

STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

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Thursday-Friday, September 24-25, 2026

FOCAS trying to raise money at Old Home Day festivities

BY JIMMY FALZONE
FOCAS-MEMBER — BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHARLTON — On Sunday, Sept. 6, Friends of Charlton Animal Shelter (FOCAS) volunteers joined the Labor Day weekend Old Home Day festivities to raise funds for the local animal shelter. Despite the raining morning, the community turned out to enjoy the beautiful weather that followed.

FOCAS was founded in 2008 by residents concerned about the deteriorating Charlton Animal Shelter. The organization supports the town's animal control program. In 2009, Animal Control Officer Ann Sellow, Assistant Animal Control Officer Brent



Courtesy Photo

From left, FOCAS board member Shirley Ramsey and her sister, volunteer Jeannie Chamberland, at the FOCAS tent on Charlton Common during Old Home Day. They sold pet items and raffle tickets, with all proceeds benefiting the Charlton Animal Shelter.

Sellow, and FOCAS members organized a petition to place funding for a new shelter on the town meeting agenda. Voters approved of \$96,000 for construction materials. To

raise additional funds, FOCAS held the "Hot Rods for Homeless Animals" car show in August 2009 at the former Howlett Lumber Company at Trolley Crossing. Construction

of the new Charlton Animal Shelter began that year and was completed in 2011 with FOCAS donations, volunteer labor provided at no cost, and town funding. View the slide-show on the Photos page of our website of the new construction and of all the contractors that provided their skills and free labor.

FOCAS's Nutritional Assistance for Pets Program (NAPP) provides pet food to low-income Charlton residents. So far in 2026, it has helped 13 families feed their pets and keep them at home. Food is distributed as funding permits, thanks to the continued support of residents and local businesses. To learn more about our work, visit www.focascharlton.org or follow us at www.facebook.com/friendsofcharltonanimalshelter/. FOCAS is also seeking new members and board directors to support our 501(c) non-profit organization. Interested individuals may mail a letter of interest to the address below, and please leave your phone number and we will follow up. Meetings are held about every other month at the Charlton Animal Shelter. Animal lovers can donate through our website or mail a contribution to: Friends of Charlton Animal Shelter (FOCAS)

P.O. Box 322
Charlton, MA 01507

Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust to host Kids and Grands scavenger hike and Grands scavenger hike

CHARLTON — The Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust has announced that it will host a "Kids and Grands" scavenger hike at its Willow Tree Conservation Area at the end of Willow Tree Lane in Charlton on Saturday, Oct. 3.

The event will run from 10 a.m. until noon. The hunt will cover the three-tenths-of-a-mile loop through woods on a level cart road. The terrain is suitable for most walkers with sturdy, closed toe shoes. Parking is on a neighborhood road, so we ask that you are respectful. CHPT will provide a nature bingo list and encouragement.

This is an opportunity for grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles and younger children to have fun in a tame, wooded environment. CHPT will also have information on their other properties that kids can graduate up to as they get older. More information will be available on our Facebook page and on our website at www.charltontrust.org.

CHPT is a 501(c)3 non-profit land trust committed to conserving open space in Charlton. It currently stewards 19 parcels covering more than 200 acres. Recently, CHPT has collaborated with the Charlton Historical Society for talks about mill life at their Little River mill ruins site, sponsored a birding in Central Massachusetts talk by Mass Audubon at the Charlton Public Library and led hikes along the Midstate Trail through the Route 20 Cow Tunnel.



Courtesy Photo

On Saturday, Sept. 12, Sturbridge Troop 161 joined the official 25th anniversary of "Flags on the 48." This annual 9/11 Memorial Hike honors the victims and first responders of Sept. 11, 2001, by raising the American flag simultaneously on all 48 of New Hampshire's 4,000-foot White Mountain peaks. The Scouts tackled Mt. Lafayette, Mt. Liberty, Mt. Lincoln, carrying heavy flagpoles, rigging, and equipment up rugged trails to ensure the flag flies precisely from noon to 2 p.m. alongside 47 other volunteer teams across the state.

Flamenco Boston bringing music and dance to Jacob Edwards Library

SOUTHBRIDGE — The sights and sounds of traditional flamenco will fill the Jacob Edwards Library when Flamenco Boston presents a free performance Thursday, Oct. 8, at 6:30 p.m.

The program is part of a series of performances celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month and will introduce local audiences to flamenco through live music, dance and a discussion of the art form's cultural roots.

The Southbridge performance will feature dancer Cristina Candela, singer Juan Pedro Jiménez, violinist Ángela Varo and flamenco guitarist Anthony Tran.

Together, the musicians and dancer will demonstrate the interplay of voice, guitar, violin and movement that gives flamenco its distinctive character. The performers will also provide background about the development of flamenco and its roots in Andalucía, a region of southern Spain shaped over centuries by the interaction of different peoples and cultural traditions.

The program is intended both for those already familiar with flamenco and those experiencing the art form for the first time.

Flamenco Boston seeks to make flamenco music and dance accessible to communities that may not regularly have opportunities to experience live performances of the art form. Bringing the program into a public library setting allows residents of different ages and backgrounds to experience the performance close to home and without the cost of admission.

The Oct. 8 program is free and open to people of all ages.

The performance is made possible through a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council. The local council is part of the Massachusetts Cultural Council's statewide network supporting community cultural programming. The Southbridge Cultural Council provides grants supporting arts, humanities and interpretive science activities benefiting the community.

The Jacob Edwards Library is located in Southbridge. The performance begins at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8.

Roots and Relics to bring Celtic music to Federated Church of Sturbridge

STURBRIDGE — Roots and Relics, a central Massachusetts ensemble celebrating traditional Irish and Celtic music, will perform in concert on Friday, Oct. 9, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale, 8 Maple St., Sturbridge. Admission is free of charge, but a free will collection will be taken during the concert.

Formed at St. Patrick's Parish in Whitinsville, Roots and Relics grew out of a shared love for traditional Irish and Celtic music, as well as Celtic-inspired music from around the world. The musicians bring backgrounds in classical, jazz, rock and traditional American music to their performances, creating a distinctive sound that remains rooted in Celtic musical traditions.

The members of Roots and Relics are Jillian Martin (violin), Bert Baldarelli (percussion and bodhrán), Christopher Bilodeau (guitar, piano, and vocals), Katrina Ireland Bilodeau (vocals, bass guitar, and ukulele), and Matthew Reilly (penny whistle).

Collectively, the musicians bring extensive experience in classical and contemporary performance, music education, church music, musical theater and traditional American and Irish music. Their backgrounds range from



study at Berklee College of Music and the Longy School of Music to decades of performance in churches, theater productions, community ensembles and traditional music groups.

The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale joyfully celebrates Christ's pres-

ence and God's grace in our lives. All are welcome. Join us for worship on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. For additional information, please visit the Church Web site at sturfed.org, or contact the Church office at (774) 304-1021 or churchoffice@sturfed.org.

EGYPTIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 26 & 27 2026

HOSTED BY
ST. MARY AND POPE KYRILLOS
COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH
74 GOLD RD., CHARLTON, MA 01507
stmrk.com

11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

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CHICKEN SHAWARMA

KOSHARY

SHISH TAWOOK

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Enjoy delicious homemade Egyptian food, a welcoming atmosphere, and a wonderful weekend of fellowship.

SCAN HERE

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 "Yiddische Folksmenshn." Peggy also sang Balkan and Russian folk music in the Ethnic Dance Theatre Choir. She taught calligraphy classes and children'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.

Charlton Sewing Center’s Cathy Racine to speak to Yankee Quilters Guild

CHARLTON — On Tuesday, Oct. 13, Yankee Quilters Guild will welcome Cathy Racine of the Charlton Sewing Center and Charlotte Kassal, who will bring a remarkable and emotional collection of approximately 200 hand-stitched pieces of fabric of art made by women around the world.

"We Speak in Stitches" is a collaboration between project manager Charlotte Kassal, Racine, and others to collect textile works by women on themes of democracy, freedom, and civil rights. After the individual pieces were mailed to Kassal, work began with staff of the Charlton Sewing Center to combine blocks into 23 large quilted panels for display.

Kassal said, "I started this project over a year and a half ago through the 'Slow Stitch' group. This group has 149,000 members. I proposed to the group

that we create 10 and a half by 10 and a half inch blocks making statements of how we feel about Democracy, Freedom, Civil Rights, and it was an inclusive project. Whatever a person's "leanings" were, their work would be included when the blocks were assembled into quilt panels."

The event at Yankee will be the second public viewing after the project opened in September at the Charlton Sewing Center.

The program will begin at 7:00 pm. at Emma's Quilt Cupboard, Horace Mann Plaza, Franklin. Non-members welcome for a fee of \$5.

On November 10th, Yankee will present "Piece by Piece," a program on making "mosaic quilts" with quilt artist Heidi Proffetty. \$5 for nonmembers. For more information, contact yankeequilters11@gmail.com.

REAL ESTATE

Charlton
\$7,900,000, 267 Southbridge Rd, Foreign Auto Servicing In, to Suburban Charlton LLC.
\$750,000, 21 Brackett Hill Rd, Lois M Sugrue 2011 T, and Sugrue, Lois M, to Lirette, Beau M, and Lirette, Kristina V.
\$685,000, 32 Hycrest Rd, Popuri, Sivarama P, and Popuri, Suma Sindhu, to Manzella, Brandon, and Manzella, Chelsey.
\$440,000, 74 Hill Rd #A, Leblane, Ronald, to Zelencich 3rd, Ronald J.
\$401,500, 7-L Stevens Rd, 7 Ab L Stevens Inc, to Giroux, Renee.
\$121,000, 51 N Main St, Hansen, Christopher R, and Hansen, Krystal L, to Capital Design Bldr Inc.
\$118,000, 3 Colicum Dr, Hill, Anna Elizabeth, to Emery, Jason M.
HOLLAND
\$400,000, 9 Vinton Ln, Lockwood, Timothy S, and Lockwood, Christine M, to Bottomley, William, and Bottomley, Elisabeth.
SOUTHBRIDGE
\$1,650,000, 233 S Patterson, Cap Prop-Southbridge LLC, to

O'Reilly Auto Ent LLC.
\$830,000, 12 Partridge Hill Rd, Godwin, Richard, and Godwin, Sian Catherine, to Roopnarine, Kiranyadiva, and Roopnarine, Antionette.
\$390,000, 28 Armory Ln, Gonzalez, Braulio, to Rivas, Steven Rojas, and Pagan-Cruz, Tracylynn.
\$380,000, 50 Roosevelt Dr, Bellerive, Eric D, and Bellerive, Tabitha A, to Young, Makel.
\$315,000, 127 Cliff St, Elm St Holdings Rt LLC, to Alvarado, Cynthia.
\$308,900, 6 Walker Ct, Phoenix Properties LLC, to Barry, Courtney Jean.
\$270,000, 52 Crestwood Dr, Lagrant, Susan E, to Elza, Ebon, and Elza, Dawn.
\$225,000, 30 Brook Rd, Barrett, Maria T, to Krawczyk, Marek.
\$214,900, 18-A Maria Ave #3, Rojas, Edward L, and Berrios, Emma A, to Negron, Luis Rosado.
\$150,000, 10 Marjorie Ln, Senical, Joseph C, to Hackett, Yong Hui.
SOUTHBRIDGE
\$1,650,000, 233 S Patterson, Cap Prop-Southbridge LLC, to

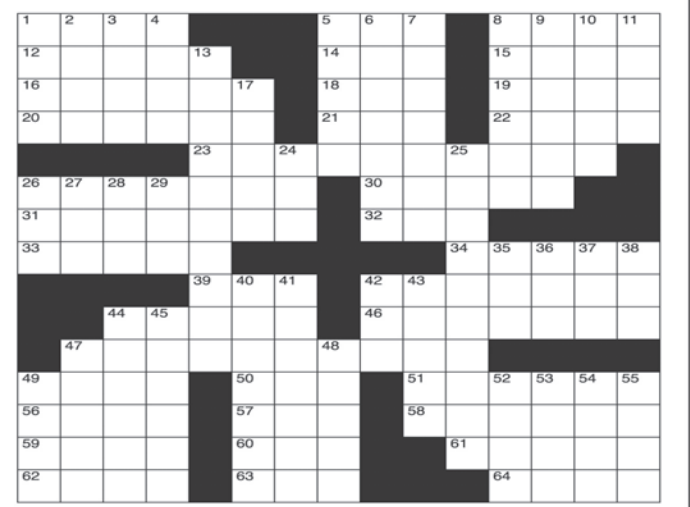
PRIVATE CONTRACTORS FOR SNOW PLOWING

The Town of Charlton Highway Department is looking for Private Contractors to assist with snow plowing operations during the winter season of 2026-2027. Interested parties can obtain applications by contacting the Charlton Highway Department at (508) 248-2212 or via email at dpwadmin@townofcharlton.net. These positions will remain open until filled. The Town of Charlton retains the right to reject any and all applications in order to serve the best interests of the town.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. "Wicker Man" actor Nic

5. Protection

8. Cloth worn over a shoulder

12. Ceramic jars

14. Midway between northeast and east

15. South American hummingbird

16. Platforms

18. Taxi

19. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls

20. A citizen of Yemen

21. Military mailbox

22. Nuclear near reach weapon

23. Clears

26. Broken

30. Actress Lathan

31. Avid fan

32. One and only

33. Proceeding
34. River in Portugal and Spain

39. Doctor of Education

42. Defeat handily

44. Less complicated

46. Handyman tools

47. Written works

49. Castle dweller's safety net

50. Honorable title (Turkish)

51. Greatest

56. Can do

57. A place to sleep on the road

58. Member of U.S. Navy

59. 24-hour units of time

60. Actor Horsley

61. In a way, sounds off

62. Formerly (archaic)

63. Eye infection

64. Plundered

CLUES DOWN

1. William __, Buffalo Bill

2. Wings

3. Candle or lantern

4. Freedom from difficulty

5. A type of pie

6. Metrical foot

7. __ Kerr, actress

8. Nap

9. Popular singer Bocelli

10. Immune responses

11. "Mad Men" leading man

13. A citizen of Senegal

17. Philly basketball player

24. Not even

25. Measures wind speed

26. Insecticide

27. Jordan glided through it

28. Bird-like dinosaur genus

29. Expression of satisfaction
35. Big Blue

36. One point east (clockwise) of due north

37. Of she

38. Oral rehydration solution

40. Knocks off course

41. Popular cop show of yesteryear

42. Zhou dynasty state

43. Genus of gulls

44. Onion flatbreads

45. Declare as true

47. Of a lobe

48. Missouri county

49. Produced

52. Volcanic crater

53. Off-Broadway theater award

54. KU hoops coach Bill

55. Check for

PUZZLE SOLUTION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (May 25 will be our last open Saturday until Labor Day) Sunday: Closed

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Office Hours:
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..... 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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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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Weekdays 9:00-4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

STURBRIDGE 508-347-6463
Weekdays 8:30 – 5:00 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

BRIMFIELD: 413-245-3451
Weekdays: 9:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

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

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

Sturbridge Historical Society hosting presentation by historian Manisha Sinha

STURBRIDGE — Join the Sturbridge Historical Society and the Joshua Hyde Public Library for an evening with renowned historian and Sturbridge resident Manisha Sinha on Thursday, Sept. 24, at 7 p.m. The event will take place at the Sturbridge Senior Center.

As our nation celebrates the 250th anniversary of its founding, Professor Sinha will explore how the Civil War and emancipation functioned as a "Second American Revolution." This transformative period led to the re-founding of the American Republic during Reconstruction, establishing birthright citizenship and the first federal civil rights laws. Her talk is drawn from her latest acclaimed work, *The Rise and Fall of the Second American Republic: Reconstruction, 1860-1920*.

The presentation will delve into the overthrow of this Second Republic by domestic terror and legal decisions that hollowed out Reconstruction-era protections. The promise of American citizenship regardless of race or color would not be realized until the Civil Rights Movement in the twentieth century. We still live with the competing legacies of reactionary authoritarianism and progressive democracy bequeathed by this history. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing following the presentation.

Having resided in Sturbridge since 1994,



Professor Manisha Sinha has authored several distinguished, prize-winning volumes including *The Slave's Cause: A History of Abolition* (2016), a work that earned a spot on the National Book Award longlist for non-fiction. A graduate of Columbia University with a Ph.D. in American history—where her doctoral research was a Bancroft Prize

nominee—she spent more than two decades at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. During her tenure there, she received the Chancellor's Medal, the faculty's most prestigious commendation. Since 2016, she has

served as the Draper Chair in American History at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, and is the Past President of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic.

Trinity Catholic Academy welcomes new Student Council members



SOUTHBRIDGE — Trinity Catholic Academy is pleased to welcome its Student Council members for the 2026–2027 school year. After competitive campaigning, these student leaders in grades 5-8 were elected by their peers. Congratulations!

Student Council gives students the opportunity to develop leadership skills while making a positive difference in our school community. Throughout the year, council members help plan and support school activities, organize service projects, give back to others, and find ways to make TCA an even stronger and more welcoming community.

Thank you to long-time advisors Ms. Colleen Casey and Mrs. Lori Primavera who spend countless hours guiding Student Council members during their many events. "Student Council gives students the opportunity to share their ideas, work together, plan school activities, and find ways to make a positive difference at TCA" says Mrs. Primavera. Ms. Casey adds, "We especially enjoy seeing their creativity and enthusiasm as they work together to make our school an even better place for everyone."

We congratulate our new Student Council members and look forward to all they will accomplish this year!

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

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. Salvador 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.StAnneStPatrickParish.com or call 508-347-9353.

St. Anne St. Patrick Parish & Shrine is an active parish community serving the Sturbridge area and beyond, offer-

ing 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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Michael
Age 14
Registration #6309

Michael, who prefers to be called Mikey, is a bright, friendly, and lovable young man with a wonderful sense of humor. He has a warm and joyful personality that can light up a room, and his smile and laughter are truly contagious. Mikey has a natural ability to make others laugh and connect with the people around him. Mikey is very curious and loves asking questions when there is something he doesn't understand. He is an avid reader, especially enjoying book series that allow him to get immersed in different stories and adventures. He is currently in 8th grade and is a bright and capable student, though he may occasionally need some support staying focused on his schoolwork. Mikey also has a creative and adventurous side. He is a great dancer, although he can be a little self-conscious when others are watching, and he is learning to play the guitar. He recently played on a football team and absolutely loved it, proving to be an excellent player. When he's not playing sports, Mikey enjoys fishing, hiking, camping, and spending time outdoors. With his curiosity, sense of humor, and infectious personality, Mikey is a wonderful young man who is sure to bring joy to those around him.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22549117966>

Can I Adopt?

If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ+ singles and couples. As an adoptive parent, you won't have to pay any fees, adoption from foster care is completely free in Massachusetts.

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

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER
BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

A walk in the woods can
plant something lasting

Some of the best lessons children receive do not come from a classroom, a textbook or a screen. Sometimes they come from following a trail through the woods, searching for something on a nature bingo card and discovering that there is much more happening beneath the trees than they had ever noticed before.

That is part of what makes the Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust's upcoming "Kids and Grands" scavenger hike such a worthwhile community event.

Scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 3, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Willow Tree Conservation Area, the outing is deliberately modest. There is no strenuous expedition planned. The hunt follows a three-tenths-of-a-mile loop through the woods along a level cart road, making it approachable for families with younger children and adults who may not be looking for a challenging hike. That accessibility matters.

One of the best ways to build an appreciation for conservation is to introduce people to open spaces in a way that feels welcoming rather than intimidating. A young child does not need to climb a mountain to discover the outdoors. A grandparent does not need to tackle miles of rugged trail to share an afternoon in nature with a grandchild. Sometimes, a short walk is enough.

The scavenger hunt also recognizes something important about conservation: Protecting land is only part of the job. A community must develop a relationship with that land if preservation is going to have meaning for future generations.

The Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust currently stewards 19 parcels encompassing more than 200 acres. Those properties represent a substantial commitment to keeping portions of Charlton open and undeveloped. But acreage figures alone cannot create a conservation ethic. That happens when residents explore these places, learn their history and begin to regard them as part of the community's shared inheritance.

The trust has been finding different ways to encourage that connection. Its recent activities have included collaborating with the Charlton Historical Society on programs about mill life at the Little River mill ruins, sponsoring a Mass Audubon presentation about birding in Central Massachusetts at the Charlton Public Library and leading hikes along the Midstate Trail through the Route 20 Cow Tunnel.

Each approaches the community's landscape from a different direction. History, wildlife, recreation and conservation are not separate subjects when people experience them in the places where they live. They are pieces of the same story.

The "Kids and Grands" hike adds another important piece by focusing on generations experiencing that story together.

There is something especially appropriate about grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles introducing younger family members to protected land. Conservation is, at its heart, an agreement between generations. People protect something today because they believe someone tomorrow should have the opportunity to experience it.

Children who begin with a three-tenths-of-a-mile scavenger hunt may eventually be ready for longer trails and more challenging properties. Some may grow into adults who hike, bird-watch, volunteer, study local history or support future conservation efforts. Others may simply remember an October morning spent walking through the Charlton woods with someone they loved. Both outcomes have value.

Communities sometimes think about open-space preservation in terms of complicated questions involving property, development and acreage. Those questions certainly matter. But conservation also happens on a much smaller and more personal scale. It happens when a child learns to stop and look closely at a tree, a bird, a leaf or a track along the trail.

Charlton has protected places where those discoveries can happen. Inviting the next generation to experience them may be one of the best ways to ensure those places continue to matter.

Letter submission
policy

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

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

OPINION

Stress-test your retirement
portfolio in volatile markets



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income? You may need to reduce exposure to riskier assets such as stocks and increase holdings in more stable ones, like bonds or cash equivalents. Your ideal allocation depends on your risk tolerance, spending needs, and other income sources. The

If you're planning to retire within the next few years — or you've recently retired — market volatility may feel especially unsettling. After years of saving and planning, you're now entering a stage where your

portfolio may shift from growth to providing income. The five-year window before and after your retirement date is especially critical — when market downturns can have an outsized impact on your long-term financial security.

While you can't control the markets, there are meaningful steps you can take to "stress-test" your retirement income, so it is not consumed entirely by market drops before you stop working.

- Explore your short- and medium-term income needs. One of the most important steps to take is to understand how much of your portfolio you'll need to rely on for income. It depends on your other income sources such as Social Security, IRAs, 401ks, pensions and wages if you work in retirement. You'll want to avoid taking too much from your portfolio in response to a decline because that could increase the likelihood that your money may not last through retirement. A financial advisor can help you determine your threshold for monthly withdrawals, based on your income needs, long-term outlook, inflation, and risk tolerance.

- Review your emergency fund. Are you able to set aside at least three to six months' worth of essential expenses in cash or very low-risk investments? That could allow you to avoid digging too deeply into your portfolio or selling stocks or other volatile assets at a loss if the market drops. The income bridge from an emergency fund gives your longer-term investments time to recover and can reduce stress during down markets. You may even find you want more than six months in this fund to help weather emergencies, depending on your risk and your comfort level.

- Review your mix. As you approach or begin retirement, does your portfolio reflect your need for stability and

goal is to shield your savings from major losses just as you begin drawing from them.

- Consider market swings. If the value of your portfolio dropped 20% tomorrow and stayed there for a period, would you need to change your lifestyle or spending immediately? Would you need to go back to work? If your answer is yes, revisit your asset allocation or spending plan. A more conservative approach may offer less upside but can provide greater confidence during the early years of retirement.

- Assess your spending. Even small budget adjustments can make a big difference, especially early in retirement. Do you need to consider postponing a major purchase or trimming discretionary spending? If you're still working, directing extra income into savings can help build a cushion. If you're already retired, keeping withdrawals as low as possible during market downturns can help support long-term sustainability.

- Stay grounded — and get support. Market swings are inevitable, but emotional reactions and risky investing can lead to costly mistakes. Don't abandon your investment strategy. Instead, focus on what you can control: your asset mix, spending, and flexibility. A financial advisor can help you stress-test your retirement plan, evaluate your options and stay focused on your long-term goals — even when the markets are anything but steady.

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@edward-jones.com. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

The chair that knows
summer is over
LANTERNS ALONG
MAIN STREET

By CHARLES

There is a chair sitting in my backyard that knows something I have been refusing to admit. Summer is over.

Technically, I suppose there are arguments to be made about calendars and equinoxes. I am not interested in them. The chair has rendered its verdict.

It is one of those outdoor chairs that spent most of June, July and August getting dragged around the yard. Sometimes it was on the patio. Sometimes it migrated under a tree. Occasionally it wound up near the grill, where I would sit with a cold drink and offer completely unnecessary supervision to whatever was cooking.

For three months, that chair had a purpose. Now it sits there alone. I walked past it the other morning and realized nobody had occupied it in at least two weeks.

This is how September works in New England. Summer does not really end. We simply stop using summer things. Nobody holds a ceremony for the garden hose. One day, it is stretched across the lawn because the tomatoes need water. A few weeks later, it is still lying there, except now you step over it and think, "I really ought to put that away." You do not put it away. You simply continue thinking about putting it away until sometime in October, when the weather forecast contains a word such as "freeze," and suddenly the garden hose becomes an emergency.

The same thing happens with the citronella candle. Back in July, that candle was essential equipment. It sat proudly on the table, bravely defending civilization from mosquitoes. Now it contains three drowned moths, two leaves and approximately half an inch of rainwater.

Still, I cannot throw it away. There is wax left. That is how they get you.

tion. It is seasonal caution.

Anyone who has lived in Massachusetts long enough knows that September cannot be trusted. It will give you a 48-degree morning, convince you to locate a sweatshirt, then produce an afternoon warm enough to make you regret every decision you have made since breakfast.

So we hesitate. The window fan stays upstairs. The rake comes out, but the lawn mower remains ready. There might be a pumpkin on the front steps while a beach towel is still hanging in the garage. This is the only time of year when the household inventory makes absolutely no sense.

Eventually, of course, autumn wins. The chairs get folded. The hose gets drained. The grill gets used less often. That forgotten bottle of sunscreen gets moved somewhere mysterious, where nobody will be able to find it next Memorial Day. But I am not quite ready yet. The chair can stay out another week.

Maybe we'll get one of those unexpectedly warm September afternoons. Maybe I'll sit outside for a while with a cup of coffee and enjoy the yard before the leaves really start coming down. Or maybe I won't. Either way, putting the chair away feels a little too much like admitting something. And around here, summer deserves at least a decent argument before we let it go.

My wife has begun making subtle observations about the collection of summer equipment lingering around the house.

"Are you going to put those chairs away?"

Eventually.

"What about the fan in the bedroom?"

Still warm occasionally.

"The cooler?"

Could need it.

"For what?"

You never know.

This is not procrastination.

October events at Charlton Public Library

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

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

The library is closed Monday, Oct. 12. The library will be open 1-5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 21.

Movies @ the Library

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

October 6: STAR WARS: THE MANDALORIAN AND GROGU. Once a lone bounty hunter, Mandalorian Din Djarin and his apprentice Grogu embark on an exciting new Star Wars adventure. 2026. Rated PG-13. 132 minutes. Starring: Martin Scorsese, Pedro Pascal, & Jeremy Allen White.

October 13: LISA FRANKENSTEIN. Lisa is an unusual young woman who harbors a strange crush on a handsome bust adorning a gravestone in her local cemetery. When a series of wild circumstances reanimate the deceased man, the two decide to give their fledgling attraction a chance at life. 2024. Rated PG-13. 101 minutes.

Featuring: Jenna Davis, Liza Soberano, Carla Gugino, Kathryn Newton, & Cole Sprouse.

October 20: MOANA. Live-action adaptation of the 2016 Disney animated film 'Moana'. In ancient Polynesia, when a terrible curse incurred by the demigod Maui reaches Moana's island, she answers the Ocean's call to seek out Maui to set things right. 2026. Rated PG. 115 minutes. Cast: Catherine Laga'aia, Dwayne Johnson, & John Tui.

October 27: HAUNTED MANSION. The narrative tells the story of mother-son tandem Gabbie and Travis as they try to get rid of the mansion's resident ghosts. They enlist the help of a priest while a paranormal tour guide and a psychic are also on the ride for this exorcism purge. But with the presence of entities like the Hatbox Ghost, it's going to be a big challenge. This film is a theatrical adaptation of The Haunted Mansion theme park attraction in Disneyland. 2023. Rated PG-13. 122 minutes. Starring: Rosario Dawson, LaKeith Stanfield, Tiffany Haddish, & Hasan Minhaj.

Drop-in Tech Help*

Wednesdays, October 7 & 28 from 9:30 am to noon - Local History Room - no registration required

Thursdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22 from 9:30 am-12:00 pm - Local History Room - no registration required

Saturdays, October 3, 17, 24, 31 from 9:30 am-12:15 pm - Local History Room - no registration required

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

One-on-One Tech Help*

Saturdays, October 3, 17, 24, 31 at 12:30 pm or 1:30 pm - Local History Room - registration required

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

Exploring Massachusetts Property Records

Thursday, October 1, 6:00-7:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

The Charlton Library Genealogy Group is a friendly group of people who share an interest in genealogy. We meet on the first Thursday of each month from 6:00-7:30 in the Community Meeting Room. The meetings are free and open to the public. This month genealogist Seema Kenney will present on Exploring Massachusetts Property Records. Curious about who once owned your home? Wondering what land your ancestors may have bought or sold? This presentation introduces everyday researchers to the fascinating world of Massachusetts land records. Learn how to use online tools like MassLandRecords.com, understand the meaning behind different types of deeds, and uncover surprising details—from property disputes to family connections. Whether you're exploring genealogy or local history, land records can help piece together the past in a way few other sources can.

Preschool Storytime (Ages 3-5)

Fridays, October 2, 16, 23, 30, 10:00-10:45 am - Storytime Room

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

Wiggles & Giggles for ages 2-5 (YFCP)
Mondays, October 5, 19, 26 (no class 10/12) from 10:00-11:00 am - Storytime Room - registration required

Children ages 2-5, with a parent/caregiver, will sing, move, play musical instruments, learn rhythm, and listen to stories in this FREE series facilitated by music teacher Laine Hanlon! "Wiggles & Giggles" fosters physical, cognitive, social, and emotional learning through music and motion. Registration is required. Space is limited.

This program is run by the YMCA Family & Community Partnership. This series is sponsored by the YMCA Family & Community Partnership (YFCP) and hosted by the Charlton Public Library. YFCP is a Massachusetts Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE) grant funded by the Department of Early Education & Care and awarded to the YMCA of Central Massachusetts.

Play Games!

Mondays, October 5 & 19 (party games), 26 (Cribbage), 12:30-2:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required. Beginners and experienced players are welcome! Join us to play an old favorite or learn a new game!

Better Read Than Dead Book Club
Wednesday, October 7, 11:00-12:00 - Local History Room - no registration required

Do you love true crime? So do we! Join us for a monthly meet up to discuss entertaining and fascinating details about true crimes (no meetings in July & August). The book will be available at the adult circulation desk one month prior to the meeting. This month we will discuss Lucky by Alice Sebold.

The Crafty Chapter for Tweens & Teens
Tuesdays, October 6 & 27, 5:30-6:30 pm - Storytime Room - no registration required

Do you like to knit, crochet, sew, embroider, needle felt, or do other fiber arts? Really, any portable craft is welcome! Join us to hang out, practice your craft, learn from more experienced friends, or share your knowledge with others! **Please bring your current projects to work on!*** This group is for tweens and teens aged 9-18. Registration is not required! (Teen Volunteers: You can earn community service hours for attending and participating in this program!)

Understanding iCloud and Your Apple Account*

Wednesday, October 7, 12:30-1:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

This class provides insight into the ways iCloud helps to safely store our personal data and share it with our other devices. We learn where to find information about our Apple accounts, manage the information stored on iCloud, and synchronize our devices.

Dementia Friendly Charlton Meeting
Wednesday, October 7, 2:30-3:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required, all welcome.

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

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

CPL Book Discussion - Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson

Thursday, October 8, 6:00-7:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

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

Electricity and Circuits: Building Basic Circuits for Grades 3-5*

Friday, October 9, 10:30 am-12:00 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

Why does a light turn on with the flip of a switch? How does a motor spin? Electricity is all around us, and now you get to understand how it works! Through hands-on activities, you will apply your math skills to explore how elements like resistors, capacitors, LEDs, sensors, and motor driver boards perform specific roles within a circuit. You'll build your own circuits on a breadboard, use a multimeter, and make cool projects like blinking lights and a traffic signal. You'll learn how electricity flows, how to measure it, and how to troubleshoot when something doesn't work. This workshop is for kids in grades 3-5. Registration is required.

Electricity and Circuits: Building Basic Circuits for Grades 6-8*

Friday, October 9, 12:30-2:00 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

Why does a light turn on with the flip of a switch? How does a motor spin? Electricity is all around us, and now you get to understand how it works! Through hands-on activities, you will apply your math skills to explore how elements like resistors, capacitors, LEDs, sensors, and motor driver boards perform specific roles within a circuit. You'll build

your own circuits on a breadboard, use a multimeter, and make cool projects like blinking lights and a traffic signal. You'll learn how electricity flows, how to measure it, and how to troubleshoot when something doesn't work. This workshop is for kids in grades 6-8. Registration is required.

Gentle Yoga
Saturday, October 10, 10:30-11:30 am - Dexter Hall - registration required

Breathe, stretch, and unwind in this relaxing 60-minute yoga class. Perfect for beginners and experienced yogis alike, this class will blend gentle, mindful movement with calming breathwork and end in a deeply restful savasana. Bring a mat, water bottle and any props. (Some blocks and knee pads will be available.) Led by Erin Anderson, RYT-200 yoga instructor and SEL facilitator. For adults and teens ages 13 and up.

Learn Adobe Acrobat Basics*

Saturday, October 10, 11:00-12:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Today we'll be walking you through the basics of using Adobe Acrobat. We'll cover: creating a PDF from a Word file or image; creating one PDF from multiple files; adding, reordering, and removing pages; editing; adding and removing comments; exporting a PDF to a different file type.

Basic Adobe Lightroom Classic*

Saturday, October 10, 1:00-2:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Lightroom Classic is a software program by Adobe that allows you to view, manage, and edit digital photographs.

Sample skills to be covered: understanding the screen elements; managing a photo library; using histograms; basic presets – quick editing; editing photos; all-over edits; cropping and aligning; basic masking (editing part of a photo).

Friends of Charlton Public Library
Tuesday, October 13, 3:30-4:45 pm - Community Meeting Room

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

Book Group at the Senior Center
Wednesday, October 14, 10:30-11:30 am - Senior Center @ Town Hall

The Senior Center Book Group meets at the Senior Center at 10:30 am on the second Wednesday of the month. Everyone is welcome! We will discuss Being Mortal by Atul Gawande. Books are available to pick up at the library one month prior to the discussion date.

Tiny Tots Storytime (Ages 0-2.5)
Tuesdays, October 13, 20, 27, 10:00-10:45 am - Storytime Room - registration required

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

Adult Craft: Book Witch
Tuesday, October 13, 6:00-7:30 pm OR Wednesday, October 14, 10:00-11:30 am - Dexter Hall - registration required. In this month's adult craft, we have a positively be-witching craft for you! Participants will learn how to cut and fold unwanted books into a decorative witch that stands up all by itself!

Everyday Cybersecurity for Families & Individuals*

Tuesday, October 13, 6:00-7:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Cybersecurity professional Gene Kingsley will discuss the basics of how to protect yourself online. He'll be covering device security, safe online shopping/banking, spotting fake news/deepfakes, and fundamental privacy protection.

Baby Storytime (Ages 0-12 months)
Wednesdays, October 14 & 28, 10:00-10:45 am - Storytime Room - no registration required

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

Private Visit with Jack-Jack the Therapy Dog

Wednesdays, October 14 & 28, 4:00-4:15 pm - Storytime Room - registration required

This is a 15-minute, one-on-one session to read or visit with our Therapy Dog, Jack-Jack. This session is for all ages. Jack-Jack is a trained and licensed therapy dog. If this event is full, Jack-Jack will be available right after his private session if you would like to meet him! Registration is required. Please register under one name, even if more than one person will be in your group.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group
Thursday, October 15, 6:00-7:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

The Alzheimer's Support Network Caregiver Support Group is led by Alzheimer's Care Professionals and experienced caregivers. We offer information, resources, and strat-

egies specific to caring for someone with Alzheimer's and other dementias along with support for transitioning to different care settings. Co-sponsored by Tri-Valley and Charlton Public Library.

Death Café
Thursday, October 15, 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - no registration required

A Death Café is a group directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives or course of action, no set conclusions and no judgement. Death Cafés provide a safe environment to gather, eat cake, drink tea or coffee, and enjoy open-minded conversation about dying and death. It is an opportunity to share, explore and question our own perceptions of death. It's not a bereavement session—just an open conversation about a topic that we often find taboo. You are welcome to share as much or as little as you wish. The group meets monthly on the third Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:30 pm in Dexter Hall. Questions? Email kwalker4@mac.com. The Death Café model was developed by Jon Underwood and Sue Barsky Reid, based on the ideas of Bernard Crettaz.

Digital Legacy at a Glance
Friday, October 16, 10:30 am to noon - Local History Room - registration required

Have you thought about your digital legacy? Not sure what that is? In this lecture, we'll explore this relatively new concept regarding what will happen to your digital content after you're gone. We'll explain some of the legacy options provided by the biggest tech companies and show you how to find out more information in the Settings and Help Sections of popular websites and apps. You'll also learn some best practices for planning your digital legacy. This is for people ages 60 and up. This Senior Planet from AARP class is being offered through the Senior Planet licensing program.

Creatures of the Night - Live Animals
Saturday, October 17, 10:30-11:30 am - Dexter Hall - registration required

Creatures of the Night from The Joys of Nature. From frogs, lizards and more, learn about animals that come out at night. What enables them to hunt and survive at night? Many of these animals also include important predators that help us unseen under the cover of darkness. Learn more about them and what you can do to help these amazing creatures of the night! Includes live reptiles as well as artifacts. For kids ages 5 and up and their caregivers.

Saturday Acoustic Roots Jam - SARJ
Saturday, October 17, 12:00-1:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

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

Personalizing Your Device*

Tuesday, October 20, 12:30-1:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

In this class, we learn about different ways to customize the iPhone and iPad to suit your preferences better. We'll cover reorganizing our home screens, creating folders, changing the appearance of our displays, and changing the image used for the wallpapers and lock screens.

Cyanotype Prints Workshop (Ages 12-18)
Tuesday, October 20, 5:30-7:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Cyanotypes are a printing technique used in photography and print making. The materials used react to sunlight/UV light and create beautiful blue and white prints. In this introductory workshop, we'll use plant materials, pre-printed photo negatives, and other found materials to create unique art to take home. No cyanotype or art experience required—just a willingness to create! Cyanotype emulsion is an easily controlled material, but you may want to dress for spills/splatters just in case, as exposed emulsion is not easily washable.

VOLUNTEERS: Participation in this program counts as volunteer hours because you're awesome and will be helping bring this program to life! Please bring any paperwork needed to have signed. Questions? Contact Marco at mcameiro@cwmmars.org.

Ballroom Dancing
Tuesday, October 20, 6:30-8:00 pm - Dexter Hall - no registration required

We're partnering with Bay Path Evening School to dance the night away! Join us in beautiful Dexter Hall for an enchanted evening of ballroom dancing. Everyone is welcome, come alone or bring a partner.

Tiny Tots at Night
Thursday, October 22, 6:00-6:30 pm - Storytime Room - registration required

This is an evening version of our Tiny Tots program! Best for babies - age 3. Includes songs, fingerplays, scarves, shakers, music, books & free play! This is a great opportunity for caregivers to model singing, playing & sharing the early literacy experience with their little learners! Caregivers should plan to sit with their child and participate.

CULE: Charlton Ukulele League & Ensemble

Thursday, October 22, 6:00-8:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

This club is a FREE, fun, low stress and entertaining way for adults 18+ to learn music together. You will be guided by experienced musicians who encourage you to find your

306 Main St., Sturbridge
508-347-2512
mayent@cwmmars.org
The Library will be closed Monday, October
12 for Indigenous Peoples' Day.
BASIC TECH HELP - Wednesdays
from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Bring your own
device or use one of our available comput-
ers and get your most basic smartphone,
tablet or computer questions answered.
Appointments are encouraged.

Afternoon Book Group - Tuesday, October 13 at 1:00pm. This month's book is "More

Presented by Ellen Duzak, this project shines a light on the little-known stories of

Kids will make their own stamps using foam, blunt carving tools, and ink; then, take them home to use again and again. For ages 7

This session covers Genitourinary Syndrome of Menopause (GSM) in full: what it is, the symptoms people don't always connect to menopause, and the long-term effects on your health and sex life if it goes unaddressed. Join Kelly Tull, WHNP-BC, menopause and sexual health specialist, in person for a candid, judgment-free conversation.

Roadside taverns like the Swan built in 1768, played a key role in starting the American Revolution. Come learn how it was in the Swan that the term “minute-men” was first uttered. Frenchmen like the Marquis de Lafayette were essential in helping us win the Revolution. Fifty years after the Revolution, Lafayette returned to the United States for a triumphant tour of the new country. Learn what his stop at the Rider Tavern was like. The ideals of

About the Friends of the Swan Tavern
The Friends of Swan Tavern is a registered non-profit group that assists the Leicester Historical Commission, a town agency with fundraising efforts, restoration, and repair work, as well as the operation of the tavern as a historical museum, community, and education center. Rotating historical displays and educational programs on local and regional history occur regularly at the Swan Tavern.

Ah, Halloween. Autumnal breezes, crisp leaves, and pumpkin flavored everything! What is it about this time of year that is so enchanting, so mystifying? In this lecture Dustin sheds some light on the spooky shadows of Halloween history and lore. Ghost stories? Oh yeah, he has some of those too. With 30 years of experience researching the unknown, Dustin Pari brings exciting and pos-

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508-868-3765

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JAMES GLICKMAN
Principal

508-769-5007

jglickman@glickmankovago.com

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:

Sept. 18 – “Some Like It Hot”

Considered by many to be one of the funniest comedies ever made, this 1959 masterpiece was co-written and directed by Billy Wilder and stars Marilyn Monroe, Jack Lemon and Tony Curtis. Lemon and Curtis are two out of luck musicians in 1920s Chicago. After witnessing a mob massacre, they disguise themselves as women to join an all-girl band whose lead singer is Monroe.

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 Kesselring.

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 best-selling 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.

Shepherd Hill students hosting Tackle the Stigma 5K to promote mental health awareness

CHARLTON — The Shepherd Hill Regional High School cheerleading program, in partnership with the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District community, is inviting residents to lace up their running shoes and help break down barriers surrounding mental health during the annual Tackle the Stigma 5K and 2.5K Walk/Run on Saturday, Sept. 27.

The event will begin at 10 a.m. at the Shepherd Hill football field and is designed to raise awareness about mental health and mental wellness while encouraging open conversations throughout the local community.

Organizers hope participants of all ages will come together to demonstrate support for those facing mental health challenges and reinforce the message that no one has to struggle alone.

"This event is very important to us as we work to raise awareness about mental health and mental wellness throughout our local community," organizers said in announcing the event.

The walk and run carries the theme, "Run toward awareness, stand up for support, and tackle the stigma one mile at a time," reflecting its focus on education, compassion and community involvement.

Mental health advocates continue to emphasize the importance of reducing the stigma surrounding anxiety, depression and other mental health conditions, which

can often prevent individuals from seeking help. Community events such as Tackle the Stigma aim to create a welcoming environment where conversations about mental wellness are encouraged and support resources are highlighted.

In addition to providing an opportunity for exercise and community engagement, the event serves as a reminder that mental health is an important part of overall well-being. Organizers hope the day will inspire participants to check in with friends, family members and neighbors while promoting a culture of understanding and acceptance.

The Shepherd Hill cheerleaders have made mental health awareness a priority, using the event to unite students, families, educators and community members around a common cause. By bringing together participants from across Dudley, Charlton and surrounding communities, they hope to build momentum for ongoing conversations that extend well beyond race day.

Whether participants choose the full 5-kilometer course or the shorter 2.5-kilometer walk/run, organizers say every step represents a commitment to supporting mental wellness and reminding those who may be struggling that help is available.

Registration information and additional event details are expected to be available through Shepherd Hill Regional High School and the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District as the event approaches.

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.



“Salem Witch Hysteria” at Casaubon Senior Center

SOUTHBIDGE — The Delvena Theatre Company will be presenting “Salem Witch Hysteria” at the Casaubon Senior Center, 153 Chestnut St., Southbridge, on Tuesday, Oct. 6, at 1 p.m.

Watch history come alive with these fascinating dramatizations of the true stories of the Salem Witch Hysteria.

The setting is Salem, Mass. 1692, a year in which, of the 168 men and women were accused of practicing witchcraft. Twenty of those accused were executed.

Let’s see how things go in the 21st century when the audience members become the jury in the trial of Susannah Martin. They will have the opportunity to question the defendant and form their own opinion as to her guilt or innocence. The cast will open up again to the audience after the performance for a lively discussion.

The Delvena Theatre Company has been doing to-go shows for the last several years at various venues throughout the New England area. The Company was founded in 1992, and prior to “going on the road” performed at different locations throughout Massachusetts, most often at the Boston Center for the Arts. Delvena was nominated for five Independent Reviewers of New England awards. Its production of ‘Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?’ was on Theatre Mirror’s Best List for acting, directing and production. Presentations of ‘Anna Weiss’ and ‘Beyond Therapy’ were included on Theatre Mirror’s best play list and ‘Blue Heart’ was placed on Aisle Say’s best list.

Salem Witch Hysteria is supported in part by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. To reserve a seat, call the Senior Center at (508) 764-1469.

Tantasqua Class of ’76 to hold 50th reunion

STURBRIDGE — Tantasqua class of 1976 is celebrating its 50th reunion this year. We want to reach out to all former students.

The big event happens on Sept. 26 at 5 p.m. at Rapsallion Pub, 3 Arnold Rd., Sturbridge.

Fifty years have passed since we walked the halls of Tantasqua Regional HS. We hope to reunite and reconnect with as many fellow classmates/friends as possible.

Please help us spread the word. If you were a member of the THS Class of ‘76 or if you know how to reach a classmate, please get in touch.

You can visit our THS Class of ‘76 Facebook page for more details and to buy tickets. If you are not a Facebook member, you can reach out to Kathy Thompson at katherinethmp@aol.com.



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**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

The Sturbridge Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 7:10pm** on the 2nd Floor of the Center Office Building, 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and via GoTo Meeting, to consider a **Notice of Intent** filed by Robert B. Judson Jr., of Rob Judson Contracting Inc., pursuant to the Town of Sturbridge Wetlands Protection Bylaw. The applicant seeks approval for construction of a new single-family home, with associated appurtenances at **16 Hawthorne 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
September 25, 2026

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

The Sturbridge Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 6:30pm** 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 Daniel White, of Massachusetts Electric Company, pursuant to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c. 131, §40) and the Town of Sturbridge Wetlands Protection Bylaw. The applicant seeks approval for a project involving reconductoring of an existing electric distribution feeder at **Warren Road, Pine Meadow Lane, and Brookfield 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
September 25, 2026

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

The Sturbridge Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 6:50pm** on the 2nd Floor of the Center Office Building, 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and via GoTo Meeting, to consider a **Notice of Intent** filed by Brian Waterman, of WDA Design Group, pursuant to the Town of Sturbridge Wetlands Bylaw (§286). The applicant seeks approval for the construction of a new single-family home with associated appurtenances at **554 Haynes Street, Lot 9, 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
September 25, 2026

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
Carpenter Hill Power –
Community Meeting**

Wednesday, September 30, 2026
Charlton Public Library, Dexter Hall (top floor) | 40 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01506
Open Forum: 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM (drop in anytime)
Public Presentations: 12:30 PM and 6:30 PM
Carpenter Hill Power is proposing a battery energy storage facility at 131 Carpenter Hill Road in Charlton. Come learn about the project, ask questions, and share your input on the Community Benefits Plan. This meeting will also be available virtually. Visit carpenterhillpower.com for details. Financial assistance may be available for community participation in this review. Learn more at mass.gov/info-details/intervenor-support-grant-program. For information or to submit comments: Jonathan Santiago | jsantiago@esa-solar.com | 407-232-7440 ext. 251 carpenterhillpower.com
September 25, 2026

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF STURBRIDGE**

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Sturbridge Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 7:00pm** on the 2nd Floor of the Center Office Building, 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and via GoTo Meeting, to consider a **Notice of Intent** filed by Mark Lavigne, of Ground Effects Landscaping, pursuant to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c. 131, §40) and the Town of Sturbridge Wetlands Protection Bylaw. The applicant seeks approval for a project that includes landscape improvements and after-the-fact well decommissioning and installation at **320 The Trail, 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
September 25, 2026

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

The Sturbridge Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 6:40pm** 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 Susan Hanson, 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 allow for the decommissioning and installation of a well at **88 Paradise Lane, 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
September 25, 2026

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE**

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Dawna Thomas-Foote, Trustee of the 66 Cedar Realty Trust to Pinnacle Financial Services 1 LLC dated May 6, 2025 and recorded in the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 71954, Page 205 as affected by a Collateral Assignment of Mortgage by Pinnacle Financial Services 1 LLC to M & T Bank dated May 6, 2025 and recorded in said Registry at Book 72064, Page 205, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage by M & T Bank to Pinnacle Financial Services 1 LLC dated June 10, 2026 and recorded in said Registry at Book 73707, Page 103, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 A.M. on Thursday, October 22, 2026 at 66 Cedar Street, Sturbridge, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, To wit:
The land in said Sturbridge, with the buildings thereon, situated on the easterly side of the road (Cedar Street), leading from Sturbridge to Brookfield, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at an iron pin in the ground on the easterly side of said road at the N. W. corner of land to be conveyed and being the S.W. corner of land now or formerly of Alpheus E. Wight; THENCE easterly by the southerly line of said Wight’s land about 300 feet to a pin in the ground; THENCE southerly by said Wight’s land about 150 feet to an iron pin in the ground at land of Eugene Rudiger; THENCE westerly by land of said Rudiger about 300 feet to an iron pin in the ground on the easterly side of said road; THENCE northerly by the easterly side of said road about 128 feet to the place of beginning.

For title see deed dated October 26, 2018 and recorded in Book 59616, Page 309. Being the same premises conveyed to the Mortgagor herein by deed dated May 6, 2026, and recorded in the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 71954, Page 201. Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements,

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

Terms of sale: A deposit of \$10,000.00 by cash, certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. Deposit to be increased to 10% of the purchase price within five (5) business days. This sale is subject to a 5% buyer’s premium. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at the Mortgagee’s law offices within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control. Other terms will be announced at the sale.

Pinnacle Financial Services 1 LLC
Present holder of said mortgage,
By its Attorney,
Joseph J. Lange, Esq.,
Lyon & Fitzpatrick, LLP
14 Bobala Road, Suite 4
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 420-4086

September 25, 2026
October 2, 2026
October 9, 2026

**Town of Brimfield
Conservation Commission
Public Hearing Notice**

In accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Brimfield Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 6:00 PM to review a Notice of Intent (NOI) submitted by Kevin McManaman. The NOI proposes the construction of a fieldstone/boulder wall along 75 linear feet of waterfront. **Project Location:** 62 1st Street, Brimfield, MA 01010, (Assessor’s Map (5C-A49) **Meeting Location:** Public Participation will be In-Person at Hitchcock Academy at 2 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, MA 01010 on October 14, 2026, at 6:00 PM. Any person(s) interested or wishing to be heard on this request should appear at the time and place designated. A copy of the permit application and plan may be inspected at the Brimfield Town Annex in the Conservation Commission Office, Salisbury Annex Building, 2nd Floor, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA 01010 or contact the office at 413-245-4100 ext. 1101. Roger deBruyn & Joseph Venezia Co-Chairs
September 16, 2026
September 24, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 166, §22F notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the Town Manager on Monday, October 5 at 10:00 a.m. in the George Parent Meeting Room, second floor of the Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, in regards to a petition filed by National Grid for the following Order for JO Pole installation: **RIVER ST:** National Grid, Inc., requests permission to locate poles, wires and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures along and across the following public way: **RIVER ST. –** National Grid to relocate 1 JO Pole on River St. beginning at a point approximately 524 feet east of the centerline of the intersection of Cliff St. and River St. and continuing approximately 50 feet in an east direction. Relocating Pole 10, ~50 feet east of existing location for work going on along River St. Anyone wishing to be heard regarding this petition will be given the opportunity to speak. **TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE**
John D. Jovan Jr., Town Manager
September 24, 2026
October 1, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of MGL Ch. 40A, §11, the Southbridge Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 6:50 PM in the G.A.R. Hall, lower level, Town Hall, 41 Elm St, Southbridge, MA. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider an amendment to a special permit application, as filed by Kate Johnson, to allow for livestock on a property under 5 acres, per

Table 1: Schedule of Uses of the Southbridge Zoning Bylaw, located at 16 Ellis Road; Map 12; Lot 1-G (Kate Johnson, owner). The application and plan are on file for review during normal business hours with the Town Clerk. This notice is also published electronically on www.telegram.com and on masspublicnotices.org. Any person interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated. David V. Payeur
Chairman, Southbridge Planning Board
September 24, 2026
October 1, 2026

**TOWN OF CHARLTON
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
100 FLINT ROAD
CHARLTON, MA 01507
(508) 248-2212
I. ADVERTISEMENT/PUBLIC
NOTICE**

**TOWN OF CHARLTON –
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
INVITATION FOR BIDS
FY2027-04**

WINTER WASHED SAND 2026-2027
Sealed bids for Winter Washed Sand will be received at the Town Administrator’s Office, Charlton Municipal Offices, 37 Main Street, Charlton MA, 01507 until 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at which time they will be publicly opened and read. No late bids accepted.

Obtaining Bid Packages: Specifications, general instructions, and Bid Forms must be obtained at the Town Administrator’s Office, Charlton Municipal Offices, 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507 starting on September 28, 2026, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday via pickup at the Town Administrator’s Office or via email request to mary.devlin@town-ofcharlton.net. Bidders are required to submit on the Bid Forms provided. **Items required:** Non-Collusion form, tax compliance certificate, and bid pricing sheet (provided in this IFB). **Conditions of Contract:** All awarded contracts shall be subject to the conditions that accompany this bid package. Successful Bidders will be required to produce a certificate of insurance and workers compensation certificate. **Award/Rejection:** The OWNER, Town of Charlton, reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive minor informalities in the bids, or to accept the bid deemed best for the OWNER. The contract will be awarded to the lowest, responsible and eligible bidder. September 24, 2026
October 1, 2026

**COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
COURT**

Docket No. 26 SM 002940
ORDER OF NOTICE
TO: Noummeby Losier and Rose L. Bazile
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq): MidFirst Bank claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Southbridge, numbered 72 High Street, given by Noummeby Losier and Rose L. Bazile to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Guaranteed Rate, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated January 31, 2023, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68787, Page 374, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant’s/Defendants’ Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 10/26/2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 9/11/2026. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson,
Recorder
September 24, 2026

LEGALS

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. WO25P3494PM
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR ORDER OF
COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
Estate of:
May Wright
Date of Death: 06/11/2015
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Mark Forest Obo Southbridge Rehab of Southbridge MA and Alison M Bartlett-O'Donald, Esq. of Holyoke MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, 1st and Final Account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m.** on the return day of **11/11/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 10, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
September 24, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
Premises: 423 Morris Street, Southbridge, MA 01550
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jacqueline Baldina to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., and now held by **Rocket Mortgage, LLC**, said mortgage dated September 28, 2017 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 57845, Page 366, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., its successors and assigns to Rocket Mortgage, LLC by assignment dated June 4, 2026 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 73693, Page 236; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on October 21, 2026 at 10:00 AM** Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: *Land situated in the Town of Southbridge in the County of Worcester in the State of MA The land with the buildings thereon located in Southbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, situated on the easterly side of Morris Street bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the northwesterly corner thereof, at an iron pipe on the easterly side of Morris Street in the southwesterly corner of land now or formerly of George Rousseau, et ux; THENCE S. 65 degrees 59 minutes E. by said Rousseau land, 200 feet to an iron pipe at land now or formerly of the Southbridge Water Supply Company; THENCE S. 24 degrees 01 minute W. by land now or formerly of the Southbridge Water Supply Company, 100 feet to an iron pipe at land now or formerly of Paul O. Laliberte, et ux; THENCE N. 65 degrees 59 minutes W. by said Laliberte land, 200 feet to an iron pipe on the easterly side of Morris Street; THENCE N. 24 degrees 01 minute E.*

by the easterly side of Morris Street, 100 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 20,000 square feet. Being the same property conveyed to Jacqueline Baldina, by deed dated August 25, 2010 of record in Deed Book 46227, Page 146, in the County Clerk's Office.
The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.
For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated August 25, 2010 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 46227, Page 146.
TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.
FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.
Other terms to be announced at the sale.
Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Rocket Mortgage, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
September 17, 2026
September 24, 2026
October 1, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING
In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 166, §22F notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the Town Manager on Wednesday, October 14 at 1:30 p.m. in the George Parent Meeting Room, second floor of the Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, in regards to a petition filed by Verizon for the

following Order for JO Pole installation: **CENTRAL ST:**
Verizon requests permission to locate poles, wires and fixtures, including the necessary anchors, guys and other such sustaining and protecting fixtures to be owned and used in common by your petitioners, along and across Central St. Relocate one existing pole numbered T.8 to a point on the west side of Central St., approx. 43' northeasterly from the centerline of Larochelle Way and approx. 75' north-easterly from the poles current location Anyone wishing to be heard regarding this petition will be given the opportunity to speak.
TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
John D. Jovan Jr., Town Manager
September 24, 2026
October 1, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
In accordance with the provisions of MGL Ch. 40A, §11, the Southbridge Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the G.A.R. Hall, lower level, Town Hall, 41 Elm St, Southbridge, MA.
The purpose of the public hearing is to consider the special permit application, in accordance with Table 1 of the Southbridge Zoning Bylaw, as filed by Tiger Gillespie, for the keeping of livestock under 5 acres, located at 249 Pleasant Street; Map 19; Lot 6 (Tiger Gillespie, owner).
The application and plan are on file for review during normal business hours with the Town Clerk. This notice is also published electronically on www.ma.mypublicnotices.com.
Any person interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.
David V. Payeur
Chairman, Southbridge Planning Board
September 24, 2026
October 1, 2024



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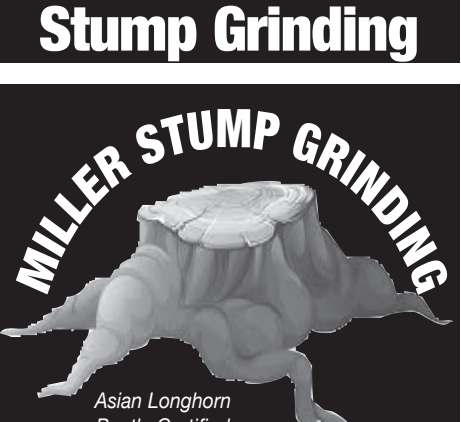
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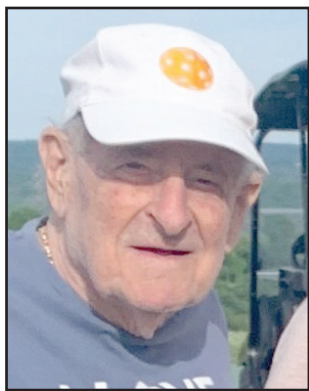
Contact Mikaela Today
774-200-7308
mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

OBITUARIES

Atty Donald C. Cournoyer, 85

Southbridge: Donald C. Cournoyer, 85, peacefully passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, Sept. 12th, in UMass Memorial Health – Harrington, Southbridge.

He leaves his beloved wife of 63 years, Barbara A. (Hamel) Cournoyer; his son, Atty. Donald C. Cournoyer, Jr. of North Brookfield; his daughter, Melissa D. Hilli and her husband Theodore of Southbridge; and his four grandchildren, Nathan Hilli and his fiancé, Sarah Francis, of Worcester, Elizabeth Hilli of Southbridge, Alexis Cournoyer of Salem and Gabrielle Cournoyer of North Brookfield. He was predeceased by his brother, Leo Cournoyer. Donald was born in Southbridge, the son of the late Leo and Armande (Ethier) Cournoyer. Donald received his bachelor's degree from UMass Amherst and went on to receive his law degree from Boston College Law School.



Donald was a longtime Attorney of Law practicing with his law firm, Cournoyer and Cournoyer for over 40 years, retiring 20 years ago. Prior to his law firm he worked for the Worcester County District Attorney's Office. Donald served many years on the Board of Directors of the Southbridge Credit Union. Donald was an avid pickleball player and always enjoyed meeting new and old friends

on the court. He cherished the many memories made traveling with his wife, Barbara. He loved spending time with his family whenever he could. He was warm-hearted and always brought a smile to everyone who met him.

Donald's funeral and burial in New Notre Dame Cemetery, Southbridge, will be private. There are no calling hours.

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

Marquerite "Marge" Jalbert, 78

Charlton: Marguerite "Marge" (Silvestri) Jalbert, 78, of Ash Rd., passed away on Sunday, Sept. 13th, surrounded by the love of her family, after a courageous and determined fight that surprised no one who knew her.

Marge was not one to go quietly — she loved life, her family, and her town with everything she had.

Born on June 7, 1948, in Putnam, CT, Marge came to Charlton at the age of five and never left. Charlton was not just where she lived — it was who she was. She graduated from Charlton High School in 1966 and spent the next six decades giving herself to her community through music, service, friendship, and an open door that never seemed to close. In 1986, she and Ed moved to the lake house on Glen Echo Lake, built on land her parents had loved as a summer home and lovingly passed down to their daughter. From that day forward, Marge called it what it truly was — a vacation home that just happened to be permanent. The lake, the boats, the jet skis, and the grandchildren running through the yard in summer were her paradise, and she cherished every moment. Music was the language of Marge's soul. For more than fifty years, she shared her extraordinary gift with anyone who would listen, playing piano, organ, guitar, and her beloved accordion. She served as church organist for weddings, funerals, and every sacred moment in between. For more than thirty years, she coordinated the Christmas tree lighting on Charlton Common and presented a beloved Christmas concert to the community. She taught music at VBS summer camps, performed at the Masonic Home, and devoted herself to St. Joe's Women's Club, the Charlton Garden Club, the Glen Echo Lake Association, and the founding of Boy Scout Troop 338. The town of Charlton honored her with the Individual Community Service Award — a recognition she wore quietly and deserved completely.

At the center of everything was her family. She and her husband, Ed, shared 56 years of devoted partnership — a love story told every morning when Ed would catch her coming down the stairs and call out, without fail, "Here she is — Miss America." She would roll her eyes. She secretly loved every word of it.

Her kitchen was the heart of her home, always fragrant with homemade sauce and full of people gathered around the promise of something delicious. Marge believed that food, like music, was meant to be shared. She was also a fierce and devoted crib-



bage player — known to run a 17-game winning streak from a hospital bed — and was not above bending the rules if the moment called for it.

Her home on the lake was always open — to family, grandchildren finding their way, and anyone who needed a place to land. She and Ed freely gave their table, their time, and their roof, and watched with quiet pride as the people they welcomed

went on to build lives of their own. Marge was blessed with friends who showed up for her the way she had always shown up for others. Over the past two years, cards arrived nearly every day. Food was brought without being asked. Phone calls came, visits were made, and musicians traveled to the lake to play for her — a serenade she received with the joy of someone who had spent a lifetime giving music away and now felt it returned. Her friends held her up in the way only true friendship can, and her family is forever grateful for every one of them.

The family also wishes to extend their deepest gratitude to the extraordinary medical teams who cared for Marge over the past two years — especially her oncologist, Dr. Holstead, and her palliative care physician, Dr. Murphy; the hospital staff who cared for her throughout those two-plus years; and the dedicated doctors and nurses in infectious disease. A special thank you goes to the Acute Rehab team on the second floor of Overlook, who met every challenge with compassion, creativity, and an unwavering willingness to try. Because of them, Marge had more time, more life, and more mornings on the lake. There are no adequate words for what that gift has meant.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Ed Jalbert; her four children and their families: John Jalbert and his wife, Alison, and their children, John, Michael, and Sarah; Jim Jalbert and his wife, Renee, and their children, Nicholas and Emma; Deb Lambert and her husband, Ritchie, and their children, Ethan and Owen; and David Jalbert and his wife, Danielle, and their children, Dylan and Addy. She is also survived by her brother, Ken Silvestri and his wife Sandra.

She was preceded in death by her beloved parents, Anthony and Beatrice (Liguori) Silvestri; her sister, Barbara Bonin; and her brother, Joseph Silvestri.

Marge filled every room she entered and left it better than she found it. She fed people, taught people, and loved people — loudly, faithfully, and on her own terms. Charlton will not be the same without her.

In her final days, Marge found peace in the music she had given her whole life to — Christian hymns and the oldies that had always made her feel at home. For those who loved her, the sound of a church organ or a familiar melody will forever carry her presence within it.

A funeral Mass for Marge will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26th at 12:00 pm in St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Rd. Ext., Charlton. Burial in Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton, will be private at a later date. Calling hours in the church will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26th, from 10:00 to 12:00 pm, prior to the Mass.

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

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Cholangiocarcinoma Research Foundation, 5526 West 13400 South, #510, Herriman, Utah 84096 or online at www.cholangiocarcinoma.org

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

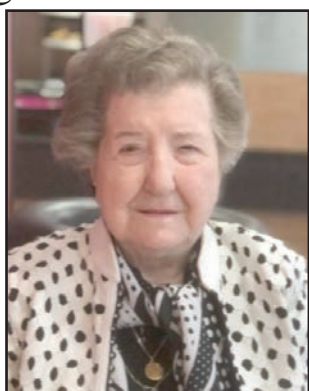
Marguerite L. Bernier, 94

Marguerite L. (Caplette) Bernier, a beloved wife, mother, and friend, passed away peacefully on August 18, 2026, at the age of 94. Born on November 20, 1932, in Southbridge, Massachusetts, Marguerite was the cherished daughter of Armand and Marie Rose (Valois) Caplette. Her life was a tapestry woven with love, kindness, and an unwavering commitment to her family and community.

Marguerite's journey was marked by an enduring love story with her devoted husband, Raymond C. Bernier, with whom she shared countless treasured memories. Together, they made Wellington, Florida their home. Marguerite's heart was also filled with pride and affection for her daughter, Claudia A. Caplette, and her partner, Anthony P. Nee, who brought immense joy to her life. Her godson, Paul Remian, along with nephews Michael, David, and Mark.

In her professional life, Marguerite found fulfillment at American Optical and Luxtec before enjoying a well-deserved retirement in Florida.

Marguerite was a devout member of Notre Dame Church in Southbridge and St. Rita's Church in Wellington. She was also an active member of the Forever Young Club, where she and Raymond celebrated life with many cherished friends.



Known for her culinary talents, Marguerite's Raspberry Chocolate Fudge was a testament to her love for cooking. Her zest for life extended to her favorite pastime, weekly Bingo, which brought laughter and camaraderie. Marguerite and Raymond often traveled between Massachusetts and Florida, maintaining close ties with friends and family.

Marguerite's legacy is defined by her radiant smile, impeccable style, and the thoughtfulness she extended to all who crossed her path. Her grace and kindness left an indelible mark on everyone she met.

She is predeceased by her beloved parents, Armand and Marie Rose, and her sisters, Paulene Remian, Doris Schremser, Gertrude Lacasse, and Lucille Mullett. Their memories will forever remain woven into the fabric of her life.

In honor of Marguerite's love for animals, the family kindly suggests donations be made to the Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League of the Palm Beaches, a cause close to her heart.

A private ceremony will be held to honor Marguerite's life, in accordance with her wishes. Her family extends their deepest gratitude to the dedicated staff at Alamar Senior Living and Memory Care Unit for their compassionate care and support.

Rose Mary Porter



dinator at St. Anne's Parish, a role she held for over a decade. There, her artistic talents and perfectionist nature found another home. She made every stole and hand-calligraphed every certificate given to children for their First Communion and Confirmation.

Her curiosity and intelligence allowed her to extend the life of so many things. Whether it be a beloved toy, a car part, or an electronic device. She could take anything apart, pinpoint the problem and get it working again. She took after her father that way. She loved her family immensely and

was so proud of their accomplishments — not simply for what they achieved, but for the good human beings they became. They were her joy.

Rose has been relieved of the earthly body that caused her so much pain for many years. She is now in her heavenly studio, making art, reading books with birds flitting around her, and taking coffee breaks with her sisters.

She was immensely loved and will be deeply missed.

Rose is survived by her husband Thomas Porter, her brother Joseph Coyne, her 4 children and their families, Jennifer, Jesus, Sofia and Mateo Vargas; Patrick Porter Amy Krawczyk, Roan and Isla Porter; Tom Porter and Nic Webb; Molly, James, Ben and Jonas Shetler.

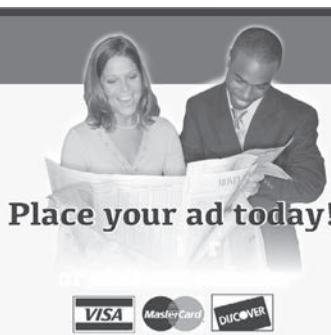
The family has decided to honor Rose's request not to have a funeral or gathering. We would appreciate your thoughts and prayers, and ask that you keep her memory alive in your hearts.

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Wales Community Pantry announces first-ever fundraising golf tournament

FISKDALE — The Wales Community Pantry today announced its first annual fundraising golf tournament, inviting the community to swing for a cause that hits close to home. The event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 3, with a 9 a.m. start at Hemlock Ridge Golf Course in Fiskdale.

This is more than a day on the course. It is a chance to stand with neighbors and families who face the stress of not knowing whether there will be enough food for dinner. Or breakfast. In just the past two years, the number of people the pantry serves has roughly tripled. Hundreds of families across Brimfield, Holland, Wales, and more than 20 surrounding communities now rely on the pantry for nutritious food provided with dignity. The pantry also sends weekend food home with 85 elementary students through its Backpack Program and delivers to more than 40 homebound neighbors.

In the immediate area there are no grocery stores and limited public transportation, making the pantry a critical lifeline. Rising costs of food, housing, and healthcare continue to push more households to seek help. The tournament will feature food, prizes, and the chance to make a tangible difference.

“Golf is fun, but this day is about something bigger,” said Dave Sweeney, Executive Director of the Wales Community Pantry. “Every player, sponsor, and volunteer helps us keep food on the shelves for families who need it. We’re grateful for the community’s support and excited to grow this event into an annual tradition.”

Event Details

- Date & Time: Saturday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m. start
- Location: Hemlock Ridge Golf Course, Fiskdale
- Includes: Golf, food, and prizes
- Registration: <https://bit.ly/WalesGolfFundraiser>
- Sponsorships: Available at multiple levels. Contact [WalesCommunity FoodPantry@gmail.com](mailto:WalesCommunityFoodPantry@gmail.com) or visit the golf tournament registration page for more details.

Players, sponsors, and volunteers are encouraged to sign up early. Sponsorship opportunities offer visibility while directly supporting the pantry’s mission. For more information or to discuss sponsorship, email [WalesCommunity FoodPantry@gmail.com](mailto:WalesCommunityFoodPantry@gmail.com) or visit the golf tournament registration page for more details.

Applications welcome for Southbridge Cultural Council grants

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Cultural Council announces that applications for the 2027 grant funding cycle will become available only online to www.mass-culturalcouncil.org.

The official submission cycle for 2027 begins on Sept. 1, and ends on Oct. 15 at 11:59 p.m. No applications are accepted after the official deadline established by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Boston. Officially required is that all 2027 applicants review and understand the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Southbridge Cultural Council specific criteria online before submission of the grant application.

The Southbridge Cultural Council (SCC), a local agency, is part of the overall grant program of the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), a state agency, providing grant allocations to each of the 351 cities and towns of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in support of cultural activities in their respective areas. The Massachusetts Cultural Council is funded by the Massachusetts Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For questions of the 2027 grant cycle, please call Michelle LeBoeuf, SCC Chairperson at 508-764-4803 or Ted Bartlett, SCC Treasurer at 508-764-7909.



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Webster - 3 Oakwood Dr



ON DEPOSIT

Presenting a meticulously maintained Colonial! This inviting home, spans 2,042 sf +/-, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths. Offers a refined living experience designed for comfort & convenience. The kitchen is a culinary enthusiast's delight, featuring a dining area w/picturesque views! Sleek stainless steel appliances, elegant maple wood cabinets & stone counters that provide both functionality & aesthetic appeal. The living room offers a sophisticated ambiance, enhanced by hardwood floors, crown moldings & custom built in shelves. For special occasions enjoy the formal dining rm & a cozy everyday fireplace family rm w/sliders to a very private deck. Also provides a 2 car att'd garage for secure parking & storage. Discover the exceptional lifestyle afforded by this distinguished residence! We invite your inquiry & a private viewing! **MLS#73523347 \$589,900**

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



ON DEPOSIT

This Beautifully Maintained Two-Level Waterfront. Panoramic WATER VIEWS from almost every Single Window! 50 Ft of Sandy Shoreline! Front-row Northwest-facing Sunsets!!...The House Layout is Designed for a Seamless Indoor-Outdoor Lifestyle. Weather-Protected Patio! The Gem of the House is the Living/Dining room Combination!! Offering a sweeping Wall of Windows to enjoy watching Mother Nature at her Finest!! Granite Countertops, Stainless-steel Appliances, White "Soft-close" Cabinets and Solid 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#7356963 \$1,050,000.**

*Featured New Listing!
24 Laurelwood Dr
Webster Lake Waterfront*



ON DEPOSIT

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
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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



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.

back into the community through scholarships for local students and support for other community projects and needs.”

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>.

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Courtesy Photo

The Shepherd Hill Regional High School Class of 1976 held its 50th reunion in the Pinnacle Room at Point Breeze restaurant in Webster on Labor Day weekend, Sept. 5. The names of classmates in the photo are, left to right, sequentially, front and back (using the classmates names at graduation): Joan Szlyk, Lynn Gelineau, Mindy Ditch, Paul Pikora, Dave McCloud, Kathy May, Mark Bessette, Pauline Williams, Gail VanLeuvan, Nancy Burgess, Lori Wilson, Denise Gagnon, Barbara Thom, JoAnn Tyree, Mary Pitak, April Didonato, Mark O'Connor, Doreen Ziemi, Joanne Thompson, Diane Duval, Greg Bruell, Cindy Piehl, Nancy Deary, Donald Paciorkowski, Jody Walters, Brian Biernacki, Carol Grzyb, John Jarocz, Dave Meehan, John Sielawa, Alan Pakulski, Mark Roberts, Anne Marie Plouffe, Suzanne Blaire and Marie McMurray.

Charlton Lions hold successful sandwich sale



CHARLTON — The Charlton Lions Club recently netted nearly \$2700 by preparing and serving their signature sausage sandwiches at Charlton’s Old Home Day.

Club members set up their tent and grills in front of Charlton Town Hall on Saturday. As other vendors and non-profits set up their booths on Sunday morning, The Charlton Lions had their grills hot and ready to serve other booth-holders and visitors with fresh sausage, egg and cheese sandwiches and hash-brown patties. As that brisk business wound down, the demand for their well-known sausage, pepper and onion grinders heated up. In addition, the Lions offered hot dogs, sauerkraut, chips and soft drinks.

The Charlton Lions Club wishes to thank Ronnie’s Seafood in Charlton for donating two cases of water; Big Bunny Market in Southbridge for 20 pounds of onions and three bushels of sweet peppers; Club President Edward Ciesluk for seltzer and iced tea, all those who patronized the booth, and the individuals who made monetary donations to the Club.

The Charlton Lions Club uses the funds it raises to provide scholarships to local graduating seniors, gifts cards to needy families at Christmas, and to support their various other charitable activities.

The Club meets at The Overlook on the second and fourth Wednesdays, beginning at 6 p.m. with a social half-hour prior to conducting its business, and often has a guest speaker. For more information about the Club and its projects, please visit thecharltonlions.com. Questions may be directed to thecharltonlions@gmail.com.

Music Bingo at the Holland Community Center

HOLLAND — The Friends of the Holland Community Center will be hosting a Music Bingo event with MacKenzie of Wise Guys Trivia on Saturday, Sept. 26 from 6-8 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The Center is located at 40 Brimfield Rd. in Holland.

This fundraising event has been a huge success in the past, so we suggest you purchase your tickets ahead of time by calling 413-245-3163 or stopping by the Community Center Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (We are open most evenings, you may call for evening hours- closed on Fridays!). Lanicakes Homemade Desserts will also have her delectable treats available for purchase.

Tickets are \$10, and you will automatically be included in the door prize drawing. We will also have a table with raffle baskets. All proceeds benefit programs and events for all ages held at the Holland Community Center.

For questions or additional information, you may email us at FriendsofHolland@gmail.com.

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