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Thursday-Friday, May 28-29, 2026

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Local Mason shares love of chess

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM
TOWNE LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — For many years, the Southbridge Chess Club has flourished under the leadership of Benjamin Marinelli, a former Southbridge resident.

In 2019, Marinelli earned second place at the Continental Chess Association tournament, finishing as runner-up in the Eastern Class Championships Class B section. The club he founded meets at the Jacob Edwards Library in Southbridge on Saturdays in April and May, then resumes in the fall when the library's Saturday hours end in late May. Most participants are children and teenagers, along with a few adults who enjoy the challenge. Chess brings people together, teaches players to win and lose with grace and builds valuable skills. It strengthens focus, sparks creativity, boosts confidence, exercises the mind and helps both children and adults think carefully about the consequences of each



Courtesy Photo

Co-Instructor Shielding Cournoyer watches one of the students work through his chess problem on the chesskid.com puzzle app. On the T.V. monitor.

move.

Marinelli enjoys teaching this challenging game and sharing his passion and skills with the community. He has taught chess at the library for more than five years, with support from co-instructor Shielding Cournoyer, who hopes to inspire more girls and children to play. One tool they use is the ChessKid.com puzzles app, which allows students to test their skills on a touchscreen TV and see whether their moves work.

Brother Benjamin Marinelli is also a Master Mason and a member of the Major General Salem Towne Lodge (MGSTL) in Southbridge. He has belonged to the fraternity of Freemasonry for more than 8 years and his commitment to it has strengthened his service to the community. He believes in helping others not

Turn To **CHESS** page **A6**

Sensory-friendly open house and Summer Carnival May 28 at BCI's new Sturbridge Learning Center

STURBRIDGE — Behavioral Concepts (BCI), a provider of LEARN Behavioral, will hold a sensory-friendly Open House and Summer Carnival at their new Sturbridge Learning Center, 179 Main St., Suite 2, Sturbridge.

BCI is celebrating the arrival of summer with an Open House and Summer Carnival event for the whole family on May 28, 2026, from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Children will have the opportunity to participate in sensory-friendly carnival-themed activities, face painting with Creative Chica, and more!

This event is free and open to the public.

BCI provides contemporary applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy for children with autism and Down syndrome. Serving children ages one to 12 years, the Sturbridge Learning Center provides center-based ABA therapy, parent education, diagnostics, Early Intervention, and Social Skills Programs. Outside of the center, the Sturbridge team offers in-home ABA therapy.

The Sturbridge Learning Center offers after-school treatment hours to accommodate busy family schedules. There is no waitlist. The center is conveniently located near

Old Sturbridge Village, I-84, and US-20, and easily accessible for families in the region.

For more information or to enroll a child at the Sturbridge Learning Center, call 508-363-0200 or visit <https://bciba.com/locations/sturbridge>.

About BCI

BCI, part of the LEARN Behavioral network, is one of the nation's leading providers of compassionate autism care. For more than 20 years, BCI has been delivering evidence-based services, helping children with autism find success and reach their unique potential.

About LEARN

Behavioral LEARN Behavioral is a national leader in autism treatment, offering comprehensive diagnostic services and contemporary applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). With a nationwide network of ABA providers and more than 100 Learning Centers across the country, LEARN delivers the highest standard of evidence-based care—customized to meet the unique needs and interests of each child and family. For more information, visit learnbehavioral.com.

Celebrate America's 250th at Charlton Public Library

CHARLTON — On July 4, our nation will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The Charlton Public Library invites you to join us during the month of June for several events to honor this historic milestone.

Starting June 4, the Charlton Public Library will be displaying military uniforms of both a continental soldier and its more modern counterpart. All are welcome to stop in the library during open hours to view this trib-

ute to our shared history.

On Tuesday, June 2 at 6 p.m., living history interpreter Audrey Stuck-Girard will present on Revolutionary Fashion, bringing the world of Revolutionary-era fashion to life through her unique blend of historical research and theatrical craftsmanship. Drawing on her background in theatrical design, clothing construction, and hairdressing, Stuck-Girard will speak at length on the hair, wigs, and fashion of the New England American Revolution period.

Author Walter Hersee

will discuss his book "To Defend All That Is Dear" on Tuesday, June 16, at 6 p.m. Hersee is a historian, writer, and photographer based in Sturbridge whose book documents the full service of every known Sturbridge soldier of the American Revolution.

On Tuesday, June 23 at 6 p.m., calligrapher Debby Reelitz will discuss "Calligraphy that inspired a nation: Learn to write like America's founders." Who was the calligrapher that wrote the Declaration of Independence? How

did they write during the American Revolution? What tools did they use? What lettering style? Can I write like they did? We will explore these questions and more in this hands-on 90-minute program! Participants will get the opportunity to write in script, use a dip nib and ink and scribe a line from the Declaration of Independence. Registration is required.

A complete schedule of upcoming events can be viewed on the Library's calendar at <https://charltonlibrary.org/event-calendar/>.

Town-Wide Tag Sale takes on flea market town

BRIMFIELD — Brimfield is known world-wide as a destination for treasure hunting, but once a year, the entire town turns into a

secondhand shopper's paradise. Organized by Hitchcock Academy, the area's community center located in Brimfield, the 16th annual Brimfield

Town-Wide Tag Sale will take place on Saturday, May 30 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All of the sales are included on a map com-

plete with listings that describe what shoppers can find at each site, also noting any sales that will continue through

Turn To **TAG SALE** page **A10**



Courtesy Photo

Sgt. Brian Cardrant of the Charlton Police Department was recognized recently for his heroic actions by the Charlton Board of Selectmen, the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and Congressman Richard Neal. Cardrant, while participating in the Tough Ruck on April 19, witnessed a participant experience a medical emergency. Without hesitation, he relied on his training to initiate life-saving measures, along with other bystanders, including performing CPR, until members of the Lexington Fire Department arrived on scene. They then continued advanced life-saving care, including the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). The patient was transported to a local hospital, and is expected to survive. Photo courtesy of the department's Facebook page.

Brimfield to host first living history cemetery tour

BRIMFIELD will depart — On June 13, the Spirit of Brimfield- 250th Committee and the Brimfield Historical Commission will co-host a Revolutionary War themed cemetery tour at the Brimfield Cemetery located at 28 Wales Rd. Guided groups every 30 minutes, beginning at 10 a.m. from the Brimfield Elementary School parking lot. Along the route, narrators and costumed interpreters will present powerful stories of the Brimfield men who left home to serve in the patri-

ot cause, and the families they left behind. Stories told by actors in role, include the following: James and Mary Thompson, a husband-and-wife duo, telling their story of pride and sacrifice, and the family's concern for a certain cousin who led the

patriot cause. Eudocia Janes, sharing her father William's service beginning at age 17, and the emotional court testimony he gave in detail 55 years later to secure his war pension. Joseph Beulah Hitchcock, the first English child born in Brimfield, who watched a wilderness become a town and colonies become a country. He answered the Lexington alarm, and proudly sent his sons and grandsons to fight for freedom.

Deacon David Morgan, from a Springfield love story to a Revolutionary legacy, not to mention a family tree that stretched all the way to a Gilded Age financier. Captain John Sherman and his son Bazaleel Nathaniel Danielson, Abner Morgan, Christopher Ward, and the infamous General William Eaton. Members of the Brown family, the Blodgett family and the Blashfield family will also be recognized as their graves are passed, among others.

Registration for this free event is required and space is limited. Call Sue DeBruin (508) 523-9544 to register or to learn more information.



ARTHRITIS?

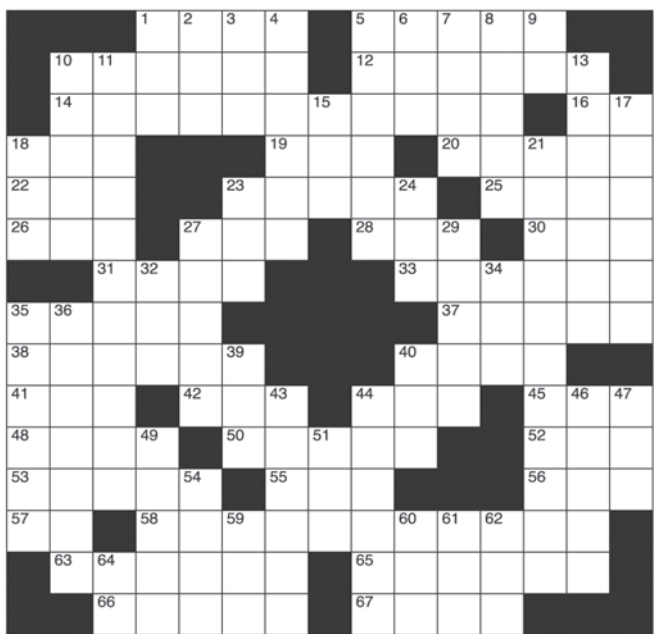
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Streetcar
- 5. Take ___ of it!
- 10. SW Asia peninsula
- 12. Beating wings to escape from a perch
- 14. One who revitalizes
- 16. Indicates position
- 18. Dishonorable man
- 19. Singer King Cole
- 20. Short-tailed marten
- 22. One point east (clockwise) of due north
- 23. The god of the underworld in ancient mythology
- 25. Dirt
- 26. Superconducting super collider
- 27. Not good
- 28. A way to sink
- 30. Unwell
- 31. Follow orders
- 33. Deep ravine
- 35. Perfumery practice
- 37. Indian film director Sultan
- 38. Member of U.S. Navy
- 40. Wing-like
- 41. Very fast airplane
- 42. Slang for cigarette
- 44. Most cars still need it
- 45. Political war chest
- 48. Cools down
- 50. Diminish toward one end
- 52. Indigenous person of Thailand
- 53. Combined
- 55. Container
- 56. Expression of satisfaction
- 57. Thou
- 58. Return a favor
- 63. Go over once more
- 65. Removed
- 66. "Silence of the ___"
- 67. Comedian Rogen

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Children's game
- 2. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 3. Own (Scottish)
- 4. Female follower of Bacchus
- 5. Subsidies
- 6. Protects from weather
- 7. Spanish municipality
- 8. Supermarket chain
- 9. Domain name
- 10. Semitic peoples
- 11. Designs anew
- 13. City associated with Jesus
- 15. Cool!
- 17. Bank employee
- 18. Central nervous system
- 21. Standardized piece of text
- 23. A type of fever
- 24. Baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 27. Threaten persistently
- 29. Aspirations
- 32. Baby's eating accessory
- 34. Actress Thurman
- 35. Turn into bone
- 36. One who saves you
- 39. Consume
- 40. Swiss river
- 43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
- 44. Categories
- 46. Expressed amazement
- 47. It's important in respiration (abbr.)
- 49. Greek war dance
- 51. Bland, semi-liquid food
- 54. Regard in a specified way
- 59. Taxi
- 60. Naturally occurring solid material
- 61. Feline
- 62. Post-burning residue
- 64. Elevated railroad

PUZZLE SOLUTION

	T	R	A	M		A	H	O	L	D										
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Join Charlton Garden Club for hands-on paper making program

CHARLTON — The Charlton Garden Club's Monday, June 8 meeting welcomes all to a free, hands-on program on paper making that will be given by the Resourcerer's Apprentice. Cassandra Besse and Kat Stewart are a partner duo of artists focusing on sustainability and living in harmony with nature. Participants are asked to bring a nine-by-13-

inch piece of natural fabric to be used for drying your paper. 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. This meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Charlton Arts Center, 4 Dresser

REAL ESTATE

Charlton \$676,000, 34-A Worcester Rd, Abaskhiroun, Essam A, to Sawiras, Maged. \$625,000, 443 Worcester Rd, D & L Ventures LLC, to 443 Worcester Road LLC. \$100,000, 0-A Young, Sinkus, Algimantas, and Sinkus, Silvestras, to Lozoraitis, Helen V, and Lozoraitis, Jean P. \$60,000, 4 Berry Corner Rd, Gauthier, John Paul, and Gauthier, John, to Bushe, Sean D. STURBRIDGE \$350,000, 5 Hinman St #4, Laslocky, Carolyn V, to Vincent, Sarah Joy.

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CHURCH LISTINGS

- **Central Baptist Church**
256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.
- **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 508- 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer worship is 9:30 a.m. www.fed-church.org
- **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 10 a.m.
- **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org
Sunday worship and Children's church 10am
- **St. Anne St. Patrick Church**, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338
www.stannepatparish.com
Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am
- **Elm Street Congregational Church**, 61 Elm Street, Southbridge, Ma 01550
Phone: 508-764-8085 • Sunday service 10:00 am
Pastor Kathryn Light
- **Faith Baptist Church**, 515 Dennison Drive, Southbridge
Phone number 508-764-6132,
Worship Service: Sunday 10:00 a.m.
- **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
- **Wayside Church**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144
- **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349
Sunday Service 10:00am.
www.livingwordcharlton.com
info@livingwordcharlton.com
- **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
- **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale**- 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021
www.sturfed.org
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
- **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**- 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566
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Brookfield Cemetery, Tantasqua Chestnut Project team up for chance to bring a long-lost species to historic grounds

BROOKFIELD — Students and teachers of the Tantasqua Chestnut Project recently teamed up with officials of the Brookfield Cemetery for a chance to bring new life to the historic burial grounds.

The first seeds of potentially blight resistant, regionally adapted chestnut trees, developed by students over the past 10 years in the school's near 200-tree orchard were chosen and planted by students across five locations in the Cemetery's newest burial block. American chestnut trees, likely present throughout the Town of Brookfield before the turn of the last century, fell victim to a deadly fungus that was imported to the U.S.

The Brookfield Cemetery plantings mark the Tantasqua Chestnut Project's 10-year anniversary and a possible rebirth of the iconic American chestnut tree amongst the hallowed graves of those who certainly knew the tree in centuries past. The plantings will be monitored over time by students and teachers of the Project and evaluated for health and vigor. With some luck, and perhaps a replacement or two as needed, the Town of Brookfield may become host to the first healthy American chestnut trees in the area for over 100 years. In celebration of the cemetery plantings

and the 10th anniversary of the Tantasqua Chestnut Project, students and teachers will be making a special public presentation. Join them at the Merrick Library in Brookfield on Thursday, May 28, at 7 p.m. to look back into history at the rise and fall of a socially and environmentally important species, and understand its possible return at the hands of thousands of dedicated scientists, including the students and teachers of the Tantasqua Chestnut Project.

History of the tree and its downfall More than a century ago, American chestnut trees, the "Redwoods of the East," were one of the dominant forest species in Eastern forests of the U.S. It is estimated that a quarter of the total community of Eastern forest trees was composed of American chestnut. Their abundance, paired with their value as a common timber and food product led to the old saying, "American chestnut takes a person from cradle to grave." Unfortunately, just after the turn of the last century, a devastating blight arrived in the

United States. Four billion American chestnut trees, inhabitants of our forests for 40 million years, were wiped out in a mere 40. Today, American chestnut trees are functionally extinct, a thwart-

ed remnant smoldering in the understory of our Eastern forests, unable to fulfill their historic ecological or social role.

History of the effort to save it

Since the beginning of the demise of the American chestnut tree, those who loved and valued it worked to save it. Attempts ranged from simple to heroic but in the end, none sufficed to stop the spread of the disease, nor revitalize what had already been lost. It seemed that the cause was hopeless. In 1983, more than 30 years after the last hold-out trees succumbed to the blight, a group of scientists and lay people, guided by corn geneticist, Charles Burnham and Nobel Prize winning plant breeder, Norman Borlaug, set out on a new path, to breed a tree able to defend itself against the blight.

The Tantasqua Chestnut Project and Brookfield Cemetery

On June 1, 2011, an EF3 tornado tore a swath of destruction across 38 miles and many local communities, from Westfield to Charlton. Homes were destroyed, forests lay in ruin, but quietly, as the dust settled, a silver lining began to emerge amongst the wreckage of the forests. Bright sunlight reached all the way to the ground amidst the tangle. Blighted native

American chestnut trees that had been withering in the shade of the understory for more than 100 years instantly began to grow, old roots still intact. Though still under siege by the blight, they reached for the sky, temporarily relieved

of the usual pressure of their competitors, and bathed in light, they began to flower. Discovered on the slopes of Mt. Ella in Monson's Flynt Park, these unexpected trees became the center of a school project that has made a real-life, long-term science project accessible to over 3000 students to date, many of whom have dedicated their time to it outside of school hours as members of the Tantasqua Chestnut Club. With support from the national and local level of the American Chestnut Foundation

and the MA/RI Chapter, along with an invaluable partnership with the RePlanting Monson Tree Committee and the Monson Parks and Recreation Department, students and teachers from Tantasqua Junior High have spent the past 10 years as part of the modern effort to save the species.

They used the window of opportunity opened by the 2011 tornado to cross breed hybrid, potentially blight resistant American chestnut trees developed by the American Chestnut Foundation with

native flowering chestnut trees at the Monson site. The resulting seeds, potentially blight resistant and regionally adapted to the New England climate, were harvested and planted in a research orchard at Tantasqua Junior High. The trees planted in the Brookfield Cemetery are the "grandchildren" of those original natives from the mountain, the first offspring to be harvested from the Tantasqua orchard since it began 10 years ago.

About the Tantasqua Chestnut Project

The Tantasqua Chestnut Project was founded by a group of students and teachers who were inspired by the might of a struggling species which has lasted in our forests for over 120 years at a severe handicap caused by the ever-present chestnut blight. With the opportunity created by the 2011 tornado, the decision to join the effort to save a species became a no-brainer. With open minds and a willingness to work together to figure out what to do first, and second, and third...students and teachers of the Project have worked together, to develop what we now call the Tantasqua Chestnut Project. The Project has evolved to focus on three pillars of effort; 1. Contribute to the development of a chestnut tree

that can resume its ecological role in Eastern forests. 2. Contribute to the re-establishment of American chestnut trees within our region. 3. Contribute to the public understanding of this ecological issue. The successes of the Project have been made possible through a network of community supporters including the Tantasqua School Committee and administration, the Tantasqua Education Foundation, the American Chestnut Foundation, and wonderful partnerships with the RePlanting Monson Tree Committee, the Monson Parks and Recreation Department, and now the Brookfield Cemetery Commission.

Last day to register to vote in Southbridge election June 9

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Town Clerk's office advises all residents that the last day to register to be eligible to vote in the local election to be held Tuesday, June 9 is Friday, May 29. The Town Clerk's office will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall

Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall This two-bedroom cottage near Tignish provides sweeping views of the ocean, the beach, and the North Cape lighthouse. Enjoy kayaking, bicycling, walking the beach, swimming in the warmer Gulf Stream waters, and exploring the community of Nail Pond and the many PEI attractions. Full Appliances. The cottage sleeps six comfortably. Weekly rent is only \$1,100. Contact Scott, for more information at 603-254-5032, or scottm@plymouth.edu.

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Dementia Friendly Charlton hosting brunch

CHARLTON — Dementia Friendly Charlton will be hosting a morning brunch for those living with dementia and their care partners on June 13 from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Charlton Federated Church, 64 Main St., Charlton.

This event will be welcoming, low-key, and flexible,

recognizing that social outings can be challenging for those with a dementing illness. The meal will be buffet, with self-seating and plenty of table space. To help us plan, please register your interest in attending before June 8. Recognizing that unexpected situations may arise, cancellations can be

made up to the morning of the event. To register, cancel, or for questions; phone (508-248-5550 at the Charlton Federated Church) or email: dementiafriendly-charlton@gmail.com. Please provide name and number of attendees. There is no cost to attend this event. Donations are welcome to help support our organization.

Dementia Friendly Charlton is a non-profit organization which supports individuals with dementia as well as their families and caregivers. We work to raise awareness and understanding of dementia through educational programs, community events and encouragement of dementia-friendly

businesses. Visit our site on the town of Charlton Web site (townofcharlton.net) and/or our Facebook page for more information.

businesses. Visit our site on the town of Charlton Web site (townofcharlton.net) and/or our Facebook page for more information.

Charlton local named to PennWest University's spring Dean's List

CALIFORNIA, Pa. — Sawyer Ayotte of Charlton was named to PennWest University's spring 2026 Dean's List.

Ayotte, a PennWest Clarion student who is studying Exercise Science, was among more than 2,800 outstanding PennWest students recognized for superior academic performance

during the spring semester.

To be eligible for the Dean's

List, degree-seeking undergraduate students must earn a minimum

semester GPA of

3.4 while taking at least 12 graded credits.

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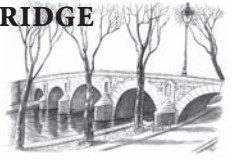
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EDITOR

Teaching patience, strategy and community

In an era when so much of childhood is spent swiping screens, rushing from one distraction to the next, there is something quietly remarkable about a room full of young people sitting across from one another over a chessboard.

That is exactly what has been happening at the Jacob Edwards Library in Southbridge, where the Southbridge Chess Club continues to grow under the leadership of Benjamin Marinelli and his fellow instructors. The club may seem simple on the surface, but its impact on the community reaches far beyond the black-and-white squares of a chessboard.

Chess is one of those rare activities that manages to be both deeply individual and strongly communal at the same time. Every player must think independently, solve problems, and make decisions alone. Yet every game also requires respect for another person sitting across the table. Players learn patience. They learn discipline. They learn humility when they lose and grace when they win.

Those are lessons that matter at any age, but especially for children and teenagers trying to navigate an increasingly noisy and distracted world.

What makes the Southbridge Chess Club especially valuable is that it exists in a truly public and welcoming space. The Jacob Edwards Library has long served as more than a building filled with books. It has become one of the area's most important gathering places for learning, creativity and community connection. Programs like the chess club reinforce the role libraries continue to play in modern life. They are not relics of the past. They are active centers of civic life.

The club also reflects the importance of local volunteers and mentors who quietly dedicate years to helping others. Marinelli has spent more than five years teaching chess at the library, sharing not only technical skills but also enthusiasm and encouragement. Co-instructor Shielding Cournoyer's efforts to encourage more girls and children to participate is equally important. Chess has historically been seen as an exclusive or intimidating activity by some young people. Expanding access helps ensure more children feel welcome at the table.

That kind of mentorship can have a lasting effect. A child may arrive at the library unsure of themselves, nervous about trying something new, or struggling to connect socially. A few games later, they may discover confidence, friendship, and a sense of belonging.

It is also worth recognizing that chess offers something increasingly rare today: the opportunity to slow down and think carefully before acting. Every move has consequences. Rash decisions are often punished. Patience is rewarded. Those lessons extend naturally into everyday life.

The use of tools like ChessKid.com also shows how traditional activities can adapt successfully to modern technology. The goal is not to reject technology altogether, but to use it thoughtfully in ways that encourage learning and interaction rather than isolation.

Southbridge has always benefited from residents willing to invest their time and energy into programs that strengthen the community. Sometimes those efforts happen on athletic fields or in civic organizations. Sometimes they happen quietly around folding tables in a library meeting room.

The Southbridge Chess Club is a reminder that meaningful community building does not always require massive budgets or grand facilities. Sometimes it begins with a few dedicated people, a welcoming public space, and a willingness to teach the next generation.

In communities everywhere, there is frequent discussion about how to help young people build resilience, focus, and confidence. Programs like this already provide part of the answer. They create opportunities for learning, friendship and personal growth while bringing generations together around a shared challenge.

That is a move worth celebrating.

OPINION

Five questions that could change how you see retirement

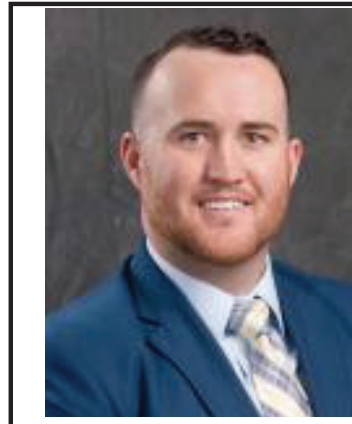
Saving for retirement is important, but it's only part of the picture. If you're within five to 10 years of your target retirement date, it's time to start thinking about what you actually want your retirement to look like. After all, getting to retirement isn't the end goal — it's what you want to do once you're there that matters.

Start by asking yourself these five questions.

When do you want to retire? The age at which you retire matters more than you may realize. Retiring early sounds appealing, but it means saving more and having less time to do it. It can also create gaps in health care coverage and income before key benefits kick in. For example, Social Security benefits can begin at 62, but at a reduced amount. Full benefits are available between ages 66 and 67, depending on birth year, and waiting until 70 means the maximum benefit. Medicare doesn't start until age 65, and penalty-free withdrawals from retirement accounts generally aren't allowed until age 59½.

For couples, timing gets even more complicated. Staggering retirement dates can sometimes maximize benefits; in other cases, retiring at the same time works better.

A financial advisor can help you sort through these decisions and find the



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approach that makes the most sense for your situation.

How do you want to spend your time in retirement? Many new retirees are surprised to find that having unlimited free time feels disorienting rather than freeing. Thinking ahead about how to fill the days with meaningful activity — whether that's travel, volunteering, pursuing hobbies or spending more time with family — can make the transition smoother.

It helps to sketch out what a typical week, month or even first year might look like. If there are big gaps, it's worth thinking now about what might fill them in rewarding ways.

Where do you want to live as a retiree? Some retirees stay put, while others downsize or relocate entirely. Either way, it's wise to consider whether a chosen location will work well as you get older, taking into account factors

like proximity to family, access to health care, cost of living and climate.

What will your retirement lifestyle cost? It's not uncommon for retirees to discover that their travel, entertainment or leisure expenses were higher than expected. The more active and involved you plan to be, the more you will likely need to budget.

Does your retirement involve giving back?

Retirement often brings both the time and motivation to be more generous. Whether the goal is helping family members, donating to charity, or volunteering in the community, it's worth defining those goals and building them into an overall plan.

Now that your vision is taking shape, turn it into a plan. Work with your financial advisor to align your savings with the life you want — and revisit that plan as your priorities evolve so your retirement keeps pace with you.

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

The last real waiting rooms

LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET

By CHARLES

The other morning, I found myself sitting in a small-town Massachusetts waiting room with six other people and absolutely nothing to do.

No television blaring headlines nobody asked for. No giant digital screen flashing advertisements for prescription drugs with side effects worse than the original illness. No music pounding through hidden ceiling speakers.

Just silence.

Well...not complete silence.

There was the occasional page turning from a woman reading a paperback novel. Somebody coughing politely into a handkerchief. A coffee machine making tired little gurgling noises in the corner. Rain tapping against the windows.

And every single person in that room was pretending not to notice each other while secretly noticing everybody.

New Englanders are specialists at that.

The gentleman across from me wore a Red Sox cap that had clearly survived several presidential administrations. One woman had one of those enormous handbags that probably contained everything short of snow tires and jumper cables. An older fellow near

the door kept folding and unfolding his umbrella like he was trying to solve a puzzle.

Nobody spoke for nearly 15 minutes. Then, as always happens in small towns eventually, somebody cracked first.

A woman looked out the window at the rain and sighed, "Well, I guess the gardens needed it."

That was it. The opening pitch.

Within two minutes, the entire room had become a committee on tomatoes.

One man said his plants were late this year. Another insisted you shouldn't put them out before Memorial Day no matter what the weather says. Somebody else brought up rabbits. Then chipmunks. Then how nobody can keep woodchucks out of anything anymore.

And suddenly the room wasn't quiet anymore.

People laughed.

People nodded.

The fellow with the umbrella told a story about his grandfather covering tomato plants with old bed sheets during a June frost back in 1962. The woman with the giant handbag offered everybody butterscotch candies from somewhere deep inside it like a magician pulling scarves from a hat.

For 20 minutes, nobody looked at a phone.

I noticed that afterward.

Not because phones are evil. Lord knows I use one often enough myself. My son can somehow pay bills, check the weather, order dinner, and watch a baseball game all on one little screen. Meanwhile I still occasionally press the flashlight button accidentally and spend five minutes wondering why my pocket's glowing.

But there was something comforting about that waiting room conversation because it reminded me of an older kind of American life that seems to

be slipping away around the edges.

We used to talk to strangers more.

Not deeply. Not dramatically. We weren't pouring our souls out in the hardware store aisle. But there was an understanding that if you sat beside somebody long enough, eventually one of you would mention the weather, the roads,

the Red Sox, or how expensive blueberries have gotten.

And from there, conversation simply happened.

I worry sometimes that younger folks are losing those tiny everyday interactions that quietly hold communities together.

Not friendships exactly. Something smaller than friendship, but important all the same.

Recognition.

Familiarity.

The sense that you belong among other human beings instead of merely passing beside them.

A town isn't only buildings and roads. It's thousands of little moments where people acknowledge each other's existence. Holding doors. Waving from pickup trucks. Talking about gardens in waiting rooms.

That's the glue.

You remove enough of those ordinary moments and eventually people begin feeling lonely without quite understanding why.

I don't think most of us need giant solutions nearly as much as we need small reminders that we still live alongside one another.

A conversation about tomato plants can do more good than people realize.

Eventually the nurse called my name, and as I stood up, the fellow in the Red Sox cap nodded toward the rain outside and said, "Good soaking rain, anyway."

Everybody murmured agreement like members of a town council.

I smiled all the way down the hallway.

And I thought afterward that maybe the last real community centers in America aren't fancy places at all.

Maybe they're ordinary waiting rooms where strangers still talk about gardens while the rain falls outside.

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.

“Mangia, Meatballs and Murder” comes to Casaubon Senior Center

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Delvena Theatre Company will be presenting “Mangia, Meatballs and Murder” at the Casaubon Senior Center, 153 Chestnut St., Southbridge on Tuesday, June 16, at 1 p.m.

Who dunnit? An exciting, live, comedic, interactive murder mystery performance set in Luigi’s Ristorante featuring Lynne Moulton, Joseph Zamparelli and Fran Baron in multiple roles. Come put your “super sleuth” on – having much fun along the way. Token prizes will be awarded.

The Delvena Theatre Company has been doing to-go shows for the last several years at various venues throughout the New England area. The Company was founded in 1992, and prior to “going on the road” performed at different locations throughout Massachusetts, most often at the Boston Center for the Arts. Delvena was nominated for five Independent Reviewers of New England awards. Its production of “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” was on Theatre Mirror’s Best List for acting, direct-

ing and production. Presentations of “Anna Weiss” and “Beyond Therapy” were included on Theatre Mirror’s best play list and ‘Blue Heart’ was placed on Aisle Say’s best list.

“Mangia Meatballs and Murder” is supported in part by a grant from

the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. For more information, call the Senior Center at (508) 764-1469.

Rachel Gormley of Charlton named to Western Carolina University Chancellor’s List

Actors sought for living history cemetery tour!

BRIMFIELD — As part of Brimfield’s 250th celebration of the American Revolution, a living history cemetery tour is being planned for June 13. The tour includes powerful stories of the men who left home to serve in the patriot cause and the families they left behind. Registration details to follow.

Organizers are seeking a male actor to portray a notable Brimfield resident whose family sent fourteen men to fight for freedom. Narrators, who will read short graveside scripts, are also needed. Contact Sue DeBruin through the Friends of Historic Brimfield at (413) 239-0288 to lend your talents and make history come alive!

CULLOWHEE, N.C. — Rachel Gormley of Charlton has been named to the Spring 2026 Chancellor’s List at Western Carolina University. To qualify for this honor, students must achieve a GPA of 3.8 or higher. Students named to the Chancellor’s list are also named to the Dean’s List.

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Community Connection

June events at Charlton Public Library

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

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

The library will open at 1 pm on Wednesday, June 17.

The library will be closed Friday, June 19. The library is closed Saturdays.

Movies @ the Library

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

June 2: THE BIRDCAGE. A gay couple, Armand and Albert, are challenged to play it straight when Armand's son brings home his fiancée---the daughter of an ultraconservative senator. 1996. Rated R. 117 minutes.

June 9: THE EYES OF TAMMY FAYE. Husband and wife duo Tammy Faye and Jim Bakker develop a religious broadcasting network, ushering bright and vivid televangelism into the 1980s. However, rumors of sexual misconduct and poor financial choices stall their meteoric rise, pushing the couple and their messaging into infamy. 2021. Rated PG-13. 126 minutes.

June 16: THE PATRIOT. Peaceful farmer Benjamin Martin is driven to lead the Colonial Militia during the American Revolution when a sadistic British officer murders his son. 2000. Rated R. 165 minutes.

June 23: HAMILTON. Presenting the tale of American founding father Alexander Hamilton, this filmed version of the original Broadway smash hit is the story of America then, told by America now. 2020. Rated PG-13. 160 minutes.

June 30: NATIONAL TREASURE. A modern-day fortune hunter races to find an ancient treasure hidden by the Founding Fathers. 2004. Rated PG. 131 minutes.

Play Games!

Mondays, June 1 (Cribbage), 8 (party games), 15 (Cribbage), 22 (party games), 29 (Cribbage) 12:30-2:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required. Beginners and experienced players are welcome! Join us to play an old favorite or learn a new game!

Learn Microsoft Word Basics*

Monday, June 1, 1:00-2:30 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Join us today to learn about Microsoft Word! We'll start at the very beginning and walk you through all the basics like: opening, editing, and saving a file; changing text style (font, color, size, etc.); keyboard shortcuts;

inserting an image, link, or non-standard text/symbols; adding a comment; finding text in a document; using numbering and bullets. Join us for a follow-up class to learn more advanced Microsoft Word skills on Monday, June 8.

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

Tuesdays, June 2, 9, 16 from 4:30-5:30 pm; Tuesday, June 30 from 3:30-6:00 pm

Do you have a few quick questions about technology? Would you like to learn how to use apps like Libby or Kanopy? Drop in and speak with Charlton Library's Digital Skills Instructor and get the dedicated support you need. If you will need more than 15 minutes of tech help, please make a one-on-one appointment. We cannot assist with setting up a new device; fixing/restoring/repairing a broken or infected device, app, or email account; entering sensitive information for you (e.g. cred-

it card information, social security number, online banking, etc.); keyboarding, typing, or proofreading documents. We cannot provide medical, legal, and business advice or opinions.

Hotspots 101*

Tuesday, June 2, OR Thursday, June 4, 6:00-7:00 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Need internet access on the go? Join us to learn how to borrow and use a mobile hotspot from the Charlton Public Library. This quick, beginner-friendly workshop will walk you through how hotspots work, how to connect your devices, and tips for using them while traveling or at home. We'll also cover borrowing guidelines and hotspot consideration. Perfect for anyone looking to stay connected---no tech experience needed!

Revolutionary Fashion

Tuesday, June 2, 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

Join us as living history interpreter, Audrey Stuck-Girard, brings the world of Revolutionary-era fashion to life through her unique blend of historical research and theatrical craftsmanship. Drawing on her background in theatrical design, clothing construction, and hair-dressing, Audrey will speak at length on the hair, wigs, and fashion of the New England American Revolution period.

Better Read Than Dead Book Club

Wednesday, June 3, 11:00-12:00 - Local History Room - no registration required

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

Dementia Friendly Charlton Meeting

Wednesday, June 3, 2:30-3:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required, all welcome.

Young Scientists Stem Program

Thursday, June 4, 10:15-11:00 am - Storytime Room - registration required

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

Threaded Together Fiber Arts Group (formerly Silver Needles Knit & Crochet Group)

Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 pm - Local History Room - no registration required. Bring your current project and relax with friends. All are welcome regardless of skill level.

One-on-One Tech Help*

Thursdays, June 4, 11, 25 at 4:00 or 5:00 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Do you have a more complicated question than we can cover during Drop-in Tech Help? Would you like

to learn some basic email or internet skills? Make a one-on-one appointment with the Charlton Library's Digital Skills Instructor and get up to 60 minutes of dedicated support. We cannot assist with setting up a new device; fixing/restoring/repairing a broken or infected device, app, or email account; entering sensitive information for you (e.g., credit card information, social security number, online banking, etc.); keyboarding, typing, or proofreading documents. We cannot provide medical, legal, or business advice or opinions.

How to do Genealogy Without Breaking the Bank

Thursday, June 4, 6:00-7:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

This month we will have genealogist Sara Campbell as a virtual guest speaker on How to do Genealogy Without Breaking the Bank. The number of genealogy websites, organizations, and publications can be daunting. This session explores techniques to save money on subscriptions and genealogy education. Learn how to find free resources, how to take advantage of trial memberships, and how to target your genealogy dollars. The Charlton Library Genealogy Group is a friendly group of people who share an interest in genealogy. We meet monthly on the first Thursday of the month from 6-7:30 in the Community Meeting Room. Meetings will alternate between general discussion topics and guest presenters. The meetings are free and open to the public.

Puzzle Race

Thursday, June 4, 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

Can your team complete a jigsaw puzzle faster than your friends and neighbors? Each team will receive the same 300 piece puzzle provided by the library. The team that finishes first or completes the most before time is called wins! Adults, teens, and families with children aged 8+ are welcome to participate. Registration is required- only one person from each team should register. Teams can have up to six members. Don't have a team? Email Betsy at peryb@cwmar.org and we'll put together a team of interested folks!

Gardening Tech at a Glance

Friday, June 5, 12:30-1:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

This is an introduction to a variety of different types of technology used in gardening, including some gadgets and apps. Please note that this is not a detailed step-by-step, "how-to" class about setting up garden tech, or a class about how to garden. This is for people ages 60 and up. This Senior Planet from AARP class is being offered through the Senior Planet licensing program.

Lego Club

Friday, June 5, 3:30-4:30 pm - Storytime Room - no registration required

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

Learn How to Host a Zoom Meeting

Monday, June 8, 10:30-12:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Are you interested in hosting a Zoom meeting but don't know where to start? In this class we'll walk through the basics of hosting a Zoom meeting and demonstrating the features available with a basic, free Zoom account. This class is for folks ages 60 and up. This Senior Planet from AARP class is being offered through the Senior Planet licensing program.

Learn Microsoft Word Advanced Skills*

Monday, June 8, 1:00-2:30 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Join us today to learn some advanced skills to use in Microsoft Word! We'll cover: advanced formatting, image formatting, tables, mail merge, tracking changes, and using links and bookmarks within a file.

Friends of Charlton Public Library

Tuesday, June 9, 3:30-4:45 pm - Community Meeting Room

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

Getting started with Amazon*

Tuesday, June 9, OR Thursday, June 11, 6:00-7:00 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Curious about shopping online but not sure where to begin? This beginner-friendly workshop will introduce you to the basics of using Amazon to browse, compare, and purchase items with confidence. You'll learn how to create an account, search for products, read reviews, spot good deals, and avoid common scams. We'll also explore helpful features like wish lists and Subscribe & Save. Perfect for first-time online shoppers or anyone looking to shop smarter and safer from home.

New England Hiking

Tuesday, June 9, 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

Join author Jeff Romano for a slide-show presentation highlighting hiking opportunities throughout New England. The program will cover destinations in all six states with a focus on itineraries featured in his latest guidebook, an updated edition to 100 Classic Hikes New England (June 2023). Jeff will share advice, provide insights, and answer questions on how and where to plan your next hiking adventure. The presentation will also include information on New England wildflowers, birds, wildlife, history, and conservation success stories.

Adult Craft: Diamond Art

Tuesday, June 9, 6:00-7:30 pm OR Wednesday, June 10, 11:00-12:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

In this month's adult craft is an introduction to Diamond Art! Diamond Art is similar to paint-by-numbers, where participants apply tiny, faceted resin "diamonds" onto a numbered, adhesive canvas. We will be starting small, with one-sided magnetic flowers. For adults and teens ages 13 and up.

Book Group @ the Senior Center

Wednesday, June 10, 10:30-11:30 am - Senior Center @ Town Hall

The Senior Center Book Group meets at the Senior Center at 10:30 am on the second Wednesday of the month. Everyone is welcome! We will discuss *Fuzz* by Mary Roach. Books are avail-

Turn To **LIBRARY** page **A7**



Courtesy Photo

Students of all ages enjoy playing chess during a class in the Reading Room at the Jacob Edwards Library.



Courtesy Photo

Ben Marinelli explaining a chess move to Caleb Morales.

CHESS only because it is the right thing to do, but also because it helps him become a better man. He values honor and integrity and those principles are evident in his work within the community. For more information about the Southbridge Chess Club, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/southbridgechessclub. To learn more about Freemasonry or find a lodge near you, visit massfreemasonry.org.

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CHESS

continued from page A6

able to pick up at the library one month prior to the discussion date.

Taking & Organizing Photos*

Thursday, June 11, 12:30-1:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

In this class, we dive into the Camera app on the iPhone, exploring different features of the camera and adjustments that can be made for taking pictures in different settings. We also go into Photos and discuss organizing photos into albums. Registration is required.

Kids Yoga with Lindsey

Fridays, June 12 & 26, 4:00-4:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

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

CPL Book Discussion - Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead by Olga Tokarczuk

Thursday, June 11, 6:00-7:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

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

EcoTarium Traveling Program: Animal Adaptations

Friday, June 12, 10:00-10:45 am - Dexter Hall - registration required

The EcoTarium's Animal Adaptations program is an interactive, educator-led session in which participants explore how animals survive through specialized structures and behaviors. The program features live ambassador animals, such as snakes, hedgehogs, or turtles, along with natural history specimens, including pelts and skulls. Best for ages 3 and older.

Outdoor Adventure Apps

Monday, June 15, 12:30-1:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

Join us for a lecture presentation that will discuss a brief overview of a few popular mobile apps for outdoor enthusiasts. Please note, this will not cover step by step instructions for how to use any of the apps. This is for people ages 60 and up. This Senior Planet from AARP class is being offered through the Senior Planet licensing program.

Learn Adobe Acrobat Basics*

Monday, June 15, 1:00-2:30 pm - Local History Room - registration required

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

Save it Smart!*

Tuesday, June 16, 6:00-7:00 pm, OR Wednesday, June 24, 10:30-11:30 am - Local History Room - registration required. Confused about saving files, photos, or important information on your device? This beginner-friendly workshop will teach you simple and practical ways to save, organize, and access your digital content. Learn the difference between downloading and saving, how to take screenshots, what a PDF is, and how to choose between cloud storage and device storage. Perfect for anyone looking to build confidence with everyday tech skills.

Author Talk: Walter Hersee

Tuesday, June 16, 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

Walter J. Hersee is a historian, writer, and photographer based in Sturbridge. His book, To Defend All That Is Dear, documents for the first time the full service of every known Sturbridge soldier of the American Revolution. He believes that "An unexpected benefit of this research was demonstrating how modern tools—many unavailable even a few years ago—can uncover forgotten service and correct long-standing assumptions. Our town's Honor Roll had not been updated since the 1880s, and many believed no changes were possible. That belief has been proven wrong."

Young Artists Collective

Thursday, June 18, 5:30-6:30 pm - Storytime Room - registration required

Join the Young Artists Collective for

a relaxed, creative space where young artists can experiment and grow. Each month we'll explore a different art medium—from acrylic painting to oil pastels and more—while giving kids the freedom to create at their own pace. Participants are encouraged to bring in their own artwork or project to work on, share, or get inspired alongside other young creators. This program is intended for children ages 8-12. Please be mindful of the fact that messes and stains may occur, so please dress appropriately.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group

Thursday, June 18, 6:00-7:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

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

Death Cafe

Thursday, June 18, 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - no registration required

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

How to Video Chat With Zoom

Monday, June 22, 10:30-11:45 am - Community Meeting Room - registration required

This is a hands-on workshop in which participants will explore joining a Zoom meeting and using meeting controls as participants (not hosts) of the meeting. If you've been curious about using Zoom this class is for you!

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

Basic Adobe Lightroom Classic*

Monday, June 22, 1:00-2:30 pm - Local History Room - registration required

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

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

Calligraphy that inspired a nation:

Monday to write like America's founders Tuesday, June 23, 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

Who was the calligrapher that wrote the Declaration of Independence? How did they write during the American Revolution? What tools did they use? What lettering style? Can I write like they did? We will explore these questions and more in this hands-on 90-minute program with calligrapher, Debby Reelitz. Participants will get the opportunity to write in script, use a dip nib and ink and scribe a line from the Declaration of Independence.

Spencer Art Reception

Tuesday, June 23, 6:00-7:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

The Community Room Gallery is featuring the artwork of Pete and Linda Spencer this month! Join us this evening for a reception to meet the artists, view the art, and enjoy some fellowship. Everyone is welcome, no registration is required.

Save it Smart!*

Wednesday, June 24, 10:30-11:30 am - Local History Room - registration required

Thursday, June 25, 6:00-7:00 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Confused about saving files, photos, or important information on your device? This beginner-friendly workshop will teach you simple and practical ways to save, organize, and access your digital content. Learn the difference between downloading and saving, how to take screenshots, what a PDF is, and how to choose between cloud storage and device storage. Perfect for anyone looking to build confidence with every-

day tech skills.

Taking and Editing Videos*

Wednesday, June 24, 12:30-1:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

In this class, we learn to use the Camera app to take videos. We explore settings that can be changed to adjust video quality and discuss how to take different types of videos on the iPhone. We also go into Photos to learn to edit videos.

Movin' On Up

Wednesday, June 24, 2:00-3:00 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

YMCA Family & Community Partnership presents "Movin' On Up," a FREE Musical Puppet Show for children transitioning to preschool, kindergarten, and first grade in Fall 2026. Families with children, ages 3-6, will enjoy songs, movement, and laughs with Tom Knight and his puppet pals. Every registered child will receive a book to take home. Registration opens on June 8th. This event is sponsored by YMCA Family & Community Partnership (YFCP), a Massachusetts Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant funded by the Department of Early Education & Care and awarded to the YMCA of Central Massachusetts.

Kindness Rocks

Thursday, June 25, 2:00-3:00 pm - Storytime Room - registration required

Join us in the Storytime Room to paint a kindness-themed rock! We'll use paint markers and Sharpies to make our designs. This program is best for ages 6 and older, but younger children may attend with an adult caregiver. Registration is required.

CULE: Charlton Ukulele League & Ensemble

Thursday, June 25, 6:00-8:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

This club is a FREE, fun, low stress and entertaining way for adults 18+ to learn music together. You will be guided by experienced musicians who encourage you to find your own level of achievement. Making music together is the perfect antidote to the feeling that you will never be able to play music. You can! What's more you'll enjoy the company of others. Any questions? Email Rich at Cule5632@gmail.com.

Gentle Flow Yoga

Tuesday, June 25, 6:00-7:00 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

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

Tiny Tots at Night

Thursday, June 25, 6:00-6:30 pm - Storytime Room - registration required

This is an evening version of our Tiny Tots program! Best for babies - age 3. Includes songs, fingerplays, scarves, shakers, music, books & free play!

Critical Thinking Discussion Group

Friday, June 26, 1:00-2:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

No experience with critical thinking discussion groups is necessary. Books/materials are available for checkout one month prior to discussion. Questions? Email saga3@charter.net.

Children's Planting with Blackstone Veggie Gardens

Monday, June 29, 10:00-11:00 am - Dexter Hall - registration required

Join us for a fun gardening program for kids! We will decorate pots, mix soil, create labels, and plant sunflower seeds. This program is for children ages 4-12. Registration is required. There are 25 spaces available. Registration instructions: Please register each child separately. Only register children who are attending and participating in the program. Younger siblings who are not participating should not be included on the registration form.

Exploring Outdoor Photography*

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

Following an introduction where we discuss photography concepts, we walk to a preselected location to learn about different photography techniques, such as portrait mode, panoramic photos, and more. We get hands-on practice with the camera's different features, then return to the classroom for a slideshow of favorite photos. Registration is required.

Intro to Canva*

Tuesday, June 30, 2:30-3:30 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Thursday, July 2, 6:00-7:00 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Unlock your creativity and bring your ideas to life with Intro to Canva! This beginner-friendly course is perfect for anyone looking to create stunning visual content without needing graphic design experience. Whether you're a student, small business owner, content creator, or just someone who wants to make eye-catching presentations, social media posts, flyers, or resumes—this course will walk you through the basics of using Canva. Each course will be held twice for increased availability.

Setting Up a Gmail Account*

Tuesday, June 30, 6:00-7:00 pm - Local History Room - registration required

New to email or need help getting started? In this beginner-friendly workshop, you'll learn how to create your own Gmail account using Google. We'll guide you step-by-step through the sign-up process, choosing a secure password, and understanding the basics of sending, receiving, and organizing emails. You'll also learn helpful tips for staying safe online and managing your inbox with confidence. No prior experience is needed—just bring your curiosity!

Digital Art for Beginners: Exploring the Procreate App*

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

In this class, we cover the basics of creating art in Procreate, the most popular digital art app for the iPad. We cover various features in the app, such as using different brushes, blending colors, and importing photos to work from. This class is for adults ages 18 and up. Check our August calendar for classes for kids and teens.

Business Setup & Digital Foundations*

Tuesday, June 30, 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration appreciated

This is the first part of a six part beginner-friendly workshop series designed to help small business owners and entrepreneurs build a professional, safe, and effective digital presence. Participants will learn practical digital skills including branding, websites, AI tools, online visibility, cybersecurity awareness, and social media integration.

*These programs are funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the MassTech Collaborative under the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds.



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OBITUARIES

Cynthia M. Dighton, 84

Southbridge: Cynthia M. (Putnam) Dighton, 84, of Pine St., passed away on Monday, May 18th, surrounded by loving family.

She leaves behind her son, Kenneth E. Blodgett and his wife Martha of Fiskdale; her daughter, Lynn M. Pariseau and her husband Leroy of Southbridge with whom she lived with. She also leaves behind five grandchildren, Melanie Barberio, and her husband Mike, Joshua Blodgett, Benjamin Blodgett and his wife Jodi, Lenna Pariseau, and Leo Pariseau; four great grandchildren, Zachery, Dylan, Mitchell, Viona and her former husband, Neil K. Blodgett. Cynthia was predeceased by her son, William "Billy" Blodgett in April 1989 and a sister, Betty Viernes.

She attended schools in East Brookfield and Spencer, MA. Cynthia had a very strong faith and was along time member of Charlton City United Methodist church where she was always active in many capacities. She was a member of the woman's auxiliary for the Spencer Fire Department She belonged to a camping association and the Snowbirds snowmobile



association where she enjoyed many years of outdoor fun with her family. While she was raising her children she worked at David Prouty Jr. High in the cafeteria. As the children got older, she worked in administration at Upland Gardens in Worcester until retirement. Cindy was not one to sit still after retiring, she began to clean houses. Her pride and joy were her grandchildren who she doted on and brought her years of joy and happiness.

Her funeral will be held on Saturday, May 30th, at 11:00 AM in the Charlton City United Methodist Church, 74 Stafford Street, Charlton. A Calling hour will be held on Saturday, May 30th, from 10:30 to 11:00am at the church prior to the service.

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

The family respectfully requests flowers to be omitted and in lieu of flowers donations be sent to the Charlton City United Methodist Church, PO Box 1151, Charlton City, MA 01508.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Jacob Edwards Library to host program on women in early Country music

SOUTHBRIDGE — Berkshire-based roots musician Paula Bradley (vocals, guitar, banjo) brings stories and songs of women in early country music, highlighting their often-overlooked contributions to America's rich musical legacy, to Jacob Edwards Library, 236 Main St., Southbridge, on Thursday, June 11 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Starting with unaccompanied ballads and continuing through the advent of recording and radio, this program explores country music's history and women who helped shape it. Admission to the concert is free and open to the pub-

lic. This program is funded in part by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

A West Virginia-born multi-instrumentalist residing in the Berkshires, Paula Bradley has been involved in old-time and roots music for many years. Known for her strong, spirited vocals, she has toured (on banjo) with old-time darlings "Uncle Earl"; with old-time powerhouse Bruce Molsky (on guitar and banjo uke); and with Tony Trischka and Bruce as part of the acoustic roots

trio "Jawbone". She was a founding member of the popular New England honkytonk combo (on piano and vocals) "Girl Howdy," and with her late husband, Bill Dillof, the old time duet "Moonshine Holler." She currently leads her own popular honky tonk/country swing combo "Miss Paula & The Twangbusters" and pursues many musical side projects. Bradley is also an in-demand traditional music instructor, and has been on staff at music camps including Swannanoa Gathering, Mars Hill, Winter Village Music, Augusta Heritage and Ashokan.

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 EZ Learning Realty LLC to Middlesex Loans LLC, dated December 11, 2023, and recorded at the Worcester County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69982, Page 207, of which mortgage the undersigned together 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 the 11th day of June 2026, at 100 North Street, Southbridge, MA 01550, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To wit:

The land in Southbridge, with the buildings thereon and all privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING at an iron pin on the southerly line of North Street, 39 feet westerly from the corner of said Street and Crystal Street;

THENCE westerly by said North Street, 55 feet, 1 inch to an iron pin;

THENCE southerly by land now or formerly of Alfredo and Clorinda Francuzzi, 47 feet, 5 inches to an iron pin;

THENCE westerly at right angles by the last named land, 8 feet to an iron pin;

THENCE southerly at right angles by the last named land, 49 feet, 1 inch to an iron pin at land now or formerly of the Estate of Morton et al;

THENCE easterly, 34 feet 2 inches to an iron pin in the ground; THENCE northerly, 17 feet, 10 inches to an iron pin in the ground;

THENCE again, easterly 21 feet, 10 inches to an iron pin in the ground at land now or formerly of Guiseppi A. Salviuola;

THENCE northerly by last named land, 70 feet, 6 inches to the point of beginning.

Said land is conveyed subject to and with the privilege of enjoying two certain rights of way to pass from said North Street to the building on the above-granted premises, first, that right of way described in an indenture dated November 16, 1926 between Channing M. Wells et al and Francuzzi and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 2423, Page 332, and second, that right of way described in a deed from said Channing M. Wells et al to Guiseppi A. Salviuola dated July 17, 1928 and recorded with said deeds.

For title see deed recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 66274, Page 300.

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 five thousand dollars (\$5,000) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by wire transfer to Ligris + Associates, PC, 1188 Centre Street, 2nd Floor, Newton, MA 02459 on

or before 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, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Middlesex Loans LLC,
Present holder of said mortgage,
By its Attorneys,
Ligris + Associates,
PC 1188 Centre Street
Newton Center, MA 02459 (617) 274-1500

May 21, 2026

May 28, 2026

June 4, 2026

Public Hearing Notice – Timber Harvest

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 155 Breakneck Road, Sturbridge MA, 01566 owned by Hull Forestlands LP. The hearing will be held on Monday, June 15, 2026 at 6:35 p.m. at Sturbridge Town Hall, Veterans Memorial Hall, 2nd Floor, 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA.
May 28, 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. WO25P2531 EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

Estate of:

Alfred J Pappalardo

Date of Death: 04/11/2025

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Gerald L Hickman, Jr. of Webster MA**

requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m.** on the return day of **06/09/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.

Date: May 15, 2026

Stephanie Fattman

Register of Probate

May 28, 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. WO25P4452EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Estate Of:

Allen A Paquin

Date of Death: 12/02/2025

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has been filed by: **Judy K Paquin of Rye NY** requesting that the court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.

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 **06/16/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: May 20, 2026

Stephanie Fattman

Register of Probate

May 28, 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 June 17, at 7PM on the application of Jesse & Jesse Properties, LLC.

The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for the construction of a commercial building, paved driveway and parking lots, stormwater infiltration, and associated site work within the 100-ft buffer zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The project location is: 360 Worcester Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 40-B-24

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

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

Thomas O'Malley

Chair, Charlton Conservation

Commission

May 28, 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. WO26P1607EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:

Leon G. Bail

Date of Death: 01/07/2026

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Susan Fauteux of Bondsville MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:

Susan Fauteux of Bondsville MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the estate 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 06/16/2026**.

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: May 14, 2026

Stephanie Fattman

Register of Probate

May 28, 2026

Auction

The equipment was owned and abandoned by John Carpenter of Carpenter Molds, located at 316 County Home Road,

Thompson CT 06277.

The items listed are HURCO CNC

MILL

The auction will be held at 342

Compass Circle,

Unit B4

North Kingston, RI 02852

June 12, 2026 at 9am

May 21, 2026

May 22, 2026

May 28, 2025

June 4, 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 05/26/2026 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 Request for Determination (RDA) filed by Timothy Haley for a septic repair at 8 Julia Anna Drive 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 on Mondays (12:30 PM – 4:00 PM) and Tuesdays (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM).

Conservation Commission

Town of Holland

May 28, 2026

Allison Moloney graduates from Stonehill College

EASTON — Allison Moloney of Brimfield received a Bachelor of Arts degree at Stonehill College's 75th Commencement on Sunday, May 17.

At this year's ceremony, Leo J. Meehan III

'75, president and CEO of W.B. Mason, served as keynote speaker. He also received an honorary degree alongside Matt Brown '16, who established the Matt Brown Foundation, and Sister Andrea Lee, I.H.M.,

former president of St. Catherine University and Alverno College.

Read our full Commencement recap here.

About Stonehill College Stonehill College,

a Catholic institution of higher learning, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1948. Located on the beautiful 387-acre campus and former estate of Frederick Lothrop Ames in North Easton, it is a community of scholarship and faith,

anchored by a belief in the inherent dignity of each person.

Through more than 100 academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, business and pre-professional fields, Stonehill College provides an education of the highest caliber that fosters critical

thinking, free inquiry and the interchange of ideas for over 2,500 students.

Stonehill College educates the whole person so that each Stonehill graduate thinks, acts and leads with courage toward the creation of a more just and compassionate world.

New Bocce League open to community

SOUTHBRIDGE — Bay Path Continuing Education & the Southbridge Italian Club have teamed up to launch an exciting new bocce league on Tuesday nights throughout May and June.

Bocce is a game that all can enjoy—no special skills or talents are required! If you can roll a ball, you can play! These two community organizations are thrilled to bring this sport to a wider audience. Both Bay Path Continuing Education and

the Southbridge Italian Club are dedicated to offering various events for people to engage, socialize, and have fun. This new league is a perfect fit. Here are the details:

Tuesdays: May 12 – June 30 (eight weeks)

- Teams of four to eight players
- \$240 per team
- One game per week at either 6 or 7 p.m.
- Maximum of eight teams – don't wait!

o Only team captains need to register for their

team.

o A brief informational captain meeting will be held before the season starts.

o Gather your friends (18 and older), form a team, and come join us for a fantastic time on the court!

Games will be held at: Italian American Club 20 North St., Southbridge

To register your team, call Bay Path Continuing Education at 508-248-5971, ext. 1715. Spots for teams are limited, so don't hesitate—call today!

Absentee ballots available in Southbridge

SOUTHBRIDGE — Absentee ballots are now available in the office of the Town Clerk/Board of Registrars, Town Hall, for the Local Election, which will take place on Tuesday, June 9.

Persons wishing to vote by absentee ballot must obtain an application for completion and return to the Town Clerk/Board of Registrars no later than

Monday, June 8 at noon.

Voters may vote by absentee ballot for the following reasons:

- Absence from Town during the hours the polls are open
- Physical Disability
- Religious Beliefs

Relatives may apply for absentee ballots for Southbridge residents absent from the state, residents in the armed forces or merchant

marines, their spouses or dependents, and prisoners. Applications must be registered voters of the Town of Southbridge. The Local Election will take place on Tuesday, June 9, with voting at Precincts 1,2,3,4 and 5 from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Voters are urged to exercise their right to vote at all elections.



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BHS Class of 1986 seeks community's help locating classmates for 40th reunion

REGION — As the Bartlett High School Class of 1986 prepares to celebrate its 40th reunion on Sept. 26, organizers are asking the community for assistance in locating classmates who have not yet been reached through social media or via text.

To make the process simple, the reunion committee has created a short contact-information form and is encouraging residents, friends, and former classmates to help spread the word. If you know someone on the “missing classmates” list, organizers ask that you text them the link to the form so they can update their information.

Contact Info Form: <https://tinyurl.com/BHS1986-40Years>

If it's easier, you may also complete the form on a classmate's behalf—so long as you have their current contact details. Organizers emphasize that any help tracking them down is truly appreciated, as personal connections often succeed where digital outreach falls short.

A list of classmates the committee is hoping to locate appears below. With the community's support, they hope every member of the Class of '86 will have the opportunity to join this milestone celebration.

Mont Canterbury
 Stephen Carlson
 Daniel Chapdelaine
 Kelly Cobb
 Ken Cournoyer
 Timothy Decker
 Tammy Deschenes
 Aaron Dorcas
 Daniel Doyle
 Dorothy DusoSelina Fife
 James Gardner
 Jeffrey Gatto
 Tina Giakoumis
 Alicia Goudreau
 Richard Guerin
 Robert Hamm
 Scott Horanzy
 Jane Houle

Todd Hufault
 Joseph Hughes
 Melissa Jankowski
 Thor Johnson
 Nena Johnston
 Lisa Kozlowski
 Robert Krasnecky
 Jill Krause
 Michael Kryger
 Rick Lawson
 Deborah Leite
 Linda Lifer
 Patricia Majewski
 Renee Marchand
 Jennifer Marsh
 Jennifer Mason
 John Meagher
 Fumiyo Mochizuki
 Deborah Munsch

Brett Napierata
 Wayne Parmentier
 Brian Poplawski
 Gary Poplawski
 Edward Powers
 William Radcliffe
 James Remy
 Debra Ross
 Collin Salmon
 Dale Schleis
 Theresa Sergel
 Henry Skiba
 Alan Standrowicz
 Jeffrey Surozenski
 Karen Toukonen
 Joseph Veronick
 Douglas Waldron
 Robert Wheeler
 Edward Zdrok

TAG SALE

continued frompage A1
 Sunday. Several sales are on-site at Hitchcock, so the community center is a great place to start your shopping. The Brimfield Farmers' Market is also running in the organization's parking lot that day from 9am to 1pm, so consider fueling up with kombucha and baked goods, or adding some fresh farm and handcrafted goods to your day's loot.

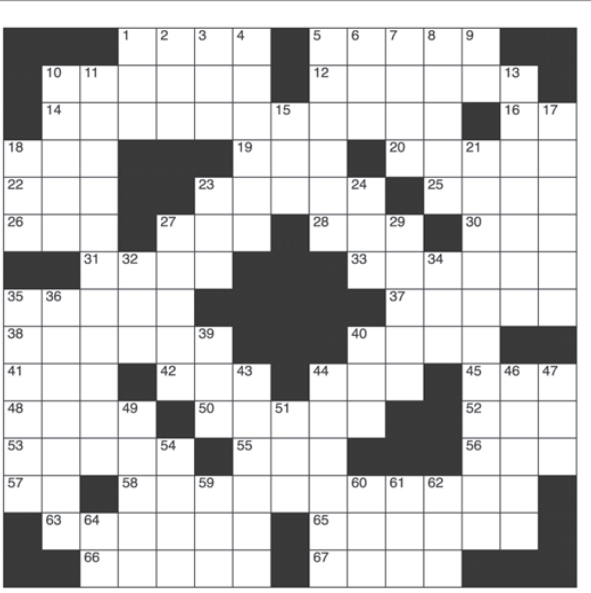
Shoppers can pick up a printed 11x17 map at Hitchcock for \$2 on the day of the event or download it from Hitchcock's website the day prior. So far, listings include typical tag sale fare such

as clothing, household items, toys, tools, housewares, small appliances, free garden pots, cleaning supplies, kitchen items, dishes, jewelry, holiday décor, crafts, baking, books, cds and dvds, baby items, furniture, pet supplies, assorted tools and tech items, and knick-knacks, along with vintage and antique items.

Unique items in the listings include an original Atari system, kayaks, truck boxes, Amazon Mystery Boxes, a 12-foot aluminum boat, tin toys, andirons, prints, baseball cards, a bamboo fly rod, a Modern Glenwood Home Grand Wood Burning Cook Stove, antique sewing machine, table saw,

bench sander, and more. “It's such a fun day and a unique way to foster a sense of community,” says Hitchcock Executive Director Cindy Skowrya. “We hear often how people enjoy interacting with one another as much as they enjoy the hunt.”

For more information, visit www.hitchcock-academy.org. Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming. Hitchcock is celebrating 70 years this year following its 100 year history as a school.

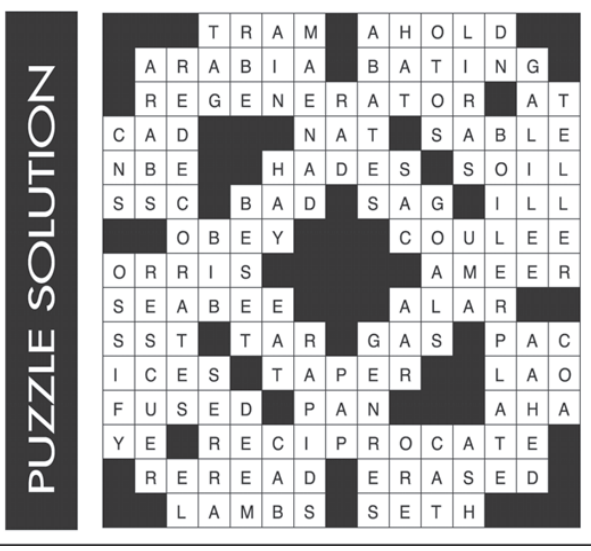


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Streetcar
- 5. Take ___ of it!
- 10. SW Asia peninsula
- 12. Beating wings to escape from a perch
- 14. One who revitalizes
- 16. Indicates position
- 18. Dishonorable man
- 19. Singer King Cole
- 20. Short-tailed marten
- 22. One point east (clockwise) of due north
- 23. The god of the underworld in ancient mythology
- 25. Dirt
- 26. Superconducting super collider
- 27. Not good
- 28. A way to sink
- 30. Unwell
- 31. Follow orders
- 33. Deep ravine
- 35. Perfumery practice
- 37. Indian film director Sultan
- 38. Member of U.S. Navy
- 40. Wing-like
- 41. Very fast airplane
- 42. Slang for cigarette
- 44. Most cars still need it
- 45. Political war chest
- 48. Cools down
- 50. Diminish toward one end
- 52. Indigenous person of Thailand
- 53. Combined
- 55. Container
- 56. Expression of satisfaction
- 57. Thou
- 58. Return a favor
- 63. Go over once more
- 65. Removed
- 66. “Silence of the ___”
- 67. Comedian Rogen

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Children's game
- 2. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 3. Own (Scottish)
- 4. Female follower of Bacchus
- 5. Subsidies
- 6. Protects from weather
- 7. Spanish municipality
- 8. Supermarket chain
- 9. Domain name
- 10. Semitic peoples
- 11. Designs anew
- 13. City associated with Jesus
- 15. Cool!
- 17. Bank employee
- 18. Central nervous system
- 21. Standardized piece of text
- 23. A type of fever
- 24. Baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 27. Threaten persistently
- 29. Aspirations
- 32. Baby's eating accessory
- 34. Actress Thurman
- 35. Turn into bone
- 36. One who saves you
- 39. Consume
- 40. Swiss river
- 43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
- 44. Categories
- 46. Expressed amazement
- 47. It's important in respiration (abbr.)
- 49. Greek war dance
- 51. Bland, semi-liquid food
- 54. Regard in a specified way
- 59. Taxi
- 60. Naturally occurring solid material
- 61. Feline
- 62. Post-burning residue
- 64. Elevated railroad



Peter Allain
 Beth Antonopoulos
 Marie Aperges
 Andrew Baca
 Austin Bailey
 David Beardsley
 Frank Belanger
 Carolyn Bembek
 Richard Bernier
 Sheila Bialonick
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Raindate is June 7th.

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Friday's Child

Justice
Age 12
Registration #9115

Justice is a social, caring young person with a great sense of humor that easily brings smiles to those around him. He enjoys connecting with others and has a natural ability to make people feel comfortable, often using his humor and easygoing personality to build positive relationships with both peers and adults. Justice's kind and thoughtful nature shines through in his interactions, and he values spending time with people who share his interests. Justice has a strong love for reading, particularly when it comes to anime and graphic novels. He enjoys diving into imaginative storylines and following his favorite characters, which allows him to relax while also fueling his creativity. These interests give him a unique way to express himself and connect with others who enjoy similar genres. In his free time, Justice loves to get out and enjoy good food—especially at two of his favorite spots, Popeyes and Applebee's. A meal out at either of these restaurants is a guaranteed way to make his day a little brighter. He also takes great pride in his gaming skills and often jokes that he is a “professional” video gamer. Whether he's playing competitively or just for fun, gaming is something he truly enjoys and feels confident in. Overall, Justice is a fun, engaging, and genuine young person who thrives in environments where he can connect with others, share laughter, and enjoy the things he loves. With the right support and encouragement, he has so much to offer and will continue to grow and shine.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22666079150>
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The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with. To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org. Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.



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*Webster - 106 East Main St (Rte 12)
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*Webster - 34 Eastern Ave Condos
~ Unit M ~*



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Webster ~ 33 Slater Street*

Sprawling fieldstone faced 1 Level Ranch, located on a +/- 0.5-acre level, w/24'x24' 2 car att'd garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 2 stone fireplaces w/pellet stove inserts, FHW BB heat by oil. Open floor plan kitchen, living rm, dining rm, breezeway w/sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom, hardwood & c-tile floors. **\$525,000**

*Webster - 24 Cooper Rd
New Construction - Craftsman Style home*

Tucked away on Cooper Rd. Webster Lake with access at Lake-side beach/boat ramp. 3rd of 4 homes being built at this site. Offers 2,155 sq. ft +/- of living area, 7 rms, 4 brs, 2 1/2 baths, 9ft ceiling, wood flooring throughout with ceramic tile baths. Spacious main BR Suite w/ walk-in closet, and private full bath, double sink vanity, finished lower level walk-out w/ slider. Central AC, garage. **\$649,900.00**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagogmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



*Webster Lake Waterfront
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*Webster Lake -
302 Killdeer Island*



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*Webster Lake Waterfront -
31 Bayview!!*



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Zinnias are very easy to start outdoors from seed and will produce loads of long-lasting cut flowers. Pinch basil plants regularly to keep plants from blooming and to encourage lots of branching with lots of leaves. Leaves are more flavorful before the plant blooms. There's still plenty of time to plant cucumbers, summer squash and beans. If June begins with cool temperatures, try to get in another sowing of radishes and lettuce. Prune spring flowering shrubs after they bloom. Check the undersides of perennial hibiscus plants for sawflies. They are small, green, slug-like larvae that skeletonize the leaves. Harvest strawberries when red and firm. What no strawberries? Think of where you could put in a patch. Fertilize roses in mid-June and again in mid-July. Remove spent flowers from hybrid tea roses, grandifloras and floribundas to encourage the production of more flower buds. If you are planning to use an herbicide to control poison ivy, this is the month to do so.

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15th Annual Worcester Food Truck & Craft Beverage Festival returns June 6

WORCESTER — Food Truck Festivals of America (FTFA) is excited to bring back the 15th Annual Worcester Food Truck & Craft Beverage Festival on Saturday, June 6, from noon to 5 p.m., with an exclusive VIP & Beverage Lovers Hour from 11 a.m.–noon. Join us at Worcester Common as some of Massachusetts' favorite food trucks and top craft beverage vendors come together for one unforgettable day packed with flavor, fun, and festival vibes.



Come hungry and explore mouthwatering eats from more than a dozen food trucks serving everything from street tacos, juicy burgers, and lobster rolls to sweet treats, whoopie pies, and fresh-squeezed lemonade. Wash it all down with an incredible selection of local and national craft beverages. The fun goes far beyond the food! Enjoy music, lawn games,

henna art, and an artisan market featuring unique local vendors and handmade goods — making this the perfect summer outing for foodies, families, and friends alike.

Tickets & Packages — Buy Early & Save!

General Admission \$5 online in advance | \$10 at the gate
 Children 10 & under are free

Foodie VIP Beverage Six-
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 • One free dessert from the VIP Dessert Truck
 • Bottled water while supplies last

Beverage Lovers Package — \$32 Online Only
 • Early admission at 11 a.m.
 • Three beverage tickets
 • Official FTFA Koozie
 • Bottled water while supplies last

Pack-age — \$59 Online Only
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 • Six beverage tickets
 • Official FTFA Koozie
 • Bottled water while supplies last

Grab your tickets now at [https:// Worcester2026.eventbrite.com](https://Worcester2026.eventbrite.com).

Festival Location: Worcester Common, 455 Main St. Follow @FTFofAmerica on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and TikTok for festival updates, food truck announcements, giveaways, and more!

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