Lopez, Emilyyanis Joan Rodriguez, Ava Victoria Rondeau, Keomar Arnaldo Rosario Sanchez, Isabella Roszkowski, Aiden Lee Rubito, Liliana Morgan Rubito, Rianna Gathoni Ruo, Jayden Jose Santos, Thomas Francis Shivick, Grace Autumn Shoblom, Alejandro Javier Sierra Varas, Tatiana Maria Smolynsky, Heather Holiday Starr, Owen Miles Stewart, Jade Antonia Stien, Angela Sofia Suarez Pineros, Nayelis Nahir Torres Godineaux, Olivia Ruth Torres, Haidynn Anne Tuttle, Shafick Yamal Vasquez-Grande, Gina Grace Vautour, Castiel Lee Vazquez, Colin Anthony Vega, Sadie Mckenna Villegas, Sione Flynn Villegas, Ella Violette Wall, Thomas Earl Welch, Colby Deary Wells, Madison Elizabeth Wells, Riley John West, Sydney Alexandra Winer, Benjamin Richard Wolanski, Chloe Olivia Young, Isabella Anne Zorena

Principal's List

Zachary Barry Barsalou, Abel Pax Burdick, Collin Edward Burt, Jowell Alberto Cedeno, Paul Matthew Ceppetelli, Ayva Marie Coffey, Aiden Michael Collins, John Michel Rousseau Daniel, Tristan Nichole Defazio, Nadya Anita Delgado, Nicolas James DiGioia, Ian Joseph Fantasia, Emanuel Jesus Feliciano Rodriguez, Adrie James Ford, Tyler Blake Friend, Matthew Donald Graves, Jannie Mahoney Kabba, Ryan Khai Lima, Amelia Layne Magorian, Amelia Layne Magorian, Isabella Adeline Monahan, Marieliz Magdalena Morel, Bryton Favor Mosong, Anthony Jadon Ribeiro Ortiz, Saverio James Palaia, Mason D. Michael Parker, Jacob Louis Pecore, Treva Mae Plank, Tianyu Qi, Bo Carl Riley, Kayla Elizabeth Shepard, Gavin Joseph Thompson, Jamison Douglas Trevallion, Angelina Marie Vazquez, Joniel Leonardo Velez Diaz, Noah Joel Waterhouse, Julianis Paola Zayas Rivera



Courtesy

During the Town of Charlton's Earth Day Festival at Town Hall, the Charlton Fire Department hosted a Car Seat Safety Event focused on keeping the community's youngest members safe on the road. During the event, certified car seat technicians from the department installed five new car seats, provided three new car seats free of charge, and checked numerous others to ensure they were properly installed and safe. Thanks to a competitive grant received by the Charlton Fire Department, these vital safety resources were made available to the community. As a result, more children in Charlton are now riding safely and securely in their vehicles. The Charlton Fire Department is proud to support the safety and well-being of local families and appreciates everyone who attended and participated in the event. Photo courtesy of the department's Facebook page.

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# Casaubon Senior Center announces upcoming trips

SOUTHBRIDGE — And Away We Go Travels and Best of Times Travel. Center is sponsoring these up and coming trips from

visit the senior center to pick up a flyer. A \$25. deposit is needed at sign up.

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

July 19 —Day In

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

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

Sept. 30 — Turkey

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

Nov. 29 — Holiday Jamboree at Ivoryton Playhouse-First stop is at the Scotch Plains Tavern for lunch. Your choice of chicken, scrod or vegetable primavera is offered. The Jamboree plays homage to the Grand Ole

Opry holiday music. \$169 a person for a wonderful way to start the holidays.

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

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

## Bring your favorite book to life with Wales Library

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

Bring your favorite book, by an American author, to life!

Costume creation sessions will take place at

the Wales Library 77 Main St., Wales, on April 21, 22 & 23, 2:30-4 p.m. Please register to join us by calling 413 245-9072.

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

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

2026 Marks the 7th year of the Pioneer Valley Wine and Food

festival. This exciting event brings together New England Wineries, Cideries, Distilleries, and Meaderies from across the Pioneer Valley and Farmers of many sorts selling their wares.

The event started in 2018 by the collaboration with farm wineries throughout New England and local farmers to cre-

ate a festival to highlight the magnificent products Massachusetts provides all in unison and support of Massachusetts Agricultural Department.

The Festival will feature local vintners and craft brewers ready to spill their secrets, Live Art demonstrations, sizzling chef panel starring culinary celebs - to be

announced soon. Last year celebrity guests include; Brynn Gibson, the youngest Black Jacket finalist from Fox's Hell's Kitchen with Gordon Ramsay. We also have Jared Forman, the culinary mastermind behind Deadhorse Hill, who brought the heat on Food Network's Beat Bobby Flay.

## Auction Acres to host Seventh Annual Pioneer Valley Wine Festival



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# Brimfield to mark 250th anniversary of Independence

BRIMFIELD — Save the date! On Saturday, June 13, a community-wide celebration marking the 250th anniversary of our nation's freedom will take place in Brimfield.

In recognition of this year's historic milestone, a full day of remembrance and celebration is planned.

All are welcome to attend the day's events, which include the following: Revolutionary War themed cemetery tours, a ceremony at the town common gazebo, a parade, and fun-filled festivities at the Brimfield Winery. The evening will close out

with a spectacular fireworks display.

Additional details and updates will be available through the Friends of Historic Brimfield event Web site, [www.fohbrimfield.org](http://www.fohbrimfield.org). Tax-deductible donations can also be made in support of this celebration through this website, and in grati-

tude, donors will be recognized in the event program. Donations can also be mailed to: Friends of Historic Brimfield, P.O. Box 52, Brimfield, MA 01010 with "Spirit of Brimfield" in the memo.

This event is currently being sponsored by the Massachusetts Army National Guard and

Classic Hits 97.7 FM. If you or your company are interested in any level of corporate or business sponsorship, please visit the event website at [www.fohbrimfield.org](http://www.fohbrimfield.org). Additional volunteers are needed for both planning and to help with activities during the event, or if you are

interested in putting a float in the parade, contact Friends of Historic Brimfield at (413) 239-0288 for more information.

Be sure to save the date for this celebration of the founding of our country! More information will follow.

## LEGALS

### CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for the proposed installation of a septic system to replace the existing failed system within the 100-ft buffer zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The project location is: 18 Ramshorn Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 74-B-2 Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request.

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

Thomas O'Malley  
Chair, Charlton Conservation  
Commission  
April 30, 2026

### Sturbridge Planning Board Public Hearing Application for Site Plan Approval Town of Sturbridge Joshua Hyde Public Library

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, May 11, 2026 at 6:35 PM in the Center Office Building located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and/or by virtual means** if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law; on the application of The Town of Sturbridge for the property located at **306 Main Street**.

The applicant requests Site Plan Approval as required by the Sturbridge Zoning Bylaws Article XIX, Site Plan Review to make ADA improvements to a new outdoor deck and ramp system that will provide handicap accessibility to the lower levels of Joshua Hyde Public Library as well as accessible outdoor program space. The basement doors will also be corrected to meet accessibility standards during this project as well. All improvements shall be constructed per the plans and specifications submitted and the property location is 306 Main Street, Sturbridge.

The proposed request can be viewed at <https://www.sturbridge.gov/planning-board/pages/recent-filings> or arrangements can be made to view the application packet by contacting the Sturbridge Planning Department. Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this proposal should appear at the time and place designated. Members of the public may watch the meeting online via the Town's on demand video broadcast or via cable television on Channel 191.

It is the intent to have this Public Hearing in person. However, if circumstances warrant, the Board may choose to hold this Hearing via virtual or hybrid (in person and virtual) means. In the event of a virtual or hybrid meeting, please follow this link: <https://meet.goto.com/619527397>.

Please note that the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law.

Charles Blanchard  
Chairperson  
April 23, 2026  
April 30, 2026

### CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland

Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on May 13, at 7PM on the application of the Town of Charlton. The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for the initiation of an aquatic management program through the use of herbicides, algaecides, and a winter drawdown of Little Nugget Lake. The project location is: Little Nugget Lake, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 20A-A-78

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  
April 30, 2026

### NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Lisa S. Phaneuf-Perry, Raymond K. Perry to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC, dated May 3, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66563, Page 353, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC, its successors and assigns to Rocket Mortgage, LLC, FKA Quicken Loans, LLC, recorded on June 12, 2023, in Book No. 69240, at Page 103

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 3:00 PM on May 22, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 294 Brookfield Road, Fiskdale (Sturbridge), Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT:

Tax Id Number(s): 173-00443-294  
Land situated in the City of Sturbridge in the County of Worcester in the State of MA

THE LAND IN STURBRIDGE, WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS, WITH THE BUILDINGS THEREON SITUATED ON THE EASTERLY SIDE OF BROOKFIELD ROAD (ROUTE 148) AND BEING LOT 4 AS SHOWN ON PLAN ENTITLED "PLAN OF LAND OF LOTS 2-3-4 IN STURBRIDGE, MASS. OWNED BY SWIACKI REALTY TRUST DATED AUGUST 20, 1985, ROBERT F. PARA, LAND SURVEYOR" SAID PLAN RECORDED WITH WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN PLAN BOOK 541, PLAN 77, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

WESTERLY BY SAID BROOKFIELD ROAD, (ROUTE 148), 150 FEET; NORTHERLY BY LAND FORMERLY OF SWIACKI REALTY TRUST, 290.40 FEET; EASTERLY BY OTHER LAND OF SWIACKI REALTY TRUST, 150 FEET; SOUTHERLY BY LOT 3 ON SAID PLAN, 290.40 FEET. CONTAINING 1.00 ACRE.

For mortgagor's(s)' title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 44353, Page 360.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims

in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:  
A deposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC

Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,

HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.

150 California St.

Newton, MA 02458

(617)558-0500

29093

April 23, 2026

April 30, 2026

May 7, 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, Matthew Brady, has submitted a Land Disturbance/Stormwater Management Application on April 14, 2026, for land disturbance associated with the construction of a single-family home and associated site work.

The project site is located at Lot 2 Smith Road, Charlton, MA 01507, and is also known as: Parcel ID: 6-A-4.16

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

Thomas O'Malley  
Chair, Charlton Conservation  
Commission  
April 30, 2026

### CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for the proposed construction of a detached garage and driveway within the 100-ft buffer zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The project location is: 42 Ramshorn Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 74-B-4.5

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

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

Thomas O'Malley  
Chair, Charlton Conservation  
Commission  
April 30, 2026

### Town of Sturbridge Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing Notice Special Permit

Mark & Anne Carroll

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 6:35 PM at the Center Office Building located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566** and/or by virtual means if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law; on the application of Mark & Anne Carroll.

The applicant is requesting a Special Permit pursuant to Article XVIII §300-18.2 (2) and a Finding pursuant to Article XV §300-15.2A of the Zoning Bylaw to demolish the existing single-family home and to construct a new two-story single-family home in its place. The home will be placed in the same footprint and an 8' X 24.2' addition will be added to the front. A Special Permit is required to increase the lot coverage over the 15% maximum allowed by the zoning bylaw as shown on the plans and application submitted. The property is located at 91 Shore Road

The proposed request can be viewed at <https://www.sturbridge.gov/zoning-board-appeals/pages/recent-filings> or arrangements can be made to view the application packet by contacting the Sturbridge Planning Department.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this proposal should appear at the time and place designated. Members of the public may watch the meeting online via the Town's on demand video broadcast or via cable television on Channel 191.

It is the intent to have this Public Hearing in person. However, if circumstances warrant, the Board may choose to hold this Hearing via virtual or hybrid (in person and virtual) means. In the event of a virtual or hybrid meeting, please follow this link: <https://meet.goto.com/619527397>.

Please note that the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law.

April 30, 2026  
May 7, 2026

### CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for the proposed addition to a single-family home within the 100-ft buffer zone to Baker Pond. The project location is: 97-C Baker Pond Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 80-A-11

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  
April 30, 2026

# Safe Boating certificate courses scheduled at Milford and Webster locations

REGION — The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts will be instructing two upcoming boating safety classes that meet current state mandated educational requirements.

The Boat America Course is offered in a one-day format developed to provide the skills and confidence needed to explore the coast and inland waters by boat. Basic knowledge and skills are needed to have safe and enjoyable boating experiences. This course is perfect for families that have just purchased any type of boat or are

planning to in the future, and for the boater keeping up with changes to boating regulations and laws. Basic marlinespike seamanship (knots etc.) will also be included. Successful completion of the course will certify any minor, from 12 to 16 years of age, to operate a powerboat, including a Personal Water Craft / Jet Ski (for 16 & 17-year-old operators), on all Massachusetts waters; in conjunction with the Mass. Environmental Police. Approved by National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) it will also cover the

requirements to operate a vessel in most other states & many countries where boating safety education is mandatory including RI and CT.

The Hanson-Milone Boater Safety Act, signed into Mass. Law, will now require ALL Mass. motorboat operators to complete an approved Safe Boating Certificate course before April 1, 2026, for anyone born after 1/1/1998, and by April 1, 2028, for boaters born before 1/1/1998. Enforcement of the new law will begin on September 1, 2026. This course meets the new Mass. requirement. Most boating insurance companies offer a discount on premiums for successful completion of this course. Participants 16 years old and under must be accompanied, in person, by a registered parent/guardian. SPACE IS LIMITED so register soon:

Milford High School – Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Milford High School courses offered at 31 West Fountain St., Milford. Registration is managed through the Milford Community School Use Program.

[https://milfordcommunityprogram.activityreg.com/selectactivity\\_t2.wcs#](https://milfordcommunityprogram.activityreg.com/selectactivity_t2.wcs#)  
Adult-Spring-2026 – Education –

Boat America Certificate Class or call Laura Farrell (508) 478-1119, email lfarrell@milfordma.com.

The registration deadline is April 26.

For additional USCGAux. information: phil.uscgaux@verizon.net or (508) 478-3778.

Webster Fire Department – Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Webster Fire Department Classroom, 55 Thompson Rd., Webster

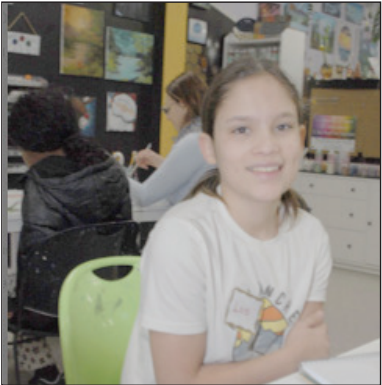
The registration deadline is May 10.

Contact our Public Education Officer Phil Kubat for registration or additional information: email phil.uscgaux@verizon.net or call (508) 478-3778.

To locate the BA meeting certification requirements, and other USCG Auxiliary courses offered go to: [https://www.cgaux.org/boating/class\\_finder/index.php](https://www.cgaux.org/boating/class_finder/index.php)

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

## Friday's Child



Luis is an active, outgoing, and inquisitive young boy who brings energy and enthusiasm to everything he does. He loves spending time outdoors, whether he's riding his bike around the neighborhood or showing off his competitive spirit while playing soccer or basketball. Luis enjoys staying active and thrives in environments where he can move, play, and challenge himself. When he's not outside, Luis likes to unwind by playing video games, giving him a chance to relax while still engaging his curiosity and problem-solving skills. He is also a thoughtful and caring child who values his relationships—on his birthday, Luis chose to use his own money to buy presents for his sister, showing just how much he cares about the people in his life. With his lively personality, strong sense of curiosity, and kind heart, Luis is a joyful and engaging child who brings both fun and warmth wherever he goes.

**Luis**  
**Age 14**  
**Registration #8311**

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21175660323>

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](http://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.

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

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

Registration will begin at 7 a.m., with a shotgun start scheduled for 8:30 a.m. The tournament will follow an A, B, C, D scramble format, making it accessible and enjoyable for both experienced golfers and casual participants. The entry fee is \$150 per player,

which includes greens fees, a golf cart, lunch and refreshments, tournament prizes, and a steak or chicken dinner. Prizes will be awarded to the top three finishing teams, and a variety of raffle prizes will also be available.

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

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

**BURNS**  
continued from page A1

her \$500 from this fund toward her project. Anna took the reins and put Joyce front and center in this project and is helping carry on Joyce's legacy in this town and with our library.

"Anna's the nicest person I've ever met," admits Plimpton. "And I'm not

surprised she achieved this goal or that she chose to pursue the highest honor in scouting with this unique and educational project that benefits our community."

"Since 1912, there have been more than two million Scouts who have earned the rank of Eagle," explains Chrissy Chamberland, Burns' former Scoutmaster of Troop 163. "While this seems like a lot, only about 6 percent of all eligible Scouts achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. Anna is one of 8,000 females who have earned the rank of Eagle Scout since being allowed in the program in 2019. As a founding member of Troop 163, Anna and eight other Scouts were the first to form the troop when females were allowed into the program. She is the seventh to reach the rank of Eagle of the original eight, and the ninth Scout overall to reach the rank of Eagle within the troop. It is not an easy task, earning the rank of Eagle Scout, and we are extremely proud of what she has accomplished."

Chamberland adds, "[Anna] is now the Youth Contingent Leader for the next National Order of the Arrow Conference and committee member of the Admonition Team which promotes equality and acceptance and works to make the program more inclusive for all Scouts."

Requirements for becoming an Eagle Scout: Today Scouts must complete 6 ranks: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, and Life. They must earn 21 merit badges, 13 of which are "Eagle Required" including ones like: Camping, Cooking, First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, and Personal Finance. The other seven merit badges are of their choosing from the list of 134 total badges offered. They must be the rank of First Class for at least 4 months, holding a leadership position while a First Class Scout. There is a six-month minimum time requirement for Star and Life rank, and they must hold a leadership position while in those ranks as well. Then comes the Eagle Project, a project that must benefit a school, religious institution, or community-based program. It must demonstrate leadership, financial responsibility, organization skills, and create a lasting impact.

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**BOY SCOUT TROOP 273 YARD SALE**

**SATURDAY, MAY 23RD**

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36 Hall Road, Dudley

Early Birds (8am to 9am) • \$10.00 per person fee  
**9am until 3pm FREE**

24,000 sq.ft. of yard sale items **ONE DAY ONLY**  
**Pick your items and Make an offer!**  
CREDIT CARD ACCEPTED!

Grouped Items: **Electronics** - stereos, speakers, etc. (no TV's) **Tools** - hand tools, lights, flooring etc.. **Furniture** - Tables, chairs, bed frames, cabinets, hutches, etc.. **Housewares** - glassware, dishes, pictures, mirrors, bowls, cups, small appliances **Sporting goods** - Bikes, skis, baseball equipment, golf, exercise equipment **Clothes** - shirts, pants, jackets, shoes, bags **Kids toys and baby items** - high chairs, bouncy, games, **Antiques**


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May 2nd and 3rd.  
Starts at 9am.

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**Southbridge - 14 Servant Way**  
*Featured Listing!*

Gently used, well maintained RANCH on a cul-de-sac! 1,300 sf +/-, 3 BRs, 2 full baths, gas fireplace, central AC & efficient propane heat. A comfortable open space w/lots of natural light, private main BR w/California closets, a remodeled Bath w/handicap accessible wide-door roll-in shower. Offers a half acre of land w/a great lawn, composite deck & shed, a backup generator, recent siding, & a basement w/loads of potential. Convenient location, close to I-84 & Sturbridge. List Price: \$459,000

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

**Webster Lake Waterfront**  
22 Union Pt  
*Snug Harbor Villa Open House*



May 2, Sat. 11-2  
&  
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**Let's Talk Webster Lake Real Estate!**

**Waterfront Lake Snug Harbor Villa End Unit! Most Luxurious & Largest on the Lake!**  
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**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.  
List Price: \$ 615,000

*Featured Listing ~ New To Market!*  
**Webster ~ 33 Slater Street**



Sprawling fieldstone faced 1 Level Ranch, located on a +/- 0.5-acre level, w/24'x24' 2 car att'd garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 2 stone fireplaces w/pellet stove inserts, FHW BB heat by oil. Open floor plan kitchen, living rm, dining rm, breezeway w/sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom, hardwood & c-tile floors.  
\$525,000

**Webster - 24 Cooper Rd**  
*New Construction - Craftsman Style home*



Tucked away on Cooper Rd. Webster Lake with access at Lake-side beach/boat ramp. 3rd of 4 homes being built at this site. Offers 2,155 sq. ft +/- of living area, 7 rms, 4 brs, 2 1/2 baths, 9ft ceiling, wood flooring throughout with ceramic tile baths. Spacious main BR Suite w/ walk-in closet, and private full bath, double sink vanity, finished lower level walk-out w/ slider. Central AC, garage  
\$649,900.00

**On the shores of Lake Chargoggagogmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg**

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



**ASTONISHING PANORAMIC VIEWS** across mid-section of Webster Lake! Sun drenched from early morning sunrise till sunset! View the lake from all windows. Located on a peninsula providing 2 Shorelines. Fireplaced Living Room! Recent Kitchen & Bath! Primary Bedroom w/walk-in closet. Hardwood Floors. 2 Baths. FHW Oil Heat! Central Air. Garage. \$ 900,000.

**Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island**



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

**Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!**



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



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\*Potential for Family Room  
\* New Roof, 200 amp Electric, New Driveway  
17 Gray Rd \$399,000

**WORCESTER**  
**NEW PRICE**  
\*1.5 Baths  
\* Attached Multi-Level  
\*2 BR \*100+ sq. ft  
28-A Chilmark \$319,000

**Jo-Ann Szymczak**  
**Let's Talk Real Estate**  
May 9th • 11am  
**Booklovers Gourmet, Webster**  
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Jo-Ann 774-230-5044



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# Charlton Garden Club Plant Sale fundraiser set for May 16!

CHARLTON — Once again, it's time for the Charlton Garden Club's annual plant sale. Held on the Common on Saturday, May 16 from 9 a.m. to noon, the sale offers a wide variety of flowering annuals and perennials, vegetables and herbs, as well as woody plants. Come peruse our plant selection, check out the Garden Treasures table, and be sure



**VILLAGE GARDEN CENTER**  
389 Main Street, Spencer (across from Ahearn's equipment)  
508-885-3560

**OPENING MAY 6**

**11" Hanging Baskets**  
**2 for \$42**  
or \$24.99 ea.

to bring a half cup of soil for a free pH test. Massachusetts Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your gardening queries. The Charlton Garden Club was started 89 years ago by a group of 12 women, all wanting to share their interest in gardening. It didn't take them too long to find like-minded individuals in the community and the Charlton Garden Club was formed. The club has met continu-

ously since 1937 except for a brief time during World War II due to gas rationing. At least 300 members have participated in and enjoyed the club's activities. Presently, the club meets on the second Monday of the month (March through December) typically at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Charlton Public Library. All are welcome to attend our advertised meetings at no charge. Those

wanting to join the Charlton Garden Club would be asked to pay annual dues. The purpose of the Charlton Garden Club is "To create interest in gardening in all its branches and encourage the beautification of home and community." The plant sale is our major fundraiser with funds used for speakers and community beautification projects. Each year club members plant flowers at the Morton Memorial

as well as beds on other parts of the Common. At Olde Home Day, the club sets up a flower show with arrangements from club members for pleasant viewing by all. Throughout the years, the club has planted trees and flowers at our schools, police station, town hall and churches. In the past, scholarships were awarded to Shepherd Hill or Bay Path students entering horticultural related fields. The Charlton

Garden club offers opportunities to learn more about plants and the environment, to participate in community beautification projects as well as to instill an appreciation for our natural resources. Plus, it is a great place to meet other local gardening enthusiasts. Those interested in learning more about the garden club, can email us at charltongardenclub@gmail.com.

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4/24 Jonny Taylor  
4/25 Missy's Music Mix  
5/1 Ryan Hood  
5/8 Tim Kay

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## Charlton Garden Club meets May 11



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CHARLTON — Come and join the Charlton Garden Club for its next monthly meeting! Our Monday, May 11 meeting welcomes all to a free program on Hydrangeas. Cheryl Monroe is a certified Massachusetts Master Gardener and avid gardener who follows the motto 'Pretty it up' and strives to have beautiful pest free gardens on her one-acre plot in central Massachusetts where she grows close to 100 clematis species and hybrids, dozens upon dozens of ornamental vines, hundreds of perennials, and a large variety of both deciduous and coniferous trees and shrubs. Whether you're a novice or accomplished gardener, the Charlton Garden Club is a great place to meet other gardening enthusiasts, learn about plants and planting, and to share your gardening tips and experiences. This meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Charlton Public Library. Also save the date, May 16, for our Plant Sale on the Common from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Bring a half cup of soil for a free pH test and your questions for Master Gardeners to answer. For more information about the Charlton Garden Club, please email charltongardenclub@gmail.com.

May gardening calendar  
Create a small nursery bed to start plants from seeds or cuttings and to nurse small plants along. Put it in an area that is used often to make checking on plants easy.  
Plant dahlias for color from midseason until frost.  
If daffodils had lots of foliage and few flowers, dig and divide them.  
Tender tomato and pepper plants can be set out from mid to late May, weather depending.  
Look for tent caterpillars in wild cherry, apple and plum trees. Manually remove them or make a hole in their webbing and spray with Bt.  
Once new growth is seen on broad-leaved evergreens, prune out any winter killed stems.  
Be creative when planting up containers for Memorial Day remembrances.  
Cut back pansies slightly and keep removing spent blooms to encourage flowering.  
Begin pinching mums and asters for bushier, more compact plants.  
Sow seeds of biennials like Sweet William, Canterbury bells and wall-flowers in nursery beds and transplant seedlings later in the season to their final location.