

Southbridge Planning Board delays housing plan vote

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — On July 23, the Planning Board discussed the new Housing Production Plan for nearly 90 minutes before opting to delay a formal vote on it, pending resolution of legal issues surrounding the 39 Elm Street project.

Although the members generally agreed that the plan was aimed at making Southbridge eligible

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Sturbridge selectmen consider plantings, police and home rule bill

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — The Board of Selectmen revisited town beautification at its July 21 meeting, with landscape designer Joe Coan summarizing where things stand.

He noted his team has planted 97 trees, shrubs and perennials in various locations, and still has about \$2000 in planting costs remaining. Most of the work's been in a few locations – around the welcome

sign, the DPW plow and along Main Street to Route 20 – with plants intended to flower at various times of the season.

“There's a fair amount more going in there,” but he had the contractor delay planting due to recent heat, Coan said.

The sign site was of particular interest to board members, with Coan noted the state “is fairly strict about what they'll allow” to ensure sight lines aren't blocked for drivers. “...There was



Courtesy

QUINTESSENTIAL BRASS PRESENTS FREE CONCERT AT JACOB EDWARDS LIBRARY AUG. 28

Please come to a free concert Aug. 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the Jacob Edwards Library and hear Quintessential Brass perform music from movies, TV, Broadway, the Big Band Era and beyond with tributes to Frank Sinatra, Queen, Ed Sheeran, John Phillip Sousa, Benny Goodman, Prince, Kermit the Frog and other surprises. Quintessential Brass selects programs to entertain audiences of all ages. This brass quintet consists of five full-time professional musicians who have, individually, performed with groups all over the world, recorded CDs and movie soundtracks, performed for Presidents, and at venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center. Quintessential Brass has recorded two CDs: “Miscellenea” and “A Quintessential Christmas.” Band members include Dave Burdett, trumpet; Adam Mejaour, trumpet; Robin Milinazzo, horn; David Lindsey, trombone; and Leslie Havens, bass trombone & tuba. This concert is supported in part by the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Charlton to add new patrolman without budget increase

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The Charlton Police Department will soon add a new patrolman to its ranks after the Select Board approved the new hire without the need for adjustments to the town's budget.

Police Chief Daniel Dowd approached Select Board members on July 8 to seek support

for the position which he argued would allow the department more wiggle room in terms of personnel. Selectmen approved the request unanimously after it was confirmed that the position could be funded from within the existing department budget and revenues. The ask was also previously approved by the town's Finance Committee.

Dowd explained that the new patrolman will save the town money on station coverage which will prove to be a cost saving for the community.

“One of the biggest problems that I have typically is when I train people or somebody is out of work for whatever reason often times it indicates that I have to pay overtime so having an extra

body kind of fills some of those voids that are created,” said the Chief.

The addition of a patrolman did not require a town meeting vote as the funding is being made available through cost savings and existing department finances. While normally a hire like this would require an adjustment to the budget or the approval of utilizing free cash at a fall town meeting, Dowd told selectmen he has already freed up the money to pay for the patrolman in-house.

“We had some savings. We were able to apply some of the funds for capital items that we were looking for next year that we did a little early. I have some money possibly coming in for asset forfeiture that will help me offset some costs in the future. I'm not looking for any money. I'm doing it within my existing budget,” the Chief stated.

It was argued that adding the new patrolman could also provide more service to the community that, in turn, could help increase revenue to the town.

The department already has quality candidates in mind after several interviews in the past although a specific hire was not named during the July 8 meeting. New officers are traditionally introduced during the Select Board's monthly meetings, the next scheduled for Aug. 12.

Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale announces community picnic

STURBRIDGE — The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale invites the local community to attend its second annual Family Fun Day and Open House from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 9 on the church grounds at 8 Maple St., Sturbridge. The event is open to the general public free of charge and no advance registration is required.

According to Reverend David W. Cote, pastor, the event will include a cookout prepared by the church men's and women's groups, Crossroads and Koinonia.

“All are welcome to attend the cookout with church members for conversation and fellowship,” he said.

“This year we're delighted to welcome back officers from the Sturbridge Police and Fire departments,” according to Pastor Dave. “Kids



Courtesy

Peter James L'Esperance, who also goes by the name Morning Son, will entertain with a mix of folk, rock, jazz, and Americana originals and covers.



Cornerstone Bank announces merger with Athol Savings Bank, expanding footprint in Worcester County and North Central MA

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a subsidiary of PeoplesBancorp, MHC, and Athol Savings Bank announced today the execution of a merger agreement, pursuant to which Athol Savings Bank (“ASB”) will merge with and into Cornerstone Bank, which will expand Cornerstone into a new and vibrant region in north central Massachusetts. As part of the merger, ASB will operate as a division of Cornerstone Bank, maintaining its name and five branch locations. This

strategic move allows Cornerstone Bank to bring its full suite of digital banking services and customer-focused innovations to an expanded clientele, while preserving the trusted local brand that ASB has built.

“This is an incredibly exciting time for us,” said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. “We are growing. Athol Savings Bank has a great team, and its mission, values and commitment to mutuality align seamlessly

with ours. This move will strengthen our ability to serve our communities while preserving our focus on customer service. Our combined scale will make us more efficient, expand product offerings and improve customer service through shared resources and technology. In today’s industry, scale matters.”

ASB’s strong financial performance and customer-first approach align well with Cornerstone’s commitment to growth and innovation. Customers can expect the same seamless, local service with even

better technology and improved access to financial planning tools on a robust digital platform, elevating their overall banking experience. Further, as a combined organization, it will allow for enhanced commitment to charitable giving, community involvement and volunteerism in the North Quabbin region.

ASB staff will be retained and fully supported throughout the transition, with significant focus made to ensure continuity in roles by offering the same or similar positions. This collaboration is rooted in

growth, not reduction.

In a key leadership transition, Daniel J. Zona, the current President and Chief Executive Officer of ASB, will assume the role of President of Cornerstone Bank, succeeding Randal

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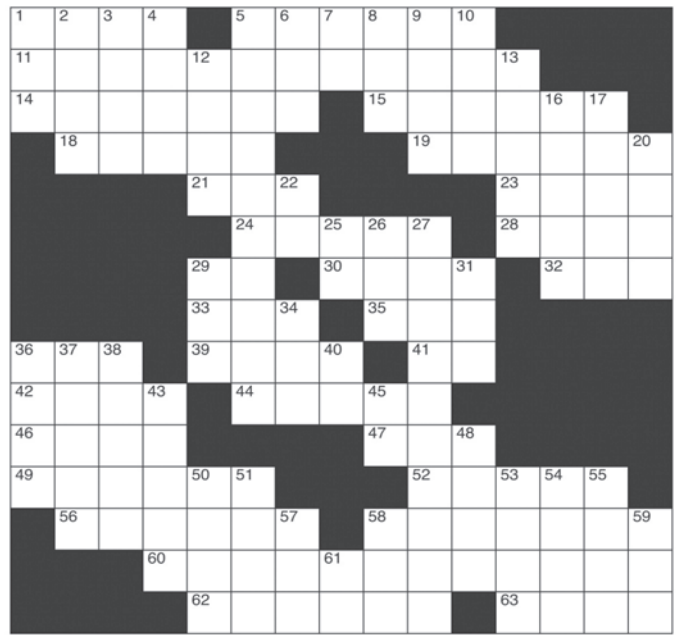


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- CLUES ACROSS
1. Popular potato snack

5. Guards the Pyramids

11. Furnish anew

14. Herb

15. Preoccupy the mind continually

18. The lowest adult male singing voice

19. NATO commander (abbr.)

21. A major division of geological time

23. New Zealand parrot

24. Notions

28. Lump in yarn

29. Indicates position

30. Lose hold of

32. Hindu honorific

33. Former OSS

35. Electronic data processing

36. Cost per mile

39. Snake-like fish

41. They start the alphabet

42. Taylor Swift’s tour

44. Intermediate ecological stage

46. Scarlett’s home

47. Of he

49. Ohio city

52. Breakfast item

56. An evening party

58. ___ Falls

60. Linked together

62. Mythological spirits

63. Small Eurasian deer

- CLUES DOWN
1. Earliest human form: ___ -Magnon man

2. Flavoring

3. Notion

4. Bundy and Fenwick are two

5. Qualities of sound

6. One who gets paid

7. Expresses surprise

8. O.J. trial judge

9. Pointed ends of pens

10. Shield bugs genus

12. Container for shipping

13. Upper body parts

16. Closes tightly

17. Nigerian World Heritage Site

20. Volcanic island in Fiji

22. Commercial

25. - __: denotes past

26. They ___

27. Confraternities

29. A way to gain a point

31. Parts per billion (abbr.)

34. Brew

36. Badgers group

37. Sailing boat

38. ___ Polo, explorer

40. Elder citizen (abbr.)

43. Frankish law code

45. Exclamation of surprise

48. Groan

50. It presses clothing

51. Do not allow

53. Gelatinous substance

54. Common Japanese surname

55. Present in nature

57. Electronic countermeasures

58. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series

59. Commercial

61. News agency

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REAL ESTATE

CHARLTON

\$900,000, 8 Willow Tree Ln, Hurley Ft, and Hurley, Gregory D, to Sparks, Andrew C, and Sparks, Kaitlin E.

\$675,000, 171 Sunset Dr, Chambers, Kevin A, and Chambers, Debra A, to Kennedy, Brian, and Kennedy, Dayna.

\$655,000, 426 Stafford St, Martiros, Melissa S, to White, Riley L, and White, Rachelle R.

\$500,000, 148 City Depot Rd, Cox, Shane, and Cogswell, Clara, to Ramirez, Sylma L.

\$485,000, 83 Haggerty Rd, Cameron Jr, Vernon P, to Taylor, Thomas, and Taylor, Ashley.

\$440,000, 70 Osgood Rd, Pierce, Robin, and Pierce, Candice, to Specht, Andrew, and Specht, Brianna.

HOLLAND

\$445,000, 172 Stafford Rd, Horton Karen E Est, and George, Robert A, to Curboy, Dennis E.

\$430,000, 64 S Cottage Rd, Veteran Stan LLC, to Tuohy, Alexander.

\$310,000, 143 Vinton Rd, Maple Ledge Assoc Inc, and Beres, Eftychia Z, to Kennedy, John.

SOUTHBRIDGE

\$485,000, 25 Dennison Hill Rd, Mulvey, Stephen A, and Gulioso, Paul J, to Tirado, Susana I.

\$475,000, 385 South St, Brown, Zachary S, and Skowron, Melissa A, to Bourne, Jeremy R, and Bourne, Katherine E.

\$435,000, 50 Maggie Ln, Bottis Jr, John, to Chumsae, Kyle, and Ruggieri, Haley.

\$415,000, 99 Cournoyer Blvd, Newton, Aaron, to Collamore, Brian, and Collamore, Emily.

\$335,000, 387 Dennison Dr, Lundstrom, Glen E, and Lundstrom, Keith E, to Lundstrom, Timothy.

\$330,000, 493 Hamilton St, Martinez, Ana M, to De Fuentes, Maria I.

\$295,000, 691 Dennison Dr, First Landing Invs LLC, to Jpi Solutions LLC.

\$285,000, 12 Ellis Rd, Swedis, Paul M, to Tetreault, Eric, and Prue, Rachel.

\$270,000, 691 Dennison Dr, Salsman, William R, and Salsman, Marie H, to First Landing Invs LLC.

\$195,000, 304 Pleasant St, Bertnell Realty Inc, to Fasm Homes LLC.

STURBRIDGE

\$725,000, 7 Brook Hill Rd, Leclair, Ronald J, and Leclair, Nina M, to Briggs, Melissa, and Briggs, Toby.

\$670,000, 19 Audubon Way, Pabon Jr, Luis P, and Pabon, Andrea, to Clough, David R, and Clough, Maureen H.

\$600,000, 53 Technology Park Rd, Whm Iii LLC, to Finncom LLC.

\$500,000, 244 Holland Rd, Briggs, Toby, and Briggs, Melissa, to Mccarthy, Conor, and Mccarthy, Rebecca.

\$371,900, 119 Colonial Dr #119, Patricia J Simonelli Irt, and Simonelli, William J, to Hollins, Cynthia L.

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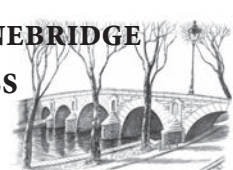
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CHURCH LISTINGS

• 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

• 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
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Hollandchurch.org
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Sunday Service 11:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell

Girl Scouts of Central and Western MA honors local members of 2025 Gold Award Girl Scout Class

HOLYOKE — Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts proudly recognizes the twenty-one members of the 2025 Girl Scout Gold Award class who earned the highest award in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award. Twenty-one teen world-changers in central and western Massachusetts who invested nearly seventeen hundred hours creating lasting impact on issues important to them.

Gold Award Girl Scouts become innovative problem-solvers, empathetic leaders, confident public speakers, and focused project managers. They learn resourcefulness, tenacity, and decision-making skills, giving them an edge personally and professionally. As they

take action to transform their communities, Gold Award Girl Scouts gain tangible skills and prove they're the leaders our world needs.

The 2025 Gold Award Girl Scout class identified issues in their communities, took action, and found or created solutions to earn their Gold Awards, addressing real-life problems such as access to menstrual hygiene products, neurodivergence awareness, animal welfare, environmental sustainability, mental and physical well-being, and mapping a whole town for a rural fire department.

"Earning the Gold Award is a distinguished honor that sets Gold Award Girl Scouts apart from their peers," said Theresa Lynn, CEO of Girl Scouts of

Central and Western Massachusetts. "We're proud to recognize 21 outstanding young women this year whose efforts demonstrate the leadership, problem-solving, and commitment to community that the Gold Award represents. Their work makes a lasting impact and shows they are exactly the kind of leaders our world needs."

According to recent research, Gold Award Girl Scouts are more likely to fill leadership roles at work and in their personal lives and are more civically engaged than their non-Girl Scout peers. Eighty-seven percent (87 percent) of Gold Award Girl Scouts agree that earning their Gold Award gave them skills that help them succeed professionally.

Turn To **GIRL SCOUTS** page 14

Opacum Land Trust acquires 28 acres for permanent conservation

MONSON — Opacum Land Trust is pleased to announce the acquisition of 28 acres of forestland that will be permanently protected as the Grace M. and Robert S. Fay Woods. The property, located on East Hill Rd in Monson, adds to more than 13,000 acres of nearly contiguous protected lands in this area at the intersection of Monson, Brimfield, and Wales.

The newly conserved property sits less than a quarter-mile from both the Brimfield State Forest and Conant Brook Dam conservation area, creating an expanded corridor of protected habitat for wildlife and recreational opportunities for the public. It also holds historical significance as the former site of the Munn District schoolhouse, whose foundation can still be seen on the property.

The land was purchased through a generous memorial donation from Candace and Richard Erickson of Wilbraham in memory of Candace's parents, Grace M. and Robert S. Fay. The Fay family maintained deep roots in Monson for six generations, and both Grace and Robert were active community volunteers and founding members of the Monson Historical Society.

"You can volunteer and give back while you are alive, but very quickly people forget who you were and what you did," said Candace. "Conserving a property in my parents' names is a way to keep their memory alive while giving back to the community that they loved."

The property, which consists of forest, wetlands, and vernal pools with rocky outcrops and beautiful stone walls, reminds Candace of the forests that she played in as a child growing up in Monson.

Their participation in this project reflects the Erickson's commitment to environmental stewardship and community service.

"Rick and I believe that land conservation is very important," Candace noted, "and my parents taught me that if you can give back, you should."

The Grace M. and Robert S. Fay Woods will be managed by Opacum Land Trust. Opacum plans to open the property to the public once a parking area and trails are constructed.

Opacum Land Trust works to protect the land, water, and wildlife of south-central Massachusetts through land conservation, stewardship, and education. To date, the organization has protected more than 4,000 acres across the region. To learn more or to make a donation to support OLT's work, visit www.OpacumLT.org.

SOUTHBRIDGE POLICE LOG

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Police Department reported the following arrests from July 14-28.

A 60-year-old female from Spencer was taken into protective custody on July 15.

A 23-year-old male from Webster received a summons in lieu of arrest on July 16 for operating an Uninsured and Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

Israel Torres-Turell, age 61, of Southbridge was arrested on July 17 in connection with a warrant for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

James P. Sokol, age 59, of Spencer was arrested on July 18 in connection with a warrant for Larceny in an amount more than \$1,200.

A juvenile, age 16, received a summons in lieu of arrest on July 18 for multiple counts of Felony Daytime Breaking & Entering into a Vehicle or Boat.

Samantha Jean Henry, age 44, no known current address, was arrested on July 18 for operating an Unregistered and Uninsured Motor Vehicle, a Number Plate Violation, and in connection with a warrant for operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle.

A 42-year-old male from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on July 18 for Vandalism to Real Property and Disorderly Conduct.

Christopher Bergeron, age 31, of Southbridge was arrested on July 19 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member (subsequent offense), Strangulation, Witness Intimidation, Kidnapping, Malicious Destruction of Property, Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon, and multiple counts of Threatening to Commit a Crime.

Kathiely Saez, age 27, of

Southbridge was arrested on July 19 in connection with a warrant.

A 25-year-old from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on July 19 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license and operating an Uninsured and Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

Abraham Alexis Rosario, age 19, of Southbridge was arrested on July 19 for Domestic Assault and Battery. Genexy Maris Pichardo, age 21, of Southbridge was arrested during the same incident for Domestic Assault and Battery and Misdemeanor Breaking & Entering.

Juan Burgos, age 22, of Southbridge was arrested on July 21 in connection with multiple warrants.

John Hamblin, age 20, of Putnam, Conn. was arrested on July 21 for Speeding, a Marked Lanes Violation, Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license, and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle. A 49-year-old female from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest during the same incident for Unlicensed and/or Suspended Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

A 22-year-old female from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on July 21 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license and driving at a rate of speed exceeding the posted limit. A 22-year-old male from Southbridge received a summons during the same incident for Unlicensed and/or Suspended Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

Samuel Gonzalez, Jr., age 57, of Southbridge was arrested on July 21 in connection with a warrant.

Cheryl Ann Biagiarelli, age 56, of Southbridge was arrested

on July 21 for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

Angel Manuel Barbosa, age 34, of Charlton was arrested on July 21 for Distribution of a Class B Drug.

A 51-year-old male from Southbridge was taken into protective custody on July 21.

Joshua Malcon, Sr., age 35, of Webster was arrested on July 21 for multiple counts of possession of drugs with intent to distribute (joint venture). Rey F. Delgado, age 49, of Webster was arrested during the same incident for multiple counts of drug possession with intent to distribute (joint venture) and in connection with a warrant.

Andrew Joseph Conant, age 37, of Southbridge was arrested on July 22 for Violation of a Harassment Prevention Order.

Gary Lee Goyette, age 31, of Worcester was arrested on July 23 in connection with multiple warrants.

Bobby Lee Lopes, age 42, of Southbridge was arrested on July 24 in connection with a warrant.

Mistirain Bow Regimbal, age 31, of Southbridge was arrested on July 25 in connection with a warrant.

Henry L. Alicea, age 24, of Southbridge was arrested on July 25 in connection with a warrant.

Miguel Marines, age 31, of Worcester was arrested on July 26 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license and Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of registration.

Amanda Marie Vazquez, age 37, of Southbridge was arrested on July 26 for Disturbing the Peace (subsequent offense) and Disorderly Conduct.



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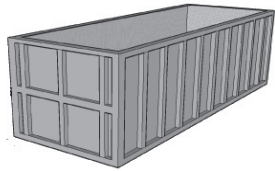


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mayent@cwmars.org

Summer Reading continues through August 6th.

TAKE & MAKE CRAFTS
For adults, beginning Monday mornings and while supplies last, pick up a Take and Make craft to do at home.
Week 5 (7/28-8/2): Shrink Art Keychains
Week 6 (8/4-8/9): Cork Coasters

Friday, August 1, 2025 - 10:45 am to 11:45 am
FRONT LAWN FRIDAYS
Join us for summer fun on the library lawn! We'll enjoy a short story time, and then have a round of free play with a selection of toys perfect for outdoor fun. This outdoor program is weather-dependent. In the case of inclement weather, a story time will be held in the library's meeting room. Children must be accompanied by a caregiver. Sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.

Friday, August 1, 2025 - 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm
OPEN CRAFTING FOR KIDS
Stop by the library on select Friday afternoons during the summer for crafting fun! We'll set out a variety of supplies for kids to create and experiment with; all you need to bring is your imagination! Children must be accompanied by a caregiver.

Monday, August 4, 2025 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

MONDAY MORNING MOVIES
Drop in to the library on Monday mornings during summer reading for a series of family friendly movies! Each fun flick will fit in with this year's summer reading theme: Level Up at Your Library. Light refreshments will be provided. Children must be accompanied by a caregiver. This week's movie is "Sonic the Hedgehog".

Monday, August 4, 2025 - 3:30 pm to 4:30pm
MAKE-IT MONDAYS
Join the JHPL each Monday during our 2025 Summer Reading Program for video game themed crafts and activities perfect for kids ages 5-12! Today's theme: Animal Crossing! Registration is required. Children must be accompanied by a caregiver.

Tuesday, August 5, 2025 - 10:45 am to 11:30 am
SUMMER STORY TIME
Join the library for stories, songs, rhymes, and crafts! No registration required. All children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. This outdoor program is weather-dependent. In the case of inclement weather, story time will be held in the library's meeting room.

Wednesday, August 6, 2025 - 10:45 am to 11:30 am
SUMMER BABY TIME
Join us Wednesday mornings in the summer for a story time designed specifically for children 2 years and under. We'll sing songs, learn rhymes and fingerplays, read baby friendly board books, and bond with other little ones and their guardians in a nurturing and safe environment. Children must be accompanied by a caregiver.

Wednesday, August 6, 2025 - 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
SUMMER READING FINALE - CONCERT AND ICE CREAM TRUCK!
Join us for a fun family concert on the Town Common to end 2025's Summer Reading Program with a bang! Rockabye Beats will be there to get kids moving and grooving and Suzy Q's Ice Cream Truck will provide cool, sweet treats. There is no registration required to attend the concert itself. Free ice cream to the first 100 kids (12 and under) who register on-line at sturbridgelibrary.org. Thank you to Cornerstone Bank for sponsoring the ice cream truck.

Wednesday, August 6, 2025 - 4:45 pm to 7:45 pm.
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS GAME NIGHT FOR TEENS & ADULTS.
Ever wanted to play Dungeons & Dragons or other tabletop role playing games (also known as RPGs) but didn't know where to start? Join us for a night of adventure, comradery, and excitement for teen and adult D&D Night! Our Dungeon Masters will lead their groups on a fantastic adventure in one evening. Character sheets will be provided to save time and to get play started quickly. Previous experience is not required and newcomers are encouraged to attend.

Thursday, August 7, 2025 - 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm
FRIENDS OF THE JHPL BOOK PRE-SALE
Support the library by shopping at the Friends Book Sale! This is our

biggest book sale of the year. With such a great selection there will be something for everyone, don't miss it! Thursday's sale is exclusively for Friends members. If you'd like to come be sure to join the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library volunteer organization.

Friday, August 8, 2025 - 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Saturday, August 9, 2025 - 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
FRIENDS OF THE JHPL BOOK SALE
Support the library by shopping at the Friends Book Sale! This is our biggest book sale of the year. With such a great selection there will be something for everyone, don't miss it!

Monday, August 11, 2025 - 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm
MAKE-IT MONDAYS
Join the JHPL each Monday during our 2025 Summer Reading Program for video game themed crafts and activities perfect for kids ages 5-12! Today's theme: Sonic the Hedgehog. Registration is required. Children must be accompanied by a caregiver.

Tuesday, August 12, 2025 - 6:00pm to 7:00pm
SNAP-ED COOKING CLASS FOR ADULTS
Join Chiara, the SNAP-ED Garden Educator from Ascentria Care Alliance, for a fun and educational class where we will learn how to prepare delicious snacks and meals using seasonal fruits and vegetables. Registration is required.

Tuesday, August 12, 2025 - Virtual - 7:30 pm to 8:00 pm
THRILLER AND HORROR BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS
Not sure what to read next? Join Bookstagrammer Jody Blanchette aka @redreadreviews each month for 30 minutes of pure book recommendations - the best of horror and thrillers out there! We're sure you'll find something to like from Jody's many enthusiastic reviews. Registration is required. Go to sturbridgelibrary.org.

Thursday, August 21, 2025 - 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
LEGO CLUB
Come build with Legos. Suitable for children ages 5 to 12 with an adult caregiver. Registration is required.

tion is required.

Tuesday, August 26 - 6:30pm to 7:30pm
WORLD BUILDING BOOK GROUP
The World Building Book Group will discuss science fiction, fantasy, and other speculative fiction titles that provide rich, layered imaginary worlds populated with diverse forms of life. Selected titles will encourage readers to explore different possibilities and spark curiosity about the world around them. Pick up a copy of the book at the library. This month's book is "Lock In" by John Scalzi.

We are thankful for the organizations and businesses that make the Summer Reading Program possible. This year's sponsors include: The Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library, BT's Smokehouse, Alternatives for Health, Southbridge Credit Union, Cornerstone Bank, Entertainment Luxury Cinemas, the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, Ascentria Health Alliance and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Charlton Public Library presents “Exploring the Bay Path” Aug. 7

CHARLTON — Join Don Duffy for his presentation on the Bay Path, a fascinating tidbit of local history. Some people have heard of the path itself and many know of Bay Path University in Longmeadow or Bay Path Vocational School in Charlton. Few understand the local significance of the Bay Path and its course through Monson, Brimfield, Sturbridge, and the surrounding area.

Native Americans needed to move about from the rich soils of the Connecticut River Valley to central woodlands filled with game and to the abundant fish and shellfish at the coast. According to Levi Badger Chase, who authored The Bay Path and Along The Way, these paths were "narrow but deeply worn. They traveled in single file." Looking at the maps, the path went up hills with strategic vantage points (Steerage Rock, Brimfield) and connected valuable resources like ponds and rivers along the way. One very important stop: Tantiusques, the lead (graphite) mine in Sturbridge.

Interestingly enough, when settlers moved into the area, their method of travel differed from theirs. While the Bay Path must have been a key way of them moving westward and finding resources, the path itself changed in appearance and in some cases, the route. So wherein lies the great Bay Path? Come see what Don has discovered as he explores the Bay Path.

This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Charlton Public Library.

Registration is appreciated but not required and can be done by visiting our Web site/event calendar at charltonlibrary.org.

Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St. Additional parking is available at the Town Hall and Elementary School.

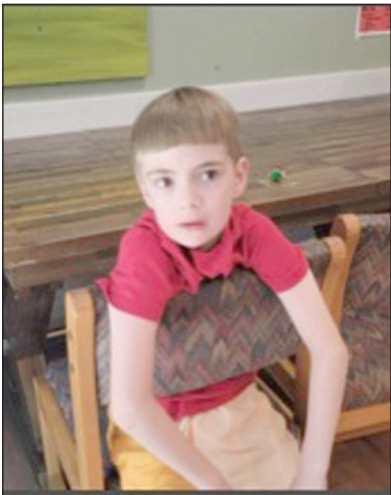
Local resident named to Simmons University Dean's List

BOSTON — Molly Brodeur of Charlton was named to the 2025 spring semester dean's list at Simmons University in Boston.

To qualify for dean's list status, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.

About Simmons University
Located in the heart of Boston, Simmons is a respected private university offering nearly 50 majors and programs for undergraduate women and graduate programs open to all on campus, in blended formats, or entirely online in nursing and health sciences, liberal arts, business, communications, social work, public health, and library and information science. Founded in 1899, Simmons has established a model of higher education that other colleges and universities are only recently beginning to adapt: the combination of education for leadership in high-demand professional fields with the intellectual foundation of the liberal arts. The result is a Simmons graduate prepared not only to work, but to lead in professional, civic, and personal life - a vision of empowerment that Simmons calls preparation for life's work. Follow Simmons on Twitter at @SimmonsUniv, and on LinkedIn at https://www.linkedin.com/school/simmons-university/.

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The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with. To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org . Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.



Bay Path graduate, mother of four triumphs in nursing journey

SPRINGFIELD — Against all odds, Gorret Rusoke has accomplished what many would consider impossible. A mother of four, wife, and full-time healthcare worker, Rusoke has officially completed her Practical Nursing certificate from Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School’s Practical Nursing Academy – an achievement fueled by grit, sacrifice, and unwavering purpose.

“I never thought I would find myself going back to school in my 30s,” said Rusoke, reflecting on her journey. “But deep inside, I knew I had more to give to my community, my family, and myself.”

Originally from Uganda, Rusoke came to the U.S. with a background in education and a passion for service. Her decision to pursue nursing solidified during the COVID-19 pandemic, watching nurses across the globe serve tirelessly with courage and compassion. That inspiration sparked a calling she could no longer ignore.

What followed was a grueling yet rewarding road filled with sleepless nights, long commutes, and juggling family responsibilities with academic rigor. She often drove more than two hours



Gorret Rusoke and Dr. Adelina Healy

round-trip for classes, sometimes arriving home just as her husband left for his night shift. De-

spite exhaustion, she would press on—studying into the early hours, preparing lunches, helping with homework, and then waking up to do it all over again.

“There were moments I felt selfish for skipping family events so I could rest or study,” Rusoke shared. “But clinical days reminded me why I started—to serve and care for people. That purpose carried me through.”

Rusoke’s clinical placements included Vibra Hospital, UMass Memorial Health, and several rehabilitation centers, where she quickly gained praise for her compassionate care and natural leadership. She excelled in areas like wound care, medication administration, and patient assessments—all while speaking four languages: English, Luganda, Kiswahili, and Rutooro.

Her efforts didn’t go unnoticed. At graduation, she received both the Academic Excellence Award and the Clinical Excellence Award, alongside her induction into the National Technical Honor Society and participation in the school’s Mock Code Team.

In her words, the journey would not have been possible without the strong support around her. She expressed heartfelt thanks to the faculty and staff of Bay Path Nursing Academy—particularly Director Dr. Bolandrina Gretheline and Executive Assistant Donna—as well as her close-knit group of nursing school friends: Louise, Delene, Elizabeth, Flory, and Chali.

“They were my study partners and second family,” she said. “We built lifelong friendships that withstood every challenge.”

Rusoke is currently serving as a Direct Care Professional at the Mental Health Association in Chicopee, and previously worked at The Reserve in East Longmeadow and the Cooperative for Human Services in Lexington. Her next goal? To continue making a difference in patients’ lives with empathy, integrity, and love.

“I aspire to be the kind of nurse who makes an impact—who patients remember not just for their skill, but for how they made them feel. This is only the beginning,” Rusoke said.

As Gorret Rusoke steps into the next chapter of her career, she embodies the heart of modern nursing: resilient, compassionate, and deeply human.

Friends of Joshua Hyde Public Library to hold Book Sale

STURBRIDGE — Checking out a book at the Sturbridge Public Library is a pretty ordinary activity, but those books need to be returned in a couple of weeks. They could be yours to keep permanently though if you visit the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library Book Sale on Friday, Aug. 8 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and/or Saturday, Aug. 9 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. So stock up and buy as many as you’d like! We prefer cash or check but for your convenience, we offer Venmo as a payment method.

A Friends of JHPL Members-Only Preview Sale will held on Thursday, Aug. 7 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Join the Friends and get first dibs on books. You can become a member at the Book Sale on Thursday evening or go to www.slfriends.org and join online.

Bookworms and casual readers alike will find everything they are looking for Romance, Chillers, Sci-Fi, Bios, Thrillers, How-To, Mystery, Psychology, History and many, many children’s books. There is a wide range of books available, from children’s books to teen fiction to adult-level literature with a good mix of fiction and non-fiction.

The Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library, in Sturbridge, is a non-profit organization of citizens who love the library and help support its programs and its purpose. All funds raised are given to the library to support programs and purchase special equipment not provided in the town library budget. The library is located at 306 Main St. (Route 131), Sturbridge.



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EDITOR

The soundtrack of our lives

You’re driving home late one night, tired but wired, and then it happens. That one song — your song — comes on the radio. Maybe it’s Whitney, or Nirvana, or A Tribe Called Quest, or that one-hit wonder from your senior year. Suddenly, you’re not in traffic anymore. You’re back in your first car; windows down, summer air thick with possibility. You’re 16, or 18, or 21, and for a moment, you feel it all again. That moment is science.

According to neuroscience research, the music we listened to in our adolescence and early adulthood (roughly ages 12 to 25) gets deeply embedded in our emotional memory, thanks to the way our brains are wired during those formative years. It’s a phenomenon sometimes referred to as the “reminiscence bump” a window of time where memories are more vivid, and experiences (especially those connected to emotion and identity) leave a lasting imprint.

When music enters the scene during that stretch of life, when you’re first falling in love, figuring out who you are, and building your independence it becomes more than just background noise. It becomes part of your personal identity. So, decades later, when you hear that track again, it doesn’t just spark a memory, it lights up the emotional centers of your brain, releasing dopamine, triggering nostalgia, and often bringing comfort and joy.

Nostalgia gets a bad rap, like it’s some kind of wistful indulgence. But it’s actually good for you. Studies show that nostalgic experiences (including music-based ones) can increase feelings of connection, meaning, and optimism. They act as a psychological time machine, reminding you of who you’ve been and helping you reconnect to the parts of yourself that still matter.

Your favorite music from your youth isn’t just “old school.” It’s a form of self-preservation. A reminder of your wildness. Your hope.

So, when you hit play on that mixtape in your mind, know this: you are not stuck in the past. You are drawing strength from it.

Letter submission
policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author’s name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author’s name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

OPINION

Human psychology

Sometimes there comes a moment when you realize life isn't just happening to you. You're interpreting it and reacting to it. You've been living inside a story your past wrote for you—before you knew you were the one telling it.

That's not your fault. It's your default. But the moment you see it—you can change everything.

Modern psychology has shown us that the brain is less a camera and more a courtroom—building stories, assigning blame, rewriting memory, all in service of keeping your ego comfortable or your fear pacified.

Psychologists like Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky spent decades studying how we form judgments, and their research uncovered a gallery of mental shortcuts—cognitive biases, emotional filters, and distorted beliefs that make us feel right, even when we're not. But often, what feels true is just what feels familiar.

And once you begin to see the stories you're telling yourself, something else becomes clear: there are parts of your life you won't even narrate. Things you won't face. Conversations you won't have. Feelings you won't feel. You tell yourself it's not the right time, that it's not a big deal, that you'll deal with it later. But in truth—what you avoid ends up shaping you more than what you confront.

Avoidance feels like relief. At first. You push something away—pain, responsibility, vulnerability—and for a moment, your body thanks you. The pressure drops. But behind that false peace, something dangerous grows. Each time you dodge discomfort,

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

you quietly teach your nervous system that the discomfort was too much—that the fear must be obeyed.

Psychological studies on exposure therapy conducted by Joseph Wolpe and later David Barlow show again and again: the only way to reduce fear is to face it. The only way to weaken shame is to bring it into the light.

Healing doesn't come from feeling safe all the time. Success doesn't come from playing small. Growth begins when you learn to walk toward what makes you uncomfortable—on purpose.

And what we avoid doesn't just shape our behavior—it quietly shapes who we become. Because here's the deeper truth: you are not who you think you are. You are who you practice being.

Identity isn't fixed. It's not a core you discover—it's a pattern you reinforce. You are a feedback loop of habits, emotional reactions, routines, roles, and stories you tell yourself. What you repeat becomes familiar. What becomes familiar becomes comfortable. And what becomes comfortable becomes "me."

Psychologists and behavioral scientists have long known that we don't rise to our highest beliefs—we fall to our most repeated actions. You may wish to be bold, steady, at peace—but wishing doesn't shape

you. Repetition does.

The research on neuroplasticity, from pioneers like Donald Hebb and Carol Dweck, confirms: your brain reshapes itself based on what you do consistently, not what you hope is true.

So if you want to change your life, stop asking, "Who am I?" Start asking, "What do I repeat?" The real "you" isn't found in your reflection. It's built in your rituals.

Even the strongest habits can fall apart when emotions hit. You might know what to do—but then emotion clouds your thinking. Emotions don't care how much you've practiced—they test whether you can stay present when it counts.

To see yourself clearly—not as a fixed identity, but as a living pattern. Not as a passenger, but as the narrator holding the script. Yes, your brain plays tricks. Yes, fear wants the wheel. But you are not at the mercy of old wiring. You are the architect of what comes next.

Take the pause. Challenge the thought. Face the thing. Move, even when you tremble. Speak the better story, even if your voice shakes at first.

You don't need to be perfect. You need to be present. You don't need to know who you are. You need to start becoming who you were meant to be—on purpose.

Life isn't asking you to get it all right.

It's asking you to participate, to show up, to choose the next true step. And repeat it, until it becomes you.

You have an estate plan — whether you know it or not



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Think estate planning is only for the wealthy or elderly? Think again. If you own anything — a home, a car, a savings account, even a pet — you already have an estate plan. The only question is: Did you create it, or will your state do it for you?

When someone passes away without an estate plan, state laws take over, deciding who gets what and when. This legal process may not reflect your wishes. That's why taking control of your assets through a personal estate plan should be a top priority.

At its core, estate planning is about clarifying your wishes and making things easier for your heirs. It ensures your assets are distributed according to your preferences, designates who will make decisions on your behalf if you can't and provides guidance for your care in a medical crisis. Most plans include four key components:

1. A Will – This document outlines how your assets should be distributed after your death and names an executor to oversee the process in probate court. It can also designate guardians for minor children. Keep in mind that a will doesn't cover everything — certain transfer on death (TOD) accounts and jointly held property may bypass your will entirely.
2. Power of Attorney – If you become incapacitated, you'll want someone you trust to be able to make decisions on your behalf. A durable power of attorney designates such a person, helping to ensure your bills are paid, your business continues (if you have one) and your wishes are honored.
3. Health Care Directive – Sometimes called a living will, this document spells out your preferences for medical treatment if you're unable to speak for yourself. It can also designate someone to make health care decisions for you.
4. Beneficiary Designations – Accounts like 401(k)s, IRAs, and life insurance policies transfer directly to the people you name, regardless of what your will says. It's essential to review these beneficiary designations regularly, especially after significant life events such as marriage, divorce, death of a spouse or the birth of a child.

One common myth is that a will is all you need. But wills only take effect after death; they don't help if you're alive but unable to make decisions. Another misconception is that estate planning is only for the wealthy. In truth, planning is about more than money — it's about making things easier for the people you love during difficult times.

An effective estate plan can prevent costly legal battles, reduce confusion and give your loved ones a clear roadmap to follow. It also allows you to leave a legacy that reflects your values and priorities.

As your life changes, your estate plan should change along with it. Review your documents every few years or after major life events. It's often a good idea to seek help with such reviews. Your financial advisor or attorney can guide you through the process, ensuring your plan fits your unique circumstances.

In the end, estate planning isn't just about planning for what happens when you are gone. It's about feeling confident, knowing that what matters most — your family, your purpose, your legacy — is protected.

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.

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Gathering ideas for next year’s garden



GARDEN
MOMENTS

MELINDA
MYERS

Summer is a time when many gardeners begin making plans for new additions to next year’s gardens. You may already be doing ongoing evaluations of your own plantings and may want to include tours of others’ gardens.

A walk around your neighborhood can provide inspiration and a chance to observe plants thriving in the same or similar conditions that exist in your landscape. Local garden tours allow you to take a closer look at both front and backyard gardens filled with

plants, garden art and more.

Whether you tour alone or with a group of friends, it is a great opportunity to meet the gardener, gather ideas, exchange gardening secrets, and get inspired. Many of the garden tours are sponsored by garden clubs, libraries, beautification groups and other similar organizations. The proceeds from the event usually support a worthy cause in the community. You’ll find local garden tours promoted online, in local publications, garden centers, botanical gardens and other similar venues.

The Garden Conservancy’s Open Days program is a one-of-a-kind private garden tour. Participating gardens are located around the coun-



An AAS trial garden at Boerner Botanical Gardens.

Melinda Myers

try in small and large lots that feature a variety of styles, plants and features. All you need is a little time and a ticket to participate in the

self-guided garden tours. A listing of the Open Days gardens, their location and dates for each garden is listed on their website.

Visit your local or nearby public botanic gardens and arboreta. They feature plants in gardens and natural settings with similar

growing conditions to nearby home gardens. They often feature new and unique varieties, traditional favorites and garden designs, providing inspiration to all who visit.

All-America Selections’ (AAS) Display Gardens are another valuable resource for gardeners. AAS is a non-profit organization that trials and evaluates plants for outstanding qualities suitable for the home garden. They have been helping gardeners grow award-winning flowers and vegetables since 1932.

New never-before-sold plant varieties bred for home gardens are planted, observed and evaluated at various trial gardens throughout North America. Trial gardens are located at public gardens, seed companies, or universities. The potential plant introduction is observed and its performance evaluated throughout the growing season. Volunteer judges rate the plants on improvements in characteristics such as aesthetics, performance and productivity as well as pest and disease tolerance. A plant must have significantly improved qualities to be considered for an AAS award.

Display gardens feature the newest AAS winners in a well-maintained setting where you can view the winners. There are nearly 200 display gardens in the United States and Canada located in public botanic gardens and arboreta, municipality gardens, garden retailers, university gardens and more. Some locations also offer related educational opportunities, open houses or field days during the growing season.

Take some time to enjoy and evaluate your gardens. Then set aside some time to visit local gardens for ideas and inspiration.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener’s Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” instant video series and the nationally syndicated Melinda’s Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Readers Share Tips and Tricks

Summer is heating up and so are the great ideas from readers! Read on for an array of helpful hacks to make life a little easier:



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

**
This Whitinsville reader offers clever hints to keep your backyard birdbath in tip top shape!

My hint for your readers is about back yard birdbaths. Birdbaths not only provide a spot for birds, and small animals to cool off, clean up, and get a drink, but offer us a little entertainment with their antics in the water.

A couple of tips include the following. 4

Placement is important. Try to find a spot that has shade. The birds won’t be interested in hot water if it is in the hot sun. By placing it near bushes or trees, it offers birds some safety.

Use Mosquito dunks, available online and at hardware stores. Placing one in the water prevents your birdbaths from becoming a breeding pond for mosquitoes.

The third tip will keep the water algae free. After filling the birdbath, place some copper in it. No, pennies won’t work,

as they don’t contain enough copper. Instead, go to a hardware store or home repair center and pick up a couple of copper plumbing fittings. Just throw them into the bottom and the water will remain crystal clear.

Tom Griffin
Whitinsville MA
**

Recycling is “in the bag” with this reader’s reusable tip:

When you are finished with your cereal, save the bag inside. You can heat ay food to warm it up in the microwave and it’s safe – plus no dish to wash.

Sandra Bree
Ware, MA
**

Who knew? A favorite summertime fruit cools you off both inside and out!

Did you know bananas, like watermelons, have cooling properties that cooling properties? They cool the intestinal heat in your body, making it one of the best cooling foods to eat during the hot weather.

Terry Kolesnik
Charlton, MA
**

Cherry tomatoes are plentiful right now, but slicing each little tomato individually and coralling them on the cutting board can be a challenge. This reader’s tip cuts the chore down to size!

Fill a plastic lid with cherry tomatoes (I use a Cool Whip cover). Place a second cover, flat side down on top. Using a serrated knife, cut between the lids. Voila! All are cut in half in mere seconds.

Lois O’Leary
Brookfield, MA
**

This reader shares a recipe from her childhood – and best of all, it uses no eggs!

My favorite cake, called “big wacky cake,” is one that I’ve been making since I was a child:
Ingredients: ¾ cup butter (1 ½ sticks) or oil; 2 cups granulated sugar; 3 cups all purpose flour; 6 tablespoons cocoa powder; 2 teaspoons baking soda; 1 teaspoon salt; 2 tablespoons vinegar (plain white); 2 cups warm water.

Directions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray (or grease with butter) a 13” x 9” pan. Combine butter and sugar; blend well. Sift dry ingredients together; and add to butter mixture.

Mix vinegar and water together and add to above. Mix until well blended, but

do not overbeat. Bake for 45-60 minutes. Frost as desired, then enjoy!

Cecile Collier
Leicester, MA
**

Prize Winner
Congratulations to Cecile Collier, whose name was drawn for Dinner for Two at the Public House. She shared the cake recipe above.

**
Win Dinner for Two at the Public House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Public House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (or whenever enough submissions are received) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I’m in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I’m counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or email KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Public House Inn.

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Gus Steeves

A small crowd hangs out near the Pink Hippy tent.



Gus Steeves

The new owners of what used to be Charlton Orchards, now called Monarch Orchard Farm, Justin and Alanna Tomer.



Gus Steeves
(LEFT) Hugh Naggar works on a tiny glass dragon at his Crystal Glass Creations tent.



Gus Steeves
(RIGHT) Mary Gregoire (left) of Mary's Garden talks to a visitor about her plants.



A damp celebration in Charlton

CHARLTON — Although Sunday's morning rain and afternoon drizzle definitely dampened turnout, the most stalwart still showed up to Charlton's annual Blueberry Festival anyway, with a soundtrack of classic rock covers by Phoenix.

The vendors who made it ranged from those marketing farm products to glass art, textiles to 3D-printed dragons and more, alongside social services and home repairs. And, of course, blueberries in various forms, plus a few food trucks, if that wasn't enough.



Gus Steeves

A small crowd hangs out near the Pink Hippy tent.



Gus Steeves

The cleanup crew starts breaking down one of the vendor tents.

NAI

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A photograph of the exterior of the historic office building at 25 Elm Street. The building is a two-story red brick structure with white columns and a central entrance. It is surrounded by a green lawn and trees.

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DICK MCGRATH



HALL OF FAMERS

The National Baseball Hall of Fame's Class of 2025 was inducted over the weekend in Cooperstown, N.Y. The inductees included (group photo, l to r), Billy Wagner, Ichiro Suzuki, CC Sabathia, the late Dick Allen (represented by his wife, Willa) and the late Dave Parker (represented by his son, Dave Parker Jr.).



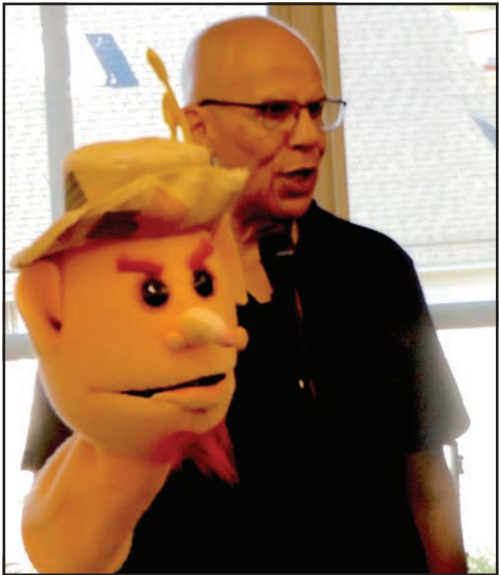
Gus Steeves
Peter Rabbit steals the farmer's scarecrow to play a trick on him.



Gus Steeves
Farmer Gregor makes a point.



Gus Steeves
A couple of audience members pay attention.



Gus Steeves
John McDonough shows how to make Gregor's mouth work.

Popular puppetry

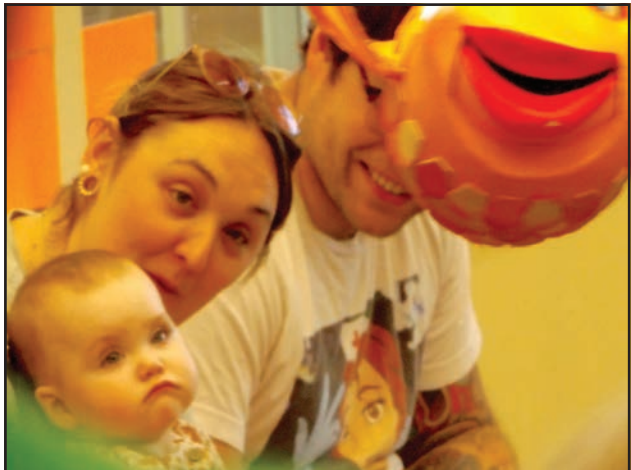
SOUTHBRIDGE — If you think someone's got a big head, it's probably not as big as Farmer Gregor's. Gregor is one of John McDonough's "Pumpernickel Puppets," and his tale of being flummoxed by Peter Rabbit was the centerpiece of McDonough's show at the library last week.



Afterward, McDonough introduced his mostly young crowd to a little of the stagecraft of puppetry, showing how his various puppets – from a water-spraying fish to a dancing rabbit – work.



Gus Steeves
McDonough called up a couple kids to demonstrate how to make Scraps the dog clap.



Gus Steeves
Audience members get an up-close visit from the fish (and the baby's definitely not sure what that thing is).

Master Masons gather for pig roast

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

OXFORD — On Saturday, July 26, the Oxford Masonic Lodge parking lot was packed with Master Masons, their family and friends from the 24th Masonic District. Brother Fred Aubin Jr., from the Oxford Masonic Lodge, and Brother Clay Tull from the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge in Southbridge hosted this family fun event.

Brother Fred Aubin of Oxford, with the help of his sons and friends, along with Brother Clay Tull of Southbridge, started cooking the pig on Friday night at 11 p.m. The pig that they were roasting was about 120lbs and took about 15 hours to fully cook. There were cornhole games set up for the kids and adults to have fun. The pig that they were roasting sent an aroma in the air, and it was driving people crazy because it smelled so good. Also served were cooked pork butts, BBQ Chicken, corn on the cob, pasta salad, potato salad, corn bread, Cole slaw, baked beans and much more.

Money raised at this great event will go towards the Lodges' needs and scholarship funds. It was great to see and hear people laughing. Children were running around laughing and having fun throwing water balloons at each other. Most of all the comradery and fellowship that Freemasonry is all about talking to other Brethrens, family and friends. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, go to www.massfreemasonry.org to find a lodge nearest you.



Courtesy
From left to right Billy Aubin, Max Hanus, Brother Fred Aubin III, Brother Fred Aubin JR., Brother Clay Tull and Dave Mackenzie all smile after successfully removing the pig from the grill and resting it on the table before carving it up and serving it to the guests.

Local residents named to Clark University Dean's List

WORCESTER — The following local residents were named to Clark University's Spring 2025 Dean's List: Jaiden E. Gombos of Brimfield was named to first honors. Kayla R. Southworth of Brimfield was named to second honors. Ryan P. Bonja of Sturbridge was named to second honors. Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

Founded in 1887, Clark University is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow's most daunting challenges and embrace its greatest opportunities. Through 33 undergraduate majors, more than 30 advanced degree programs, and nationally recognized community partnerships, Clark fuses rigorous scholarship with authentic world and workplace experiences that empower our students to pursue lives and careers of meaning and consequence

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OBITUARIES

Mary O. Liro, 99

Southbridge- Mary O. (Ottak) Liro, 99, passed away on Thursday, July 24th, in the UMass Memorial Medical Center, Memorial Campus, Worcester, after a short illness.

She was predeceased by her husband, Stephen F. Liro. She leaves her son, Thomas Liro and his wife Carol of Webster; her daughter, Janis Liro of Longwood, FL; her three grandchildren, Jacob Liro and his wife Amy, Barton Liro and his wife Kimberly and Marlie Willer and her husband Brian; her six great grandchildren, Rowan, Bodhi, Wren, Quintin, William and Melia; and many nieces and nephews. She also leaves several cousins in Poland. She was predeceased by her two brothers, Chester Ottak and Frank Ottak. Mary was born in Southbridge the daughter of Joseph and Mary (Zajac) Ottak.

Mary was the executive assistant for the president of Southbridge Co-Operative Bank (Now Savers Bank) for several years before becoming a full time homemaker for her family. She later received her real estate license. Mary was a devoted Catholic and a life long member of St. Hedwig's Church in Southbridge. She served the church as a CCD Teacher, a Eucharistic Minister, a lector and sang in the church choir. She was also a long time devoted member of St. Hedwig's Holy Rosary Sodality. She was a member of the Polish Women's Club of the Pilsudski Polish American Citizen's Club in Southbridge. Mary was a longtime active member of the Southbridge Women's Club, serving as it's President and Treasure. She served on the Town of Southbridge



Conservation Commission for 16 years. As the Executrix of the Estate of Claire Birtz she was instrumental in helping to establish the Claire Birtz Wildlife Sanctuary in Southbridge.

Mary was an outstanding cook, especially Polish foods. She could be often found working in the kitchens of St. Hedwig's Church and the Polish Club for their events. Mary was an avid golfer and a longtime member at Heritage Country Club in Charlton and belonged to it's women's league. She was also an avid college football fan, especially the Florida Gators and University of Notre Dame. Mary loved her Camp on Big Alum Lake in Sturbridge. Mary was a great lover of animals and had many beloved cats and dogs through the years.

The family would like to thank Laura's Guardian Angels for all the care and compassion they gave to Mary which gave her the ability to stay in her own home until her passing.

Her funeral will be held on Saturday, August 2nd, from the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a Mass at 10:00am in St. Mary's Church of the St. John Paul II Parish, 263 Hamilton St., Southbridge. Burial will follow in St. Hedwig's Cemetery, Southbridge. Calling hours in the funeral home will be held on Friday, August 1st, from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Second Chance Animal Shelter, 111 Young Rd., East Brookfield, MA 01515.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Michael F. Kreft, 79



Michael F. Kreft, 79, of Dudley MA., formerly of Webster, died June 7, 2025 at UMass Harrington after a battle with bone cancer and advanced dementia. He was born to Francis and Gladys Kreft on September 14, 1945. He leaves his devoted wife and best friend of 57 years, Linda (Holmes) Kreft, and his devoted sons Fran and his wife Cara, Steve and his wife Kim, and Paul Kreft. He also leaves three grandchildren, Tanner, Mia, and Kristina, a sister Carolyn Kreft of South Carolina, his sisters- and brothers-in-law, a niece and nephews. His brother Francis "Chuck" Kreft predeceased him.

After graduating from Barlett High school in 1968, Mike attended Worcester Industrial Technical Institute, and later joined the Navy where he served on the SS Bushnell during the Vietnam era. He was elected Honorman by his company and



received recognition for his outstanding performance of duty as Yeoman, 2nd Class. He later worked as assistant supervisor at Heald Machine in Worcester, Cranston Print in Webster and Polyfoam Corporation in Northbridge.

Mike enjoyed boating and water skiing on Webster Lake where he and his wife and sons resided for many years. He was also an avid car enthusiast, having owned several classic cars, often to his wife's chagrin. He was known for his willingness to help others and for being a hard worker. He was a loving husband and father and will live in the hearts of his family forever.

Alzheimer's is a terrible disease that robs the mind of precious memories of those afflicted and leaves the loved ones mourning their loss as they slip away. Donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association at ALZ.org or at P.O. Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090-6011.

Dan Peter Lawrence, 76

OXFORD - Dan Peter Lawrence, 76, of Bailey Road, died Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge.

He is survived by two brothers, David Allen Lawrence III and his wife Dixie of Pittsburg, NH, and James J. Lawrence and his partner Brenda Allen of Charlton; and thirteen nephews and nieces, David Lawrence IV and his wife Kelly, Scott Lawrence and his wife Angela, Richard Lawrence, Michael Lawrence, Brianna Lawrence and her fiancé Matt, Nicholas Lawrence and his wife Morgan, Arianna Buchanan, Chloe Lawrence, Colby Lawrence, Lainy Lawrence, Gracie Lawrence, Kinsley Schlegel, and Emberlee Schlegel; and his shared living providers, Jane Gatheru and Mary Gatheru, both of Oxford. He was born in Webster, son of the late David Allen and June H. (Marcoux) Lawrence, Jr.

Dan had a love of music, especially rock and roll and "oldies but good-ies." He enjoyed going for walks to the neighbors for coffee, and enjoyed swimming when he was young at his



home on Glen Echo Lake in Charlton. He was a dedicated part of the family and attended all family events and gatherings. He attended church with his mother throughout his life. In his pastime, he loved old western movies and shows, especially the Rifleman. He had an infectious personality and was very social with everyone he met. He will be remembered as a kind man to all who knew him.

The Center of Hope was an integral part of his social support network for many years, of which the family is very grateful. The family would also like to thank the doctors and nursing staff at Harrington Memorial Hospital, for the exceptional care during his illness.

Memorial calling hours are Thursday, July 31, 2025, from 12 noon - 2:00 p.m. at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main Street, Oxford. A graveside service will be held on Thursday at 2:30 p.m. at North Cemetery in Oxford. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

Jean S. Young, 84

Jean S. Young, 84, of Sturbridge, passed away on Thursday, July 17, 2025, at the Quaboag Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center in West Brookfield. She was the wife of Donald A. Young.

Born in Weymouth, MA, she was the daughter of the late Charles and Helen (Crawford) Smith. She was raised and educated in Framingham and Westborough and was a graduate of Westborough High School. She also attended Willimantic State College.

Jean was employed as a bill collector for collection agencies and was more recently employed at Williams Communication.

Jean was an accomplished knitter. She enjoyed playing Scrabble, Bingo, and Mahjong, and was a country music lover. Jean particularly loved spending time at Justamere Camp on



Lake Mashapaug in CT.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by a daughter, Nein Josey of Webster, a son, Clayton Joubert and his significant other, Karen Cournoyer, of Cocoa Beach, FL, one step-daughter, Cheryl Dion and her husband, Wayne, of Sutton, a brother, Dana Smith of Auburn, a sister, Derry Winch and her significant other, Rick Walker, of Harwich, four grandchildren, Robert, Steven, Nathan and Kyle, two great-grandchildren, Julian and Charlotte, and two step-grandchildren, Evelyn and Jacob, and one step-great-grandson, Dawson.

A graveside service for immediate family will be held in Maplewood Cemetery, Upton.

Funeral arrangements are under the care and direction of the Pickering & Son Westborough Funeral Home.

www.WestboroughFuneralHome.com



DA meets with interns

REGION — Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr. recently met local interns with the Worcester Judicial Youth Corps Program.

The program includes members representing

MTSU announces spring 2025 graduates

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — Middle Tennessee State University is congratulating the students who received their degrees at its spring 2025 commencement ceremonies, including Brandon Whiton of Uxbridge, who earned a Bachelor of Science in Video & Film Production.

MTSU's commencement events were held in early May inside Murphy Center to confer degrees on its newest alumni.

Founded in 1911 as one of three state normal schools for teacher training, Middle Tennessee State University is one of the oldest and largest undergraduate universities in the state of Tennessee. With a fall enrollment averaging more than 20,000 students for the past several years, MTSU remains committed to providing individualized service in an exciting and nurturing atmosphere where student success is the top priority. For more information, call 615-898-2300, visit <https://mtsu.edu/> or <https://mtsunews.com>. Follow MTSU on X/Twitter @MTSUNews and like us on Facebook.



Courtesy

Interns with the Worcester Judicial Youth Corps Program recently met Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr.

several schools from throughout the county.

"It was an honor to speak to this year's Worcester Judicial Youth Corps Program interns," read a statement released by Early. "Throughout the summer, this great group of high school students will learn more about our court system from some of the best and brightest judges, lawyers, clerks, probation officers, and other court personnel."

To learn more about programs run by the DA's Office, visit www.worcesterda.com.



Fall River tragedy prompts demands for improved fire safety

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — In response to last month’s deadly fire at a Fall River assisted living residence, state leaders have announced steps to enhance the safety of residents living in facilities across the Commonwealth.

A July 13 fire at Gabriel House, an assisted living residence (ALR) in Fall River, left 10 residents dead and dozens injured.

Firefighters and residents were among the injured, according to State Fire Marshal Jon Davine.

“What happened in Fall River is a horrible tragedy. Our hearts are with the families who lost loved ones and the first responders who saved so many others,” said Gov. Maura Healey. “This is a moment to make sure that every

assisted living residence is prepared to respond to emergencies and to protect the safety of their residents.”

On July 21, the state’s Executive Office of Aging and Independence – the agency tasked with ensuring that ALRs are in compliance with state regulations – launched a statewide initiative to ensure that all 273 ALRs across Massachusetts are prepared to protect residents during emergencies.

As part of the initiative, all ALRs must issue a letter to residents and families outlining fire safety protocols, evacuation procedures, and key points of contact for questions or concerns following an emergency.

Additionally, ALRs have been directed to ensure that evacuation instructions and exit routes are posted inside each resident’s unit, as well as in common areas.

Furthermore, state officials will distribute a fire safety assessment survey that all ALRs must complete, reaffirming compliance with fire safety requirements such as sprinkler systems, fire drills, evacuation protocols, and maintenance of fire-rated doors and walls.

Providers will also report information on key systems within their buildings to help prioritize oversight.

Additionally, ALRs must submit a site-specific emergency preparedness plan to state officials.

“We are engaging every assisted living provider in this process. By requiring clear communication with residents and detailed reporting to the state, we are making sure resident safety is front and center – today and every day,” said Office of Aging and Independence Secretary Robin Lipson. “Our entire team

is committed to strengthening emergency readiness and improving standards across the assisted living sector in Massachusetts.”

While state leaders commend providers for steps already taken to ensure safety, they insist that more can be done statewide.

“These immediate actions underscore our administration’s commitment to protecting our vulnerable populations. We are working closely with providers, local officials, and families to put safety first and provide the peace of mind that residents deserve,” said Massachusetts Health and Human Services Secretary Kiame Mahaniah.

The Office of Aging and Independence is also in the process of finalizing proposed amendments to strengthen regulatory requirements for ALRs.

The investigation into the cause of the Gabriel House fire is being conducted by the Bristol County District Attorney’s Office, State Police detectives, the Fall River Fire Department, Fall River Police Department, and the State Police Fire Investigation Unit assigned to the State Fire Marshal’s office.

“Investigators identified an oxygen concentrator and numerous smoking materials in the room of origin,” read a statement released by the state’s Department of Fire Services. “They developed hypotheses by which either of these could have ignited a fire, but were unable to test them. Tragically, the occupant of this room was among those who lost their lives on July 13, and investigators could not obtain an account of the fire in its beginning stages.”



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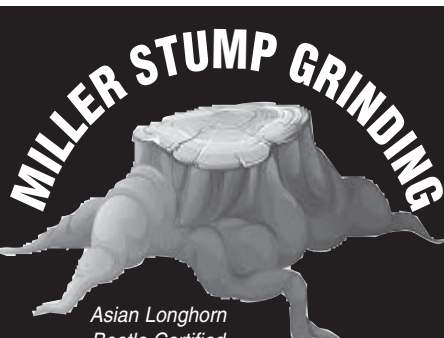


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Officials brace for peak mosquito-borne illness season

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — As we approach the peak season for West Nile virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), area residents are urged to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites.

Last month, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced the first confirmed animal case of WNV in 2025. A goat was exposed to WNV in Lunenburg in Worcester County, officials said.

“With this evidence of an animal infected with West Nile virus, we know that there are the right conditions and enough disease circulating to result in a human infection,” said Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein. “The elevated temperatures, combined with high humidity, increase mosquito activity.”

WNV and EEE are both spread to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. Last year, due to excessive rainfall, saw several local communities placed at elevated risk for human infec-

tions.

While EEE can infect people of all ages, individuals under 15 years of age or over 50 are at greatest risk for serious illness. Symptoms of EEE include high fever, muscle pain, headaches, and seizures. Symptoms can occur up to two weeks after a person is bitten by an infected mosquito.

WNV can cause fever, headaches, and rashes. The illness can sometimes be serious or fatal.

Thus far, there have been no human cases of WNV detected in Massachusetts. There were 19 human cases of WNV recorded in 2024.

One of the best ways to protect your family against mosquitoes is to avoid outdoor activities during peak mosquito hours from dusk to dawn. If you must be outside during these hours, be sure to apply insect repellent and maximize clothing coverage of exposed skin.

Residents can also reduce the number of mosquitoes around their homes by draining sources of stand-

ing water. Mosquitoes often lay their eggs in small pools, wheelbarrows, rain gutters, and drains. Residents are advised to frequently empty flowerpots and wading pools, in addition to changing the water in birdbaths daily.

It is also important to make sure that window and door screens fit tightly. Screens with holes or openings should be replaced, officials said.

Local officials will post additional resources and updates on conditions within respective communities throughout the late summer and fall months.

Residents are also urged to take steps to protect their pets from mosquitoes.

“Animals that live outdoors are at somewhat higher risk from arboviruses than humans who spend more time indoors,” said State Epidemiologist Dr. Catherine Brown. “But the weather this summer is creating the opportunity for it to be a busy WNV season, and it is important to take steps to prevent mosquito bites.”

Additional information about EEE and WNV, as well as reports of current and historical virus activity in Massachusetts, can be found by visiting www.mass.gov.

QCC SUCCESS Scholar proves there’s no one way to learn

WORCESTER — Local student Matthew Cronin is redefining success by turning personal obstacles into opportunities, thanks in part to the SUCCESS Scholars program at Quinsigamond Community College.

Cronin is part of QCC’s SUCCESS Scholars program, a state-funded initiative that provides support for students facing systemic barriers. Since starting at QCC in the fall of 2023, Cronin has made the Dean’s List and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Cronin cited the SUCCESS program as a factor in his impressive academic performance.

“I used to struggle in school and people in my life told me I couldn’t do it,” Cronin shared. “Now, I’m using my disabilities as a superpower.”

Growing up, Cronin’s learning disabilities, including ADHD and auditory processing disorder, weren’t properly addressed, which led to academic difficulties. After high school, he completed a small amount of training and worked in medical billing but desired a more fulfilling career.

Encouraged by staff at Genesis Clubhouse, a vocational and rehabilitation program for individuals who live with mental illness, Cronin applied to QCC. What might have previously been out of financial reach became affordable to Cronin thanks to the implementation of MassReconnect, the state-funded program covering community college tuition and fees for students over 25 who haven’t received a bachelor’s degree.

Once enrolled at QCC, Cronin began meeting with a SUCCESS advisor. The program utilizes a case management approach focused on building relationships with students. The SUCCESS advisor serves as a main contact to guide students through college processes and expectations, navigate challenges and connect them with key supports.

“Matthew’s journey is a powerful reminder of the transformative impact of access, support and belonging. Programs like SUCCESS Scholars and MassReconnect are not just helping students stay in college — they’re empowering students like Matthew to thrive, lead and inspire others along the way,” said Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs Kevin Li.

In this newfound supportive environment, Cronin was able to explore his passions and joined the human services and deaf studies programs. Currently, Cronin is pursuing the path to become a social worker and an advocate, translating personal experiences into meaningful change. He is also interested in entrepreneurship and inspirational speaking.

“Matthew is such a good example of how to advocate for yourself and effectively utilize resources,” said SUCCESS Scholars Academic Advisor Mallory Dutton. “Once he got his feet firmly on the ground in college, his first instinct was to help other people see that this is possible for them too.”

Cronin also recognized other QCC supports, such as the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) department, which has been instrumental to his achievements. SAS academic coaches have helped Cronin develop personalized strategies addressing time management and learning techniques. This, combined with his work in the SUCCESS Scholars program, has transformed his approach to education.

Pasture Prime Players present “She Kills Monsters”

CHARLTON — Pasture Prime Players, Inc. is pleased to announce performance dates for “She Kills Monsters” by Qui Nguyen. The production is directed by Victoria Konopacki and features the acting talents of Rhiannon Mansur, Madeleine Jean. Hayden Plumb, AJ Johnson, Jaclyn Morrison, Maggie Montville, Hallie Wright, Stephanie Sawyer, Mila Fors, Sarah Butler, Maritza Cordero, Sam Murillo and Madic Andreoli.

“She Kills Monsters” tells the story of Agnes Evans as she leaves her childhood home in Ohio following the death of her teenage sister, Tilly. When Agnes finds Tilly’s Dungeons & Dragons notebook, however, she finds herself catapulted into a journey of discovery and action-packed adventure in the imaginary world that was her sister’s refuge. In this high-octane dramatic comedy laden with homicidal fairies, nasty ogres, and 90s pop culture, acclaimed playwright Qui Nguyen offers a heart-pounding homage to the geek and warrior within us all. This play is produced by special arrangement with Concorde Theatricals, Inc., New York, N.Y.

Performances will be held Aug. 7, 8 and 9 at 7:30 p.m. and Aug. 10 at 2 p.m. at the Charlton Arts & Activities Center, 4 Dresser Hill Rd., Charlton. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors (60 and older) and students (18 and under). The play contains adult language and may not be appropriate for younger children. For reservations contact us at (508) 248-5448, message us on Facebook or via e-mail at pasture.prime.players@gmail.com.

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LEGALS

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 Jason Tom Patraw to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Norwich Commercial Group, Inc. D/B/A Norcom Mortgage, dated August 26, 2015 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 54216, Page 249, as modified by a certain modification agreement recorded on January 27, 2022, and recorded with said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 67013, Page 323, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Norwich Commercial Group, Inc. D/B/A Norcom Mortgage, its successors and assigns to Pingora Loan Servicing, LLC, recorded on August 28, 2019, in Book No. 60953, at Page 323

Pingora Loan Servicing, LLC to Freedom Mortgage Corporation, recorded on December 11, 2020, in Book No. 63955, at Page 177

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 2:00 PM on August 22, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 40 Dennison Lane, Southbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in

said mortgage,

TO WIT:

The land with the buildings thereon located in Southbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts situated on the westerly side of Old Breakneck Road, formerly called Dennison District Road, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the southeasterly corner thereof, at an iron pin on the westerly line of said Old Breakneck Road at the northeasterly corner of the land now or formerly of Anton Cubranich et ux; THENCE N. 42° 39’ W. along a wall by said Cubranich land 231.4 feet to an iron pin at land now or formerly of Raymond J. Lataille et ux.; THENCE N. 41 ° 04’ E. by said Lataille land 128 feet to an iron pin; THENCE S. 46° 56’ E. by land now or formerly of Fred P. Campbell et ux., 229.65 feet to an iron pin on the westerly line of said Old Breakneck Road; THENCE S. 40° 45’ W. partly along a wall by the westerly line of said Old Breakneck Road 145.05 feet to the point of beginning.

For mortgagor’s(s’) title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 54216, Page 247.

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 municipi-

pal 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 Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) 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.

FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION

Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
27460
July 31, 2025
August 7, 2025
August 14, 2025

Town of Brimfield Conservation Commission Public Hearing Notice

In accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Brimfield Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 6:00 PM to review a Notice of Intent (NOI) submitted by Greenhill Engineering, c/o Jean Sullivan Trustee. The NOI requests installation of a driveway.

Project Location: 395 Sturbridge Road (Assessor’s Map (15-B-19)

Meeting Location: Public Participation will be In-Person at Hitchcock Academy at 2 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, MA 01010 on August 13, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

Any person(s) interested or wishing to be heard on this request should appear at the time and place designated. A copy of the permit application and plan may be inspected at the Brimfield Town Annex in the Conservation Commission Office, Salisbury Annex Building, 2nd Floor, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA 01010 or contact the office at 413-245-4100 ext. 1101.

Roger deBruyn & Joseph Venezia
Co-Chairs
July 24, 2025
July 31, 2025

LEGALS

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Sec 40, a public hearing by the Holland Conservation Commission will be held on Tuesday 08/12/2025 in the Conservation Commission Room, second floor, in the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA. This meeting is to review a Notice of Intent (NOI) filed by Michael F. Jacquinet to remove & rebuild lake house and install septic system at 29 Island Road, Holland, MA 01521 (MAP R10-A-28). To comply with the Open Meeting Law, all public hearings are scheduled for 6:30 PM and, barring unforeseen circumstances, will be taken in the order in which they appear on the agenda. This meeting will be held in person and virtual; for virtual meeting login information contact Holland Conservation at conservation@hollandma.org or call (413) 245-7108 x114.

Conservation Commission
Town of Holland
July 31, 2025

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Town of Charlton Stormwater Management Rules & Regulations, the Charlton Conservation Commission will be accepting comments on the following application:

The applicant, [Modern Structures, Inc.](#), has submitted a Land Disturbance/Stormwater Management Permit Application on July 25, 2025, for the proposed construction of a single-family home associated with stormwater infrastructure.

The project site is located at [0 Stevens Park Road, Charlton, MA 01507](#), and is also known as: [Parcel 17A-G-40](#)

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

Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
July 31, 2025

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on August 13, 2025, at 7PM on the application of Christopher & Krystal Hansen.

The applicant has filed three (3) Notices of Intent for the construction of three (3) single-family residences within 100-ft of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland and Riverfront Area. The project location is: Lot 1, 2, & 3 Sandersdale Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: Lot 1 – 77-C-8; Lot 2 – 77-C-8.1; Lot 3 – 77-C-8.2.

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
July 31, 2025

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on August 13, 2025, at 7PM on the application of C.R. Hansen Construction, LLC.

The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for the construction of a single-family residence within 100-ft of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland and Riverfront Area. The project location is: 0 North Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 35-D-2.2.

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
July 31, 2025

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Sec 40, a public hearing by the Holland Conservation Commission will be held on Tuesday 08/12/2025 in the Conservation Commission Room, second floor, in the Holland Town Hall, 27

Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA. This meeting is to review a Notice of Intent (NOI) filed by Daniel E. & Nicole M. Braskie, Trustees, to remove & replace existing lake house and install new septic at 21 Island Road, Holland, MA 01521 (MAP R10-A-24). To comply with the Open Meeting Law, all public hearings are scheduled for 6:30 PM and, barring unforeseen circumstances, will be taken in the order in which they appear on the agenda. This meeting will be held in person and virtual; for virtual meeting login information contact Holland Conservation at conservation@hollandma.org or call (413) 245-7108 x114.

Conservation Commission
Town of Holland
July 31, 2025

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on August 13, 2025, at 7PM on the application of Pete Capuano.

The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for the removal of 15-20 trees within 100-feet of the bank of Prindle Lake. Address: Lot 19 Pumpkin Lane, Charlton, MA, 01507. Parcel ID: 61C-A-3

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

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

Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
July 31, 2025

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Sec 40, a public hearing by the Holland Conservation Commission will be held on Tuesday 08/12/2025 in the Conservation Commission Room, second floor, in the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA. This meeting is to review a Notice of Intent (NOI) filed by Beau X. & Courtney A. (Gatta) Boudreau to construct a single-family home, driveway, well & septic at Vinton Road Lot 9, Holland, MA 01521 (MAP 5-C-1.8). To comply with the Open Meeting Law, all public hearings are scheduled for 6:30 PM and, barring unforeseen circumstances, will be taken in the order in which they appear on the agenda. This meeting will be held in person and virtual; for virtual meeting login information contact Holland Conservation at conservation@hollandma.org or call (413) 245-7108 x114.

Conservation Commission
Town of Holland
July 31, 2025

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Town of Charlton Stormwater Management Rules & Regulations, the Charlton Conservation Commission will be accepting comments on the following application:

The applicant, [C.R. Hansen Construction](#), has submitted a Land Disturbance/Stormwater Management Permit Application on July 25, 2025, for the proposed construction of a single-family home associated with stormwater infrastructure.

The project site is located at [Lot 2 Gould Road, Charlton, MA 01507](#), and is also known as: [Parcel ID 10-C-2.8](#)

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

Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
July 31, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)831-2200
Docket No. WO25C0357CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of:
Kelsea Marie Biondolillo
A Petition to Change Name of Adult
has been filed by
Kelsea Marie Biondolillo of **Sturbridge MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Kelsea Biondolillo Koen
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10 a.m. on the return day of 08/19/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 18, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
July 31, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE - AMENDED

In accordance with the provisions of MGL Ch. 40A, the Southbridge Zoning Board of Appeals will **hold a public hearing on Thursday, August 7, 2025, at their 5:00 PM meeting**, in the Rice Conference Room, First Floor, Southbridge Town Hall. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider the variance application, as filed by Albert Soto-Serrano and SueJay Perez, for a reduction of the side setback to construct a garage per Section 5, Table 2 of the Southbridge Zoning Bylaws located at 12 Hartwell Terrace; Map 53; Lot 175 (Albert Soto-Serrano and SueJay Perez, Owner).

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

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

Patrick Spinelli
Chair, Southbridge Zoning Board of Appeals
July 24, 2025
July 31, 2025

Town of Sturbridge Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing Notice Special Permit John & Emily Kingsbury

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday August 20, 2025 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 John & Emily Kingsbury. 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 allow a 298 square foot addition to the existing house to square off the foundation as shown on the plans and supporting documentation submitted. The proposal will increase the non-conformity in regards to the side setback with the existing setback at 17' and the proposed setback at 12.2'. No other non-conformities will be intensified as a result of the proposed alterations. The property is located at **23 Library Lane**.

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 at (508)347-2508 or by email at jacy@sturbridge.gov.

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, notice and a link shall be posted on the ZBA website. Please note that the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law.

Diane Trapasso, Chair
Sturbridge Zoning Board of Appeals
July 31, 2025
August 7, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)831-2200
Docket No. WO25C0288CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of:
Emily Marie Corfey
A Petition to Change Name of Adult
has been filed by
Emily Marie Corfey of **Charlton MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Emily Marie Nikosey
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10 a.m. on the return day of 08/19/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 17, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
July 31, 2025

NOTIFICATION OF AQUATIC TREATMENT HAMILTON RESERVOIR, HOLLAND MA

Selected areas of Hamilton Reservoir in Holland will be chemically treated with the USEPA/MA registered aquatic herbicide ProcellaCOR to control non-native and invasive variable water-milfoil on Tuesday, August 5th, 2025. The entire lake will be closed to all water uses including swimming, fishing and boating on the day of treatment. In addition, use of the lake water for irrigation will be restricted until August 13th. Printed posters warning of these temporary water use restrictions will be posted along the lake shoreline in advance of the treatment. The treatment is being performed for the Town of Holland, pursuant to licenses/permits from MassDEP and the Holland Conservation Commission. SOLitude Lake Management of Shrewsbury is the state licensed company who will be performing the treatment.

July 31, 2025

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on August 13, 2025, at 7PM on the application of New England Power Company.

The applicant has filed for a Notice of Intent for the proposed 301 Transmission Line Asset Condition Refurbishment Project to improve access roads and work pad locations along the existing 301 transmission line. The project location is: Line 301 Existing Electric Transmission Right-of-Way, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: Various Parcels.

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
July 31, 2025

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Town of Charlton Stormwater Management Rules & Regulations, the Charlton Conservation Commission will be accepting comments on the following application:

The applicant, [Christian Family Endowment](#), has submitted a Land Disturbance/Stormwater Management Permit Application on July 25, 2025, for the proposed construction of a single-family home associated with stormwater infrastructure.

The project site is located at [Lot 1 Gould Road, Charlton, MA 01507](#), and is also known as: [Parcel ID 10-C-2](#)

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

Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
July 31, 2025

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

SOUTHBRIDGE

continued from page 1

for grants and would serve as a “guidance tool” for future work, “putting everything in one place,” (in Mike Loin’s phrasing), they also agreed that approving it now “would be detrimental to the town’s position” in that possible legal battle (in Mike Colognesi’s phrasing).

They didn’t say when they might bring it up for a vote, but did recommend it go to the Town Council for a presentation by CMRPC’s Emily Glaubitz, the project’s consultant.

“This is an overview for the whole town,” Loin said, noting some aspects aren’t for the board to do. “We can say anything we want. Until we pass a zoning ordinance, it can’t be built anyway.”

General agreement did not mean board members liked everything in the lengthy plan – for example, its recommendation to widen mixed use. They said they think that should not be all over town, only in certain zones. It’s now allowed downtown by permit, and is the subject of the 39 Elm dispute.

Colognesi noted, “The reality is that none of those buildings downtown are going to have anything but residential units above the first floor” because of

building code elevator requirements.

What that housing might look like is still in limbo. Members cited both condo-style and apartment-style arrangements that worked, with Loin noting the key issue is having “a landlord who cares.”

Despite that, several members recalled when upper levels had dentist offices and other local services years ago. There was also some talk of the Blanchard Theater (long vacant above what was Zoe’s Pizza) and how other communities have found funds to renovate such theaters.

While they also liked the idea of having “cottage” and similar “tiny home” developments by special permit, they didn’t like the idea of having them interspersed with other housing as “infill” development. Among the issues to address would be water and sewer; members noted bringing those to outlying areas would probably kill projects, but there are examples of home/condo associations having centralized well/septic systems (as at Kelly Road, Sturbridge). There are, however, some parts of town with water and sewer that aren’t developed that might be suitable for such projects, they noted.

What seemed more troubling to them were the recommendations that involved financing. Sandy

Acly questioned providing funds to help homeowners build accessory dwelling units, although she said she liked the idea of offering standard plans they could use.

Loin said he thought a suggestion advocating for more deed-restricted units would prove “so hard” to do, although he supported the idea of having interns identify potential sites for affordable housing. Regarding a related issue – helping residents get housing aid – he noted that would essentially mean “creating an agency or an office to do that.” He predicted helping some renters and owners pay housing costs “will get a little kick-back (by context, he meant pushback) ... because the people who can afford it are going to say ‘Why am I financing somebody else to live?’” Another proposal, to look into “creative models for home ownership,” would also require such an office or be run out of the town manager’s office, he noted.

Acly said a proposal to create a community development corporation was already tried, “but nobody wanted to participate.”

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

STURBRIDGE

continued from page 1

never a scenario where you could plant the entire island.”

That was sparked by Mary Dowling saying she’d expected to see “clusters of landscaping” there and elsewhere. She’d like to see the town “adopt other areas” along Route 20, some that aren’t being done, and some that are already adopted.

She also asked for a detailed list of what’s been purchased with the \$25,000 the town allocated to this work. (Coan said he has it.)

Chair Jamie Goodwin described it

as “patent absurdity” that the town would have to “adopt an area to clean it up.”

After that, the board briefly discussed an out-of-town issue. The recently received a letter seeking support from Oakham residents who are opposing a proposed battery storage/disposal site in that town.

Noting the site’s proximity to the Quabbin watershed, Goodwin said, “That’s the dumbest thing I’ve ever heard.”

Town Administrator Robin Grimm said they’re asking for help in passing HD 4557, a bill that would require local home rule support for such projects be-

fore companies or the state can build them and require at least one local public hearing. The short bill’s text is actually a little confusing – it says the authority would lie with the “elected city council, selectboard or other legislative body” in a town. (In most towns the “legislative body” is Town Meeting, but that’s not cited.)

According to the Legislature’s website, that bill was sent to the Rules Committee back in April. So far, several area representatives have signed on, including John Marsi, Don Berthiaume and Joe McKenna, but not Todd Smola. It was filed by Kelly Pease.

Returning to Sturbridge affairs, the

board heard the regular reports for the Building and Police departments. The latter led into hiring three new full-time officers – two with lengthy experience (Edward Page, with 27 years, most recently in Wales; and Richard Tracy, Sr., with 23 years as a postal inspector) and one newcomer (Domenic Barasso) – to replace several who resigned. It also approved an \$8000 contract to “hydrorake” the weeds out of the town’s swim area after the season concludes.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

PICNIC

continued from page 1

entertain guests. L’Esperance, who also goes by the name Morning Son, plays a mix of folk, rock, jazz and Americana originals and covers.

“Parents and children in attendance will have an opportunity to attend a meet-and-greet in Fellowship Hall with a few of our CORI-certified Sunday School teachers,” said Pastor

Dave. “Our staff is always available during the Sunday service to supervise up to 25 children, aged six months to 10 years of age while their parents attend church. Our Sunday School en-

courages Christian morals and ethics, within their understanding and age level, through story time, videos, crafts, and other activities aligned with that Sunday’s teachings and sermons.”

The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale joyfully celebrates Christ’s presence and God’s grace in our lives. Community members are welcome and invited to join in worship

on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Services are also live streamed on the church’s Facebook page. For more information, call 774-304-1021 or visit sturfed.org.

CORNERSTONE

continued from page 2

Webber, who announced in March he will be retiring. The Cornerstone Bank Board of Directors will also expand to welcome four new members, including Mr. Zona, helping to round out leadership representation across the newly expanded region the bank will now serve.

“I’m honored to lead Cornerstone Bank into this next chapter,” said Zona. “Both banks share a commitment to our community, employees and customers. Together, we can achieve strategic growth while maintaining a community-first approach rooted in mutual values.”

Completion of the transaction remains subject to approval by the cor-

porators of ASB, as well as regulatory approval. The closing is expected to be final in the first quarter of 2026.

Luse Gorman, P.C. served as legal counsel for Cornerstone Bank while Piper, Sandler & Co. served as Financial Advisor. Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C. served as legal counsel for ASB.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank (\$1.65 billion institution) 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, Cornerstone Bank’s local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability

to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities through a broad range of deposit and loan products and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstone-bank.com or call 800-939-9103.

About Athol Savings Bank

Founded in 1867 in Athol, Athol Savings Bank (\$650 million institution) has built a legacy of local service, integrity and trust for over 150 years. As a mutual savings bank, we answer to our customers, not shareholders, offering personalized financial solutions with a focus on community values. We are committed to continuous improvement, planned growth and delivering strength, stability and security to those we serve. As “A Solutions Bank,” we strive to meet the evolving needs of our customers and communities every day. To learn more about Athol Savings Bank, A Solutions Bank, please visit ibankasb.com or call 888-249-3200.

GIRL SCOUTS

continued from page 1

ally. Seventy-two percent (72%) said earning their Gold Award helped them get a scholarship. Changing the world doesn’t end when a Girl Scout earns her Gold Award. Ninety-nine percent (99%) of Gold Award Girl Scout alums take on leadership roles in their everyday lives.

The teens were honored at the Girl

Scout Gold Award and Silver Award Ceremony on June 18 at Mechanics Hall in Worcester. Among them was Avery Adams of Fiskdale.

Adams earned her Gold Award by founding the Neurodivergent Alliance at Tantasqua Regional High School, a club that provides a supportive, inclusive space for neurodivergent students and those interested in learning more about neurodiversity. Inspired by her

own experiences with autism and anxiety, Avery created monthly meetings focused on education, connection, and creativity—featuring discussions, presentations, and activities. The club has become a recognized part of the school community, averaging 18 participants and engaging in school-wide events. To ensure the club’s sustainability, Adams established an executive board with ongoing elections and connected

the group to the National Neurodivergent Alliance for continued collaboration and resources.

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Brimfield resident accepted into NH Institute of Politics Ambassador Program

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Saint Anselm College student Samantha McGlinchy from Brimfield, a Politics major and in the class of 2028, has been accepted into the Kevin B. Harrington New Hampshire Institute of Politics (NHIOP) Ambassador Program for the 2025-2026 academic year.

The Kevin B. Harrington NHIOP Student Ambassador Program is a competitive program that offers

the students real-world experience and networking opportunities with some of the most influential people in politics and news media. Ambassadors are highly motivated, dedicated students who work closely with the NHIOP staff on public programming and civic engagement work. They assist in event promotion, welcome guests and VIPs, and serve as greeters and ushers. The non-partisan student ambassadors often moderate question-and-answer periods, facilitate book signings, and lead other post-event activities.

Interested students across any major are invited to apply for the program. Through an application and interview process, a new cohort of ambassadors are selected each January. Students can apply at any time during their college career with the interview process taking place in late fall.



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WEBSTER - 24 COOPER RD

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

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Snug Harbor Villa!
WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT



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WEBSTER- 4 PERRYVILLE RD



ON DEPOSIT

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Webster Lake - 53 Colonial Rd
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Webster Lake Waterfront 88 Union Point



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Webster Lake Waterfront 8 Long Island



ON DEPOSIT

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Pamela Facteau, LPN, becomes first NCLEX-PN success for her class

CHARLTON — With determination, heart, and skill, Pamela Facteau of Sturbridge has become the first in her class to pass the NCLEX-PN on her first attempt—a proud and inspirational milestone for both Pamela and the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy.

Now officially Pamela Facteau, LPN, she brings a unique blend of compassion, clinical excellence, and entrepreneurial vision. In addition to her nursing accomplishments, Pamela holds numerous certifications that reflect her commitment to safety, mental health, and community care: Certified in Dementia Care, Certified in Mental Health First Aid, Certified in Stop The Bleed, Certified in Domestic Violence Training, and Narcan Training.

Her dedication has also earned her the Random Act of Kindness (RAK) Award. She was a member of the UNICEF Club and a participant in Summer Workshop II.

Pamela is also the founder of LYFT Facial Rejuvenation, a wellness-based aesthetic practice that blends artistry with science. Her mission: to help people feel confident, cared for, and renewed. Learn more at the Web site: www.lyftrejuvenation.com or

Facebook: LYFT Facial Rejuvenation.

When asked about the strengths of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Fecteau shared,

“Available resources were there, and post-exam reviews were helpful.”

Pamela credits her journey to the support and mentorship she received from Advisor Barbara Martel, BSN, RN of Sturbridge, Mentor Vanessa Gachagua, LPN of Southbridge from the PN Class of 2024, and the Practical Nursing Faculty & staff, all of whom played pivotal roles in her development as a nurse.

In a personal message to Dr. Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director, Fecteau shared the heart behind her success:

“Hi Dr. Bolandrina, Thank you so much. Completing nursing school has been one of the most intense and transformative journeys of my life. Balancing the demands of a rigorous and accelerated program while simultaneously running my aesthetic business required unwavering determination, discipline, and resili-



Pamela Fecteau

ience. My passion for aesthetics and the love I have for my clients have always been the driving force behind everything I do. It was that same passion that fueled my strength to persevere—even during the most challenging moments.

“The commitment I made to myself and to my future was clear: I would not only finish nursing school, but I would do so with integrity, focus, and excellence. Passing the NCLEX on my first attempt is a milestone that means more to me than words can express. It symbolizes every late night, every sacrifice, and every moment of pushing forward when it would’ve

been easier to stop.

I am beyond proud of this achievement and incredibly excited for what the future holds. With my nursing education and clinical training now complete, I am more equipped than ever to provide safe, evidence-based, and compassionate care within my aesthetic practice. I look forward to combining my medical knowledge with my artistic passion to deliver the highest level of care and results to my clients.

“This is only the beginning, and I remain fully committed to lifelong learning and professional growth to be the best provider I can be.”

Pamela’s story is a testament to what can be achieved through perseverance, purpose, and passion. Her success is a beacon for her classmates and a proud moment for the entire Bay Path community.

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37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507
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St. Joseph's Food Pantry
Located in the church hall at 296 North Main St. North Brookfield
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the 3rd Thursday of the month from 12 Noon-1:15PM
Any questions should be directed to the Rectory office 508 867-6469.
St. Joseph's Food Pantry is a community partner affiliated with the Worcester County Food Bank.

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Oxford Community Center
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Oxford, MA 01540
Distribution: Thursday 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

ROCHDALE

The Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry
Greenville Baptist Church
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Distribution: Every Monday from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Open to everyone.

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Saint Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry,
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Stocked by donations
Contact: 508-347-6398

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