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Thursday-Friday, October 8-9, 2026

Shepherd Hill celebrates academic excellence at 38th Annual First Honors Dinner



Land and the American Revolution the subject of Southbridge Historical Society talk

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Historical Society (SHS) will present a free lecture entitled “Land, Revolution, and Central Massachusetts” by James David Moran on Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 7 p.m. in the Wells Arts Center. The talk will examine the way people in eighteenth-century Massachusetts understood and used the land, and how these ideas and practices led to rebellion and then revolution from Great Britain. Central Massachusetts also played a significant role in Declaring Independence, and this will be described by Moran in his talk.

While most Americans today don’t think of land as being a catalyst for the American Revolution, it was a central component in how the British colonist understood their own identities. Owning land was the key to political and economic agency and power and the need for more land put rural Massachusetts farmers on a collision course with King George and his parliament. This talk will demonstrate how rural Massachusetts communities were at the forefront of the fight for independence at the start of the American Revolution.

James David Moran served as the first director of outreach and then as vice president for Programs and Outreach at the American Antiquarian Society for 28 years. He has over forty years’ experience creating award-winning cultural and educational programming. Additionally, he is a writer, director, and producer who

has created fourteen plays, twelve of which have been produced; most of these have been commissioned and are based on historical themes. These include “The Chains of Liberty” for the Worcester Revolution of 1774; “Preserving All Others” and “Isaiah Thomas-Patriot Printer” for the American Antiquarian Society; and “Portraits Come Alive” and “Portraits of Freedom” for Mechanics Hall. His innovative radio program, “The History Show,” appeared on 151 public radio stations in 47 states. He lives in Charlton, Massachusetts, with his wife, Elizabeth and cat, Bingo.

Copies of “The History Show” will be available for sale at the October 14th program with the proceeds supporting Southbridge Historical Society. “Land, Revolution and Central Massachusetts” is free and open to the public.

About SHS
The Charlton Historical Society collects, preserves and shares the history of Charlton, Massachusetts. The Society maintains the Number Two Schoolhouse and the historic Rider Tavern, which serves as home to the Society. The CHS regularly offers tours, talks, and activities for all ages in the Rider Tavern, a twenty-two-room turnpike inn restored to its original 1799 condition. The private, nonprofit CHS also offers programs throughout the community. For more information, visit <https://charltonhistoricalsociety.com>.

DUDLEY — On Wednesday, Sept. 23, Shepherd Hill Regional High School (SHRHS) hosted its 38th Annual First Honors Dinner, honoring exceptional students who achieved first honors distinction for four consecutive academic terms.

To mark the occasion, the high school staff transformed the school cafeteria into a fine dining venue complete with candlelight, cloth tablecloths, and seasonal fall decorations. Demonstrating their dedication to student achievement, SHRHS staff members personally prepared and served a gourmet meal to the honored guests.

The evening traditionally features guest speakers from the school’s dis-

tinguished alumni network, who share inspirational words about their professional journeys and expertise since graduating from Shepherd Hill. This year, the honored speaker was 1992 graduate, Kimberly Snow. Snow is the Executive Creative Director at Sundogs, a creative intelligence start-up that’s using data and tech in service of creative excellence. Before that she spent 11 years at Google as a Global Creative Director, acting as collaborator and consultant to the world’s top agencies and brands. She previously worked at Digitas in Boston and New York.

The enduring tradition of First Honors Dinner is made possible through the

Explore Patriots history at Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library Annual Meeting

STURBRIDGE — Calling all New England Patriots fans! Come learn about the history of the Patriots from the struggles of the Boston Patriots to the decades of Super Bowl crowns, this lively and illuminating program will take you on a roller coaster ride through the history of the franchise

that has captured more crowns than any other. This program is being featured by the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library for its Annual Meeting at the Sturbridge Town Hall’s upstairs Veteran’s Memorial Hall on Thursday, Oct. 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Author and veter-

an sports writer Marty Gitlin will discuss and show videos of the greatest and most interesting players, teams, events and moments of the team since its birth in the American Football League in 1960. Watch the exploits of such early standouts as Gino Cappelletti and Babe Parilli, relive the disappointment of the Jim Plunkett era and talents of Steve Grogan and Sam “Bam” Cunningham.

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

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

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

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

Elizabeth Rossi, Craft Fair chair, said, “Words are insufficient to describe the artistic talent and efforts that



is such a joy to bring people together and celebrate the products that our vendors have created.”

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

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

This year, visitors to the Craft Fair have an opportunity to

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

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

This meeting is free and open to the public and all are welcome. Members of the Friends are invited to stay afterward for the Annual Meeting where you’ll hear what we’ve been working on all year and be able to vote on the Slate of Officers and revised bylaws. We are looking for a few volunteers to join the Friends for our Technology and Membership chairs.

these vendors have put into their products. It

Faith in Film Series continues at Charlton Federated Church

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

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

- Oct. 16 – “Arsenic and Old Lace”
Cary Grant’s aunts have a horrifying secret which creates havoc in this 1944 screwball comedy just perfect for Halloween. The film also features Raymond Massy, Peter Lorre, Josephine Hull, Jean Adair, and Edward Everett Horton. Arsenic and Old Lace was directed by Frank Capra and is based on the Broadway smash hit by Joseph 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.

Gateway Players present Paul Slade Smith’s “The Outsider”

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

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

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

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

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

Charlton Garden Club meets Oct. 19

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

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

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

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Small Eurasian deer

4. Province in Northern Ireland

10. A major division of geological time

11. Broadway actor Lane

12. Canadian province (abbr.)

14. Human gene

15. Two

16. A notable one was “blue”

18. Utter repeatedly

22. Ring-shaped objects

23. Sullies

24. Occurs

26. Commercial

27. Near

28. Tools you may need

30. A pledge

31. They start the alphabet

34. Silk garments

36. Soviet Socialist Republic

37. Longtime mayor of Rio

39. Hot meal

40. A type of gin

41. Atomic #84

42. \$10 bill

48. About ground

50. Medicine man

51. Seedless raisin

52. National capital of Albania

53. Appendage

54. OJ trial judge

55. European government entity (abbr.)

56. Bike parts

58. Friend to “Barbie”

59. Stretched to see or hear

60. Commercials

CLUES DOWN

1. Make up for

2. Baltimore ballplayer

3. Wages

4. International organization of countries

5. Engravers of gems

6. Declared as fact

7. One who steals

8. Jewelry

9. Hospital worker

12. Nonsense (slang)

13. Town in Galilee

17. Value

19. Alternative identity

20. Sheep in their second year

21. Town in Surrey, England

25. Appropriate to a time of year

29. Creative work

31. Recesses

32. Largely forested municipality in Germany

33. Rider of Rohan

35. Ancient symbol co-opted by Nazis

38. Pioneer

41. Scribe

43. Painted a bright color

44. Member of British nobility

45. “Pulp Fiction” actress Thurman

46. Helps people walk

47. Crest of a hill

49. People of southeastern Alaska

56. One’s own device

57. The Mount Rushmore State

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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REAL ESTATE

CHARLTON

\$799,900, 11-B Colicum Dr, Kelly, Robert J, and Kelly, Tammy L, to Gudejko, Christopher F, and Gudejko, Natalie J.

\$775,000, 83 Northside Rd, 13 Gables Inc, to Clermont, Sheley A.

\$724,900, 47 E Baylies Rd, Alexander, Emily R, to Halloran, Brian D, and Halloran, Kathleen C.

\$625,000, 9 Scott Drive Ext, Pecore, Brian J, and Pecore, Tracy M, to Glidden, Andrew, and Zuidema, Katelyn E.

\$515,000, 198 Sunset Dr, Levine, Steven L, and Levine, Karen V, to Cossin, Theo, and Cossin, Paige.

\$500,000, 16 N Sullivan Rd, Lavergne, Jean B, to Lavergne, Thomas M, and Lavergne, Kelley K.

\$490,000, 180 Oxford Rd, Leblanc, Joannm, to Tousek, Cassandra.

\$470,000, 39 Stafford St, Merchant, Don T, and Merchant, Deste L, to Hardy, Jacob L.

SOUTHBRIDGE

\$2,130,000, 89-99 Cross St, 89 Southbridge LLC, to Haaim Toveem Prop LLC.

\$490,000, 47 Winter St, Brown, Virna, to Da Cruz, Allam Goncalves.

\$460,000, 284 N Woodstock Rd, Kleya, Darrell, and Kleya, Teresa F, to Gavaletz, Douglas B.

\$425,000, 43 Servant Way, White, Karen C, to Boland, Kevin.

\$350,000, 14 Beech St, Hunter, Christopher T, and Hunter, Justina, to Cruz, Juliana Villegas, and Salinas, Manuel.

STURBRIDGE

\$1,125,000, 84 S Shore Dr, Reed, Stephen B, and Reed, Marcy L, to Bronson, James, and Bronson, Diane.

\$450,000, 285 Brookfield Rd, Phillips Jr, Robert H, and Phillips, Raelene W, to Plouffe, Brian, and Plouffe, Hannah.

\$435,000, 170 Shepard Rd, Destefano Jr, Daniel, and Destefano Sr, Daniel, to Holloway, Kimberly.

\$398,000, 9 Cricket Dr, Vangos, John, to Dunn, Brian, and Dunn, Rebecca.

\$208,000, 7 Crescent Way #315, Dion, Madalyn R, to Leblanc, Jo Ann M.

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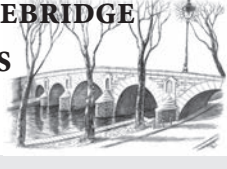
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closed Fri & Sun

CHURCH LISTINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• **Holland Congregation Church**
“Where the Bible is preached.”
11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926
Hollandchurch.org
Sunday Service @ 10:00 am
Pastor Dan Maketansky

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

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

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

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

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

Vocalist and educator Yosl Kurland, a founding member of the Wholesale Klezmer Band (www.ganeydn.com) since 1982, performs and writes Yiddish songs and synagogue music. With the Wholesale Klezmer Band he has performed widely for weddings, bar/bas mitzves and concerts, including at Carnegie Hall with Pete Seeger,

and has taught workshops at elementary, middle and high schools on Yiddish music, dance, literature. He developed programs on "Yiddish Songs of Cultural Resistance in the Holocaust" and "A Jewish Perspective on Social Justice in Song". He teaches adult education classes on Yiddish language and literature as well as klezmer music and is a cantor for Temple Israel of Greenfield.

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

Peggy Davis (flute, vocals) grew up in Minneapolis, where she studied flute and guitar. She listened to the

recorded Yiddish songs of Theodore Bikel, Ruth Rubin and Martha Schlamme and encountered native singers of Yiddish songs when working with Russian Jewish immigrants in Italy, many of whom spoke with her in Yiddish, which she had studied at the YIVO Institute. In Minnesota, she helped found the group "Yiddishe Folksmenshn." Peggy also sang Balkan and Russian folk music in the Ethnic Dance Theatre Choir. She taught calligraphy classes and 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.

Repair Café coming to Charlton Library Oct. 24

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

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

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

The Repair Café is designed as a hands-on,

community learning event. Visitors can work alongside volunteers, learn basic repair techniques, and connect with others who enjoy fixing, maintaining, and reusing everyday items.

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

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

For additional information, visit the Charlton Library Web site at <https://charltonlibrary.org>. Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St.

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.

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.massculturalcouncil.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, provid-

ing 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.

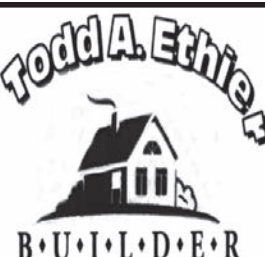
For questions of the 2027 grant cycle, please call Michelle LeBoeuf, SCC Chairperson at 508-764-4803 or Ted Bartlett, SCC Treasurer at 508-764-7909.

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Fundraiser Benefit Dinner

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October 24, 2026

Hardwick Crossing Country Club
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Or pay by check made payable to CNEER, 96 New Braintree Road, West Brookfield, MA 01585
CNEER.com or Visit Us on Facebook

Saving one horse many not change the world but for that one horse the world is changed forever.

CMS Chamber marks Manufacturing Day with second annual celebration

SOUTHBRIDGE — The CMS Chamber will celebrate Manufacturing Day with its Second Annual Manufacturing Event on Friday, Oct. 2, at the Wellsworth Hotel, from noon to 1:15 p.m., bringing together manufacturers, business leaders, elected officials, and community partners to discuss key issues affecting the region’s manufacturing industry.

This year’s event will feature a panel discussion with Senator Ryan Fattman and Representative John Marsi, moderated by Erika Burrows, president and CEO of the Center of Hope and president of the CMS Chamber. The conversation will focus on three issues that are particularly important to manufacturers and the region’s economic

future: energy, workforce, and Chapter 74 Programs.

“Manufacturing is a significant part of the CMS Chamber’s regional economy, and our manufacturers are navigating issues that have a direct impact on their ability to compete and grow,” said Chamber President Erika Burrows. “This event gives our members an opportunity to

bring manufacturers and policy-makers together to have a productive conversation about energy, workforce needs, and the programs and partnerships that can support the industry’s future.”

Registration is open at <https://worcesterchamber.com/events/details/cms-manufacturing-day-event-10-02-2026-23946>.

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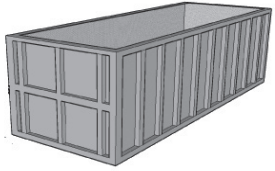


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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER
BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Excellence deserves a place at the table

There is something especially meaningful about a community that takes the time to celebrate achievement. At Shepherd Hill Regional High School, that celebration has taken a particularly fitting form for nearly four decades.

The annual First Honors Dinner recognizes students who have earned first honors for four consecutive academic terms. This year marked the 38th time students were invited to sit down for an evening devoted to recognizing the work that often takes place quietly, one assignment, test and long night of studying at a time.

Academic achievement does not always provide the dramatic moments that come with other high school accomplishments. There is no scoreboard counting the hours spent preparing for an exam. There are no bleachers filled with spectators when a student rewrites an essay, works through a difficult math problem or decides to spend another hour studying instead of calling it a night.

That is precisely why traditions such as the First Honors Dinner matter. For one evening, academic achievement becomes the main event.

The effort Shepherd Hill's faculty and staff put into the occasion makes the message even stronger. Transforming a school cafeteria into a candlelit dining room, preparing the meal and personally serving students is more than a nice gesture. It tells young people that the adults who teach them notice their effort and believe it deserves recognition.

There is also value in connecting today's students with those who once occupied the same classrooms and walked the same hallways.

This year's guest speaker, 1992 Shepherd Hill graduate Kimberly Snow, has built a career that has included leadership positions in the creative and technology industries, including 11 years at Google. Bringing graduates back to speak with current students gives teenagers something valuable: a tangible example of where their education might lead.

Not every honors student will follow Snow's path, nor should they. Some will attend college. Others may enter technical fields, public service, health care, business, education or any number of professions. Some may build careers far from Dudley and Charlton, while others may eventually bring their talents home.

The important lesson is that the habits being recognized today can travel with them. Consistency matters. Curiosity matters. Meeting high expectations matters. Learning how to work through difficult material matters. Those qualities have value long after report cards have been replaced by résumés, careers and responsibilities.

There is another important part of this tradition that deserves recognition. The Quo Vadis Club's continued support, including a \$6,000 contribution toward this year's dinner, demonstrates the role community organizations can play in education. Schools cannot and should not exist apart from the communities they serve. When civic organizations, alumni, parents, educators and residents invest in students, they reinforce the idea that education is a shared responsibility.

Principal Darren Elwell described the dinner as a "labor of love" for the school's faculty and staff. After 38 years, that description seems appropriate.

Traditions survive because people decide they are worth preserving. Someone must organize the dinner. Someone must prepare the room. Someone must cook and serve the meal. Someone must provide the financial support. And year after year, another group of students must do the difficult work necessary to earn a seat at the table.

In an era when communities spend plenty of time discussing what young people are doing wrong, there is value in making a little ceremony out of what they are doing right.

Achievement deserves recognition. Hard work deserves encouragement. And sometimes, excellence deserves a place at the table.

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

Italian immigrant who died in Southbridge in 1914 is found by family 110 years later

BY ROBERT VICCARONE KALVITZ

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Jan. 29, 1911, a 17-year-old farm laborer named Erasmo Viccarone boarded the S.S. Berlin in Naples. He came from Coreno Ausonio, a small hill town between Rome and Naples. He could not read or write. The ship's manifest lists his father, Domenico, as his nearest relative back home, and says he was going to join his uncle, Francesco Coreno. He landed in New York on Feb. 10, 1911. Three years later, he was dead.

In April 1914, Erasmo fell ill with lobar pneumonia. Dr. S. J. Benoit of Southbridge attended him for ten days. He died on East Main Street at 5 o'clock in the morning on April 30, 1914. He was about 19, single, and working as a laborer.

There was no one at his bedside who knew him well enough to give his real name. The doctor himself supplied the information for the death certificate. Erasmo was recorded as "Raimondo Viccaroni," and his parents were listed as "unknown." He was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery on May 2, 1914, by the undertaker W. C. Callahan.

His family never knew. His younger brother Giovanni, my grandfather, came to America in 1921 and settled in Cleveland, Ohio. He served in the Italian Army, was wounded in combat, and carried that injury for the rest of his life. He also carried the question of what happened to his brother Erasmo. He died in 1976 without an answer.

I spent decades looking for Erasmo. Because his name was misspelled and his parents were listed as unknown, he was nearly impossible to find. In 2024, through relatives and old records, I finally matched the young man on the 1911 ship manifest to the "Raimondo Viccaroni" who died in Southbridge in 1914.

Now I want to do what my grandfather never could: mark his brother's grave.

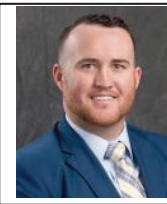
St. Mary's Cemetery is now cared for by the Parish of St. John Paul II. When I asked a few years ago, no burial location could be found for him, and he may lie in an unmarked grave. I'm hoping someone in Southbridge can help, whether through old cemetery or parish records, the records of the Callahan funeral business, local history knowledge, or simply an interest in helping a family bring one of its own home in name, if not in body.

Erasmo came to America as a teenager to work and build a life. He died far from home, among strangers, under a name that wasn't his. After more than a century, his family has found him. We'd like to give him a headstone with his real name on it.

Anyone with information can contact me at facesofitaly@yahoo.com.

Robert Kalvitz is a retired East Cleveland homicide detective living in the Cleveland area.

A retiree's guide for National Retirement Security Month



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If you're retired, it's easy to let your finances go on autopilot. Since October is National Retirement Security Month, it's a good time to revisit some areas that can impact your long-term financial security and help your money last a lifetime.

Consider these suggestions:

- Manage your withdrawal rate. You'll likely need to tap into your retirement accounts — your IRA and 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan. But think carefully about how much income you withdraw every year. If you take out too much, especially in the early years of your retirement, you risk outliving your resources. You have the option of withdrawing from these accounts at age 59 and a half. Once you turn 73, you'll be required to take out at least a certain amount each year based on your age and account balance.
- Estimate health care costs. When you turn 65, you will be eligible for Medicare, but you may still need a Medicare supplement plan, both of which will require premium payments. You'll probably also incur a variety of other unreimbursed expenses for doctor visit copays or deductibles, prescription drugs and vision, hearing, and dental care. Additionally, about 70% of adults ages 65 and older will need some form of long-term support, according to the Department of Health and Human Services. This may include a paid home health aide (average cost of \$77,792 per year), an assisted living residence (average cost of \$127,500 per year) or nursing home care (private room average cost of \$127,750 per year). (Cost estimates are from Genworth 2024 Cost of Care Survey.) Over the course of your retirement, these can add up, so be realistic when budgeting for health care expenses in retirement.
- Consider when to take Social Security. You can start receiving monthly Social Security checks at age 62, but your payments will

generally be larger if you wait until your “full” retirement age of 66 or 67. (The size of your payments will “max out” at age 70.) If you believe you have longevity working in your favor, and you can afford to wait, you may well be better off by delaying Social Security as long as possible.

- Avoid investing too conservatively. Once you're retired, you might think you should take a few chances with your investments as possible — after all, you have less time for them to bounce back from a downturn than you did during your working years. Nonetheless, it's important to consider keeping a reasonable percentage of growth-oriented investments in your portfolio to help you stay ahead of inflation. Even at a low rate, inflation can erode your purchasing power over time.
- Keep your generosity in check. If you have grown children who need financial help, or grandchildren heading to college someday, you'd no doubt like to do what you can to assist them. However, the hard truth is that they have more time than you to find workable financial solutions, whereas if you deplete your funds through your generosity, you could put yourself in a precarious position. So, be as giving as you can afford — but try not to go beyond that. By preserving your financial independence, you'll end up benefiting your family as well.

Retirement is ideally an enjoyable time in your life, especially if you feel financially stable. So, take time to check in periodically to keep that stability on track.

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 trevornnielsen@edwardjones.com. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

The great October thermostat standoff

LANTERNS ALONG
MAIN STREET
By CHARLES

There comes a morning every October when a man wakes up and realizes that his house has become an experiment in refrigeration.

You know the morning. You get out of bed, put your feet on the floor and immediately reconsider every decision that brought you to this point in life. The floor is cold. The bathroom is colder. And somewhere downstairs, your wife is wearing a sweatshirt and giving you the kind of look that says the heating season has officially begun, whether you have accepted it or not.

I have always believed there should be rules about turning on the heat. Not actual rules, mind you. Nothing involving town meeting or the Legislature. We have enough regulations already. I mean personal rules.

Mine is that the furnace should remain off until sometime in October when it becomes absolutely necessary. The trouble is defining “absolutely necessary.” My wife and I have different standards. To her, the appearance of frost on the lawn is compelling evidence. To me, frost is merely nature making a suggestion. She will walk past the thermostat and glance at it. I will notice her glancing at it. Neither of us will say anything. This is marriage after 30 years. You don't need words for the important negotiations. The thermostat sits there quietly between us, waiting to see who cracks first.

I usually attempt several delaying tactics. First comes the sweatshirt. Then the heavier socks. Then I begin making helpful observations such as, “It's supposed to warm up this afternoon.” This is technically true, although warming from 43 degrees to 58 degrees isn't quite the argument I think it is. Eventually, my wife asks the obvious question: “Why don't we turn the heat on?” I never have a particularly good answer.

There is something psychological about that first firing of the furnace. Once you hear it rumble to life, summer is officially over. There is no going back. Windows that were open every evening suddenly get locked. The ceiling fans stop spinning. The extra blanket returns to the bed. Somewhere in the garage, the snow shovel begins plotting its comeback. Turning on the heat feels like signing paperwork acknowledging that another New England winter is on its way.

And winter never arrives alone. It brings heating bills, icy windshields, frozen door locks, driveway shoveling and the annual mystery of where I put the good gloves. So I resist. Not effectively, but symbolically. I suspect generations of New Englanders have done the same thing.

We live in a part of the country where stubbornness is sometimes confused with thrift, and thrift is occasionally confused with sitting in your own living room wearing a winter coat. Eventually, of course, common sense wins.

One evening the temperature drops, the house gets genuinely chilly and somebody finally walks over to the thermostat. Click. A few seconds later comes the familiar sound of the furnace starting. Warm air begins moving through the house. And almost immediately, I wonder why I spent three days pretending I wasn't cold.

That is another October tradition around here. The leaves change. The days shorten. The pumpkins appear on front steps. And grown adults engage in silent contests with their thermostats.

I know how ours will end. The heat will go on. My wife will be comfortable. And I will stand near the vent enjoying the warm air while maintaining, purely for the historical record, that I could have held out another week.

To the Editor

Say yes to a new senior center

To the Editor:

As a member of the Charlton Feasibility Senior & Community Center and the Charlton Council on Aging, I urge community support and yes vote on Oct. 19 Special Town Meeting, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Heritage School at 34 Oxford Rd.

A yes vote will allow the schematic and design development of a new Senior & Community Center on Masonic Home Road next to the Police Station. This land is owned by the town of Charlton, and this location is central to Charlton residents.

Please note that an affirmative vote will move forward, not just a Charlton Senior Center, but a Community Center as well.

It will also provide much needed additional parking spaces for the Charlton Police Station.

In addition, moving the current Senior Center to Masonic Home, will also free up much needed additional space and parking at the current Charlton Town Hall.

A yes vote is a “Something for Everyone” for the residents of Charlton.

For more information visit the Friends of the Senior/Community Center Facebook page for more information to to ask questions.

With appreciation and advanced thanks,

Sue Crockett
Charlton

Explore the trails that make Sturbridge a special place

To the Editor:

Sturbridge has something that many communities would envy: miles of trails that give residents and visitors an opportunity to experience our community in an entirely different way.

Those trails are there to be used - by serious runners and hikers, certainly, but also by families looking for an opportunity to get outside, enjoy the fall weather and discover places in Sturbridge they may never have visited.

That's one reason the Rotary Club of Sturbridge created the Trek Sturbridge Halloween 5K. The annual event isn't just for runners. It includes a 1K and Fun Walk and offers families an opportunity to get outdoors, enjoy our local trails and have a little fun at Halloween. Costumes are encouraged. We'll also have free games and activities to keep younger children safely entertained while older family members take part in the race or walk.

There's another benefit as well. Proceeds from the event help the Rotary Club support scholarships for local students and other community projects throughout the year.

This year's Trek Sturbridge Halloween 5K takes place Sunday, Oct. 25, at the Old Sturbridge Village Education Center. Whether you run, walk, bring the family, or simply come out to support the participants, it's a good opportunity to enjoy one of the resources that makes Sturbridge a special place to live.

We hope you'll join us.

Tim Gresenz
President
Rotary Club of Sturbridge

Charlton Library Friends hold Trivia Night

CHARLTON — The non-profit Friends of Charlton Public Library will hold a Trivia Night on Thursday, Oct. 15 at the Charlton Beagle Club, 103 Bond Rd. in Charlton. The event will take place from 6 to 8 p.m.

The Friends invite the general public to test their knowledge and challenge their friends as they attempt to answer a variety of questions provided by Wise Guys Trivia.

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.

In addition, attendees will have an opportunity to enter a raffle to win prizes such as gift cards to a variety of local businesses, including grocery stores, book and coffee shops, entertainment venues, photography and fitness studios, restaurants, and more. Other prizes include seasonal gift baskets. A cash prize will be awarded to the overall winner.

The Friends extend sincere thanks to Savers Bank our most generous sponsor for their support. We also thank Better Life With Yoga, Blush Photography, Volume Hair Studio of Southbridge, Alternatives For Health, Booklover's Gourmet, Entertainment Luxury Cinema, Golden Nails, Sturbridge Coffee Roasters, Ted's Package Store, Worcester WooSox, and Tree House Brewery for their donations.

Tickets are \$10 per participant and can be purchased at the Charlton Public Library circulation desk or at the door the evening of the event. All proceeds enable the Friends to support the mission of the Charlton Public Library as it brings enrichment, musical, and educational programs, and more to the community-at-large. The Friends of Charlton Public Library appreciate your ongoing support.

For more information, please email charltonfriends@gmail.com or call 774-230-1410.

To the Editor CONTINUED Something for everyone

To the Editor:

Anyone who has ever served on a Charlton committee knows it is a badge of honor to have lived in town for many years or better yet to be part of a family of generations here. We love our beautiful town: its rural feel, its quiet, scenic neighborhoods, the wooded hill-sides and the wildlife that comes up on our back porch. We don't often make change, but when we do it is for the right reasons and we take immense pride in it.

Our grandparents, parents, older friends and neighbors have voted and paid for those changes that have made our town what it is today. They approved our many school projects, our police, our fire department, our library, our recreational fields and more. And many would argue those things are the envy of other towns and are what have drawn others to our way of life here in Charlton.

Our 4,000 seniors need a new center. They deserve it. And if it is not enough to Support Our Seniors, this project will also get us an expanded police parking lot, hiking trails and open space for young and old, new space for community events relieving pressure on the library and will free up desperately needed space at the Town Hall for municipal offices and parking.

It will have "something for everyone."

Do you have questions? Our Facebook page is Friends of the Charlton Senior/Community Center. Please vote YES on Article 5 at Town Meeting Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. at Charlton Middle School.

Pat Stockwell
Chair
Charlton Senior Community Center Feasibility Study Committee

Support our seniors

To the Editor:

Charlton voters, please support our seniors, community, and Police Department by voting yes on Article 5 at Town Meeting on Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. at Charlton Middle School.

A yes vote will allow the proposed Charlton Senior/Community Center, planned next to the Charlton Police Department, to advance to its next phase. The plan also includes much-needed additional parking for the Police Department, open space, and space for community events. A yes vote would authorize a transfer of funds, not a tax increase.

Charlton's growing senior population has long since outgrown its current space in Town Hall's basement. These residents are our neighbors, relatives, and friends, and they deserve a modern, safe, accessible center, designed to meet their needs with hours independent of current town hall limitations.

According to the National Council on Aging (NCOA), research shows older adults who participate in senior center programs can learn to manage and delay the onset of chronic disease and experience measurable improvements in their physical, social, spiritual, emotional, mental and economic well-being. Key benefits of senior centers include social connection; health/fitness programs that improve mobility, balance, and strength while reducing fall risk; nutritional support; computer training, and support services, including health and insurance counseling, transportation coordination, tax-preparation assistance, and more – for free or at a significantly reduced price.

Our seniors have consistently supported our community—from our children's education to public safety. Now it is our turn to support a project that will serve some of our most vulnerable residents. A yes vote on article 5 is an investment in their future... and yours.

Visit the Friends of the Charlton Senior/Community Center Facebook page to learn more.

Karen Spiewak
Charlton



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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 tradi-

tional 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 presence 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.

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



Faith Formation students with leaders in the Parish Center.

FISKDALE — St. Anne–St. Patrick Parish is mak-

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

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

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

The new class schedule is:

- Grades K–6: Sundays, 8:45–9:45 a.m., before the

10 a.m. Mass.

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

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

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

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



Courtesy Photo

TRINITY CATHOLIC ACADEMY HOLDS ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

A huge thank you to all of the golfers, sponsors, donors, volunteers, and supporters who helped make this year's Trinity Catholic Academy golf tournament such a success! Your generosity is a beautiful reminder of what makes the TCA community so special. Every donation, sponsorship, and hour of volunteer time helps strengthen our school and provides our students with meaningful opportunities, resources, and experiences that enrich the education we are able to give them. A very special thank you to our amazing tournament committee, spearheaded by Paula Toti, for all of the time, energy, and heart they put into making this event happen! And congratulations to this year's Recognition of Service Award recipient, Sherry Jovan! We are truly blessed to have so many people who believe in Trinity Catholic Academy and are willing to invest in our students and their future. It takes a community to make a difference, and we are so grateful to have the very best community behind our Bobcats!

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

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

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

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

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.



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.

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 laserklus@gmail.com or visit the Sturbridge Rotary Club Web site at <https://sturbridgerotary.com>.

Trinity Catholic Academy partners with Harvard Forest to study seasonal change



SOUTHBURIDGE — Trinity Catholic Academy is proud to partner with Harvard Forest through the Buds, Leaves, and Global Warming project, giving students the opportunity to participate in authentic, hands-on scientific research right here on our school grounds.

Students in Grades 4 and 5 are each assigned a branch on a specific tree and become its “scientists” for the school

year. Each week, students carefully observe their tree and collect and record data, including leaf length and width, air temperature, and changes in leaf color. Through this ongoing observation, students are learning the importance of making careful observations, collecting accurate data, and maintaining consistent records.

The data collected by our students is shared with Harvard Forest and becomes

part of a larger research project examining seasonal changes and how growing seasons may be affected by a changing climate.

This partnership provides our students with a wonderful opportunity to see how the science they learn in the classroom connects to real-world research—and reminds us that even a single branch on a tree can contribute to a much bigger scientific story!

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

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



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

The Fiskdale conference

raises funds through parish poor boxes, public donations, and events such as this one. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul operates in 153 countries, with more than 4,000 local conferences, and is run entirely by volunteer members committed to tackling poverty in all its forms.

Residents are encouraged to come to the harvest fest and join us in our walk for our neighbors in need.

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

Courtesy Photo

The Friends of Jacob Edwards Library is celebrating Friends Week in October with a drawing set up in the main library area, 226 Main St. A variety of prizes and gift certificates are available. There is no charge to enter the drawing, as the purpose is to encourage participation in events and programs sponsored by the Friends. The organization provides museum discounts, sponsors children’s room activities and other library programs. They offer book sales and refresh book carts with books and puzzles for sale. New members are always welcome. Be sure to stop in to enter the drawing, and peruse the book carts.

Friday's Child

Jeremiah
Age 14
Registration #8413

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

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

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.

LEGALS

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

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by 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

Public Hearing Notice – Timber Harvest – 198 Podunk Road
In accordance with MGL Chapter 132, Section 40-46, the Sturbridge Select Board will hold a public hearing on the petition of Casadei Forestry for a forest cutting plan for land on 198 Podunk Road, Sturbridge MA, 01566 owned by Robert Moynagh Jr. of 192 Podunk Road. The hearing will be held on Monday, October 19, 2026 at 6:45 p.m. at Sturbridge Town Hall, Veterans Memorial Hall, 2nd Floor, 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA.
October 8, 2026

Public Hearing Notice – Timber Harvest – 175 Arnold Road
In accordance with MGL Chapter 132,

Section 40-46, the Sturbridge Select Board will hold a public hearing on the petition of Hull Forest Products Inc for a forest cutting plan for land on 175 Arnold Road, Sturbridge MA, 01566 owned by Tweedy McDonald Family of Falmouth ME The hearing will be held on Monday, October 19, 2026 at 6:55 p.m. at Sturbridge Town Hall, Veterans Memorial Hall, 2nd Floor, 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA.
October 8, 2026

**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
Select Board
Public Hearing**
National Grid has made a petition to the Sturbridge Select Board to install five (5) JO Pole on Warren Road beginning at a point approximately 700 feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Warren Road and Brookfield Road and continuing approximately 1,100 feet in a western direction. National Grid to install five (5) new Poles on Warren Road: 3-50, 5-50, 6-50, 7-50, 8-50. The pole hearing will take place on **Monday, October 19th at 6:35 p.m.** at the Sturbridge Town Hall, 2nd floor, Veteran’s Memorial Hall located at 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566.
October 8, 2026

**CHARLTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**
In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on October 14, 2026, at 6:30PM on the application of Kelly and Bradley Young.
The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for the replacement of existing drainage and to replace and extend the existing fence within the 100-ft buffer zone to Glen Echo Lake. Address: 2 Vine Road, Charlton, MA, 01507. Parcel ID: 16A-A-21
Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate remotely can access the meeting by request.
Copies of the RDA may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.
Thomas O’Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
October 8, 2026

Public Notice
Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138, Section 12 of Massachusetts General Laws of a public hearing to be held in the Rice Meeting Room, first floor of the Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA, on Thursday, October 29, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. during the regular scheduled Liquor Licensing Board Meeting in regard to a Change of Manager and a Change of Location Application.
This hearing pertains to Cohasse Golf Club, Inc., D/B/A Cohasse, 393 Eastford Rd., Southbridge, MA, 01550. Anyone wishing to speak will be given the opportunity to be heard. This notice is also published electronically on www.stonebridgepress.com and on www.masspublicnotice.org
Town of Southbridge
Liquor Licensing Board
October 8, 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 28, 2026, at 6:00 PM to review a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) submitted by Steven Slowyra. The RDA proposes to replace a septic system.
Project Location: 16 Wales Road, Brimfield, MA 01010, (Assessor’s Map (13A-A16)
Meeting Location: Public Participation will be In-Person at Hitchcock Academy at 2 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, MA 01010 on October 28, 2026, at 5:30 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 30, 2026
October 8, 2026

Town of Holland
In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Sec 40, a public hearing by the Conservation Commission will be held on Tuesday 10/13/2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Conservation Commission Room, second floor, in the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Rd, Holland, MA. This meeting is to review a Notice of Intent (NOI) filed by Amanda Scheyd for demolishing a rebuilding an existing home structure, as well as a new septic and well installation at 10 Cove Rd Holland, MA 01521. To comply with the Open Meeting Law, all public hearings are scheduled for 6:30 PM and, barring unforeseen circumstances, will be taken in the order in which they appear on the agenda. This meeting will be held in person. The application is available for review by at the Conservation Commission Office, Town Office Building by appointment.
Conservation Commission
Town of Holland
October 8, 2026

**Town of Sturbridge
Zoning Board of Appeals
Public Hearing Notice Variance
Kevin LeBlanc**
In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §10 & §11, the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 6:35 PM** at the **Center Office Building located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566** and/or by virtual means if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law; on the application of Kevin LeBlanc for the property located at 108 Mashapaug Road.
Pursuant to §300-18.2 of the Zoning Bylaw, the applicant is requesting a Variance from Article XIV Intensity Regulations, §300-14.2 Table of Standards which requires 150’ of frontage in the Rural Residential District, to allow the division of the 108 Mashapaug Road into two lots, the existing house lot having 150’ of frontage and the new lot having 131’ of frontage for the building of a new house, all other zoning requirements and setbacks to be met.
The proposed request may be viewed at www.sturbridge.gov or arrangements can be made to view the application and plan by contacting the Sturbridge Planning Department at (508) 347-2508 or by email at jlacy@sturbridge.gov. Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this proposal should appear at the time and place designated.
Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted in person and may be conducted via remote means if circumstance warrant, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the public body as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means.
https://meet.goto.com/619527397
Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post of the Town’s website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.
Diane Trapasso, Chair
Sturbridge Zoning Board of Appeals
October 1, 2026
October 8, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No.WO26P3088EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
Victoria Christina Hill Resnick
Date of Death: 10/11/2025
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Hugh C Resnick of Greenwood IN** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: .
Hugh C Resnick of Greenwood IN be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/20/2026.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 18, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 8, 2026

**Town of Sturbridge
Zoning Board of Appeals
Public Hearing Notice Variance
NBM Realty, LLC**
In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §10 & §11, the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 6:45 PM** at the Center Office Building located at **301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566** and/or by virtual means if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law; on the application of NBM Realty, LLC for the property located at 152 Main Street.
Pursuant to §300-18.2 of the Zoning Bylaw, the applicant is requesting a Variance from Article IV Use Regulations, §300-4.3B(2)(a) and §300-4.3B(2)(b), Multifamily dwelling, allowed via Special Permit provided that it does not exceed four dwelling units and provided that there is not less than 20,000 square feet of lot area per dwelling unit, to permit the construction of two multi-family buildings each containing seven dwelling units with 19,418 square feet of lot area per dwelling unit.
The proposed request may be viewed at www.sturbridge.gov or arrangements can be made to view the application and plan by contacting the Sturbridge Planning Department at (508) 347-2508 or by email at jlacy@sturbridge.gov. Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this proposal should appear at the time and place designated.
Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted in person and may be conducted via remote means if circumstance warrant, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the public body as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means.
https://meet.goto.com/619527397
Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post of the Town’s website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.
Diane Trapasso, Chair
Sturbridge Zoning Board of Appeals
October 1, 2026
October 8, 2026

**CHARLTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**
In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on October 14, 2026, at 6:30PM on the application of Stephen Caggiano.
The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for the addition of 150 sq. ft. of foundation associated with the expansion of an existing family home within the 100-ft buffer zone to South Charlton Reservoir. Address: 27 Leland Drive, Charlton, MA, 01507. Parcel ID: 73A-A-3
Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate remotely can access the meeting by request.
Copies of the RDA may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.
Thomas O’Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
October 8, 2026

OBITUARIES

Richard B. Hardy

Charlton: Richard (Dick) B. Hardy, formerly of Sturbridge, MA, and a current resident of Overlook Retirement Community in Charlton, MA passed away peacefully on September 28.

He was the devoted husband of 61 years to Sarah C. Hardy who predeceased him in March 2020. Richard was the son of Charles Baxter Hardy and Phyllis Koehler Hardy of Worcester, MA and graduated from Classical High School in 1950. With an NROTC scholarship in hand, he attended Rice Institute (University). Upon graduation in 1954, he served for three years as a US Navy Lieutenant on the USS Earl K. Olsen (DE 765) and then began his career with The Norton Company from 1957-1961.

Dick is survived by his three children: Elizabeth and Alan Peppel of Fiskdale, MA, Thomas and Jane Hardy of Columbus, NC, and Susan and Dr. Nicholas Tretter of Holden, MA; eight grandchildren – Allison and her husband Mike Jenkins, Kaitlin and her husband Bobby Becker, Andrew Peppel and his wife Alexandria, Nathaniel and his wife Callie, Cole, and McKenna Hardy, and Dr. Lindsay and Spencer Tretter; and seven great-grandchildren - Saylor, Charlee, and Ford Becker; Avery, Wells, and Bennett Jenkins; and Margot Peppel. His sister, Janice Bjork predeceased him.

In 1961, Dick joined Hyde Manufacturing of Southbridge, MA as the Assistant Sales Manager and served as Treasurer from 1966-1975 and then as President from 1977 – 1996. With the acquisition of Russell Harrington Cutlery in 1968, Dick served as President from 1969-1992. In addition, he served as Chairman of the Hyde Group of companies from 1996 to 2005. During his leadership tenure, the Hyde Group grew and expanded organically and through the acquisition of numerous companies.

The Affinity Group was founded in 2010, and numerous charitable donations to aid Southbridge and surrounding communities were made by the Hyde/Dexter Charitable Foundation and Affinity Group Charitable.

In addition to his business success, Dick was an active civic leader and contributor to the Tri-community area. He was a 38-year trustee of Harrington Memorial Hospital

and served as Board Chair from 1970-1975. He was past Director of the Tri-Community Chamber of Commerce and Tri-Community YMCA. He was a Director of Mechanics Bank/Fleet Bank from 1969-1999, Director of Reed Machinery, and Chair of the Investment Committee for EcoTarium. He served as Trustee for many years at Old Sturbridge Village and served as Chair of the Investment Committee. Dick served 12 years as Trustee including Chairman of the Board at Nichols College from 1985-1989, where he received an Honorary Doctorate. In business associations, he served as President the American Cutlery Manufacturers Association from 1971-1973 and the Hand Tool Institute from 1995-1997.

Dick was a member of the Elm Street Congregational church, Southbridge, the Quinebaug Lodge (AF & AM) of Southbridge; the Doric Lodge, Royal Arch Masons, Southbridge; Scottish Rite Consistory (32nd Degree) Valley of Springfield; and the Melah Temple Shriners, Springfield. Most recently he was a member of the Rose of Sharon Lodge, Charlton.

As his life story shows, Dick Hardy was an active, social man who made a difference while caring about his family, the people in his business, the business, and his community. He was blessed to enjoy a full life of boating, skiing, and world travel with his wife Sarah, while loving and enjoying life with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The family wishes to thank the dedicated CNAs at Overlook, the caregivers from Visiting Angels and hospice nurses. We are deeply grateful for their kindness and compassion to Dick and the family.

Calling hours for Dick will be held on Friday, Nov. 6th, from 2:00 to 4:00pm in



the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge. A Celebration of Life Service will be held on

Saturday, Nov. 7th, at 11:00am in the Meeting House at Old Sturbridge Village, Stallion Hill Rd., Sturbridge. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Dick's memory may be made to Old Sturbridge Village, 1 Old Sturbridge Village Rd., Sturbridge, MA 01566 or to the Shriners Children's New England, 516 Carew St, Springfield, MA 01104.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Theresa L. Joy. 93

Southbridge: Theresa L. Joy, 93, passed away after living a full enjoyable life on Sept. 27, 2026 at Christopher Heights in Webster, surrounded by her family.

She was born in Southbridge, the daughter of Rodolph Tremblay and Beatrice (LeClair) Tremblay, her brother William (Billy) and her sister Pauline (Paquin). She grew up in Southbridge graduating from Mary E. Wells High School where she was a major-ette leading parades down Main Street in Southbridge. She met her husband at a dance at the Quinebaug Dance Hall and subsequently married and formed a 64-year marriage to Walter "Skippy" Joy. Terry and Skip had 4 children: Allen, Kenny and his wife Kathy, Bruce and his wife Judy, and Gail.

Terry was a proud homemaker and as the children grew, she worked many years as a home cake decorator, a Park and Shop cashier and a bank clerk at Savers Bank. She also volunteered at the voting station at Charlton Street School. She is a devout Catholic and a true believer in God and Jesus Christ. She enjoyed making many quilts and with Skip made numerous beautiful stained-glass items for her family as well as trips to the golf course! Music was always in the air with her and she enjoyed many camping trips with her family and that was where she brought memories and lifelong friends into her life. She was always a cheerful and friendly person to all she came across and as a result bonded with many people from all walks of life.



She loved games of all sorts; Bingo, cards with friends, the occasional casino trip, and lately "KLUPPA" defined as Keno between LUNCH and supPA'. She had many winning streaks in KLUPPA, resulting in her being named "Keno Boss."

Theresa was predeceased by her husband Walter in 2015, her son Allen in 1971, her siblings William and Pauline and a host of other relatives and friends. She has had the benefit of enjoying life with 7 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren and lots of loving nieces, nephews and in laws.

Theresa's parting wishes were that everyone should find a way to love each other deeply and appreciate that we're all in this together and find ways to love each other. The family wishes to express the greatest of thanks, love and respect to Christopher Heights family and staff, Summit Eldercare, and Price Chopper Pharmacy staff, all of whom cared for her wellbeing and comfort.

Her funeral was held on Thursday, Oct. 1st, from the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a Mass at 11:00am in St. Mary's Church of the St. John Paul II Parish, 263 Hamilton St., Southbridge. Burial in Old Notre Dame Cemetery will be private. Calling hours in the funeral Home were held on Wednesday, Sept. 30th, from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

In lieu flowers donations may be made to Blood Cancer United, Attn. Donation Services, P.O. Box 22324, New York, NY 10087 or online at <https://bloodcancerunit-ed.org/give>.

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Mechanics Hall marks year of growth, investment and expanded programming at 183rd Annual Meeting

WORCESTER — The Worcester County Mechanics Association, the nonprofit organization that owns and operates Mechanics Hall, marked a year of growing community support, expanded programming and continued investment in the historic venue at its 183rd Annual Meeting on Sept. 29.

The meeting reflected the first full year under Executive Director Meghan Montaner, who assumed leadership of Mechanics Hall in July 2025. During the year, membership increased 30 percent and annual fund contributions grew 55 percent, while Mechanics Hall expanded its own programming and increased opportunities for young people to experience music and theatre at the Hall.

“The growth we’ve seen in our membership, donor support, programming and youth initiatives tells us that more people see themselves as part of the life of Mechanics Hall,” said Montaner. “Our job now is to keep opening those doors wider—bringing more people into the Hall, creating more reasons for them to return, and making sure this extraordinary place continues to be an active part of Worcester’s cultural life.”

The Association also presented its highest honor, the Master Mechanic Award, to former Executive Director Kathleen Gagne, recognizing more than 30 years of service to Mechanics Hall and her lasting contributions to its artistic, institutional and community life.

During her remarks, Montaner highlighted a year that balanced investment in the Hall’s historic building with efforts to expand how the community experiences it. Facility projects included new carpeting in the Boyden Salon, Dickens Room and Great Hall perimeter; new window treatments; refinishing of the Great Hall and Washburn Hall floors; and continued conservation of the Hall’s historic portrait collection. Four portraits—Clara Barton, George Frisbie Hoar, James Barnard Blake and Governor John Albion Andrew—were restored during the year as part of the Hall’s ongoing multiyear conservation initiative.

One of the year’s most significant preservation projects took one of Mechanics Hall’s two Hamburg Steinway Model D concert grands far beyond Worcester. The instrument traveled to Germany for a comprehensive \$80,000 restoration before returning to the Great Hall stage, ready once again to serve the exceptional musicians who perform and record at Mechanics Hall.

Mechanics Hall also expanded its role as a presenter, increasing the number and range of programs produced by the Hall and creating more opportunities for audiences of all ages to experience its stages. The 2025–2026 season included “L’Chaim: A Toast to



Executive Director Meghan Montaner speaks during the Worcester County Mchanics Association’s Annual Meeting.

the Jewish Legacy of Broadway” and other Mechanics Hall-presented performances, reflecting a growing commitment to broaden the mix of genres and artists while reaching new audiences.

That expansion extended to the Hall’s youngest patrons. Many Voices: Mechanics Hall Youth Singers expanded enrollment beyond the city of Worcester to students throughout Worcester County, extending the reach of its tuition-free choral program. Student matinees and educational partnerships also brought thousands of students across the community into Mechanics Hall for “Cinderella” through a new partnership with the Met HD in Schools program,

TheaterWorksUSA’s The Pout-Pout Fish, and the longstanding Conversations in Jazz in partnership with CultureLEAP.

The Hall plans to build on that momentum in the coming year, with more Mechanics Hall-presented performances, a broader range of genres and artists, and expanded opportunities for young people to experience and participate in the arts.

Financial position continues to strengthen. Treasurer Andrew Joyce reported operating revenue of \$2.34 million for fiscal year 2026, driven in part by a 9 percent increase in event rental revenue. Annual Fund contributions increased 55 percent, reflecting growing philanthropic support for the Hall

and its mission.

The Association reported a net operating loss of \$167,000, an 11 percent improvement over the previous year and largely in line with budget expectations as Mechanics Hall continued investing in programming and facility operations. After investment returns, capital support and depreciation, the organization finished the year with positive net income of \$17,000.

Financial reserves increased 5 percent to a record \$5.91 million, strengthening resources available for preservation, future capital needs and long-term organizational stability.

Gagne receives Master Mechanic Award
The evening’s Master Mechanic Award recognized Kathleen Gagne, who retired in 2025 following more than three decades at Mechanics Hall, including seven years as Executive Director.

Throughout her career, Gagne played a central role in programming, marketing, fundraising and preservation while helping expand the Hall’s relationship with the Worcester community. As Executive Director, she guided Mechanics Hall through the COVID-19 pandemic and an 18-month shutdown while continuing to invest in the building and its future.

Her tenure also brought several initiatives that continue to shape Mechanics Hall today. Gagne launched Many Voices: Mechanics Hall Youth Singers in 2022 and the popular Washburn Hall series “Club 321” in 2024, while championing educational concerts and the Worcester Organ Performance Series. She also led the initiative to commission portraits of prominent 19th-century Black Americans for the Great Hall Portrait Gallery, expanding the history represented within the Hall’s collection.

As Executive Director, Gagne oversaw major lighting and sound upgrades in both performance halls, pairing modern technical capabilities with stewardship of the historic building.

Reflecting on the Hall and its history, Gagne said, “Remembering the remarkable reminds us that human beings are capable of extraordinary creativity... it is not the nature of common architecture to uplift and encourage. Mechanics Hall does that. It has wisdom in its walls. It has the sweat of labor in its beams. It is proof that in this New England city dreams of a better life were encouraged and through education and disciplined work, those dreams could come true.”

The Master Mechanic Award recognizes individuals and organizations whose innovation, enterprise and leadership contribute to a culture of excellence in Central Massachusetts.

New officers elected
The Association elected James Goldsberry of NextUp2Lead as President, succeeding Peter Thomas, who will continue his service as a Vice President.

Andrew Joyce of Baystate Financial was elected Treasurer and Evan Maloney of MCPHS University was elected Clerk.

Vice Presidents elected were Jen Antkowiak, Soundshine Productions; Bruce Ellis, R.P. Masiello, Inc.; Victoria Mariano, Downtown Worcester BID; Scott Ober, Hassett Donnelly; Liz Parker Gagne, UMass Memorial Health; and Peter Thomas, Westbridge.

Trustees include Kim Ciborowski; Patricia Davidson, Mirick O’Connell; Anthony D’Elia, Revelation Productions; Akash Garg, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management; Andrew Madigan, F.W. Madigan Company, Inc.; Lorie Martiska, Open Sky Community Services; Satya Mitra, The Guru Tax & Financial Services; Matthew Sabacinski, TD Bank; Adi Tibrewal, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management; and Margaret Wong, Quinsigamond Community College.

Newly elected trustees include: Tanner Bolton Harris, Saint-Gobain; Patrick Dacey, Bento Box Entertainment; Dennis A. Dean, II, PhD, Quinsigamond Community College; and Amanda B. Wittman, Ph.D., Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Honorary Trustees are Judith Collins, Kathryn Crockett, Linwood M. Erskine Jr., Patrice M. Muchowski, Michael Refolo, David Smith and Joseph N. Stolberg.

Steeped in the rich history of 19th-century Worcester, Mechanics Hall is internationally regarded as one of the world’s great concert halls. Regionally, it is a gathering place known for its central New England location, architecture, acoustics and extraordinary history.

The world’s renowned orchestras and performers—including the London Philharmonic, Yo-Yo Ma, Ella Fitzgerald and Linda Ronstadt—have taken the Hall’s stage. Among the many notable figures who have spoken at Mechanics Hall are Charles Dickens, Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass and Mark Twain.

In addition to serving as a performance venue, event destination and recording site, Mechanics Hall offers cultural experiences through concerts, community events, youth programming and collaborations with educational and nonprofit organizations.

Mechanics Hall is a nonprofit organization owned and operated by the Worcester County Mechanics Association, established in 1842, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Learn more at MechanicsHall.org.

United Way of Central Massachusetts supports Girls on the Run Worcester County

WORCESTER — Girls on the Run Worcester County is pleased to be the recipient of a grant from the United Way of Central Massachusetts Women’s Initiative. This grant aligns with the United Way of Central Massachusetts Women’s Initiative mission of addressing violence in the lives of middle school age girls.

Girls on the Run Worcester County inspires girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident through an evidence-based curriculum that creatively integrates running. The afterschool program teaches girls healthy habits and critical life skills such as positive self-talk, teamwork, and navigating big emotions. Volunteer coaches undergo training to effectively create welcoming environments, support individual growth, and deliver lessons that help girls improve competence, confidence, caring, character, and connection.

Each eight-week season culminates with a team-led Community Impact Project and celebratory 5K event. The end-of-season Girls on the Run 5K provides participants with a tangible sense of confidence that comes through accomplishment and a framework for setting and achieving life goals.

“Girls on the Run Worcester County is incredibly grateful to the United Way of Central Massachusetts Women’s Initiative for this generous investment in our girls and our mission. This partnership allows us to create spaces where girls can build confidence, form meaningful connections, discover their strengths, and develop the skills they need to navigate life with courage and resilience. We are proud to partner with an organization that shares our belief in the power and potential

of every girl,” said Karen Spencer, Executive Director, Girls on the Run Worcester County.

United Way of Central Massachusetts Women’s Initiative is dedicated to igniting positive change for adolescent girls (ages nine to 15) through philanthropy, women’s leadership, and advocacy. By supporting Girls on the Run Worcester County, the United Way of Central Massachusetts Women’s Initiative will directly impact girls by helping Girls on the Run Worcester County provide scholarships and high-quality programming for girls who may otherwise be unable to participate due to financial barriers. This funding ensures that more girls have access to a safe, supportive environment where they build confidence, strengthen social and emotional skills, and discover the power of believing in themselves. Together, the non-profit and the United Way of Central Massachusetts Women’s Initiative are excited to continue empowering the lives of young girls throughout Worcester County.

“The United Way of Central Massachusetts Women’s Initiative is proud to partner with Girls on the Run in creating opportunities for girls to build meaningful relationships, connect with positive role models, and develop skills that will serve them throughout their lives. Their work reflects our shared commitment to helping girls across Central Massachusetts thrive,” said Anabelle Santiago, Manager, Women’s Initiative United Way of Central Massachusetts.

Since, 2014, Girls on the Run Worcester County has served and inspired thousands of girls to cross the 5K finish line. In a recent end-of-season survey, caregivers and coaches alike confirmed the power of the program. Ninety-six percent of parents/caregivers agree that Girls on the Run was a valuable experience for their child, and 95 percent of coaches felt that they were making a difference in participants’ lives.

Additionally, a third-party study that surveyed coaches and program site hosts showed that Girls on the Run (GOTR) supports a positive school climate. Of the current teacher coaches surveyed, 99 percent said that GOTR supports their school climate by encouraging physical activity and health among students and by fostering an environment where students’ thoughts, feelings, and ideas are valued. Ninety-five percent of current program site hosts said GOTR supports their school climate by supporting mental health by building students’ social-emotional capacities and by fostering feelings of connectedness among students.

To learn more about the organization’s mission or how to get involved, please visit www.gotr-worc.org.

About Girls on the Run Worcester County

Girls on the Run Worcester County creates and offers empowering after-school programs designed for girls in grades 3 to 8. The nonprofit helps participants build confidence, increase physical activity, and develop life skills like managing emotions, resolving conflicts, and forming friendships. With the support of trained coaches, team members activate their limitless potential through a blend of physical activities and engaging lessons. The research-based curriculum explores topics relevant to eight- to 13-year-old girls, such as expressing empathy and standing up for oneself and others. The program includes a Community Impact Project and culminates with a celebratory 5K. Discover more at www.gotr-worc.org.

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Charlton Cultural Council announces community art exhibit

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

The exhibit will be open to the public from Oct. 18 through 31, with a reception at 6 p.m. on Oct. 29 at the Library. There will a classic country music revue

by musician Matt York, and readings by the 'Write Away' Writers Group from the Charlton Senior Center, appetizers provided by Charcuterie and a workshop for kids on AI for Everyday Art Use.

Artists are encouraged to submit their work for display. Please go to the Charlton Cultural Council Facebook page; you'll find a QR code to register your submitted work for the

exhibit. Art Drop-off is Oct. 17, 10 a.m. to noon. Artists will be able to pick up their

artwork on Oct. 31 from 9:30 a.m. until noon.

For any additional ques-

tions, our email address is cultural.council@townof-charlton.net.

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

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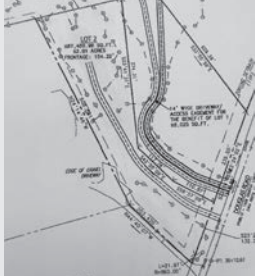
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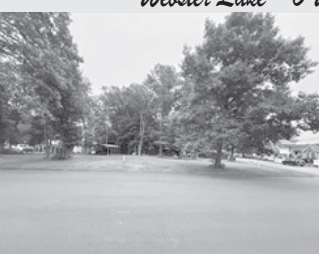
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Revving up for the 18th annual Brimfield Auto Show

BRIMFIELD — Now in its 18th year, the annual Brimfield Auto Show is a benefit for Hitchcock Academy and the Brimfield Firefighters Association. The 2026 show will take place at the Brimfield Winery on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The rain date for the event is Oct. 11.

The Brimfield Winery is known for supporting the community and in particular area nonprofits throughout the summer and fall. The Brimfield Auto Show is perhaps the biggest with 800 vehicles registering to be shown and vie for one of the trophies given out in 28 categories. Also awarded will be trophies for People’s Choice, Best in Show, the Firefighters Award, and this year a memorial trophy honoring Eugene “Gene” Randall, who passed away in April of this year. Gene was an avid classic car enthusiast and served as a judge for many of the shows.

Car registration opens at 7 a.m. (an hour earlier this year) and is just \$20 per vehicle. General admission is \$5.

The event will include several food trucks, beverages offered by Brimfield Winery, and live music by Cruisin’ Bruce Marshall of The Valley’s Classic Hits 97.7 FM.

The show draws car clubs and spectators from throughout the state as well as bordering states such as New Hampshire and Connecticut. The show isn’t just antique cars alone – it includes vintage varieties such as muscle cars as well as utility vehicles and trucks. You will find anything from the early 1900’s, Trucks, Street Rods, Camaros, Corvettes, and European Models, even vintage fire apparatus, and more. Brimfield’s first fire truck, a 1927 Buffalo, will be on display as well as the Massachusetts State Police Museum’s 1968 Ford Ranch Wagon used by troopers to keep the motoring public safe.



The show’s souvenir commemorative program book is produced and published by Hitchcock Academy as a fundraiser for the community center.

Among the articles in this year’s book are features on local auto shop owner and musician David Bell and automotive journalist, historian, author, and television host Steve Magnante aka Steve Mags who will be present at this year’s show.

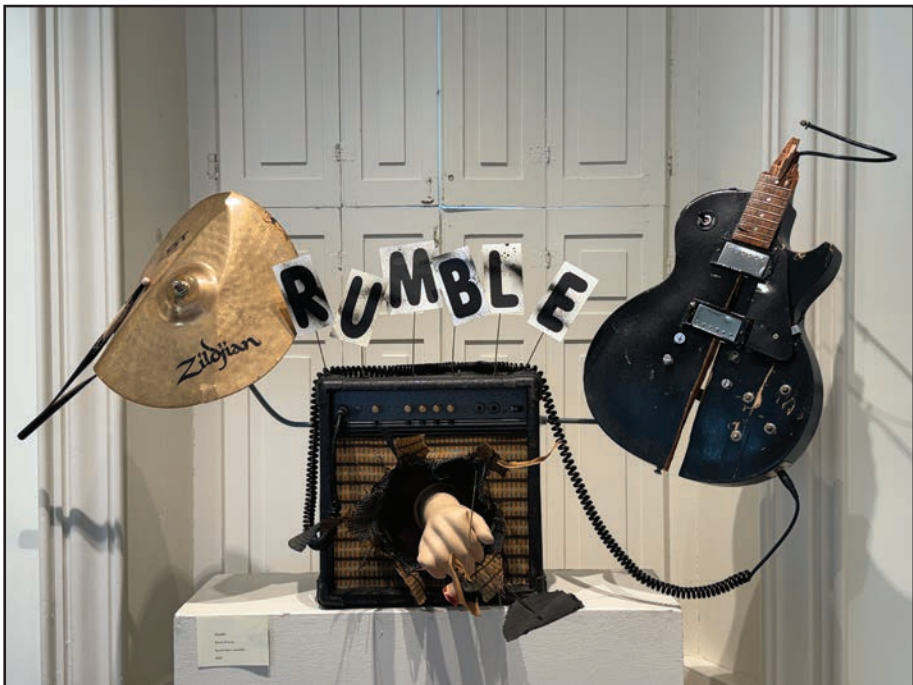
David Bell has been in the automotive business in Brimfield for more than 40 years and is the owner of Classic Heaven on Holland Road, providing auto repair, body work, painting, and restoration. A feature in the program book details the impact of the 2011 tornado on Bell’s business and his lifelong love of classic cars.

A feature on Steve Mags surveys his career and rise to automotive acclaim through work on "Junkyard Crawls" and Roadkill's "Junkyard Gold," as well as his work as an auction commentator and brand spokesperson for Dodge.

The Brimfield Firefighters Association is also a beneficiary of the fundraising event, collecting car registration and admission from the show, selling t-shirts, and running a 50/50 raffle during the event. Proceeds have supported the restoration of the Buffalo Truck and are also used for ongoing critical training.

The show doesn’t happen without volunteers, and more are always needed to help with registration, directing parking and judging. Hitchcock can connect with anyone interested in participating.

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



Courtesy Photo

The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, located at 111 Main St. in Southbridge, is very excited to present the October art exhibit, “Haunted Halls.” For the month a variety of paintings, photography, sculptures and creations with a Halloween, eerie and scary theme will fill the galleries. The Center is open Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m., and weekdays by appointment. The opening is Saturday, Oct 10, from 6-8 p.m., and features a party with food, music, games, tarot card readings and costume contest. There is no cover, but there is a charge for food and readings. The Ruth Wells Center holds monthly exhibits, featuring local artists with different themes. Haunted Halls has become a community favorite for all ages. Kevin Provost created “Rumble” as a homage- come to the exhibit to check it out.

Charlton Garden Club October Gardening Tips



Make sure all bird feeders are thoroughly cleaned before winter birding season begins. Purchase new ones if needed.

Plant spring flowering bulbs this month.

If planting late and temperatures plunge, spread mulch on top to keep soil warm for greater fall root growth.

Plant garlic late in the month for harvesting next summer.

When cleaning vegetable garden, clip bean plants at soil level rather than pulling them. The nitrogen they fixed this year will be available to plants next growing season as the roots decompose.

Clean garden tools before storing. Rinse off soil, remove rust with a wire brush and wipe with an oiled cloth.

Wash out containers, pots and cell packs and rinse with a dilute bleach solution so they’ll be ready for planting next year.

Dig up dahlias, cannas and gladioli after blackened by frost and store for winter.

Have your soil tested. Add limestone, phosphorus, potassium and organic matter if necessary. Wait until next spring to add nitrogen.

Root prune trees and shrubs if planning on relocating them next spring.

Be ready to cover plants with row covers, old sheets or tarps if frost is imminent.

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