

# STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

Free by request to residents of Sturbridge and Holland

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Thursday-Friday, June 11-12, 2026

## Early College Southbridge expanding after two successful years

**SOUTHBRIDGE** — The Early College Southbridge partnership between Quinsigamond Community College and Southbridge Public Schools has experienced significant growth and student achievement after its second year of implementation. Students in Early College programs take free college-level courses and earn credits while in high school. Students also explore career paths, develop soft skills and gain access to college resources such as tutoring.

Launched in 2024 with 52 students, Early College Southbridge expanded to 84 students in 2025. This year, over 50 seniors will have earned credit for at



Students and instructors from an Early College Southbridge math class.

Courtesy

least one college class, including several students who will graduate with more than 12 college credits.

“I’m so proud of our students. I’ve seen them become very engaged and motivated,” said Kathleen Cadarette, director of Early College and Community Partnerships for Southbridge Public Schools. “This is a pillar of moving our district forward and showing investment in our students.”

As Early College Southbridge enters its third year, the program will expand its offerings from two to five courses, which include career-aligned curriculum in health care and manage-

Turn To **COLLEGE** page **A10**

### Charlton Land Trust, Historical Society team up for talk on land and the American Revolution

**CHARLTON** — Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust (CHPT) and the Charlton Historical Society (CHS) will collaboratively present a free lecture entitled “Land, Revolution, and Charlton” by James David Moran on Tuesday June 30 at 7 p.m. in the Rider Tavern.

The talk will examine the way people in 18th-century Charlton and Massachusetts understood and used the land, and how these ideas and practices led to rebellion and then revolution from Great Britain. Charlton also played a significant role in Declaring Independence, and this will be described by Moran in his talk. The CHPT and CHS are collaborating on this program in celebration of the nation’s 250th anniversary.

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

James David Moran served as the first director of outreach and then as vice president for Programs and Outreach at the American Antiquarian Society for 28 years. He has over forty years’ experience creating award-winning cultural and educational programming. Additionally, he is a writer, director, and producer who has created 14 plays, 12 of which have been produced; most of these have been commissioned and are based on historical themes. These include “The Chains of Liberty” for the Worcester Revolution of 1774; “Preserving All Others” and “Isaiah Thomas-Patriot Printer” for the American Antiquarian Society; and “Portraits Come Alive” and “Portraits of Freedom” for Mechanics Hall. His innovative radio program, “The History Show,” appeared on 151 public radio stations in 47 states. He lives in Charlton, Massachusetts, with his wife, Elizabeth and cat, Bingo.

Copies of “The History Show” will be available for sale at the June 30 program, with the proceeds supporting both sponsoring institutions. “Land, Revolution and Charlton” is free and open to the public.

About CHPT

Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust acquires and maintains open space properties and conducts programs to enlighten and entertain people of all ages about protecting and enjoying the natural world. CHPT owns 19 conservation properties in Charlton, totaling over 200 acres of natural land open to the public. CHPT works with landowners, developers, and the town to balance healthy economic growth with conservation of important natural resources and historically significant places. CHPT relies on donations of land and funds to make new conservation projects possible and on the volunteer help of its members and friends to preserve conservation areas for the public benefit. For more information and to check out all our properties, go to [CharltonTrust.org](http://CharltonTrust.org) or follow up on Facebook (Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust) and Instagram (CharltonTrust).

About CHS

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

## Local Girl Scout unveils Little Free Art Gallery at Joshua Hyde Public Library

**STURBRIDGE** — The Joshua Hyde Public Library now has a Little Free Art Gallery. The Little Free Art Gallery, located outside the library next to the book return bin, is the Gold Award project of Eilee Reed of Sturbridge Girl Scout Troop 64510.

The Joshua Hyde Public Library will be hosting an official grand opening for the new art gallery on Wednesday, June 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. as part of the kickoff of the library’s Summer Reading program. Reed will be leading a dinosaur themed art project and inviting the community to ‘chalk the walk.’

Similar to the more common Little Free Library, the Little Free Art Gallery is a permanent installation where people are encouraged to



share small pieces of art and art supplies. The goal is to give everyone in the community a chance to make and enjoy art. If you want to make art, you can put it in the gallery for others to enjoy. If you see something in the gallery that you like, then you can take it home to display. The gallery accepts donations of new crayons, colored pencils, or any other art supplies, for someone else to pick up and use to create art.

Art is a vital part of human expression and part of our right to free expression. The Little

Free Art Gallery is meant to remind people how important art is and encourage everyone in the community, regardless of age or ability, to make something and

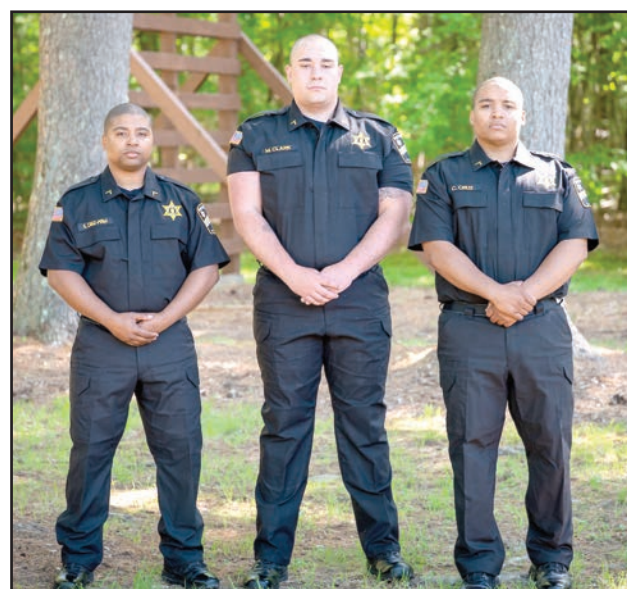
Turn To **ART GALLERY** page **A10**

## Sheriff swears in Webster & Charlton residents as correctional officers

**WEST BOYLSTON** — Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis recently administered the Correctional Officer Oath to 14 graduates of the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office 65th Basic Recruit Training Academy (B.R.T.A.) during a ceremony at the department’s Training and Command Center in West Boylston.

Among the graduates were Officers Christian Cruz and Gabriel Cruz-Pena of Webster and Matthew Clark of Charlton, who completed the Sheriff’s Office’s 13-week correctional officer training program.

The academy prepares recruits for careers at the Worcester County Jail & House of Correction through classroom instruction and hands-on training in areas including de-escalation techniques, defensive tactics, first responder protocols, mental health aware-



Courtesy

Left to Right: Officers Gabriel Cruz-Pena (Webster), Matthew Clark (Charlton), and Christian Cruz (Webster).

ness, suicide prevention, and physical fitness.

This graduating class includes recruits from seven Massachusetts communities, including three active-duty service members or veterans of the

United States Army.

“After 13 rigorous weeks of training, I am proud to present some of the best and brightest future leaders in corrections,” said Evangelidis. “I am confident these graduates are pre-

pared to join our ranks and help advance our mission of public safety.”

Before entering the academy, applicants must complete a written examination, a physical fitness assessment, a comprehensive background investigation, and a psychological screening. To promote fairness and integrity in the hiring process, Evangelidis maintains a policy prohibiting letters of recommendation from elected officials and provides hiring preference to individuals who have honorably served in the United States Armed Forces.

The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office is currently accepting applications for its 66th Basic Recruit Training Academy, which begins in September 2026. For more information, visit: [www.WorcesterCountySheriff.com/Careers/Correctional-Officer-Academy/](http://www.WorcesterCountySheriff.com/Careers/Correctional-Officer-Academy/).

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# Local Girl Scouts donate career exploration kit library to Joshua Hyde Library

STURBRIDGE — Four Cadette Girl Scouts from Troop 65240 will officially unveil their Girl Scout Silver Award project — a Career Exploration Kit Library — at the Joshua Hyde Public Library in Sturbridge

on Thursday, June 11 from 5–6 p.m. in the Children's Room. The public is invited to attend, and light refreshments will be served.

Rory O'Keefe, Audrey Spicer, Lucy Ricci, and Skyler Soule researched, fundraised for, assembled, and donated 12 hands-on career exploration kits to the library as part of their Silver Award — one of the highest honors in Girl Scouting. Each kit features a themed costume, props, and a career-related activity book covering professions including doctor,

teacher, chef, firefighter, police officer, farmer, and more. The kits are now available for checkout by any library patron, free of charge.

The scouts identified a gap in available play-based learning resources for young children in their community. Research shows that early exposure to diverse careers — especially for girls and underrepresented groups — broadens long-term aspirations. By placing the kits at the Joshua Hyde Library, the troop ensured that every child in

Sturbridge and the surrounding area has free access to imaginative, career-inspired play.

The project was funded entirely through community sponsorships, with local businesses and families contributing \$75 per kit. The scouts also developed a care and maintenance guide for library staff to ensure the kits remain in good condition for years to come.

Girl Scout Troop 65240 is led by Jenn Spicer, Amanda Bedard, and Jennifer Ricci.

## Brimfield resident

## graduates with honors from

## James Madison University

HARRISONBURG, Va. — Grace Timmins of Brimfield graduated Cum Laude with a degree(s) in Health Sciences - BS from James Madison University during commencement exercises in May 2026.

Timmins was among 4,737 students who received

undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Congratulations to all graduates and their families!

Founded in 1908, James Madison University is a public university located in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. JMU is one of the nation's leading lights in higher education, where students enjoy

engaging relationships with world-class faculty who drive education innovation and support advanced research. With state-of-the-art amenities and facilities, students have access to NCAA Division 1 athletics. JMU also has the highest post-graduation job levels of all Virginia colleges.

## REAL ESTATE

Charlton \$605,000, 8 Wamsutta Ridge Rd, Chapa, Carlos S, to Bronson, Derek, and Becerra, Catherine.

\$515,000, 40 Carroll Hill Rd, Scribner Development LLC, and Scribner, Ross L, to Reid, Dylan.

\$475,000, 22 Number 10 Schoolhouse Rd, Godfrey Ft, and Godfrey, Chester J, to Phelan, John, and Phelan, Victoria.

\$300,000, 113 Nugget Dr, Obuchowski Andrew P Est, and Obuchowski Jr, Andrew Pau, to Apo Consulting LLC.

**SOUTHBRIDGE**  
\$525,000, 89 Hartwell St, Noga, Mark, and Noga, Diane M, to Flores, Kedzy M, and Torres, Javier Gonzalez.

\$440,000, 102 Maria

Ave, Paquin, Robert J, and Paquin, Sally A, to Rivera, Maribel, and Rodriguez Jr, Eddy.

\$380,000, 26 Roosevelt Dr, Mary J Canty 2010 Irt, and Canty, John D, to Nadeau, Amy E, and Pilgrim, Troy O.

\$330,000, 216 Fiske St, Artruc, Ricki L, to Hampson, Logan J.

\$302,000, 92 Dresser St, Secretary Veterans Affair, and Gosdin, Jeff, to 405 High Street LLC.

\$280,000, 104 Riverview Pl #A, Linde, Nicole M, to Putvain, Austin.

\$40,000, N Woodstock Rd, Auto Sales Of Sturbridge, and Cassim, Robert, to Lebanon Dam LLC.

**STURBRIDGE**  
None



## ARTHRITIS?

Is your arthritis care all that you would hope it to be? If not we may be able to help.

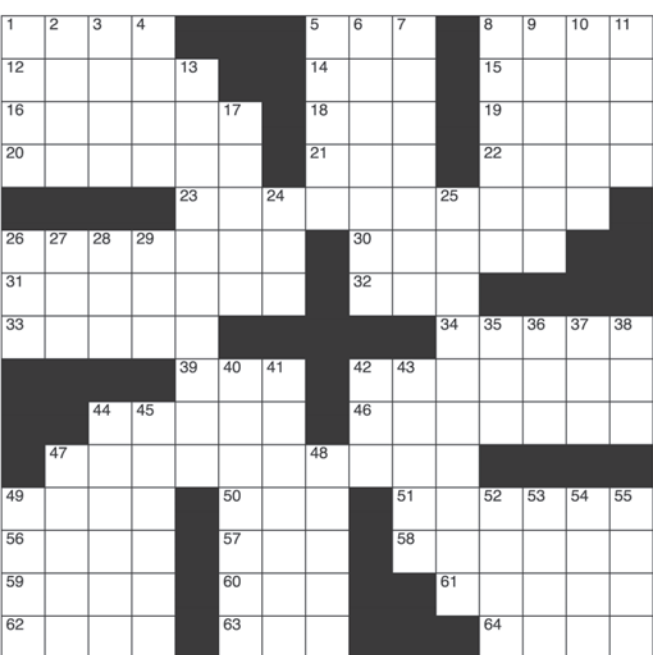
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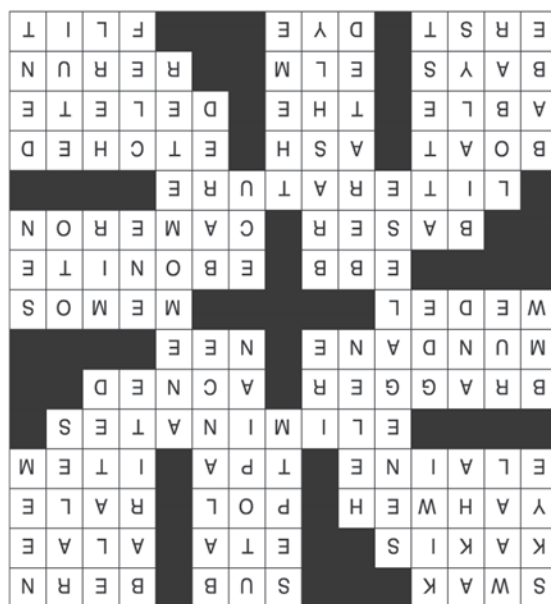
### CLUES ACROSS

- Sealed with a kiss
- Large sandwich
- Swiss city
- Japanese persimmons
- When you hope to get somewhere
- Wings
- A name of God
- Elected official (informal)
- Abnormal breathing
- "Seinfeld" character
- Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- Something for sale
- Gets rid of
- One who touts
- Blemished
- Less than exciting
- Born of
- N. German town
- Notes
- Move away from land
- Vulcanite
- More ignoble
- Child actor Kirk
- Written works
- Sea vessel
- Residue
- Engraved
- Having sufficient skill
- One and only
- Erase
- Broad inlets
- Nightmarish street
- Play again
- Formerly (archaic)
- Add a color to change the color
- Move swiftly and lightly

### CLUES DOWN

- Scottish island
- River in the Netherlands
- Asian people
- Fuzzy fruit
- Ninth month (abbr.)
- An idealistic social reformer
- What you owe
- Colorless mineral
- Overjoyed
- Rattling breaths
- Tropical Old World tree
- A citizen of Senegal
- Greek mythological beauty
- Wrath
- Instrument to measure wind speed
- Luxury carmaker
- Bitterly regret
- Not or
- Google certification
- Midway between northeast and east
- Space station
- Relating to the ears
- Congressman
- Yelled at
- Rudely assertive
- Defunct European money
- Shared one's soul
- Onion rolls
- A way to state clearly
- Relating to a lobe
- Underlying message
- Hollywood pig
- Indicates pitch
- Filament of a feather
- Small ornamental ladies' bag for small articles
- Diminish

## PUZZLE SOLUTION



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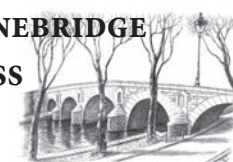
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Friday: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

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

#### CHARLTON TOWN HALL (508) 248-2200

Office Hours:  
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..... 7:30 a.m to 5:00 p.m.  
Tuesdays ..... 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Friday ..... Closed

visit [www.townofcharlton.net](http://www.townofcharlton.net) or more information.

Individual offices may vary

**PUBLIC LIBRARY (248-0452)**

For library hours please check [www.charltonlibrary.org](http://www.charltonlibrary.org)

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For emergencies, dial 911

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**STURBRIDGE:** 508-347-6463

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

**BRIMFIELD:** 413-245-3451

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

**WALES:** 413-245-9808

Weekdays 8:30 – 12:30 and 2:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 – 12:00

**WALES PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Mon, Tu & Th 2-6, W 12-6, Sat 9-12 closed Fri & Sun

### CHURCH LISTINGS

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

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

• **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, [www.charltonbaptist.org](http://www.charltonbaptist.org), Sunday worship 10 a.m.

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

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

[www.stannestpatparish.com](http://www.stannestpatparish.com)

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

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

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

Pastor Kathryn Light

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

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

• **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, [www.stjosephscharlton.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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

# The “Spirit of Brimfield” America 250 celebration to take place June 13

BRIMFIELD — 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:

A Pancake Breakfast fundraiser by the Wales Community Food Pantry at the First Congregational Church in Brimfield. Registration and time preference required at bit.ly/42negIT (8:30-10:30 a.m. seatings).

Revolutionary War themed guided cemetery tours at the Brimfield Cemetery on Wales Rd. honoring those who volunteered to

fight for freedom and the Brimfield families who supported them. Registration (508) 523-9544 between 10 a.m. and noon 1 p.m. Fife and Drum Music-Army National Guard 215th Band on the Town Common. Face painting 2 p.m. Parade-starting from the Public Safety Complex at 34 Wales Rd via the Town Common, to the Brimfield Winery. The parade features the Springfield Kiltie Band, the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment Honor Guard of the Massachusetts National Guard, Paul Revere mounted rider and Revolutionary Reenactors, the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment-Civil War reenactors with muskets, 4H club, Brimfield’s antique fire truck,

Veterans Float and Brimfield Library float, the Hampden County Sheriff’s Office Mounted Patrol Unit, participants from the Wales Library and police and fire departments, and so much more!

A ceremony at the town common gazebo (immediately following the parade) featuring the 250th Stars and Stripes Flag raising, music, three round musket volley by OSV militia, historical reading by TRHS graduating senior Ben Bachand-honoring Brimfield’s history in the revolution, recognition of local legacy families whose Brimfield ancestors fought for freedom, keynote address from the Honorable Representative Todd Smola, and the recognition of Don Moriarty, Jim Adams, Cindy Skowrya, and Kathleen Boyer

for their selfless service to their communities, and more. Bring lawn chairs and blankets for your comfort and enjoyment on the town common. A celebration at the Brimfield Winery (immediately following the ceremony) featuring 18th century living history demonstrations, food trucks, patriotic youth art display by the Brimfield Elementary and Tantasqua Regional High Schools, face painting, old-fashioned kids’ games, music, a live broadcast from Classic Hits 97.7 FM, bonfire, and much more! A Chicken BBQ sponsored by Saint Christopher’s Parish will be held from 4-7 p.m. at the winery. Purchase tickets at St. Christopher’s, Hitchcock Academy or online for \$22 (half chicken, baked

potato, salad, roll, and a drink). Limited quantity at the door for \$25. The band, SOAPSTONE will perform from 6-9, and the day concludes with a grand display of fireworks!

Additional details and updates will be available through the Friends of Historic Brimfield website and clicking/tapping the Spirit of Brimfield Event image: www.fohbrimfield.org.

Red, white, and blue Spirit of Brimfield event merchandise is also available to order on the website with direct shipping from the vendor.

This event is currently being sponsored by the Massachusetts Army National Guard, Classic Hits 97.7 FM, and the Brimfield Winery. The Spirit

of Brimfield would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our business level and private donors.

Special thanks to Patriot’s Legacy Sponsor-Dennis McCurdy with the McCurdy Group, as well as Green Acres Antiques and Flea Market, AJS Restoration and Construction, Inc., and Action EMS for their generosity.

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**Recycling Center Manager**  
**STURBRIDGE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

The Town of Sturbridge D.P.W. and Board of Health are accepting applications to fill the Recycling Center Manager Position. This is a full-time position. Valid Class A or B CDL and Equipment Hydraulic License 2A is required. Effective communication skills are required. Responsibilities include overseeing the day-to-day operations of the recycling center and landfill. See the Job Description for more information. Applications are available at the Sturbridge Municipal Garage, New Boston Road Extension, Sturbridge, MA, or on the Town of Sturbridge website under job opportunities. Application review shall begin on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Position will be open until filled. The Department is a Union shop. The Town is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE). Hours are as required by the Recycling Center operations (Tuesday to Saturday, 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM) and shall be 40 hours per week. Applicant will be required to take part in the DPW overtime list and snow and ice activities. Starting pay will be \$35.05/hr. Applicants, in addition to the application, shall provide a resume and a written statement of why they want the position and why they are qualified for the position.

## Charlton Public Library to host Repair Café

CHARLTON — The Charlton Library is looking for Fixers for our first Repair Café! Are you good with tools? Do your friends often ask you for advice? Do you enjoy building, maintaining, and fixing things? Are you free on Saturday, Oct. 24? Reach out to Betsy Perry, Library Director, at 508-248-0452 or perryb@cwmar.org for more information.

What is a Repair Café?

A Repair Café is a gathering of volunteers who offer to consult on and possibly fix items that would otherwise go to landfills. The Repair Café concept is an attempt to reverse our society’s throw away culture. We throw out vast amounts of stuff, even things with almost nothing wrong and which just need a simple repair. The problem is that most people don’t know how to fix things and often it costs more to have

an expert repair something than to simply replace it. But replacing things rather than repairing them wastes raw materials and energy, increases carbon dioxide emissions and expands our overflowing landfills.

The Repair Café will be held Oct. 24 at Charlton Public Library in partnership with Charlton Business Alliance,

Charlton Lions Club, and Keep Charlton Beautiful. Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St.

Tirana student earns Bachelor’s degree from Cedarville University

CEDARVILLE, Ohio — Joni Collaku, from Tirana, Albania earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Cedarville University. Cedarville University, an evangelical Christian institution in southwest Ohio, offers undergraduate and graduate residencies and online programs across arts, sciences and professional fields. With 7,265 students, Cedarville is

also known for its vibrant Christian community, challenging academics and high graduation and retention rates. Learn more at cedarville.edu.

## Tirana student earns Bachelor’s degree from Cedarville University

CEDARVILLE, Ohio — Joni Collaku, from Tirana, Albania earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Cedarville University. Cedarville University, an evangelical Christian institution in southwest Ohio, offers undergraduate and graduate residencies and online programs across arts, sciences and professional fields. With 7,265 students, Cedarville is

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**Friday's Child**

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Chantce and Halo are energetic, creative sisters who share a very close bond. They enjoy spending time together, being active, and exploring new activities. Both girls love playing outside, getting creative with art projects, and making the most out of every adventure together. Chantce, the older sister, is outgoing, social, and confident. She makes friends easily and enjoys staying active through sports, especially soccer, basketball, and hockey. Chantce also enjoys arts and crafts and loves opportunities to express her creativity. She is caring toward her younger sister and enjoys encouraging and supporting Halo. Halo is a sweet and curious girl who may be shy at first, but once she feels comfortable, her playful personality shines through. She enjoys swimming, gymnastics, and creative activities like drawing and coloring. Halo loves spending time with people she trusts and values the strong connection she shares with her sister.

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

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EDITOR

## Opening doors before graduation

One of the most encouraging developments in education today is the growing recognition that students do not all follow the same path after high school. Some pursue four-year degrees. Others seek technical training, certifications, military service, or direct entry into the workforce. The challenge for educators is not to steer every student toward a single destination, but to ensure that every student leaves high school with meaningful opportunities ahead.

That is why the continued growth of the Early College Southbridge partnership deserves recognition.

In only its second year, the program has expanded significantly, serving more students and helping them earn college credits while still in high school. More importantly, it is giving young people the chance to see themselves as college students before they ever walk across the graduation stage.

For many families, higher education can feel distant. Financial concerns, transportation challenges, and uncertainty about the college experience can create barriers that seem difficult to overcome. In communities where many students are historically underrepresented in higher education, those barriers can be even more pronounced.

Early College programs help remove some of those obstacles.

Students are able to take college-level courses at no cost while receiving support from both their high school and college partners. They gain firsthand experience with the expectations of higher education while remaining in a familiar environment. Success in a college classroom builds confidence and demonstrates that higher education is not an abstract goal reserved for someone else. It is a realistic possibility.

The partnership between Southbridge Public Schools and Quinsigamond Community College is particularly valuable because it goes beyond academics. Students are being introduced to career opportunities in fields such as health care, manufacturing, and information technology through site visits, job fairs, and industry partnerships. These experiences help students connect classroom learning to real-world careers and make more informed decisions about their futures.

Just as important is the fact that the program continues to evolve. Expanding course offerings and developing career-focused pathways shows a commitment to meeting students where they are and preparing them for where they want to go.

Programs like this also strengthen the community as a whole. Every college credit earned before graduation can reduce future educational costs for families. Every student who develops skills and confidence through Early College becomes better prepared to contribute to the local workforce and economy. Every partnership between schools, colleges, and employers helps create a stronger pipeline of talent for the region.

Education is often discussed in terms of test scores and graduation rates. Those measures have value, but they do not tell the whole story. The true measure of success is whether students leave school prepared for the opportunities and challenges that await them.

The Early College Southbridge program is helping make that happen. By giving students a head start on college, exposure to careers, and access to opportunities that might otherwise seem out of reach, it is opening doors that can remain open for a lifetime.

That is an investment worth celebrating, not only for the students participating today, but for the future of Southbridge itself.

### 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

## Sustainable investing means investing with purpose

When you think about investing, you probably want your money to grow. But maybe you also want it to make a positive difference in the world while you continue pursuing your financial goals. That's the foundation of sustainable investing — an approach that considers environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors alongside traditional financial analysis.

Sustainable investing allows you to support better business practices through your investment choices. It looks at how companies address issues ranging from climate change to worker well-being to corporate ethics. At its core, it's about aligning investments with personal values while still focusing on long-term financial outcomes.

Here are the three main areas of sustainable investing:

- Environmental considerations include how companies respond to climate change, use natural resources and manage pollution.
- Social factors address workforce well-being, product safety, and efforts to reduce social inequities.
- Governance focuses on corporate behavior, ethics policies, and financial transparency.

You may wonder whether investing sustainably means sacrificing returns. Research suggests it doesn't. New York University's Stern Center for Sustainable Business reviewed more than 1,000 studies from 2015–20 and found that incorporating ESG factors does not inherently diminish returns, and in many cases is associated with improved financial performance. As with any investment approach, it's important to focus on high quality investments that help support more consistent long-term returns.

Sustainable investing can take several forms:

- ESG intentional strategies spread out your investments and have clear goals for choosing companies that follow strong environmental, social and governance practices.



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• Sustainable thematic strategies focus on specific issues, such as clean energy or water conservation.

• Impact investments go a step further, targeting measurable environmental or social outcomes. Because they prioritize more narrow, specific objectives, they may carry higher volatility and potentially lower returns.

One concern you may hear about is “green-

washing,” which happens when companies or funds exaggerate their environmental efforts. To help prevent this, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission created a rule in 2023 that requires any fund with “ESG” in its name to keep at least 80% of its assets in ESG aligned investments.

Another challenge is data consistency. Today, 99 percent of S&P 500 companies report ESG metrics, according to the Center for Audit Quality, but different rating providers still use different methods. Looking at relative rankings can help you compare companies and mutual funds in a more consistent way.

Deciding whether to include sustainable investments in your portfolio really depends on your values and financial goals. You can build a well-diversified portfolio with or without them. A qualified financial advisor can help you understand whether adding sustainable investments fits your overall strategy and makes sense for your situation.

As more companies disclose ESG data and more funds offer sustainable options, investors have increasing opportunities to align their portfolios with their values — without sacrificing their financial objectives.

*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*

## The last person who knows how

### LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET By CHARLES

I was standing in a small shop not long ago when I heard a sentence that stuck with me.

"The problem is that he's the last one who knows how to do it."

The speaker wasn't talking about some high-tech computer system or complicated piece of machinery. He was talking about a repair that had been done the same way for decades. The man who knew how to do it was nearing retirement. Nobody had replaced him. Nobody had learned the skill. Suddenly everyone realized that something they had taken for granted might disappear.

That conversation got me thinking. Every town has people like that. They're not usually famous. They don't make headlines. Most folks outside their circle have no idea who they are. Yet they possess a kind of knowledge that doesn't exist in instruction manuals.

They know how things work. Not just machines, but communities. They're the woman who remembers why a tradition started, the volunteer who knows where the spare keys are kept, the carpenter who can look at an old building and immediately understand how it was constructed, or the mechanic who can identify a problem by sound alone. They are the librarian who somehow remembers where every odd document is stored and the farmer who can tell what the weather is likely to do simply by watching the sky.

These people carry enormous amounts of knowledge in their heads. What's remarkable is that much of it was never formally taught. It was handed down. One person learned it from another, who learned it from someone before them. For generations, that was how communities worked. You learned by watching. You learned by helping. You learned by making mistakes while somebody older stood nearby and patiently explained why the mistake happened.

There is something wonderfully human about that process. The information isn't separated from the person sharing it. A lesson about repairing a fence might come with three stories, two jokes, and an opinion about the Red Sox. The knowledge arrives wrapped in personality.

These days, of course, we can find instructions for almost

anything in seconds. Need to replace a faucet? There's a video. Need to bake bread? Thousands of recipes are available online. Need to identify a bird? An app can probably help. That's all useful, and I'm glad we have those resources.

But information and wisdom are not quite the same thing. Information tells you what to do. Wisdom tells you when to do.

do it, when not to do it, and what might happen if you ignore the obvious. That's harder to search for online.

I sometimes worry that we don't always recognize the value of these local experts until they're gone. We assume they'll always be around. Then one day they retire, move away, or simply decide it's time to slow down. Suddenly people are asking questions nobody can answer. How was this event organized every year? Who maintained that old piece of equipment? Why was this tradition started in the first place? The answers often leave with someone who never thought to write them down.

Fortunately, I also see reasons for optimism. Across Massachusetts, there are still people willing to teach. Retired tradesmen help younger workers. Grandparents pass along recipes. Volunteers show newcomers how things are done. Coaches mentor assistant coaches. Gardeners share cuttings and advice over backyard fences. The knowledge continues to move from one generation to the next, just as it always has.

The trick is making sure we pay attention while the teachers are still here. Ask questions. Listen to stories. Learn why things are done the way they are. You might discover that what looks like ordinary conversation is actually the transfer of something valuable.

Every community depends on people who know things that cannot easily be replaced. Their knowledge helps keep traditions alive, solves problems before they become crises, and quietly holds communities together. If we're lucky, somebody is learning from them right now. Otherwise, someday we'll all be standing in a shop somewhere, shaking our heads and saying, "The problem is that she was the last one who knew how to do it."



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# Local residents receive degrees at Worcester Polytechnic Institute's Undergraduate Commencement

WORCESTER — Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) celebrated the accomplishments of the Class of 2026 during its 157th Commencement exercises, honoring graduates whose innovation, perseverance, and purpose-driven achievements will help shape the future. Ceremonies were held on May 14 and 15 at the DCU Center, where WPI awarded nearly 1,200 bachelor's degrees, over 600 master's degrees, and more than 60 doctoral degrees to graduates across a broad spectrum of disciplines in science, engineering, technology, business, and the humanities. Together, these graduates join a global network of WPI changemakers prepared to lead with knowledge, creativity, and impact.

WPI President Grace Wang and Board of Trustees Chair William Fitzgerald presided over the university's undergraduate Commencement exercises.

In her address, Wang reminded graduates that their WPI education has prepared them not only with technical expertise and ethical leadership skills, but with the resilience, critical thinking, teamwork, and global responsibility needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

"We stand at the dawn of a new technological age," said Wang. "There's a good chance

you will do jobs that are yet to be invented. You will work in companies that are yet to be established. You will address issues that are yet to be defined. This does not mean we should feel uncertain. This means everything can be questioned, and everything can be new. Never before has so much possibility existed to make the world better, the future brighter."

Delivering an inspiring undergraduate address was multiplatinum, Grammy Award-winning artist, tech founder, philanthropist, and STEAM education advocate will.i.am. Known globally for his groundbreaking work at the intersection of music, artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship, education, and through his i.am Angel Foundation, will.i.am challenged graduates to embrace creativity, innovation, and service as they forge their own paths.

"How intentional are you going to be with this technology as you unearth tomorrow's industries?" asked will.i.am "Pick a problem, solve it. That solution is an industry. This is the time for imagination, and AI is not imagining. It's regurgitation of the human imagination. Turn that off."

As part of the undergraduate ceremony, honorary doctoral degrees were bestowed on

will.i.am and Paul Covec '64, an entrepreneur and investor who has played a formative role in advancing technologies that have shaped modern industry.

This year's undergraduate student remarks were delivered by Mena Youssif, who received a bachelor of science in civil engineering. In his speech, "We Didn't See It Coming," he reflected on the pace of change in the world and the unexpected growth and personal changes students experienced.

The following students earned their bachelor's degree:

Charlton resident Joseph Dumas, who majored in Architectural Engineering.

Charlton resident Adam Faucher, who majored in Society, Technology and Policy About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) is a top-tier, STEM-focused university with an R1 research classification and global leadership in project-based learning. Founded in 1865, WPI's distinctive approach integrates classroom theory with real-world practice, preparing students to tackle critical challenges through inclusive education, impactful projects, and interdisciplinary research. With more than 70 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academ-

ic departments and over 50 global project centers, WPI advances knowledge and innovation in fields such as life sciences, smart technologies, advanced materials and manufacturing, and global innovation. Learn more at [www.wpi.edu](http://www.wpi.edu).

## Upcoming library program spotlights women in early Country music

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

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

A West Virginia-born multi-instrumentalist residing in the Berkshires, Paula Bradley has been involved in old-time and roots music for many years. Known for her strong, spirited vocals, she has toured (on banjo) with old-time darlings "Uncle Earl"; with old-time powerhouse Bruce Molsky (on guitar and banjo uke); and with Tony Trischka and Bruce as part of the acoustic roots trio "Jawbone." She was a founding member of the popular New England honkytonk combo (on piano and vocals) "Girl Howdy," and with her late husband, Bill Dillof, the old time duo "Moonshine Holler." She currently leads her own popular honky tonk/country swing combo "Miss Paula & The Twangbusters" and pursues many musical side projects. Bradley is also an on-demand traditional music instructor and has been on staff at music camps including Swannanoa Gathering, Mars Hill, Winter Village Music, Augusta Heritage and Ashokan.

# Area residents named to dean's list at Quinnipiac University

HAMDEN, Conn. — Ashley Wojcicki of Charlton, Jodie Terry of Sturbridge, and Tristan Hughes of Wales were named to the dean's list for the Spring 2026 semester at Quinnipiac University.

To qualify for the dean's list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits in a semester, with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible. Part-time students must complete at least six credits during a semester. Names followed by

an asterisk denotes with honors.

About Quinnipiac University  
Quinnipiac is a private, coeducational institution located 90 minutes north of New York City and two hours from Boston. The university enrolls 9,700 students in more than 100 degree programs through its Schools of Business, Communications, Education, Computing and Engineering, Health Sciences, Law, Medicine, Nursing and the College of Arts & Sciences. Quinnipiac is ranked 51st in The Wall Street Journal/College Pulse "2026 Best Colleges in the U.S." and is also

recognized by U.S. News & World Report and The Princeton Review's "The Best 391 Colleges." The university is expanding innovative programs for both traditional and adult learners and developing dynamic corporate partnerships. Quinnipiac recently completed a significant capital expansion on its main campus, including a state-of-the-art new School of Business and an interdisciplinary science and innovation hub. For more information, please visit [qu.edu](http://qu.edu). Connect with Quinnipiac on Facebook and Instagram and follow Quinnipiac on X @QuinnipiacU.



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# Gombos, of Brimfield, earns degree from Clark University

WORCESTER — Jaiden E. Gombos, of Brimfield, received a degree during Clark University's Commencement exercises on Monday, May 18. Gombos graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science.

The University awarded 612 bachelor's degrees and 636 graduate degrees and conferred two honorary degrees during two ceremonies; graduates represented 49 states and 69 countries.

Clark University President David B. Fithian urged the graduates to be engaged global citizens.

"The world needs you to exhibit the value of higher education, to exercise principles of free

expression, to believe in the progress of ideas, and to defend democracy and individual rights - even, and especially, when doing so requires listening across deep differences," President Fithian said.

Dr. Wendy L. Freedman, one of the world's most accomplished astrophysicists, delivered the undergraduate ceremony address. Freedman, currently the John and Marion Sullivan University Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the University of Chicago, is widely recognized for her leadership of the Hubble Space Telescope Key Project, which produced the first precise measurements of the Hubble constant (the rate

at which the universe is expanding) and dramatically refined scientific understanding of the scale, age, and expansion of the universe.

Early in her career, Freedman told the graduates, her research arrived at a conclusion different than the accepted view of those in her field. She carried on despite opposition. Freedman noted that Clark physicist Robert H. Goddard, who 100 years ago launched the world's first liquid fuel rocket, an advancement that helped pave the way for man to reach the moon, faced similar skepticism. After experiencing multiple failures and widespread derision, Goddard in 1926 launched his rocket, which traveled 2.5 minutes, rose 41 feet into

the air, and landed in a cabbage patch.

"From a cabbage field to lunar and even farther missions," said Freedman, "it is an important reminder of the power of persistence."

Dr. Wendy Freedman was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science, honoris causa.

Student speaker William Stafford '26, a political science major and aspiring lawyer, spoke to his peers about how choices shape a person.

"We don't always get to choose our circumstances, but we always get to choose how we respond to them, and who we become because of them," said Stafford. "And now we're about to step into a world that won't always give us clear directions. There won't always be a syllabus. No one's going to tell you exactly what to do next. But you will always have the ability to choose."

Sir Andrew Steer, one of the world's foremost climate experts, addressed Clark University students receiving master's and doctoral degrees, and encouraged them to act boldly and remain hopeful, no matter their path.

In his address after receiving a Doctor of

Humane Letters degree, Steer acknowledged that the students are graduating into a world with several major challenges - among them, AI, the erosion of trust in facts and truth, and dysfunctional governments. The last half-century has seen unimaginable progress and growth - demographically, technologically, and economically. "But this explosion of the human economic footprint has put unprecedented pressure on the planet and created severe inequality and social challenges."

Steer praised Clark's new School of Climate, Environment, and Society for including economics in its interdisciplinary lineup, which "is pointing precisely to the systems change we will need to address climate change." And every single member of the Class of 2026 has a part to play, he said, whatever their field - education, finance, social work, healthcare, the arts.

Steer then turned his gaze fifty years into the future. "What will the world look like? My prediction is that it will be cleaner, greener, healthier, more prosperous, and more just. It's up to you."

Nourhan Beshir Attia, graduating with a mas-

ter's in environmental science and policy, delivered the graduate student address. A native of Egypt, she shared that the COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of her bachelor's degree ceremony in 2020.

"When I came to Clark, I thought I was looking for acceptance as someone coming from Egypt," Beshir Attia said. "As a modest Muslim hijabi woman, I wondered: Will I belong here? And yes, I found people who respected me. But the most important thing I found was something I wasn't expecting. I found the moment I stopped waiting for permission to be myself."

Founded in 1887, Clark University is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow's most daunting challenges and embrace its greatest opportunities. Through 33 undergraduate majors, more than 30 advanced degree programs, and nationally recognized community partnerships, Clark fuses rigorous scholarship with authentic world and workplace experiences that empower our students to pursue lives and careers of meaning and consequence.

## Western New England University recognizes Spring Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University (WNE) is proud to recognize 805 students who have earned a place on the Spring 2026 Dean's List, reflecting their dedication to academic excellence, perseverance, and commitment to achieving their educational goals.

WNE congratulates these outstanding students for their accomplishments and applauds their continued pursuit of academic success.

Claire Hill of Brimfield, Braylon Casinghino of Brimfield,

Jack Dalton of Charlton, Jaden Darnell of Southbridge,

Evan Thomas of Wales, Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield as a division of Northeastern College, WNE's 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including over 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its more than 90 undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering,

and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30 percent remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut. WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

## Brimfield's Allison Moloney named to Stonehill Dean's List

EASTON — Allison Moloney, a member of Stonehill College's Class of 2026 from Brimfield has been named to the Spring 2026 Dean's List.

To qualify for this honor, undergraduate students must have achieved a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher with a minimum of 12 credits from courses graded with standard letter grades.

About Stonehill College

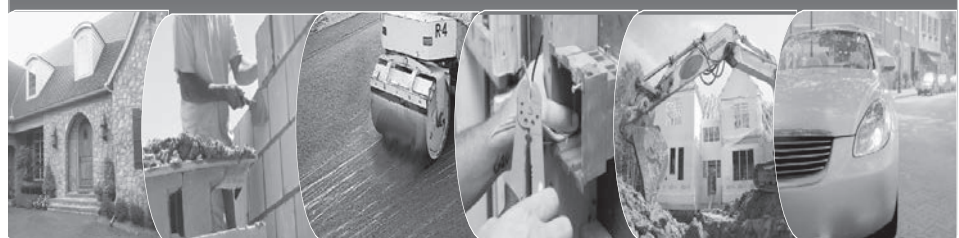
a Catholic institution of higher learning, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1948. Located on the beautiful 387-acre campus and former estate of Frederick Lothrop Ames in North Easton, Massachusetts, it is a community of scholarship and faith, anchored by a belief in the inherent dignity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

Through more than 100 academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences,

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# Ruth Wells Center spotlights three unique artists this June

**SOUTHBRIDGE** — The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, located at 111 Main St. in Southbridge, is thrilled to feature three unique artists for the June show. Gallery hours are Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. throughout the month. Admission is free and all are welcome to view our local talent.

Found items become flights of fancy, and remind us to be curious.

Elegant watercolors remind us how achingly beautiful this world can be.

Both majestic and fun, wildlife photographs

remind that we live alongside the extraordinary.

Stop by, enjoy things worth looking at, have some refreshments, and help welcome three gifted Southbridge artists who will be in the gallery and look forward to seeing you. All are welcome, and admission is free. The artwork is available for purchase.

**David Baggarly**  
David Baggarly was born (1963) and raised in Mattapoisett, graduating in 1985 with a BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art,

in Baltimore, Maryland. Previously residing in Baltimore, Providence, R.I., and the New Bedford region, he and his wife have recently been residing in Southbridge MA. David has been a professional artist since 1985.

Baggarly's work has been exhibited around the nation for over 30 years, including most recently his fifth solo exhibit at Colo Colo Gallery, New Bedford; and a solo exhibit at Starlite Gallery in Southbridge. He has recently exhibited at the Danforth Art Museum, Framingham; the Newport Art Museum,

Newport, R.I.; the New Bedford Art Museum; and URI, Providence, R.I. His works hang in numerous public and private collections, including MEDITECH Inc. (Fall River facility), Concordia College (Michigan), Johnson & Wales University (R.I.), and the National Conference of American Bishops (Washington, D.C.). David has also received grants from, among others, the LEF Foundation (CA) and the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. His work is currently represented by Colo Colo Gallery of New Bedford.

**Barbara O'Brien**  
"I began drawing and painting at a young age,

inspired by my artistic older sister Margaret. Later, I was greatly influenced by my mother-in-law, the artist and teacher Christine O'Brien, as well as my instructors at the School of the Worcester Art Museum. My husband Tom has also been a constant source of support and remains my most valued critic. After exploring various media, I returned to watercolor painting this past year. My love of nature is a prominent theme in my work, and I am grateful to be able to pursue this passion. I also feel very fortunate to have access to the Open Studio at the Ruth Wells Center for the Arts"

Jim R. Wilton

Self-taught and versatile, Jim Wilton is well-known in Worcester County and far beyond for his paintings and photography. He's always busy with commission work and has been shown locally several times. Jim has self-published two coffee-table photo books and his work has appeared in magazines. He is also a busy presence on Etsy and Facebook where he loves talking with the public about the subjects in his work. He's at his happiest when his work connects with people and makes them feel happy too. Wilton is a valued member of our Board here at the Ruth Wells Center and we are pleased to be showing his photography this month.

## Assumption students named to Spring Dean's List

**WORCESTER** — Assumption University has announced those who have been named to the University's Dean's List for the spring 2026 semester. Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on this prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters.

Kelsy Brown of Charlton  
Julia Canty of Charlton City  
Madison Cantwell of

Fiskdale  
Haley Courtney of Sturbridge  
Lilina Shiers of Wales  
Yheraldine Baez of Southbridge  
Elena Jerez of Southbridge  
About Assumption University  
Assumption University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is a premier New England university for high-quality education, integrating career preparation and education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and

centuries-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption's graduates are known for their intellectual seriousness, thoughtful citizenship, and devotion to the common good. The University offers 37 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, nursing, professional studies, and other areas, as well as graduate degrees and professional credentials. For more information about Assumption University, please visit [assumption.edu](http://assumption.edu) or follow us @ AssumptionUMA.

## Western New England University recognizes Spring President's List

**SPRINGFIELD** — Western New England University (WNE) is proud to recognize 597 students who have earned a place on the Spring 2026 President's List, one of the University's highest academic honors.

The President's List celebrates students who have achieved exceptional academic success through their dedication, discipline, and pursuit of excellence by earning a GPA of 3.80 or higher, while the Dean's List honors students who earned a semester GPA of 3.30 or higher. Their accomplishments reflect a strong commitment to learning and exemplify the high standards of achievement that define the Western New England University community.

WNE congratulates these outstanding students on their remarkable academic performance and applauds their continued pursuit of excellence.

Austin Ayotte of Charlton  
Ellen Butler of Charlton  
Kaylin Tietz of Brimfield  
Emily Moran of Holland  
Jack Leland of Brimfield  
Tess Chevalier of Brimfield

Kallie Laflamme of Sturbridge  
Sarah Jalbert of Charlton  
Jaden Darnell of Southbridge

Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield as a division of Northeastern College, WNE's 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including over 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its more than 90 undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of

Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30% remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut.

WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

## Local residents named to

### William & Mary Dean's List

**WILLIAMSBURG, Va.** — Charlotte Ardis and Lila Caslowitz of Sturbridge were recently named to the Dean's List at the College of William & Mary for the spring 2026 semester.

In order to achieve Dean's List status, a full-time

degree seeking undergraduate student must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 Quality Point Average during the semester.

William & Mary is the second oldest institution of higher learning in the United States.

## Local student earns Dean's List recognition at Norwich University

**NORTHFIELD, Vt.** — Norwich University is pleased to announce that Richard Noel, of Wales, has earned Dean's List honors for the Spring 2026 semester. Founded in 1819, Norwich University is recognized for its emphasis on experiential education and leadership development.

Dean's List recognition is awarded to full-time undergraduate students who achieve a semester

grade point average of 3.4 or higher, acknowledging sustained academic achievement and dedication to scholarly success.

About Norwich University

Norwich University is a diversified academic institution that educates traditional-age students and adults in a Corps of Cadets and as civilians. Norwich offers a broad selection of traditional and distance-learning

programs culminating in baccalaureate and graduate degrees. Norwich University was founded in 1819 by Captain Alden Partridge of the U.S. Army and is the oldest private military college in the United States of America. Norwich is one of our nation's six senior military colleges and the birthplace of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). [www.norwich.edu](http://www.norwich.edu)

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# LEGALS

## THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION NOTICE OF A DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

### Project Description: Sturbridge – Roundabout Construction At The Intersection Of Rte 20 And Rte 131 Project File No. 611933

A Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed project in Sturbridge, MA.

WHERE: Sturbridge Town Hall,  
Veterans Memorial Hall  
308 Main St,  
Sturbridge, MA 01566

WHEN: Tuesday, June 16th, 2026 at  
6:00PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project aims to enhance vehicle traffic and access to commercial areas along Route 20, including for pedestrians and bicyclists, in accordance with the Town of Sturbridge's Commercial Tourist District Plan. The proposed project seeks to replace the existing intersection of Route 20 (Charlton Road) and Route 131 (Main St) with a two-lane roundabout; and reconstruction of the intersection of Route 20 and New Boston Road. A buffered shared use path along with crosswalks for bicyclists and pedestrians have been provided in accordance with applicable design guides.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to [MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 611933. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is held.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email ([MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us)). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

In case of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR  
CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.  
CHIEF ENGINEER  
June 21, 2026

### SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Under G.L. c.255 Sec.39A Notice is hereby given by Cruise Control Transportation Inc. Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A. that on or after **JUNE 27,2026** at Cruise Control Transportation Inc. the following motor vehicle/s will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle:

VEHICLE :2008 Nissan Titan  
VIN:1N6AA07C58N334649  
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED  
OWNER:  
John Derosiers  
16 COLONIAL RD  
WEBSTER ,MA 01570

VEHICLE :2008 Chrysler PT Cruiser  
VIN:3A8FY48B98T13599  
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED  
OWNER:  
Amber Rae Pagan  
555 WORCESTER ST ,APT 207  
Southbridge, MA 01550-3300

VEHICLE :2013 Hyundai SONATA  
VIN:5NPEB4AC8DH744888  
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED  
OWNER : Daryll Jason Proto

93 PAULINE AVE  
WEST HAVEN, CT 06516

VEHICLE:2010 Honda Accord  
VIN:1HGCP2F84AA188696  
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED  
OWNER: Longbao Xing  
16 CROSS ST, APT 303  
NEW CANAAN CT 06840-4841

VEHICLE :2008 Hyundai SANTA FE  
VIN:5NMSH73E28H222102  
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED  
OWNER: Dieubon Charles  
171 MECHANIC ST,  
SOUTHBRIDGE ,MA 01550-1971

VEHICLE :2011 Acura MDX  
VIN:2HNYD2H26BH532872  
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED  
OWNER: Aldrin D Ocampo 49  
WYMAN ST  
Lynn .MA 01905-1817

VEHICLE:2006 Toyota Corolla  
VIN:2T1BR32EX6C644435  
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED  
OWNER: Amanda DE Oliveira Silva  
38 COLUMBIA ST, APT 1  
WORCESTER MA 01604-4676

VEHICLE :2010 Ford Focus  
VIN:1FAHP3GN7AW141492  
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED  
OWNER: Lisando Perez 57 Wilkinson  
St.  
Putnam CT 06260-2142

VEHICLE :2011 Subaru Legacy  
VIN:4S3BMC69B3246796  
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED  
OWNER: Brian Kevin Connolly  
804 SOUTH ST,  
SOUTHBRIDGE MA 01550-2156

VEHICLE : 2010 HONDA CIVIC  
VIN:JHMF3F21AS004743  
LAST REGISTERED OWNER :  
Thais Costa Ramos  
17 Orchard St Apt 1,  
Danbury, CT 06810-2757

VEHICLE :2009 Chevrolet Malibu  
VIN:1G1ZG57B994173294  
LAST REGISTERED OWNER :  
Brynna J West  
200 MAIN ST ,APT 1  
Sturbridge ,MA 01566-1258

VEHICLE:2003 Honda Civic  
VIN:2HGES26793H509747  
LAST REGISTERED OWNER :  
Jaide Hunter (413) 472-0134 950  
North Pleasant St  
Amherst MA 01002

VEHICLE :2020 Toyota RAV4  
VIN:2T3F1RFVXLW108625  
LAST REGISTERED OWNER :  
Joel Laureano  
245 Cabot St ,Apt 303  
Beverly Ma,01915  
June 12,2026  
June 19,2026  
June 26,2026

### Public Hearing Town of Sturbridge Transfer of Liquor License

The Select Board of the Town of Sturbridge will consider an application for the transfer of an All Alcoholic Beverages License from Uno Restaurants LLC to NURURH Sub 2 LLC located at 120 Charlton Road. The application also includes a change of corporate name to NURUH Sub 2 LLC. Said application will be considered at a meeting of the Select Board on July 6, 2026 at 6:45 p.m. at Veteran's Memorial Hall 2nd Floor, Town Hall located at 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA. Any person wishing to be heard on this matter should appear at that time.  
June 11, 2026

### CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on June 17, 2026, at 7PM on the application of the New England Power Company. The applicant has requested an Amendment to the Order of Conditions DEP # 128-1998 for the repair of three additional structures and the implementation of a Habitat Management Plan. The project location is: Existing Right-of-Ways between Carpenter Hill Road Substation in Charlton, MA, and Snow Street Substation in Southbridge, MA. Parcel ID: Various Parcels. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request. Copies of the NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.  
Thomas O'Malley  
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission  
June 11, 2026

### TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE

The Town of Southbridge in conjunction with the Police Department is seeking independent contractors to tow and to store all motor vehicles ordered removed pursuant to applicable law for

the Town. Proposal information and guidelines for Towing and Storage of Motor Vehicles are available in the Town Manager's Office, or by contacting Gayle Raducha, Assistant, Town Manager's Office, telephone #508-764-5405 or email [graducha@southbridgemass.org](mailto:graducha@southbridgemass.org) Proposals must be received in the Town Manager's Office **no later than 1:00 PM on Wednesday, July 15, 2026**, in a sealed envelope labeled "**Request to Tow and Store Motor Vehicles**" in the lower right left corner of the envelope addressed to Town Manager's Office 2<sup>nd</sup> floor 41 Elm Street Southbridge, MA 01550 The Town is not responsible for delays in deliveries or after town offices are closed, or any other reason for a proposal that is not submitted prior to the deadline.  
June 11, 2026

### TOWN OF CHARLTON CHARLTON DPW 100 FLINT ROAD CHARLTON, MA 01507 (508) 248-2212

#### I. ADVERTISEMENT/PUBLIC NOTICE

#### TOWN OF CHARLTON – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS INVITATION FOR BIDS FY2027-01 PAVEMENT SURFACING OF VARIOUS STREETS

Sealed bids for the Pavement Surfacing of Various Streets Town of Charlton (hereinafter referred to as "The OWNER") will be received at the Town Administrator's Office, Charlton Municipal Offices, 37 Main Street, Charlton MA, 01507 until 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 24, 2026 at which time they will be publicly opened and read. No late bids accepted.

**Obtaining Bid Packages:** Specifications, general instructions, and Bid Forms must be obtained at the Town Administrator's Office, Charlton Municipal Offices, 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday via pickup at the Town Administrator's Office, by email [mary.devlin@townofcharlton.net](mailto:mary.devlin@townofcharlton.net), or call (508) 248-2206. Bidders are required to submit on the Bid Forms provided.

**Bid Deposit:** All bids over \$10,000 MUST be accompanied by a bid deposit in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid in the form of cash, a bid bond, or a certified check made payable to the Town of Charlton. The bid deposit will be forfeited if the bidder fails to execute the contract and satisfactory Bond within ten (10) days after the contract may have been awarded to them.

**Conditions of Contract:** All awarded contracts shall be subject to the Special Contract Conditions that accompany this bid package. Successful Bidders will be required to produce a certificate of insurance. All work being performed requires 100% Performance Bond and a 50% Payment Bond in accordance with G.L. c. 149, section 29. The bidder shall be able to start work under this contract and after the acceptance by the Select Board.

**Wage Rates:** All wage rates will comply with those established by the Commonwealth Department of Labor and Workforce Development, M.G.L., Chapter 149, Section 26-27G as set forth in the contract documents.

**Prequalification:** Bidders for all projects that cost over \$50,000 must be prequalified by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (formerly Mass. Highway Department). All bidders shall be subject to Section 34 of Chapter 90, must be prequalified in accordance with 720 CMR 5.00 "Prequalification's of Contractors". This will apply to horizontal construction only.

MassDOT prequalification of contractors with the class of work as PAVEMENT SURFACING for the project with an estimated value of \$336,752.46 will be required.

**Award/Rejection:** The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive minor informalities in the bids, or to accept the bid deemed best for the OWNER. The OWNER further reserves the right to award all portions of the contract to one bidder. In this case, the price bid by the bidder for each item as detailed on the Bid Form shall remain the same. The contract will be awarded to the lowest, responsible and eligible bidder.  
June 4, 2026  
June 11, 2026

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2100 Docket No. WO26P1759EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate Of: Elizabeth P Haight Date of Death: 03/10/2026

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Enrique D Polletta of Saco ME** re-

questing that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Enrique D Polletta of Saco ME** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the estate in **unsupervised administration**.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/23/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

#### UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: May 28, 2026  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
June 11, 2026

TOWN OF CHARLTON  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
100 FLINT ROAD  
CHARLTON, MA 01507  
(508) 248-2212

#### I. ADVERTISEMENT/PUBLIC NOTICE

#### TOWN OF CHARLTON – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS INVITATION FOR BIDS FY2027-02

#### 10% ASPHALT RUBBER SURFACE TREATMENT OF VARIOUS STREETS

Sealed bids for the 10% Asphalt Rubber Surface Treatment of Various Streets in the Town of Charlton (hereinafter referred to as "The OWNER") will be received at the Town Administrator's Office, Charlton Municipal Offices, 37 Main Street, Charlton MA, 01507 until 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 8, 2026 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. No late bids accepted.

**Obtaining Bid Packages:** Specifications, general instructions, and Bid Forms must be obtained at the Town Administrator's Office, Charlton Municipal Offices, 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday via pickup at the Town Administrator's Office, by email [mary.devlin@townofcharlton.net](mailto:mary.devlin@townofcharlton.net), or call (508) 248-2206. Bidders are required to submit on the Bid Forms provided.

**Bid Deposit:** All bids over \$10,000 MUST be accompanied by a bid deposit in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid in the form of cash, a bid bond, or a certified check made payable to the Town of Charlton. The bid deposit will be forfeited if the bidder fails to execute the contract and satisfactory Bond within ten (10) days after the contract may have been awarded to them.

**Conditions of Contract:** All awarded contracts shall be subject to the Special Contract Conditions that accompany this bid package. Successful Bidders will be required to produce a certificate of insurance. All work being performed requires 100% Performance Bond and a 50% Payment Bond in accordance with M.G.L. c. 149, section 29. The bidder shall be able to start work under this contract and after the acceptance by the Select Board.

**Wage Rates:** All wage rates will comply with those established by the Commonwealth Department of Labor and Workforce Development, M.G.L., Chapter 149, Section 26-27G as set forth in the contract documents.

**Prequalification:** Bidders for all projects that cost over \$50,000 must be prequalified by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (formerly Mass. Highway Department). All bidders shall be subject to Section 34 of Chapter 90, must be prequalified in accordance with 720 CMR 5.00 "Prequalification's of Contractors". This will apply to horizontal construction only.

MassDOT prequalification of contractors with the class of work as PAVEMENT SURFACING for the project with an estimated value of \$336,300 will be required.

**Award/Rejection:** The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive minor informalities in the bids, or to accept the bid deemed best for the OWNER. The OWNER further reserves the right to award all portions of the contract to one bidder. In this case, the price bid by the bidder for each item as detailed on the Bid Form shall remain the same. The contract will be awarded to the lowest, responsible and eligible bidder.  
June 11, 2026  
June 18, 2026

# Worcester Polytechnic Institute students complete intensive capstone research projects

WORCESTER — Worcester Polytechnic Institute students completed a capstone thesis called the Major Qualifying Project (MQP), a research-driven, professional-level project that challenges students to solve the kinds of problems they would typically encounter in their professional discipline. This project is required of all graduating seniors as part of the university's distinctive project-based educational experience.

"It's inspiring to see the creativity and skills that our students bring to these projects, as well as the professionalism with which they present their research," says Arne Gericke, interim dean of undergraduate studies and director of the Office of Undergraduate

Research. "Their experience managing a major project like this-including identifying a problem and researching all of the implications and possible solutions while also managing team dynamics over an extended period of several months-sets them up well for success not only in their first jobs after graduation but throughout their careers."

WPI's innovative undergraduate education is centered around project-based learning, a hands-on approach that offers students opportunities to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to real-world, open-ended problems. These projects produce tangible results that affect the quality of people's lives, an experience that changes both

the student and their world.

MQPs are usually team-based and often focus on specific issues or needs of an organization that has partnered with the university to sponsor the students' work. In addition to providing practical work experience that proves valuable to future employers, MQPs often lead to publications in peer-reviewed journals, presentations at regional and national conferences, patents, and entrepreneurial ventures. Others become useful innovations and products for their corporate sponsors.

The following local students completed projects:

Alexander Shettler, a member of the class of 2026 majoring in

Computer Science, completed a project titled "Mapping Global China: Visualization Design and Development."

Charlton resident Joseph Dumas, class of 2026, majoring in Architectural Engineering, completed a project titled "2026 AIA COTE Competition Submission."

Charlton resident Adam Faucher, class of 2026, majoring in Society, Technology and Policy, completed a project titled "100 YEARS & 100 DAYS: Examining Rhetorical/Legal Strategies."

Charlton resident Bridget McGonagle, class of 2027, majoring in Chemical Engineering, completed a project titled "Astaxanthin Production in Red Yeast Using Wireless LEDs."

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) is a top-tier, STEM-focused university with an R1 research classification and global leadership in project-based learning. Founded in 1865, WPI's distinctive approach integrates classroom theory with real-world practice, preparing students to tackle critical challenges through inclusive educa-

tion, impactful projects, and interdisciplinary research. With more than 70 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments and over 50 global project centers, WPI advances knowledge and innovation in fields such as life sciences, smart technologies, advanced materials and manufacturing, and global innovation. Learn more at [www.wpi.edu](http://www.wpi.edu).

## Correction

SOUTHBRIDGE — It was brought to our attention by the Southbridge Lions Club that in a press release the club submitted last week recapping its recent golf tournament, the last name of one of the indi-

viduals honored by the event, Al Dipietro, was inadvertently misspelled as DiPetro.

The Lions deeply regret any confusion that may have resulted from this unintentional error.



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# Worcester Polytechnic Institute students complete intensive research projects

WORCESTER — At Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology to address an important societal need or issue.

Known as the Interactive Qualifying Project (IQP), this project is a core part of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI. Centered around project-based learning, this hands-on approach offers students opportunities to help develop thoughtful solutions to open-ended problems. These real-world problems affect the quality of life for people in the communities where students work, giving students a chance to make a difference in the world before they graduate. All WPI undergraduates are required to

complete an IQP, usually in their junior year, through which they apply science and technology to address an important societal need or issue. About two-thirds of WPI students complete their IQP at one of the university's 50+ off-campus project centers located in more than 30 countries around the world.

"The WPI project-based curriculum's focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones and into the global community to apply their knowledge and to solve problems," said Professor Kent Rissmiller, professor of International & Global Studies and associate dean of The Global School. "Students are immersed in all aspects of a different culture—from the way people live and work to the values

they hold to the foods they eat, all valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today's global marketplace. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference in their host community; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application."

The following students completed projects in the spring of 2026:

Charlton resident Kenerson Cronin, class of 2027, majoring in Robotics Engineering.

Charlton resident Aidan Dugan, class of 2027, majoring in Civil Engineering.

Ella Favreau, a member of the class of 2027, majoring in Architectural Engineering.

About Worcester Polytechnic

Institute

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) is a top-tier, STEM-focused university with an R1 research classification and global leadership in project-based learning. Founded in 1865, WPI's distinctive approach integrates classroom theory with real-world practice, preparing students to tackle critical challenges through inclusive education, impactful projects, and interdisciplinary research. With more than 70 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments and over 50 global project centers, WPI advances knowledge and innovation in fields such as life sciences, smart technologies, advanced materials and manufacturing, and global innovation. Learn more at [www.wpi.edu](http://www.wpi.edu).



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### COLLEGE

continued from page A1

ment. "The strength of our partnership is vital to the success of the program. QCC has collaborated with Southbridge for many years, including its current satellite location at the high school," said Veronica Guay, executive director of High School Dual Enrollment Programs and Partnerships for QCC. "Building the bridge between K-12 and higher education requires strong systems and communica-

tion. Southbridge High School made a tremendous impact by adapting their schedule and processes to make this program work."

In addition to coursework, the program includes hands-on career exploration opportunities. Students are introduced to fields such as health care, manufacturing and information technology through site visits, job fairs and partnerships with local organizations and regional businesses.

Superintendent Bill Metzger

emphasized the importance of access and local opportunity, especially for the Southbridge Public Schools, where close to 90 percent of students are historically underrepresented in higher education.

"For our students, transportation and access can be barriers, so it's critical that QCC is right here and fits so well with our community," Metzger said. "Early College is helping us establish that there is a lot of value to staying enrolled at

Southbridge High School."

Metzger also noted that the teachers from SHS are gaining valuable experience as they become trained for Early College instruction. Professional development also takes place across institutions so instructors can connect and collaborate.

Early College Southbridge enables students to take college courses at no cost through funding from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary

E d u c a t i o n . Credits earned are fully transferable through the MassTransfer program, allowing students to apply them toward certificates and degrees across the state's public higher education system. QCC is also part of Early College programs in Worcester and Marlborough.

"Early College is another initiative for students that Massachusetts is going to lead the way on and become an exemplar for the nation," Metzger added.

### ART GALLERY

continued from page A1

enjoy the art that others have made. As part of this project, Reed also taught several art classes at the library over the winter.

The permanent installation of

the gallery was delayed until the spring, but Eilee is ready to finally introduce the gallery and invite the community to use it and connect to one another.

Reed is a recent graduate of Tantaquaggon Regional High School, and is

getting ready to attend the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in the fall, where they will be pursuing a career in elementary art education. She recently was a student intern at Burgess Elementary School and a

member of the Art Club and National Art Honor Society at Tantasqua. Eilee is grateful for the support from the Joshua Hyde Library, and projects advisors and mentors, including Deb Drury, Jen Scherer, and Katy Taricano.

The Gold Award is the highest award that a Girl Scout can earn. It requires a Girl Scout to identify an issue in the community, then plan and carry out a project that will have a lasting positive impact.

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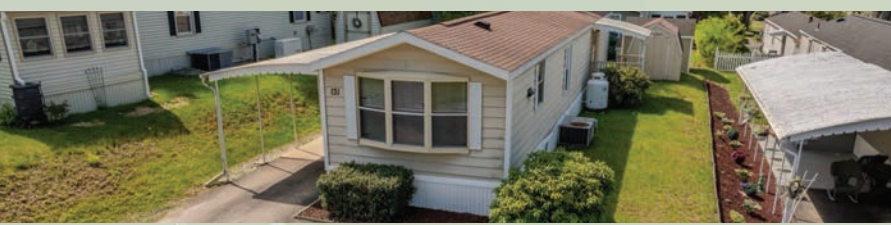


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Welcome to Sturbridge Retirement Cooperative 55+ community. 2 bedroom 1 bath home built in 1985. Brand new propane furnace. Central Air, storage shed. Open floor plan, bright and sunny kitchen. Easy 1 level living centrally located only minutes to area markets, restaurants, shops and easy access to I-90, 84, 20. Monthly HOA includes water, sewer, trash, recycling, basic cable, land lease, taxes, road maintenance. Park share of \$25,000 NOT included in list price.



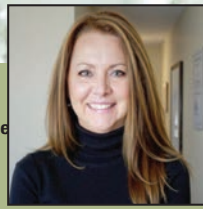
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# St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish announces Young Adult Alpha Program

STURBRIDGE — St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish will hold a Young Adult Alpha program for those seeking to explore life's biggest questions and the foundations of the Christian faith in a safe and welcoming space. Young adults between the ages of 18 and 30 are invited to attend this no-cost program.



The program comprises three important components: connection, content, and conversation. Participants share light refresh-

ments, which helps to build friendships. After watching a short video, participants explore core questions about faith, God, and pur-

pose. Small group discussions about the video encourage participants to ask key questions and share opinions in a non-judgmental environment.

Young Adult Alpha will meet on June 22, 23, 29, 30 and July 7, 13, and 14. All meetings take place in the Parish Center at St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish, 16 Church St., Sturbridge, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

To register or for more information, contact alphasturbridge@gmail.com. St. Anne St. Patrick Parish is an active parish community. It offers daily Mass for worship, religious education, and community ministries. It welcomes visitors to St. Anne Shrine, the new Memorial for the Unborn, the Hall of Saints, the Russian Icon Exhibit, the Votive Chapel, the Generations Statue, and the Angel of Hope Monument. The Daily Rosary is recited at 3 p.m. in the St. Patrick Chapel, and weekend Masses are celebrated in its outdoor pavilion in the summer. Its religious gift shop is open every day from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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## Southbridge Cultural Council presents "Henry the Juggler"

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Recreation

Department, in partnership with the Southbridge Cultural Council, is excited to present a lively and engaging performance by Henry the Juggler June 25 at 12:30 p.m. at 153 Chestnut St.

A seasoned professional entertainer, Henry the Juggler has delighted tens of thousands of audiences up and down the East Coast at theaters, schools, libraries, festivals, and community events. With over 40 years of experience, Henry blends physical comedy, movement, and skill into a one-of-a-kind performance that appeals to audiences of all ages.

Trained at California's renowned Dell'Arte School of Physical Comedy, Henry continues to refine his craft through studies in Tai Chi, Feldenkrais, and Tango. He is an active member of the International Jugglers Association and the Hats Off Performers Guild, and also produces the annual New England Performers' Retreat.

Known for his expressive, mostly nonverbal style, Henry communicates through movement, gestures, and humor—often with the help of unexpected props and signage. His act features a variety of juggling equipment including balls, clubs, rings, and even torches, along with balancing feats such as wire walking and stilt work.

Audiences are advised: Henry is "armed (and legged) and dangerous" —

This family-friendly performance is funded in part by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

For more information, please visit the Southbridge Recreation Department at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthbridgeRec> or <https://www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/532/Recreation>

## Fairfield University congratulates Spring Dean's List

FAIRFIELD, Conn. — Andrew Bellezza of Sturbridge received Dean's List Honors for the Spring 2026 semester.

In order to be placed on the Dean's List, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours in a semester, have no outstanding or incomplete grades for that semester, and have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better.

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FAMOUS-MAKER OVER-THE-STOVE MICROWAVE REG. \$249.99 <b>\$229.99</b>	LG WASHER OR DRYER Front Load - REG. \$1599.99 <b>\$1,399.99</b>	MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER REG. \$899.99 <b>\$499.99</b>	FRIGIDAIRE SIDE BY SIDE REG. \$1,499.00 <b>\$1,099.99</b>

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