

Charlton Villager

©2026, Issue #16

Free by request to residents of Charlton, Charlton City and Charlton Depot

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Thursday-Friday, April 23-24, 2026

Guitarist Aaron Larget-Caplan returns to Southbridge for library performance

SOUTHBRIDGE — Boston-based classical guitarist and composer Aaron Larget-Caplan will return to his former hometown later this month for a free public performance at Jacob Edwards Library, presenting music from his newly released album marking the nation's upcoming 250th anniversary.

The concert, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 30, celebrates the release of "Guitar America

250: Revolutionaries and Rockstars," Larget-Caplan's debut album on Navona Records. The performance is free and open to the public and is supported by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council.

A former Southbridge resident, Larget-Caplan's return carries special meaning as he shares a program that traces more than two centuries of American musical history through guitar works, spoken word selections, and collaborative pieces featuring guest artists. The project connects music with literature and civic ideals tied to the nation's approaching semiquincentennial in 2026.

The album includes 21 tracks combining solo guitar repertoire, poetry readings, and chamber music. Among its featured texts are works by writers such as Frances

Harper, Walt Whitman, Henry David Thoreau and James Madison, paired with original arrangements and new compositions. The recording also includes a premiere work for violin and guitar and spoken word contributions by several artists, including the late poet Charles Coe and Grammy Award-nominated baritone Trevor Neal.

In addition to literary selections, the program highlights music drawn from a wide span of American history. Traditional songs such as "The Star-Spangled Banner," "Battle Hymn of

the Republic," "Lift Every Voice and Sing," and "Over There" appear alongside works by composers John Cage, Alan Hovhaness and Florence Price. The album also incorporates pieces from musical theater and popular music traditions, including Leonard Bernstein's "America" from "West Side Story," Paul Simon's "America," and Eddie Van Halen's instrumental "316." Larget-Caplan said his selection reflects both the breadth of American musical identity and his own artistic vision.

Turn To **LARGET-CAPLAN**

page A10

Southbridge Food Share adds monthly Saturday hours to expand community access

SOUTHBRIDGE — Residents who rely on the Southbridge Food Share now have an additional opportunity each month to receive assistance, as the pantry expands its schedule to include one Saturday distribution day.

The added weekend hours are intended to make services more accessible for individuals and families who may not be able to visit during the organization's regular weekday schedule. Southbridge Food Share continues to operate on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and will now also open one Saturday each month at its location at 446 Hamilton St.

Distribution hours remain the same on all service days, running from 10 to 11:15 a.m.

Upcoming Saturday dates include April 25, May 16, June 27, July 25, Aug. 22 and Sept. 26.

No appointments are required to receive food, and visitors are not asked to provide

income documentation or legal identification.

The pantry serves residents from Southbridge and surrounding communities and operates with support from local partners, including the United Way of South Central Massachusetts. Community donations and volunteer efforts continue to play a key role in sustaining the program's operations.

Southbridge Food Share has remained a central resource for area households facing food insecurity, particularly as grocery costs and household expenses continue to affect many families across the region.

Organizers encourage residents to share information about the expanded Saturday schedule with neighbors and community members who may benefit from the service.

For more information, residents may call 508-765-6583 or visit the Hamilton Street location during operating hours.

Charlton Garden Club Plant Sale fundraiser set for May 16!



CHARLTON — Once again, it's time for the Charlton Garden Club's annual plant sale. Held on the Common on Saturday, May 16 from 9 a.m. to noon, the sale offers a wide variety of flowering annuals and perennials, vegetables and herbs, as well as woody plants. Come peruse our plant selection, check out the Garden Treasures table, and be sure to bring a half cup of soil for a free pH test. Massachusetts Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your gardening queries.

The Charlton Garden Club was started 89 years ago by a group of 12 women, all wanting to share their interest in gardening. It didn't take them too long to find like-minded individuals in the community and the Charlton Garden Club was formed. The club has met continuously since 1937 except for a brief time during World War II due to gas rationing. At least 300 members have participated in and enjoyed the club's activities. Presently, the club meets on the second Monday of the month (March through December) typically at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Charlton Public Library. All are welcome to attend our advertised meetings at no charge. Those wanting to join the Charlton Garden Club would be asked to pay annual dues.

The purpose of the Charlton Garden Club is "To create interest in gardening in all its branches and encourage the beautification of home and community." The plant sale is our major fundraiser with funds used for speak-

ers and community beautification projects. Each year club members plant flowers at the Morton Memorial as well as beds on other parts of the Common. At Olde Home Day, the club sets up a flower show with arrangements from club members for pleasant viewing by all. Throughout the years, the club has planted trees and flowers at our schools, police station, town hall and churches. In the past, scholarships were awarded to Shepherd Hill or Bay Path

students entering horticultural related fields.

The Charlton Garden club offers opportunities to learn more about plants and the environment, to participate in community beautification projects as well as to instill an appreciation for our natural resources. Plus, it is a great place to meet other local gardening enthusiasts. Those interested in learning more about the garden club, can email us at charltongardenclub@gmail.com.

P.E.O. Chapters R and AA join forces to revive beloved "Chocolate Sunday" fundraiser

CHARLTON — After a hiatus of several years, a cherished local tradition is making a decadent return. Sheila Ansley of P.E.O. Chapter R recently announced that the organization's signature "Chocolate Sunday" is officially back on the calendar, thanks to a dynamic new partnership with Chapter AA.

The fundraiser—an afternoon dedicated to sampling gourmet chocolate treats, coffee, and tea—was previously sidelined due to the intensive labor required for a single small group to manage. However, after Chapter R reached out to their sisters in Chapter AA, the two groups agreed to a joint venture. By splitting the workload, the chapters have found a sustainable way to bring the sweetness back to Charlton.

Event details
• Date: Sunday, May 17
• Time: 2 p.m.
• Location: The Performing Arts Center at The Overlook, Charlton
• Mission: All proceeds support the P.E.O.

Sisterhood's mission of providing life-changing educational opportunities and scholarships for women.

• Contacts: Sheila Ansley 508-434-2649 or Elizabeth Pacek 508-829-4504

A season of sisterhood: Chapter R's Active Winter The revival of Chocolate Sunday comes on the heels



Courtesy

Deputy Chief Bennett and Captain Hamberg were on hand representing Charlton Fire this week at FDIC International—one of the largest fire service training conferences in the world. They're taking full advantage of this opportunity to expand their knowledge, sharpen their skills, and explore new and innovative equipment that can enhance how we serve our community. Their focus is simple: bring back the best ideas, tools, and strategies to improve our service delivery and keep Charlton safe. Photo courtesy of the department's Facebook page.



of a busy winter for Chapter R. Despite a string of "historically biting" temperatures, members remained dedicated to their cultural and social calendar.

In December, members braved one of the coldest nights of the year to tour the "Winter Reimagined" display at Tower Hill Botanic Garden.

While the air was frigid, the spectacular light installations proved well worth the chill.

The momentum continued into January with two stand-out events:

• Musical excellence: Members attended a moving organ concert performed by Amanda Mole, daughter of Jackie Mole. The perfor-

mance offered a warm, soaring reprieve from the January frost.

• Founders Day: The group honored the P.E.O. Sisterhood's 1869 roots at the Founders Day Program. Members "toughed out" the New England cold to enjoy a commemorative meal and

Turn To **CHOCOLATE** page A11

Gateway Players brings "Charlotte's Web" to life with youth production

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge presents the children's production of "Charlotte's Web." Adapted by Joseph Robinette. Based on the book by E.B. White. Performance dates are May 1 and 2 at 7 p.m., May 3 at 2 p.m., and May 8 and 9 at 7 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,

Produced by Stephanie Ruggiere. Presented by permission through special arrangement with 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 The Children's Literature Association named this "the best American children's book of the past two hundred years," and Joseph Robinette, working with the advice of

E.B. White, has created a play that captures this work in a thrilling and utterly practical theatrical presentation. The costumes and unit set may be simple or as colorful and elaborate as you wish; it's the story and relationships

that make the show. All the enchanting characters are here: Wilbur, the irresistible young pig who desperately wants to avoid the butcher; Fern, a girl who understands what animals say to each other; Templeton, the gluttonous rat

who on occasion will be talked into a good deed; the Zuckerman family; the Arabes; and, most of all, the extraordinary spider, Charlotte, who proves to be "a true friend and a good writer." Determined to save Wilbur,

Charlotte begins her campaign with the "miracle" of her web in which she writes, "Some pig." It's the beginning of a victorious campaign which ultimately ends with the now-safe Wilbur doing what is most important to Charlotte.

Brimfield to mark 250th anniversary of Independence

BRIMFIELD — Save the date! On Saturday, June 13, a community-wide celebration marking the 250th anniversary of our nation's freedom will take place in Brimfield.

In recognition of this year's historic milestone, a full day of remembrance and celebration is planned. All are welcome to attend the day's events, which include the following: Revolutionary War themed cemetery tours, a ceremony at the town common gazebo, a parade, and fun-filled festivities at the Brimfield Winery. The evening will close out with a spectacular fireworks display.

Additional details and updates will be available through the Friends of Historic Brimfield event Web site, www.fohbrimfield.org. Tax-deductible donations can also be made in support of this celebration through this website, and in gratitude,

donors will be recognized in the event program. Donations can also be mailed to: Friends of Historic Brimfield, P.O. Box 52, Brimfield, MA 01010 with "Spirit of Brimfield" in the memo.

This event is currently being sponsored by the Massachusetts Army National Guard and Classic Hits 97.7 FM. If you or your company are interested in any level of corporate or business sponsorship, please visit the event website at www.fohbrimfield.org. Additional volunteers are needed for both planning and to help with activities during the event, or if you are interested in putting a float in the parade, contact Friends of Historic Brimfield at (413) 239-0288 for more information.

Be sure to save the date for this celebration of the founding of our country! More information will follow.

Bring your favorite book to life with Wales Library

WALES — Wales Library patrons of all ages are welcome to join the library friends in the USA 250 anniversary parade on June 13 in Brimfield.

Bring your favorite book, by an American author, to life!

Costume creation sessions will take place

at the Wales Library 77 Main St., Wales, on April 21, 22 & 23, 2:30-4 p.m. Please register to join us by calling 413 245-9072.

Anyone wanting to dress up as a favorite character or decorate a stroller... are also welcome to do so on your own and join the parade with us.

Casaubon Senior Center announces upcoming trips

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Casaubon Senior Center is sponsoring these up and coming trips from And Away We Go Travels and Best of Times Travel. For more information contact Jeanne Dupuis at jtd1154@yahoo.com or visit the senior center to pick up a flyer. A \$25. deposit is needed at sign up.

June 20 —Newport Flower Show—Visits the Rosecliff Mansions gardens and lunch the Wyndham Newport Hotel. Lunch choices are Chicken, scrod or pasta primavera \$129 at person.

July 19 —Day In Maine Clambake—Short stops along the way for shopping and a feast on Foster's New England Clambake. A chicken meal and vegetarian meal are offered. \$119. a person.

Aug. 29—Charles River Cruise—Great two-hour cruise, lunch at the Cheesecake Factory

and a trip to Quincy Market.\$145 a person Sept. 30 — Turkey Train—A turkey dinner with all the trimmings on the Winnepesaukee Scenic Railroad—\$149. a person and there are no meal substitutions.

Nov. 29 — Holiday Jamboree at Ivoryton Playhouse—First stop is at the Scotch Plains Tavern for lunch. Your choice of chicken, scrod or vegetable primavera is offered. The Jamboree plays homage to the Grand Ole Opry holiday music. \$169 a person for a wonderful way to start the holidays.

We have one overnight trip to New York City sponsored by Best of Times Travel

Sept. 3 & 4. \$899 for double, \$1,099 for single and \$869 for triple or quad. This includes a Broadway Show, 911 Memorial and a trip to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

Charlton Lions Club offers scholarships

CHARLTON — The Charlton Lions Club invites 12th-grade students (in high school, technical school, private or a home school) who plan to continue their education beyond high school to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship offered by the Club.

Applicants must be Charlton residents who are accepted at an accredited college or other post-secondary program. They must submit a completed application form along with two letters of reference and a transcript of their academic achievement from their school. The

application form asks for family and financial information, extracurricular activities, career goals, and community service/volunteerism.

The application form is available online. For a link to the form, visit thecharltonlions.com or email thecharltonlions@gmail.com. If you prefer to fill out a paper form and submit the completed form by mail, please contact your guidance counselor for a copy of The Charlton Lions Club scholarship application. All applications must be received by

Turn To **LIONS CLUB** page A3

VILLAGER ALMANAC

OPEN TO CLOSE

SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN HALL

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

JACOB EDWARDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

CHARLTON TOWN HALL (508) 248-2200

Office Hours:
Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 7:30 a.m to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesdays 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday Closed

visit www.townofcharlton.net or more information.

Individual offices may vary

PUBLIC LIBRARY (248-0452)

For library hours please check

www.charltonlibrary.org

POLICE DEPARTMENT (248-2250)

Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For emergencies, dial **911**

FIRE DEPARTMENT (248-2299)

Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

POST OFFICES

Charlton Center Post Office (800) 275-8777

Charlton City (01508) (800) 275-8777

SCHOOLS

Dudley-Charlton Regional School District

..... (508) 943-6888

Charlton Elementary School

..... (508) 248-7774 or (508) 248-7435

Heritage School (508) 248-4884

Charlton Middle School (508) 248-1423

Shepherd Hill Regional High School

..... (508) 943-6700

Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School

..... (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326

HOLLAND: 413-245-7108

Mon – Thurs 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

FISKDALE: 508-347-6486

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

STURBRIDGE 508-347-6463

Weekdays 8:30 – 5:00 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

BRIMFIELD: 413-245-3451

Weekdays: 9:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

WALES: 413-245-9808

Weekdays 8:30 – 12:30 and 2:00 – 4:30 and

Sat. 9:00 – 12:00

CHURCH LISTINGS

• **Central Baptist Church**

256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550

Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.

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

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

• **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org

Sunday worship and Children's church 10am

• **St. Anne St. Patrick Church**, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338

www.stannepatparish.com

Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am

• **Elm Street Congregational Church**, 61 Elm Street, Southbridge, Ma 01550

Phone: 508-764-8085 • Sunday service 10:00 am

Pastor Kathryn Light

• **Faith Baptist Church**, 515 Dennison Drive, Southbridge

Phone number 508-764-6132, Worship Service: Sunday 10:00 a.m.

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

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

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

• **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349

Sunday Service 10:00am.

www.livingwordcharlton.com

info@livingwordcharlton.com

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

• **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale** - 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021

www.sturfed.org

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

• **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**- 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566

Phone 508-347-7297

Web: www.bethlehemsturbridge.org

Services - Sunday 9:00 am

Pastor Dan Purtell

• **Holland Congregation Church**

"Where the Bible is preached."

11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926

Hollandchurch.org

Sunday Service @ 10:00 am

Pastor Dan Maketansky

• **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**

446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550

Phone: 508-765-9559

Web: www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org

Sunday Service 11:00 am

Pastor Dan Purtell

• **St. John Paul II Parish**

279 Hamilton St., Southbridge

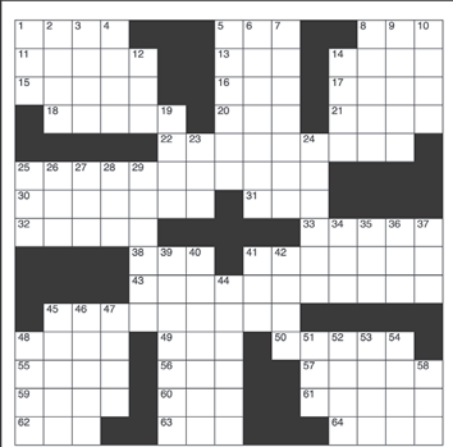
Rev. Carlos Ardila, Pastor

Weekend services Saturday 4 p.m.,

Sunday 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon

Weekday masses 8:30 & 8:45 a.m., St. Mary's Church

(508) 765-3701



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Egyptian bull-god
- 5. Romanian monetary unit
- 8. Will Ferrell holiday film
- 11. "It Ain't Half Hot Mum" actor
- 13. Error-related negativity
- 14. Volcanic crater
- 15. Boston Herald columnist Margery
- 16. True market value
- 17. Italian term for exchange rate
- 18. Informal loan clubs
- 20. Men's fashion accessory
- 21. Children's craft supply
- 22. Extra benefits
- 25. In an early way
- 30. A judge has one
- 31. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 32. Tractor unit
- 33. Defunct supercomputer developer
- 38. Promotional materials
- 41. A forgetful state
- 43. One who beheads
- 45. Photographers
- 48. Small, rich sponge cake
- 49. Clergy's vestment
- 50. Expressed pleasure
- 55. Abba, Israeli politician
- 56. Zero
- 57. Ancient Greek word for "careless"
- 59. Nigerian governmental area
- 60. Mild expression of surprise
- 61. Places to hang things
- 62. Keyboard key
- 63. Make a mistake
- 64. One-time president of Republic of Korea

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Bridge building degree
- 2. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 3. Large, stocky lizard
- 4. Romanian river
- 5. Communication
- 6. Stoats
- 7. Showcases
- 8. Bird of prey
- 9. King of Thebes
- 10. Cleaving tool
- 12. Large African antelope
- 14. Three are particularly notable
- 19. Meet one's needs
- 23. C. European river
- 24. Dictator
- 25. Indicates how much out of 100 (abbr.)
- 26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 27. Consume food
- 28. Woman (French)
- 29. Scrape a surface
- 34. Green vegetable
- 35. Pacific Standard Time
- 36. Capital of Brazilian city
- 37. Paddle
- 39. Cause to become insane
- 40. Drier and flaker
- 41. Mimic
- 42. ESPN personality Kimes
- 44. One who moves slowly
- 45. Secret political clique
- 46. Behind the stem of a ship
- 47. Supernatural force
- 48. Sanctuary
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Grayish white
- 53. Engrave by coating
- 54. North Carolina university
- 58. Midway between south and southeast



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AFTER 5PM

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Closed Mon & Tue

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Veterans' Service Officer Position

The Town of Sturbridge is accepting applications to fill the part-time, 10 hours per week, Veteran' Service Officer position. The position will act as a Veterans' Agent and thus requires all appropriate State and Federal certification. Applications are available on-line on the Town of Sturbridge website under job opportunities. <https://www.sturbridge.gov/your-government/pages/job-opportunities>

The position is non-union and reports to the Town Administrator. The Town is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).

Town of Sturbridge
Town Administrator
308 Main Street
Sturbridge MA 01566
BOSAdmin@sturbridge.gov

REAL ESTATE

Charlton \$699,000, 11 Yeoman Rd, Falcone Ft, and Falcone, Eric, to Padi, Mercy, and Padi, Clement.

\$599,900, 5 Glen Echo Shore Rd, Russell, Irena, to Barth Jr, James M, and Russell, Vonia M.

\$485,000, 149 Berry Corner Rd, Northrop, Kenneth, and Northrop, Natalie, to Riva, Joao Alexandre-C, and Riva, Erika Samara C.R.

SOUTHBRIDGE \$440,000, 89 Worcester St, Navedo Jr, Jose M, and Campbell, Julie B, to Altagracia, Dawlyn Jimene, and Peguero, Rosanny Jimenez.

\$399,900, 112 Chestnut St, Boyce, Sharon A-Jewell, to Schotanus, Sarah A.

\$370,000, 42 Arland Dr, Venture Cmnty Svcs Inc, to Blackman Rt, and Grady, Belinda.

\$275,000, 22 Winter St, Dionne, Paul Robert, and Dionne, Paul, to Castillo, Janeth, and Mayllazhongo, Jose.

STURBRIDGE \$357,000, 46 Westwood Dr, RA & Mary F Eastman Irt, and Proulx, Ann, to Sandstrom, Michael C.

TO PLACE AN AD WITH STONEBRIDGE PRESS: ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE MIKAELA VICTOR (774) 200-7308 mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

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TO PRINT AN OBITUARY: E-MAIL obits@stonebridgepress.news CALL: 508-909-4149

OR send to Stonebridge Ppress P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR: E-MAIL: news@stonebridgepress.news OR send to Stonebridge Press, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550'

STONEBRIDGE PRESS

STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER FRANK C. CHILINSKI FRANK@SALMONPRESS.NEWS

BUSINESS MANAGER RYAN CORNEAU 860-928-1818 EXT. 102 ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR JIM DINICOLA 508-764-6102 jim@stonebridgepress.news

EDITOR BRENDAN BERUBE 508-909-4101 news@stonebridgepress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER JULIE CLARKE 508-909-4105 julie@villagernewspapers.com

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Joshua Hyde Public Library

306 Main St.,
Sturbridge
508-347-2512
mayent@cwmar.org

**S P R I N G
TODDLER TIME** -
Tuesdays at 10:45am

A play-based story time where toddlers will work on valuable skills with their caregivers and socialize with kids their own age. Sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL. Through May 26, 2026.

SPRING BABY TIME - Wednesdays at 10:45

Join Ms. Meredith for songs, rhymes, fingerplays and stories. For children 2 years and younger with an adult caregiver. Sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL. Through May 27, 2026.

SPRING STORY TIME - Fridays at 10:45

Stories, songs, rhymes and a craft. Designed for children 3-5 years old but open to kids of all ages with an adult caregiver. Through May 29, 2026.

Wednesdays from 5:00pm to 7:00pm

WEEKLY TECH HELP

Free tech assistance! Bring your own device or use our available computers. We can assist with: Printing, E-mailing, Microsoft Office Suite, Google Suite, word processing, digitizing photos and scanning documents, setting up eBooks and audio books through Libby onto your tablet or smartphone, device setup and updates, basic smartphone and tablet use, accessing Library databases and resources, and

more. Need help with something else? Just ask! Please note: This is BASIC tech assistance. We cannot repair broken devices, recover lost passwords, or enter your private information (such as a bank number) online. Please have your passwords ready. Please make an appointment.

**Saturday, May 2 - 1:00pm to 2:00pm
LET'S MEET... A DPW WORKER**

Let's meet a DPW worker! A local DPW worker for Sturbridge, will be stopping by the library to talk to kids about the important work a DPW department does for its town. Children will have the chance to ask questions and make a craft. They will even get to see a dump truck up close and personal! For ages 3 to 12 with an adult caregiver.

**Monday, May 4 - 3:30pm to 4:30pm
FAMILY CRAFT TIME: PAPER FLOWERS**

Kids ages 7-12 and their caretakers are invited to create their own variety of paper flowers. Registration is required.

**Monday, May 4 - 7:00pm to 8:00pm
VIRTUAL - A DISCUSSION WITH ROMANCE AUTHOR REBECCA ZANETTI**

You all know how much we love our talk with romance authors and this one is a doozy! We're chatting with megastar, Rebecca Zanetti, and we're catching her between book launches! "You Can Scream", The fifth book in the Laurel

Snow series will be out in December 2025 and "One Shattered Crown", the 3rd book in the Grimm Bargains series comes out in June 2026. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Ashland Public Library in collaboration with a multitude of MA libraries.

**Tuesday, May 5 - 6:30pm to 8:00pm at the Town Hall
COME AS YOU ARE: STRESS, CONTEXT & THE BRAIN**

Part 2 of 3 - Discussion of the book "Come as You Are: The Surprising New Science That Will Transform Your Sex Life" by Emily Nagoski, PhD. The topic of this discussion is Stress, Context, and the Brain - For anyone feeling blocked, overwhelmed, or disconnected from desire.

**Monday, May 11 - 7:30pm to 8:30pm
VIRTUAL - "A GUARDIAN AND A THIEF" WITH AUTHOR MEGHA MAJUMDAR**

We're so thrilled to be chatting with author Megha Majumdar about her most recent book, A Guardian and A Thief, an Oprah's Book Club Pick! This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Ashland Public Library in collaboration with a multitude of MA libraries.

**Tuesday, May 12 - 1:00pm to 2:00pm
AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP**

This month's book is "The Martha's Vineyard Beach and Book Club" by Martha Hall Kelly.

**Tuesday, May 12 - 6:30pm to 8:00pm at the Town Hall
COME AS YOU ARE: BODY IMAGE, PLEASURE, & SELF-TRUST**

The final discussion of the book "Come as You Are: The Surprising New Science That Will Transform Your Sex Life" by Emily Nagoski, PhD. The topic of this discussion is Stress, Context, and the Brain - For anyone feeling blocked, overwhelmed, or disconnected from desire.

has been shown to support mindfulness and reduce everyday stress. This program is suitable for teens and adults.

**Sunday, May 10 - 12:30pm to 1:30pm
BOOK SIGNING WITH WALTER HERSEEE : COMMON WITNESS**

Author Walter Hersee will talk about his book "Common Witness - Recovered Histories of a New England Town Sturbridge, Massachusetts". Topics covered include heroes, musicians, over achievers, artists, diplomats, theater, murder and mystery! Books will be available for purchase.

**Monday, May 11 - 7:30pm to 8:30pm
VIRTUAL - "A GUARDIAN AND A THIEF" WITH AUTHOR MEGHA MAJUMDAR**

We're so thrilled to be chatting with author Megha Majumdar about her most recent book, A Guardian and A Thief, an Oprah's Book Club Pick! This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Ashland Public Library in collaboration with a multitude of MA libraries.

**Tuesday, May 12 - 1:00pm to 2:00pm
AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP**

This month's book is "The Martha's Vineyard Beach and Book Club" by Martha Hall Kelly.

**Tuesday, May 12 - 6:30pm to 8:00pm at the Town Hall
COME AS YOU ARE: BODY IMAGE, PLEASURE, & SELF-TRUST**

The final discussion of the book "Come as You Are: The Surprising New Science That Will Transform Your Sex Life" by Emily Nagoski, PhD. The topic of this discussion is Stress, Context, and the Brain - For anyone feeling blocked, overwhelmed, or disconnected from desire.

sion of the book "Come as You Are: The Surprising New Science That Will Transform Your Sex Life" by Emily Nagoski, PhD. The topic of this discussion is Body Image, Pleasure, & Self-Trust - for anyone wanting practical tools for self-acceptance and more pleasure.

You can attend one or both of these remaining two discussions taking place upstairs at the Sturbridge Town Hall. This event is led by Kelly Tull, WHNP, CSC from Venus Collective. Books are available at the JHPL, and downloadable as e-books or e-audio on Libby. Sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.

**Saturday, May 16 - 1:00pm to 2:00pm
MINI BIG TOP CIRCUS SHOW**

The (mini) circus is coming to town! The JHPL is happy to be partnering with performing group Small But Mighty to bring a circus show and workshop to the Family Fun Day festivities. The show is free for all to enjoy. Children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Sturbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

**Monday, May 18 - 3:30pm to 4:30pm
FAMILY CRAFT TIME: CLAY TRINKET DISHES**

Kids ages 5 to 12 and their caretakers are invited to make their own trinket dish

using air dry clay and all sorts of fun decorations. Registration is required.

**Monday, May 18 - 7:00pm to 8:00pm
VIRTUAL - "BANNING BOOKS IN AMERICA: NOT A HOW TO" WITH AUTHOR SAMUEL COHEN**

We all have thoughts and feelings about the rise of book bannings in America so this is a great opportunity to have a discussion about it! Join author and professor, Samuel Cohen, for a conversation on his most recent release, "Banning Books in America: Not a How-to". This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Ashland Public Library in collaboration with a multitude of MA libraries.

**Wednesday, May 20 - 6:30pm to 7:30pm
ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS BOOK GROUP**

This month's book is "The Forest of Vanishing Stars" by Kristin Harmel.

**Thursday, May 21 - 6:00pm to 7:00pm
P O K É M O N CLUB**

Young Pokémon fans and their caregivers are invited to join us for themed activities and fun! Kids can also bring their card collections to play the official TCG game or simply show off their favorites. This program is best for ages 5-12 with an adult caregiver.

**Tuesday, May 26 - 6:30pm to 7:30pm
WORLD BUILDING BOOK GROUP**

This month's book is "Annihilation" by Jeff VanderMeer.

**Thursday, May 28 - 6:30pm to 8:30pm
BOOK SPEED DATING AT DEEP ROOTS**

DISTILLERY

Find your next great read! Think speed dating, but instead of talking about yourself, you talk about that book you want to recommend to everyone. How it works: 1) Sign up to talk about one book you love - any genre... 2) Spend the evening sharing it with a rotating cast of fellow readers 3) Leave the event with 29 new titles to put on your summer reading list! You'll have 90 seconds at each table to pitch

your pick. Tickets are \$10 and include one cocktail or non-alcoholic drink of your choice and snacks. Additional food and drinks will be available for purchase. Ages 21+. Space is limited to just 30 people! Tickets are available online.

All programs are sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL unless otherwise indicated.

To register for programs and for more information go to sturbridglibrary.org.

CHARLTON ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
May 2 8AM-8PM
Heritage School

CHARLTON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 18 7PM
Charlton Middle School

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YEAR-ROUND SHORT-TERM RENTAL Egrets Landing-31A - LIGHTHOUSE POINT CONDOMINIUMS - TYBEE ISLAND, GEORGIA

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LIONS CLUB

continued from page A2 April 30.

Three applicants will be selected from the pool of candidates; applications that do not include all required material or are received after the deadline will not be considered. Winners will be notified by May 31. To receive the scholarship, winners must then complete their first semester of study in a post-secondary program, submit a transcript of that work, and be enrolled in their second semester (or the equivalent in a

non-academic program).

In addition to its annual scholarship program, The Charlton Lions Club raises funds for holiday gifts for needy families, youth activities, disaster relief, diabetes programs and assistance dog organizations. They also help install handicap ramps and conduct vision and hearing testing at local events. For more information about the club, its projects, and how to become a member, please visit: thecharltonlions.com.

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MAY 1ST AND 2ND, 2026

Join us for a great cause! All proceeds benefit the Windham County 4-H Foundation, Inc., sponsors of the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp and Ragged Hill Woods Environmental Program

Over 4,000 sq ft of household, garden, toys, tools, linens, Christmas... We have it all!

A little bit of everything will be on the auction block. Restaurants, tourist attractions. New & antique furniture & collectibles.

Preview @ 5 pm Auction @ 6 pm with Auctioneer Ernie Eldridge

- **FRIDAY** come bid on a Cape Escape or a ride on the Essex Steam Train
- **SATURDAY** is sports night including 2 VIP Red Sox Tickets for July 21, signed memorabilia from the Bruins and much more!

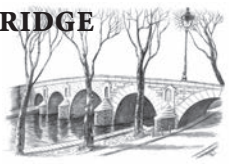
Donated Items may be delivered to the lower level of the lodge at Camp April 15 - April 28
M-W-F: 9 am - 5 pm Tue & Thurs: 9 am - 7 pm Saturday: 9 am - 2 pm
contact info: 860-974-3379 or wc4hfounders@gmail.com

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER
BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

A hometown return that reminds us what culture can do

Later this month, something quietly meaningful will happen at Jacob Edwards Library.

A former Southbridge resident will return home, not for ceremony or recognition, but to share music. And in doing so, he will help remind the community what a place like ours can still be when the arts are allowed to breathe.

Boston-based guitarist and composer Aaron Larget-Caplan's upcoming performance is more than a concert. It is an example of how national history and local identity can meet in a room that many residents pass every day without realizing how much possibility it holds.

His program, drawn from his newly released album marking the nation's approaching 250th anniversary, travels across more than two centuries of American music and literature. It brings together composers, poets, traditions, and voices that shaped the country. Yet the most powerful part of the evening may not be the repertoire itself. It may be the fact that the performance is happening here.

Small towns sometimes assume that major cultural experiences belong elsewhere. They belong in Boston. In Worcester. In New York. Not in Southbridge.

Events like this prove otherwise.

A free public concert at the library makes the arts accessible in the most practical way possible. No ticket barrier. No travel required. No expectation that audiences already understand classical guitar or American musical history. Instead, it invites residents to simply come in, sit down, and listen.

That matters more than we often admit.

Libraries have always been more than shelves of books. In communities like ours, they function as gathering places, classrooms, performance halls, and shared civic living rooms. When artists return to perform in those spaces, they reinforce something important. Culture is not imported from outside. It grows here too.

There is also something especially fitting about this performance arriving as the country approaches its 250th anniversary. National milestones can feel distant or abstract, but music and poetry make them personal again. They remind us that history is not only made in capitals and battlefields. It is also shaped in towns like Southbridge, where generations of families built lives that became part of the larger American story.

Equally important is the role of the Southbridge Cultural Council in supporting programs like this one. Local cultural funding often operates quietly in the background, yet it makes experiences like this possible. Without that support, many communities would see far fewer opportunities to gather around the arts.

There is pride in seeing someone with national and international experience return to a place that helped shape his early years. There is also value in recognizing what that return offers the community today. It brings perspective. It brings connection. It brings a reminder that creativity has always had a place here.

As the nation begins to reflect on 250 years of shared history, events like this help anchor that reflection in something immediate and human. A guitar. A poem. A familiar room. A hometown audience.

Sometimes, that is exactly what a community needs.

To the Editor:

As everyone knows, the war in Iran is seriously hurting the global oil supply, and prices are now floating around \$100 a barrel. Chances are, those will go higher – how high depends on how stupid the warmongers get – but the probable damage to our economy is basically already baked in for at least the rest of this year.

Among other things, experts have noted oil production is down by about 20 million barrels a day because many Persian Gulf producers can't transport it, leading to a serious

Letter submission policy

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

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

OPINION

Ten tips for a sustainable garden

BY DAWN PETTINELLI
CHARLTON GARDEN CLUB

Mulches reduce evaporation and conserve water.

Native plants support native insects including pollinators.

Soil test to ensure the pH and nutrients are in the proper range for plant growth.

Water infrequently but deeply.

Remove diseased plant material and bury it or discard it in the trash.

Choose plant varieties with disease and/or insect resistance to lessen the need for pesticides.

Learn about Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to control pests with least harm to the environment and beneficial creatures.

Plant trees to cool your property, provide habitat for birds, and sequester carbon.

Do not apply fertilizers before April 15th or after October 15th.

Build a compost pile to recycle garden and kitchen wastes instead of sending them to landfills.

Emergency funds offer breathing room when it matters

Everyone needs an emergency fund. Financial experts recommend it, and we've all experienced surprise expenses: a costly car repair, a broken water heater or unexpected medical bills. Despite our best intentions, building a financial cushion can feel impossible. After rent or mortgage, groceries, utilities, and everyday expenses, it seems there's nothing left to save.

If this sounds familiar, you're not alone. Many Americans struggle to maintain emergency savings. But building those savings doesn't necessarily require massive lifestyle changes or windfalls. With a strategic approach and realistic milestones, you can create the financial safety net you need.

Start small and build momentum. Traditional advice suggests saving three to six months of total expenses. It's excellent goal but can feel overwhelming when you're starting from zero.

Instead, begin with a more achievable target, such as \$500 or a full month's worth of expenses. The key is to get started and contribute consistently.

Even a few hundred dollars can provide meaningful protection and help you avoid relying on credit cards or high interest loans. This initial milestone can cover many medium-sized emergencies. Once you reach the first milestone, work toward one and a half to two months of expenses, then the full three to six months.

Find money you didn't know you had. Building your emergency fund doesn't always require cutting expenses. If you're employed, set up automatic transfers from your paycheck into a separate savings account. Cancel subscriptions you rarely use, shop around for better insurance rates and take advantage of sales whenever you can.



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Consider saving windfalls like tax refunds, work bonuses or birthday money. If your budgeted expenses come in lower than expected — perhaps your health care costs or home maintenance needs were less than anticipated this month — save the difference in your emergency fund.

Have a dedicated account for your fund. Keep your emergency savings in a separate account from your regular checking, so you're less tempted to use the money for non-emergencies. Choose an account that's easily accessible and without penalties and, while you shouldn't invest emergency money in stocks or bonds, look for an account that earns interest.

Balance competing priorities. Building an emergency fund is important, but it shouldn't come at the expense of other crucial financial goals. If you're carrying high-interest debt or missing out on your employer's retirement contribution matches, address those priorities first, while still building your emergency savings.

Ultimately, you'll want to balance your emergency fund with other goals. To determine an emergency savings target, consider your personal risk for unexpected expenses, your job security and family circumstances. You may need three to six months' worth of savings, or possibly some other amount. If this step feels overwhelming, ask a financial advisor to help you come up with a suitable plan.

The path to financial security requires progress rather than perfection. Begin where you are, use what you have and take one small step at a time. That first \$500 might feel modest, but it represents the freedom to handle whatever life throws your way.

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

When the town clock still keeps time

LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET

By CHARLES

There are some sounds you don't notice until they disappear.

In a lot of Massachusetts towns, there's still a clock somewhere that strikes the hour. Sometimes it's on a church steeple. Sometimes it's on the old town hall. Once in a while it's tucked into a square you pass every day without really looking up. But if you stand still long enough, you can hear it doing its quiet work.

I grew up with one of those clocks nearby. It rang out every hour, whether anyone was paying attention or not. As a boy, I didn't think much about it. It was simply part of the background, like the sound of a screen door closing or a dog barking two streets over.

Later in life, I began to notice how steady it was.

The clock didn't hurry when the day felt rushed. It didn't slow down when a summer evening stretched longer than expected. It kept time the same way every day, through snowstorms and parades and ordinary Tuesdays that nobody would remember except the people who lived them.

That kind of reliability leaves a mark on you.

Not long ago, I was walking through a downtown I have visited for years and suddenly realized the clock I expected to hear was silent. The tower was still there. The hands were still pointing somewhere near the right hour. But the sound was gone.

It surprised me how much I missed it.

A town clock is not a dramatic thing. It does not announce emergencies. It does not gather crowds. Most people do not check their watches against it anymore. Still, it says something important without speaking directly. It tells you that your town has been keeping

track of time longer than any one of us has lived here.

There is comfort in that.

I sometimes think those clocks helped shape how people once moved through the day. Noon meant something when you could hear it ring.

Six o'clock meant supper was near. Nine o'clock meant it might be time to head home. The sound traveled farther than any calendar reminder ever will.

Even now, when I hear one strike the hour, I pause for just a moment.

It reminds me that the same sound reached people who stood in that same place fifty years ago. Maybe they were carrying groceries. Maybe they were walking home from work. Maybe they were meeting someone they planned to marry. The clock marked their afternoons too, whether they noticed or not.

We talk a lot about preserving old buildings, and that matters. But sometimes what really stays with us is not the structure itself. It is the life that continues around it.

A clock that still rings is a sign that a town is paying attention to its own rhythm.

Every so often, when I pass through a center where the bell still sounds the hour, I find myself slowing down without meaning to. I listen until the last note fades. Then I go on with whatever I was doing before, feeling just a little more connected to the place than I did a minute earlier.

It is a small thing, I know.

Still, in a Massachusetts town where the clock is still keeping time, it feels like something worth listening for.

TO THE EDITOR

Join Grassroots Central Mass' skill share and seed swap

To the Editor:

The time is right to join Grassroots Central Mass in a skill share and seed swap! It will be held on Sunday, April 26 at 1:30 p.m. on the Southbridge Common. Join Grassroots Central Mass for an afternoon skill sharing event!

Bring your extra seeds, your questions and learn about

starting seeds in a container or in the ground. Learn about garden upcycling and gardening on a budget along with your neighbors and community! Bring your extra seeds, knowledge, and ideas!

Maureen Doyle
Southbridge

We need to plan now for the impact of the war in Iran

drop in the many petrochemicals our society runs on (plastics, fertilizers, lubricants and others). Most crucial is the fertilizer; a significant part of the world's supply comes from urea in the Persian Gulf, which is now being blocked at a time when most of the Northern Hemisphere needs it for planting.

Most of us have no real idea how dependent we are on oil for almost everything, and none of this should have happened. Even if the war ends today (there's no indication it

will), restoring the flow of those things will take months.

With the council now looking at its budget, it's time to put some serious money aside to address the likely impact of the oil issues on our residents, especially for food and fuel assistance. It should include creating a local stockpile of non-perishable food above what the already over-burdened food pantries now provide. A stockpile would help offset the fact our supermarkets are very dependent on

long-distance trucking for most supplies, but those are only temporary approaches.

Beyond that, we need an organized effort to encourage residents to share skills and tools, grow anything we can, be it in pots, personal gardens or community gardens, and a start a publicly-owned food forest and/or farm ASAP. Anybody interested can contact me at 508-764-8042 or electgus2026@gmail.com.

Gus Steeves
Southbridge

Bruce Menin has the experience to confront Charlton's challenges

To the Editor:

At a time when the democratic process is sorely challenged, we need professional, mature and affable people to deal with the challenges. The Bruce Menin that I know has the maturity and the tenacity to confront the challenges.

Without harmony, little gets done, and the experience that Bruce brings to the table is an invaluable asset at this time.

I unreservedly endorse Bruce Menin for Select Board in Charlton.

Michael Lally
Charlton

Who is Kristin Martin?

To the Editor:

Critical thinker, determined, fun with a splash of spunk is what you might think if you met Kristin Martin. Some call her coach, others call her a friend, the very lucky get to call her mom. However, everyone who knows Kristin, knows her as the woman who gets the job done... with excellence.

So, who is Kristin Martin? She is a Senior Data Engineer by trade, dedicated volunteer by night and a full-time super hero mom 100 percent of the time. She has served for several years as a School Council

member, youth soccer coach, non-profit volunteer and the person who always raises her hand when there is hard work that needs to be done.

If you like a responsible, hardworking person that digs down into the details and thinks critically to solve issues, then vote May 2 Kristin Martin for the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District's one-year seat.

Anthony M. Aube
Charlton

Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust to hold Annual Meeting

CHARLTON — The Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust has announced that it will hold its annual meeting on April 29 at the Charlton Public Library Community Room, located at 40 Main St. in Charlton. The starting time is 6:30 p.m., and is scheduled for an hour.

Every year, CHPT invites members of the trust to come together to elect a Board of Trustees. Trust officers will be elected from the board. The board sets the vision and goals for the upcoming year. The general public is invited to attend with an opportunity to become members.

CHPT is a 501(c)3 non-profit land trust that relies on the dedication of volunteers. The organization is committed to conserving open space in Charlton. It currently stewards 19 parcels covering over 200 acres. Recently, CHPT has collaborated with the Charlton Historical Society for talks about mill life at their Little River mill ruins site, sponsored a birding in Central Massachusetts talk by Mass Audubon and led a hike on the Midstate Trail through the storied cow tunnel.

Members of the current board of trustees will be representing CHPT on Saturday, April 25 for Charlton's Earth Day Fest on the town commons from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please stop by to learn more about the annual

meeting and what CHPT is involved in.

CHPT offers an opportunity to help protect open spaces and continue to bring programming that showcases Charlton's heritage and ecology. We welcome all who are

interested. For further information, please visit our Web site at www.charltontrust.org or our Facebook page.

Local students named to Emerson College Dean's List

BOSTON — The following students are named to Emerson College's Dean's List for the Fall 2025 semester. To make the Dean's List, students must have a grade point average of 3.7 or higher for that semester.

Bethany Loach of Uxbridge
Julia Psuik of Uxbridge
Mckenna Smith of Uxbridge
Grace Linsley of Uxbridge
About Emerson College
Emerson College is uniquely dedicated to

the arts and communication, educating and inspiring storytellers and artists to impact and advance creative industries and media throughout the world. Distinguished faculty spearhead a dynamic curriculum, and guide several thousand undergraduate students and 1,300 graduate students to exhibit an unyielding spirit of creativity, professionalism, and critical thought, to transform lives, and make a profound impact on our community and beyond.

Based in the world-class city of Boston, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theater District, the College offers experiential learning programs in Boston and across the globe: at Emerson Los Angeles, located in Hollywood, at its 14th-century castle, in the Netherlands, and at 28 global programs. Emersonians, including 58,000+ alumni, shape industries, inspire change, and amplify voices that redefine our culture.

For more information, visit emerson.edu.

TO THE EDITOR CONTINUED

Kavorkian has earned my trust and my vote

To the Editor:

I very rarely comment on, or endorse, other candidates for office, as it would take an exceptional person (or issue) for me to ask my fellow residents to support one candidate or another. Well, Mike Kavorkian is such a candidate.

I only met Mike Kavorkian about a year or two ago, but I run into him everywhere doing charity work for our community. That's

something I rarely (if ever) see other elected officials doing... unless there was a photo opp or some other way they could benefit from it. Mike is cut from a different cloth. He regularly attends meetings of the select board to stay up on what's happening in our community and what the current challenges and solutions are that are being offered up. Unlike other candidates who only show up for meetings before elections... he shows

up... quietly... and just gets the job done. No agenda. No fanfare. No personal benefit. He's genuine in a world full of political charlatans. He truly cares about our neighborhoods and our families. He cares about Charlton today and our future success as a community and, to that end, he brings a wealth of business and corporate experience to the table. Mike is also a veteran. He has served and hopes to serve again for all of us.

All I ask, humbly, is that my fellow Charltonians give Mike Kavorkian a fair

chance. Listen to him, meet with him... you'll see the person behind the candidate and begin to understand why he is so widely supported in this community (by residents of many backgrounds, beliefs, and political views) for the seat on the Selectboard.

I know you will walk away with the same feelings about him that I have. I trust Mike Kavorkian, and I'm voting for Mike Kavorkian.

David Singer
Charlton

Menin is a proven leader

To the Editor:

As a longtime Charlton resident, community volunteer and public official, I am proud to offer my enthusiastic endorsement of Bruce Menin for Seat 5 on the Charlton Select Board. (Steve Koronis, seeking re-election to Seat 4 is unopposed.)

Experience matters. Bruce is a proven, effective leader with extensive municipal governance experience and exceptional leadership skills. His decades of public service have equipped him with keen insight into creating efficient and responsive government.

Commitment matters. Bruce is a dedicated, hard-working individual who consistently puts in the effort needed to be an outstanding Board member. Having worked with Bruce on a subcommittee, I can attest that he reli-

ably attends meetings, thoroughly prepares, listens attentively, and values mutual respect, civility, and cooperation. He fosters collaborative problem-solving and promotes unity within the group.

Actions matter — and speak louder than words. I commend Bruce for his ongoing commitment to public service; he has consistently proven his dedication through years of genuine effort, not just promises.

I encourage you to cast your vote for Bruce Menin for the Charlton Select Board on Saturday, May 2. Your support will help ensure strong, effective leadership for our community.

Karen A. Spiewak
Charlton

Join me in voting for Mike Kavorkian

To the Editor:

I am writing to offer my strong endorsement of Mike Kavorkian for election to the Charlton Select Board. As a resident and former member of the board, I believe it is critical that we elect leaders who demonstrate integrity, sound judgement, and a genuine commitment to serving the public. Mike embodies all of these qualities.

What sets Mike apart is his ability to listen and collaborate. He understands that effective leadership requires engaging with residents, businesses, and fellow officials to develop practical solutions. His approach is both inclusive and results-driven, ensuring that diverse perspectives are considered while keeping the focus on meaningful prog-

ress. In addition, Mike has demonstrated a strong commitment to transparency and accountability. He recognizes the importance of building trust with the community and is dedicated to making decisions that reflect the best interests of all residents.

Lastly, make no mistake about it — although we have been fortunate to have been in a strong financial position over the past seven years, a time of reckoning is on the horizon where fiscal responsibility will be paramount, and his private industry financial experience will be needed. So, please join me in voting for Mike Kavorkian on May 2.

Regards,

Bill Borowski
Charlton

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May events at Charlton Public Library

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

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

The library will be closed Saturdays beginning May 23. The library will be closed Monday, May 25.

Movies @ the Library

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

May 5: **HAMNET**. This will be shown in the COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM. In late 16th-century England, Agnes, a healer sensitive to the world around her, builds a home with William, a local tutor and aspiring playwright. As their lives fracture, they are tested by distance, silence, and grief. 2025. Rated PG-13. 125 minutes. Starring: Jessie Buckley, Paul Mescal, & Zac Wishart.

May 12: **THE NAMESAKE**. A poignant saga of cultures clashing across generations as a Bengali family attempts to acclimate to life in the U.S. The American-born Gogol wants to fit in among his fellow New Yorkers despite his family's unwillingness to let go of their traditional ways. 2006. Rated PG-13. 122 minutes. Featuring: Irrfan Khan, Kal Penn, Jagannath Guha, Tabu, & Ruma Guha Thakurta.

May 19: **YELLOW ROSE**. In rural Texas, a Filipino teen longs to make her mark on the world of country music. When an unexpected opportunity comes her way, she must make a choice between upholding her family's traditions or leaving them all behind to pursue her lifelong aspiration. 2019. Rated PG-13. 94 minutes. Cast: Eva Noblezada, Princess Punzalan, Dale Watson, Liam Booth, & Lea Salonga.

May 26: **ANACONDA**. A group of friends are going through a mid-life crisis. They decide to remake a favorite movie from their youth but encounter unexpected events when they enter the jungle. 2025. Rated PG-13. 98 minutes. Starring: Jack Black, Paul Rudd, & Steve Zahn.

Book Donations Accepted!

The Friends of Charlton Library will be accepting donations of books in like new or very good condition for their big book sale on Saturday, May 9! Donations may be brought into the Library during open hours from Tuesday, April 21 until Friday, May 8. Please note we will not accept: items with mold or water damage, covered in dirt or dust, VHS tapes, music CDs, Readers Digest Condensed books, textbooks, dictionaries and encyclopedias. Please do not leave donations in our outside book return bins.

Online Health Resources at a Glance

Friday, May 1, 11:00-12:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Join us for a lecture presentation that will discuss online health resources. In today's

digital world, the internet is a powerful tool for learning about health and wellness. This class will explain why and how participants might use online health resources to find accurate information and make informed decisions about their care and the care of loved ones. This is for people ages 60 and up. This Senior Planet from AARP class is being offered through the Senior Planet licensing program.

Play Games!

Mondays, May 4 (party games), 11 (Cribbage), 18 (Scrabble), 12:30-2:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required. Beginners and experienced players are welcome! Join us to play an old favorite or learn a new game!

Intro to Google Keep

Saturday, May 2, 1:30-2:30 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Looking for an easy way to keep track of notes, lists, and reminders? This beginner-friendly class will introduce you to Google Keep, a simple tool for organizing ideas and everyday tasks. Learn how to create notes and checklists, set reminders, add labels, and use color-coding to keep everything organized. Perfect for anyone who wants a quick and convenient way to capture thoughts, plan tasks, and stay organized across their devices. This project was funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the MassTech Collaborative under the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Wiggles & Giggles

Monday, May 4, 10:00-11:00 am - Storytime Room - registration required

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

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

The Crafty Chapter (Formerly Fiber Arts Club for Tweens & Teens)

Monday, May 4, and Wednesday, May 20, 3:30-4:30 pm - Storytime Room - registration not required

Do you like to knit, crochet, sew, embroider, needle felt, or do other fiber arts? Really, any portable craft is welcome! Join us to hang out, practice your craft, learn from more experienced friends, or share your knowledge with others! **Please bring your current projects

to work on!!** This group is best suited for tweens and teens aged 9-18. (Teen Volunteers: You can earn community service hours for attending and participating in this program!)

Tiny Tots Storytime (ages 0-2.5)

Tuesdays, May 5, 12, 19, 10:00-10:45 am - Storytime Room

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

Creating a Budget Tracker through Google Sheets

Tuesday, May 5, 6:00-7:00 pm OR Saturday, May 9, 1:30-2:30 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Take control of your finances with this beginner-friendly workshop designed to help you build a fully functional budget tracker using Google Sheets. Whether you're new to spreadsheets or just starting your personal finance journey, this workshop will guide you step-by-step through creating a simple, organized, and customizable budgeting system. You'll learn how to set up income and expense categories, use basic formulas to automate calculations, and design a clean, easy-to-use layout. By the end of the course, you'll have your own personalized budget tracker that helps you monitor spending, identify savings opportunities, and make more informed financial decisions. No prior experience with spreadsheets is required—just a willingness to learn and a desire to better manage your money. This project was funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the MassTech Collaborative under the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Baby Storytime (0-12 months)

Wednesdays, May 6, 13, 20, 10:00-10:45 am - Storytime Room - no registration required

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

Better Read Than Dead Book Club

Wednesday, May 6, 11:00-12:00 - Local History Room - no registration required

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

Cohen.

Dementia Friendly Charlton Meeting
Wednesday, May 6, 2:30-3:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required, all welcome.

Books and Blooms

Wednesday, May 6 through Saturday, May 9
The Friends of the Charlton Public Library, Charlton Garden Club, and Charlton Library are pleased to present our inaugural Books and Blooms event! From May 6-9 the main floor of the Library will feature floral displays inspired by books. Visit any time during regular Library hours to view the display.

Young Scientists Stem Program

Thursdays, May 7, 14, 21, 28, June 4, 10:15-11:00 am - Storytime Room - registration required

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

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

Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

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

Preschool Storytime (Ages 3-5)

Fridays, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 10:00-10:45 am - Storytime Room

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

Lego Club

Friday, May 1, 3:30-4:30 pm - Storytime Room - no registration required

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

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

Tuesdays, May 5, 12, 19, 26 from 4:30-

Turn To LIBRARY page A7

Community Connection

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Gateway Players announce auditions for Jimmy Buffett's "Escape to Margaritaville"

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge is hosting auditions for "Jimmy Buffett's Escape to Margaritaville," with book by Greg Garcia

and Mike O'Malley and music and lyrics by none other than the late Jimmy Buffett. Auditions will be held on Monday, May 4 at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesday, May 5 at 6:30 p.m. in

Fellowship Hall at Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm Street, Southbridge.

For auditions, please prepare a Jimmy Buffett song. There will also be cold readings from the script, and simple dance routines. Tap dance experience a plus. Performance dates are July 31, and August 1 & 2 at the Southbridge Middle/High School Auditorium. Rehearsals are tentatively scheduled for Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6-9 p.m. Directed by Patricia Haddock, Produced by Kathi Grenier, and the musical director is Chris Rubenacker. For more information, please contact Gateway at 508-764-4531. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals. This musical-comedy has lead roles for two women ages 20-30, and two men in their 30's, and featured roles for 1 female in their 40's, 1 male in the 40-50 range, and one male or female 20-30, and various ensemble roles.

On a small island in the Caribbean, vacation goes and the laid-back staff of the Margaritaville bar flirt, unwind and sip drinks under the sun. When an ambitious tourist named Rachel arrives with her friend Tammy for a much-needed vacation, she finds an unexpected romance with Tully, the island bartender and musician. As paradise collides with real life, both are faced with deciding what they want beyond the sandy beaches of Margaritaville. This tropical romantic comedy has plenty to laugh at and a sweet love story — all underscored by Jimmy Buffett's classic tunes, including "Cheeseburger in Paradise," "Margaritaville," "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere," "Fins," "Volcano," and many more. With a book by Emmy Award winner Greg Garcia ("My Name is Earl," "Raising Hope") and Emmy nominee Mike O'Malley ("Survivor's Remorse," "Shameless"), this hilarious, heartwarming musical is the party you've been waiting for!

Charlton Lions Club & Overlook Tree Advisory Committee join forces

CHARLTON — The Charlton Lions Club and The Overlook Independent Living Tree Advisory Committee will join forces in April to improve their town. The two groups will host a booth at Charlton's Earth Fest, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Saturday, April 25 on the Charlton Town Common where they'll give away 100 sweetgum trees. As they do each year, the Lions will also participate in the town's roadside cleanup effort, which starts at 8 a.m. and the trees will be available at that time.

Each small sweetgum tree will come with instructions for planting and caring for it as it grows. Sweetgums (Liquidambar styraciflua) are large, decorative deciduous trees native to eastern North America. Their star-shaped leaves turn red and gold in the fall. The baby trees will be given to the first 100 Charlton residents who commit to planting and caring for the trees on their property. The trees will

be donated by Bartlett Tree Experts.

The Overlook Tree Advisory Committee is comprised of residents and staff of the Independent Living community as well as representatives of Bartlett Tree Experts and Babe's Landscape & Construction. The Committee's mission is to advise on ways to protect and maintain the trees on The Overlook Campus and to educate the community about trees and the importance of trees to our environment and wellbeing. Through the work of the Committee, The Overlook was recently named a Tree Healthcare Campus by the Arbor Day Foundation.

One focus of Lions Clubs International is protecting the environment to create healthier communities and a more sustainable world. The worldwide service organization encourages planting and caring for trees to contribute to cleaner air as part of their mission.

LIBRARY

5:30 pm

continued from page A6 Saturdays, May 2, 9, 16 from 10 am - noon

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

One-on-One Tech Help - Local History Room - registration required

Thursdays, May 7, 14, 28 at 4:30, 5:30, or 6:30 pm

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

Genealogy Group

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

The Charlton Library Genealogy Group is a friendly group of people who share an interest in genealogy. We meet monthly on the first Thursday of the month from 6:30-7:30 in the Local History Room. Meetings will alternate between general discussion topics and guest presenters. The meetings are free and open to the public.

MyChart: An Introduction

Friday, May 8, 12:30-1:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Join us for a lecture presentation that will discuss MyChart. This class will provide an introduction to MyChart (what it is and how it can be used) and its key features. This is for people ages 60 and up. This Senior Planet from AARP class is being offered through the Senior Planet licensing program.

Kids Yoga with Lindsey

Fridays, May 8 & 22, 4:00-4:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

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

Friends of the Library Book Sale

Saturday, May 9, 10:00-2:00 pm - Dexter Hall - no registration required

The Friends of the Library will be having a book sale!

Getting Started with Zoom

Monday, May 11, 10:30-11:30 am - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Are you curious about Zoom? We'll walk through the steps of signing up for a free Zoom account during this class for people ages 60 and up. This Senior Planet from AARP class is being offered through the Senior Planet licensing program.

iPhone Essentials: Control Center and Files

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

required

This class covers essential features included in the iPhone and iPad. We learn to use tools such as a flashlight, timer, calculator, and alarm. We also explore the Files app, where we can scan documents and organize files. Registration is required.

Ballroom Dancing

Tuesday, May 12, 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - no registration required

We're partnering with Bay Path Evening School to swing into summer in style! Join us in beautiful Dexter Hall for an enchanted evening of ballroom dancing. Everyone is welcome, come alone or bring a partner. No registration is required.

DIY Bath Products

Tuesday, May 12, 6:00-7:30 pm OR Wednesday, May 13, 11:00-12:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required. In this month's adult craft everyone will get their hands dirty making their own bath products! We'll talk about how and why it's inexpensive and easy to make your own products. Everyone will leave with their own sugar scrub and bath bomb! For adults and teens ages 13 and up.

Instagram 101: Snap, Share & Connect

Tuesday, May 12, 6:00-7:00 pm OR Saturday, May 16, 1:30-2:30 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Curious about Instagram but not sure where to start? This hands-on workshop will guide you through the basics of using Instagram in a fun, supportive environment. You'll learn how to set up your profile, post photos and videos, explore content, and connect with friends, family, or your community. We'll also cover tips for privacy, safety, and making the most of features like Stories and Reels. Perfect for beginners or anyone looking to build confidence using Instagram! This project was funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the MassTech Collaborative under the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Book Group @ the Senior Center

Wednesday, May 13, 10:30-11:30 am - Senior Center @ Town Hall

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

Open Session with Jack-Jack the Therapy Dog

Wednesdays, May 13 & 27, 3:30-4:30 pm - Storytime Room - no registration required

This is an open session to visit with our Therapy Dog, Jack-Jack. Jack-Jack's breed is Coton de Tulear, and he is a licensed therapy dog. Turn To LIBRARY page A10

Debra Bedula elected to membership in Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, La. — Debra Bedula of Wales was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at Framingham State University.

Bedula is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States and its territories. Its mission is to "cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning."

Founded in 1897, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Phi Kappa Phi inducts approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni annually. The Society has chapters on more than 300 select colleges and universities in the United States and its territories. Membership is by invitation only to the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students and 7.5 percent of juniors. Faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction also qualify. The Society's mission is to "cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning." For more information, visit www.PhiKappaPhi.org.

Founding in 1897, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Phi Kappa Phi inducts approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni annually. The Society has chapters on more than 300 select colleges and universities in the United States and its territories. Membership is by invitation only to the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students and 7.5 percent of juniors. Faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction also qualify. The Society's mission is to "cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning." For more information, visit www.PhiKappaPhi.org.

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LEGALS

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

Docket No. 26 SM 001221

ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: Tyson Mannix; Nicole LeGuern and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq): Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Sturbridge, numbered 13 Woodlawn Drive, given by Tyson Mannix and Nicole LeGuern to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Rocket Mortgage, LLC, FKA Quicken Loans, LLC, its successors and assigns, dated October 5, 2021, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66228, Page 159, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 5/25/26 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 4/13/2026. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, RECORDER April 23, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Lisa S. Phaneuf-Perry, Raymond K. Perry to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC, dated May 3, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66563, Page 353, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC, its successors and assigns to Rocket Mortgage, LLC, FKA Quicken Loans, LLC, recorded on June 12, 2023, in Book No. 69240, at Page 103

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 3:00 PM on May 22, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 294 Brookfield Road, Fiskdale (Sturbridge), Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

Tax Id Number(s): 173-00443-294

Land situated in the City of Sturbridge in the County of Worcester in the State of MA

THE LAND IN STURBRIDGE, WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS, WITH THE BUILDINGS THEREON SITUATED ON THE EASTERLY SIDE OF BROOKFIELD ROAD (ROUTE 148) AND BEING LOT 4 AS SHOWN ON PLAN ENTITLED "PLAN OF LAND OF LOTS 2-3-4 IN STURBRIDGE, MASS. OWNED BY SWIACKI REALTY TRUST DATED AUGUST 20, 1985, ROBERT F. PARA, LAND SURVEYOR" SAID PLAN RECORDED WITH WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN PLAN BOOK 541, PLAN 77, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

WESTERLY BY SAID BROOKFIELD ROAD, (ROUTE 148), 150 FEET; NORTHERLY BY LAND FORMERLY OF SWIACKI REALTY TRUST, 290.40 FEET; EASTERLY BY OTHER LAND OF SWIACKI REALTY TRUST, 150 FEET; SOUTHERLY BY LOT 3 ON SAID PLAN, 290.40 FEET. CONTAINING 1.00 ACRE.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 44353, Page 360.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encum-

brances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC Present holder of said mortgage By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 29093

April 23, 2026

April 30, 2026

May 7, 2026

Town of Holland Zoning Board of Appeals Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with M.G. L Chapter 40A Section 9, the Holland Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, April 29 at 7:15 P.M.** at the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Rd, 1st Floor Community Room, Holland, MA 01521.

If dial in access is needed, please contact the Town Hall at 413-245-7108 x101.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider a request for a **Variance on setbacks** according to Holland Bylaw section 9. **Relief requested:** Build a new garage

The property located at: **2 Vinton Way Parcel ID # R09/A/10 – R09/A/14**

Don Beal, Chairperson

Zoning Board of Appeals

Date: 4/9/2026

April 16, 2026

April 23, 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. WO26P1214EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of: **Cheryl Ann Nardone Date of Death:01/02/2026** To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Michael A Nardone of Charlton 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: **Michael A Nardone of Charlton 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 05/12/2026.**

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: April 13, 2026

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

April 23, 2026

Sturbridge Planning Board Public Hearing Application for Site Plan Approval Town of Sturbridge Joshua Hyde Public Library

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Planning

Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, May 11, 2026 at 6:35 PM in 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 The Town of Sturbridge for the property located at **306 Main Street.**

The applicant requests Site Plan Approval as required by the Sturbridge Zoning Bylaws Article XIX, Site Plan Review to make ADA improvements to a new outdoor deck and ramp system that will provide handicap accessibility to the lower levels of Joshua Hyde Public Library as well as accessible outdoor program space. The basement doors will also be corrected to meet accessibility standards during this project as well. All improvements shall be constructed per the plans and specifications submitted and the property location is 306 Main Street, Sturbridge.

The proposed request can be viewed at <https://www.sturbridge.gov/planning-board/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.

Charles Blanchard

Chairperson

April 23, 2026

April 30, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court

225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 Docket No. WO26P1116GD CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO

G. L.c. 1908, § 5-304 & § 5-405

In the matter of:

Jasmine W. Kimani

Of: Southbridge, MA

RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by

Victor Ndungu of Southbridge, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Jasmine W. Kimani** is in need of a **Victor Ndungu of Southbridge, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **05/05/2026.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

Date: April 06, 2026

Stephanie K. Fattman

Register of Probate

April 23, 2026

Notice of Public Hearing

Notification is hereby given that an application has been filed by Rapscaillon at Pine Lake for a Change of License Classification Seasonal Liquor License from Beer & Wine to All Alcohol at Pine Lake RV Resort at the premises currently located at 30 River Road MA with

the Sturbridge Select Board. In accordance with MGL Ch. 138, a public hearing will be held Tuesday, May 4, 2026 at 6:45 p.m. This hearing will be held at Veteran's Memorial Hall, Sturbridge Town Hall, 308 Main Street, Sturbridge MA 01566 April 23, 2026

SOUTHBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Southbridge Public Schools will hold a Public Hearing in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71 Section 38N for the proposed annual budget for Fiscal Year 2027. The hearing will be held on **Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers, second floor of the Southbridge Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA 01550.** The Public Hearing will be followed by a regular School Committee meeting. April 23, 2026

SOUTHBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

25 Cole Avenue

Southbridge, MA 01550

April 2026

INVITATION FOR BIDS

School Bus Transportation Services

IFB# 2026-001

The **Southbridge Public Schools** invite sealed bid proposals for **School Bus Transportation Services**. The invitation for bid cover the three year period beginning **July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029.** Invitation for Bid packages will be available from the Business Office, 25 Cole Avenue, Southbridge, MA 01550, downloaded from our website at <https://www.southbridgepublic.org>, or by emailing mrobidou1@southbridgepublic.org beginning April 20, 2026.

Bids are returnable to the Business Office, 25 Cole Avenue, Southbridge, MA 01550 or emailed to mrobidou1@southbridgepublic.org no later than **May 18, 2026 at 10:00 AM**, at which time and place they will be publicly opened. LATE PROPOSALS will not be accepted. The Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids as determined to be in the interests of the Town and to waive minor informalities.

Bids will be awarded by the Southbridge Public Schools.

William J. Metzger

Superintendent/Receiver

Town of Southbridge

Southbridge, Massachusetts

April 23, 2026

TOWN OF CHARLTON

Invitation for Bids

#12 PROPANE

The Town of Charlton hereby invite sealed bids for the term July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027 for #12 Propane. Specifications and bid proposal forms are available at the Town of Charlton Town Hall, Town Administrator Office, 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507 or by email: mary.devlin@townofcharlton.net. All bids must be in conformity with all pertinent statutes and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. All bids must be sealed and labeled **"#12 PROPANE"** and received at the Town Administrator's Office, 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA no later than 2:00 PM. on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at which time and place, bids will be publicly opened and read. The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or any part thereof; when it appears that it's in the best interest of the Town by doing so. April 23, 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. WO26P1103EA INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

Estate Of:

Lucas Brian Hale

Date of Death: March 21, 2024

To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of **Louis Hale Jr. of Dublin CA** **Louis Hale Jr. of Dublin CA** has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. April 23, 2026

Burgess third graders kick off Sturbridge celebration of America 250

STURBRIDGE — One-hundred and twenty “Happy Birthday America” cards created by Burgess Elementary School third graders are now hanging in the Senior Center. This project was developed in collaboration with the Sturbridge America 250th Anniversary Committee, established in January 2025. In the coming months, residents and visitors will enjoy a number of community programs created by and coordinated with this Committee.

Expect to see special com-

memorative banners featuring an historical flag posted on poles along Routes 20 and 131. Look for programs focusing on the history of America at the Joshua Hyde Public Library, and from the Sturbridge Historical Society. Old Sturbridge Village is hosting Revolutionary Game Nights at the Ox & Yoke Café. Participants will have the chance to win prizes such as special event tickets, Village crafts, and more! Check out “Revolutionary Bingo” March 27 and May

29 and “Revolutionary Trivia” Feb. 27, April 24, and June 26. For more information about these events and the many other new 250th events that the Village will be hosting, go to: osv.org.

Additional events sponsored by the Committee include an essay program for Grade 5 students titled “What Does America Mean to You?” with an option for students to voluntarily submit essays to a Town-wide recognition contest. Local restaurants will participate in

a “Taste of Sturbridge” event during March and April featuring patriotic-themed offerings. Opacum Land Trust will incorporate Sturbridge historical landmarks into its April 2026 Vacation Scavenger Hunt. Also planned for May at the Senior Center are a tree planting and the burying of a time capsule.

Events will culminate in May and June. A Family Fun Day on May 16 features a Children’s Bike Decorating and Parade, followed with activities on the Common

including: a Mini Big-Top Circus, face painting, T-shirt decorating, yard games, potato sack and 3-legged races, music and more. A hot dog cart will also be available. The Committee’s signature event will be held on June 27, 2026 and will feature a parade along Route 20 and Route 131, followed by a community festival on the Town Common. More information on these events will be forthcoming.

Volunteer recruitment and community engage-

ment have been central to the Committee’s work. The Committee extends its appreciation to all residents, volunteers, nonprofit organizations, and local businesses supporting the America 250th Anniversary celebration. If you are interested in participating in either/ both the Family Fun Day and the Parade, or simply wish to find more information, please contact the Sturbridge250 Committee by email at Sturbridge250@gmail.com.

Auction Acres to host Seventh Annual Pioneer Valley Wine Festival

BRIMFIELD — Brimfield Auction Acres, birthplace of the world-famous Brimfield Antique Shows, will host the sixth annual Pioneer Valley Wine Festival Saturday and Sunday, June 6 & 7, from noon to 5 p.m.

2026 Marks the 7th year of the Pioneer Valley Wine and Food festival. This exciting event brings together New England Wineries, Cideries, Distilleries, and Meaderies

from across the Pioneer Valley and Farmers of many sorts selling their wares.

The event started in 2018 by the collaboration with farm wineries throughout New England and local farmers to create a festival to highlight the magnificent products Massachusetts provides all in unison and support of Massachusetts Agricultural Department.

The Festival will feature local vintners and craft

brewers ready to spill their secrets, Live Art demonstrations, sizzling chef panel starring culinary celebs - to be announced soon. Last year celebrity guests include; Brynn Gibson, the youngest Black Jacket finalist from Fox’s Hell’s Kitchen with Gordon Ramsay. We also have Jared Forman, the culinary mastermind behind Deadhorse Hill, who brought the heat on Food Network’s Beat Bobby Flay.

St. Michael Romanian Orthodox Church benefit turkey dinner coming May 18

STURBRIDGE — The Publick House Historic Inn and Restaurant will host another of its community dinners on Monday, May 18, this time benefiting St. Michael Romanian Orthodox Church in Southbridge.

These dinners are part of the Publick House’s ongoing effort to support local organizations. A portion of each ticket sold will go directly to the church.

“We’re grateful to be included in this program,” said event

organizer Spiro Thomo. “It’s a simple way for people to come together, enjoy a good meal, and support the church at the same time.”

Two seatings are available: 4:30–6 p.m. and 6:30–8 p.m. The buffet menu includes oven-roasted turkey, cornbread-sausage stuffing, mashed potatoes, butternut squash, and cranberry sauce.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$5 for children ages four to 11. All tickets must

be purchased in advance—no sales at the door. The deadline is Friday, May 15.

For tickets or information, contact Spiro Thomo at 774-200-8043, or by email to spirothomo@gmail.com. Payment is by cash or check made payable to The Publick House.

The mission of St. Michael Romanian Orthodox Church is to experience the grace of God and to share it with others.



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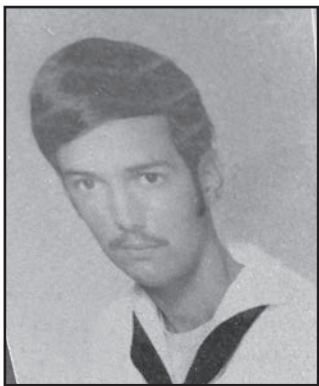
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OBITUARIES

William Armand Gibeault 11/11/1951 — 04/01/2026



Vietnam conflict. Bill was in the shipbuilding business all his life. Working for Electric Boat (subma-

Our brother William Armand Gibeault "Billy" was born on November 11, 1951, in Southbridge, Massachusetts. Billy was the eldest of five children born to Natalie Adah Cabana and Armand Joseph Gibeault "Joe." Stepfather Paul Leblanc (a very kind man who had studied for the priesthood and was a USAF Veteran) married our mom and assisted in the raising of five children on Pleasant Street.

Bill leaves behind his sisters Deborah Beaudry, Kathryn Wayne, Kathy's husband Russell, his brother Jason Gibeault and Jason's wife Carol, Aunt Maddy Hebert, husband Gary, numerous cousins, nephews, and a niece. Brother Michael Gibeault (Cabana) preceded Bill in death.

Bill attended Southbridge High School, graduating in 1970 with his sister Debbie. After High School, Bill joined the Navy and was on the USS Saratoga during the

ines) in Groton, Ct. Bill then decided to join our Mother Natalie and brother Michael in San Diego. Bill returned to shipbuilding working for NASSCO until his retirement.

Bill loved sports, especially the Boston Red Sox and the San Diego Padres. From the time Bill was in elementary school, Bill collected sporting cards especially baseball. Bill memorized all the statistics.

Bill and Debbie made their first communion together, along with attending Catholic church studies, elementary, Junior and high school.

A plague at Mt. Soledad was gifted to Bill on his 60th birthday by his sister Debbie for his military service.

Bill married for the very first time after the age of 60 to Juanita Curiel. They first met in Mission Hills, San Diego, moving to the Livingston, Texas area.

LIBRARY

continued from page A7

dog. Registration is not required. All ages are welcome! (If you are interested in having a private visit with Jack-Jack for a reading session or any other reason, please register for one of our Private Visit sessions.)

CPL Book Discussion - Hiroshima by John Hersey

Thursday, May 14, 6:00-7:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

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

Craftmoon for Kids

Friday, May 15, 3:30-4:30 pm - Storytime Room - registration required

Drop by the Storytime Room and make a fun craft! Best for ages 5-10. Please register so we know we will have enough supplies!

Gentle Flow Yoga

Saturday, May 16, 10:00-11:00 am - Dexter Hall - registration required

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

Saturday Acoustic Roots Jam-SARJ

Saturday, May 16, 12:00-1:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

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

Dementia: The New Pandemic

Tuesday, May 19, 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration appreciated

Join Teri Frykenberg for her talk Dementia: The New Pandemic, a conversation our communities can't afford to avoid. Dementia is impacting more families than ever—often quietly, often without enough support or understanding. This talk is about awareness, advocacy, and most importantly, what we can actually do to better support our loved ones and one another. Whether you're a caregiver, a family member, a healthcare professional, or someone who simply wants to be more informed, this is a space to learn, ask questions, and connect. Teri Frykenberg (Dreher) is a nationally recognized leader in professional patient advocacy, an Amazon best-selling author, a patient safety expert, a newspaper columnist, and a sought-after public speaker. As a lifelong mentor, teacher, and champion for patients, Teri founded Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur to ensure everyone has access to a quality private advocate. She believes that at the heart of every good nurse, physician, and social worker is the spirit of advocacy—and that private patient advocates are uniquely equipped to meet the future of healthcare beyond the hospital's walls. This event is sponsored by Dementia Friendly Charlton.

How to Talk so Kids Will Listen

Tuesday, May 19, 6:00-7:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Based on the celebrated book "How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk" by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish, this session will provide attendees with an introduction to practical, effective methods of communication that will make their relationship with children of all ages less stressful and more rewarding.

Learn specific skills that help children recognize and cope with their negative feelings, such as disappointment, envy, frustration, anger. Understand ways to accept children's feelings, limit unacceptable behavior, and still maintain goodwill. Learn ways to invite cooperation that will leave everyone feeling good about themselves and each other. Understand alternatives to punishment that enable parents to express their strong disapproval as well as encourage children to assume responsibility for their behavior. Facilitated by Jessica Butler.

Using the Reminders App on your Apple Device

Tuesday, May 19 OR Tuesday, May 26, 6:00-7:00 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Want an easier way to keep track of your to-do list, appointments, and daily tasks? In this beginner-friendly workshop, you'll learn how to use the Apple Reminders app on your iPhone or iPad to stay organized and on top of your schedule. We'll cover how to create lists, set reminders and alerts, use due dates, and even add notes or subtasks. Perfect for anyone looking to simplify their routine and boost productivity with tools you already have!

This project was funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the MassTech Collaborative under the Municipal

Digital Equity Implementation Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

iPhone Essentials 2: Find My, Wallet, and Translate

Wednesday, May 20, 12:30-1:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

This class covers a variety of tools and features built into the iPhone and iPad. We learn to share our locations with our friends and family, make safe, secure payments with our phones, and converse in different languages using the Translate app. Registration is required.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group

Thursday, May 21, 6:00-7:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

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

Death Cafe

Thursday, May 21, 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - no registration required

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

Intro to Mobile Health Apps

Friday, May 22, 11:00-12:00 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

Join us for a lecture presentation that will provide an overview of mobile health apps. We will discuss the various benefits and considerations of health apps. This is for people ages 60 and up. This Senior Planet from AARP class is being offered through the Senior Planet licensing program.

Critical Thinking Discussion Group

Friday, May 22, 1:00-2:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

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

Artist Reception

Tuesday, May 16, 6:00-7:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

This month our Community Room Art Gallery is featuring the works of students who participate in All the Possibilities! All the Possibilities is a homeschool cooperative program that works to provide hands-on collaborative learning opportunities for students in the greater Charlton area. Join us this evening to view the art, meet the artists, and enjoy some light refreshments. Everyone is welcome, no registration is required.

Finding Books and Building Your Digital Library

Thursday, May 28, 12:30-1:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

In this class, we learn to use the Books app on iPhone and iPad to find books and read them on our devices. We explore different titles, find free books, and make text easy to read on smaller screens. Registration is required.

CULE: Charlton Ukulele League & Ensemble

Thursday, May 28, 6:00-8:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

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

Protecting Your Medical Information Online

Friday, May 29, 11:00-12:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Join us for a lecture presentation that will provide an overview of how to make your various online medical/insurance accounts/portals more secure and private. This is for people ages 60 and up. This Senior Planet from AARP class is being offered through the Senior Planet licensing program.

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Friday's Child

Keira and Landon
Age 16, 15
Registration 9050 9019

Landon and Keira are a close-knit brother and sister who very much want to be adopted together. Their bond is strong, and they truly find comfort and confidence in one another. Keira is especially protective of Landon, often stepping into the role of encourager and cheerleader when he needs it most.

Keira is outgoing, social, and comfortable expressing her thoughts and feelings. She has a lively personality, a witty sense of humor, and a slightly sarcastic edge that makes people laugh. Beneath that confidence, she has a genuinely soft and caring side. Keira has a bold, unique sense of fashion and fully embraces her style — from coordinating outfits to accessorizing with a trendy pocketbook and bright lipstick that makes her look pop. She loves shopping for clothes and expressing herself creatively through fashion.

Keira's interests are wide-ranging. She enjoys swimming, playing board games, reading, watching TV shows and movies, and bowling. She is talented in Tae Kwon Do and participates in therapeutic riding lessons. Always full of ideas, Keira hopes to explore music and dance lessons in the future. She attends a technical school and is considering focusing on fashion design or animal science — two areas that reflect both her creativity and her love for animals.

Landon is a kind, loving, and thoughtful child with a big heart and a wonderful sense of humor. He enjoys making others laugh and often surprises people with his clever observations. Landon is naturally curious and loves to figure out how things work — whether it's taking apart a concept in science, solving a tricky problem, or building something new. He is especially interested in science and engineering and thrives when he can work hands-on.

Landon loves building with Legos, where he can spend hours designing detailed structures and experimenting with new ideas. He enjoys video games, particularly those that allow him to strategize, create, and problem-solve. Over the summer, he attended a Robotics Camp and a Minecraft camp, both of which allowed him to combine creativity with technology. He enjoyed collaborating with peers, learning coding basics, and seeing his ideas come to life.

In addition to his technical interests, Landon enjoys spending time outdoors and benefits from opportunities to stay active. He appreciates one-on-one attention and thrives with encouragement and positive reinforcement. Landon does best in environments where his curiosity is nurtured and where he feels supported as he explores new interests.

Together, Landon and Keira are bright, engaging, and full of potential. They bring laughter, creativity, determination, and heart into every space they enter.
<https://www.mareinc.org/recruitment-group/23373776781>
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.

LARGENT-CAPLAN
continued from page A1

tic influences growing up in Colorado during the late 20th century. The result is a program that blends historical reflection with personal perspective.

The Southbridge performance is part of a broader Massachusetts concert series supporting the album's release. Additional appearances are scheduled this spring in Wellfleet, Boston, Northampton and Dorchester, with national tour dates continuing later in 2026 in locations including Providence, Rhode Island, and Astoria, Oregon.

Over the course of his career, Largent-

Caplan has performed more than 1,000 concerts across the United States, Europe and Asia and premiered more than 120 compositions. He also directs the Spanish music and dance ensemble ¡Con Fuego! and curates projects including the New Lullaby Project and the recital series Now Musique. His published arrangements of composer John Cage's music, issued through Edition Peters, were the first authorized by the John Cage Trust.

Library officials encourage residents to attend the April 30 performance as part of the community's growing slate of cultural programming tied to the nation's 250th anniversary. No tickets are required.

Spring can bring balance to body & bowl

BRIMFIELD — Spring is a time of new beginnings. For many of us, that means shaking off the winter doldrums and introducing more movement. It can also mean seeking to improve our nutrition, perhaps influenced this year by recent trends in protein bowls.

Hitchcock recently restored its regular Tai Chi offering to a sold-out crowd, and has also added plant-based eating workshops with educator Jill Ahlstrand, founder of Harvesting Flavor. Each are accepting new signups for sessions taking place later this month – Tai Chi is offered in six-week sessions on Tuesdays at 6 p.m., and newly on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m., starting April 21 and 22, respectively, and Harvesting Flavor's latest offering -- "Building a Better Bowl: Plant-Forward Bowls That Satisfy" -- will take place on April 30 at 6 p.m.

Tai Chi Chuan, sometimes called "moving meditation," offers a low impact path to healthy benefits including improved flexibility, stress reduction, and better balance.

"It is a path to self-development that can be entered by anyone wherever you are at," says instructor David Porter, of the 45 minute class that is open to individuals of all abilities. "The journey starts with a single step. As long as you persevere, you will continue to learn and improve."

Porter trained at The Tai Chi Center in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., and is certified in Yang Style Short Form by William C.C. Chen Tai Chi Chuan who was among the first people to bring it to the U.S.

"Bowls are one of the easiest ways to eat plant-forward—but only when they're built well," says Harvesting Flavor's Jill Ahlstrand. "Food needs to taste good first — nourishment and flavor should always go hand in hand."

In her workshop, participants will learn how to create balanced, satisfying bowls using simple components like grains, vegetables, proteins, and sauces - focusing especially on how sauces bring everything together so bowls are flavorful, filling, and easy to repeat at home.

Through a cooking demo and tasting, you'll learn how to balance texture, flavor, and nourishment, utilizing simple bowl-building templates and sauce-forward strategies for

better bowls. You'll take home a bowl-building guide and sauce ideas.

Ahlstrand's work grew out of her own journey into plant-based eating and a desire to make it approachable rather than restrictive. She focuses on helping people understand how to meet their nutritional needs on a plant-based diet — especially protein, energy, and long-term health — through meals that are practical, flavorful, and deeply enjoyable. Through talks, classes, and coaching, she supports people who are curious about eating more plant-forward and want guidance that fits everyday life.

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

CHOCOLATE program honoring the seven women who started the organization over 150 years ago.

Looking ahead to spring As the frost thaws, Chapter R is looking forward to milder

weather and continued community engagement.

For over a century and a half, the P.E.O. Sisterhood has focused on the intersection of friendship and philanthropy. Through various grants and STAR scholarships, they continue to help women reach their educational goals, one "Chocolate Sunday" at a time.



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

Featured Listing ~ New To Market!
Webster ~ 33 Slater Street



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

Webster - 24 Cooper Rd
New Construction - Craftsman Style home



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

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagogmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake Waterfront Listing!!
On Indian Point # 10 "Private Rd"

SORRY, SOLD!

Astounding Panoramic Views across mid-section of Webster Lake! Sun drenched from early morning sunrise till sunset! View the lake from all windows. Located on a peninsula providing 2 Shorelines. Fireplaced Living Room! Recent Kitchen & Bath! Primary Bedroom w/walk-in closet. Hardwood Floors. 2 Baths. FHW Oil Heat! Central Air. Garage. **\$ 900,000.**

Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island

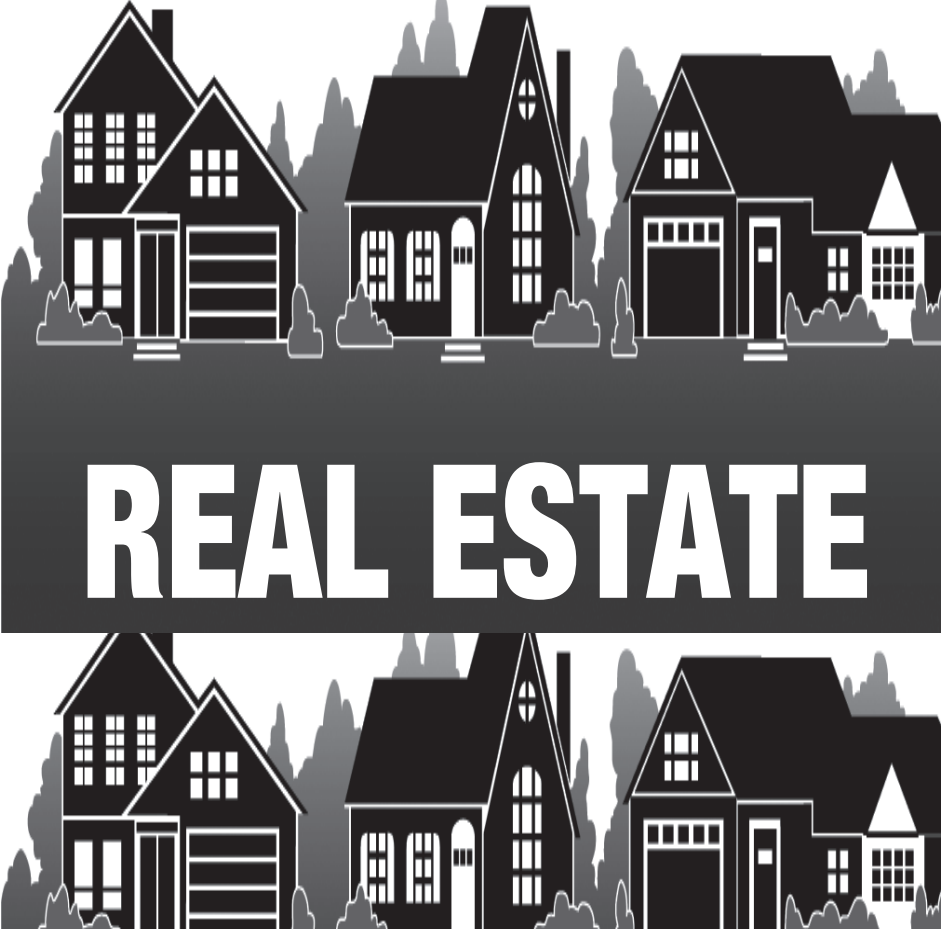
SORRY, SOLD!

Renovated + move-in ready lakefront home w/1,700+/- sq ft. Open kitchen/dining/living w/cathedral ceilings + wall of windows. Primary suite w/private bath! 2 add'l bedrooms, 2nd Full bath. Lower level family room w/walkout to water. Wraparound deck, new vinyl railings, terraced yard, sandy beach, professional landscaping. Many updates **\$775,000**

Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!

SORRY, SOLD!

Panoramic View, from this absolutely lovely home. 2600 +/- SF, 3+ Beds, 2 full baths, 2 car detached garage! 63' +/- waterfront. .37 Acres! Sandy Waterfront!
\$1,100,000



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17 Gray Rd \$409,000

WORCESTER



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* Attached Multi-Level
*2 BR *100+ sq. ft
28-A Chilmark \$339,000

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Charlton celebrates Earth Day April 25

CHARLTON — Charlton residents of all ages are invited to participate in a town-wide road clean-up and fest in celebration of Earth Day on Saturday, April 25 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Residents may sign up online at <https://www.town-of-charlton.net/238/Earth-Day-Committee> to claim a road, or portion of a road to clean. Online registration begins April 1; residents may also sign up in person at the event.

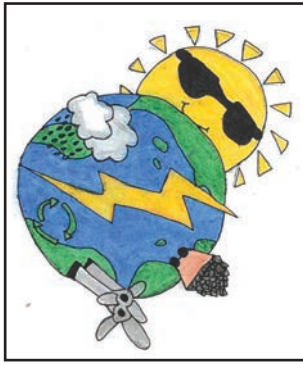
Residents who commit to a road will receive sturdy yellow plastic bags, protective gloves, grabbers, safety vests, tick prevention kits and tick removal kits. These items will be distributed on the Town Common beginning at 8 am the day of the event. Grabber supply is limited; please reuse grabbers from previous years if you have them. Collected trash should be brought to a dumpster, donated by Casella Waste, located behind Town Hall. The Charlton DPW is available to pick up bags for residents who are unable to deliver them to the dumpster; residents need to notify the

Earth Day Planning group at cjolicour64@yahoo.com of the exact location of these bags.

Residents are urged to use gloves to protect themselves from sharp objects and to wear bright clothing or a safety vest so drivers can see them easily. Residents are cautioned to never open containers of unknown substances. Contact the Police to dispose of any needles or syringes — do not touch or place them in bags with other refuse.

While most roads in town need cleaning, some of the worst are the most traveled and therefore more dangerous to address. If you are up for the task, but not for children, these roads are hot spots: Route 31, Brookfield Road, Route 20 traffic lights, and Saundersdale Road.

To encourage participation from children, Erin Anderson, fifth-grade science teacher at Charlton Middle School, held a contest for students to design a tee shirt based on this year's Earth Day theme: Our Power, Our Planet. The winning design was submit-



Courtesy

The winning entry for the Earth Day tee shirt contest created by Riley Boland.

ted by seventh-grader Riley Boland. Millenium Power Company has generously donated tee shirts with the winning design, available on a first come, first serve basis, one per person.

In addition to a town-wide clean-up, Charlton will hold an Earth Fest on Saturday, April 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will feature live music, food trucks, and vendors promoting environmentally sustainable lifestyle choices. The Earth Day Planning Group invites residents to enjoy the festivities, while learning ways to help the earth, its animals, and

plants.

Earth Fest vendors include AnnieMike's Honey, Buffumville Army Corps of Engineers, Charlton Business Alliance, Charlton Conservation Commission, Charlton Garden Club, Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust, Charlton Public Library, Eric's Aviaries, Local 4 Life, Keep Charlton Beautiful Committee, The Last Green

Valley, the Opacum Land Trust, Swampdog Native Plants, and more.

Cara Smick Photography, Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust, The Last Green Valley, and Millenium Power Company have generously agreed to sponsor the event.

The Wormtown Mugwumps, Worcester's premier purveyors of jug band music, and Acoustic

Ruckus, formerly known as Grey Whisker Pickers, will provide entertainment. The event will also feature food trucks 3 Kings BBQ, Suzy Q's Ice Cream, and Toasted Roasters.

Funding for Charlton Earth Day is generously provided by The Last Green Valley.

For more information, email pmhanlonwriting@gmail.com.

Applications welcome for Ronald J. Denault Memorial Law Enforcement Scholarship

CHARLTON CITY — A \$1,500 scholarship, honoring the memory of Ronald J. Denault, a highly respected police officer at both the state and local levels, will be awarded again this June to a student in the Class of 2026.

To be eligible for consideration for this award, preferably, a student must be a Charlton resident who is planning to further his/her education in pursuit of a career in law enforcement or criminal justice. Applicants may be graduating from a public or private high school or from a home schooling program that has been

approved formally by the School Committee. Ideally, applicants will show evidence of scholarship, leadership, and community service.

Any interested person should complete and submit an application packet no later than April 30, 2026. The application packet will include the following: an application form; a one-page essay summarizing why the applicant is interested in a career in law enforcement; two letters of reference; and documentation of academic scholarship. Details regarding all requirements will be included with the application

form. Application forms can be obtained at the Charlton Public Library, at the Charlton Police Station, or through the guidance offices at either Bay Path Regional or Shepherd Hill Regional High School. Further questions may be directed to Dr. Linda E. Denault, who can be reached via email at ledenault@aol.com or by calling 508-248-7711.

Completed application packets should be mailed to the Ronald J. Denault Law Enforcement Scholarship Committee c/o P.O. Box 352, Charlton City, MA 01508.

Southbridge Lions Club announces 15th Annual Al DiPetro Memorial Golf Tournament

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Lions Club is preparing to host its 15th Annual Al DiPetro Memorial Golf Tournament on Friday, May 15, at Heritage Country Club in Charlton. The annual event, known for combining friendly competition with community spirit, is expected to draw golfers of all skill levels for a day of recreation and fundraising.

Registration will begin at 7 a.m., with a shotgun start

scheduled for 8:30 a.m. The tournament will follow an A, B, C, D scramble format, making it accessible and enjoyable for both experienced golfers and casual participants.

The entry fee is \$150 per player, which includes greens fees, a golf cart, lunch and refreshments, tournament prizes, and a steak or chicken dinner. Prizes will be awarded to the top three finishing teams, and a variety of raffle prizes will also

be available.

Advance registration is required. Those interested in participating can contact Gary Fontaine at 774-230-1412 or Steve Stella at 508-989-1974, or reach out to any Southbridge Lions Club member.

Organizers say the tournament promises a full day of golf, camaraderie, and support for local initiatives, continuing a long-standing tradition of giving back to the Southbridge community.



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