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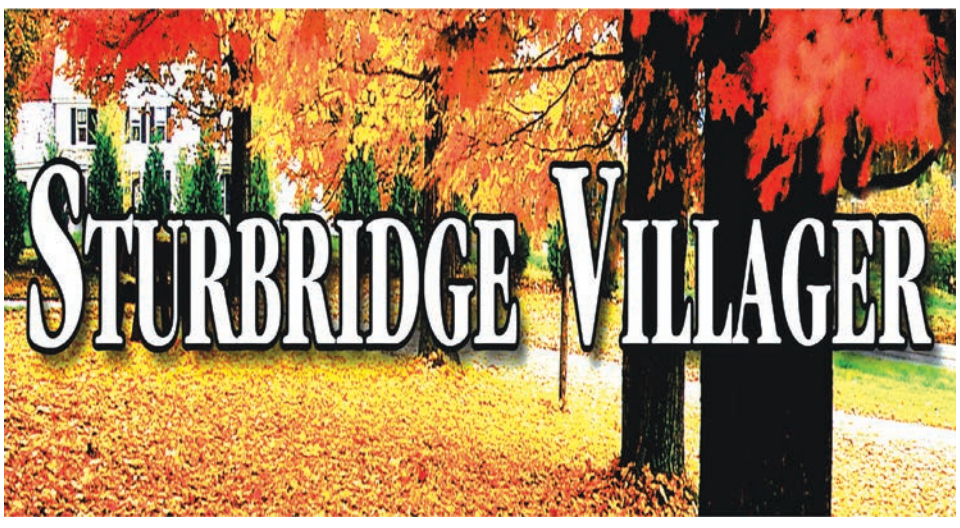

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Young Sturbridge-area musicians bring high-energy classic rock to stages in Massachusetts

STURBRIDGE — What started as four friends practicing in a garage has grown into a young rock band performing for audiences across Massachusetts. The band, Zero 7, is made up of four Tantasqua Regional High School graduates and is building a following with high-energy classic rock performances. The band is proving that rock and roll is still alive and well with the younger generation.

Formed in the spring of 2024, Zero 7 spent a year practicing together before officially becoming a band. They first rehearsed in the original drummer's garage, then moved to the lead guitarist's basement. The band's name has a story of its own: the members of Zero 7 were born in 2007.

"We're really proud of how far we've come since those early practices," said lead guitarist Marcus Santos. "We're still young, we're still learning, but we're always trying to get better. We love playing for people, and we'd really like opportunities to play closer to home."

All four musicians are graduates of Tantasqua Regional High School and are currently balancing work and life locally while con-

Turn To **ZERO 7** *page* **A10**

Bay Path named 2026 School of Recognition by Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is the only regional vocational technical school in Massachusetts named a 2026 School of Recognition by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The annual honor goes to a small group of schools for progress toward state accountability targets, especially improved achievement in English language arts and math. This year, 56 public schools statewide made the list.

Bay Path met 60 percent of its state accountability targets this year, up from 49% in 2025. That moved the school into DESE's "substantial progress" category and placed it in the 76th percentile of Massachusetts high schools. The gains came while Bay Path's roughly 1,200 students also trained across 23 vocational programs. The students come from Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer and Webster. Bay Path is the only school from those ten towns on this year's list.

"As a school community we are very proud of this accomplishment," said Kyle Brenner, Superintendent/Director. "Over the past several years, we have been intentional about building strong systems of learning. We've raised academic rigor, strengthened curriculum and instruction, and brought our academic and vocational programs into closer alignment. This recognition reflects the work of our entire school community."

Bay Path students demonstrated measurable academic growth in the following areas:

- English Language Arts achievement increased 3.4 points.
- Mathematics achievement increased 3.8 points.
- English Language Arts growth exceeded typical growth.
- Mathematics growth exceeded typical growth.
- Four-year graduation reached 98.9 percent.
- The annual dropout rate was 0 percent.
- Chronic absenteeism decreased from 11.1 to 10.2 percent.

"These numbers represent real progress for our students," said Dean Packard, Bay Path principal. "This is what happens when educators collaborate around student needs, when students take ownership of their learning, and when adults across our building refuse to settle for what was good enough yesterday."

About Bay Path

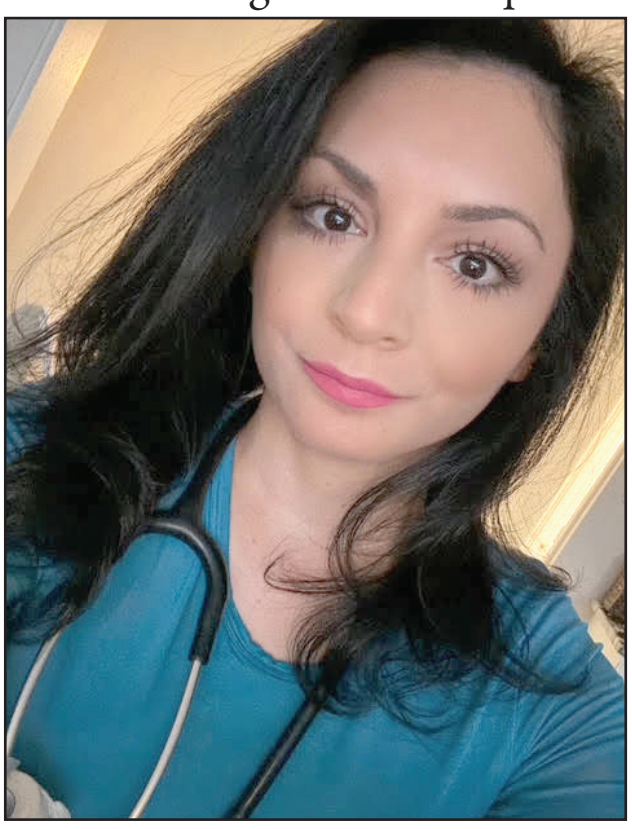
Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School prepares students for both college and careers through a rigorous blend of academic coursework and hands-on technical training. Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Bay Path serves ten Southern Worcester County communities: Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer, and Webster. Opening in 1972 atop Muggett Hill, the school has spent more than five decades offering 23 career areas alongside its academic program.

UMass Memorial Health Harrington RN exemplifies compassionate care

SOUTHBRIDGE — When Jordana Panarelli walks onto the Medical-Surgical unit at UMass Memorial Health Harrington, she brings far more than clinical expertise and a commitment to safe, high-quality care. She brings warmth, empathy, and an instinct for making patients and their loved ones feel truly seen and supported during life's most vulnerable moments.

For Panarelli, nursing has always been rooted in human connection. Her recent achievement as a newly credentialed Registered Nurse marks another major milestone in a career defined by dedication, lifelong learning, and continuous growth.

Panarelli's healthcare jour-



Courtesy Photo

(Right) Jordana Panarelli

ney began in 2019 when she earned her Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) license. Driven by a desire to expand her clinical practice and deepen her impact on patient outcomes, she embarked on the rigorous LPN-to-RN pathway at Quinsigamond Community College. Her hard work culminated earlier this year in February when she successfully passed her board examinations and earned her RN licensure.

While her credentials have grown, her core nursing philosophy remains unchanged: treat every patient with the dignity, attentiveness, and compassion she would want for her own family.

On a busy Medical-Surgical floor, where complex clinical plans often intersect with patient anxi-

Turn To **PANARELLI** *page* **A10**

Celebrate Winnie the Pooh's 100th birthday at Wales Public Library

WALES — All are welcome to join the Friends of the Wales Public Library, 77 Main St., Wales, in celebration of Winnie the Pooh's 100th Birthday!

Festivities will be on Saturday, Oct. 24. Drop in for this free celebration anytime between 9-Noon to hear stories of Winnie the Pooh and his friends, play a game of Pooh sticks, build a house for Eeyore, write birthday cards for Winnie the Pooh, get a tattoo of the characters from the book, enjoy a scavenger hunt, meet a beekeeper, and try a smackerel of "hunny" along with a birthday treat.

The real-life Winnipeg (Winnie) was a Canadian black bear who was a military mascot brought to England by a Canadian veterinary officer. Before Lieutenant Harry Colebourn left for the WWI front in France, he left Winnie at the London Zoo, where she became a friendly and popular attraction.

Courtesy Photo

Proceeds from the Raffle will help support future programs and needs of the Wales Public Library. Tickets are available to purchase now during regular library hours Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 2-6 p.m., Wednesday noon to 6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to noon.

A.A. Milne visited the zoo with his son Christopher Robin and when they went home, Christopher renamed his stuffed bear Winnie. The Pooh part of Winnie-the-Pooh's name came from a swan that the family met on their holiday.

Inspired by Christopher Robin's stuffed animals including Eeyore, Piglet, and numerous stuffed friends, A.A. Milne created tales full of adventures in the 100-acre woods that we can still enjoy one hundred years later.

Please register on the Wales Public Library Facebook events page, email: wales@cwmars.org, or call 413 245-9072. We are grateful to Country Bank for Savings for sponsoring this event. The Publick House will provide birthday treats.

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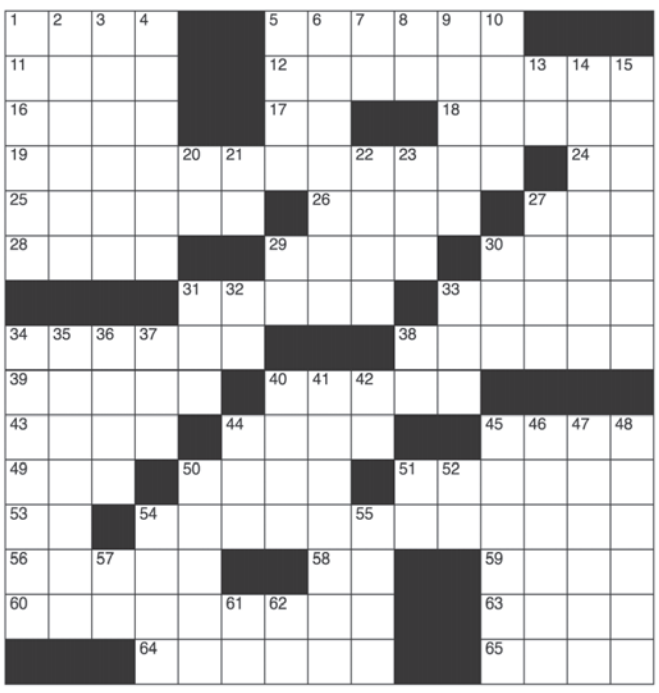
Thurs. 10/22	8AM-5PM
Sat. 10/24	9AM-5PM (last day to register to vote)
Mon. 10/26	8AM-5PM
Tues. 10/27	8AM-7PM
Wed. 10/28	8AM-5PM
Thurs 10/29	8AM-5PM



CLUES ACROSS

1. Nocturnal rodent
5. Requesting
11. Give temporarily
12. Frivolousness
16. Military arm
17. "Westworld" actor Harris
18. Persian Gulf port city
19. Air hostesses
24. Partner to "Pa"
25. Percussion instrument
26. Raincoats
27. Lower the light
28. Asian mountain range
29. Every one of two or more
30. Lack of difficulty
31. A public announcement of a proposed marriage
33. Reduces in size
34. Make an impact
38. Serviceman
39. A French river
40. Prehistoric people
43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
44. "Layla" singer Clapton
45. Ancient Greek sophist
49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
50. "Top Gun: Maverick" actor Powell
51. A way to disentangle
53. Atomic #93
54. Manifesting approval
56. Indigo bush
58. Larry and Curly's pal
59. Off-Broadway theater award
60. Fencers
63. Masses of fish eggs
64. Passerine birds
65. Arrange systematically

CLUES DOWN

1. Colorless part of blood
2. Of a main artery
3. Photog's tool
4. Blues Traveler hit "But __"
5. Grew older
6. Not the leader
7. __ Lang: country singer
8. A driver's license is one
9. Nests of pheasants
10. Antelopes
13. One quintillion bytes
14. Japanese lute
15. A type of cat
20. It cools your home
21. Dorm official
22. Pouches
23. German trigraph
27. Form of Persian
29. __ route
30. Upper body part
31. Bridge building degree
32. Indicates position
33. Political action committee
34. Edible nuts
35. Front part of a quadruped
36. Locate
37. Geological time
38. Of I
40. Northern Utah city
41. They work in the trenches
42. Hammer is one
44. Tall deciduous tree
45. Performers
46. Slang for mistake
47. More open
48. Most slick
50. Provokes
51. Home of the NCAA's Flyers
52. Sodium
54. Large fish of the mackerel family
55. Not one
57. __ and behold
61. Atomic #21
62. "The Great Lakes State"

PUZZLE SOLUTION

Charlton Cultural Council announces community art exhibit

CHARLTON — The Charlton Cultural Council, in collaboration with the Charlton Public Library, is delighted to announce this year's community art exhibit. The art submitted will be displayed in the Charlton Library.

The exhibit will be open to the public from Oct. 18 through 31, with a reception at 6 p.m. on Oct. 29 at the Library. There will a classic country music revue by musician Matt York, and readings by the 'Write Away' Writers Group from the Charlton Senior Center, appetizers provided by Charcuterie and a workshop for kids on AI for Everyday Art Use.

Artists are encouraged to submit their work for display. Please go to the Charlton Cultural Council Facebook page; you'll find a QR code to register your submitted work for the exhibit. Art Drop-off is Oct. 17, 10 a.m. to noon. Artists will be able to pick up their artwork on Oct. 31 from 9:30 a.m. until noon.

For any additional questions, our email address is cultural.council@townofcharlton.net.

Join us as we celebrate the creativity and skill of local artists. See you at the exhibit!

Charlton Garden Club meets Oct. 19

CHARLTON — Come and join the Charlton Garden Club at our Monday, Oct. 19 meeting, which will feature Richard Paradise speaking on "Stone Walls of Sturbridge and Charlton."

Ever wonder why there are so many stone walls around New England? Mr. Paradise is a member of the Sturbridge Historical Society as well as the Sturbridge Trails Committee and has many interesting stories to relate about the ubiquitous stone walls of our region.

Charlton Garden Club meetings are free and open to all interested in gardening and related themes. Whether you're a novice or accomplished gardener, the Charlton Garden Club is a great place to meet other gardening enthusiasts, learn about plants and planting, and to share your gardening tips and experiences. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the Charlton Public Library. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. if you'd like to chat with our members. For more program or for Charlton Garden Club information, email us at charltongardenclub@gmail.com.

Real Estate

Charlton

$715,000, 58 Lelandville Rd, Charlton Woods Const LLC, to Capen, Jeffrey, and Capen, Kerry.

$592,500, 193 Center Depot Rd, Miller, David, to Walker, Brendan, and Walker, Lkelsea Yeskevicz.

$460,000, 130 Burlingame Rd, Ingle Jr, Harry C, and Ingle, Mary Ann, to Bradley, Jason, and Manning, Jessica.

$107,500, 6 Gould Rd, Saint Mark Coptic Orthodo, to Dakash, Gaballa.

$107,500, 7 Gould Rd, Saint Mark Coptic Orthodo, to Dakkash, Amy.

$85,000, 72 Leland Dr, Jackson, Nancy L, to Baker Ft, and Baker, Laland H.

HOLLAND

None

SOUTHBRIDGE

$1,275,000, 140 Hamilton St, Byrnes Investment LLC, to Southbridge Re LLC.

$508,000, 123 Everett St, Marzeotti, Matthew A, and Marzeotti, Jacquelyn, to 123 Everett Prop Hldg LLC.

$400,000, 409 Worcester St, Holley, Bernard D, to Parath, Nico R.

$250,000, 875 Main St, Partlow Ft, and Partlow, Carolyn M, to 875 Main St Realty LLC.

STURBRIDGE

$425,000, 6 Hall Rd, Basti, Davis, and Grignon, Hansie, to Bissell, Jonah, and Bissell, Danielle.

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Friday: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Jacob Edwards Public Library
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Tuesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (May 25 will be our last open Saturday until Labor Day) Sunday: Closed

Charlton Town Hall (508) 248-2200
Office Hours:
Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays ..... 7:30 a.m to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesdays .....7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday .....Closed
visit www.townofcharlton.net or more information.
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Police Department (248-2250)
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For emergencies, dial **911**
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Monday to Friday..... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
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Heritage School ..... (508) 248-4884
Charlton Middle School.....(508) 248-1423
Shepherd Hill Regional High School .....(508) 943-6700
Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School ..... (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326
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Church Listings

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

Faith in Film Series continues at Charlton Federated Church

CHARLTON — The Faith in Film series continues this autumn at Federated Church of Charlton (FCC). On the third Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m. the public is invited to join members of the congregation in viewing and discussing movies. All are invited to join in the Faith in Film series at no charge. A handout with pertinent and interesting information, key concepts and discussion questions about each film is distributed at each movie night. Refreshments are also served.

The Faith in Film series this autumn are all films suggested by viewers and include the following:

Oct. 16 – "Arsenic and Old Lace"

Cary Grant's aunts have a horrifying secret which creates havoc in this 1944 screwball comedy just perfect for Halloween. The film also features Raymond Massy, Peter Lorre, Josephine Hull, Jean Adair, and Edward Everett Horton. Arsenic and Old Lace was directed by Frank Capra and is based on the Broadway smash hit by Joseph Kesseirling.

Nov. 20 – "The Grapes of Wrath"

This 1940 adaption of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by John Steinbeck is considered one of the greatest films ever made. Directed by John Ford and starring Henry Fonda, it tells the powerful story of the Joad family, who in the great depression lose their farm and travel west to California.

Dec. 18 – "The Greatest Christmas Pageant Ever"

The Herdman's are the absolute worst kids in town, but when they get cast in their small town's Christmas pageant, magical things happen. This 2024 movie based on the bestselling novel by Barbara Robinson, explores the true meaning of Christianity.

Faith in Film screenings take place in the Fellowship Hall of the Church at 64 Main St. in Charlton. For further information please call the Church at 508-248-5550.

About the FCC

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

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Repair Café coming to Charlton Library Oct. 24

CHARLTON — The Charlton community is invited to bring broken household items to a special Repair Café at the Charlton Library on Saturday, Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The event will bring together volunteers with practical repair skills to help community members troubleshoot and repair everyday items, while sharing knowledge and encouraging a culture of reuse and sustainability.

Rather than throwing something away when it stops working, residents are encouraged to bring it to the Repair Café and see whether it can be given a second life. Fixers are available for the following categories: Bicycles, Small Appliances, Sewing Machines (not gears or programming issues), Stringed Instruments, Fabric (Clothes/stuffed animals/dog toys), Computer/Information Technology, Knife Sharpening, Jewelry, Wood, General Small Repairs, and Simple electronics.

The Repair Café is designed as a hands-on, community learning event. Visitors can work alongside volunteers, learn basic repair techniques, and connect with others who enjoy fixing, maintaining, and reusing everyday items.

Registration is not required, we will do our best to accommodate walk-ins. This is a free event open to all from Charlton and surrounding communities.

The event is part of a growing effort to reduce waste, extend the useful life of household goods, and build practical skills within the community. Our Repair Café is a partnership between the Charlton Lions Club, Keep Charlton Beautiful, the Charlton Business Alliance, and the Charlton Public Library.

For additional information, visit the Charlton Library Web site at https://charlton-library.org.

Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St.

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Green Path Cannabis in Southbridge, Massachusetts, is proud to offer a monthly record expungement program! Each month, Green Path will choose one interested person to receive legal services to evaluate and assist their petitions to seal or expunge a criminal record of cannabis possession. Green Path will give hiring consideration to qualified participants as well as their spouses and children if an employment vacancy exists.

Please apply for consideration at greenpathcannabis.com or email kailyhepburn@kailyhepburnlaw.com.

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Age 14
Registration #8413

Jeremiah is an easygoing and friendly boy who enjoys staying active and loves all kinds of sports. Football is one of his favorites, and he especially enjoys shooting hoops and spending time playing basketball with his friends. When he wants some quiet time to himself, Jeremiah enjoys playing video games. Jeremiah is described by his friends and teachers as funny, kind, and a natural leader. He is a positive role model to those around him and enjoys making others laugh. His easygoing personality and ability to connect with others make him a great friend and someone people enjoy spending time with.

https://www.mareinc.org/child/21182352036

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OPINION

Bay Path's success offers a lesson in what education can accomplish

There is something especially encouraging about seeing a local school recognized for doing exactly what schools are supposed to do: helping students learn, grow and prepare for successful futures.

That is why the news that Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School in Charlton has been named a 2026 School of Recognition by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education deserves more than a passing congratulation. It deserves recognition throughout the communities that send their children there.

Bay Path was one of only 56 public schools statewide to receive the distinction and the only regional vocational technical school among them. For a school serving approximately 1,200 students from 10 communities, including Charlton and Southbridge, that is an accomplishment worth celebrating.

But perhaps the most important part of this recognition is not the award itself. It is what the numbers reveal about the progress being made inside the classrooms and vocational shops on Muggett Hill.

Bay Path met 60 percent of its state accountability targets this year, compared with 49 percent in 2025. Achievement improved in both English language arts and mathematics, while student growth in both subjects exceeded typical expectations.

The school's four-year graduation rate reached an impressive 98.9 percent, while its annual dropout rate stood at zero.

Those figures represent more than favorable statistics on a state report. They reflect students staying engaged, overcoming challenges and developing the skills necessary to take their next steps into adulthood.

They also challenge an outdated perception that vocational education is somehow a lesser alternative to a traditional academic education.

For generations, vocational schools were sometimes viewed as places where students went primarily to learn a trade rather than pursue academic excellence. That distinction never adequately reflected the value of technical education, and Bay Path's latest achievement provides another reason to put it to rest.

Today's vocational students must be prepared for a world in which technical proficiency and academic knowledge are increasingly inseparable. An electrician needs mathematics. A health care professional needs strong communication skills. A future business owner needs financial literacy, critical thinking and the ability to adapt to changing technology.

The best vocational education recognizes that students should not have to choose between preparing for a career and receiving a rigorous academic foundation.

Bay Path's 23 vocational programs offer students opportunities to develop practical skills while meeting demanding academic expectations. That combination benefits not only the students themselves but also the businesses, employers and communities that will eventually depend upon their talents.

There is another important lesson in this recognition, one that extends well beyond Charlton.

Meaningful educational improvement rarely happens overnight.

Superintendent-Director Kyle Brenner credited the school's progress to years of deliberate work strengthening curriculum, increasing academic rigor and bringing vocational and academic instruction into closer alignment.

That kind of sustained effort requires cooperation among teachers, administrators, students and families. It also requires patience and a willingness to examine what is working and what needs improvement.

In an era when discussions about education too often become consumed by controversy, budget disputes and competing priorities, Bay Path offers a reminder that progress is possible when attention remains focused on student achievement.

Of course, an award does not mean every challenge has been solved. Even successful schools must continue addressing attendance, academic performance and the changing needs of students. Bay Path's reduction in chronic absenteeism from 11.1 percent to 10.2 percent is encouraging, but it also illustrates why continued attention matters.

The recognition should therefore be viewed not as a finish line but as evidence that sustained improvement can produce measurable results.

For families in Charlton, Southbridge and the other communities served by Bay Path, there is good reason to take pride in what has been accomplished.

For the educators who have worked to make those improvements possible, the recognition is well deserved.

And for the students, it carries perhaps the most meaningful message of all: Their hard work matters, their education has value, and their futures are worth investing in.

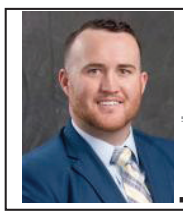
That is something every community should be willing to celebrate.

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.

The family conversation your estate plan is waiting for



Financial Focus
TREVOR NIELSEN

Finishing your estate plan is a big step, but failing to notify the people involved can lead to confusion and complications when it's time to use it. Since the events that bring those plans into action, such as an accident, serious illness or hospitalization, rarely come with a warning, talking with your family about your estate plan before a crisis occurs can provide clarity and help reduce uncertainty, conflict, and stress later

Would your loved ones know what to do?

About half of Americans turning 65 today will need some form of long-term care, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. If you became unable to make medical or financial decisions, documents such as powers of attorney and advance directives can help ensure someone you trust can step in. Just as important is making sure your loved ones know those documents exist and where to find them. Without access to them, even close family members may be unable to access bank accounts, pay bills or make medical decisions on your behalf without going through a court.

Who should be included in an estate plan conversation?

When you're ready to talk with loved ones, start with anyone named in a formal role in your estate plan, such as a financial power of attorney, health care proxy, trustee, or executor. You may also want to include family members who are likely to be involved in your care or inherit assets.

Think about the dynamics of your family as you plan the conversation. Some families are comfortable discussing everything together, while others communicate more effectively through smaller group discussions or one-on-one conversations.

What should your family know about your estate plan?

Start with your values and the goals behind your decisions. Explaining what matters most to you can help family members better understand your wishes.

From there, review practical details, including who serves in key roles, where important documents are stored and how to contact your estate-planning attorney. You may also want to discuss your care preferences if you were to lose independence and any decisions that family members might find surprising. For example, if inheritances will not be divided equally, sharing your reasoning now may help prevent misunderstandings later.

Most importantly, leave time for questions. The goal is not to cover every possible scenario in a single meeting. It's to create understanding and give loved ones confidence about what matters to you.

If a single conversation feels overwhelming, consider breaking it into a few shorter discussions over time.

Need help starting the conversation?

Many people worry about how family members will react or feel unsure about where to begin. A financial advisor can help you prepare for the conversation and, in some cases, facilitate it. Having a neutral third party involved can help keep discussions productive and ensure everyone leaves with greater clarity about your wishes.

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 fine art of doing nothing

Lanterns Along Main Street
By CHARLES

There was a time when a man could sit on his front porch for half an hour without anybody assuming something was wrong with him.

He didn't need a book. He didn't need a telephone. He certainly didn't need a device strapped to his wrist reminding him that he hadn't taken enough steps. He could simply sit.

I was thinking about this the other afternoon when I found myself with an unexpected hour to spare. The lawn didn't need mowing, the laundry was caught up, and there was nothing particularly urgent demanding my attention.

Naturally, I became suspicious. At my age, an empty hour usually means I've forgotten something.

I wandered around the house looking for a task. I straightened a picture that wasn't crooked. I opened the refrigerator despite having eaten lunch twenty minutes earlier. I checked the weather, although I could have obtained essentially the same information by looking out the window.

Finally, my wife asked what I was doing.

"Nothing," I said.

"Well, you're making an awful lot of noise doing it."

She had a point.

Somewhere along the way, we've developed the peculiar belief that every waking minute ought to be productive. If we're not working, we should be improving ourselves. If we're not improving ourselves, we should be exercising. If we're not exercising, we should be cleaning something, fixing something or planning something.

Even relaxing has become a competitive sport.

People now keep track of how well they sleep. Imagine explaining that to your grandfather.

"How'd you sleep last night, Grandpa?"

"Fine."

"Yes, but what was your sleep score?"

I suspect the conversation would end right there, possibly with an invitation to go split some firewood.

When I was younger, the older men in the neighborhood seemed to understand something we've largely forgotten.

They could sit outside and watch the world go by without feeling obligated to participate in every passing moment.

One fellow I remember used to spend summer evenings in a lawn chair near his driveway. He'd wave at passing cars, occasionally offer an opinion about the weather, and otherwise appear perfectly content.

As a boy, I couldn't understand it. There were bicycles to ride, baseballs to throw and entire afternoons to fill with adventures. Why would anybody choose to sit still?

Now, some 40 or 50 years later, I think that man may have been the smartest fellow on the street. He wasn't bored. He was paying attention. There's a difference.

These days, we seem almost frightened of silence. Sit in a waiting room and everyone reaches for a phone. Stop at a traffic light and somebody is checking a screen. Even a walk through the neighborhood can become an opportunity to listen to a podcast about becoming a more efficient human being.

I have nothing against technology. I appreciate being able to find directions without unfolding a road map the size of a bedsheet. And I rather enjoy knowing the answer to a question without spending three days looking through encyclopedias.

But I wonder whether we've traded away something valuable in our determination never to be idle. So, that afternoon, I conducted a little experiment. I took a chair outside, sat down and decided not to accomplish anything. At first, it was surprisingly difficult. I noticed a branch that needed trimming. Then I remembered a loose hinge on the shed door. A few minutes later, I started mentally composing a grocery list. I resisted.

Eventually, I began noticing other things. A squirrel was engaged in what appeared to be a bitter territorial dispute with another squirrel. A neighbor was teaching a young child to ride a bicycle. Somewhere down the road, a dog barked three times and apparently decided he'd made his point. The breeze shifted. A few leaves skittered across the driveway. The afternoon sun moved slowly across the yard.

Nothing extraordinary happened. And that was rather nice.

After a while, my wife came outside and asked whether I was feeling all right.

"Perfectly fine," I told her.

"What are you doing?"

"Practicing."

"Practicing what?"

"Doing nothing."

She considered this for a moment.

"Well, don't overdo it."

Then she went back inside.

I sat there another 20 minutes, enjoying the rare sensation of not being behind schedule.

The world continued turning without my assistance. Nobody called to ask why I hadn't completed a task. No great catastrophe resulted from my failure to be productive. Eventually, I got up and went inside.

I can't say the experience changed my life. The bills still need paying, the lawn will eventually need mowing, and that shed hinge isn't going to repair itself. But I did come away with a modest realization.

We've become so accustomed to measuring our days by what we get done that we sometimes forget to appreciate the days themselves.

There ought to be room for an occasional afternoon that produces absolutely nothing except a little peace of mind.

I'm thinking of making this a regular habit. Perhaps 20 minutes every afternoon, weather permitting.

Of course, knowing me, I'll probably start keeping track of how much nothing I accomplish. And then I'll have to figure out whether I'm getting better at it.

To the Editor

For real change, vote for Nadia Milleron

To the Editor:

Independent means independent of the duopoly. Why would an independent candidate rely on one corporate party, as Rep. Neal's recent postcards imply? The recent postcards are scare tactics, using all the buzzwords meant to scare corporate party true believers.

Yesterday, Congressional candidate Nadia Milleron toured the former AO campus in Southbridge pitching ideas to revitalize the local economy and to help our people, based on both history and looking to the future.

We need change in Congressional District #1. Nadia, an independent with no corporate or PAC backing, is the person to do it with programs to help the constituents like no federal taxes on the first $100,000, healthcare for all , and term limits. As a "regular "person" and farmer, she is in touch with what non-billionaires need to survive. She knows how Congress works, after a decade long battle seeking justice for her daughter who died in a Boeing plane crash. (Prior to fighting herself, she made numerous attempts to get our current Representative to act on her behalf to no avail.)

For real change, vote Nadia Milleron on Nov. 3. See her Web site for more details: www.nadiaforcongress.com.

Maureen Doyle
Southbridge

The importance of Town Meeting

To the Editor:

Charlton's upcoming Special Town Meeting reminds us participating in local governance is not just a civic duty, but a foundational American right born right here in our own backyard. Every registered voter should make it a priority to attend on Monday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. in the Charlton Middle School Auditorium at 2 Oxford Rd. The warrant can be found on the town website by clicking Government, Town Meeting, Town Meeting Documents or accessing this direct link: https://www.townofcharlton.net/678/Special-Town-Meeting---October-19-2026

Our community's tradition of self-governance runs exceptionally deep. First settled in 1735, Charlton initially operated as a separate district carved out of Oxford in 1755. On August 23, 1775, Massachusetts enacted a law transforming all existing districts into full towns specifically to strengthen the revolutionary cause. This historic milestone officially solidified Charlton's political identity, placing the local open town meeting format at the very heart of the fight for liberty.

Charlton's early leaders directly impacted the path toward American independence. The town's first minister, the Reverend Caleb Curtis, was a passionate Whig and an active member of Charlton's Committee of Correspondence. On April 19, 1775, Rev. Curtis stood before the Charlton militia, offering a powerful blessing as they prepared to march and face the British regulars at Lexington and Concord. This fierce spirit of independence set the stage for the ultimate rejection of the British Crown. When the Council at Boston sent the newly drafted Declaration of Independence to Charlton in July 1776, it was proudly read aloud by Rev. Curtis directly to his congregation. This act wasn't just a formality—it was a validation of the community's active sacrifices on the battlefield and its unwavering commitment to the radical idea of "consent of the governed."

When we gather at Charlton Middle School this month, we are not just voting on municipal articles; we are stepping into a direct lineage of freedom established more than two centuries ago. Let us honor the legacy of the local patriots who risked everything to give us a voice and continue the democratic tradition that our town helped forge over 250 years ago.

See you at Town Meeting,

Kenny Laferriere
Town Moderator
Charlton

Local author digs into historical conflict between miners & Brimfield farmers

BRIMFIELD — Hitchcock resumes its Brown Bag Speaker Series with its first fall event on Oct. 21 as local author Don Duffy delves into the Brimfield chapters of his latest book, "Native Americans React to British Incursions."

The talk – "A Rock & A Hard Place: Brimfield at Odds with the Winthrop Family" – will begin at 12:30 p.m., with an optional lunch preceding at noon. Attendees may order a lunch or bring one in. Reservations are required for both ($10 for the talk and an additional $10 for the optional lunch) and can be made by visiting Hitchcock's Web site or calling 413.245.9977. The talk will likely run approximately one hour, and additional time is reserved for questions and discussion.

In 1644, English Puritans led by John Winthrop II (the son of the Massachusetts Bay Colony's first governor and later the governor of the Connecticut Colony) first explored an area known to the native Nipmuc people as Tantiusques, which translates to "a black deposit between two hills".

Recognizing the value of the region's "black lead" (graphite), Winthrop purchased the land from the local Nipmuc sachem, Tantasqua. He established what became one of the earliest and most significant colonial commercial mines in New England, extracting graphite, lead, and iron.

The Winthrop family retained control over the Sturbridge mining lands for 140 years.

This talk examines upset among Brimfield farmers from a time when the mining land fell within Brimfield territory.

Don Duffy began his writing career as a result of his time serving on the Town of Palmer Conservation Committee. That involvement sparked an interest in the area, and he began researching and discovering interesting facts about the region. He wanted to be sure that the information was recorded and that inspired him to write. He is the author of four books.

The Brown Bag Speaker Series is presented with support from The Shirley Frye Memorial Fund.

About "Native Americans React to British Incursions"

Following the defeat of the Native Americans in the King Philip's War of 1675-1676 in Massachusetts and parts of Connecticut, the Native Americans came under pressure from a very large armed force from Connecticut heading north. The Native Americans had to decide to remain and fight and risk further death, capture and enslavement or they had to leave. They fled to the Hudson River Valley in New York where other Algonquians held land.

Not all Native Americans had joined in the War. Uncas and his Mohegans from Norwich, Connecticut, sided with the British. At the beginning of the war, many Nipmucks living near the Quinebaug River Valley moved close to Norwich under the protection of Uncas. At the conclusion of the War, the Nipmucks returned to their historic lands and spread out even further to good land vacated by the defeated Natives. Shortly thereafter, they had to deal with incoming English and Scots-Irish settlers.

For more information, visit www.hitchcockacademy.org. Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Rd. in Brimfield serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming.

Explore Jewish life in song with members of Wholesale Klezmer Band at Jacob Edwards Library

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Jacob Edwards Library will host a return engagement of Yiddish singer Yosl Kurland accompanied by Accordionist Aaron Bousel and flutist Peggy Davis, members of the Wholesale Klezmer Band in a new program of "Jewish Life in Song" on Thursday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, and is sponsored by the Southbridge Cultural Council.

The performers draw upon their vast repertoire of Yiddish folk, theater and Hebrew liturgical songs including Yosl's own compositions. In introducing Jewish music and culture to diverse audiences, the group works to foster intercultural understanding. All songs will be translated, explained, or sung in English translation.

Vocalist and educator Yosl Kurland, a founding member of the Wholesale Klezmer Band (www.ganeydn.com) since 1982, performs and writes Yiddish songs and synagogue music. With the Wholesale Klezmer Band he has performed widely for weddings, bar/bas mitzves and concerts, including at Carnegie Hall with Pete Seeger, and has taught workshops at elementary, middle and high schools on Yiddish music, dance, literature. He developed programs on "Yiddish Songs of Cultural Resistance in the Holocaust" and "A Jewish Perspective on Social Justice in Song". He teaches adult education classes on Yiddish language and literature as well as klezmer music and is a cantor for Temple Israel of Greenfield.

Wholesale Klezmer Band accordionist Aaron Bousel began playing the instrument at age ten, though it wasn't until 1995 that he began to play klezmer. He has participated in workshops at KlezKanada in Quebec and Yidstock at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst. Soon after moving to Amherst in 1997 he became accordionist for the band Hu Tsa Tsa with which he has played for life-cycle celebrations and local synagogue functions. He is also accordionist for the Yiddishkeit Klezmer ensemble and has accompanied Mak'hela, the Jewish chorus of western Massachusetts.

Peggy Davis (flute, vocals) grew up in Minneapolis, where she studied flute and guitar. She listened to the recorded Yiddish songs of Theodore Bikel, Ruth Rubin and Martha Schlamme and encountered native singers of Yiddish songs when working with Russian Jewish immigrants in Italy, many of whom spoke with her in Yiddish, which she had studied at the YIVO Institute. In Minnesota, she helped found the group "Yiddishe Folksmenshn." Peggy also sang Balkan and Russian folk music in the Ethnic Dance Theatre Choir. She taught calligraphy classes and childen's activities at KlezKamp, and has taught in public and Hebrew schools. Peggy is a calligrapher in Hebrew, Yiddish and English, creating illuminated Jewish wedding contracts (ketubot)

You can find more about the Wholesale Klezmer Band and Peggy H. Davis Calligraphy at http://www.ganeydn.com. You can find more about the Jacob Edwards Library at https://www.jacobedwardslibrary.org/

Jewish Life in Song at the Jacob Edwards Library is supported by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Gateway Players present Paul Slade Smith's "The Outsider"

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

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

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

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

Ned Newley doesn't even want to be governor. He's terrified of public speaking; his poll numbers are impressively bad. To his ever-supportive Chief of Staff, Ned seems destined to fail. But political consultant Arthur Vance sees things differently: Ned might be the worst candidate to ever run for office. Unless the public is looking for the worst candidate to ever run for office... A timely and hilarious comedy that skewers politics and celebrates democracy.

Southbridge Lions to host Fall Texas Hold 'Em Tournament

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Lions Club will hold its fall No Limit Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament on Saturday, Nov. 7, at Maqui's, 61 Chestnut St. in Southbridge.

The tournament is open to players age 18 and older, from regular poker players to those who simply enjoy playing an occasional game with friends. Doors will open at 4 p.m., with play beginning shortly after 5 p.m.

A $100 donation provides each player with $8,000 in tournament chips. First place is guaranteed to receive $2,500, and an additional place will be paid for every 10 players who enter after the first 30. All prizes will be paid by money order.

Appetizers will be served during the evening, and participation is limited to the first 150 players.

The tournament is one of the Southbridge Lions Club's fundraisers, with proceeds helping the club continue its support of local individuals, families, organizations and community programs.

Those interested in playing are encouraged to register in advance. To register or for additional information, contact Russ Labarge at 774-230-1624 or Wayne Boiteau at 774-230-1982.

The Southbridge Lions invite the community to come out for an enjoyable night of cards while supporting the club's continuing service to the Southbridge area.

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Rotary Club of Sturbridge presents Sixth Annual TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K & Fun Walk

STURBRIDGE — Runners, walkers, families and Halloween enthusiasts are invited to hit the trails again this fall when the Rotary Club of Sturbridge presents its annual TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K and Fun Walk on Sunday, Oct. 25.

Pre-registration is now open for the family-friendly event, according to Race Director Klaus Hachfeld. Participants can pre-register at RaceRoster.com by entering "Sturbridge" in the search field. Those who register before Oct. 19 will receive this year's free collectible TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K T-shirt.

"Partnering with TREK Sturbridge has become a great way to bring people together, enjoy some of Sturbridge's beautiful trails and have a little Halloween fun at the same time," Hachfeld said. "More importantly, every registration helps Rotary put money back into the community through scholarships for local students and support for other community projects and needs."

Courtesy Photo

Costumes are part of the fun at the annual TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K & Family Fun Walk, as this spirited group demonstrated before hitting the trail at last year's race.

All activities begin at the Old Sturbridge Village Education Center on Old Sturbridge Village Road. (Participants should note that the Education Center is not the Old Sturbridge Village Academy located near the village's main entrance.) Parking will be available in the Education Center lot.

The event features a timed 5K Trail Run, a Fun Walk and a timed 1K Pre-Teen Run. In keeping with the Halloween spirit, participants are encouraged to come in costume. Activities begin at 9 a.m. with a free costume parade, relay races and organized games for young children at the Education Center.

The timed 1K Pre-Teen Run begins at 9:15 a.m. and is open to children ages 12 and younger. Registration is $20, and the course is accessible to participants with mobility challenges.

The timed 5K Trail Run and Fun Walk begin at 10 a.m. The course follows Old Sturbridge Village Road and the Arbutus Park Trail through the Leadmine Mountain Wildlife Conservation Lands. Registration is $35 for the 5K and $30 for the Fun Walk.

Registered runners and walkers can also compete in the Best Costume competition prior to the 11:15 a.m. awards ceremony, with winners selected by popular choice.

Race-day registration will be available beginning at 8:30 a.m. Participants may register on their own devices using a QR code available at the site. Paper registration forms will also be available for those unable to register online.

The TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K & Fun Walk is a fundraiser of the Rotary Club of Sturbridge, with proceeds supporting the club's scholarships for local students and other community service projects.

"People who participate in the TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K & Fun Walk aren't just signing up for a race," said Sturbridge Rotary Club President, Tim Gresenz. "They're helping Rotary continue the work we do throughout the year to support students, families and organizations in our community. We hope they'll come out, bring the family, wear a costume and make a morning of it."

For additional information or to become an event sponsor, contact Race Director Klaus Hachfeld at laserklaus@gmail.com or visit the Sturbridge Rotary Club Web site at https://sturbridgerotary.com.

Southbridge Lions Club thanks community for Bucket Brigade support

SOUTHBRIDGE — Members of the Southbridge Lions Club took to the streets of downtown Southbridge on Saturday, Oct. 3, for their annual Bucket Brigade fundraiser, and once again, the community responded with generosity and support.

Throughout the morning, passing motorists and local residents contributed to the familiar Lions Club buckets, helping raise funds for the club's ongoing community service efforts.

Proceeds from the Bucket Brigade help the Southbridge Lions provide assistance to local individuals facing sight and hearing challenges, as well as support a variety of other community service projects.

The annual fundraiser is an important part of the club's efforts to give back to the community, and its continued success reflects the generosity of Southbridge residents.

The Southbridge Lions Club extends its sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed, whether with spare change, a few dollars, or a friendly wave of encouragement.

Thank you, Southbridge, for once again demonstrating the community spirit that makes our efforts possible.

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St. Vincent de Paul Society to host Friends of the Poor Walk in Sturbridge

FISKDALE — The St. Vincent de Paul Society in Fiskdale will host its third annual Friends of the Poor Walk on Sunday, Oct. 18, at noon at the Sturbridge Common during the harvest fest. Proceeds from the fundraiser will support local individuals and families in need across Brimfield, Brookfield, Holland, Sturbridge, Wales, and other nearby towns.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society in Fiskdale provides practical assistance throughout the year, including emergency housing, rental and utility help, food, clothing, and other essential needs—serving people of all backgrounds and faiths.

The Fiskdale conference raises funds through parish poor boxes, public donations, and events such as this one. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul operates in 153 countries, with more than 4,000 local conferences, and is run entirely by volunteer members committed to tackling poverty in all its forms. Residents are encouraged to come to the harvest fest and join us in our walk for our neighbors in need.

For more information, contact svdpfiskdalepr@gmail.com. To donate, visit our website: svdpfiskdale.org and click on the "Donate" button.

Chapter R honors former Bay Path Nrusing Director with gift to P.E.O. Continuing Education Program

Courtesy Photo

Gretheline Bolandrina

CHARLTON — Chapter R of Massachusetts has made a special gift to the P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education in honor of healthcare administrator, nurse educator, author, and former Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director Dr. Gretheline Bolandrina.

Announced by Chapter R (Worcester) President Christine B. White of Shrewsbury, the commemorative donation directly supports the P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) Sisterhood's mission to celebrate and advance the educational achievements of women through grants, scholarships, awards, and loans.

The P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education offers need-based financial assistance to women whose educational paths were interrupted and who are returning to school to complete a degree or certification, equipping them with marketable skills to support themselves and their families.

For Bolandrina—a former member of P.E.O. Chapter R in Worcester and former Director of the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy—the tribute deeply aligns with a distinguished career dedicated to healthcare administration, nursing education, and community advocacy.

Bolandrina's extensive academic background includes a Doctor of Health Administration and a Master of Science in Nursing Education from the University of Phoenix, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Santo Tomas, and coursework in journalism at Harvard University. A Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurse (CRRN) with decades of clinical and administrative experience, she previously served as Academy Director and full-time faculty member at the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton, where she mentored generations of nursing candidates across didactic, laboratory, and clinical settings.

Beyond her academic and administrative leadership, Bolandrina is a published author (Tenacious Nurse series), a medical textbook reviewer for F.A. Davis, and an active community leader. Her involvement spans prominent organizations, including the Philippine Nurses Association of New England, Iskwelahang Pilipino of Boston, the Pan-Mass Challenge, and the Medical Reserve Corps. Her contributions to nursing and workforce development have earned her numerous accolades, including the Champions of Healthcare Award from the Worcester Business Journal and the Excellence in Nursing and Nursing Education Award from the Daughters of the American Revolution.

"We are so grateful for this gift from Chapter R of Massachusetts," shared Emma Cavalier on behalf of the P.E.O. Executive Office, noting that contributions like this ensure the Sisterhood can continue opening doors for women building their academic and professional futures.

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

Courtesy Photo

Faith Formation students with leaders in the Parish Center.

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

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

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

The new class schedule is:

• Grades K–6: Sundays, 8:45–9:45 a.m., before the 10 a.m. Mass.

• Grades 7–11: Sundays, 11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m., after the 10 a.m. Mass.

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

For more information or to register, visit www.StAnne StPatrickParish.com or call 508-347-9353.

St. Anne St. Patrick Parish & Shrine is an active parish community serving the Sturbridge area and beyond, offering daily Masses, religious education, and community ministries. The shrine grounds welcome thousands of visitors each year and feature St. Anne Shrine, Stations of the Cross and Crucifix, Hall of Saints, Russian Icon Exhibit, Generations Statue, Angel of Hope Monument, Memorial for the Unborn, Votive Chapels, weekend Masses celebrated in the outdoor pavilion during the summer, and a religious gift shop open daily from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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Charlton Land Trust leads hike through Cow Tunnel

CHARLTON — Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust (CHPT) will offer a free hike along the Midstate Trail and through the cow tunnel under Route 20 in Charlton on Saturday, Oct. 24, starting at 10 a.m. The hike will start at the CHPT Little River property on Fulling Mill Drive in Charlton and continue to Fay Mountain Farm on Cemetery Road. Fay Mountain Farm will be open and have bakery items and cider available for purchase.

The two-and-a-half-hour hike is approximately five miles in length with roughly two miles of the trail being on town roads. The hike is rated moderate, as this part of the trail is hilly and there are areas of uneven footing. All are welcome at no charge.

Hikers should meet at Fulling Mill Drive Trail Head Parking Lot at 9:45 a.m. to be ready to leave for the hike at 10 a.m. This is archery season, so please wear orange blaze. Hikers are encouraged to bring tick protection, water and snacks. People will meet at a property called Little River, which is one of 19 parcels of land owned and maintained by CHPT. Shuttle rides back to the Little River Property will be offered by CHPT at the end of the program. For further information please call CHPT board member Karin Johnson at 774–230–5322.

About CHPT

Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust acquires and maintains open space properties and conducts programs to enlighten and entertain people of all ages about protecting and enjoying the natural world. CHPT owns 19 conservation properties in Charlton, totaling over 200 acres of natural land open to the public. CHPT works with landowners, developers, and the town to balance healthy economic growth with conservation of important natural resources and historically significant places. CHPT relies on donations of land and funds to make new conservation projects possible and on the volunteer help of its members and friends to preserve conservation areas for the public benefit. For more information and to check out all our properties, go to CharltonTrust.org or follow up on Facebook (Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust) and Instagram (CharltonTrust).

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Sturbridge Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, October 22, 2026 at 6:00pm**. on the 2nd Floor of the Center Office Building, 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and via GoTo Meeting, to consider a Request for **Determination of Applicability** filed by Michael Thibeault of Landscape Evolution pursuant to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c. 131, §40) and the Town of Sturbridge Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

The applicant seeks approval to repair an existing retaining wall and replace of two sets of exterior stairs at 98 South Shore Drive, Sturbridge, MA.

Remote participation information and application materials will be posted at least 48 hours prior to the hearing on the Conservation Commission webpage at www.sturbridge.gov/conservation-commission.

Ed Goodwin
Conservation Commission Chairman
October 16, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Sturbridge Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, October 22, 2026** at 6:10pm on the 2nd Floor of the Center Office Building, 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and via GoTo Meeting, to consider a **Request for Determination of Applicability** filed by Mark Lavigne of Ground Effects LLC pursuant to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c. 131, §40) and the Town of Sturbridge Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

The applicant seeks approval to install a new permeable patio with granite steps at 97 Shore Road, Sturbridge, MA.

Remote participation information and application materials will be posted at least 48 hours prior to the hearing on the Conservation Commission webpage at www.sturbridge.gov/conservation-commission.

Ed Goodwin
Conservation Commission Chairman
October 16, 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.WO26P2777EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Ghanasambandan Thiruppovanam
Date of Death: 05/29/2026
To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Nadarajan Thiruppuvanam of Sacramento CA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: .

Nadarajan Thiruppuvanam of Sacramento CA 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 11/17/2026.**

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: September 28, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 15, 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. WO26P3090EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Randall C Benoit
Also known as: Randy Benoit
Date of Death: 01/11/2022
To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Lynn Heisler-OToole 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: .

Lynn Heisler-OToole 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 10/20/2026.**

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: September 21, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 15, 2026

CHARLTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

The applicant, PMZ Development LLC, has submitted a Land Disturbance/ Stormwater Management Application on October 6, 2026, for land disturbance associated with the construction of a single-family home and site work.

The project site is located at Lot 5 Gould Road, Charlton, MA 01507, and is also known as: Parcel ID: 10-B-2.5

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

Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
October 15, 2026

NOTICE OF SALE
Lein Sale

Request a Notice of Lein Sale be Published on the following listed Units
Household & Misc, Items
Unit No 616
Dennis Curboy
99 Elm Street, Apt. 2
Southbridge, MA 01550
Household & Misc, Items
Unit No 273
Henry Skiba
126 North Street
Ware, MA 01082
Household & Misc, Items
Unit No 014
Shawn Gillette
49 Eden Street
Ludlow, MA 01056
Household & Misc, Items
Unit No 259
Simeon Paresky
P.O. Box 402
Sturbridge, MA 01566
Household & Misc, Items
Unit No 005
Corey Varnum
426 Cronin Rd
West Brookfield, MA 01585
Household & Misc, Items
October 15, 2026
October 22, 2026
October 29, 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. WO26P3042EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
David M. Rose
Date of Death: 08/01/2021
To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Caren L Fortin of North Oxford MA** and **Deborah L Rose of North Grosvenord CT** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: .

Caren L Fortin of North Oxford MA and **Deborah L Rose of North Grosvenord CT** 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 11/03/2026.**

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: October 01, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 15, 2026

NOTICE OF NAMES OF PERSONS APPEARING TO BE OWNERS OF CHECKS ISSUED BY THE TOWN OF STURBRIDGE WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN CASHED AND ARE DEEMED ABANDONED

In accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 200A, Section 9A, the Treasurer of the Town of Sturbridge is providing public notice of names of persons appearing to be owners of funds held by the Town and deemed abandoned. Unclaimed/ Abandoned property within the Treasury of the Town pertains to uncashed payroll and/or accounts payable checks.

Inquires should be made within 1 year.
Claim forms can be found at:
https://www.sturbridge.gov/finance-department/pages/unclaimed-abandoned-property-tailings

Anne Barrett
Boardwalk Group
Century Bank and Trust Company
Christopher E. Lucier
CPTC
Daimler Trust
Dencompany LLC
Emma Lalashuis
Good Shepard LLC
James Warner
Jason Wheelwright
Joel Halterman
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Meredith Deliberato
National Grid
NEIWPCC - Training
Stephen M and Isabel Tanacea
TESLA
Tiger Shark Tattoos
Timothy Riley
Town of Monson
Wel-Design Alarm Systems, INC.
October 15, 2026

Sturbridge Historical Society presents program on Lucy Danforth Colman

STURBRIDGE — On Thursday, Oct. 22 at 7 p.m., the Sturbridge Historical Society presents an illustrated talk by local historian Wally Hersee, "A Moral Fire: Lucy Danforth Colman — Abolitionist, Women's Rights Activist & Free Thinker" — at the Publick House (277 Main St., Sturbridge). The program is free and open to the public.

The talk highlights Sturbridge-born Lucy Danforth Colman, a 19th-century abolitionist, feminist campaigner, educator, and freethinker. Colman worked tirelessly to advance women's rights and build support for the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery. In her later years, she advocated for free-thought, marriage equality, and practical reason over dogma.

Wally Hersee is a retired registered nurse and author dedicated to uncovering forgotten New England history. His research has brought to light forgotten Revolutionary and Civil War veterans, abolitionists, educators, inventors, and local leaders in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. He also serves on local organizations focused on historic preservation and planning. [Find out more about Hersee, his work, and his publications at Heritage Oak Press, heritageoakpress.com]

The Society is hosting a food drive during the event to support the Joshua Hyde Public Library's Pages and Packs Pantry. Attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable, non-expired food items.

This program is graciously hosted by the Publick House.

Pho
Luc

Winter Coat Closet opens Oct. 31

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Winter Coat Closet, an ecumenical project, sponsored by local churches and located at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, will be open Saturdays from Oct. 31 to Dec. 19. The hours are 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

We have new & gently used warm winter coats for men, women and children. The coats are free but limited to one per person. All are welcome to come browse our racks and try something on! We also have a number of scarves, hats and mittens.

Donations are accepted at the Coat Closet on Saturdays when we are open or at the office. Please call and leave a message for Chris at Holy Trinity Church 508-765-9559.

The Winter Coat Closet is happy to be in its 19th year of helping people in our community stay warm!

St. Nicholas offers Albanian pies and ethnic delicacies

SOUTHBRIDGE — Order your Albanian pies and ethnic delicacies by Nov. 4 from the Daughters of St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church.

Albanian pies are available: Spinach, Leek, Squash and Sauerkraut. Whole pies (12x17): $45.00 each baked or frozen unbaked. Half pies (12x9): baked only $23 each. Baking instructions will be provided for the frozen unbaked.

The following delicacies are available: Kourabias (butter cookies) four for $5; Twist Cookies four for $4; Date-Nut Filled Cookies $2.50 each; Rolled Baklava $3 each and Kadaif $3 each.

To place an order, call the church number at 508-764-6226 by November 4 and leave your name and phone number to receive a confirmation.

Orders to be picked up at St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church, 126 Morris St., Southbridge, on Nov. 23 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

For Advertising Information, Call 774-200-7308
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A special event in partnership with Mechanics Hall – Club 321 meets WICN's Brian Barlow Concert Series

WORCESTER — Experience an unforgettable evening with blues and R&B legend Greg Piccolo and Heavy Juice at Club 321 on Oct. 22 at 7 p.m.

Join us at Club 321 for an unforgettable night with blues and R&B legend Greg Piccolo.

With a career spanning more than six decades, Greg Piccolo has helped define the sound of American rhythm & blues with his unmistakable tenor saxophone tone and powerhouse vocals—evoking the golden era when "sax was king." From forming his first band at just 13 in Westerly, R.I., to becoming one of the most respected voices in the genre, Piccolo has spent a lifetime dedicated to groove, grit, and timeless musical storytelling.

As a longtime leader and key creative force behind the acclaimed Roomful of Blues, he helped shape the band's signature horn-driven sound, leading them to international recognition, Grammy nominations, and worldwide touring success over a celebrated 25-year run. In 1994, he launched Heavy Juice, a more intimate and flexible project that opened the door to deeper artistic exploration. Since then, Greg has continued to tour, record, and evolve—delivering music rooted in tradition but alive with energy and swing.

This Club 321 performance is a rare chance to experience a true master of blues and R&B in an intimate setting. Expect big tone, deep groove, and a night of music that moves from the first note to the last. Join us for an extraordinary night in the heart of downtown Worcester. Experience a different side of Mechanics Hall, in our intimate Washburn Hall, transformed one Thursday night a month into your favorite club. Club 321 offers cabaret-style seating, handcrafted cocktails from the full bar, and an inviting atmosphere that brings audiences closer to the music. Come sip handcrafted drinks from our full bar and enjoy cabaret-style seating. An unforgettable evening in the heart of downtown Worcester!

General Admission Tickets: $30
VIP Ticket: $50

Enhance your Club 321 evening with premium reserved table seating and one complimentary drink per ticket. Enjoy the best views of the performance while relaxing in one of Worcester's most unique listening rooms. VIP Ticket and Drink

Ticket can be picked up at Will Call on the night of the performance, beginning at 6:15 p.m.

Mechanics Hall Members: 10 percent discount off a single ticket

Time: Doors 6:15 p.m. | Show 7 p.m.

Cash bar and refreshments available for purchase

Support for the WICN Brian Barlow Concert Series comes from Westboro Toyota, Duquette Law Group and Gorman Richardson Lewis Architects.

About WICN Public Radio

WICN Public Radio 90.5 FM is an independent, nonprofit public radio station serving Central Massachusetts and beyond. Through award-winning jazz, roots, blues, world music, and locally produced programming, WICN connects listeners with the arts, culture, education, and conversations that enrich the region. WICN's mission is to inspire, entertain, and engage diverse audiences while supporting the cultural vitality of the communities it serves. Broadcasting throughout Central New England and streaming worldwide, WICN brings exceptional music and local voices to audiences wherever they are.

The Brian Barlow Concert Series and Emerging Artist Series is dedicated to the memory of WICN's late General Manager and his legacy of supporting emerging talent and live music.

Bay Path named 2026 School of Recognition by Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is the only regional vocational technical school in Massachusetts named a 2026 School of Recognition by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The annual honor goes to a small group of schools for progress toward state accountability targets, especially improved achievement in English language arts and math. This year, 56 public schools statewide made the list.

Bay Path met 60 percent of its state accountability targets this year, up from 49% in 2025. That moved the school into DESE's "substantial progress" category and placed it in the 76th percentile of Massachusetts high schools. The gains came while Bay Path's roughly 1,200 students also trained across 23 vocational programs. The students come from Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer and Webster. Bay Path is the only school from those ten towns on this year's list.

"As a school community we are very proud of this accomplishment," said Kyle Brenner, Superintendent/Director. "Over the past several years, we have been intentional about building strong systems of learning. We've raised academic rigor, strengthened curriculum and instruction, and brought our academic and vocational programs into closer alignment. This recognition reflects the work of our entire school community."

Bay Path students demonstrated measurable academic growth in the following areas:

- English Language Arts achievement increased 3.4 points.
- Mathematics achievement increased 3.8 points.
- English Language Arts growth exceeded typical growth.
- Mathematics growth exceeded typical growth.
- Four-year graduation reached 98.9 percent.
- The annual dropout rate was 0 percent.
- Chronic absenteeism decreased from 11.1 to 10.2 percent.

"These numbers represent real progress for our students," said Dean Packard, Bay Path principal. "This is what happens when educators collaborate around student needs, when students take ownership of their learning, and when adults across our building refuse to settle for what was good enough yesterday."

About Bay Path

Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School prepares students for both college and careers through a rigorous blend of academic coursework and hands-on technical training. Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Bay Path serves ten Southern Worcester County communities: Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer, and Webster. Opening in 1972 atop Muggett Hill, the school has spent more than five decades offering 23 career areas alongside its academic program.

Healing Heroes Foundation launches equine-assisted recovery program

WHITINSVILLE — Responding to the growing need for mental health resources for first responders across Massachusetts, the Healing Heroes Foundation announced the launch of its Equine-Assisted Recovery Program.

The skills-based program utilizes horses as a bridge to mindfulness and grounding to combat high stress and post-traumatic stress disorder that heavily impact firefighters, EMTs, law enforcement officers, military veterans, and other first responders. Healing Heroes Foundation is a Massachusetts-based nonprofit dedicated to fostering community, connection, and camaraderie across first responders, military members, veterans, and their families.

"This experiential, relationship-based program provides the space, community, and support for first responders to ground themselves and engage with one of nature's most empathetic creatures," says Jaime Nicholas, Co-Director of Healing Heroes Foundation. "First responders across the country are facing significant mental health and wellness challenges, and we felt a responsibility to help address that need here in Massachusetts by introducing a unique program that fosters meaningful connection and mental well-being so first responders don't have to navigate life's challenges alone."

Hosted in Whitinsville, the eight-week Equine-Assisted Recovery Program is made possible through partnerships between the Healing Heroes Foundation, Cornerstone Community Care, and Superior Stables. At the end of the program, participants will be connected with financial health resources through a partnership between Healing Heroes Foundation and First Responders Credit Union.

The program is led by Christina Cronin, LICSW, President and Clinical Director of Cornerstone Community Care. Participants will engage in structured interactions with the horses through activities such as observing, grooming, leading, and other groundwork designed to support mindfulness, self-regulation, communication, and connection. Among the horses participating in the program is one cared for by a U.S. Army veteran and current psychiatric registered nurse, further reflecting the program's connection to the communities it serves.

The Healing Heroes Foundation has filled two cohorts of participants for its Equine-Assisted Recovery Program, showing a regional demand for this innovative resource. With a focus on solidifying the curriculum and measuring outcomes with its inaugural cohort, the organization's long-term goal is to grow the program's impact and geographical reach so this critical resource can be available to first responders across the state. It is currently in talks with additional Massachusetts stables.

Equine-assisted approaches have proven to meaningfully complement clinical therapy, exposing participants to a more active, relationship-based setting. Interactions with horses such as approaching, handling, leading, and caring can make abstract concepts like consent, trust, self-regulation, and communication more tangible.

ZERO 7

continued from page A1

tinuing to pursue their passion for music. They still practice twice a week, fine-tuning their sound to give audiences the best performance they can.

The band includes lead guitarist Marcus Santos, bass guitarist Jonas Kupranowicz, drummer Aydan Marcinek, and lead singer Gabe Howard. Together, they deliver energetic performances of classic rock anthems from the 1970s, '80s, and '90s, along with original songs. Their repertoire includes music from bands such as AC/DC, Alice in Chains, Metallica, Mötley Crüe, Nirvana, Pearl Jam, Stone Temple Pilots, and other classic and hard-rock favorites.

Zero 7 played their first gigs at The Barn in Stafford, Connecticut, and McCray's Farm in South Hadley, Massachusetts. The band now plays regularly at the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center in Three Rivers, where audiences have responded enthusiastically to their high-energy shows.

"I think they have huge potential," said Torie Jock, lead singer of Torie Jock & Damage Control and organizer of the Friday Night Rocks band lineups at the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center. "The sky's the limit for these guys," she said. Torie has been impressed by what she has seen from the young group.

Audience member Jeffrey Francisco, who has played in bands himself, offered similar praise after seeing Zero 7 perform. "I've played in bands throughout my life, and the lead guitarist is better than a lot of the guys I've played with."

For the band, performing is more than simply getting on stage. Zero 7 puts the money it earns from gigs toward better equipment, letting the four musicians keep investing in their sound and their future as a band.

Want to see Zero 7 in action? The band's next performance is Saturday, Oct. 17, at The O's Music Bar in Sunderland, allowing folks to hear the young musicians live.

Zero 7 is looking for additional gigs, particularly in Sturbridge and the surrounding communities. The band is available for music nights at bars and restaurants, local events, and private parties. For booking inquiries and availability, contact Marcus Santos at 774-318-8516 or email Zero7rocks@gmail.com.

PANARELLI

continued from page A1

ety and fear, Jordana blends technical confidence with genuine warmth. She is recognized by peers for her meticulous attention to safety and care protocols, but it is often the quiet moments between tasks that leave the deepest mark—taking extra time to explain a diagnosis, listening to a patient's worries, or reassuring a anxious family member.

That rare combination of skill and heart left a profound impression on Dr. Adelina Healy of Dudley during the final days of her late husband, William Healy, at Harrington Hospital.

"There was a nurse who went far beyond expectations right before Bill passed away," Dr. Healy recalled. "She worked the 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. night shift, demonstrating extraordinary compassion and empathy to Mr. Healy and our entire family. She ensured our privacy and offered genuine love and caring. In all my years at the bedside, this nurse truly had it all together. I could go home at night with complete peace of mind knowing she was there. Her name was Jordana."

For Dr. Healy, Jordana's presence provided comfort that extended well beyond routine medical administration, leaving a lasting mark long after the night shift ended.

Her dedication has earned equal praise from hospital leadership and colleagues.

"From the moment Jordana joined our team, she has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to her patients and their families," said Meaghan Krajcik, Manager of Medical-Surgical Services, ICU, Step-Down Unit, Pediatric Surgery, and Float Pool. "She consistently goes above and beyond to provide compassionate, safe, and thoughtful care. Jordana represents the very best of nursing, and we are incredibly fortunate to have her with us."

Panarelli's transition from LPN to RN stands as a powerful testament to personal determination and a focus on what matters most: the people entrusted to her care.

In an era where healthcare is increasingly shaped by fast-paced technology and complex clinical environments, Panarelli serves as a vital reminder that exceptional nursing is not only about the procedures a caregiver performs, but how they make patients feel. Through her clinical skill, steady heart, and unwavering dedication, Jordana Panarelli embodies the essence of compassionate care when patients need it most.

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Webster- 3 Oakwood Dr

Presenting a meticulously maintained Colonial! This inviting home, spans 2,042 sf +/-, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths. The living room offers a sophisticated ambiance, enhanced by hardwood floors, crown moldings & custom built in shelves. Also provides a 2 car att'd garage for secure parking & storage. **MLS#73523347** **$589,900**

Featured New Listing! 24 Laurelwood Dr Webster Lake Waterfront

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

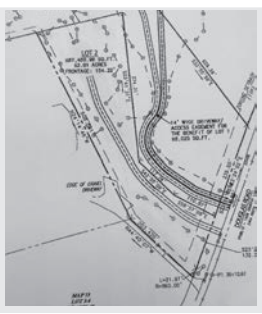
Webster ~ 33 Slater Street

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

Featured New Listing! Webster Lake Waterfront - 86 Bates Point Rd

This Beautifully Maintained Two-Level Waterfront Panoramic WATER VIEWS from almost every Single Window!! 50 Ft of Sandy Shoreline!! Front-row Northwest-facing Sunsets !!.. Offering a sweeping Wall of Windows to enjoy watching Mother Nature at her Finest!! Wood Flooring!!...This Main Level has an Effortless Layout adding a Roomy Convenient Bedroom & Large Closet, Full bath, 1/2 Bath & Laundry!!... Downstairs, the Walk-out Lower Level Transitions into a phenomenal Guest Retreat with 2 Bedrooms, Living space, and Full Bath!!..2 Car Garage! **MLS#7356983** **$1,050,000.**

Webster - Douglas Rd (Rt 16) ANR Lot # 2



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VIEW REALTOR MLS # 73507605 FOR MORE DETAILS **$948,000**

Webster Lake ~ 60 Wakefield Ave ~ Corner Lot!

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Go To MLS # 73582966 $277,500.

Webster Lake ~0 Wakefield Ave

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Go To MLS # 73582967 **$247,500**

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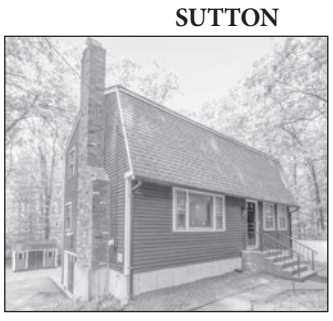

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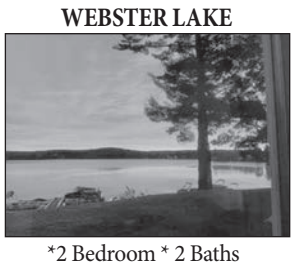

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A Trinity Tradition: Nature's Classroom

BY ANGELA SYMOCK
PRINCIPAL
TRINITY CATHOLIC ACADEMY

SOUTHBRIDGE — Were you one of the lucky students who attended Nature's Classroom as a sixth grader? For the past 26 years, I've had the privilege of watching Trinity students head off on this special adventure and return with stories, stronger friendships, and memories that last long after the week is over.

A few years ago, I was lucky enough to experience Nature's Classroom from a different perspective when I had the opportunity to chaperone alongside my daughter's sixth-grade class. What a blessing! I was able to see firsthand the learning, laughter, teamwork, and joy that takes place throughout the week. It is so much more than a field trip—it is an experience that challenges students, brings them together, and creates memories they will carry with them for years to come. Nature's Classroom has become such a cherished Trinity tradition, and each year our sixth graders add their own chapter to that tradition.

To our parents who make sacrifices to ensure their children can have this experience: well done! Your support makes these opportunities possible, and the value of giving our students experiences like this is truly priceless.

Here's to another generation of Trinity sixth graders learning, exploring, laughing, and making memories at Nature's Classroom!

St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish announces Second Annual Craft Fair

FISKDALE — St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish will hold its 2nd annual Craft Fair on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 9 am to 2 pm. The event takes place at the Parish Center at 16 Church St., Fiskdale.

The Craft Fair features twenty Massachusetts-based vendors with a wide range of handmade items from original-design quilts, jewelry, and wool fleece-lined mittens to unique birdhouses, decorative candles, seasonal décor, and homemade fudge.

Pleased with the outcome from last year's craft fair, eight vendors are returning.

Elizabeth Rossi, Craft Fair chair, said, "Words are insufficient to describe the artistic talent and efforts that these vendors have put into their products. It is such a joy to bring people together and celebrate the products that our vendors have created."

Proceeds from the Craft Fair benefit St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish in several ways. Funds raised by selling tables to vendors, raffle tickets, and delicious food options help to support the financial health of the parish. Furthermore, the Craft Fair emphasizes the importance of evangelization through fellowship.

"At this event, we have the opportunity to be present with people who are new to our parish and connect over common interests," Rossi said.

This year, visitors to the Craft Fair have an opportunity to win free raffle tickets through a three-step Selfie Scavenger Hunt. Participants are invited to follow our Facebook page (St. Anne – St. Patrick Fiskdale). They are then asked to take a selfie while visiting five locations on St. Anne – St. Patrick's property and post those images to the parish Facebook page. The sites include the Rendezvous Room, a welcoming space for receptions, gatherings, celebrations, and mercy meals; the Hall of Saints; the Russian Icon Museum; the Pieta; and St. Anne Votive Chapel.

St. Anne - St. Patrick Parish invites the public to consider supporting artisans for their holiday gift-buying while shopping locally.