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STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

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Thursday-Friday, November 5-6, 2026

Major General Salem Towne Lodge honored for community food drives



Courtesy Photo

MGSTL Community Outreach committee member Brother Clay Tull, president of the food share pantry Karen Engell and Brother Joshua Kirkwood, accepts the Certificate of Appreciation from the Southbridge Food Share as committee members look on.



Courtesy Photo

MGSTL members stand beside pickup trucks filled with food collected during the spring 2026 community food drive at Big Bunny Market for the Southbridge Food Share Pantry. Please come down to support the food share pantry.

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Wednesday, Oct. 28, the Southbridge Food Share Pantry, located at Trinity Episcopal Church at 446 Hamilton St. in Southbridge, invited Master Masons to its annual meeting. The pantry has long served Southbridge, Sturbridge, Holland, Wales, Brimfield, and Charlton.

With many local families facing hardship, providing food for children and families remains a shared priority of the pantry and Southbridge's Major General Salem Towne Lodge (MGSTL). Through the lodge's Community Outreach Service Projects, MGSTL has conducted food drives at local grocery stores for years and donated the collected items to the pantry. During the meeting, food share pantry president Karen Engell presented the attending Master Masons with a Certificate of Appreciation for their continued support.

The certificate recognized MGSTL members for years of collecting food—often in harsh weather—for the pantry and the communities it serves. Their commitment to the lodge's Community Outreach Program helps the pantry provide food to local residents in need. MGSTL members are honored and grateful to receive this recognition from the Southbridge Food Share Pantry.

On this coming Saturday, Nov. 7, MGSTL will host a food and coat drive at Big Bunny Market, 942 Main St., Southbridge, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Donations of food, personal-care items such as toothpaste and deodorant, and gently used winter coats and jackets are welcome and will benefit the Southbridge Food Share Pantry. At its March 2026 food drive, the community donated 156 bags of food—enough to fill three pickup trucks. This time, MGSTL also hopes to collect boxes/bags of winter coats and challenges the community to surpass 156 bags of food, filling at least three—and perhaps four—pickup trucks.

Benjamin Franklin, a renowned Master Mason, once asked, "Is There Greatness In You?" If so, join us to support this community food and coat drive. If you would like additional information about Freemasonry, go to www.massfreemasonry.org and read about this great fraternity and find a lodge nearest you.

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.

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.

Charlton Library Friends thank Trivia Night sponsors

CHARLTON — The Friends of Charlton Public Library held its second annual Trivia Night on Thursday, Oct. 15, at the Charlton Beagle Club. Wise Guys Trivia provided challenging questions and entertaining emcees, helping to make the event a success.



The Friends extend sincere gratitude to our major sponsors: Savers Bank; Park & Shop, Webster/Dudley; and Incom.

Additionally, the Friends acknowledge local area businesses that supported our Trivia Night, including Alternatives For Health, Better Life With Yoga, Big Y, Blush Photography, Charlton Food Mart, Condessa, Entertainment Luxury Cinemas, Golden Nails, Market Basket, Northside Village Apothecary, Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge Coffee Roasters, Ted's Package Store, Tree House Brewing Co., Uplift, Volume Design Studio, and the Woo Sox.

The Friends of Charlton Public Library also thank the member volunteers who worked so diligently on this event. All proceeds support programs, museum passes, and activities at the Charlton Public Library.

The mission of the Friends of Charlton Public Library is to provide assistance to the Charlton Library through fundraising endeavors and volunteer service. The Friends promote and advocate for the Library as a center for lifelong learning, cultural enrichment, and a community gathering place.

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.

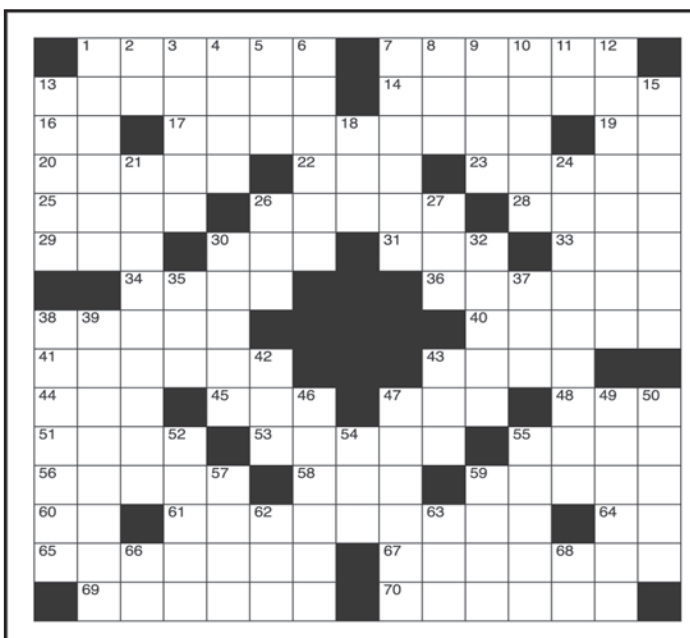
Helping Hand Society invites community to Christmas Fair

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.





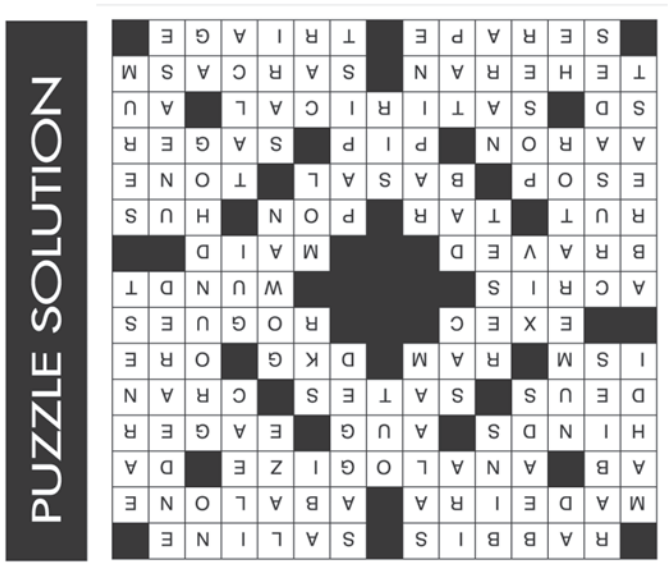
CLUES ACROSS

1. Spiritual leaders
7. Containing salt
13. Fortified wine
14. Edible mollusk
16. Blood type
17. Make a comparison
19. Government lawyer
20. "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran
22. 8th month of the year (abbr.)
23. Very willing
25. __ ex machina
26. Satisfies
28. New Zealand mountain
29. A doctrine
30. Popular Dodge truck model
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid material
34. Company higher-up
36. Villains
38. Cricket frog genus
40. Influential early psychologist
41. Endured
43. Servant
44. You can get stuck in one
45. __ and feather
47. Passive optical network
48. French ballet dynasty
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Forming a bottom layer
55. Sound
56. Yankees slugger Judge
58. Dickens character
59. Beloved late sportscaster Craig
60. "The Mount Rushmore State"
61. Sarcastic and critical
64. Atomic #79
65. Longtime Atlanta Braves pitcher
67. Humor
69. Shawl
70. Preliminary assessment of patients

CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease
2. Commercial
3. Craft supplies
4. Containers
5. A way to save for your golden years
6. Common Arabic greeting
7. Bulged downward
8. Acquired brain injury
9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. Not yes
12. In a way, pleased
13. Messianic figure in Islam
15. Resulting from intense conviction
18. Not in
21. Number above the line in a fraction
24. Lawn pest
26. Pouch
27. Ancient language (abbr.)
30. Start anew
32. Wild flower
35. Fourteen
37. Graphical user interface
38. Facing the same way
39. Campaigns
42. Touch lightly
43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. One who supports the Pope
49. Malaise
50. Body fluid
52. Inauthentic person
54. Title of respect
55. Moth genus
57. Central Japan city
59. Silk garment
62. Draw from
63. Automobile
66. A male
68. Powerful government lawyer

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Bethlehem Lutheran Church announces Bluegrass Services

STURBRIDGE — The Rev. Dan Purtell will officiate two upcoming Bluegrass Services to be held on Sunday, Nov. 8, and 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.

Real Estate

Charlton

$792,000, 56 Morton Station Rd, Laforte, Larry E, to Laforte, L An E.

$485,000, 64 Number #10, Dighton William R Est, and Dighton, Burleigh W, to Day, Ronald, and Day, Jordan.

$365,000, 84 Southbridge Rd, Enno, Michael, and Stuller, Victoria, to Carlson, Gustav C, and Carlson, Rebecca A.

$115,000, 5 Gould Rd, St Mark Coptic Orthodox C, to Pmz Development LLC.

$115,000, 8 Gould Rd, St Mark Coptic Orthodoc C, to Baffour, Asre.

$90,000, 189 Daniels Rd, Young Mens Christian Assn, to Maloney, Lisa, and Lambert, Ruess.

HOLLAND

$460,000, 64 Leno Rd, Healey, Brian William, to Webber, Nicholas, and Webber, Brilany.

$235,000, 61 Roberts Park Rd, Sears, T David, and Sears, Mary E, to Vaughan, Niki.

SOUTHBRIDGE

$745,000, 7 Cain Cir #7, Tamburro, Angelo, and Tamburro, Lenette, to Francis A Dayton Jr Ft, and Dayton, Francis A.

$728,000, 41 Union St, 68 Southbridge LLC, to Tang, Jieqing, and Tang, Yanyue.

$499,900, 37 Oaks Ave, Nrdeedsllc, to Leore, Jaime, and Tucker, Jaden Carlos.

$400,000, 125 Chapin St, Marquez, Isaul, to Boraccini, Amber.

$328,500, 64 Crestwood Dr, Rodriguez, Jose H, and Rodriguez, Vilma M, to Rodriguez, Jahyra, and Rivera, Ivan.

$320,000, 34 Woodland St, Crosbie, Araceli G, to Campbell, Scott.

$243,000, 10 Brook Rd, First Landing Invs LLC, to Fjs Investments LLC.

$216,000, 10 Brook Rd, Prosco, Stacey, to First Landing Inv LLC.

STURBRIDGE

$685,000, 7 Evergreen St, Scanlon, Michelle L, and Scanlon, Gregory R, to Dixon, Steven, and Dixon, Emily.

$617,000, 140 Paradise Ln, Fredap Rt, and Daprato, Alfred, to Langlos, Joseph A, and Langlos, Jasmine.

$600,000, 1 Leno Rd, Bonetti Irt, and Stacy, Laura, to Murray, Patrick, and Vezina, Christine.

$589,900, 120 Colonial Dr, Carlson, Astri L, to Lauritsen, Elizabeth, and Lauritsen, Robert.

$575,000, 6 Newton Pl, Sagansky, Peter B, and Sagansky, Joanne M, to Parsons, Connor, and Parsons, Emily.

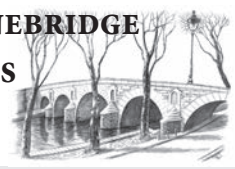
$536,000, 17 Gardner Ave, Stansky, Emily C, and Parsons, Connor J, to Bertone, Nicholas, and Robinson, Brooke K.

$362,500, 25 Sturbridge Hills Rd #25, Van Roon Ret, and Van Run, Richard P, to Christian, Pamela.

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Stonebridge Press



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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:
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..... 7:30 a.m to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesdays .....7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday .....Closed
visit www.townofcharlton.net
or more information.
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.
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Charlton City (01508) ..... (800) 275-8777
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Dudley-Charlton Regional School District
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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

Center of Hope Foundation to host Fall Craft Fair, Sundaes with Santa Nov. 7

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Center of Hope Foundation will welcome the holiday shopping season with two community events Saturday, Nov. 7, offering residents an opportunity to support local artisans, enjoy family activities and celebrate the approaching holidays.

The foundation's annual Indoor Fall Craft Fair will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Center of Hope Foundation Day Habilitation facility, 1 North St. in Southbridge. The event will feature more than 40 local artists and crafters displaying a variety of handmade merchandise.

Shoppers will find an assortment of unique gifts and seasonal items, including handcrafted jewelry, autumn and holiday decorations, pottery, hand-poured candles, knitwear and original artwork.

The fair offers an opportunity for residents to get an early start on their holiday shopping while supporting local artists and small businesses. With more than 40 vendors participating, visitors can browse a wide selection of handcrafted products under one roof.

Admission to the craft fair is free, although donations to the Food Bank will be gratefully accepted.

Visitors should park at 1 North St. and follow signs for "Just the Details" to the rear of the building. The entrance to the fair will be through the doors marked with the Day Habilitation banner.

In conjunction with the craft fair, the foundation will also present "Sundaes with Santa" at Scoops of Hope, 54 Foster St. in Southbridge, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The family-friendly event will offer children an opportunity to visit with Santa Claus and have their pictures taken, providing families with a chance to capture a holiday memory or take a photograph for their Christmas cards.

Visitors can also enjoy lunch and homemade ice cream sundaes at Scoops of Hope, along with festive take-home crafts for children.

The two events are being held at nearby locations, making it convenient for families to combine an afternoon of holiday shopping with seasonal activities and refreshments.

The Center of Hope Foundation encourages area residents to attend both events, whether searching for handmade gifts, spending time with family or getting an early start on holiday celebrations.

Both activities are scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 7, with the craft fair running from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1 North St. and Sundaes with Santa taking place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 54 Foster St.

For additional information about either event, visit Scoops of Hope or the Center of Hope Foundation's website at www.thecenterofhope.org.

Gateway Players to hold auditions for "The Lifespan of a Fact"

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge is hosting auditions for "The Lifespan of a Fact" written by Jeremy Kareken, David Murrell and Gordon Farrell, based off the non-fiction book by John D'Agata and Jim Fingal.

Auditions will be held on Sunday, Nov. 8 and Thursday, Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St., Southbridge.

Auditions will consist of cold-readings from the script. Show dates are Feb. 5, 6, and 7, 2027. Rehearsals will be on Sundays and Thursdays at 7 pm, starting December 3rd. The initial read-through will be on Thursday, November 19th. Character information is listed below. This is an adult production. Directed by Deb Hollett, and Produced by Patrick Bracken. For more information, please contact Gateway at 508-764-4531, or Patrick Bracken at pmbracken@gmail.com. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals, A Dramatists Play Service Title.

Jim Fingal is a fact checker for a prominent but sinking New York magazine. John D'Agata is a writer with an essay on a teenage boy's suicide that could save the magazine. When Jim is assigned to fact check the essay, the two come head-to-head.

The production is seeking three actors to fill the following roles:

JIM FINGAL - male, mid 20s - an earnest, rule-bound young intern and fact-checker

EMILY PENROSE - female, 40s-60s - an ambitious, high-pressure magazine editor-in-chief caught in the middle

JOHN D'AGATA - male, 40s-60s - a celebrated, fiercely creative essayist who bends facts for artistic effect.

Charlton City UMC welcomes Voices of the Master

CHARLTON — Charlton City United Methodist Church will be hosting an afternoon of uplifting music by the well known artists, Voices of the Master, on Nov. 14 from 2-4 p.m. They are a music ministry of the Greenville Baptist Church. Admission is free but there will be a free will offering. The music starts at 2 p.m., followed by a time of fellowship, conversation with the artists and light refreshments.

Charlton City UMC is located at 74 Stafford St., Charlton, and is handicapped accessible with lots of free parking. For any questions, please call 508 248-7379.

Winter Coat Closet opens Oct. 31

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

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

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

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

Tantasqua Drama Club brings "Midsummer Night's Dream" to the stage

FISKDALE — The Tantasqua Regional High School Drama Club will present four showings of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare. The shows are Friday, Nov. 6 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 7 at 2 and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 8 at 4 p.m.

Tickets will be available at the door and are $15 for general admission, $12 for students/seniors, and free for children under 5.

Step into the enchanted forest and discover why "the course of true love never did run smooth."

Friends of the Jacob Edwards Library holding fall book sale

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Friends of Jacob Edwards Library are holding their fall book sale Nov. 5, 6 and 7 at the library, 236 Main St. in Southbridge.

The sale runs library hours Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and is held in the Pioppi and Friends rooms, lower level. A wide selection of adult, children's and teen books, both hardcover and paperback are available, along with puzzles, CD's, DVD's and plants. Proceeds from the sale will benefit library programs, equipment and materials. Support the library- stop in to buy books.

The Friends sponsor two sales a year, along with ongoing book carts that are refreshed frequently.

Novena to St. Jude

St. Jude, glorious Apostle, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor has caused you to be forgotten by many, but the true Church invokes you universally as the Patron of things despaired of; pray for me, who am so miserable, pray for me, that finally I may receive the consolations and the succor of Heaven in all my necessities, particularly (make request), and that I may bless God with the Elect throughout Eternity. Amen. (repeat each day sincerely until granted; publish as granted.)

Thank you St. Jude for answered prayers. **BC**

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Friday's Child



Jasiah
Age 5
Registration #9543

Jasiah is a sweet, silly, and resilient boy who brings lots of energy and fun wherever he goes! He loves staying active and enjoys playing soccer and basketball, running around, and swinging on the swings. Whether he's playing outside or finding a new way to have fun, Jasiah loves keeping busy. When it's time to slow down, he enjoys playing card games like Uno and Go Fish. He is also a big superhero fan, especially Spider-Man, and loves pretending to be an action hero. One of his favorite moves is flipping onto his beanbag! Jasiah attends elementary school and enjoys going each day. With his playful personality and love of both active games and quieter activities, Jasiah has lots of fun interests to share with others.

https://www.mareinc.org/child/62513655906

Can I Adopt?

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

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

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Frank G. Chilinski
President/Publisher
Brendan Berube
Editor

OPINION

Honoring those who served, one hometown hero at a time

As Veterans Day approaches, communities across the country will gather to honor the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. There will be ceremonies, speeches, flags and moments of silence, all important traditions that remind us of the sacrifices made in defense of our nation.

In Sturbridge, however, an initiative is helping ensure that recognition extends well beyond a single day on the calendar. The town's Memorials, Monuments, and Markers Committee has announced its 2027 Hometown Heroes Banner Program, an effort that will place photographs and military service information of local veterans and active-duty personnel on utility poles throughout town. It is a meaningful way to recognize those who served, but perhaps the most encouraging aspect of this year's program is its expanded eligibility.

Under the new guidelines, veterans and active-duty military personnel who once called Sturbridge home may be honored, even if they moved away years ago. Their military service does not have to coincide with their residency in town. Living veterans and those who have passed away are equally eligible.

Small towns have a way of holding onto their people, even after those people have moved on. Someone who grew up in Sturbridge, attended local schools, played on local ballfields and eventually left to serve in the military remains part of the community's story. The same is true of a veteran who settled here after completing military service.

The expanded program acknowledges that a person's connection to a hometown cannot always be measured by a current address.

There is also something particularly effective about the simplicity of these banners. A photograph, a name and a record of service may not seem like much, but together they can tell a powerful story. For a passing motorist, the banner may be a reminder of a neighbor. For a family member, it may be a source of tremendous pride. For a young person walking along Main Street, it might spark a question about military service, history or someone whose name they have never heard. Those small moments of recognition have value.

Too often, military service is discussed in broad terms, with references to generations, conflicts and historical milestones. Those discussions are important, but they can also obscure the individuals behind the uniforms.

The Hometown Heroes program brings that history down to a personal level. It reminds residents that the people who served were also classmates, coworkers, parents, grandparents and neighbors. The program also offers an opportunity for families to preserve photographs and service information that might otherwise remain tucked away in albums or boxes. Gathering those materials can encourage conversations between generations and help ensure that personal histories are not forgotten.

Of course, recognition should never depend entirely on a family's ability to pay. At $250 per banner, participation represents a meaningful expense for some households. The town's decision to accept voluntary contributions to its Hometown Heroes Revolving Fund, which can assist eligible veterans who cannot afford the cost, is therefore an important part of the initiative.

Residents who may not have a veteran in their own family can still participate by contributing toward the recognition of someone else's service. It is a practical way to make the program more inclusive.

Applications are being accepted through Feb. 14, 2027, with installation anticipated in May. Families considering participation should take advantage of the coming months to locate photographs, gather military documentation and complete the necessary paperwork.

The banners are expected to remain on display for approximately three years, offering a lasting tribute that will be seen by residents and visitors alike.

There are many ways for a community to demonstrate respect for its veterans. Some are formal and ceremonial. Others are quieter, expressed through everyday gestures of appreciation and remembrance. Sturbridge's Hometown Heroes Banner Program offers something of both. It provides a public expression of gratitude while reminding everyone who travels through town that service to country is part of the personal history of families living throughout the community.

And perhaps that is the program's greatest strength. It takes names that might otherwise be known only to family and friends and gives the entire town an opportunity to recognize them.

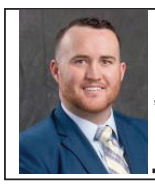
The people who served deserve to be remembered not only for the uniforms they wore, but also for the lives they lived and the communities they helped shape. Sturbridge is giving those stories a place of honor, right along its streets.

Letter submission policy

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

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

The questions that come after you've built your wealth



Financial Focus
Trevor Nielsen

Preserving wealth requires asking different questions from the ones that built it. Once you've accumulated meaningful assets, the focus shifts from growth alone toward stewardship — keeping what you've built, directing it purposefully and making sure it continues to serve the people and causes that matter most to you.

The most important conversations often have little to do with investments. How wealth moves through a family, and what it carries with it, can matter just as much as asset allocation. How do you want future generations to steward family wealth? What values do you hope to pass on alongside financial assets? These are deeply personal questions, and the answers shape more than a balance sheet. They shape a family's story for generations to come.

Your needs at this stage run the gamut, spanning family and legacy, taxes and trusts, and access to specialized investments and services. Few of these decisions exist in isolation. A charitable gift may shape your tax strategy. A trust review may influence your estate plan. The sale of a business or a concentrated stock position may create new opportunities and new risks. One choice ripples into the next, and the connections between them create complexities that often require professional expertise to manage appropriately.

You may need guidance that spans multiple disciplines. Executive compensation rules, business succession structures, and charitable trust strategies each carry their own complexities.

Then there is the element of change. The sale of a business, an inheritance or retirement often brings a rush of decisions, and the options can feel overwhelming. Choices multiply, and the window to make a decision can be narrow.

Family dynamics can add another layer of complexity, particularly when wealth is tied to a farm, ranch, family business, or other shared asset that not all heirs will manage in the same way.

Whether your goal is early retirement or a more traditional path, a financial advisor can help you with a plan for your goals and the path ahead.

The opportunities that come with wealth are often accompanied by new risks. A concentrated stock position, an unexpected health event, a business transition or even family disagreements can have lasting financial consequences. Protecting what you've built requires thoughtful attention to risk, liquidity, and long-term planning.

A financial advisor can help bring perspective to complex financial decisions. This may include understanding not only your investments but also the family dynamics, tax considerations, estate plans, and legacy goals that surround them. By taking the time to understand what matters most to you, they can help you evaluate important decisions and coordinate the appropriate team of professionals when you need them. They also can help bring perspective during moments of significant change, when the stakes are highest and the options feel overwhelming. If your circumstances or priorities change, they evolve alongside you, adapting your plan as your needs and expectations shift over time.

Finding a financial advisor who's the right fit for your unique situation is what turns complexity into coordinated action and helps ensure that your wealth keeps working for the life you envision.

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.

Whatever happened to a little mystery?

Lanterns Along Main Street
By CHARLES

I was thinking the other day about how much we know about everybody else's business these days, whether we want to or not.

There was a time when you could go a whole week without knowing what your neighbor had for supper, where your cousin went on vacation, or what some fellow you haven't seen since high school thinks about the price of eggs. Now all that information is available before you've finished your morning coffee. And apparently, we're supposed to be interested.

Don't get me wrong. I enjoy hearing from old friends, and I'm glad there's a way to keep up with people who live far away. It's a wonderful thing to see pictures of a new grandchild or hear that somebody's daughter graduated from college.

But somewhere along the way, we seem to have decided that every moment of our lives needs an audience. I don't quite understand it.

The other day, I saw somebody announce on the Internet that they were heading out to buy groceries. Not that they'd found some extraordinary bargain or discovered a new store. They were simply going grocery shopping. A little while later came another announcement. They'd arrived. Then a picture of the shopping cart. And finally, a report that they were back home. I suppose I should have been relieved that the expedition ended safely.

Now, I'm not suggesting that people shouldn't enjoy themselves. If somebody wants to photograph a sandwich before eating it, that's their business. I simply wonder when we started believing that the rest of the world needed to see the sandwich, too.

When I was growing up, there was a certain amount of mystery surrounding other people's lives. You knew your neighbors, of course. You might know where they worked, what kind of car they drove, and whether they were the sort who kept their lawn looking like a golf course.

But you didn't know every thought that passed through their heads. And that wasn't necessarily a bad thing. If somebody had a disagreement with a relative, the entire town didn't hear about it before lunchtime. If a couple went out for their anniversary, they didn't need to provide photographic evidence. And if somebody made a particularly good pot roast, the family enjoyed it without waiting for strangers to offer their approval. There was something comfortable about that.

I'm not pretending the old days were perfect. Small towns have always had their share of gossip. Sometimes people knew more about their neighbors than they had any right to know. The difference was that gossip generally traveled at the speed of conversation. Nowadays, it travels at the speed of a button. And once something gets out there, good luck putting it back.

I sometimes wonder what my father would have thought of all this. He was a man who didn't waste many words, and he certainly wasn't interested in broadcasting his daily activities.

If somebody had handed him a telephone and suggested he use it to tell hundreds of people what he was having for lunch, I suspect he would have looked at them for a long moment before asking whether they had anything useful to do. He had a way of making a point without making a speech.

Of course, the younger crowd might say I'm missing the point. Sharing things is how people stay connected now. And they're not entirely wrong.

I've seen some wonderful examples of that connection. Old friends finding each other after decades. Families sharing happy occasions across thousands of miles. People offering encouragement to somebody having a difficult time. Those are good things, and I'd be foolish to pretend otherwise. But I still think there's value in keeping a few things to ourselves.

Not every pleasant afternoon needs to become a public announcement. Not every disagreement needs a jury of strangers. And not every opinion needs to be delivered to the world before we've had a chance to think it through.

Sometimes an experience is better when we're fully occupied enjoying it instead of figuring out how to describe it afterward.

A good meal tastes every bit as good without a photograph. A beautiful sunset doesn't require an audience. And a conversation with an old friend can be meaningful even if nobody else knows it happened. Maybe that's what I miss most. The idea that a person's life could contain a few quiet chapters that belonged entirely to them.

I'm not planning to throw away my phone or move into the woods. I like modern conveniences as much as anybody, especially when they work properly, which is another matter altogether.

But I am making an effort to keep a little mystery in my life. For instance, yesterday afternoon I went somewhere, did a few things, and came home. Had a perfectly nice time, too. And that's all you're getting out of me.

To the Editor

Congress must take a stand against this illegal war

To the Editor:

As President Trump not only refuses to end his illegal war on Iran but considers new strikes, Congress must act.

Thousands have been killed, including children and 21 U.S. servicemembers.

Innocent people across the globe have borne the brunt of Donald Trump's violence. U.S. and Israeli airstrikes have killed over 3,400 people in Iran, including 120 students at an Iranian elementary school struck by a U.S. missile — an apparent war crime.

Congress must show up and speak for their constituents who roundly oppose Trump's war by rejecting EVERY Pentagon funding bill, including the annual National Defense Authorization Act, Defense Appropriations Act, or standalone legislation that could be used to fund further violence and suffering.

People across the country are struggling in the face of Trump's illegal warmongering: American households have already spent roughly $2,000 extra in economic costs. Our bills could get even higher amidst cuts to healthcare, SNAP, and other vital programs.

Trump's war is wasting a billion taxpayer dollars every day. Meanwhile, Americans are paying 43 percent more at the pump than they were before the start of the war, and 80 percent of U.S. voters agree this war is hurting our economy.

Donald Trump has laid his priorities bare: warfare over healthcare. Two-thirds of Americans disapprove. Congress must immediately right the course.

Congress must vote no on authorizing so much as one more dime for illegal war.

Sincerely,

Bill Morgenstern
Brimfield

Why I voted for Maura Healey

To the Editor:

I just read a letter in your paper describing the Republican gubernatorial candidate Mike Minogue as not a politician, but a family man who will lead with accountability.

I have to admit that as an American historian who closely follows current politics, I was surprised to see a man who donated a million dollars to the Trump campaign, described as a man who would lead with integrity.

Donald Trump is undoubtedly the most unamerican President we have had in US history. He deliberately stokes racial divisions that tear at the fabric of our society, is corrupt to a degree that is unimaginable, has a Cabinet of the most incompetent sycophants, and defies the founding principles of our constitutional democracy. His war mongering has led to unprecedented inflation and the United States' economy the envy of the world is groaning under a bloated federal debt created by giving billionaires like Minogue tax breaks. Our enemies could not have created a President better designed to ruin our country and economy.

Any person associated with the Trump regime, hell bent on destroying American democracy at home and American hegemony abroad by alienating our allies and humoring our enemies, has no place in political office in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the birthplace of the American Revolution.

In the 1850s, Massachusetts abolitionists defied a federal government dominated by southern slaveholders and their cowardly northern allies and rescued the republic from the Slave Power. Today the Commonwealth should continue to be a shining light of decency, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

Any person associated with this incompetent and corrupt regime facilitated by a party that has sold its heritage as the party of Abraham Lincoln to cater to neo-Confederates and neo-Nazis should be consigned to political oblivion and the dustbin of history. As President Lincoln put it in criticizing anti-immigrant nativism, "When it comes to this, I should prefer emigrating to some country where they make no pretense of loving liberty-to Russia, for instance, where despotism can be taken pure, and without the base alloy of hypocracy [sic]."

Sincerely,

Manisha Sinha
Sturbridge

Southbridge Historical Society to explore origins of DAR

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Historical Society will meet on Wednesday, Nov.11, at 7 p.m. in The Arts Center, 111 Main St., Southbridge. Our member Dr. Addie Healy of Dudley and her daughter, Anne Marie Safaee, both members of the DAR, will present 'The History and Purpose of the Daughters of the American Revolution." They will also discuss the origins of the DAR.

The DAR is a non-profit, nonpolitical volunteer women's organization. To become a member, you must be a woman with direct lineage to someone who assisted the American cause during the American Revolution. This very interesting presentation is the final 2026 Hist. Soc program for the 250th anniversary of our Nation's Independence. The free program is open to the public.

A native of Southbridge and current resident of Dudley, Dr. Adelina N. Healy graduated from Wells High School in Southbridge before pursuing nursing studies at Quinsigamond, Worcester State and Regis College. She later earned her doctorate in nursing from Quinnipiac College. Throughout her career, Healy worked at Harrington Hospital, Hubbard Hospital, Quaboag Rehabilitation and Bay Path. She has also been active in local historical and heritage organizations, serving as a past president and current secretary of the Southbridge Historical Society. A member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) since 2013, she currently serves as chapter chaplain.

Southbridge Lions to host Fall Texas Hold 'Em Tournament

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CCUMC offers mouthwatering turkey dinner Nov. 21

CHARLTON — Charlton City United Methodist Church is hosting their delicious annual Turkey Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 5-6:30 p.m. On the menu will be their famous turkey dinner with all the fixings! Turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, peas with pearl onions, stuffing, butternut squash, cranberry sauce and dinner rolls with butter, followed by homemade pumpkin pie topped with whipped cream!

$15.00/adult, $8.00/children six to 12, free for children five and under with a $50 max per family. Always a sell out so reservations or take out are recommended by calling 508 248-7379. Please leave your name and number in case we need to reach you. CCUMC is located at 74 Stafford St., Charlton. Our building is fully handicap accessible with ample parking.

Music Bingo at Holland Community Center

HOLLAND — The Friends of the Holland Community Center will be hosting a Music Bingo event with Mackenzie from Wise Guys Trivia on Saturday, Nov. 14 from 6-8 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The Community Center is located at 40 Brimfield Rd. in Holland.

This fundraising event has been a huge success in the past, so we suggest you purchase your tickets ahead of time by calling 413-245-3163 or stopping by the Community Center Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (We are open most evenings, you may call for evening hours). We will have a limited amount of tickets available at the door at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets are $ 10 and you will automatically be included in the door prize drawing.

We will have a table with raffle baskets and gifts. Our local baker "Laniecakes Homemade Desserts" will be on hand selling her delectable treats as well. All proceeds benefit programs and events for all ages held at the Holland Community Center.

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.

Ruth Wells Center to hold annual Holiday Fair

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts is holding the annual Holiday Fair on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Center is located at 111 Main St. in Southbridge.

The galleries will feature 12 craft vendors offering jewelry, art, photos, puppets, fabric arts- just in time for holiday shopping. There will be basket raffles with gift cards from local merchants. Mike Kae will perform as people visit the three galleries. The Ruth Wells Center will celebrate 50 years next year, and is very excited to sponsor the arts for continued community experiences. There is ample parking behind the Center. Stop in to see the exciting displays.

For more information about the Center, check the Web site, ruthwellscenter.com, or our Facebook page, or call 508-909-6155.

Abigail DeMelo named to University Singers

GREENVILLE, S.C. — Abigail DeMelo has been named to Bob Jones University's University Singers, BJU's largest choral organization. DeMelo, a resident of Southbridge, is a Sophomore majoring in Business Administration.

All students at BJU are welcome to audition for choirs and are placed in a choral group according to their classification and abilities. Singers are re-auditioned periodically to determine proper placement.

The choral program at BJU is a developmental program comprised of graded choirs. Performances include concerts of standard choral literature, sacred service music, and the annual opera and oratorio performances. Each participant will have the opportunity to learn to use music for the service of God and to reach their individual technical and artistic choral potential within a program that strives for the highest level of musical excellence.

The University Singers will perform December 4 at 5:00 p.m. in Stratton Hall on the BJU campus.

Dementia Friendly Charlton hosts educational program

CHARLTON — Most of us know someone with dementia. Many of us are living with it every day, either ourselves, or caring for someone with the disease. Dementia Friendly Charlton is hosting a community program about dementia for those who would like to know more, and those living with this illness who are seeking support and answers to questions.

"Dementia Care and Support: A Community Conversation" will be held on Tuesday evening, Nov. 10, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Charlton Public Library, 40 Main St. in Charlton. There will be a presentation on caring, supporting and communicating with someone living with dementia. This will be followed by a question-and-answer period with a panel of community members specializing in financial considerations, clinical management, the role of Adult Protective Services, and day program/long-term care options.

Registration via the library web page (charltonlibrary.org) is requested but not required. Come and learn about this complex illness and discover supports and resources available to those living with it.

Dementia Friendly Charlton is a non-profit organization which supports individuals with dementia as well as their families and caregivers. We work to raise awareness and understanding of dementia through educational programs, community events and encouragement of dementia-friendly businesses. Visit our site on the town of Charlton Web site (townofcharlton.net) and/or our Facebook page for more information.

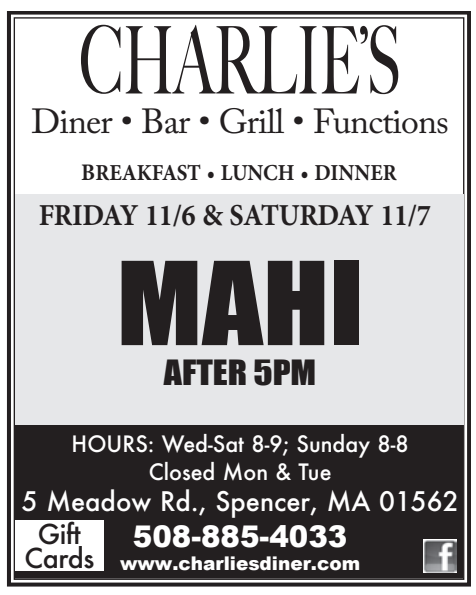
Troop 163 to hold drive-thru baked potato fundraiser

STURBRIDGE — Troop 163 of Sturbridge will hold its annual drive-thru baked potato fundraiser on Sunday, Nov. 15 at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Sturbridge from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Each meal will include a baked potato with assorted toppings (sour cream, cheese, bacon bits, and green onions), a cup of soup or chili, and a dessert. Tickets are $12 each; a family pack of four meals is $44.

Tickets must be purchased in advance, and can be ordered by contacting a scout in the troop or by emailing Troop163Sturbridge@gmail.com.





LOCAL FOLKS
Locally owned businesses here to serve you!

Antonio Marcuccio named Saint Joseph School's 2026 Volunteer of the Year



Courtesy Photo

Pictured on the altar of Saint Joseph Basilica following the award presentation are, from left, Father Richard Polek, pastor and headmaster; Antonio Marcuccio, recipient of the 2026 Saint Joseph the Worker Volunteer of the Year Award; and Principal Beth Boudreau.

WEBSTER — During the Family Mass celebrated at Saint Joseph Basilica on Sunday, Oct. 4, Saint Joseph School recognized Antonio "Tony" Marcuccio as the recipient of the 2026 Saint Joseph the Worker Volunteer of the Year Award.

Presented annually, the award honors an individual whose generosity, talents, and commitment have made a meaningful difference in students' lives. Recipients embody the qualities of Saint Joseph through humility, service, faithfulness, and dedication to hard work.

Born and raised in Southington, Conn., Marcuccio moved to Killingly in 1992 and graduated from Killingly High School in 1996. He and his wife, Katie, now live in Thompson with their sons. Jacob graduated from Saint Joseph School in 2026 and now attends Marianapolis Preparatory School, while Johnny is currently in seventh grade at Saint Joseph School.

Marcuccio rarely misses a field trip, school play, athletic event, or opportunity to help. He began coaching intramural basketball in 2022 and continued for three seasons before becoming an assistant coach for the JV boys' basketball team. He has also coached fall cross-country. When spring cross-country needed coaches, Tony and Katie stepped forward immediately. This year, Tony will serve as the varsity boys' basketball coach.

"If you see Mr. Marcuccio at a Saint Joseph athletic event, he is usually wearing a hat," said Athletic Director John Kottori. "As a volunteer in the athletic program, Mr. Marcuccio has worn many hats. Each hat is a sign of his dedication to supporting all of the students in our community."

Kottori described Marcuccio as a "champion volunteer" and a role model whose selfless service strengthens the athletic program and demonstrates the school's mission through his actions.

Marcuccio's contributions extend well beyond coaching. He regularly helps set up and break down intramural games. Drawing on his 28 years of construction experience, he repaired large openings in the school's exterior brickwork when ventilation ducts were removed during the conversion of the former kitchen into a STEM lab. He also repaired the school's front steps after vandals damaged them.

During the winter, Marcuccio could often be found at school late at night or as early as 4 or 5 a.m., shoveling and blowing snow from the entrance and sidewalks so students and staff could enter safely. These are only the acts of service known to school administrators; he has undoubtedly helped the athletic program, teachers, and school community in many other ways.

Marcuccio has never asked for reimbursement or recognition. He simply keeps asking what more he can do.

During the presentation, Principal Beth Boudreau recalled the time Bishop Robert J. McManus drew Marcuccio's winning raffle ticket during a recent Open House. When Marcuccio was called to the office over the intercom, he arrived apprehensively, believing he was in trouble with the principal. This time, Boudreau assured him he was being called forward again for a very good reason.

The presentation also included a lighthearted reference to Marcuccio's devotion to the Buffalo Bills, who were playing the New England Patriots that day. Boudreau joked that honoring a Bills fan in Patriots country proved that "Christian charity truly has no limits."

"But all football rivalries aside, there is no question that Tony has always been on Saint Joseph School's team," Boudreau said. "We are incredibly fortunate to have him."

"I love the Saint Joseph School community," Marcuccio said. "I think, as a whole, we really stand out compared to other schools. That is special, and I am proud to be a part of it."

Saint Joseph School is deeply grateful for Marcuccio's humble and generous service and is blessed to honor him as the 2026 Saint Joseph the Worker Volunteer of the Year.

QCC receives nearly $2 million to support parenting students and their children



WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College was recently awarded a Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program (CCAMPIS) grant of more than $1.9 million. The College will use the grant to fund its Parent Success at QCC (PSQ) program, which will provide access to childcare for eligible students.

"At QCC, over 30 percent of students are parents, many of whom work full-time and part-time jobs," QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja said. "Due to the high cost of living and low availability of childcare, these students are often in the difficult position of missing classes to take care of family responsibilities. The PSQ program will help alleviate this challenge for many parents by providing childcare assistance and support services, enabling them to remain enrolled, complete their studies, and graduate. In turn, they will be better positioned to advance their careers, improve their families' quality of life, and contribute meaningfully to their communities."

PSQ is a collaborative initiative that brings together many areas of QCC such as Parenting Student Support Services, The Children's School: Early Childhood Education Lab School, and various other departments of the college. The program will also work with licensed childcare providers in the community to subsidize care for eligible students.

"Having to be in two places at the same time has been difficult," a recently surveyed QCC student said. "…I have to drop my child off at school and be at clinical during my nursing rotation at nearly the same time."

Associate Director of Parenting Student Support Michelle Brennan has seen studies showing that more than 50 percent of student parents who don't receive proper support end up leaving school without a degree. However, at QCC, 80 percent of students Brennan has supported have continued their education.

"Our goal is to empower these students who are working incredibly hard to improve the lives of their families," Brennan said. "We've seen that quality childcare and education promote upward mobility and increased earnings for parents, and eventually for their children as well."

The PSQ program will utilize a case management approach to connect students with community resources, build peer support networks, and provide workshops covering topics such as child development and time management.

According to Brennan, services will be integrated to benefit the entire family. She described the "whole-family" model used in education and social services, which offers support to both parents and children to foster educational success and financial security.

"When we run a workshop on a topic such as financial literacy, children will have a parallel activity and then come back together for a family conversation on the topic. We're helping them build the skills to plan for their families together," Brennan said.

Brennan also noted that funding the PSQ program through CCAMPIS will help fill in the gaps that are often present between the K-12 and higher education schedules.

"Finding childcare when QCC is in session and my daughter does not have school is super hard, whether that be school vacations, professional development days, or snow days. I have missed several days of school as a result," said another QCC student.

The four-year CCAMPIS grant is issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (HHS/ACF) on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education (ED).

Worcester native, QCC trustee in running to become Logan Airport's new voice



Courtesy Photo

Max German

WORCESTER — Max German, a member of the Quinsigamond Community College Board of Trustees, has been selected as one of eight finalists in Massport's "Voice of Logan" contest, which will determine the next official voice heard by millions of travelers passing through Boston Logan International Airport.

German, born in Worcester and raised in Shrewsbury, was chosen from over 5,000 applicants after submitting an audition that showcased his distinctly Massachusetts voice.

"It's been such a fun experience since becoming a finalist. I've been texting everybody I know," said German, who traces his Worcester-style New England accent to his mother and grandparents.

German is among eight finalists competing for the chance to become the newest voice welcoming visitors to Boston throughout Logan Airport. Public voting is underway and will help determine the winner.

While German will represent his current Dorchester neighborhood in the contest, he remains deeply proud of his Worcester roots and his connection to QCC.

"QCC was so formative," German said. "I graduated high school and didn't know where my path would lead, but I was able to figure it all out at QCC. I got my grades up, got involved, and haven't looked back."

At QCC, German was involved in initiatives such as the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society's effort to establish a campus food pantry. What began as a closet stocked with shelf-stable groceries has since grown into a comprehensive resource center offering fresh produce, hygiene products and connections to housing and other community supports.

After graduating from QCC, German transferred to Boston College, where he earned a bachelor's degree. He is now enrolled at Boston College Law School. In 2025, he joined the QCC Board of Trustees as a way to give back to the college and community that helped launch his academic and professional journey.

If he doesn't become the "Voice of Logan," German said he would be happy to serve as a voice for QCC instead.

"I would welcome people to the college by saying, 'QCC is the place that no matter who you are or where you are from, you will have an opportunity here for a better life,'" he added.

Audition videos and voting for the "Voice of Logan" can be found at voiceoflogan.com/Voting.

Pasta dinner to benefit Wreaths Across America



HOLLAND — The town of Holland will once again be taking part in the Annual "Wreaths Across America" campaign on Dec. 19. Our local group is raising money to purchase 200 wreaths to lay on the graves of our military men and women in the Holland cemetery.

On Friday, Nov. 6, we are hosting a pasta dinner at the Holland Community Center (40 Brimfield Rd-Holland, MA) to raise funds to purchase the wreaths.

Tickets ($15) are on sale now by texting Kathy at 413-265-3640, or stopping by the Holland Community Center Monday thru Thursday from 10 am until 5 p.m. This event has been sold out in past years, and we cannot guarantee that we will have tickets available at the door.

The mission of "Wreaths Across America" is to: "Remember the Fallen. Honor those who serve. Teach the next generation the value of freedom." On Dec. 19, there will be 5,200 locations in all 50 states and around the world taking part in the wreath laying ceremony.



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Scouting America to host family safety and community outreach event

WORCESTER — Families throughout Worcester County are invited to attend a free community safety event hosted by the Massachusetts State Police, Worcester State University, and the Heart of New England Council, Scouting America, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 10, at Worcester State University.

Designed as both a fun family experience and a valuable community outreach opportunity, the event will bring together public safety professionals, community partners, Scouts, and local families for a day focused on child passenger safety, community engagement, and education.

A key feature of the event will be free child car seat inspections and installations conducted by certified Massachusetts State Troopers. Families will have the opportunity to ensure that their child safety seats are properly installed and appropriately fitted to help keep children safe while traveling.

The Massachusetts State Police will also showcase specialized equipment and resources used in their public safety efforts, providing attendees with a unique opportunity to learn more about the role of law enforcement in protecting and serving communities across the Commonwealth.

One of the day's most anticipated attractions will be the Massachusetts State Police rollover simulator, an interactive demonstration that vividly illustrates the importance of wearing a seat belt. The simulator provides participants with a memorable, hands-on experience that reinforces safe driving practices and highlights how seat belts can save lives.

Scouts and volunteer leaders from local Packs and Troops throughout Worcester will assist with activities, welcome attendees, and share information about the many opportunities available through Scouting. Families interested in learning more about Scouting will have the chance to meet current Scouts and leaders and discover programs that promote leadership, citizenship, service, outdoor adventure, and personal growth.

"This event represents the power of community partnerships," said Jason Pigg, Scout Executive and CEO of the Heart of New England Council, Scouting America. "By bringing together the Massachusetts State Police, Worcester State University, and local Scouts, we can provide an important public service while introducing families to the positive impact Scouting has throughout our communities."

Organizers hope the event will strengthen connections between families and community organizations while promoting safe transportation practices and highlighting resources available to local residents.

The event is free and open to the public. Families are encouraged to bring their vehicles and child safety seats for inspection and to take advantage of the educational exhibits, demonstrations, and opportunities to engage with community partners.

About Heart of New England Council, Scouting America

Heart of New England Council is a 501(c)(3) organization that serves about 4,000 boys and girls in more than 60 communities in central Massachusetts. We provide the nation's foremost program that teaches young people character, leadership, and citizenship through fun and exciting adventures for the entire family. We foster a culture of diversity and inclusion that makes it enriching to participate, volunteer and work in the Scouting program. Visit www.hnescouting.org for more information.

Dad, thanks for keeping me safe. Love, LH

LEGALS

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of MGL Ch. 40A, §11, the Southbridge Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, at 6:45 PM in the G.A.R. Hall, lower level, Town Hall, 41 Elm St, Southbridge, MA.

The purpose of the public hearing is to consider a special permit application, as filed by Tammy Jones, to allow for livestock on a property under 5 acres, per Table 1: Schedule of Uses of the Southbridge Zoning Bylaw, located at 681 Charlton Street; Map 9; Lot 35-C (Tammy Jones, owner).

The application and plan are on file for review during normal business hours with the Town Clerk. This notice is also published electronically on www.telegram.com and on masspublicnotices.org.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

David V. Payeur
Chairman, Southbridge Planning Board
November 5, 2026
November 12, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of MGL Ch. 40A, §11, the Southbridge Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the G.A.R. Hall, lower level, Town Hall, 41 Elm St, Southbridge, MA.

The purpose of the public hearing is to consider the special permit application, as filed by Rich Clemence, to allow for multifamily residential, per Table 1 of the Schedule of Uses of the Southbridge Zoning Bylaw, located at 70 Foster Street; Map 36; Lot 84 (70 Foster Street LLC, owner).

The application and plan are on file for review during normal business hours with the Town Clerk. This notice is also published electronically on www.telegram.com and on www.ma.mypublicnotices.com.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

David V. Payeur
Chairman, Southbridge Planning Board
November 5, 2026
November 12, 2026

Legal Advertisement
Invitation for Bid (IFB)

Sealed bids will be received by the Town Administrator, Town Hall, 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566, until 1:00 p.m. on November 24, 2026, for the collection, transport and disposal of Leachate from the municipal landfill off Breakneck Road. Prices will be received for two disposal solutions: Item (A) disposal at the Town of Sturbridge Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) off New Boston Road, and Item (B) if the WWTP is not available, disposal shall be at a permitted wastewater facility selected by the vendor. For a copy of the IFB go to the Town of Sturbridge website: https://www.sturbridge.gov/1207/Bids-RFQs

The Town reserves the right to waive any informality or reject in whole or in part any and all bids as may be in the best interests of the Town. All bids will be in accordance with Chapter 30B. Sturbridge is an AA/EOE.

November 5, 2026
November 12, 2026

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138, Section 12 of Massachusetts General Laws of a public hearing to be held in the Veterans Meeting Room, first floor of the Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA, on Thursday, November 19, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. during the regular scheduled Liquor Licensing Board Meeting in regard to a Change of Manager Application.

This hearing pertains to Cohasse Golf Club, Inc., D/B/A Cohasse, 393 Eastford Rd.., Southbridge, MA, 01550. Anyone wishing to speak will be given the opportunity to be heard.

This notice is also published electronically on www.stonebridgepress.com and on www.masspublicnotice.org

Town of Southbridge
Liquor Licensing Board
November 5, 2026

Town of Holland

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Sec 40, a public hearing by the Conservation Commission will be held on Tuesday 11/10/2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room, first floor floor, in the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Rd, Holland, MA. This meeting is to review a Request for Determination (RDA) filed by Kate Swalec for proposed road work to be conducted by the town at Maiden Lane in Holland MA. To comply with the Open Meeting Law, all public hearings are scheduled for 6:30 PM and, barring unforeseen circumstances, will be taken in the order in which they appear on the agenda. This meeting will be held in person. The application is available for review at the Conservation Commission Office, Town Office Building upon request.

Conservation Commission
Town of Holland
November 5, 2026

Town of Sturbridge
Zoning Board of Appeals
Public Hearing Notice Special Permit
Liam Ferguson

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 6:35 PM at the Center Office Building located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and/or by virtual means if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law; on the application of Liam Ferguson.

The applicant is requesting a Special Permit pursuant to Article XVIII §300-18.2 and a Finding pursuant to Article XV §300-15.2A of the Zoning Bylaw to expand, change or alter a pre-existing, non-conforming use or structure for the property located at 51 Bennetts Road. The applicant is requesting a Special Permit to construct a 1,140 sq. ft. garage that will be located within 15' of both side property lines, where 20' is allowed. No other non-conformities will be intensified as a result of the proposed construction.

The proposed request can be viewed at https://www.sturbridge.gov/zoning-board-appeals/pages/recent-filings or arrangements can be made to view the application packet by contacting the Sturbridge Planning Department.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this proposal should appear at the time and place designated. Members of the public may watch the meeting online via the Town's on demand video broadcast or via cable television on Channel 191.

It is the intent to have this Public Hearing in person. However, if circumstances warrant, the Board may choose to hold this Hearing via virtual or hybrid (in person and virtual) means.

In the event of a virtual or hybrid meeting, please follow this link: https://meet.goto.com/619527397.

Please note that the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law.

Diane Trapasso, Chair
Sturbridge Zoning Board of Appeals
October 29, 2026
November 5, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P3440EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:
Paula Rand Courville
Also known as: Paula R. Courville
Date of Death: 07/22/2026

To all interested persons:

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

The Petitioner requests that: .

Lynn A. Courville of Tucson AZ be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/17/2026.**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

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

Date: October 21, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 5, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P2718EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:
Irene M Desrosier
Also known as:
Irene Desrosier
Date of Death: 04/08/2026

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **S/A-Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Bruce Desrosier of Southbridge MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: .

Bruce Desrosier of Southbridge MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/24/2026.**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

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

Date: September 23, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 5, 2026

Mirick welcomes Jennifer Matthew as Human Resources and Legal Support Manager

WORCESTER — Mirick is pleased to announce that Jennifer "Jenn" A. Matthew, MBA, SHRM-SCP, PHR, has joined the firm as Human Resources and Legal Support Manager. In this role, Jenn will assist with recruiting and hiring and supervising the firm's client services and business services teams, overseeing workflow, employee relations and performance management.

Jenn brings more than 20 years of human resources and operations experience to Mirick. Most recently, she served as Chief Human Resource Officer at MetroWest YMCA and as Senior Team Operations Manager for Workhuman's Consulting Practice.

"I had been looking for the right opportunity to return to the legal industry, and when the chance to join Mirick came along, I jumped at it," said Matthew. "I have always admired and respected Betsy Landry and Mirick's reputation, both as a leading law firm and as a great place to work. I'm thrilled to be part of this team and look forward to supporting the people who make this firm so special."



Courtesy Photo

Jennifer Matthew

Jenn's arrival comes as longtime team member Kathleen "Kathi" Goulet, Mirick's Human Resources and Staffing Manager, retires after a career at the firm spanning more than 45 years.

"We are delighted to welcome Jenn to Mirick," said Betsy Landry, Chief Human Resources Officer. "While I am sad to see my longtime colleague Kathi Goulet retire and leave Mirick, I am comforted and excited to have Jenn on board. Her experience and talent for bringing people together make her a wonderful fit for our firm, and I know our team will benefit from her leadership."

Jenn is a SHRM Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP) and Professional in Human Resources (PHR), and she also holds a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt certification. She previously was a member of the Association of Legal Administrators from 2015 to 2022.

Jenn earned her M.B.A., with a concentration in Human Resources, from Assumption College and her B.S. in Business Management from Fairfield University.

About Mirick

Mirick is the largest full-service law firm based in Central Massachusetts, with 76 attorneys in offices in Worcester, Westborough, and Boston. Founded in 1916, the firm advises corporations, institutions, and individuals across industries, including banking and finance, healthcare, education, and manufacturing. Mirick is led by Co-Managing Partners Paul W. Carey and Robert L. Kilroy. Beyond its legal work, Mirick maintains a long-standing tradition of community service throughout Central Massachusetts and beyond. For more information, visit www.miricklaw.com.



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Three-time American Ninja Warrior finalist to attempt world record for most Murph Workouts in 24 hours



WORCESTER — Three-time American Ninja Warrior national finalist Jonathan Godbout will attempt to break the unofficial world record for most "Murph" workouts completed in 24 hours. The attempt starts at 9 a.m. Friday, Nov. 13, at CrossFit Worcester and ends at 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 14. The event is open to the public and will stream live on Instagram (@atpfitco), with a mini documentary to follow on YouTube (@ATPFitCo). The attempt, two days after Veterans Day, is dedicated to service members and veterans.

The current record of 20.16 Murphs belongs to Australia's Russell Stringer. To beat it, Godbout plans to finish 20.5. One Murph is a 1-mile run, 100 pull-ups, 200 push-ups, 300 squats and another 1-mile run, all in a 20-pound vest. Twenty and a half of them add up to 41 miles of running, 2,050 pull-ups, 4,100 push-ups and 6,150 squats. That works out to one Murph every 70 minutes, around the clock, with no sleep. The full 24 hours will be filmed, and CrossFit coaches will monitor and judge every rep.

The workout is named after Navy SEAL Lt. Michael P. Murphy, who was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2005 and posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. For Godbout, the dedication is personal. Jonathan has always been inspired by his grandfather, a Vietnam veteran awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star, who battled through physical and psychological wounds while excelling for decades in civil service leadership roles as deputy chief of the MBTA Police and at the Department of Homeland Security.

"I have tremendous respect for the people who serve, and this is my way to honor them," Godbout said. "Twenty-four hours of Murph will never come close to what they've been through. If you are inspired in any way by my challenge, please extend gratitude to a veteran in your own way — write a letter, send a care package or visit a memorial."

Godbout has taken on endurance challenges before, including running one more mile every day until he hit a full marathon on day 26, and climbing stairs equal to the height of Mount Everest. This time he has trained for eight months: five days a week of CrossFit classes, hundreds of Murphs and physical therapy. He has completed test runs of five, 10 and 12 Murphs at record pace. "On my past challenges I went in cold and just sent it," Godbout said. "This one I've been building toward specifically for eight months. I'm not leaving anything on the table."

The attempt puts into practice the idea behind the name of Godbout's coaching company, Adaptation Through Perseverance (ATP): challenging yourself is what creates real change.

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.

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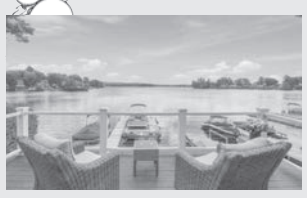
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Webster Lake ~ 93 Birch Island Rd



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 **$1,199,000**

*** 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

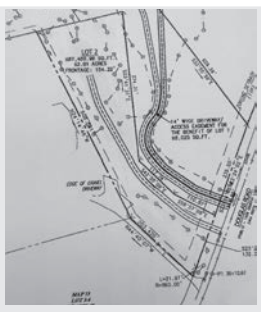


Sprawling fieldstone faced Ranch! Located on a +/- 0.5-acre, 2 car garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 2 stone fireplaces-FHW BB heat. Open floor plan kitchen, living rm, dining rm, breezeway w/ sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom
MLS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

Thompson CT ~ 303 Riverside Dr



Country Cape Style Home set back about 120' from the road! 4 bedrooms, 1600 sq ft of living area. 2 story barn. 4 Acres surrounded by wide field stone walls.
MLS# 24196428 **$415,000.**



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 Sunday 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



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3 Elm St $419,500

SUTTON- SPACIOUS COLONIAL

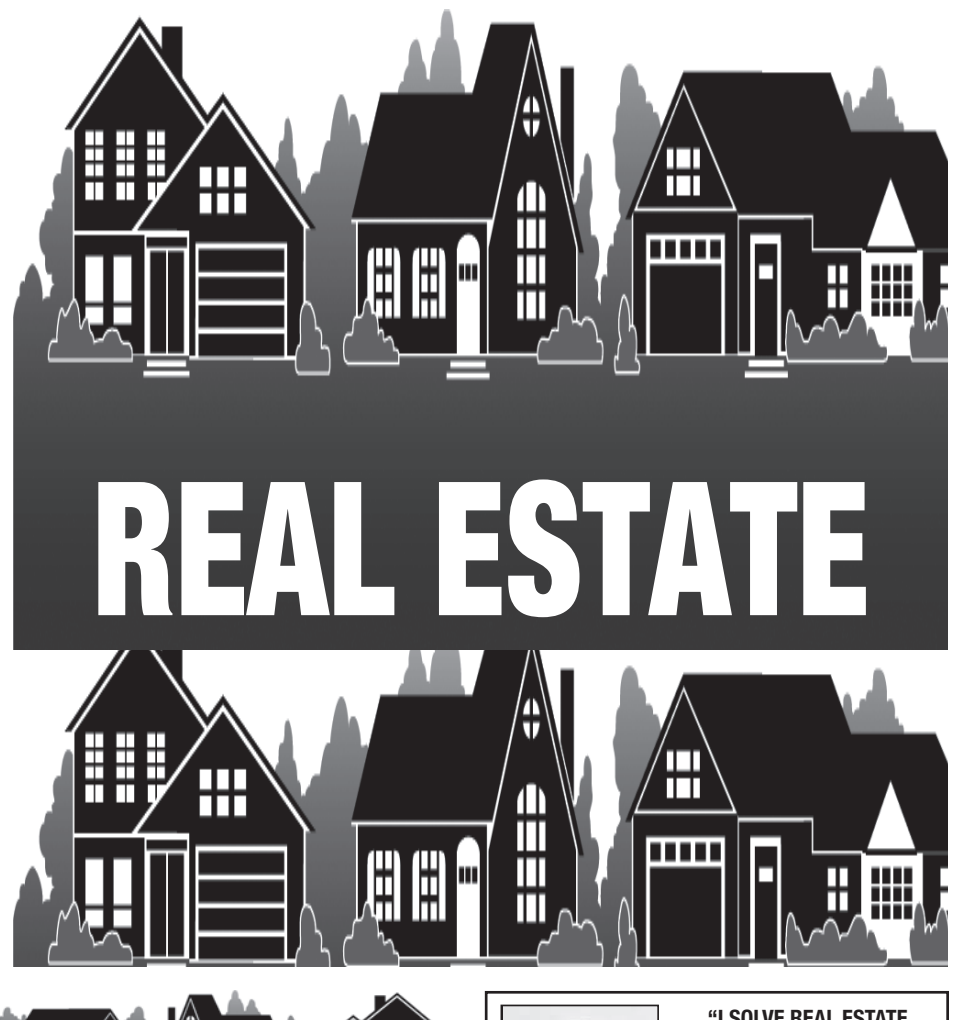


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*First Floor Family Room
*Fireplace
9 Colonial Rd $535,000

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*2 BE Ranch * 1st Floor Laundry
*Potential for Business Use
92 Worcester Road $499,000





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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.











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.