STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

©2026, Issue #48

Free by request to residents of Sturbridge and Holland

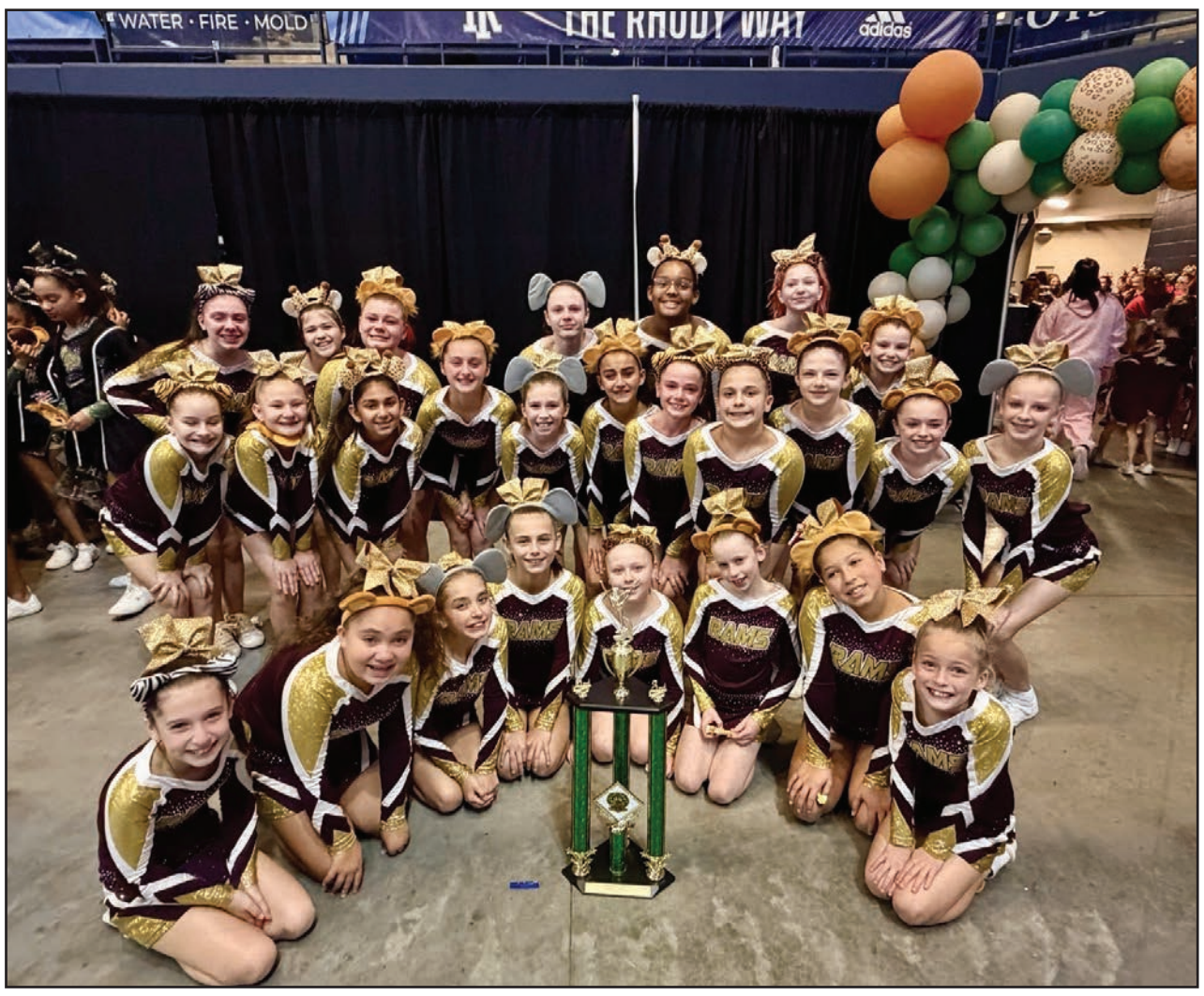
SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS

Thursday-Friday, November 26-27, 2026

U12 Charlton-Dudley Rams Cheer team heads to AYC Nationals after incredible season

CHARLTON — The U12 Charlton-Dudley Rams cheer team is officially headed to the American Youth

Turn To **CHEER** *page* **A10**



Center of Hope Foundation successfully completes $2.6 million Hope Grows Here campaign

SOUTHBRIDGE — Commemorating its 70th anniversary, the organization has officially concluded its major capital campaign, Hope Grows Here, positioning the agency for a new era of sustainable growth, expanded community impact, and deep-rooted inclusivity across Central Massachusetts and Northeastern Connecticut.

Hope Grows Here Capital Campaign, exceeding their original goal of $2.6 million and ahead of schedule. Launched in July 2022, the strategic initiative was established to ensure the longevity of the foundation's physical infrastructure, revitalize heavily utilized facilities, and deepen its core mission of providing endless opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Beyond brick-and-mortar upgrades, the capital campaign focuses on expanding care, which includes an increase admission capacity in our day habilitation centers, expand vital residential services, and bolster employment support programs that simultaneously provide valuable services to the local public, such as Hope's Treasures, Scoops of Hope, and Just the Details.

"While the successful completion of this campaign secures the physical foundation of our mission, our work is just beginning," said President/CEO Erika (Travinski) Burrows. "With upgraded spaces and strengthened residential and employment support services, the Center of Hope Foundation is ready to welcome new participants and expand our community reach allowing us to support people with disabilities in achieving independent, and meaningful lives."

"To see individuals, local businesses, and foundational partners rally together to make this vision a reality has been truly humbling and reflects the deep commitment of our community," said board Member Kristine Biagiotti-Bridges.

About the Center of Hope Foundation, Inc.

Established in 1956, this 501(c)(3) non-profit promotes and protects human rights for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through comprehensive day programs, vocational training, and community integration.

Blessings of the Backpacks at Charlton Elementary

CHARLTON — Members of Charlton City United Methodist Church recently blessed collected school supplies and distributed them to Charlton Elementary School, with whom the church partnered.

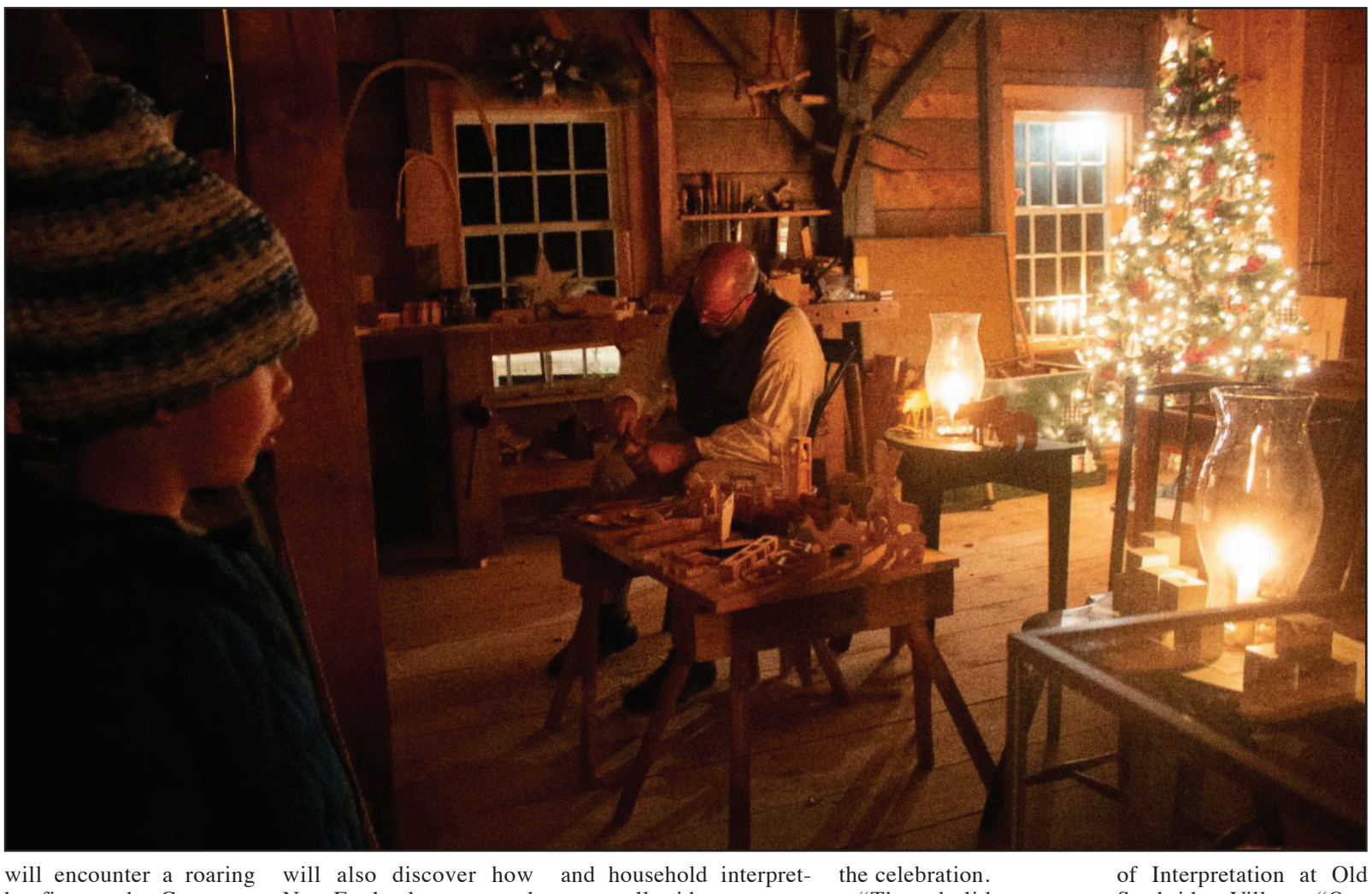
The supplies will go to the youngest and special needs classrooms and, hopefully, will nurture the whole school ecosystem from teachers to students and parents.

The church also had a large pizza donated from Bill's Pizza in Rochdale for the event, most of which went to feed the teachers.

We are stronger together, and so the team is thankful for the donation and partnership with Principal Thibodeau of CES.

While the supplies blessed represent only a small drop in the ocean of what classrooms, teachers, students, and families need, Charlton City UMC hopes to motivate the community to continue to join together in addressing the educational needs of our next generation. The church will be doing a Blessing of the Backpacks school supply drive every year moving forward but hopes mostly that, with or apart from the church, we can all do our part. We are stronger together.

Step Into the warmth and wonder of Christmas past at Old Sturbridge Village



STURBRIDGE — This holiday season, Old Sturbridge Village invites families and friends to step away from their screens and shopping lists to experience the simple charms and traditions of a New England Christmas as Christmas by Candlelight returns on select dates from Nov. 27 through Dec. 27.

For more than 20 years, this beloved tradition has brought together historical storytelling, artisan demonstrations and familiar holiday favorites to evoke the spirit of Christmases long ago. As daylight fades, a magical lighting ceremony at 4:30 p.m. transforms the Village into a cozy, firelit winter landscape illuminated by candles, lanterns and twinkling lights. Visitors can enjoy live holiday music, warm mulled cider, horse-drawn carryall rides, baking over crackling wood fires and visits with Santa Claus - all against the backdrop of the Village's historic homes, shops and rural countryside.

As guests explore the candlelit paths and enjoy the crisp winter air, they will encounter a roaring bonfire on the Common, wander along the Christmas Tree Trail and cross the Wish Bridge, where thousands of wishes are left each year. They will also discover how New Englanders prepared for winter many years ago as they watch a tinsmith craft punched-tin lanterns, a blacksmith forge axes for chopping wood and household interpreters mull cider over an open fire. Along the way, freshly baked cookies, hot cocoa and handcrafted gifts like pottery, tinware and souvenirs add to the celebration.

"The holidays can get pretty hectic, and sometimes we forget to slow down and actually enjoy them," said Rhys Simmons, Director of Interpretation at Old Sturbridge Village. "One of my favorite things about Christmas by Candlelight is seeing

Turn To **CANDLELIGHT** *page* **A11**

The Thrifty Gypsy hosts weekly holiday craft fairs and Sunday markets

STURBRIDGE — Local shoppers and craft enthusiasts are invited to celebrate the holiday season at The Thrifty Gypsy, located at 531 Main St in Sturbridge/Fiskdale. Every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. throughout November and December 2026, the local shop is teaming up with My Collective to host a festive series of holiday craft fairs and "Sunday Funday" vendor pop-up markets.

The weekly markets showcase a rotating selection of local artisans, makers, and small businesses from across Central Massachusetts. Visitors can browse one-of-a-kind holiday gifts while supporting the local community.

Event Highlights & Offerings Include:

• Handmade & Artisan Goods: Locally crafted jewelry, home decor, woodworking, and seasonal gifts.

• Bath, Body & Wellness: Small-batch soaps, hand-poured candles, crystals, and holistic goods.

• Vintage & Apparel: Curated vintage clothing, accessories, and unique thrifted finds.

• Fresh Treats: Local bakery items and seasonal snacks available while you shop.

Admission to the craft fairs is free and open to the public. Artisans and vendors interested in securing a booth for upcoming Sunday dates can find application details on The Thrifty Gypsy Facebook Group.

Event Details:

• What: Holiday Craft Fair & Sunday Funday Vendor Markets

• When: Every Sunday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (November & December 2026)

• Where: The Thrifty Gypsy, 531 Main St., Sturbridge

• Admission: Free

Located in the heart of Fiskdale/Sturbridge, The Thrifty Gypsy is a community-focused boutique and marketplace offering an eclectic mix of handmade artisan goods, vintage treasures, crystals, bath products, and local treats.

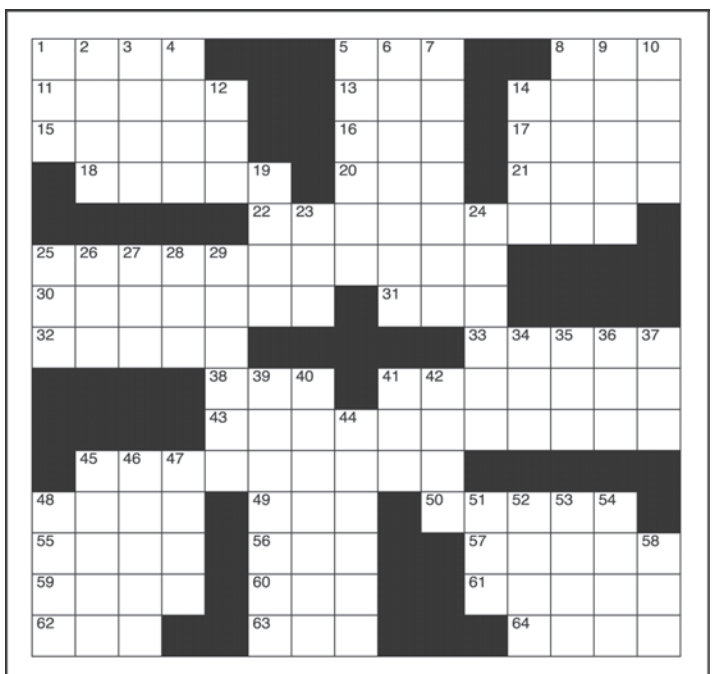
Bethlehem Lutheran Church announces Bluegrass Services

STURBRIDGE — The Rev. Dan Purtell will officiate two upcoming Bluegrass Services to be held on Sunday, Dec. 13.

Both Bluegrass Services will begin at 9 a.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 345 Main St., Sturbridge (Park and Ride). Coffee and refreshments will follow in the fellowship hall. All are welcome!

Services are also livestreamed on Bethlehem's Facebook page. Please visit bethlehemsturbridge.org.

NORTHEAST OIL & PROPANE
Serving Connecticut Since 1971.
SAVE BIG THIS FALL
PROPANE
Limited-Time Pricing Available Now!
Mention Code M83 for your exclusive price.
860-779-3755
OR VISIT NEPROPANE.COM/SAVERS
Terms and Conditions May Apply | Offer Ends November 30, 2026



CLUES ACROSS

1. Insect feeler
5. Central processing unit
8. Part of (abbr.)
11. Typical
13. Tall, rounded vase
14. __ Alto, California city
15. Lustrous, velvet-like fabric
16. "Fresh Prince of __ Air"
17. Hebrew calendar month
18. British surgeon who discovered bone disease
20. Agreement between debtor and creditor (abbr.)
21. Elongated part of anatomical structure
22. Acts slowly on
25. Keeps a little too safe
30. Greek seaport
31. "Baba O'Riley" rockers
32. Vision
33. Potassium nitrate in mineral form
38. Midway between northeast and east
41. Not a pro
43. Give a new look
45. Sensational
48. Nobel Prize-winning physicist
49. Annoy constantly
50. Vaccine developer
55. Lying down
56. Type of language (abbr.)
57. Flat-bottomed boat
59. Smallest or slightest
60. Bind
61. Speeds
62. The products of human creativity
63. Consume food
64. Ancient Greek sophist

CLUES DOWN

1. A young canine
2. As fast as can be done
3. Soviet moon probes
4. Sharp spasm of pain
5. One who adheres to a specific art movement
6. Show parts of
7. Unfasten
8. San Diego ballplayer
9. Santa
10. Rocky peaks
12. "Matt Houston" actor Horsley
14. A written agreement between two sides
19. Beginning to end (abbr.)
23. Greek goddess of the dawn
24. Not written in any key
25. Organized missions
26. Seven
27. Work unit
28. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
29. Broadway legend Bernadette
34. Belonging to a thing
35. Vietnamese offensive
36. Bitterly regret
37. Make a mistake
39. Newborn child
40. A combined landmass
41. Satisfaction
42. Hilly peninsulas in Denmark
44. Young swine
45. Type of sword
46. Siskel's partner
47. Brood of pheasants
48. Hindu model of ideal man
51. Suitable in the circumstances
52. La __ tar pits
53. Unstressed-stressed metrical foot
54. California wine country
58. Badly

PUZZLE SOLUTION

P	A	L	P	■	■	■	C	P	U	■	■	P	C	T
U	S	U	A	L	■	■	U	R	N	■	P	A	L	O
P	A	N	N	E	■	■	B	E	L	■	A	D	A	R
■	P	A	G	E	T	■	I	V	A	■	C	R	U	S
■	■	■	■	■	H	E	S	I	T	A	T	E	S	■
O	V	E	R	P	R	O	T	E	C	T	■	■	■	■
P	I	R	A	E	U	S	■	W	H	O	■	■	■	■
S	I	G	H	T	■	■	■	■	■	N	I	T	R	E
■	■	■	■	E	N	E	■	A	M	A	T	E	U	R
■	■	■	■	R	E	U	P	H	O	L	S	T	E	R
■	S	E	N	S	O	R	I	A	L	■	■	■	■	■
R	A	B	I	■	N	A	G	■	S	A	B	I	N	■
A	B	E	D	■	A	S	L	■	■	P	R	A	A	M
M	E	R	E	■	T	I	E	■	■	T	E	M	P	I
A	R	T	■	■	E	A	T	■	■	■	A	B	A	S

Helping Hand Society invites community to Christmas Fair

CHARLTON — Charlton Helping Hand Society Inc. invites all to their Annual Christmas Fair on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Dodge Chapel, 81 Hammond Hill Rd. in Charlton.

Our members, friends and businesses have been very generous this year with donations. Our "Santa's Village" is loaded with festive bargains and our popular "Cookie Table" will offer dozens of holiday choices. We also have raffle tables with "too many to mention" prizes, but something for everyone. Prizes will be drawn the day of the fair.

Come one, come all on this fun day and help the Charlton Helping Hand Society help others in our community.

Real Estate

CHARLTON

$490,000, 261 Brookfield Rd, Brunelle Donna L Est, and Brunelle, Robert C, to Cederberg, Alexander, and Cederberg, Zenyah.

$353,000, 145 Colburn Rd, Salinas, Nailea, to Tessier, Korra, and Tessier, Justin.

$209,000, 54 Daniels Rd, Langley, Robert R, and Langley, Jayne A, to Langley, Robert R.

$190,000, 5 Harrington Rd, Ceppetelli, Matthew C, to Quickly Way Const LLC.

HOLLAND

$375,000, 328 Mashapaug Rd, Roden, Julie B, to Daj Ventures LLC.

SOUTHBRIDGE

$8,718,443, 84 Chapin St, Southbridge Landlord Ma L, to Bgsy Chapin St Real Prop.

$525,000, 56 Water St, Richardson, Dale M, to Lizardo, Edwin.

$416,000, 82 Hartwell St, Lahaina Corporation, to Vanzandt, Mauvelette L, and Mcdowe, Deshawn Mario Lei.

$395,000, 23 Chartier Ln, Rodriguez, Maria, and Albino, Daniel Colon, to Rivera, Jonathan Santiago, and Diaz, Dayanaalvarado.

$280,000, 99 Crystal St, Gonzalez, Desiree, and Hernandez, Jose M, to Martinez, Rosa, and Rodriguez, Miguel.

$175,000, 16 Highfield Dr, Gelbaum LLC, to Pelican Land Holdings LLC.

STURBRIDGE

$320,000, 83 New Boston Rd, Fields, Bonnie A, to Leblanc, Shawn Paul, and Breault, Margaret Mary.

TO PLACE AN AD WITH STONEBRIDGE PRESS:
Advertising Executive
Mikaela Victor
(774) 200-7308
mikaela@stonebridgepress.news
LEGAL NOTICES:
(508) 909-4127
legals@stonebridgepress.news
SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:
Kerri Peterson
(508) 909-4103
kerri@stonebridgepress.news
TO PRINT AN OBITUARY:
E-MAIL
obits@stonebridgepress.news
CALL: 508-909-4149
OR send to Stonebridge Ppress
P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550
TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:
E-MAIL: news@stonebridgepress.news
OR send to Stonebridge Press,
P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550'

Stonebridge Press

Stonebridge Press
President and Publisher
Frank G. Chilinski
frank@salmonpress.news

Business Manager
Ryan Corneau
860-928-1818 ext. 102
ryan@salmonpress.news

Operations Director
Jim DiNicola
508-764-6102
jim@stonebridgepress.news

Editor
Brendan Berube
508-909-4101
news@stonebridgepress.news

Production Manager
Julie Clarke
508-909-4105
julie@villagernewspapers.com

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

Villager Almanac

Open to Close

Southbridge Town Hall
Monday-Wednesday:
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Thursday: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

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

Charlton Town Hall (508) 248-2200
Office Hours:
Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays
..... 7:30 a.m to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesdays .....7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday .....Closed
visit www.townofcharlton.net
or more information.
Individual offices may vary
Public Library (248-0452)
For library hours please check
www.charltonlibrary.org
Police Department (248-2250)
Monday to Friday..... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
For emergencies, dial **911**
Fire Department (248-2299)
Monday to Friday..... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Post Offices
Charlton Center Post Office ....(800) 275-8777
Charlton City (01508) ..... (800) 275-8777
Schools
Dudley-Charlton Regional School District
.....(508) 943-6888
Charlton Elementary School
..... (508) 248-7774 or (508) 248-7435
Heritage School ..... (508) 248-4884
Charlton Middle School.....(508) 248-1423
Shepherd Hill Regional High School
.....(508) 943-6700
Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School
..... (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326
HOLLAND: 413-245-7108
Mon – Thurs 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
FISKDALE: 508-347-6486
Weekdays 9:00-4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00
STURBRIDGE 508-347-6463
Weekdays 8:30 – 5:00 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00
BRIMFIELD: 413-245-3451
Weekdays: 9:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00
WALES: 413-245-9808
Weekdays 8:30 – 12:30 and 2:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 – 12:00
WALES PUBLIC LIBRARY
Mon, Tu & Th 2-6, W 12-6, Sat 9-12
closed Fri & Sun

Church Listings

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

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

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

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

•**St. Anne St. Patrick Church, 1**6 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338
www.stannestpatparish.com
Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gateway Players announce auditions for "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time"

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge is hosting auditions for "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time," adapted by Simon Stephens, based on the novel by Mark Haddon, music composed by Matt Friedman.

Auditions will be held on Monday, Dec. 14 and Tuesday, Dec. 15 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. (you only have to attend one), in Fellowship Hall at Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script, a little improv and a short movement routine led by our choreographer. No need to sign up or prepare anything, but if you have a resume please bring a copy with you.

Rehearsals will be Sunday afternoons and Monday and Wednesday evenings officially beginning after the first of the year. Please bring a list of conflicts to auditions (attendance for tech week and all performances is required). Performances will be held March 12, 13, 19 & 20 at 7:30 p.m. and March 21 at 2 p.m. Directed by Mikey Dearn, Produced by Stephen Jean, Choreographer: Valerie Langlais and Stage Manager: Erin Morin.

For more information, please contact Gateway at 508-764-4531. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals, A Dramatists Play Service Title. There are 10 roles in the play (five male identifying characters and five female identifying characters) and all characters speak with a British accent. Actors must be at least 18 years old to audition with the exception of those auditioning for the role of Christopher (who can be 14 or older). We welcome performers of all genders, identities and ethnicities to audition whether they are newcomers or veterans to the stage.

Fifteen-year-old Christopher stands beside his neighbor Mrs. Shears' dead dog. It has been speared with a garden fork, it is seven minutes after midnight, and Christopher is under suspicion. He records each fact in the book he is writing to solve the mystery of who murdered Wellington the dog.

Christopher has an extraordinary brain and is exceptional at math, but he is ill-equipped to interpret everyday life. He has never ventured alone beyond the end of his road, he detests being touched and he distrusts strangers. But Christopher's detective work, forbidden by his father, takes him on a frightening journey that turns his world upside-down.

Simon Stephens' adaptation of Mark Haddon's bestselling, award-winning novel "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" offers a richly theatrical exploration of this touching and bleakly humorous tale.

Sturbridge announces 2027 Hometown Heroes banner program

Applications accepted Nov. 1 through Feb. 14

STURBRIDGE — The Town of Sturbridge Memorials, Monuments, and Markers Committee announces the 2027 Hometown Heroes Banner Program, honoring veterans and active-duty military personnel who have a connection to the Sturbridge community.

The program recognizes the service and sacrifices of military personnel through commemorative banners displayed on utility poles throughout town, including Main Street and other prominent locations.

The 2027 program includes expanded eligibility. Veterans and active-duty service members who currently live or previously lived in Sturbridge may be honored, including those who grew up in town and later moved elsewhere. Military service may have occurred before, during, or after their residency in Sturbridge. Both living and deceased veterans are eligible.

Each banner measures 30 by 48 inches and features the honoree's photograph and military service information. The cost is $250, payable by check, or Money Order made payable to the Town of Sturbridge. The cost includes the banner, mounting bracket, and installation. Installation is anticipated in May 2027, with banners expected to remain on display for approximately three years.

Applications will be accepted beginning Nov. 1 through Feb. 14, 2027.

Applicants must submit a completed participation request form, documentation of military service, a digital photograph of the honoree in uniform, and payment.

Application forms and additional program information are available at the town Hall, and through the Town of Sturbridge Web site at www.sturbridge.gov/memorialsmonumentsmarkers-committee.

The Town also accepts voluntary contributions to the Hometown Heroes Revolving Fund to assist eligible veterans who may be unable to afford the cost of a banner.

For additional information, contact Robin A. Grimm, Ph.D., Town Administrator, at (508) 347-2500 or rgrimm@sturbridge.gov.

Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation awards nearly $24,000 in grants to local schools

DUDLEY — The Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation (DCEF) Inc. awarded nearly $24,000 in grants to the Dudley-Charlton School District.

"We are humbled to have the opportunity to support our community in tangible ways that directly impact our schools and students," says Sabrina Webb, president of the DCEF. "These grants will empower our teachers and staff to go above and beyond when it comes to the student experience in and out of the classroom."

Thirteen projects will receive funding. Initiatives by school include:

Mason Road: Making Math Memorable with Manipulatives; Reading for RULER!; Outdoor Classroom: The Sequel; Tactile Enhancement to Sensory Path; and Learning in a New Light: Sensory Exploration in Preschool.

Dudley Elementary: Sensory Hall Upgrade.

Dudley Middle: Titan Treat Trolley: A Student-Run Real-World Learning Experience.

Charlton Elementary: Jumping into Hands-On Learning with ALN-Inspired Math Materials.

Heritage School: Traverse Climbing Wall for Gymnasium ($3,250); Paint the Path to Play.

Charlton Middle: Scanning for Books.

Shepherd Hill Regional High School: American Heritage Museum; Weight Room Enhancements.

"The Dudley-Charlton Regional School District extends its sincere appreciation to the Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation for their continued generosity and partnership, shares," Steven M. Lamarche, superintendent of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District. "Their grant program supports innovative ideas that fall outside our operating budget but make a meaningful, positive impact on students' experiences in every school. We are grateful for their commitment to inspire educators and enriching learning opportunities across the district."

Grants will be carried out in the 2026-27 school year.

Charlton Public Library announces digitization of local high school yearbooks

CHARLTON — The Charlton Public Library is pleased to announce the digitization of historic yearbooks from three local schools: Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, and Charlton High School.

These yearbooks are now available online through the Charlton Public Library's website, making these valuable pieces of Charlton's history accessible to former students, families, researchers, and community members from anywhere.

The digitized collections offer an opportunity to revisit school traditions, classmates, activities, accomplishments, and everyday life from earlier generations. By making these materials available digitally, the library hopes to help preserve and share the community's history for years to come.

Library Director Betsy Perry said "We are excited to make these yearbooks more accessible to the community. These publications provide a wonderful glimpse into the people, places, and memories that have shaped Charlton and the neighboring communities."

Whether you are looking for your own school memories, researching local history, or simply curious about Charlton's past, the library invites you to explore the newly digitized collections.

The yearbooks can be accessed through the Charlton Public Library Web site at https://charltonlibrary.org.

Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St.

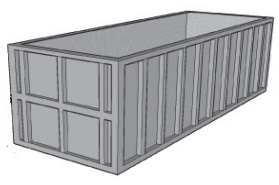


PEPIN WASTE SERVICE



Your Local Roll-Off Specialist

FALL SPECIAL $375
10 yd. Rental 1 Ton
3 sizes available. Call for pricing.



Roll Off Containers
Weekend Dumpsters for the Homeowner
Houses • Attics • Cellars
Construction Sites
10-15-20 Yd.
508-892-4193 • Leicester, MA
Fully Insured



THRESHOLD DECKS
FAMILY AND VETERAN OWNED
OUTDOOR LIVING, BUILT BETTER.
DECKS PORCHES SCREEN ROOMS
(508) 735-9671 Info@ThresholdDecks.com
THRESHOLDDECKS.COM

Todd A. Ethier
BUILDER
774-230-3967
Quality Building Since 1985
Licensed & Insured
• REMODELING
• DECKS • SIDING
• DOORS • WINDOWS
• FINISH BASEMENTS
• HANDYMAN SERVICES
• WE DO SMALL JOBS

WANTED TO BUY
Antiques & Old Stuff
•Bottles • Crocks •Jugs •Costume Jewelry • Pottery •Toys
• Pewter • Glassware •Sterling Silver • Coins • Gold
• Silver Plated Items •Watches •Typewriters •Sewing Machines
• Tools • Radios • Clocks • Lanterns •Lamps • Kitchenware
• Cookware •Knives •Hunting • Fishing • Military • Masonic
• Video Games • Advertising Signs & Much More
CALL DONALD ROY 860-874-8396

Capstone Planning Group
Wealthcare | Retirement | Income
www.thecapstone.group
Located at Cornerstone Bank
200 Charlton Road (Suite B), Sturbridge, MA
Visit our website to schedule your courtesy retirement checkup today!

OPINION

Stonebridge Press

PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550
Telephone (800) 367-9898
Fax (508) 764-8015
www.StonebridgePress.com

Frank G. Chilinski
President/Publisher
Brendan Berube
Editor

A national stage, a hometown achievement

There is something special about watching young people discover what they can accomplish when they refuse to give up. For 26 cheerleaders from Charlton and Dudley, that lesson has taken them farther than they might have imagined when they began practicing together in July. Now, after months of preparation and an impressive series of competitive performances, the U12 Charlton-Dudley Rams are headed to the American Youth Cheer National Championships in Orlando, Fla.

Their achievement deserves recognition, not simply because they have earned a place among some of the nation's top youth cheerleading teams, but because of everything it took to get there.

Competitive cheerleading demands far more than enthusiasm and a bright smile. It requires athleticism, strength, coordination, discipline and an extraordinary level of trust. Every athlete has a responsibility to the others, and every movement must be executed with precision. A routine lasting only 2 minutes and 30 seconds represents months of preparation, with little room for error.

The Rams have demonstrated that they are up to the challenge.

Their journey began with a division championship at the Central Massachusetts Locals Competition in October. They followed that achievement with a second-place finish at the Massachusetts State Competition, earning the opportunity to advance to the New England Regional Championships.

On Nov. 14, competing at the University of Rhode Island's Ryan Center against some of the strongest teams in the region, the Rams finished third and secured their invitation to Nationals. Three competitions. Three impressive finishes. One remarkable opportunity.

For athletes this young, the experience offers lessons that extend well beyond cheerleading. They have learned that success requires preparation, that improvement takes patience and that individual talent means little without cooperation. They have also learned how to handle pressure, recover from mistakes and depend on teammates when the stakes are high. Those are lessons that will serve them long after their competitive cheerleading days are over.

Their coaches deserve recognition as well. Guiding 26 young athletes through a demanding season requires patience, encouragement and an understanding that developing character is every bit as important as developing athletic ability. The same appreciation belongs to the parents and families who have supported the team through months of practices, competitions and the considerable commitments that accompany youth athletics.

Now, however, the Rams face a different kind of challenge. With the national championships approaching in early December, the team has little more than two weeks to raise money for travel, lodging and competition-related expenses. For families already balancing the ordinary costs of raising children, an unexpected trip to Florida can represent a substantial financial burden. That is where the broader community has an opportunity to make a difference.

The team is organizing fundraising efforts, including community collections, lottery ticket fundraisers and outreach to local businesses. These efforts deserve serious consideration from residents and businesses in Charlton, Dudley and neighboring communities.

Supporting these athletes is about more than helping finance a trip. It is about recognizing the value of commitment and giving young people an opportunity they have earned through their own efforts.

There is also an important distinction worth remembering. The Rams are not asking their communities to reward them for participating. They have already competed, succeeded and qualified for a national championship. The fundraising effort is intended to ensure that the financial demands of attending do not overshadow what they have accomplished.

Not every family can contribute, and no one should feel obligated to give beyond their means. But those who are able to help, whether through a donation, a fundraising purchase or a business sponsorship, have an opportunity to support something meaningful.

Regardless of what happens in Orlando, these 26 young athletes have already accomplished something extraordinary. They have represented their towns with determination, demonstrated the value of teamwork and earned the right to compete on a national stage.

The trophies and rankings will eventually become memories. The confidence, friendships and lessons learned along the way may last a lifetime.

Charlton and Dudley have every reason to be proud of their Rams. Now comes the opportunity to help them finish the journey they worked so hard to begin.

And when those 26 cheerleaders take the floor in Orlando, they will carry more than the hopes of their teammates and coaches. They will carry the pride of two hometowns cheering them on from Massachusetts.

Saving for special needs without risking benefits



Financial Focus

Trevor Nielsen

One of the most common mistakes families make is transferring money or leaving assets directly to a loved one with special needs without realizing it could affect eligibility for government benefits.

While you want to support their well-being today and for years to come, there's a delicate balance to strike — providing financial support without accidentally jeopardizing the government benefits they may rely on.

Government benefits like Supplemental Security Income and Medicaid can be a lifeline for families, covering essentials from medical care to daily support. Yet these programs often come with strict income and asset limits. If your loved one accumulates too many assets or exceeds income thresholds, they could lose access to the very benefits that help them thrive.

Parents often start planning with a will, but special needs planning typically requires a broader approach, one that addresses financial support, caregiving, and continued eligibility for government benefits.

Saving for the future without risking benefits: Fortunately, there are tools designed to support your loved one's future without putting benefits at risk. Two of the most common are ABLE accounts and special needs trusts.

ABLE accounts are tax-advantaged savings accounts for individuals with disabilities. If your family member became disabled before age 46, they may be eligible. For 2026, you can contribute up to $20,000 and hold up to $100,000 in the account without affecting Supplemental Security Income benefits. Medicaid eligibility stays intact even if the balance exceeds that amount. Contributions may qualify for a state tax deduction and the Saver's Credit, and the assets can grow tax-free when used for qualifying disability expenses.

Special needs trusts, sometimes called supplemental needs trusts, offer another path. These let you set aside assets for your loved one without disqualifying them from government benefits. They can be funded by the individual with a disability or by someone else, and they generally cover expenses that government assistance doesn't. Because they can be more costly to set up and administer, you might prioritize an ABLE account if your loved one is eligible, then supplement with a trust if total assets are projected to be at least $150,000.

Planning for caregiving: It's also worth thinking about who will make decisions for your loved one in the future. Guardianship or conservatorship can help manage personal and financial decisions, though the process varies by state and can be expensive. Not every individual with a disability needs this level of support, so it's worth evaluating what fits your family's situation and planning ahead before a crisis forces a decision.

Special needs planning touches on financial, legal, and medical considerations all at once. The best time to put a plan in place is before benefits become an issue, not after eligibility is questioned. Because these issues can be complex, consider bringing in a professional team to help. A financial advisor and an estate planning attorney knowledgeable in special needs can work together to build a strategy tailored to your family. Review your plan at least annually to help keep it aligned with your goals and avoid losing key benefits.

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

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors, cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

A Thanksgiving worth remembering

Lanterns Along Main Street

By CHARLES

Thanksgiving has a way of sneaking up on a fellow. One minute, you're mowing the lawn and complaining about the heat, and the next, you're standing in the grocery store wondering how a frozen turkey can cost that much and whether anybody in the family actually likes cranberry sauce.

I've reached the age where Thanksgiving means something a little different than it did when I was younger. Back then, I was mostly interested in the food, the football and finding a comfortable chair before somebody recruited me to wash dishes. These days, I still appreciate all three, although I've learned that volunteering for dish duty can be a pretty good way to escape a conversation about politics.

The older I get, the more I realize that Thanksgiving isn't necessarily about having everything we want. It's about recognizing how much we already have, even when life hasn't turned out quite the way we expected. That's not always an easy thing to do.

We live in a world where somebody is constantly reminding us of what we're missing. A better car, a bigger house, a newer television, a vacation someplace warm. Apparently, according to the advertisements, happiness can be purchased in convenient monthly installments. I haven't found that to be particularly true.

Some of the happiest Thanksgivings I can remember took place around tables that were too small, in houses that were too crowded, with folding chairs borrowed from wherever we could find them. Somebody always got stuck sitting next to the kitchen doorway, somebody complained that the gravy was too thin, and somebody inevitably asked when we were going to eat, usually about 20 minutes after being told. Nobody seemed to mind very much.

I remember when Thanksgiving dinner was a production that began days in advance. The good dishes came out of the cupboard, the dining room table got its annual polishing, and there was a certain amount of nervous discussion about whether the turkey would be ready on time.

There was always one person who insisted the meal should begin at noon and another who thought three o'clock was perfectly reasonable. Somehow, we usually managed to eat around two. And there was always enough food to feed twice as many people as showed up.

Nowadays, the gatherings are a little smaller. The kids have grown, schedules have become complicated, and the old familiar faces aren't all around the table anymore. That's the part of getting older nobody puts in the holiday advertisements. You notice the empty chairs.

You remember the relatives who used to tell the same stories every year, the ones you pretended to be tired of hearing. Funny thing is, you'd give quite a bit to hear one of those stories again.

But Thanksgiving shouldn't become an exercise in counting what's missing. Those memories are worth keeping, certainly, but so are the people and moments we still have in front of us.

My wife and I have been married long enough to know that a successful holiday doesn't require everything to go according to plan. In fact, some of our favorite memories involve things going completely sideways.

A burned dinner roll isn't a catastrophe. Neither is a lumpy potato or a pie that looks like it lost a fight with the oven. And if somebody forgets to put the cranberry sauce on the table, there's a decent chance nobody will notice until Friday.

I think one of the great advantages of growing older is that you finally begin to understand which things matter and which things don't. The tablecloth doesn't matter. The centerpiece doesn't matter. Whether the turkey looks like the photograph in the cookbook certainly doesn't matter. What matters is the conversation, the laughter, the opportunity to spend a few hours with people who know your faults and love you anyway. And sometimes, what matters is simply having a peaceful afternoon.

Not everybody has a house full of relatives coming for dinner. Some people will spend Thanksgiving working. Others will be alone, whether by choice or circumstance. Some families are dealing with illness, financial worries or the first holiday after losing someone they love.

It's worth remembering that a holiday celebrated with such enthusiasm can be difficult for others. A phone call, an invitation or a plate of leftovers delivered to somebody's door might mean more than we realize. It doesn't have to be a grand gesture. Most worthwhile things aren't.

I also think Thanksgiving offers us a chance to reconsider what we call good fortune. Having a roof that doesn't leak, a reliable vehicle that starts on a cold morning, a friend who answers the telephone and somebody who notices when we haven't been around for a while are all pretty substantial blessings. They don't make for exciting television commercials, but I'd put them ahead of most things being advertised.

This year, I intend to enjoy my Thanksgiving dinner, probably eat more than I should, and settle into a comfortable chair afterward with every intention of staying awake. I will almost certainly fail at that last part. But before the day is over, I hope to spend a little time appreciating the ordinary things that have made my life a good one. The people who have stood beside me, the lessons I learned the hard way, and the many kindnesses I probably didn't appreciate enough when they happened.

And if the turkey comes out a little dry, I'll reach for the gravy. At my age, I've learned that most things in life can use a little gravy.

Happy Thanksgiving, folks.

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.

Southbridge Lions Club announces Steve Ide Memorial Toy Drive

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Lions Club, in partnership with the Southbridge Police Department's Cops N Kids Program, is once again sponsoring the Steve Ide Memorial Toy Drive to help bring some holiday cheer to children and families in the Southbridge community.

This annual effort provides holiday gifts to children whose families could use a little extra assistance during the Christmas season. Through the continued cooperation of the Lions Club and the Southbridge Police Department, the program helps make the holidays a little brighter for local children.

Applications for the 2026 Toy Drive are now available at the Southbridge Police Department. Families wishing to participate may pick up an application at the department or download and print a copy from the Southbridge Lions Club Facebook page.

The deadline for submitting completed applications is Thursday, Dec. 10. All applications must be returned to the Southbridge Police Department, and a copy of photo identification is required.

Toy distribution will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 16, from 3 to 6 p.m. at 25 Cole Ave. in Southbridge.

Families with specific questions about the program may contact Deputy Chief Jose Dingui at the Southbridge Police Department.

The Southbridge Lions Club encourages residents to help spread the word about the Toy Drive so that families who may benefit from the program are aware of the opportunity.

The Steve Ide Memorial Toy Drive is another example of what can be accomplished when local organizations work together to serve their community. Through this continuing partnership, the Southbridge Lions Club and the Southbridge Police Department hope to make the holiday season a little more joyful for children throughout Southbridge.

Southbridge Lions Club — We Serve.

Dudley, Charlton residents offered discounted tickets to Worcester Railers Hometown Heroes Night

WORCESTER — The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the St. Louis Blues (@StLouisBlues),are hosting their annual Hometown Heroes Night presented by Bay State Bank on Saturday, Dec. 5, when the Railers face off against the Maine Mariners at 6:05 p.m. (doors open at 5 p.m.).

The Railers are turning game night into a full-on celebration of first responders, with a pregame Fire vs. Police matchup, in-game recognitions, and an entrance giveaway for the first 1,500 fans.

Pregame Guns & Hoses matchup

The Worcester Fire and Worcester Police hockey teams will take to the ice and duke it out in the annual Guns & Hoses game right at the DCU Center. A ticket to the Railers game that night gets you into the Police vs. Fire game earlier in the day. The puck drops at 3pm as Worcester's Finest takes on Worcester's Bravest.

Dudley/Charlton Town Takeover Night

Fans from the Dudley/Charlton area are granted access to a special discount code for the game. The game will include a National Anthem performance by Dudley Elementary School, while all non-chorus students from both towns are welcome to join our high-five tunnel to help hype up the Railers as they take to the ice to face off against the Mariners!

Tote bag giveaway

The first 1,500 fans in the building on Saturday, December 5th will receive a Railers tote bag giveaway upon entry.

The 508 Club is now on sale for the 2026-27 season! Get access to games this season, exclusive events and additional benefits by calling the Railers front office at 774-436-6904 or by visiting RailersHC.com.

Gateway Players presents a new take on a holiday classic

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge presents "The Spirit of Christmas, or The Story of Ernestina Scrooge," written by Tom Fuller. Performance dates are Dec. 4 and 5 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. The performances are held at Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. in Southbridge. Entrance is on Park Street (around the corner). Directed by Lou-Ellen Corkum and Alex Gardner, and produced by Stephanie Ruggiere. Presented by permission from Dramatic Publishing.

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

The cast consists of Sarah Tonkin, Nathan Goulart-Pasco, Jonathan Martin, Emily Betty, Greta Thompson, Jim Douglas, Mikaila Baca-Dorion, Hannah Bilis, Lillian Benoit, Maritza "Mari" Cordero, Chris McTigue, Lucas Betty, Evelyn "Evie" Alesbrook, Lola Rabitor, Lynn Boucher, Reilly Ireland, Linda Bouthillier, Peter Cooper, Tiffany Betty.

This adaptation of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" was selected by the Playwrights' Center of Minneapolis. What happened to Ebenezer Scrooge after the immortal Christmas Day? It seems he married and had a son, who had a son, who moved to America and had a daughter, who is the leading lady of this play. The story follows Ernestina Scrooge, the cold-hearted and miserly great-granddaughter of Ebenezer Scrooge, who runs the family's loan company office. Much like her ancestor, Ernestina is visited on Christmas Eve by the ghost of Ebenezer Scrooge along with the Spirits of Christmas Past, Present, and Future, who guide her through a path of redemption.

Come to give blood, experience the magic of Trans-Siberian Orchestra

WORCESTER — The American Red Cross and Trans-Siberian Orchestra invite eligible donors to make an appointment to give blood, platelets or plasma and enjoy a special opportunity to experience the magic of the holiday season while helping save lives.

When donors hurry in to give blood, platelets or plasma, they can earn at least 100 points through the Red Cross Donor Rewards program, which can be used to redeem two tickets to select performances of Trans-Siberian Orchestra's The Ghosts of Christmas Eve: The Best of TSO and More, while supplies last. Trans-Siberian Orchestra will perform in Worcester on Nov. 28, for the 7:30 p.m. show at the DCU Center. (To learn more about Donor Rewards, visit RedCrossBlood.org/rewards.)

"The Red Cross is in constant need of blood donations, and it's so important that we all step up," said Trans-Siberian Orchestra's Al Pitrelli. "You give blood to support a wonderful cause and in exchange, you come spend the holidays with us. It's a win-win!"

Quantities are limited! To make an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS or download the Blood Donor App.

The holiday season can be a challenging time to ensure the blood supply remains stable, even as busy schedules may prevent regular donors from giving. "Blood donors make a profound difference in the lives of patients every day," said Darren Irby, executive director of brand partnerships for the Red Cross. "This special Donor Rewards offer is a meaningful way to thank those who come to roll up a sleeve to help others while giving them the chance to enjoy an unforgettable holiday experience, thanks to the generosity of TSO."

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information about our work, please visit redcross.org/MA or CruzRojaAmericana.org, or follow us on social media.

Community Fridge offers free food at Charlton Federated Church

CHARLTON — The Federated Church of Charlton (FCC) has opened a community fridge or refrigerator and shed to provide food and other household items to anyone in need. The concept is simple: people take what they need and share what they can. The main purpose of community fridges is to reduce food insecurity, while also mitigating food waste. The FCC Community Fridge is in a grey shed next to the church parking lot. It is open 24 hours, seven days a week.

"Our community fridge complements other food programs in our community, such as the Charlton Chip-In Food Pantry. Our program allows people to access free, nutritious fresh foods, and household items at any time," said Elizabeth Moran, chair of the FCC diaconate. "We understand that people can feel embarrassed when they are in need. Our program allows people to acquire resources anonymously. There is no sign-in or registration. Simply come and take what you need, when you need it."

The Federated Church of Charlton hopes to work with organizations, businesses and individuals to fill the community fridge and shelves. Acceptable foods include: all produce, unopened frozen foods, breads and pastries, prepackaged frozen dinners, milk, cheese, eggs, non-perishable goods, home cooked meals. Please label each meal with the ingredients. Clear packaging is preferred. Foods that are unacceptable include: moldy fruits, vegetables, and bread and previously opened foods. The FCC also accepts household items such as canned goods, boxed foods, soap and shampoo, paper supplies, toothpaste, and shaving supplies.

For more information, please call the church at 508-248-5550 or email emoran3@charter.net or office@fed-church.org.

About the Federated Church of Charlton (FCC)

The Federated Church of Charlton is a federation of the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association in Christian worship together. The Church descends from several churches active in the Charlton community over the centuries starting in 1761. Worship services are held on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. The church also has an active Sunday School and youth program. The church is located at 64 Main St., at the northern end of Charlton's town common.



Not getting enough attention?

Call your Sales Representative Today

Tracy Lewis: 603.616.7103

So Good! brings the music of Neil Diamond to Mechanics Hall



WORCESTER — Mechanics Hall and Spectacle Live will present So Good! The Neil Diamond Experience starring Robert Neary on Sunday, Feb. 21 at 3 p.m. at Mechanics Hall in Worcester. Tickets are on sale now at mechanicshall.org or by calling 1-800-657-8774.

Broadway, television, and film star, Robert Neary, creates an unforgettable tribute to one of the greatest recording artists in history. Ranked the #1 Neil Diamond Tribute in America, by Pollstar Magazine, this two hour Extravaganza is packed with 28 classic hit songs, nostalgia, stories, multimedia, trivia, and a 30 minute finale that is pure Broadway caliber. This is a true immersion into the life and career of Neil Diamond and sets itself apart from all others. Massive critical praise all across the internet and social media has called this show "The most authentic and professional tribute to Neil Diamond and delivers nothing short of a true Neil Diamond concert experience". The concert has even been filmed as a documentary feature and is now streaming on Amazon Prime Video, where, it too, continues to draw rave reviews. With over 40 years in the entertainment business, Robert has 3 Broadway leads, and over 60 major guests starring television and film roles to his credit and has amassed a following of over half a million people, worldwide, on social media. He created this incredible show in 2019 and worked tirelessly with NY's premier band, The Mystic, during the pandemic, to make it the hit that it is today. Now, in its sixth year, "So Good! The Neil Diamond Experience" has played in 38 states and is continuing to sell out venues all over the US.

The Great Hall is on the third floor of Mechanics Hall, located at 321 Main St., Worcester. The Great Hall is accessible by elevator from the Waldo Street entrance, or by stairs from both the Main Street and Waldo Street entrances.

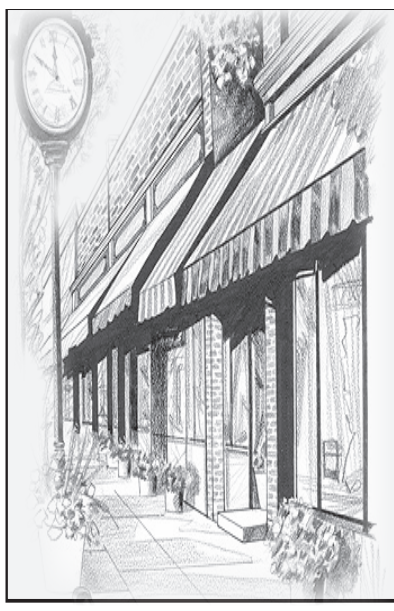
Mechanics Hall

Steeped in the rich history of 19th century Worcester, Mechanics Hall is internationally regarded as one of the world's great concert halls. Regionally, it is a meeting place beloved for the central New England location, its architecture, and the legacy of prominent figures engaged. The world's most renowned orchestras and performers – including the London Philharmonic, Yo-Yo Ma, Ella Fitzerald, and Linda Ronstadt – have taken the Hall's stage. Among the many luminaries who have spoken at Mechanics Hall are Charles Dickens, Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass, and Mark Twain. In addition to serving as a premiere venue and recording site, Mechanics Hall offers inspiring cultural experiences for diverse audiences through a variety of creative initiatives, including free concerts, community events, a youth chorus, and collaborative programs with local colleges and nonprofit organizations.

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

Spectacle Live

Spectacle Live's mission is to create connections that make exceptional live experiences happen. Founded in 2012 and headquartered in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, Spectacle Live is a live event and venue management company specializing in performing arts centers across the Northeast. The company partners with municipalities and arts organizations throughout New England to provide comprehensive services, including venue operations, marketing and promotion, booking and talent buying, ticketing, food and beverage management, technical production, and consulting. Spectacle Live currently works with more than a dozen venues across Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, presenting a diverse range of events from concerts and comedy to theater and family entertainment. For more information, visit www.spectaclelive.com or contact Pete Lally atplally@spectaclelive.com or 617-531-1257.



Community Connection

Morse Lumber Co., Inc.
Building Materials & Supplies
Lumber • Insulation • Mouldings
Drywall • Ceilings • Flooring
Hardware • Cements • Siding • Roofing
Windows • Doors • Concrete Block
Sawmill Products
Rough Sawn • Dimension Lumber
Boards • Timbers • Industrial Lumber
994 North Woodstock Road
(Rt. 169) - 1/2 mile from CT line
Southbridge, MA 01550
www.morse-lumber.com
Toll Free 1-800-764-3231 or 508-764-3231
"Quality Materials and Service Since 1951"

Cormier JEWELERS
WE BUY GOLD
Trusted with Appraisals, Custom Design, Repairs, and more since 1947!
42 Central St, Southbridge MA
(508) 764-7415 | www.Cormiers.com

For Advertising Information Call 774-200-7308 email: mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

PLUMBING
JOHN DALY PLUMBING
The Homeowners Plumber, SINCE 1988
Faucets, Toilets, Pipe Repair, Garbage Disposals, Sinks,Vanities, Shower Valves,Outside Hose Connections, New Kitchen Sink Strainers and Undersink Re-Pipes, Sump Pumps, Sink Drain Cleaning,
Buy What You Like And I Will Install.
Fully Licensed And Insured, License Number MPL-21763-J
Call 508 304 7816 • jdrainman714@aol.com

Morin JEWELERS
Fine Jewelry & Gifts
The Jewelry store where you buy with confidence
WE BUY GOLD
Specializing in Custom Designs
All types of Jewelry Repairs
MASTER JJO JEWELERS™
BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®
409 Main St. Southbridge, MA
morinjewelers.com • 508-764-7250
Located at CVS Plaza

Micknuck's Fresh Market Place
570 Main Street • Rt. 20 • Fiskdale, MA
Tel: 508-347-0116 • Fax: 508-347-6985
Visit our store for weekly specials!

Crooked Creek Farm
Warren, Massachusetts
Stock up now!
Retail Cuts, Quarter, & Half sides of Beef Available!
To purchase your meat packages
CALL/TEXT: (774) 200-7308
FREE LOCAL DELIVERY!

Massachusetts coach and three-time American Ninja Warrior national finalist breaks 24-hour Murph world record



WORCESTER — Jonathan Godbout, founder of online coaching company Adaptation Through Perseverance (ATP) and a three-time American Ninja Warrior national finalist, has set a new unofficial world record for the most Murph workouts completed in 24 hours. Starting at 9 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 13, at CrossFit Worcester, Godbout finished 20.5 Murphs at 8:57 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14, with three minutes to spare. The previous record of 20.16 was held by Russell Stringer of Australia.

Murph is a CrossFit Hero workout, one of a series named to honor fallen service members. It carries the name of Navy Lt. Michael Murphy, who was killed in Afghanistan in 2005, and is traditionally done each Memorial Day: a 1-mile run, 100 pull-ups, 200 push-ups, 300 air squats and a second mile, all in a 20-lb vest. Godbout wore the vest for every round, and by the finish he had run 41 miles and completed 2,050 pull-ups, 4,100 push-ups and 6,150 squats.

The attempt traces back to the day Godbout and his friend Paul Woods knocked out 10 unweighted Murphs in 10 hours together, at 17 and 15 years old, and walked away agreeing that one of them had to go after the weighted 24-hour record. That mark climbed steadily in the years that followed, and Godbout spent the past eight months preparing for it, with strength and conditioning work five days a week, hundreds of Murph-specific workouts and physical therapy.

"This has been in the back of my mind for five years," Godbout said. "Once I gave it my full focus, I improved even faster than I expected, and I did more than I ever thought I could."

His coaches at CrossFit Worcester hosted the event and looked after him around the clock, keeping him safe and making the attempt as fair as possible. They judged every rep, counted every round and measured the mile to the exact distance, down to the door he ran out of.

The hardest hours came overnight, when the cold set in on top of mounting physical fatigue and mental exhaustion. Woods and Godbout's girlfriend, Abby Saner, who had done three Murphs of her own earlier that day and stayed awake with him all 24 hours, worked as his pit crew: piling on layers for each mile, stripping them off the moment he came back inside, holding cooling towels to his head and picking him up off the floor after push-ups during the last few rounds. His extended family stayed through the night too, covering many of the miles at his side.

"I literally couldn't have done it without my coaches, Abby and Paul, and my whole family," Godbout said.

Godbout dedicated the record to his grandfather, a military veteran, and to all who have served, as a thank-you for their service and sacrifice.

"This challenge was insanely hard, but it's nowhere near as hard as what veterans go through," he said.

The 24 hours were also a test of the idea his coaching company is named for.

"You have to go through something hard in order to come out stronger on the other side," he said. "That's what Adaptation Through Perseverance means to me."

Video of the finish has drawn more than 1.9 million views on Instagram, and a mini documentary of the attempt, told largely through the voices of his clients, friends, family and gym community, will premiere on the ATP Fit Co YouTube channel.

About Jonathan Godbout

Jonathan Godbout is a three-time American Ninja Warrior national finalist, an endurance athlete and a certified personal trainer with a degree in physical education. He has coached for about eight years and now works full-time as an online strength and conditioning coach.

About Adaptation Through Perseverance (ATP)

Adaptation Through Perseverance LLC is a Massachusetts-based online coaching company founded by Jonathan Godbout. ATP offers personalized coaching for ninja, obstacle racing and endurance athletes, as well as everyday athletes who want to train like them. Learn more at atpfitco.com.

November 2026 interpretive programs at Blackstone River Greenway Visitor Center at Worcester

WORCESTER — All programs are free and open to the public. Registration is not required. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear. Meet at the Visitor Center unless otherwise stated. Programming is subject to change or cancellation. For the most up to date programming information, call (508) 373-7056.

Reasonable accommodations available upon advance notice. To make a request, please contact Moneesha Dasgupta at (617) 645-0358 or moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov.

The Blackstone River Greenway Visitor Center at Worcester is located at 3 Paul Clancy Way, Worcester MA 01607.

Visitor Center Exhibit Tour

Saturdays, 11 – 11:30 a.m.

Join us on a tour of the Heritage Center's exhibit hall! Learn how the Blackstone Canal helped transform Worcester from a sleepy county seat to a thriving industrial city and hub for immigration and innovation. Appropriate for ages 6 and up.

Mill to Meadow

Saturdays, Nov. 7 & 21, 2 – 3 p.m.

The land on which the Visitor Center stands was once the largest factory complex in Worcester — and now not a single building remains! In this short walk, find out about "brownfield" reclamation on site and how it fits into the Blackstone Valley's environmental renaissance. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. About ¼ mile over paved surfaces.

Woodlands and Waterways

Saturday, Nov. 14, 2 – 3 p.m.

Walk along the banks of the Blackstone River and learn about the life that it supports. We'll look for signs of wildlife as we discuss the ways we can keep our watershed clean! Appropriate for ages 12 and up. The walk is roughly one mile over a paved surface with slight inclines. Meet 205 North Main Street, Millbury. Bathrooms and water are not available at this site.

Family Dining & Gift Guide



Too Busy to Cook?
Ask your favorite local restaurant if they offer dine-in or take-out!
Treat yourself to a nice dinner out anytime!
Restaurant gift cards make perfect hostess gifts!



Call Mikaela at 774-200-7308 or email mikaela@stonebridgepress.news to advertise on this page.

Eat LOCAL

CHARLIE'S
Diner • Bar • Grill • Functions
BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER
FRIDAY 11/27 & SATURDAY 11/28
BAKED SEAFOOD TRIO
AFTER 5PM
HOURS: Wed-Sat 8-9; Sunday 8-8
Closed Mon & Tue
5 Meadow Rd., Spencer, MA 01562
Gift Cards
508-885-4033
www.charliesdiner.com

Salem Cross Inn
Restaurant & Tavern
260 West Main Street, West Brookfield, MA 01585
Come on in for a delicious meal!
Gift Certificates Available
Call or Order online at salemcrossinn.com



For more info visit www.salemcrossinn.com (508)867-2345
Hours: Thursday, Friday & Saturday 4-8; Sunday 12-5
Hexmark Tavern Hours: Thursday & Friday 4-8

Inaugural QCC Alumni Athletics Hall of Fame celebrates transformative power of community college athletics



Courtesy Photo

Back row, from left: Rich Small, Ramon Llanos, former QCC President Dr. Gail Carberry, QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja, Maurice Horton, Jon Winer and Trafficia Warburton. Front row, from left: Elijah Sims, Dennis Williams and Jon Gardner.

WORCESTER — The first QCC Alumni Athletics Hall of Fame ceremony was held Saturday, Nov. 7, inducting the 2006-07 men's basketball team and former student-athletes Maurice "Mo" Horton, Rich Small and Trafficia Warburton.

"Today's event is about honoring excellence, preserving our college history and recognizing individuals whose contributions have shaped the legacy of Quinsigamond Community College athletics," said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja. "Student athletes are examples of the discipline, grit and commitment it takes to succeed in college."

The 2006-07 men's basketball team is one for the history books. They became the first team in school history to advance to the NJCAA national championship tournament, ultimately finishing fifth in the nation. QCC athletes earned national accolades, including Elijah Simms, who led the nation in steals and ranked ninth in assists. Additionally, at just 25 years old, coach Jon Winer became the youngest recipient of the NJCAA District 8 Coach of the Year award.

The list of accomplishments for inductees was long, but most took away more than records and trophies.

"This goes far beyond sports. You guys see me in a light where sometimes I don't see myself. I'm great, because Quinsig told me I'm great," said Dennis "Duke" Williams, a player from the 2006-07 team.

A key contributor to the team's success, Maurice "Mo" Horton helped lead the 2006-07 squad, led the nation in scoring in 2005 and remains the only player in program history to surpass 1,400 career points.

"We didn't just build a winning basketball team, we built a family, and that's something I'll carry with me forever," Horton said.



Courtesy Photo

Dennis Williams (left) speaks at the QCC Alumni Athletics Hall of Fame. Spectrum News 1 Sports Director Kevin Shea acted as master of ceremonies.

Horton recalled how becoming a student-athlete changed the trajectory of his life. He credited Winer for believing in his talents yet holding him accountable and keeping high standards. Both Winer and Horton expressed how their relationship with each has left a lasting impact.

"Community colleges like QCC are so important because not everybody has a traditional path to higher education. Sometimes people need someone to open the door…and help them recognize their potential," Horton said. "QCC did that for me, and I hope it continues to do that for generations of young people in our community."

While Horton reflected on the mentorship that shaped his future, Warburton spoke about perseverance and determination.

"QCC taught me how to overcome. Just keep moving forward no matter the pace," Warburton said. "People should definitely support community colleges, especially Quinsig. It's a stepping stone to where you want to be."

Warburton remains one of the most accomplished women's basketball players in program history. In her second season, she led NJCAA's Region 21 in both scoring and rebounding. Beyond her statistics, she was known for her work ethic on and off the court.

"You managed academics, practices, road trips, social life and, most importantly, being a mother to your son. That kind of commitment is extraordinary," Director of Athletics & Fitness Center Lisa Gurnick said to Warburton. "You demonstrated that being a great athlete is much more than accomplishments on the court. It's about character, resilience, sacrifice and the example you set for others."

Small's connection to QCC began as a member of the men's basketball team and deepened when he returned years later as a college employee before eventually becoming a coach. Today, Small remains an athletics ambassador, promoting and documenting QCC sporting events through his photography and community engagement.

"Athletics are necessary," Small said. "Some people come up just to play ball first… but it might keep them here to get that degree and then move on."

LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. W022P2939PM
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT
In the matter of: Abdon Melendez
Of: Southbridge, MA

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **1st & Final** account(s) of Brenda L. Melendez of Southbridge, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **12/15/2026.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by this return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s)

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a writen affadavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator putsuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 13, 2026
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
November 26, 2026

Advertise.
Inspire. Sell.

"Pete the Cat" comes to Mechanics Hall Dec. 10

WORCESTER — Mechanics Hall will present TheaterWorksUSA's family musical, "Pete the Cat," based on the popular series by Kimberly and James Dean. "Pete the Cat" will be presented live on stage on Dec. 10 at 10:30 a.m. at 321 Main St., Worcester. Tickets are $16 and can be purchased by visiting MECHANICSHALL.ORG/tickets or calling 508-752-5608, ext. 209. This live performance is open to the public and school groups. The show is recommended for pre-K - 3rd grade / ages four to nine.

When Pete the Cat gets caught rocking out after bedtime, the cat-catcher sends him to live with the Biddle family to learn some manners—and boy, are they square! But for the groovy blue cat, life is an adventure no matter where you wind up, so the minute Pete walks in the door, he gets the whole family rocking.

The whole family, that is, except for young Jimmy Biddle — the most organized, uptight second grader ever. But when Jimmy draws a blank in art class during the last week of school, Pete is the perfect friend to help him out. Join Jimmy and Pete as they set off on an adventure in Pete's VW bus to find inspiration, magic sunglasses, and friendship!

Pete the Cat is written by Sarah Hammond (book and lyrics) and Will Aronson (music, Broadway: "Maybe Happy Ending" – Tony Award), based on the book series by Kimberly and James Dean. Original direction and choreography by Dan Knechtges (Broadway: "Lysistrata Jones," "Xanadu" -Tony Award Nom), set design by Rob Odorisio (Broadway: "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"), and costume design by Jennifer Caprio (Broadway: "Falsettos," "The 25th Annual …")

THEATERWORKSUSA (Barbara Pasternack, Producing Artistic Director; Tegan Meyer, Managing Director) has led the Theater for Young and Family Audiences movement in New York City and across North America for over half a century. At TWUSA, we believe that access to art—and theater, in particular—is vital for our youth. Since 1967, the 501(c)3 not-for-profit has captured the imaginations of 100 million new and veteran theatergoers with an award- winning repertoire of more than 140 original plays and musicals. Acclaimed alumni include Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez (Disney's "Frozen"), Daphne Rubin-Vega ("Rent"), Jerry Zaks ("The Music Man"), Benj Pasek and Justin Paul ("Dear Evan Hansen"), Miguel Cervantes ("Hamilton"), Kathleen Chalfant ("Angels in America"), and Chuck Cooper (Tony award-winning actor, "The Life").

MECHANICS HALL Steeped in the rich history of 19th century Worcester, Mechanics Hall is internationally regarded as one of the world's great concert halls. Regionally, it is a meeting place beloved for the central New England location, its architecture, and the legacy of prominent figures engaged. The world's most renowned orchestras and performers – including the London Philharmonic, Yo-Yo Ma, Ella Fitzerald, and Linda Ronstadt – have taken the Hall's stage. Among the many luminaries who have spoken at Mechanics Hall are Charles Dickens, Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass, and Mark Twain. In addition to serving as a premiere venue and recording site, Mechanics Hall offers inspiring cultural experiences for diverse audiences through a variety of creative initiatives, including free concerts, community events, a youth chorus, and collaborative programs with local colleges and nonprofit organizations.

Mechanics Hall is a nonprofit organization owned and operated by the Worcester County Mechanics Association, est. 1842.

It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Learn more at MechanicsHall.org.

Got Space?
we do.
Contact Mikaela Today
774-200-7308
mikaela@
stonebridgepress.news



Home & Fall Auto

For Advertising Information, Call 774-200-7308
email:mikaela@stonebridge press.news

LAWNMOWERS

WORCESTER COUNTY LAWNMOWER
ALWAYS THE BEST SERVICE



Snowblower & Generator Repair
Tractor Service
Tune-Ups & Repairs
Pickup & Delivery
508-987-2775
492 Main St Oxford
WORCESTERCOUNTY LAWNMOWER.COM

AUTO BODY / REPAIRS

KEARNS COLLISION REPAIR
Since 1969
Always Going The Extra Mile For Our Customers
Free Written Estimates • Damage Appraisal
Color Matching Specialists • Rental Car Services
Warrantied Work & Repairs
Diagnostics • A/C Repair
Tune Ups & Engine Repair
Brakes • Alternators • Starters • ABS
Alignments • Tires…and more
Major Insurance Referral Shop
Honoring All Insurance Estimates
1734 Providence Road (Rt 122)
Northbridge, MA 01534
Ph: 508-234-5211 • Fax: 508-234-2231
www.kearnscollisioncom
Fully Certified • RS# 2678

Cleaning Services

HOUSE CLEANING AVAILABLE
Reasonable rates.
Weekly, bi-weekly
or monthly times available.
~ Bonded ~
Fully Vaccinated
Call Wendy for a FREE estimate at:
774-262-9166

Stump Grinding

MILLER STUMP GRINDING



Asian Longhorn Beetle Certified
Fully Insured • Free Quotes
REASONABLE RATES
PROMPT SERVICE
ROD MILLER • NICK MILLER
OWNERS / OPERATORS
508-688-2159

CHIMNEYS/MASONRY

CHIMNEY CLEANINGS
***Starting at* $99**
ALL KINDS OF MASONRY & CONCRETE WORK
New & Repairs, Repointing, Rebuilding, Re-lining, Waterproofing, Foundation & Chimney Repair, New & Stair Repair, Concrete Walkways, Stonewalls, New Roofs, Construction & Carpentry.
Need to get it done? Call me!
-FREE Estimates-
Quality Chimney
(508)752-1003

GJ LEDUC PAINTING

Interior and Exterior
Power Washing
Wallpapering
General Repair
Fully Insured
Over 40+ Years Experience
508-764-8548
774-230-8373

MASONRY

CJ
MASONRY HARDSCAPE
RETAINING WALLS
OUTDOOR LIVING CONSTRUCTION
Chimney Repair
Foundation Repair
Steps, Patios
Water Proofing
Walkways
Stone Veneer
Brick and Block Work
Cord Wood
Brian French
(413)222-5542
cjmasonryhardscape@gmail.com

Roofing

SAUNDERS & SONS ROOFING
When you need a new roof hire a roofing company .We are the only local company dedicated to roofing only .We install roofing only everyday
Read our reviews at the Better Business Bureau. A+ rating and accredited member since 2009.
Call Bill Toll-Free
1-866-961-Roof
508-765-0100
Lifetime material warranty & 25 yr. labor warranty available
MA Reg #153955 CSL #095459
CT-HIC #0638641
Fully Insured, Free Estimates
Family Owned and Operated
ACCREDITED BUSINESS A+
Now Accepting All Major Credit Cards

ROOFING

David Barbale ROOFING
Roofing/Gutters Repair Work
Fully Licensed and Insured
MA LIC #CS069127
MA HIC. LIC #1079721
INS. # CAC032585
C: 508-397-6709
O: 508-248-6709
davidbarbale.com

GUTTERS

GUTTER CLEANINGS
30+ years exp Licensed & Insured
508-867-2877
508-754-9054
A. Eagle Gutters
aeaglegutters.com
BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS A+

Plumbing

MIKE LAMBERT'S PLUMBING & HEATING INC.
LIC: 166411-14
Commercial, Residential, New Construction
369 Main St,
Ste 4
Spencer, MA
1-833-969-4330
Fully Insured
MIKELAMBERTSPANDH@GMAIL.COM

Got Space?
we do.
Contact Mikaela Today
774-200-7308
mikaela@
stonebridgepress.news

'Journey to Space' exhibit opens at EcoTarium

Explore space and life on the International Space Station at Stoddard Exhibition Hall



WORCESTER — On Saturday Nov. 14, the EcoTarium Museum of Science and Nature launched a world-class traveling exhibit, "Journey to Space," in the new Stoddard Exhibition Hall.

"Journey to Space" explores the challenges faced by astronauts living and conducting research in outer space, and celebrates their outstanding achievements in scientific research and engineering. The public is invited to join the exhibit's grand opening and ribbon-cutting and to be among the first to experience life on the International Space Station.

"Journey to Space" will be on exhibit at the Stoddard Exhibition Hall through April 25, 2027.

"Space travel is only possible because of the creative and brilliant scientists and engineers who have worked together for decades to overcome the challenges of supporting human life in space, including pioneers from Worcester such as Dr. Robert and Esther Goddard and David Clark," said Noreen Johnson Smith, President & CEO of the EcoTarium. "This exhibit offers a unique look at life on the International Space Station, where we recently spoke with Astronaut Luke Delaney in mid-flight via HAM radio from the EcoTarium. 'Journey to Space' continues the adventure for learners of every age."

The immersive exhibit "Journey to Space" is an exciting, interactive exhibit that brings space travel closer to home for adults and children to experience the incredible ways that scientists and engineers have designed environments for humans to live and work in outer space. The exhibit explores the real challenges that the Astronauts face every day such as food preparation, sleeping, showering, using the toilet, and recycling water while living in an environment that is in constant motion. The ingenuity, creativity, and perseverance of NASA engineers is on full display in this exciting exhibition as we continue to expand our understanding of what is possible. The exhibit features interactive and multimedia experiences including a full scale, climb-aboard mockup of the Destiny Lab, the primary research facility for U.S. payloads on the International

Space Station (ISS). With its rotating mechanism, the Destiny Lab will give visitors the sensation that they're floating as they get a virtual tour of the lab from astronauts who have worked there. Visitors can also launch water rockets, interact with a model ion engine, control a robotic arm, and simulate other out-of-this-world activities associated with living and working in space.

"Journey to Space" also showcases relics of space exploration including an Apollo helmet and the Canyon Diablo Meteorite. Visitors can also gaze at the beauty of Earth as astronauts see it on a large projection of images taken from the ISS, 250 miles above the planet we call home.

For more information, visit: https://ecotarium.org/exhibit/journey-to-space/

Journey to Space is locally sponsored by Bank of America.

About the EcoTarium

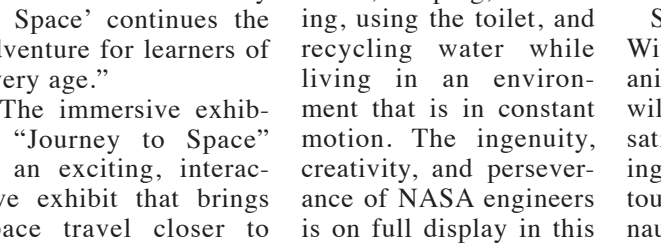
The EcoTarium is New England's leading museum of science and nature, an indoor-outdoor experience dedicated to inspiring a passion for science and nature in visitors of all ages.

Founded in 1825 as one of the oldest natural history museums in the country, the EcoTarium has been a leader in informal science and nature education for over 200 years. Highlights of the 55-acre Worcester campus include the science center with three floors of interactive exhibits; the Stoddard Exhibition Hall; Alden Planetarium; Science Discovery programs; extensive outdoor nature trails, wildlife zoo, and habitats; a seasonal railroad featuring the Worcester Railers Explorer Express Train; and an extensive outdoor play exhibit, Nature Explore®. The EcoTarium is located at 222 Harrington Way, Worcester, MA 01604. Parking is free, and Museum admission tickets may be purchased online. The EcoTarium is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit ecotarium.org.

Town-to-Town
Home Town Service,
BIG TIME RESULTS
CLASSIFIEDS
774-200-7308
Place your ad today!
VISA MasterCard DISCOVER



O'MALLEY'S
Truck & Auto Body Corp.
Family Owned & Operated
NOW HIRING
Painter
Appraiser
Collision Technician
FULL-TIME POSITIONS
Join a respected, long-standing shop with over 56 years in the automotive industry.
APPLY IN PERSON
Rte. 20, 425 Worcester Rd.
Charlton, MA 01507-1505
(508) 248-5829
omalley_autobody@yahoo.com



WAR RELICS & WAR SOUVENIERS WANTED:
WWII & EARLIER
CASH WAITING!
Helmets, Swords, Daggers, Bayonets, Medals, Badges, Flags, Uniforms, etc.
Over 40 years' experience.
Call David
(508) 688-0847.
I'LL COME TO YOU!

For Advertising Information
Call
774-200-7308
email:
mikaela@stonebridgepress.news



CANDLELIGHT

continued from page A1

Cheer (AYC) National Championships in Orlando, Fla., after an incredible competition season filled with determination, teamwork, and unforgettable performances.

To earn their coveted Nationals bid, the team needed to place in the top three at three separate competitions. At each event, these young athletes have just 2 minutes and 30 seconds to showcase months of hard work, knowing that one performance could determine whether their season continues or comes to an end.

Their journey began in October at the Central Massachusetts Locals Competition, where they became Central Massachusetts Champions in their division. They then advanced to the Massachusetts State Competition, finishing in second place in their division and earning the opportunity to compete at Regionals.

Most recently, on Saturday, Nov. 14, the U12 Rams competed at the New England Regional Championships at the University of Rhode Island's Ryan Center. Facing some of the strongest teams in New England, the girls delivered an incredible performance, earning third place and officially punching their ticket to Nationals!

The U12 team is made up of 26 dedicated cheerleaders from Charlton and Dudley who have been training together since July. Through months of practices, conditioning, choreography, and countless hours of preparation, these young athletes have developed not only their skills but also an extraordinary bond built on trust, perseverance, and teamwork.

Their journey has been anything but easy. The girls have faced challenges, pushed through difficult practices, and learned what it truly means to work together toward a common goal. Their determination and commitment have now earned them the opportunity to represent their communities on the national stage.

"We are incredibly proud of these 26 girls and everything they have accomplished," said the U12 coaching staff. "This journey has required so much hard work, sacrifice, and determination. They have learned to trust one another, overcome challenges, and never give up. Watching them earn their spot at Nationals was an unforgettable moment. They have worked so hard for this opportunity, and we cannot wait to see them take the national stage!"

With Nationals quickly approaching in early December, the team is now rallying the community to help make this incredible opportunity possible. The Rams have just over two weeks to raise funds to help offset travel, lodging, and competition-related expenses for the athletes and their families.

The team will be organizing several fundraising efforts, including community collections, lottery ticket fundraisers, and outreach to local businesses. Every contribution, no matter the size, will help support these 26 young athletes as they prepare to compete among the best teams in the country.

Community members, local businesses, and supporters are encouraged to join the Rams in making this once-in-a-lifetime experience possible.

The Charlton-Dudley Rams U12 cheerleaders have already made their communities incredibly proud. Now, they are ready to take their talent, determination, and Rams pride all the way to Orlando!

CANDLELIGHT

continued from page A1

people put everything else aside for a few hours. They are outside, they are laughing, they are learning and enjoying something together. That's what makes it so special."

Highlights of Christmas by Candlelight

• Sparkling Lights & Heartwarming Sights - Beginning at 2 p.m., visitors can explore the Christmas Tree Trail and Wish Bridge, take a horse-drawn carryall ride and watch a special lighting ceremony at 4:30 p.m.

• Merry Music - Enjoy live acoustic renditions of holiday favorites performed by local musicians in Upon a Midnight Clear: An Acoustic New England Christmas, presented by ClockJack Productions, along with performances in the Center Meetinghouse and entertaining sing-alongs for children.

• Cozy Christmas Traditions - Historians will share the stories behind seasonal favorites like Christmas stockings, nutcrackers and mulled cider. Each year, the Village explores holiday customs from a different country, and this year's spotlight is on Sweden. Visitors will discover Swedish traditions and folklore, including the tomte, a Christmas gnome believed to watch over farms, families and livestock during winter.

• Santa & Storytelling - Visit Santa Claus in his cozy cabin and enjoy an illustrated story about his visit to Old Sturbridge Village.

• Creative Crafts - Watch costumed historians demonstrate traditional skills, including pottery-making, knitting and crafting wooden toys, throughout the Village's historic homes and shops.

• Delicious Delights - Warm up with hearty soups and stews, hot cocoa, cider and specialty cocktails, and gather around the roaring bonfire on the Common.

• Gifts with a Little History - Shop for pottery, tinware, candy, spices and ornaments. *Please note times when the gift shop will be open below.

• Gingerbread House Contest - Admire the creative gingerbread house entries and vote for your favorite.

Tickets are limited and advance purchase is recommended. Members and non-members alike can save by purchasing tickets online through November 26.

• Regular Evenings (2–8 p.m.): Nov. 27-29; Dec. 4-6, 11-13, 18-20, 23 and 26-27.

• Candlelight Thursdays (4–8 p.m.): Tickets are $12 per person on Dec. 10 and 17.

• Timed Admission: Tickets are sold in arrival blocks of 2, 3, 4 and 5 p.m. on regular evenings, and 4 and 5 p.m. on Candlelight Thursdays. Guests may arrive any time after their ticket's designated start time.

• Activities: Aside from the 4:30 p.m. lighting ceremony, most activities are ongoing or repeated throughout the evening.

The Gift Shop, located in the Village's Visitor Center, will offer special holiday hours. Visitors can also shop online at their convenience.

• CLOSED November 15 - 26 as the Village prepares for Christmas by Candlelight.

• OPEN Friday - Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., November 27 through December 20, and 2:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. every night of Christmas by Candlelight.

• OPEN Candlelight Thursdays - December 10 and 17, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

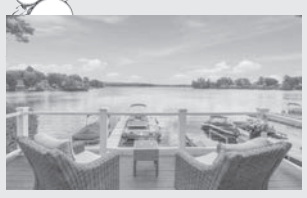
• Miner Grant Store: Open when the Village is open for Christmas by Candlelight, 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tickets to Christmas by Candlelight required to access the store.

Christmas by Candlelight 2026 is made possible by generous support from Country Bank, The Overlook, Publick House and Southbridge Credit Union.

HOPE REAL ESTATE GROUP
43 East Main Street Webster, MA 01570
Finest Realtor Associates to Serve You!

hope2own.com
508.943.4333
Sharon Pelletier - Owner Broker
Licensed in MA, CT & RI
We Want Your Listings!

Webster Lake ~ 93 Birch Island Rd



Expansive water views! Beautiful, completely remodeled home on scenic Webster Lake! Combines effortless modern luxury with lakefront living. It boasts a spacious, sunny open-concept layout, designed for both relaxation & entertaining! Swim off your private dock, warm up in your personal sauna, share stories around the firepit on chilly nights ~ everyday feels like a vacation!
MLS# 73589032 NEW PRICE $1,150,000

* June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan* Lori Johnson-Chausse * William Gilmore II * Maureen Cimoch * Bryan Pelletier

Webster - 106 East Main St (Rte 12) Commercial Opportunity!



Corner Lot, 275' +/- Road Frontage, Extremely High Traffic Count, 6,200 SF (75x80) Commercial Building, Currently 2 Units -> Potential for More. Economical, Efficient Natural Gas FHA Heat & Cooling. Its close proximity to Successful National Franchised Businesses generates Significant Commerce at this Location. Convenient Access. MLS #73512426 $ 615,000

24 Laurelwood Dr Webster Lake Waterfront



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

Webster ~ 33 Slater Street

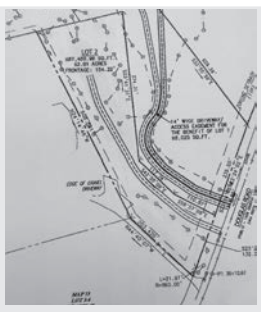


Sprawling fieldstone faced Ranch! Located on a +/- 0.5-acre, 2 car garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 2 stone fireplaces-FHW BB heat. Open floor plan kitchen, living rm, dining rm, breezeway w/ sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom
MLS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

Woodstock ~ 500 Route 169



Historic Woodstock Hill! Distinctive 1800 Vintage ~ 2,500+/- sq ft home blends period charm with panoramic views. Features 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, multiple living areas, and a scenic sitting porch. It includes two furnished guest suites with strong booking history near Woodstock Academy and Pomfret School. Lush grounds boast established flower gardens and a flower stand, offering potential for a studio or business (subject to approval). Own a rare piece of Woodstock history!
CT MLS# 24209434 $779,000



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

Building Lot, 2.01 +/- acres, 154' road frontage, Surveyed and portioned out of a larger tract of land, Zoned ASFR (Agricultural Single Family Residential) Located near State Land
~ A Great Value at $69,900.

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



Webster Lake Waterfront
22 Union Point
Snug Harbor Villa
Open House UNday 12-2
Most Luxurious & Largest on the Lake!
Presenting a distinguished condo residence that will provide an exceptional waterfront lifestyle! Offers an expansive 4600 sf+/ featuring 4BRs, 4-1/2 baths, 3 frplcs & more, all designed for relaxation & convenience! Nothing quite compares! Priced to Sell.
VIEW REALTOR MLS # 73507605 FOR MORE DETAILS $948,000

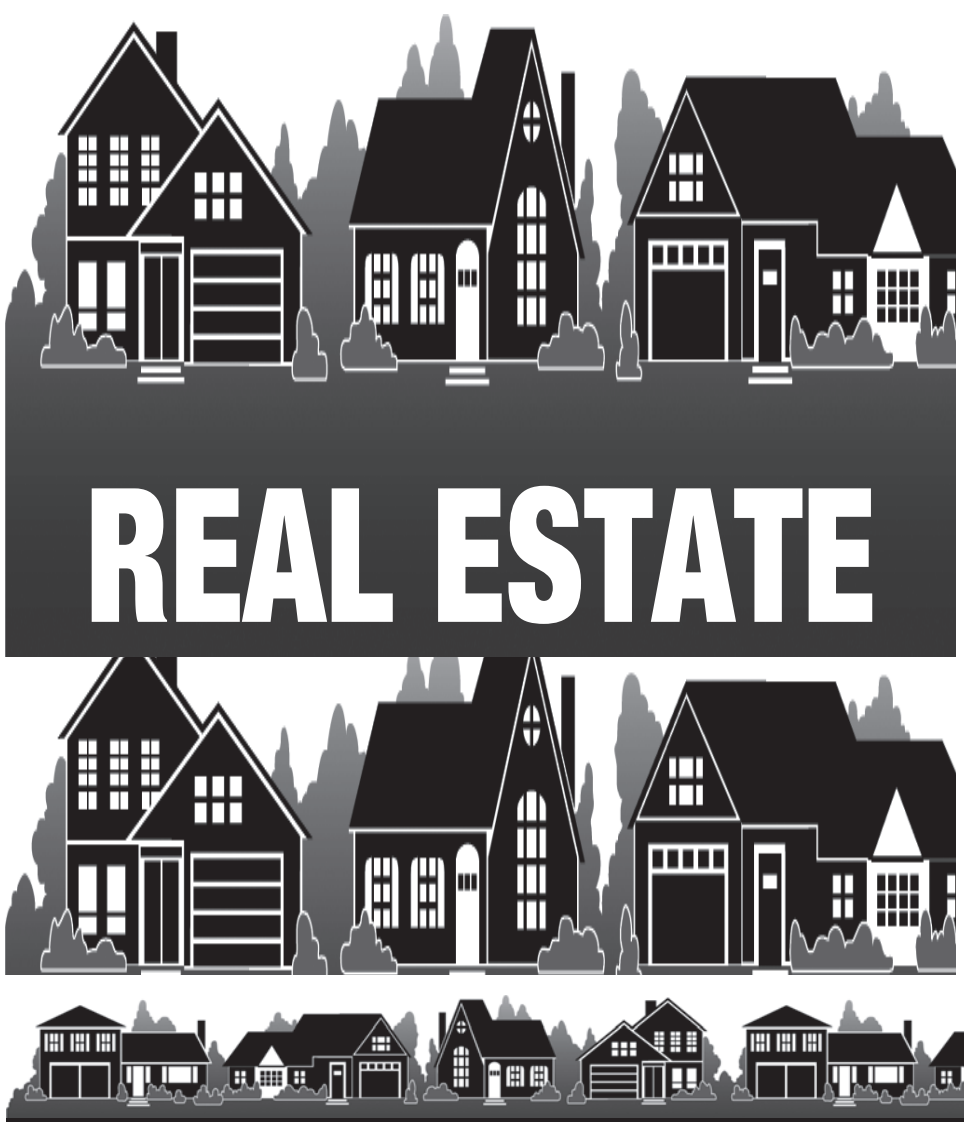
Webster Lake ~
60 Wakefield Ave ~ Corner Lot!
Rare Lake Residential Building Opportunity! 1 of 2 build-ready level, landscaped lots ~ each with 1/3 ownership of a private, prime waterfront lot, swimmable & boatable, where you will enjoy a sun drenched sandy shoreline & boat dock ~ just baby steps away from your NEW home! You will have direct lake access, low off-Lake taxes, access to municipal water/sewer services and an established neighborhood. Build now or build later BUT enjoy Webster Lake IMMEDIATELY!
Go To MLS # 73582966 $277,500.



Webster Lake ~0 Wakefield Ave



Rare Lake Residential Building Opportunity! 1 of 2 build-ready level, landscaped lots ~ each with 1/3 ownership of a private, prime waterfront lot, swimmable & boatable, where you will enjoy a sun drenched sandy shoreline & boat dock ~ just baby steps away from your NEW HOME! You will have direct lake access, low off-Lake taxes, access to municipal water/sewer services and an established neighborhood. Build now or build later BUT enjoy Webster Lake IMMEDIATELY!
Go To MLS # 73582967 $247,500





PUT YOUR TRUST IN US
TEAMWORK AND EXPERIENCE
Jo-Ann Szymczak 774-230-5044
Diane Luong 774-239-2937
Maria Reed 508-873-9254
Bob Berk 508-367-9226
Deb Listewnik 508-847-0872
ReMax Vision • 25 Union St., Worcester MA 01608
CALL FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS Licensed in MA & CT

UNIQUE PROPERTY - GREAT OPPORTUNITY



*Modern 4 Room Apartment attached to 44' Ranch
*Open Floor Plan Includes Living/ Dining Area * Kitchen with Breakfast Counter
* Fireplace, Den * 2 Bedroom , 1st Floor Laundry *Potential Business Use
92 Worcester Road $465,000

CHARLTON-NEW CONSTRUCTION
NO CLOSING COSTS



*7 Rooms * 3BRs
*3 Full Bath
*5 Minutes to Rte. 395, Rte. 290
*Applianced
*Tray Ceiling in Main BR
*Cathedral Ceiling in Kitchen/ DR/ Livingroom
*1.5 Acres
*Gas Heat
95 A.F. Putnam Rd $675,000

THOMPSON-AFFORDABLE COTTAGE



*1.5 Baths *Country Cabinet Packed Kitchen
*Updated Windows, Electric *Garage
*Near Golf Course, Hiking, Recreational Area
133 Church Street $349,500

MEET YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS
Perfect for Realtors, Mortgage Companies, Banks, Real Estate Attorneys, Home Inspectors, Chimney Inspectors, Lead Removal businesses, Insurance Companies, etc… any business involved in the buying or selling of real estate.
To join this section, please contact your local sales rep, 774-200-7308 or email mikaela@stonebridgepress.news



"I SOLVE REAL ESTATE PROBLEMS"
ReMax Professional Associates
Licensed in MA & CT
We need properties to sell – any type!
Conrad Allen
508.400.0438
callen1995@aol.com
RE/MAX Professional Associates



When Experience and Commitment Matter
Mary Vigliatura Stolarczyk
ABR, GRI, CRS, C2EX RE/MAX Hall of Fame
508.612.1382
MESRealty.com
Mary@WillSellit.com

Donna Flannery Realtor®
508-612-6771
Donnaflanneryrealtor.com
Donnaflannery@erakey.net
Kayleen Flannery Sauvageau Realtor®
508-612-9843
Kayleen00@aol.com
ERA Key Realty Services



OVER 30 YEARS SELLING LOCAL REAL ESTATE
NATIONAL ERA FINALIST TWICE FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE
TOP 5% YEAR AFTER YEAR FOR # OF UNITS SOLD & SOLD DOLLAR VOLUME
ERA HALL OF FAME
415B Main Street Spencer, MA 01562



VACATION ALL YEAR LONG ON WEBSTER LAKE!
*Skating, Boating, Fishing
*2 Full Baths *One Level Living
* 2 Bedrooms, 3 Great Views
* Updated Interior * Garage
Jo-Ann (Nedoroscik) Szymczak
CRS, GRI, SRES
508-943-7669
774-230-5044
ReMax Vision
25 Union St., Worcester MA 01608
CALL JO-ANN FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS Licensed in MA & CT

St. Anne and St. Patrick Parish to celebrate 140th anniversary with special dinner

STURBRIDGE — St. Anne and St. Patrick Parish invites the public to celebrate its 140th anniversary at a special dinner on Wednesday, April 14, 2027, at the Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge. The event runs from 5 to 9 p.m., with cocktail hour from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. A cash bar will be available.

Tickets are $75 per person and include a plated dinner and dessert. Tickets are available online at stannestpatrickparish.com/event-tickets or by calling the parish office at 508-347-7338.

The dinner menu includes a mixed green salad with house-made maple vinaigrette dressing and the Publick House's famous pecan sweet rolls and dinner rolls. Guests can choose from three entrée options: butter crumb scrod with lemon-dill sauce; orchard chicken with cornbread-sausage stuffing and a velvety cider-cream sauce; or butternut squash ravioli with julienne vegetables and a creamy Amaretto sauce, a vegetarian option. Dessert will be deep-dish apple pie with ice cream.

"We are grateful to celebrate 140 years of faith, prayer, and community at St. Anne and St. Patrick Parish," said Father Sal Musande, pastor. "This anniversary dinner will be a wonderful opportunity to bring people together in celebration of our parish's rich history and continued mission. We are also pleased to welcome special guests who will join us for this milestone occasion. We invite parishioners, former parishioners, friends, and members of the wider community to celebrate with us."



For 140 years, St. Anne and St. Patrick Parish has served as a place of worship, prayer, and community in the Sturbridge area. The anniversary celebration honors the generations of parishioners, clergy, and supporters who have helped shape its history and sustain its mission. The dinner offers an opportunity to reflect on this legacy while looking forward to the parish's future.

St. Anne and St. Patrick Parish offers daily Mass, religious education, and a variety of community ministries. Visitors are welcome to explore St. Anne Shrine, the Memorial for the Unborn, the Hall of Saints, the Russian Icon Exhibit, the Votive Chapel, the Generations Statue, and the Angel of Hope Monument. The Daily Rosary is recited at 3 p.m. in St. Anne's Church, and weekend Masses are celebrated in the parish's outdoor pavilion during the summer. The parish's religious gift shop is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Friday's Child



Thomas
Age 16
Registration #8537

Tommy is an energetic and passionate young person who truly enjoys connecting with others — both adults and children. He thrives in conversation and especially loves a thoughtful debate with a trusted adult. Curious and confident, Tommy brings enthusiasm and insight to the topics he cares about. He has a strong love for techno music and Pokémon, and he enjoys sharing what he knows with others. When he's not diving into his interests, Tommy is often outside riding his scooter around the neighborhood or helping his foster mother with gardening and yard work. He takes pride in being active and contributing at home. Tommy also has an impressive entrepreneurial spirit. He is currently developing a small business plan to mow neighbors' lawns, showing initiative, responsibility, and creativity well beyond his years. Golf is another passion of his. Tommy is a wealth of knowledge when it comes to different club styles and putting techniques, and he enjoys learning more about the game whenever he can. With his drive, curiosity, and determination, Tommy has so much potential to continue growing and thriving.

https://www.mareinc.org/child/21177981306

Can I Adopt?

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

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

Charlton City UMC hosting Seasons of Joy Fair



CHARLTON — The Seasons of Joy Fair at Charlton City United Methodist Church is happening Saturday, Dec. 5 at 74 Stafford St. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Visitors are welcome to this warm and festive affair where you will find unique gifts for everyone. You will find all kinds of things from cookies by the pound and baked goods to handmade crafts and Christmas items galore. You'll find gifts for all ages at Gramma's Attic, the jewelry boutique, and our Silent Auction. Don't forget to stop and enjoy a delicious lunch at our café.

We hope you will join the festivities to kick off your holiday season. The church is handicapped accessible, and plenty of free parking is available.

