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Thursday-Friday, March 5-6, 2026

From laundry room to RN

Bay Path alumna reaches new heights in nursing career

BRIMFIELD — In the world of healthcare, there are those who study the field, and then there are those who live it from the ground up. Carleen Berthiaume, RN, a 2019 graduate of the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, has officially reached a major milestone in her decade-long climb, successfully passing the NCLEX-RN (take one!) and obtaining her Registered Nurse license this February 2026.

For Berthiaume, the path to "RN" was paved with grit, determination, and a

deep-seated commitment to service. Her journey began nearly 18 years ago in 2008, when she first entered the healthcare environment not in a clinical role, but in housekeeping and laundry. A legacy of excellence at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Long before her transition to Registered Nurse, Berthiaume established herself as a standout leader within the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Class of 2019. Her time at the Academy was defined by a



causes, but her local volunteerism was equally staggering. From the Charlton Senior Center BP Clinic to the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Berthiaume was a constant presence at community health events. Her volunteer portfolio included the Paxton Health Fair, FAFSA Day, Safety Fairs, and multiple educational fairs for Mass EdCo and Bay Path RVTHS.

The long climb Berthiaume's career is a masterclass in professional evolution. After working as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) starting in 2012, she sought to deepen her clinical knowledge by enrolling in Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. Following her graduation in 2019, she began her career as an LPN at Quaboag Rehabilitation just as the global COVID-19 pandemic began—a "trial by fire" that solidified her resilience.

In 2022, she transitioned to the medical-surgical floor at UMass Memorial Harrington Hospital. There, she became a trained preceptor and resource/charge nurse, specializing in advanced skills like ultrasound-guided IV insertion. Determined to learn In December 2025, Berthiaume completed

the accelerated LPN-to-RN Bridge program at Quinsigamond Community College. "It's been a long climb to be where I am, and I've learned so much along the way," Berthiaume reflected. Quoting Zig Ziglar, she added, "If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you." I'm determined.

A humbling mission With her new RN credentials, Berthiaume has accepted a high-stakes Float Pool position at Harrington, cross-training in the Emergency Room and the ICU. Despite her advanced skills, she remains grounded in the philosophy of service.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others," she said, quoting Gandhi. "It's a humbling field that I'm proud to be a part of." Berthiaume is already looking toward the next horizon, with plans to enter a BSN program within the year. For the faculty, staff, and alumni at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, her story is a powerful reminder that with a foundation in practical nursing and a heart for service, there is no limit to how high a nurse can climb.

Charlton Cultural Council unveils new logo



CHARLTON — The Charlton Cultural Council is proud to announce their new official logo, thoughtfully designed by a talented student from Bay Path Regional Vocational School. Annette Mitchell, the Council's Social Media Chair, led Council efforts in collaboration with Dawn Wilson, Bay Path Graphic Communications Professor. The project was initiated as part of a collaboration between the Council and the school to provide real-world creative opportunities for students while also strengthening community connections. "The new design reflects the Council's mission to celebrate community, creativity, and culture, while also showcasing the design skills of our local students," Mitchell shared.

The students were tasked with creating a digital logo that aligned with the Massachusetts Cultural Council's logo while also being visually appealing and ADA compliant. "There were so many incredible submissions. The Council's vote actually resulted in a tie that required a third party to determine the winner. This was an incredibly fulfilling project. The Council is very proud of the results and of the students' efforts," Mitchell added. The Charlton Cultural Council supports local artists, organizations, and cultural initiatives through grants and programming to enrich the community. The new logo marks an exciting chapter as the Council continues its commitment to fostering arts and culture in Charlton.

relentless drive for both academic and clinical mastery. During her tenure at Bay Path, Berthiaume was:

- A decorated scholar: Inducted into the National Technical Honor Society and selected as a recipient of the prestigious Horatio Alger Scholarship.
- A competitive champion: She proved her clinical mettle under pressure, earning Silver Medals as both a District and State Champion in the SkillsUSA First Aid/CPR competitions.
- A specialized practitioner: Even as a student,

she sought advanced training, earning certifications in Infusion Therapy/Central Line Care, Mental Health First Aid, and participating in SafeTALK suicide alertness training. Her commitment to the "holistic nurse" model was evidenced by her nomination for the Clinical Excellence Award and her receipt of the Community Service Award. A heart for the community Berthiaume's impact at Bay Path extended far beyond the classroom. As an officer of the UNICEF Club, she championed global

Sturbridge Affordable Housing Trust seeks input through survey

STURBRIDGE — The Sturbridge Affordable Housing Trust (SAHT) is leading the development of a new Housing Production Plan (HPP) to update its 2021–2026 Housing Production Plan and guide the Town's future housing

strategy. The updated HPP will include current data and analysis on demographic trends and housing conditions, identify priority housing needs, and recommend strategies to address them. Community engagement is a central part of this process. The SAHT will offer multiple opportunities for residents to share input on local housing challenges, goals, and priorities. As part of this effort, the SAHT is conducting a Community Housing Survey to gather additional feedback. The

survey is designed to be brief and easy to complete, taking only a few minutes of your time. To participate in the survey, visit the town Web site, sturbridge.gov, and click the link under the News tab on the main page.

Masonic Annual Food Drive is back!

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Major General Salem Towne Lodge (MGSTL) in Southbridge is kicking off its Annual Community Outreach Service Projects. So far this year, our Community Outreach project is a food drive aimed at supporting the Southbridge Food Share in the community. The Southbridge Food Share is located at 446 Hamilton St. in Southbridge, and has been around for many years. It serves Southbridge, Sturbridge, Holland, Wales, Brimfield, and Charlton. Easter is just around the corner and times have been very hard for many people in this community and keeping children and families fed has been the top



Last year's November of 2025 food drive donation from the community, left to right Brother. Chris St. Cyr, Bro. Clay Tull, sitting Bro. Paul Davidson, Bro. Will Proper and Bro. Larry Burbridge. We Master Masons hope to fill again three to four pickup trucks this year for the Southbridge Food Share. Easter is near, please support our food drive if you can.

priority for this local food share. Major General Salem Towne Masonic Lodge will be holding a food drive at Big Bunny Market, Southbridge, on Saturday, March 7 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

In addition to food donations, they accept personal items such as toothpaste, deodorant, etc. Thanks to the community's generosity last year, we managed to gather 156 bags of food, filling up three pickup trucks. The Master Masons of MGSTL are challenging the community to help them beat last year's donations by gathering more than 156 bags of food—enough to fill at least three, and maybe even four, pickup trucks. Benjamin Franklin, a well-known Master Mason, once asked, "Is There Greatness In You?" If so, join us to support this community food drive. If you would like additional information about Freemasonry, go to www.massfreemasonry.org and read about this great fraternity and find a lodge nearest you.

Burgess third graders kick off Sturbridge celebration of America 250

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

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

250th events that the Village will be hosting, go to: osv.org.

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

Events will culminate in May and June. A Family Fun Day on May 16 features a Children’s Bike Decorating and Parade, followed with activities on the Common including: a Mini Big-Top Circus, face painting, T-shirt decorating, yard games, potato sack and 3-legged races, music and more. A hot dog cart will also be available. The Committee’s signature event will be held on June 27, 2026 and will feature a parade along Route 20 and Route 131, followed by a community festival on the Town Common. More information on these events will be forthcoming.

Volunteer recruitment and community engagement have been central to the Committee’s work. The Committee extends its appreciation to all residents, volunteers, non-profit organizations, and local businesses supporting the America 250th Anniversary celebration. If you are interested in participating in either/both the Family Fun Day and the Parade, or simply wish to find more information, please contact the Sturbridge250 Committee by email at Sturbridge250@gmail.com.

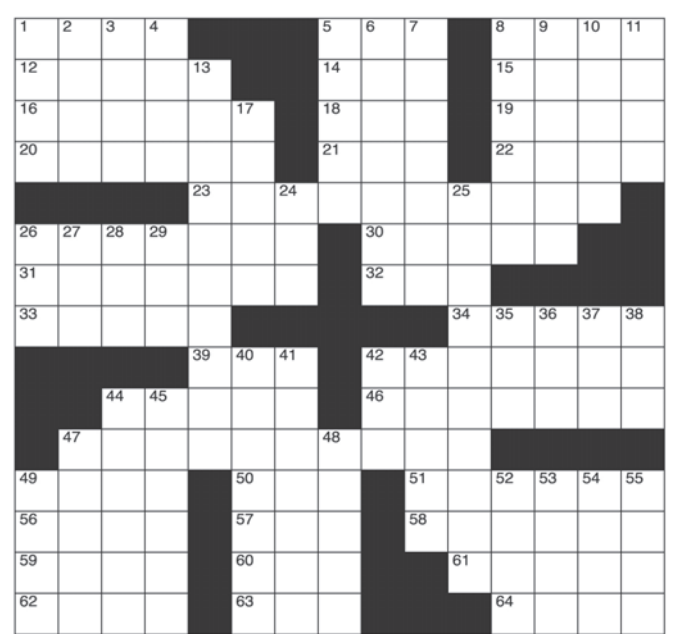


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CLUES ACROSS

1. Unit of dry measure

5. One who defies authority

8. Social media giant

12. Render holy

14. “Much ___ about nothing”

15. Computer manufacturer

16. Creed

18. Immoral act

19. Mountain pass

20. Winged nut

21. Don't know when yet

22. Elected officials

23. Corrupt tendencies

26. Popular adult beverage

30. Made a mistake

31. Morally correct

32. Type of whale

33. Portable conical tent

34. Native people of the Congo
39. More (Spanish)

42. Classroom implements

44. Cognizant of

46. One who tells

47. Free from bondage

49. Thick piece of something

50. Containing two adjacent nitrogen atoms

51. Removed from the record

56. Legendary singer Turner

57. Broke up the earth

58. Hunting expedition

59. Contributes

60. Unit of work or energy

61. Wreckage on the sea bed

62. Affirmative! (slang)

63. Witness

64. Scrape (Archaic)

CLUES DOWN

1. “ ___ and flows”

2. Humble request for help

3. A position of leadership

4. Continent

5. Adherent of a particular religion

6. Things that can be eaten

7. Self-governing Netherlands territory

8. Long-tailed crow

9. Repeated

10. Bluish greens

11. Humanities

13. Someone who serves in the armed forces

17. Labor (Spanish)

24. Zero

25. Shared by involving three parties

26. Queens ballplayer

27. Consumed

28. Rest here please
29. Men’s fashion accessory

35. American time

36. Sound unit

37. They ___

38. Soviet Socialist Republic

40. Places to play video games

41. A sudden attack of illness

42. When you hope to arrive

43. Charges

44. Actress Seyfried

45. A tributary of the Ohio River

47. Omit when speaking

48. Armored fish

49. Remain

52. From a distance

53. Adventure story

54. Geological times

55. Eat dinner

PUZZLE SOLUTION

E	P	H	A			R	E	B		M	E	T	A		
B	L	E	S	S		A	D	O		A	C	E	R		
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			V	E	N	A	L	I	T	I	E	S			
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Y	E	A	H			S	E	E				R	A	S	E

Brimfield Senior Center welcomes UFO expert

BRIMFIELD — On Wednesday, March 11 at 10:30 a.m., join us at the Brimfield Senior Center as we welcome back Ronny LeBlanc for an updated presentation on UFO activity and his evolving research into interdimensional phenomena.

Recent reports of unidentified aerial vehicles—often described as “drones”—appearing across New Jersey, the East Coast, and around the globe have raised new questions. These objects have reportedly flown over military installations, gone dark when approached, and vanished without explanation. Witnesses have also described unusual orbs of light that appear and disappear suddenly.

Ronny LeBlanc, known for Discovery Channel’s “Paranormal Caught on Camera” and “Expedition Bigfoot,” will explore these sightings and their connection to long-standing UFO activity in New England. As the author of the “Monsterland” nonfiction series, he examines UFOs, orange orbs, and other anomalous phenomena that—despite renewed media attention—are not new occurrences. Reports include objects emerging from the ocean, hovering over reservoirs and restricted airspace, and outrunning military aircraft. What are people witnessing, and what might these patterns reveal?

Drawing from field investigations, eyewitness testimony, paranormal case studies, and ongoing developments in UAP research, Ronny discusses how these encounters often concentrate in geographic “hot spots”—areas where energy, history, geology, and unexplained phenomena intersect. He proposes that these locations may serve as points where dimensions interact, allowing brief but significant contact with non-human intelligences.

His presentation will explore:

- The interdimensional theory and why it is gaining wider consideration
- Connections among UFO sightings, Bigfoot encounters, orbs, and other high-strangeness reports
- Notable U.S. and New England hot spots with recurring activity
- What emerging patterns may suggest about our world—and who might be visiting it

Engaging and thought-provoking, Interdimensional invites audiences to reconsider the boundaries of our reality.

We will be serving a light lunch immediately after the event. Please call 413-245-7253 to reserve your seat. Space is limited.

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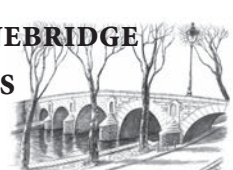
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The Sturbridge Villager (USPS#024-955) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, Inc., 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical postage paid at Southbridge, MA and additional mailing office(s). POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Stonebridge Press P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

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Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School
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Weekdays 8:30 – 5:00 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

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Weekdays: 9:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

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

CHURCH LISTINGS

• **Central Baptist Church**
256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.

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

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

• **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org
Sunday worship and Children’s church 10am

• **St. Anne St. Patrick Church**, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338
www.stannespaparth.org
Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am

• **Elm Street Congregational Church**, 61 Elm Street, Southbridge, Ma 01550
Phone: 508-764-8085 • Sunday service 10:00 am
Pastor Kathryn Light

• **Faith Baptist Church**, 515 Dennison Drive, Southbridge
Phone number 508-764-6132,
Worship Service: Sunday 10:00 a.m.

• **St. Joseph’s Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.

• **Wayside Church**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144

• **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

• **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349
Sunday Service 10:00am.
www.livingwordcharlton.com
info@livingwordcharlton.com

• **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

• **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale-** 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021
www.sturfed.org
Sunday Service 9:30 a.m.

• **Bethlehem Lutheran Church-** 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566
Phone 508-347-7297
Web: www.bethlehemsturbridge.org
Services - Sunday 9:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell

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

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

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

Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale Irish Feast coming March 16

STURBRIDGE — A Sturbridge tradition returns just in time for your St. Patrick’s Day celebration. The Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale will host its annual Irish Feast on Monday, March 16, at the historic Publick House Restaurant, inviting the community to gather for good food, good company, and a good cause.

This year’s Irish Feast will benefit both the Federated Church and The Center of Hope Foundation, Inc., a Southbridge-based nonprofit that supports people with disabilities and their families from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds, helping them access resources, services, and opportunities to live meaningful, fulfilling lives.

“We’re fortunate to partner once again with the Publick House, which makes this evening possible year after year,” said event chair Ken Benson. “This dinner has always been about community, and we’re especially proud that it will also support the important work being done by The Center of Hope right here in our region.”

Pastor Rev. David Cote added, “An Irish Feast is about more than corned beef and cabbage. It’s

about neighbors sitting down together, sharing a meal, and supporting organizations that reflect our shared values of care, inclusion, and compassion.”

Guests will enjoy a buffet-style Irish dinner featuring corned beef and cabbage, boiled potatoes, carrots and turnips, dinner rolls and Irish soda bread, a choice of beverage, and a cupcake for dessert. Dinner will be served in two seatings: The early seating will take place from 4:30 – 6 p.m., while a later seating happens from 6:30 – 8 p.m. Adult tickets are \$18, and children ages four to 12 are \$7.

Tickets must be purchased by March 15 as no tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets will be available Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon starting February 13 in the Federated Church of Sturbridge parlor, 8 Maple Street, where you may use cash, check, credit/debit card, or Venmo.

The church website at sturfed.org and Facebook page both offer payment links and QR codes for those wishing to purchase tickets using PayPal. You may also purchase tickets electronically using Venmo at @Federated-Church. Please include your address, the number of meals you wish to purchase,

and your preferred seating time. Time permitting, tickets purchased by Venmo will be mailed to the address provided. Late orders will be held at the door.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Church Office at 774-304-1021 or Ken Benson at 774-230-3848. The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale joyfully celebrates Christ’s presence and God’s grace in our lives. Learn more at sturfed.org or email churchoffice@sturfed.org.

Fiskdale Legion post hosting corned beef dinner

FISKDALE — The Champeau Vilandre American Legion Post 109, 507 Main St., Fiskdale, is having our corned beef dinner on March 8, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Dinner will include corned beef, cabbage, carrots, potato, desserts, coffee and tea. There will be raffles, and a 50/50 drawing. All proceeds will benefit our Veteran and Youth programs.

Tickets will not be sold at the door. Please contact the Legion at 508-347-3248 for more information or to purchase tickets.

St. Anne – St. Patrick Lenten mission to focus on St. Augustine

FISKDALE — St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish will hold its annual Lenten Mission on March 9, 10, and 11 in St. Joachim’s Chapel, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (Sturbridge). All presentations begin at 7 p.m.

This year’s mission focuses on St. Augustine, one of the great Fathers of the Catholic Church and the patron of St. Anne – St. Patrick’s parish religious community, the Augustinians of the Assumption, also known as the Assumptionists.

Father Salvatore Musante, A.A., pastor at St. Anne – St. Patrick, explains that the parish religious community are members of the broader Augustinian family to which Pope Leo XIV also belongs.

The Lenten Mission features three presenters who are current or past professors at Assumption University in Worcester. The university is sponsored by the Assumptionists.

On March 9, Father Richard Lamoureux,

A.A., will present “Augustine, Desire: the Heart of Prayer.” He is adjunct professor in the Art and Music Department and has served as provost at Assumption University. With a specialty in Italian Renaissance art and thought, he has taught, extensively researched, and written about Michaelangelo.

On March 10, Marc LePain, Ph.D., professor emeritus, will address the question: “What does it mean to confess?” He has taught the Bible, Foundation of

Western Civilization: Religion and Philosophy, Asian Traditions, and Dante’s “Comedy” at Assumption University.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Theology, Father Roger Corriveau, A.A. will present “Augustine and That Inside Job of Yours” on March 11.

A reconciliation service will be held on the last day of the Lenten Mission, Wednesday, March 11. All are welcome to participate in the mission. For more information, please call the parish offices at 508-347-7338.

St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish is an active parish community. It offers daily Mass for worship, religious education, and community ministries. It welcomes visitors to St. Anne Shrine, the new Memorial for the Unborn, the Hall of Saints, the Russian Icon Exhibit, the Votive Chapel, the Generations Statue, and the Angel of Hope Monument. The Daily Rosary is recited at 3 p.m. in the St. Patrick Chapel, and weekend Masses are celebrated in its outdoor pavilion in the summer. Its religious gift shop is open every day from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.



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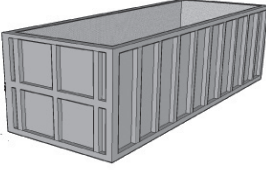
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER
BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Protecting the character of our town centers

Every town has a heart.

In Southbridge, it beats along Main Street, where storefronts and civic buildings reflect both the town’s industrial past and its ongoing effort to write a new chapter. In Sturbridge, the historic common and Route 20 corridor blend tourism with local life. In Charlton, the town common and surrounding roads offer a quieter, more rural center, shaped by churches, small businesses and long-standing neighborhoods.

These places are more than coordinates on a map. They define how we see ourselves.

As development pressures continue across Central Massachusetts, the question facing many communities is not whether change will come, but how it will be managed. Growth can bring opportunity. New housing can welcome families. New businesses can expand the tax base and create jobs. But growth without thoughtful planning can also erode the very qualities that make a town distinctive.

Character is not accidental. It is shaped by zoning decisions, design standards and long-term planning. It is reflected in the scale of buildings, the preservation of green space and the care given to historic structures. It is influenced by how traffic flows and how sidewalks connect neighborhoods to downtown areas.

Residents often feel this instinctively. When a proposal surfaces for a new project, the first question is rarely about square footage. It is about fit. Does it belong here? Does it enhance the town or overwhelm it?

Those are fair questions.

Southbridge has spent years working to stabilize and revitalize its downtown, seeking investment while maintaining architectural integrity. Sturbridge balances its reputation as a destination community with the needs of year-round residents. Charlton, with its rural landscape, faces decisions about how to accommodate growth without losing open space and small-town scale.

None of these challenges are simple. Municipal leaders must weigh economic realities against community expectations. Developers must navigate local regulations and market conditions. Residents must engage constructively, understanding that compromise is often necessary.

What matters most is that the conversation remains grounded in shared values.

Protecting town character does not mean resisting all change. It means being clear about what should endure. Historic buildings that tell the story of our communities deserve thoughtful preservation. Open spaces that define our rural identity merit protection. Walkable centers that encourage local commerce should be strengthened, not sidelined.

At the same time, communities must remain adaptable. Young families need housing options. Seniors may seek smaller residences close to services. Businesses require modern infrastructure to compete.

The task before us is balance.

Public participation plays a vital role in achieving it. Planning board meetings, zoning hearings and town meetings may not draw the same attention as community festivals, but they shape the future just as surely. When residents show up informed and respectful, they help ensure that decisions reflect the broader will of the community.

The character of Southbridge, Sturbridge and Charlton has been shaped over generations. Brick by brick, farm by farm, storefront by storefront, each era has left its mark.

The next mark will be ours.

The responsibility is not only to build, but to build wisely, so that decades from now residents will still recognize the heart of their town and feel that it reflects who they are.

Letter submission policy

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

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

OPINION

How outdated beneficiary choices can derail your plans

When you open a retirement account or buy a life insurance policy, you’re asked to name a beneficiary. It might seem like just another form to fill out, but this simple step can affect your family’s future.

Many people don’t give beneficiary designations much thought after signing the initial paperwork. It may have been years ago, and life has moved on. But this might surprise you: These designations can override what’s in your will or living trust. That means your retirement accounts and insurance proceeds could end up going to someone you didn’t intend, creating what professionals call an accidental inheritance.

Life changes quickly. You might get married, divorced, or remarried. You might have children or stepchildren. A loved one might pass away. You may decide to give to your favorite charity. Any of these events could mean it’s time to update your beneficiary.

The rules can get complicated. For example, after a divorce, some (but not all) states have laws that automatically revoke your beneficiary designations for IRAs, bank accounts and insurance policies. But no matter where you live in the U.S., the designations for 401(k) plans and pensions stay in place until you change them. In community property states, couples must split 50-50 the assets they acquired during marriage, adding another layer of complexity.

There are other considerations, too. It’s a good idea to name a primary and a con-



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tingent beneficiary. If your primary beneficiary dies before you do, the contingent beneficiary receives your assets. Without this backup plan, your carefully considered wishes could go awry.

Naming minor children as direct beneficiaries isn’t usually a good idea. Children can’t legally receive and control assets until they become adults, so a court would have to get involved and appoint a guardian for managing the money. Instead, you might set up a trust or name a custodian to oversee the funds until your children are mature enough to handle them responsibly.

For family members with special needs, you’ll want to be especially careful as about choosing your beneficiary. Some choices may jeopardize their eligibility to receive government benefits such as government disability payments or Medicaid. An estate attorney can help you make important beneficiary decisions.

One major benefit of proper beneficiary designations is that they can help your loved ones avoid probate, a time-consum-

ing and potentially expensive legal process.

For these reasons and others, it’s important to review your beneficiary designations regularly, especially after major life events. Contact your retirement account administrator or insurance company to update any outdated information.

A financial advisor can help you understand how your beneficiary choices fit into your financial strategy and ensure your assets go where you want them to go. It may also make sense to work with a legal professional who can help you ensure your beneficiary designations align with your plans for transferring your estate assets.

Don’t leave these important decisions to chance. Taking time now to review and update your beneficiaries can help give you a sense of security and protect the people you love.

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

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The sound of a real conversation

LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET

By CHARLES

The other morning, I found myself at a local diner, the kind of place where the coffee arrives before you’ve fully settled into the booth. The waitress called everyone “hon,” and nobody seemed to mind. The grill hissed, forks clinked against plates, and someone near the window was explaining, in great detail, how to fix a snowblower carburetor.

It was a symphony of ordinary life.

At the table behind me sat a father and his teenage daughter. He had the newspaper folded in quarters. She had her phone propped against the sugar dispenser, eyes fixed on the screen, thumbs moving at a speed that suggested great urgency.

The father tried.

“So, big game Friday?” he asked.

“Mmm-hmm,” she said, not looking up.

“You starting?”

“Probably.”

He sipped his coffee. Cleared his throat. “That’s good.”

I felt for him. I’ve been on both sides of that exchange over the years. I’ve been the distracted one, and I’ve been the one hoping for a few more words than “probably.”

After a moment, the waitress came by and refilled their cups. She looked at the girl and said, “You playing short-stop again? You made that great throw last week.”

The girl’s head came up. “You saw that?”

“Of course I did. Whole place was talking about it.”

And just like that, the phone went face down on the table.

For the next five minutes, the girl described the play in full color. The slow roller. The scoop. The throw to first. Her father leaned in, smiling in a way that made him look ten years younger. The waitress nodded like she was reviewing game tape.

What changed? Not the setting. Not

the menu. Just attention.

There is something powerful about being noticed. Not in the loud, public way that comes with likes and shares and digital applause, but in the quiet, steady way that says: I saw you. I remember. It mattered.

In small-town Massachusetts, we still have the advantage of proximity. Our towns are not so large that we disappear entirely into anonymity. The librarian may know what you read last summer. The clerk at Town Hall may recognize your signature. The barber may remember how you like the back trimmed.

These details are not accidents. They are the result of paying attention.

And attention, these days, feels like a scarce resource.

I understand the pull of the phone. It offers news from around the globe, weather updates down to the minute, photos from family miles away. I am grateful for that. I like knowing my daughter made it home safely. I like being able to check in with my son without waiting for the long-distance rates to drop after 9 p.m., as we once did.

But I sometimes wonder whether we are trading depth for volume. We hear from more people than ever before, yet speak less to the ones sitting across

from us.

I remember when conversation had a certain rhythm. You asked a question, and you waited. You listened long enough to hear not only the answer but the tone behind it. If someone paused, you didn’t rush to fill the silence. Silence had a purpose. It let thoughts settle.

Now, silence seems to make us nervous. We reach for a device at the first lull, as if quiet were something to be avoided.

My mother, God bless her, had a way of making you feel like the only person in the room. When she asked how you were, she meant it. You could not slip by with a quick “fine.” She would tilt her head slightly and wait. That small gesture told you she had time for your answer.

Time is another thing that feels squeezed thin.

Yet I suspect we have more control over it than we admit. We may not be able to slow the news cycle or quiet the endless stream of notifications. But we can choose, in a diner or a market or on a walk down Main Street, to look up.

The father and daughter at the diner left a little while later. As they stood to go, he put his hand briefly on her shoulder. She was talking animatedly now, phone forgotten in her jacket pocket. They stepped out into the cold morning together, still mid-conversation.

The diner returned to its usual soundtrack: dishes, laughter, the scrape of chairs. Nothing dramatic had happened. No speeches were made. No lessons announced.

Just a girl who felt seen. A father who got more than one-word answers. A waitress who took the time to remember a throw from last week.

Sometimes, the sound of a real conversation is the most hopeful thing you can hear.

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Contact Mikaela Today

774-200-7308 mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

Brimfield to mark 250th anniversary of Independence

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

In recognition of this year’s historic milestone, a full day of remembrance and celebration is planned. All are welcome to attend the day’s events, which include the following: Revolutionary War themed cemetery tours, a ceremony at the town common gazebo, a parade, and fun-filled festivities at the Brimfield Winery. The evening will close out with a spectacular fireworks display.

Additional details and updates will be available through the Friends of Historic Brimfield event Web site, www.fohbrimfield.org.

field.org. Tax-deductible donations can also be made in support of this celebration through this website, and in gratitude, donors will be recognized in the event program. Donations can also be mailed to: Friends of Historic Brimfield, P.O. Box 52, Brimfield, MA 01010 with “Spirit of Brimfield” in the memo.

This event is currently being sponsored by the Massachusetts Army National Guard and Classic Hits 97.7 FM. If you or your company are interested in any level of corporate or business sponsorship, please visit the event website at www.fohbrimfield.org. Additional volunteers are needed for both planning and to help with activities during

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

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

Southbridge Lions Club hosting annual Texas Hold ‘Em Poker Tournament

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Lions Club is set to host its highly anticipated annual No Limit Texas Hold ‘Em Poker Tournament, on Saturday, March 7. The event will take place at Maqui’s, located at 61 Chestnut St., Southbridge.

Poker enthusiasts are encouraged to register early, as participation is limited to the first 150 players. Same-day registration will be available at the

door starting at 4 p.m., though early registration is strongly recommended. The tournament officially kicks off shortly after 5 p.m., with appetizers served to attendees.

A \$100 donation secures players \$8,000 in chips, and competitors will be vying for \$2,500 guaranteed first-place. Additionally, for every 10 players beyond the first 30, extra prize placements will be awarded. All prizes

es will be paid via money orders. Participants must be at least 18 years old to enter the tournament.

Proceeds from the event will benefit individuals in need within the local community, reinforcing the Lions Club’s commitment to service.

For more details on playing or volunteering, contact Russ Labarge at 774-230-1624 or Wayne Boiteau at 774-230-1982.

Public hearing to be held on Brimfield school budget

BRIMFIELD — A public hearing on the proposed Brimfield Elementary School budget for 2026-2027 will be held on Tuesday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Brimfield Elementary School, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 71, § 38N.

Copies of the proposed budget are available from the Office of the Principal at Brimfield Elementary School.

The regular school committee meeting will begin at 6 p.m.

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Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale announces 2026 Lenten services schedule

STURBRIDGE — The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale has announced its 2026 schedule of Lenten services, starting with Ash Wednesday, and culminating in the Easter Sunday celebrations. Services are held at the church located at 8 Maple Street and the community is welcome to attend.

The Rev. David W. Cote will officiate the services, which begin on Feb. 18 with a 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday service and continue through Easter Sunday on April 5. Refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall following each of the Sunday services.

On April 3, Good Friday, the congregation will gather in the Chapel at noon for meditation and prayer. An ecumenical Stations of the Cross service will also be held at St. Anne’s Shrine, 16 Church St., Fiskdale.

“On Easter Sunday, the community is invited to join us at 6:00 a.m. as we celebrate with a special sunrise service at the original Baptist Meetinghouse, which is now located at Old Sturbridge Village,” says Rev. Cote. “Following the sunrise service, we will return to the Federated Church Meeting House sanctuary at 8 Maple St. for our 9:30 a.m. Easter morning service.”

The sunrise service at Old Sturbridge Village is an ecumenical service, with local faith communities participating, including Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Sturbridge), Brookfield Congregational Church (Brookfield), Elm Street Congregational Church (Southbridge), Holy Trinity Church (Southbridge), and St. Anne/St.Patrick Catholic Church (Fiskdale). Area residents who wish to attend are advised to enter the Meetinghouse by way of the security gate at the top of the parking lot, dress appropriately for the weather and wear sturdy walking shoes. Food and drink are not permitted, except for bottled water. The Village will not be open for touring during this event and restrooms will not be available.

The Lenten season includes the following services:

February
18 - 6:30 p.m., Ash Wednesday
22 - 9:30 a.m., First Sunday of Lent

March
1 - 9:30 a.m., Second Sunday of Lent
8 - 9:30 a.m., Third Sunday of Lent

15 - 9:30 a.m., Fourth Sunday of Lent
22 - 9:30 a.m., Fifth Sunday of Lent
29 - 9:30 a.m., Palm Sunday

Karina Ortiz named to Goodwin University Dean’s List

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

Ortiz, a student from Southbridge, is one of 499 students to make the Dean's List, reserved for those who demonstrate exemplary academic performance. Dean's List inclusion requires a student to earn a minimum 3.5 GPA, the equivalent of an A- average, during a given academic session. The student must also be enrolled in a minimum of six academic credits to qualify.

Goodwin University congratulates Karina on making the Dean's List and demonstrating such a high standard of excellence in the classroom and beyond!

Goodwin University in East Hartford, Connecticut, is an innovative learning community that empowers hard-working students to become sought-after employees. We tailor our programs to address the needs of employers, and we shape them to fit the lives of students. Classes are conveniently offered year-round - days, evenings, weekends, and online. Degrees may be flexibly layered across certificate, associate, bachelor's, and master's programs in a variety of in-demand fields. Better still, we surround our students with the personal support and the professional guidance they need - not just to earn degrees, but to change lives for themselves, their families, and their communities. For more information, please visit www.goodwin.edu.

Greater Worcester Community Foundation partners with Community Heart & Soul to strengthen small towns across Worcester County

WORCESTER — Greater Worcester Community Foundation and Community Heart & Soul® have announced a new partnership to help strengthen smaller towns across Worcester County by expanding access to a proven, resident-driven approach to community engagement.

Community Heart & Soul engages the entire population of a town in identifying what they love most about their community, what future they want for it, and how to achieve it. Designed for small cities and towns with populations up to 30,000, the process helps communities listen at scale, build trust, and translate residents’ stories into shared priorities that help guide decisions over time.

Greater Worcester Community Foundation identified Community Heart & Soul as a strong fit for its commitment to supporting local leadership, strengthening civic life, and helping communities respond to challenges and opportunities with clarity and unity.

Combining Community Heart & Soul’s resident-driven approach with Greater Worcester Community Foundation’s local relationships, expertise, and resources, the partnership aims to leave a lasting impact on towns across Worcester County by helping residents and local leaders come together around what matters most.

“At Greater Worcester Community Foundation, we believe the strongest communities are shaped by the voices of the people who live there,” said President & CEO Pete Dunn. “We want to be intentional about bringing value to every town and city in Worcester County, and this partnership with Community Heart & Soul reflects our commitment to resident-led change and to supporting smaller towns as they listen, engage, and build a shared vision for their future.”

The first two Worcester County towns participating in Community Heart & Soul through this partnership are Leicester and North Brookfield, with Greater Worcester Community Foundation also providing funding for existing Community Heart & Soul town, Winchendon. Over the next year, the Foundation hopes to engage at least two additional small towns in this initiative.

Mark Sherman, President of Community Heart & Soul, shared his enthusiasm for the collaboration, noting, “We’re excited to partner with Greater Worcester Community Foundation to support community engagement in central Massachusetts. When residents take the time to listen deeply and act on what matters most, they build a strong foundation for the future.”

About Community Heart & Soul

Community Heart & Soul, a nonprofit organization, builds stronger, healthier, and more economically vibrant small cities and towns across the United States. In addition to promoting the Community Heart & Soul model, the organization trains and supports a nationwide network of certified coaches who provide training and guidance to more than 130 communities.

About Greater Worcester Community Foundation

Greater Worcester Community Foundation is central Massachusetts’ leading community foundation, employing its expertise and resources to address the region’s most urgent needs. For the past 50 years, it has worked in partnership with donors to build a \$270 million endowment composed of more than 650 named charitable funds and award over \$186 million in grants that have helped transform communities and build a strong and vibrant region. For more information on the Foundation’s programs and how to give, please visit www.greaterworcester.org.



Courtesy

Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Town of Charlton for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

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What does it take to become a Friend?

STURBRIDGE — Is being a Friend important? “Of course!” would probably be your first thought, and today what we’re talking about is being a Friend of the Joshua Hyde Public Library in Sturbridge and yes, it’s very important! And what does it take to become a Friend you may ask? Respond to the annual membership drive! <https://bit.ly/FriendsofJHPL>

For those of you that currently use the library you obviously know the fundamentals; get a library card and borrow books for free. But many people know the library is much more than that, offering everything from book discussion groups to technology help, museum passes to puzzle swaps and so much more. Many parents have enjoyed bringing their children of all ages to programs ranging from baby story time to teen cupcake decorating. These offerings have not only filled the immediate need or desire, but cultivated friendships made possible through shared interests.

Libraries are an amazing foundational resource for our community with the basics covered by tax dollars, but the bulk of the programs offered are funded by the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Library, a non profit organization run by volunteers in our community. By becoming a member of the Friends and paying your annual dues (Individual \$15, Family \$25, Senior Citizen \$10) you will unlock a number of benefits and if you are able, opportunities to share your time and talents as well.

Benefits? You will be the first to know about upcoming library events by email, you will be able to reserve museum passes up to two weeks in advance, the ability to purchase presale tickets to events, a subscription to the Friends quarterly newsletter, and of course your dues are tax deductible. But most importantly you will be contributing to the wonderful programming that is offered to the community through the library.

Opportunities? Support the Friends with their fundraising activities! For some people this is through their annual membership dues, which is less than the cost of one book, and when you consider how many books you may take out of the library each year, you know what a bargain that is. Others are able to donate additional funds which are greatly appreciated. Some people are able to donate their time and talents to fundraising activities which is also paramount to their mission. For example, you could join the Friends book sale team. There is no weekly commitment and the hours are very flexible. Just jump in when you can and help with a variety of tasks which include receiving book donations, sorting, and organizing books into categories, prepping for book sale days and on sale days helping excited book lovers find their next favorite read. Volunteers are also needed to help with our mini golf fundraiser, which is an annual event which turns the library into a mini golf course. You can showcase your talents by sponsoring a hole or just help the weekend of the event. These events

help us raise funds to support the library and are a lot of fun for everyone! But the biggest fundraiser each year is the annual membership drive. Help spread the word by telling everyone you know who uses the library about this great opportunity to support the Friends of The Joshua Hyde Library. Even though the membership fee is low, the benefits are so high for the community. This is an easy way to help.

You can complete your membership online by visiting <https://www.sturbridgelibraryfriends.org/get-involved> or simply stopping by the library and asking for a membership form. If you love the library and all it offers our community, please consider becoming a Friend in whatever capacity you are able. If you have any questions please visit www.sturbridgelibraryfriends.org.

Sturbridge’s Alexandra Matheson named to College of the Holy Cross Dean’s List

WORCESTER — Alexandra Matheson of Sturbridge was named to the College of the Holy Cross Fall 2025 Dean's List.

A member of the Class of 2028, Matheson was named to the Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2025-26 academic year.

To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

About Holy Cross

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

Local Emmanuel College students named to Dean’s List

BOSTON — Lauren Bailey, of Fiskdale and Grace Garon of Charlton have been named to the Fall 2025 Emmanuel College Dean's List.

Bailey is majoring in Global and Public Health.

To earn a spot on the Dean's List, Emmanuel students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for a 16-credit semester.

With more than 80 majors and areas of study, Emmanuel College combines out-

standing classroom instruction and real-world experience to prepare students for lives of professional achievement, lifelong learning, and purpose. Voted the #1 college location in America in 2025 by Niche.com, Emmanuel offers ready access to world class medical, cultural, and business organizations in the Heart of Boston, all with a tight-knit 17-acre campus and 13:1 student-to-faculty ratio. Learn more at Emmanuel.edu.



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LEGALS

The Brimfield ZBA will hold the rescheduled public hearing at 5:00 pm on April 01, 2026 at the Hitchcock Free Academy, 2 Brookfield Rd, Brimfield on behalf of Christopher and Crystal Harry of 212 East Hill Rd. Assessor's parcel 5-A-4.2, Book 19519, Page 438. The applicants are seeking reversal of zoning enforcement actions pertaining to their home-based auto detailing business in the AR district. Abutters are welcome to attend and share feedback.
March 6, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P0288EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
Estate Of:
**Ronald Joseph Jacques
Also Known As:
Ronald Jacques**
Date of Death: February 6, 2025

To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner
Donna Jacques of Southbridge MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Donna Jacques of Southbridge MA has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
March 6, 2026

**Town of Sturbridge
Zoning Board of Appeals
Public Hearing Notice
Special Permit
Stanley & Kathryn Iwanicki**
In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 6:35 PM** at the **Center Office Building located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566** and/or by virtual means if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law; on the application of Stanley and Kathryn Iwanicki. 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 the raze and rebuild of a single-family home, with an increase in coverage from 11% to 18.5%, on the property located at **21 Long Avenue** in accordance with the plans and application submitted.

The proposed request can be viewed at <https://www.sturbridge.gov/zoning-board-appeals/pages/recent-filings> or arrangements can be made to view the application packet by contacting the Sturbridge Planning Department. Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this proposal should appear at the time and place designated. Members of the public may watch the meeting online via the Town's on demand video broadcast or via cable television on Channel 191. It is the intent to have this Public Hearing in person. However, if circumstances warrant, the Board may choose to hold this Hearing via virtual or hybrid (in person and virtual) means. In the event of a virtual or hybrid meeting, please follow this link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/472675877>. 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
February 26, 2026
March 5, 2026

The Brimfield ZBA will hold a public hearing at 4:00 pm on March 03, 2026, at the Town Annex, (Clerk's Office), on behalf of Bevin and Kimberly Fish of 200 Butler Rd. Monson, MA 01057 for their property at 28 Third St. Brimfield,

MA. The applicants seek to remove two existing single-family homes on the property and construct one new single-family home. The applicant has combined two existing parcels to create a single parcel. The proposed single-family structure will be less non-conforming to the side and rear setbacks. Abutters and members of the public are welcome to attend and provide feedback.
February 26, 2026
March 5, 2026

The Brimfield ZBA will hold a public hearing at 4:15 pm on March 03, 2026, at the Town Annex, (Clerk's Office), on behalf of Michael Partlow of 114 Dudley River Rd, Southbridge, MA 01550 for his vacant land at 145 Sturbridge Rd, Brimfield, MA. The applicant seeks a variance to extend the business district from 500 ft limitation to 625 ft as defined in Brimfield's Zoning map and section 3.1 and 3.7 of Brimfield's Zoning Bylaws. Abutters and members of the public are welcome to attend and provide feedback.
February 26, 2026
March 5, 2026

NOTICE OF SALE
Pursuant to Mass General Laws Chapter 105A, the contents of the following spaces:
H22 (Stephen Johnson), H67 (Joseph Anselmo) and H136 (Joyce Lacerte) located at 25 Brimfield Road, Holland, MA will be sold to satisfy the owners lien of Storage Plus. Sale date is March 18, 2026 @ 2:00PM. Inspection between 1:30PM and 2:00PM on March 18, 2026. Sealed bids must be hand delivered by 2:00 PM on March 18, 2026. All goods must be purchased with cash as is, and must be removed within 48 hours of sale. Owner has the right to bid to protect his lien and to withdraw any unit upon settlement by the obligated party up for sale. For further information call (413)245-4388. Please run the following advertisement for two weeks in the Webster Times:
Pursuant to Mass General Laws Chapter 105A, the contents of the following spaces:
D21 (Dawn Marie Chesnis), D23 (Bozena Barszczewski) and D64 (Michael Pagan) located at 144 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, MA will be sold to satisfy the owners lien of Storage Plus. Sale date is March 18, 2026 @ 3:30PM. Inspection between 3:00PM and 3:30PM on March 18, 2026. Sealed bids must be hand delivered by 3:30 PM on March 18, 2026. All goods must be purchased with cash as is, and must be removed within 48 hours of sale. Owner has the right to bid to protect his lien and to withdraw any unit upon settlement by the obligated party up for sale. For further information call (508)949-8818.
March 5, 2026
March 12, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
A public hearing on the proposed Tantasqua Regional School District budget for 2026-2027 will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria of Tantasqua Regional Junior High School, in accordance with M.G.L., Chapter 71, § 38N. A copy of the proposed budget is available at the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 320A Brookfield Rd., Fiskdale, MA.
NOTE: The regular school committee meeting will begin following the Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m.
Michael Valanzola
Chairman
Tantasqua Regional School District Committee
March 6, 2026

**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
Board of Selectmen
Public Hearing**
National Grid has made a petition to the Sturbridge Select Board to construct a line of underground electric conduits on Podunk Road. National Grid to install beginning at a point approximately 378' feet northeast of the centerline of the intersection of Wells State Park Rd & Podunk Rd and continuing approximately 300' feet in a north direction. Install 300' of conduit between P30 & P31-50 on Podunk Rd. Installation of (2) Manholes. The pole hearing will take place on **Monday, March 2, 2026 at 6:35 p.m.** at the Sturbridge Town Hall, 2nd floor, Veteran's Memorial Hall located at 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566.
February 26, 2026
March 5, 2026

(SEAL)
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL

COURT
Docket Number: 26 SM 000666
ORDER OF NOTICE
To:
Lisa S. Phaneuf-Perry; Raymond K. Perry
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq): Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Fiskdale (Sturbridge), numbered 294 Brookfield Road, given by Lisa S. Phaneuf-Perry, Raymond K. Perry to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC, dated May 3, 2021, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66563, Page 353, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before April 13, 2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on February 25, 2026.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
29093
March 5, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P0366EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
James R. Williams
Also known as: James Williams
Date of Death: 07/26/2022

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Savers Co-operative Bank d/b/a Savers Bank of Southbridge MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Savers Co-operative Bank d/b/a Savers Bank of Southbridge MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.
IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/17/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 17, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
March 5, 2026

Public Notice
Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138, Section 12 of Massachusetts General Laws of a public hearing to be held in the Laurent McDonald Veterans Conference Room, first floor of the Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA, on Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.. during the regular sched-

uled Liquor Licensing Board Meeting in regard to a Violation of Massachusetts General Law and the Southbridge Massachusetts Liquor Licensing Board License Regulations
This hearing pertains to Maqui Inc. d/b/a Maqui's, 61 Chestnut St., Southbridge, MA. This violation occurred on February 26, 2026 at 1:55 a.m. Anyone wishing to speak will be given the opportunity to be heard. This notice is also published electronically on www.stonebridgepress.com and on www.masspublicnotice.org
Town of Southbridge
Liquor Licensing Board
March 5, 2026

**CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**
In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on March 11, at 7PM on the application of Steven Houghton. The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for the construction of a single-family home, well, and septic system within the 100-ft buffer zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The project location is: 0 King Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 78-B-16-82
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
March 5, 2026

**CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**
In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on March 11, 2026, at 7PM on the application of the Cranberry Meadow Lake Association. The applicant has requested an Amendment to the Order of Conditions DEP # 128-1957 to add a winter draw-down to the management plan for Cranberry Meadow Lake. The project location is: Cranberry Meadow Lake, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 1-B-2
Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request. Copies of the NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.
Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
March 5, 2026

SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES
Under G.L c.255 Sec.39A
Notice is herby given by Cruise Control Transportation Inc.
Pursuant to the provisions of Under G.L c.255 Sec.39A that on or after March 6, 2026, at Cruise Control Transportation Inc. The following motor vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

VEHICLE MAKE:
2011 BMW 5 Series
VIN # WBAFU7C52BC780855
Last Registered Owner:
Papee Paye
36 Honeysuckle Rd
Worcester Ma, 01607-1824

VEHICLE MAKE:
2016 Ford Escape
VIN # 1FMCU9GX7GUA24951
Last Registered Owner:
Kayla Jensen
67 Catharine St Apt 2
Worcester Ma, 01605

VEHICLE MAKE:
2006 Honda Accord
VIN # 1HGCM56306A047128
Last Registered Owner:
Michael Adu-Gyamfi
104 Elm St
Southbridge Ma, 01550

VEHICLE MAKE:
2013 Infiniti G37 Sedan
VIN # JN1CV6AR6DM764757
Last Registered Owner:
Ria Chanel Lovel
2 Elton St APT 4H
Brooklyn NY, 11208

March events at Charlton Public Library

For further details and to register for programs, please visit our website (charltonlibrary.org).

Additional parking is available across the street at Town Hall and at the Elementary School.

Movies @ the Library

All showings are on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm ONLY unless noted - Dexter Hall - no registration required.

March 3: HARRIET. Based on the thrilling and inspirational life of an iconic American freedom fighter, Harriet tells the extraordinary tale of Harriet Tubman's escape from slavery and transformation into one of America's greatest heroes. Her courage, ingenuity, and tenacity freed hundreds of slaves and changed the course of history. 2019. Rated PG-13. 125 minutes. Starring: Cynthia Erivo, Janelle Monae, William Still, & Joe Alwyn.

March 10: PRINCESS KAIULANI. In this historical drama set in the late 19th century, Hawaiian Princess Kaiulani (Q'orianka Kilcher) fights for the rights of her people after fleeing to England to escape civil unrest in her home country. When the Hawaiian monarchy falls, the princess travels to the U.S. to meet with President Grover Cleveland and prove that her people aren't the savages the American press makes them out to be. 2009. Rated PG. 130 minutes. Featuring: Q'Orianka Kilcher, Barry Pepper, Shaun Evans, Will Patton.

March 17: ON THE BASIS OF SEX. Young wife, mother, and lawyer Ruth Bader Ginsburg battles the U.S. Supreme Court for gender equality and women's rights. She works with the American Civil Liberties Union to argue cases on behalf of both men and women, demonstrating that discrimination "on the basis of sex" is unconstitutional. Her trailblazing work paved the way for her to become a beloved Supreme Court Justice. 2018. Rated PG-13. 120 minutes. Cast: Felicity Jones, Armie Hammer, Justin Theroux, Kathy Bates, Sam Waterston.

March 24: BATTLE OF THE SEXES. This sports docudrama recreates the legendary 1973 "Battle of the Sexes" tennis match between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs. When Riggs brags that he can beat any woman in the world on the tennis court, reigning

champion King accepts his challenge. Their highly publicized match soon takes on a larger meaning as a milestone in the fight for gender equality. 2017. Rated PG-13. 121 minutes.

Starring: Steve Carell, Emma Stone, Sarah Silverman, Bill Pullman, Elisabeth Shue.

March 31: BOMBSHELL. Bombshell is a revealing look inside the most powerful and controversial media empire of all time; and the explosive story of the women who brought down the infamous man who created it. 2019. Rated R. 110 minutes. Starring: Charlize Theron, Nicole Kidman, Margot Robbie, John Lithgow.

Using Notes: Your iPhone's Built-in Notepad

Monday, March 2, 12:30-1:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Learn how to use the Notes app to jot down ideas, make checklists, scan documents, and keep your thoughts organized. This class covers everything from creating simple notes to sharing and collaborating with others using iCloud. Registration is required.

Play Games!

Mondays, March 9 (party games), 16 (Cribbage), 23 (Scrabble), 30 (Cribbage), 12:30-2:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required. Beginners and experienced players are welcome! Join us to play an old favorite or learn a new game!

Tiny Tots Storytime (ages 0-2.5)

Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 24, 31, 10:00-10:45 am - Storytime Room

For babies and toddlers ages 0-2.5 with a caregiver. Join us for songs, fingerplays, board books, shakers, scarves, dancing, motor skills activities, and free play! Due to the high number of attendees, this is now a ticketed program. A certain number of tickets will be given to each child on a first-come-first-served basis. Once all tickets have been passed out, the program will be full. Late Arrivals: Available tickets will be given out until 5 minutes after the program has started. After that time, the program will be closed until free play time. We thank you for your understanding.

Adulting 101, Mindfully

Tuesdays, March 3, 17, 31 from 5:00-6:00

Turn To **LIBRARY** page **A10**

OBITUARIES

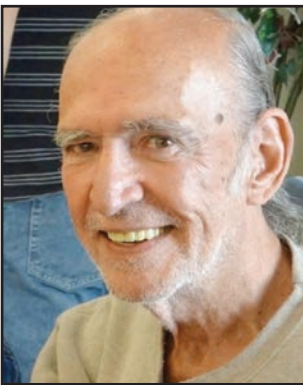
Donald E. Cournoyer, 83

PUTNAM – Donald E. Cournoyer, 83, died on Sunday, January 25th, 2026.

Born on September 16th, 1942, he was the eleventh of twelve children of Aime & Beatrice (Maynard) Cournoyer. He was brought up on the Cournoyer family farm on Fiske Hill in Sturbridge. He attended Notre Dame School and went on to start working at the Publick House at an early age.

Donald was an excellent cook and baker, always enjoying preparing food for the family and the large functions (especially during the holidays). He also had a green thumb for plants and flowers. Donald had a unique love for ducks, shown in his huge collection of duck memorabilia, which including some live ones that lived in the backyard of some of his houses.

He leaves his four children; Jean Janezyk and her husband Mark of Putnam, CT; Andrea McBride and her husband Jason



of Tory, Missouri; Melissa Goyette of Southbridge, MA; and Roger Cournoyer of Putnam, CT. His legacy remains in his seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Donald is also survived by his two brothers, George Cournoyer of Florida, Aime Cournoyer of West Brookfield, MA, and his sister, Margaret Biron of Florida. He also leaves many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Donald was predeceased by his brothers, Roger, Robert, David, Raymond, Michael, Richard, Albert, and Ronald.

The funeral services for Donald will be private and are entrusted to the Belanger Bullard Funeral Home, at 51 Marcy Street in Southbridge.

Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

For an online guestbook and tribute video, please visit www.BelangerFuneralHome.com

LEGALS

VEHICLE MAKE:

2011 Chevy Impala
VIN # 2G1WG5EK2B1269114

Last Registered Owner:

Aria Alyssa Mayo
362 Leicester St
Auburn Ma, 01501-1441
Timothy Fortuna
124 Old County Rd
Holland Ma, 01521-3218

VEHICLE MAKE:

2016 Toyota Corolla
VIN # 2T1BURHEXGC712372

Last Registered Owner:

Reginald James-Ray Rushin
26 Caron St APT 1
Southbridge Ma, 01550-2612

VEHICLE MAKE:

2002 Ford Explorer Sport Trac
VIN # 1FMZU77E62UC81802

Last Registered Owner:

Lori Reid

49 Pleasant Valley DR #205
Worcester Ma, 01605-1574

VEHICLE MAKE:

2006 Dodge Ram 1500
VIN # 1D7HU18206S551924

Last Registered Owner:

Deusdedit Dos Santos Junior
8 Lanesboro Rd APT 1
Worcester Ma, 01606

VEHICLE MAKE:

2014 Audi A5
VIN: WAULFAFH3EN002590

Last Registered Owner:

Gerard Planas
91 Grafton St
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

February 20, 2026

February 27, 2026

March 6, 2026

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LIBRARY

continued from page A9

pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Join us for a free, eight-week series for teens presented by Sur-thrive Wellness. Each session covers a different "Adulting" theme/topic combined with mindful practices. These sessions are best for teens aged 12-16, but older teens are welcome to attend. Please register for each session you wish to attend. Sur-thrive Wellness is a Holistic Accessibility Expert, specializing in working with those with disabilities, including depression, anxiety, autism spectrum, learning disabilities, and other disabilities.

Open Session with Olive the Therapy Dog
Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 24, 31 from 6:00-6:30 pm - Storytime Room - no registration required

This is an open session to visit with our Therapy Dog, Olive. Olive is trained and licensed through Bright Spot Therapy Dogs, Inc. Registration is not required. All ages are welcome. (If you are interested in having a private visit with Olive for a reading session or any other reason, please register for one of our Private Visit sessions.)

Job Applications Part 1
Tuesday, March 3, 6:00-7:00 pm OR Saturday, March 7, 1:30-2:30 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Looking for a job can be overwhelming, but your library is here to help! Join us for an overview where you'll learn how to navigate job application resources, create or improve your resume, and discover local and online tools to find employment opportunities. This session is perfect for job seekers of all experience levels and part of a job workshop series. This project was funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the MassTech Collaborative under the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Baby Storytime (0-12 months)
Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 25, 10:00-10:45 am - Storytime Room - no registration required

For infants to 12 months only. Join us for board books, songs, fingerplays, music, shakers, scarves, bubbles & free play! This is a drop-in program. No registration or ticket required.

Better Read Than Dead Book Club
Wednesday, March 4, 11:00-12:00 - Local History Room - no registration required

Do you love true crime? So do we! Join us for a monthly meet up to discuss entertaining and fascinating details about true crimes. The book will be available at the adult circulation desk one month prior to the meeting. This month we will discuss The Scientist & the Serial Killer by Lise Olsen.

Dementia Friendly Charlton Meeting
Wednesday, March 4, 2:30-3:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required, all welcome.

Open Session with Jack-Jack the Therapy Dog
Wednesdays, March 4 & 18, 3:30-4:30 pm - Storytime Room - no registration required

This is an open session to visit with our Therapy Dog, Jack-Jack. Jack-Jack's breed is Coton de Tulear, and he is a licensed therapy dog. Registration is not required. All ages are welcome! (If you are interested in having a private visit with Jack-Jack for a reading session or any other reason, please register for one of our Private Visit sessions.)

Threaded Together Fiber Arts Group (formerly Silver Needles Knit & Crochet Group)
Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

Bring your current project and relax with friends. All are welcome regardless of skill level.

Young Scientists Stem Program
Thursdays, March 5, 12, 19, 26, 10:15-11:00 am - Storytime Room - registration required

Join us for a free in-person "Young Scientists" series facilitated by STEM Beginnings and hosted by the Charlton Public Library. Children, ages 3-6, with a parent/caregiver, will learn STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) concepts through hands-on activities, storytime, and simple experiments. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to help their child and join in the fun. Siblings are welcome and must be supervised. Registration is required. Space is limited to 12 children, ages 3-6. "Young Scientists" is sponsored by the YMCA Family & Community Partnership (YFCP), a Massachusetts Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) Grant program funded by the Department of Early Education & Care and awarded to the YMCA of Central Massachusetts.

Genealogy Group
Thursday, March 5, 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration not required

The Charlton Library Genealogy Group is a friendly group of people who share an interest in genealogy. We meet monthly on the first Thursday of the month. Meetings will alternate between general discussion topics and guest presenters. The meetings are free and open to the public.

Intro to Rope Flow
Thursday, March 5, 6:00-7:00 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

INTRO TO ROPE FLOW with the Flotron Method™. Experience joyful movement that unites mind, body and spirit in a practice that is approachable and accessible for all. Rope flow is a low-impact and dynamic movement practice that can improve coordination, balance, mobility, joint health and lymphatic circulation. Beyond physical benefits, learn an

accessible daily ritual that rewires your brain for consistency, dissolves stress, and boosts creativity. Space is limited and registration is required. This class is for adults and teens ages 13 and up.

Preschool Storytime (Ages 3-5)
Fridays, March 6, 13, 27, 10:00-10:45 am - Storytime Room

For ages 3-5. Join us for stories, songs, fingerplays, scarves, activities, crafts, and free play! This is a TICKETED program. A certain number of tickets will be available for each child on a first-come, first-served basis. Once all tickets have been passed out, the program is full. Late Arrivals: Available tickets will be given out until 5 minutes after the program has started. After that time, the program will be closed until free-play begins. We thank you for your understanding.

Lego Club
Friday, March 6, 3:30-4:30 pm - Storytime Room - no registration required

This is a drop-in program recommended for ages 5-10.

Drop-in Tech Help - Local History Room - no registration required

Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 from 4:30-5:30 pm

Saturdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28 from 10 am - noon

Do you have a few quick questions about technology? Would you like to learn how to use apps like Libby or Kanopy? Drop in and speak with Charlton Library's Digital Skills Instructor and get the dedicated support you need. If you will need more than 15 minutes of tech help, please make a one-on-one appointment in person at the library, online, or by calling 508-248-0452. We cannot assist with setting up a new device; fixing/restoring/repairing a broken or infected device, app, or email account; entering sensitive information for you (e.g. credit card information, social security number, online banking, etc.); key-boarding, typing, or proofreading documents. We cannot provide medical, legal, and business advice or opinions.

One-on-One Tech Help - Local History Room - registration required

Thursdays, March 5, 12, 26 at 4:30, 5:30, or 6:30 pm

Do you have a more complicated question than we can cover during Drop-in Tech Help? Would you like to learn some basic email or internet skills? Make a one-on-one appointment with the Charlton Library's Digital Skills Instructor and get up to 60 minutes of dedicated support. Please make a one-on-one appointment in person at the library, online, or by calling 508-248-0452. We cannot assist with setting up a new device; fixing/restoring/repairing a broken or infected device, app, or email account; entering sensitive information for you (e.g., credit card information, social security number, online banking, etc.); key-boarding, typing, or proofreading documents. We cannot provide medical, legal, or business advice or opinions.

Quilt Day Speaker: Whimsical Quilts
Saturday, March 7, 11:00-12:00 pm - Dexter Hall - no registration required

Besides making beautiful bed coverings to keep their families warm, quilt makers use their craft to express themselves. "Whimsical Quilts" explores the use of quilts to show their makers' sense of humor, from the early 1800s to the current day. Presenter Diane Hamm has made copies of historical quilts and samples of current designs, which she uses to tell the stories of these quiltmakers. Presented with the Cornerstone Quilters Guild to kick off National Quilting Month!

Friends of Charlton Public Library
Tuesday, March 10, 3:30-4:45 pm - Community Meeting Room

The monthly meeting of the Friends of Charlton Public Library. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Book Discussion: Burned by Billionaires
Tuesday, March 10, 6:00-7:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Join us for a special book discussion about Burned by Billionaires by Chuck Collins in advance of the author's visit here on Tuesday, March 31 at 6 pm. Chuck Collins is an American author and a senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, DC, and a co-founder of Wealth for Common Good. Chuck is an expert on economic inequality in the US, and has pioneered efforts to bring together investors and business leaders to speak out publicly against corporate practices and economic policies that increase economic inequality.

Cover Letters 101

Tuesday, March 10, 6:00-7:30 pm OR Saturday, March 14, 1:30-2:30 pm - Local History Room - registration required. Cover Letters 101 is a beginner-friendly workshop that walks participants through the basics of writing a clear, professional cover letter for online job applications. Attendees will learn what employers look for, such as naming protocols and preferred formats. We will also discuss how to tailor a letter to a specific job and the pros and cons of AI supported writing. This session includes practical tips, examples, and time to start drafting a cover letter they can use right away. This project was funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the MassTech Collaborative under the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Book Group @ the Senior Center
Wednesday, March 11, 10:30-11:30 am - Senior Center @ Town Hall

The Senior Center Book Group meets at the Senior Center at 10:30 am on the second Wednesday of the month. Everyone is wel-

come! We will discuss The Book Club for Troublesome Women by Marie Bostwick. Books are available to pick up at the Library one month prior to the discussion date.

Staying on Schedule Using Calendar and Reminders

Wednesday, March 11, 12:30-1:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Discover how to use the Calendar and Reminders apps to keep track of appointments, tasks, and daily routines. You'll learn how to add events, set reminders, create lists, and even use Siri to help you stay on schedule with ease. Registration is required.

CPL Book Discussion - Memorial Days by Geraldine Brooks

Thursday, March 12, 6:00-7:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

Books are available for checkout at the adult circulation desk one month prior to discussion.

Navigating the Settings on iPhone and iPad
Friday, March 13, 10:30-11:30 am - Dexter Hall - registration required

In this class, we explore the Settings app, examining ways to adjust our devices to suit our individual needs. We learn to access important information about our devices, update the software, and customize important features like Do Not Disturb, Face ID, and notifications.

Introduction to Instagram

Friday, March 13, 12:30-1:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

Instagram is one of the world's most popular applications for viewing and sharing photos and videos. Users can create, edit, and post their own content, as well as view posts from online content creators. This class teaches participants to navigate Instagram and share their own photos and videos with others.

Lee Irish Dance Performance

Saturday, March 14, 11:00-12:00 pm - Dexter Hall - no registration required

Join us for a performance by our very own Lee Irish Dancers. All are welcome!

Coffee Cupping
Saturday, March 14, 10:00-11:45 am OR 12:00-2:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

If you love coffee, this event is for you! Learn all about the fascinating world of coffee from coffee enthusiast, Rob Fitzgibbon. Enjoy an informal half hour presentation, covering coffee as an agricultural commodity, how it's grown and processed, how it's been consumed throughout history and learn about roasting, aroma, taste and mouthfeel. Rob will then lead participants in a fun interactive exercise in which they try three different coffees and document what they smell and taste using stickers and a flavor wheel. The event concludes as participants review their shared perceptions of taste and aroma, have a Q & A session and finish the coffee.

Floral Rabbit

Tuesday, March 17, 6:00-7:30 pm OR Wednesday, March 18, 11:00-12:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required. Let's march into warmer weather with this month's adult craft: Floral Rabbits. Participants will cut and bend wire to form a rabbit's outline, which will then be wrapped in soft yarn and colorful springtime florals. For adults and teens ages 13 and up.

Resumes 101

Tuesday, March 17, 6:00-7:30 pm OR Saturday, March 21, 1:30-2:30 pm - Local History Room - registration required. Resumes 101 is a beginner-friendly workshop that introduces the basics of creating a clear, effective digital resume for online job applications. Participants will learn how to organize their information and highlight their skills and experiences. We will also explore free resume template options and proofreading programs. This session includes practical tips, examples, and time to start building or improving a resume they can use with confidence. This project was funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the MassTech Collaborative under the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Bonding With Baby Workshop

Thursday, March 19, 11:00-12:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Register for a FREE workshop with Sheryl White of Baby Kneads, designed to build confidence, foster attachment, and guide parents through simple and fun ways to connect with your baby. Bonding consists of many shared experiences, and there are so many ways to connect! At this workshop, we will practice mindful interactions and bond with our babies. This workshop is for pre-crawling babies with their parent/caregiver.

Registration is required. Registration is handled by the YFCP, not the Charlton Library. Any questions about this program, please email yfcp@ymcaofcm.org. This event is sponsored by YMCA Family & Community Partnership (YFCP), a Massachusetts Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE) grant funded by the Department of Early Education & Care & awarded to the YMCA of Central Massachusetts.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group
Thursday, March 19, 6:00-7:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

The Alzheimer's Support Network Caregiver Support Group is led by Alzheimer's Care Professionals and experienced caregivers. We offer information, resources, and strategies specific to caring for someone with Alzheimer's and other dementias along with support for transitioning to different care

settings. Co-sponsored by Tri-Valley and Charlton Public Library.

Funerary Services with Mark Bartel
Thursday, March 19, 6:00-6:30 pm - Dexter Hall - no registration required

Mark R. Bartel, a licensed funeral director and embalmer with 40 years experience at Bartel Funeral Home in Dudley, will speak about funerary services. Bartel Funeral Home offers funerals for many faiths. Services include earth burials, cremations, and celebrations of life at their funeral home/chapel or your place of worship. Stay afterwards for our monthly Death Café discussion from 6:30-7:30 pm.

Death Cafe
Thursday, March 19, 6:30-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - no registration required

A Death Café is a group directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives or course of action, no set conclusions and no judgement. Death Cafés provide a safe environment to gather, eat cake, drink tea or coffee, and enjoy open-minded conversation about dying and death. It is an opportunity to share, explore and question our own perceptions of death. It's not a bereavement session—just an open conversation about a topic that we often find taboo. You are welcome to share as much or as little as you wish. The group meets monthly on the third Thursday of the month from 6-7:30 pm in Dexter Hall. Questions? Email kwalker4@mac.com. The Death Cafe model was developed by Jon Underwood and Sue Barsky Reid, based on the ideas of Bernard Crettaz.

Kids Yoga with Lindsey

Fridays, March 20 & 27, 4:00-4:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

In these classes, we will practice breathing techniques (pranayama), yoga postures (asana), and more to help participants connect with their bodies, minds, and spirits. This focus invites kids to recognize the ability to act and behave mindfully with compassion, to be brave, to know happiness, and to find inner peace and calm. While yoga helps build strength and flexibility, it also helps develop techniques for handling stress. Dress comfortably, and bring water and a mat if you have one. For ages 5-11. Registration is required for each child. Caregivers may attend with children, but do not need to register. Classes are provided by Lindsey Haantrella at Haantrella Healing.

Craftmoon for Kids

Friday, March 20, 3:30-4:30 pm - Storytime Room - registration required

Drop by the Storytime Room and make a fun craft! Best for ages 5-10. Please register so we know we will have enough supplies!

Setting Up and Managing Email
Friday, March 20, 10:30-11:30 am - Community Meeting Room - registration required

In this class, attendees learn about the basics of email and the Apple Mail app. We explore the Mail app to learn about sending/reading emails, checking your inbox, and clearing junk and archive folders.

The Photos App on iPhone: A Deep Dive
Friday, March 20, 12:30-1:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

This class explores all the available features on the iPhone's Photos app, including using Favorites and albums to organize photos, sharing photos with friends and family, and creating short compilations of photos and videos.

Saturday Acoustic Roots Jam-SARJ

Saturday, March 21, 12:00-1:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

An acoustic only music jam. Open to all 18+. Email Rich at Cule5632@gmail.com for more information.

National Quilt Day Celebration

Saturday, March 21, 10:00-2:00 pm - Dexter Hall - no registration required

To celebrate National Quilting Day, Cornerstone Quilters Guild invites you to our mini quilt show. The room will be filled with many quilts, and ongoing demonstrations of quilting techniques that highlight the diverse world of quilting—from traditional to modern to contemporary. Something for everyone! All are welcome.

Getting To Know Your Android Phone - for ages 60+

Monday, March 23, 10:30-12:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

In this class we will go over the basic features of an android smartphone and explore various settings and apps that can make your life easier! Please make sure to bring your Android smartphone with you to the workshop.

This is for people ages 60 and up. This Senior Planet from AARP class is being offered through the Senior Planet licensing program.

Drop-in Needle Felting for Adults - Local History Room - no registration required

Tuesday, March 24, 6:00-7:30 pm OR Wednesday, March 25, 10:00-11:30 am

This time is just for you to drop-in and work on your projects! There will be needles, wool, and pads for use but no formal instruction or project planned. Feel free to bring a project you've already started or use our supplies to bring your ideas to life. This program is for adults 18 and older due to the nature of the materials being used.

Job Applications Part 2

Tuesday, March 24, 6:00-7:00 pm OR Saturday, March 28, 1:30-2:30 pm - Local History Room - registration required. In this session, participants will get an overview of

Ruth Wells Center offers Celtic and Viking ring making workshop

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, located at 111 Main St. in Southbridge, is excited to offer a Celtic and Viking rings workshop.

Experience the craft of making Viking and Celtic Knot wire rings! These clever designs are both beautiful, durable, and based on traditional Viking and simple Celtic style designs for all genders, which can be modified to your liking! Participants will walk away with up to three rings and the knowledge to create more!

This workshop is designed for adults and teens, due to tools and materials used. The class is limited to 10 students.

Cost: \$70 per student
When: Saturday, March 14



ruthwellscenter.com. The class is limited, so register early. There is a \$5 discount for members. For more information, email ruthwellscenter@gmail.com.

The Ruth Wells Center was founded as the Quinebaug Valley Council for the Arts and Humanities and offer workshops for adults and youth, changing exhibits, photoworks 2.0, Open Studio Thursday afternoons and offers a scenic spot to rent for meetings and events.

St. Anne – St. Patrick’s Calendar Raffle celebrates Lucky Month

Time: Noon to 2:30 p.m.
The cost covers materials. use of tools and instructions by artist and teacher Patricia O'Brien. The registration form may be found on the Ruth Wells Center website-

STURBRIDGE — St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish is celebrating the month of March with a St. Patrick’s Day Calendar raffle. One lucky winner

will be drawn each day. The winning ticket will be reentered for more chances to win. Raffle tickets are \$10 each.

The calendar features four \$100 prizes drawn every Saturday in March as well as several random cash prizes throughout the month. On St. Patrick’s Day, the lucky winner will receive \$500.

Other prizes include gift cards to St. Anne’s Gift Shop, Tutti Quanti, Napoli’s Pizzeria, Elm Street Café, Big Bunny Supermarket, Nova’s Restaurant Holland,

Publick House, and tickets to Entertainment Luxury Theater.

Raffle tickets may be purchased in the St. Anne Gift Shop and in the St. Anne – St. Patrick office. Proceeds benefit St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish.

St. Anne - St. Patrick Parish is an active parish community. It offers daily Mass for worship, religious education, and community ministries. It welcomes visitors to St. Anne Shrine, the new Memorial for the Unborn, the Hall of Saints, the

Russian Icon Exhibit, the Votive Chapel, the Generations Statue, and the Angel of Hope Monument. Our pilgrims feel at peace walking the ground, including the Stations of the Cross and the Holy Stairs. And weather permitting, pilgrims also have access to a picnic grove. The Daily Rosary is recited at 3 p.m. in the St. Patrick Chapel, and weekend Masses are celebrated in its outdoor pavilion in the summer. Its religious gift shop is open every day from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.



Courtesy

The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, located at 111 Main St. in Southbridge, is excited to welcome spring with a colorful rainbow workshop for kids. Register now for the March 21 workshop, 10 a.m. Registration forms may be found on the Web site, ruthwellscenter.com. Cost in \$5 per child or free for family members. Have fun, be creative, explore the arts. Register early for the first of many youth workshops scheduled for 2026.

LIBRARY

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Chuck Collins is an American author and a senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, DC, where he directs the Program on Inequality and the Common Good. He is also co-founder of Wealth for Common Good. He is an expert on economic inequality in the US, and has pioneered efforts to bring together investors and business leaders to speak out publicly against corporate practices and economic policies that increase economic inequality.

Intro to Zoom

Tuesday, March 31, 6:00-7:00 pm OR
Saturday, April 4, 1:30-2:30 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Hall - registration appreciated

This hands-on workshop is designed to help job seekers feel confident using Zoom for virtual job interviews. Participants will learn how to join and schedule a Zoom meeting, test audio and video, adjust camera and microphone settings, and use basic tools such as mute/unmute, chat, and screen view options. The session will also cover best practices for professional appearance, lighting, and interview etiquette on Zoom. No prior experience is required—this workshop is ideal for anyone preparing for an online job interview. This project was funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the MassTech Collaborative under the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds.



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