

Charlton Villager

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Thursday-Friday, June 19-20, 2025

Southbridge breaks ground for new fire station

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBIDGE — “Decades in the making,” the fire station project officially kicked off last week with the formal groundbreaking of gold-painted shovels tossing dirt around.

Of course, the real work has already begun, with dump trucks hauling tons of dirt around the 129 Worcester Street property that will be its new home for a few weeks now.

As Fire Chief Paul Normandin noted, this project came about because of “the dedication of many individuals,” some of them no longer alive, over “countless meetings and hundreds if not thousands of hours.”

Town Manager Jack Jovan said that began in 1999 “because they saw a vision that a new station was needed.”

At that time, the council didn't support it, and over the years, the plan was sidestepped to prioritize other key projects, including a new police station and middle/high school. But nobody forgot, and the building committee was recreated in June 2015, with most of its members still involved.

One, John Szugda, has done it for 25-plus years. Regarding another, Joe Hulyk (now building committee chair), Jovan said he “has truly been my partner as we've continued this journey” and praised his “leadership and dedication to this mission.”

“The last time something like this happened was over 100 years ago,” Hulyk replied, referring to when



Gus Steeves

Turn To **SOUTHBIDGE** page 11 One of several batches of project participants gets their chance to toss some dirt around.

First phase of #2 Schoolhouse renovations on schedule

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Charlton is seeing progress on Phase 1 of a restoration project for the #2 Schoolhouse Building on Northside Road, a historical staple of the town dating back to the 1840s.

The current phase of the project is funded through a \$50,000 Preservation Projects Fund grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission as well as additional authorized town funding in Charlton's capital budget. Bids for the project were opened in February and work began later in the year. The town part-

nered with Cirrus Engineering and Crocker Architectural Sheet Metal for structural shoring, slate roof replacement and exterior repair work with the structural shoring and roof replacement well underway.

Town Administrator Andrew Golas said the renovation is pro-

Turn To **SCHOOLHOUSE** page 11

Ruth Wells Center presents Summerfest

SOUTHBIDGE — The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, located at 111 Main St. in Southbridge, is excited to present Summerfest on Saturday, June 21, rain date of June 28. Summerfest runs 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and will feature more than 20 crafters with live music by the Euphoralites. The galleries will be open with

Turn To **SUMMERFEST** page 11



Bay Path Practical Nursing students attend prestigious Women's Leadership Conference on scholarship

CHARLTON — Seven students from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy — Elizabeth Achayo, Rachel Anane, and Natasha Rovon of Worcester; Chali Desrosiers of Oxford; Ashley Rincon and Giselle Rosario of Southbridge; and Delene Sarsfield of Charlton — attended the esteemed 2025 Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce and Worcester Women's Leadership Committee (WWLC) Conference on scholarship. Stefanie Silva, Programs and

Events Coordinator for the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, personally congratulated the students via email upon their acceptance to the event. “We are SO excited to see you all at the DCU Center to celebrate our Sweet 16!” Silva wrote, referencing the conference's 16th anniversary. Held on Thursday, June 12 at the Worcester DCU Center, the one-day conference drew more than 700 attendees, primarily women profes-

sionals from across the region. Now in its 16th year, the Worcester Women's Leadership Conference is the largest event of its kind in Central Massachusetts, offering participants invaluable opportunities for business networking, professional development, and personal growth. The conference aims to empower and inspire women by addressing issues that impact both their personal and professional lives. “Thank you to our Presenting Sponsors, The

Hanover Insurance Group Inc. and UMass Memorial Health, for their continued support, along with all of our incredible sponsors who help make Central MA's largest women's conference possible,” added Silva. The scholarship opportunity provides an inspiring platform for the Bay Path nursing students to broaden their leadership skills and connect with a diverse network of women leaders throughout the region.

QCC Math Team scores double victory

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College has secured two first-place victories in regional mathematics competitions. The QCC math team has been awarded the Lois A. Martin Student Math League Award for placing first among all New England Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (NEMATYC) Student Math League teams, while simultaneously claiming first place in the entire Northeast Region of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC) Student Math League competition.

Under the guidance of Professor of Mathematics Ibar Delacruz, who served as the team's moderator, QCC students tack-

led complex mathematical challenges throughout the competition. The team's success reflects not only the students' mathematical abilities, but also the supportive learning environment of QCC.

"It's fun. I enjoy solving math problems," said Ben Carpenter, one of the top-scoring students.

With a background in IT, Carpenter found that math courses at QCC provide good practice for how computers operate and hopes to pursue a career in cybersecurity. He shared how his mathematical talents were recognized by Professor of Mathematics Steve Zona, who invited him to help outside of class, eventually leading Ben to become a peer tutor.

"Now people I have tutored are becoming tutors as well," Carpenter noted.

Isabel Thies, another top performer, shared a different journey. She didn't enjoy math in high school and came to QCC as an undecided major. But Theis's professors noticed her abilities and encouraged her to explore mathematics. She ended up joining the Liberal Arts-Mathematics program and sees a future in scientific research and innovation.

For Thies, the competition provided unexpected opportunities.

"It was really exciting to represent QCC and our math program, especially because we were going up against some big competi-

tors," Thies said, adding, "I've found a math community here, which I was not expecting."

Team member Quoc Le, who "really loves math and talking to people about math," expressed a similar sentiment of belonging between math-focused students. He plans to pursue mechanical or electrical engineering but expressed interest in keeping in touch with other QCC students.

Fellow team member Vijay Kesavan noted the alignment between their QCC coursework and what's offered at other renowned institutions.

"MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) has open tests available. Look-

ing at them, I saw a lot of overlap with Professor De La Cruz's class," he said.

All of these award-winning students have been accepted to Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) for the fall semester, demonstrating how QCC's mathematics program serves as a foundation for continued academic success.



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Type of bread

5. Range of mountains

10. Ended

12. Musical forms with a recurring theme

14. On the nature of being

16. Law enforcement agency

18. Australian flightless bird

19. Subway rodent

20. More dried-up

22. A beaver might build one

23. Suggestive of the supernatural

25. Art __, around 1920

26. American rocker Snider

27. Not or

28. Earliest human: __-Magnon Man

30. Firearm

31. Tough outer skin of fruit

33. Alternative form of a gene

35. Low shrub some call "fat pork"

37. Plants in the chamomile tribe

38. Revolutionary War era spy

40. Portion of a book

41. Hoover's office

42. Title of respect

44. Tax collector

45. Cool!

48. Real estate

50. Boy's name

52. Airborne (abbr.)

53. Strongly recommends

55. Hit lightly

56. Bar bill

57. Atomic #54

58. Devotes again

63. Fish sauce

65. French stock market

66. Things that consist of two elements or parts

67. Tense

CLUES DOWN

1. Retired game show host Sajak

2. Equal (prefix)

3. Israeli city __ Aviv

4. Loved

5. A type of analyst

6. Ad __

7. Gasteyer and de Armas are two

8. Ran without moving

9. Opposite of yes

10. Diffuse clouds of gas

11. Mentioning one by one

13. Instruments used to dilate

15. Freshwater fish

17. Remotely-manned flying objects

18. Doctor of Education

21. Renewals

23. Not the start

24. Pitching stat

27. Small water buffaloes

29. Ceramic jars

32. I (German)

34. Something to toss on a fire

35. The process of flowing in

36. A series of acts at a night club

39. Egg of a louse

40. Inquire too closely

43. Travelers

44. Drink

46. Behave in a way that degrades

47. Electronic music style

49. Northern Ireland city

51. Upset

54. Stiff structure resembling a hair

59. Father

60. North Atlantic fish

61. 8th month (abbr.)

62. Make an effort

64. Commercial

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Grange holding weekly farmers' market

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\$225,000, 30 Carpenter Hill Rd, Eager, Robert F, to Macneil & Sons Const Inc.

\$50,000, 93 A F Putnam Rd, Davey, Pamela C, to Elliott P Burlingame & So.

Holland

None

SOUTHBRIDGE

\$520,000, 62 Lovely St, Nala Investments LLC, to Rougeaux, Christophe.

\$495,000, 228 Hamilton St, Almanzar, Yelissa, to Lcr Ma Properties LLC.

\$391,700, 25 Hartwell Ter, Demers, Cheryl, to Demers, Holly A, and Demers, Sean.

\$360,000, 12 Chartier Ln, Julian, James L, to Riggieri, Sante S.

\$340,000, 781 Ashland Ave, Huberdault, Matthew, and Huberdault, Marybeth, to Roy, Amanda.

\$279,000, 337 Charlton St, Morrisette Leo Est, and Davey, Jonathan J, to Lopez, Daniel.

\$245,000, 691 Guelphwood Rd, Jandreau, Michael F, and Santander Bank Na, to Daou Inc.

\$87,000, 179 River St, Arvelo, Hector N, to Negron, Luis A.

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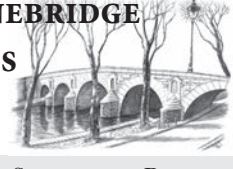
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WALES: 413-245-9808
Weekdays 8:30 – 12:30 and 2:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 – 12:00

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• **Central Baptist Church**
256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.
• **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 508- 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer worship is 9:30 a.m. www.fed-church.org
• **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 10 a.m.
• **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org
Sunday worship and Children's church 10am
• **St. Anne St. Patrick Church**, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338
www.stannestpatparish.com
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• **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
• **Wayside Church**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144
• **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
• **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349
Sunday Service 10:00am.
www.livingwordhcharlton.com
info@livingwordcharlton.com
• **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
• **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale**- 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021
www.sturfed.org
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
• **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**- 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566
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Web: www.bethlehemsturbridge.org
Services - Sunday 9:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell
• **Holland Congregation Church**
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Hollandchurch.org
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Pastor Dan Maketansky
• **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**
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Phone: 508-765-9559
Web: www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org
Sunday Service 11:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell

Bay Path nursing students volunteer at blood pressure clinic

CHARLTON — Michelle Drumm, C.D.P., Director of the Charlton Council on Aging, recently expressed her appreciation for the Practical Nursing student volunteers from the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy's Class of 2025. The Academy has concluded its free blood pressure screening initiative for the academic year, which was held monthly at the Charlton Senior Center.

Throughout the school year, Practical Nursing students volunteered their time on the last Wednesday of each month, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., at the Charlton Senior Center located at 37 Main St. These screenings provided seniors with valuable insights into their cardiovascular health.

"It is wonderful to see our Practical Nursing student volunteers complete another successful year of service at the Charlton Senior Center under Michelle's leadership," said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Director of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. "Hypertension remains one of the most common chronic conditions in the U.S., and it's crucial for individuals to be aware of their blood



pressure. Often, there are no warning signs or symptoms."

According to the American Heart Association, one in three U.S. adults has high blood pressure. Of those, 22 percent are unaware of their condition, 69 percent are receiving treatment, and only 45 percent have their blood pressure under control. The free screenings aim to promote awareness and encourage seniors to make regular blood pressure monitoring

part of their healthcare routine.

The final student volunteers for this academic year were Bobbie Jo Smith of North Brookfield and Katelyn Smith of Charlton, both members of the Practical Nursing Class of 2025. Bobbie Jo has served as a Shift Supervisor with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for over eight years, working in the North Central Group Homes. She was recently inducted into the National

Technical Honor Society. Katelyn, a 2018 graduate of Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School's Cosmetology program, is also a proud member of the current nursing class.

Both students are certified in Mental Health First Aid and Dementia Care and have completed specialized training in Domestic Violence, reflecting their commitment to comprehensive, compassionate care.

Nathan Wright of Sturbridge named to University of Alabama Dean's List

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Nathan Wright was named to The University of Alabama Dean's List for Spring Semester 2025.

A total of 14,289 students enrolled during Spring Semester 2025 at The University of Alabama were named to the dean's list with an academic record of 3.5 (or above) or the president's list with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's). These driven students are making waves across UA's more than 70 undergraduate programs and 12 colleges and schools.

The UA dean's and president's lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or undergraduate students who take less than a full course load.

For more information visit news.ua.edu.

The University of Alabama, part of The University of Alabama System, is the state's flagship university. UA shapes a better world through its teaching, research and service. With a global reputation for excellence, UA provides a forward-thinking environment and over 200 degree programs on a beautiful, student-centered campus. A leader in cutting-edge research, UA advances discovery, creative inquiry and knowledge through more than 30 research centers. As the state's largest higher education institution, UA drives economic growth in Alabama and beyond.

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While Supplies Last

Cornerstone Bank steps up: donations fuel life-changing mentorships

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, has made two generous donations totaling \$30,000 to support children in need through individual mentoring. The contribution will help fund programs run by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Massachusetts & Metrowest.

“We know that mentoring helps children realize their potential,” said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. “Role models can set kids up for success. We’re grateful to be able to support this wonderful mission.”

Cornerstone donated \$25,000 as part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Big Celebration which was held on Saturday, April 5. The bank was the main “Big Vibe Sponsor” and Tallman was an honoree, being recognized for 10 years of service and his commitment to the organization. Tallman serves as treasurer of the board of directors.

An additional \$5,000 contribution is going toward the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Massachusetts & Metrowest Golf Fore Kids tournament at the Marlborough Country Club, coming up on Monday, May 19.

“We hope the financial support allows for even more partnerships between children and adults in the community,” said Tallman. “It goes both ways. Littles are empowered while their Bigs are also fulfilled in ways they couldn’t have imagined. That’s the magic of Big Brothers Big Sisters.”

About Cornerstone Bank
Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and

businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank’s local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities through a broad range of deposit and loan products and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.

Local students graduate from Nichols College

DUDLEY — Nichols College proudly congratulates the spring 2025 graduating class, who earned their academic degrees at the College's commencement ceremony on May 3 at the DCU Center in Worcester, Mass. Anne F. Ackerley, a senior advisor to the retirement business at BlackRock and former head of the firm's U.S. Retirement Group, delivered the commencement address.

The following local students earned the degrees listed:

Jaelin Rheame, of Charlton, earned a Bachelor of Arts

Chris Rogalski, of Charlton, earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Adam Shields, of Charlton, earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Dylan Smaltz, of Charlton, earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Matthew Healy, of Charlton, earned a Master of Business Administration

Lindsey Houghton, of Southbridge, earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Henry Baez, of Southbridge, earned a Master of Business Administration

Marya Dejesus, of Southbridge, earned a Master of Business Administration

Michael Pelozo of Brimfield, earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

We applaud these students for their achievement.

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Trinity Catholic Academy is incredibly proud of our graduates! They have distinguished themselves as outstanding students—both academically and spiritually. As they prepare for their next journey, we send them off with our prayers, blessings, and best wishes for continued success. Congratulations to Valedictorian Layla Beu and Salutatorian Chloe Cahill.

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JOSHUA HYDE PUBLIC LIBRARY TEEN & ADULT SUMMER READING CALENDAR

Weekly during Summer Reading.
TAKE & MAKE CRAFTS
Beginning Monday mornings and while supplies last, pick up a Take and Make craft to do at home.
Week 1: Acrylic Bookmarks
Week 2: Upcycled Vases/Mason Jars
Week 3: Origami
Week 4: Photo Frames
Week 5: Shrink Art Keychains
Week 6: Cork Coasters

Tuesday, June 24 - 6:30pm to 7:30pm
BOOK BITES
Kick off the Teen & Adult Summer Reading Program with our annual Book Bites program. Several JHPL staff and patrons will present for a few minutes about their favorite 2 to 3 books, or something great they've read recently. Come join us for light refreshments and discussion. No registration is required.

Wednesday, June 25 through Wednesday, July 2 - All day
PUZZLE WALL
Bring your thinking caps to the library as you work to solve one of Co-Operatives Rooms themed puzzle walls! Groups of two or more will work on solving both sides of the wall, winding their way through clues and unraveling a mystery together! This fun and engaging installation will be available during regular library hours on our main floor; though best suited for adults & teens and children ages 10 and older, families are encouraged to play together and include younger kids. Stop by anytime we're open and give it a try!

Thursday, July 8 - 6:00pm to 7:30pm
INTRO TO MAGIC: THE GATHERING
Kids ages 12-17 are invited to join the JHPL for a fun and casual introduction to the popular card game Magic: The Gathering! Participants will learn basic game-play rules, what it takes to build their own deck, and how to play an actual match. No previous experience is necessary and all materials will be provided. Space is limited and registration is required.

Tuesday, July 8 - 7:30pm to 8:00pm
VIRTUAL - THRILL-

ER/HORROR BOOK RECS WITH BOOKS-TAGRAMMER JODY BLANCHETTE AKA @REDREADREVIEWS
Not sure what to read next? Join Bookstagrammer Jody Blanchette aka @redreadreviews each month for 30 minutes of pure book recommendations - the best of horror and thrillers out there! We're sure you'll find something to like from Jody's many enthusiastic reviews. Registration is required.

Monday, July 14 - 7:00pm to 8:00pm
VIRTUAL - "CAPTAIN KIDD: A TRUE STORY OF TREASURE AND BETRAYAL" WITH AUTHOR SAMUEL MARQUIS
We are excited to chat with author Samuel Marquis about his most recent book, "Captain Kidd: A True Story of Treasure and Betrayal" which is both thrilling and tragic. Behind the legend is a real man woven into the tapestry of early America, rendering him a unique colonial hero and scapegoat whose life story was fascinating, exciting, bizarre, and heartrending. Doesn't that sound fascinating? We hope you can join us! This is a Zoom event and registration is required.

Tuesday, July 15 - 6:00pm to 7:30pm
SNAP-ED COOKING CLASS FOR ADULTS
Join Lauren, the SNAP-ED Garden Educator from Ascentria Care Alliance, for a fun and educational class where we will learn how to prepare delicious snacks and meals using seasonal fruits and vegetables. Registration is required.

Thursday, July 17 - 5:00pm to 6:00pm
ONE UP GAMES FOR TEENS AND ADULTS
One Up Games will be hosting their Open Gameplay with Virtual Reality headsets! Join us for some video game fun! Gaming systems include: Nintendo Switch, Xbox Series S, PlayStation 4, and Oculus Quest 2. Registration is required.

Thursday, July 17 - 6:30pm to 7:30pm
WOMEN'S FICTION BOOK RECS WITH KRISTAN HIGGINS
Love women's fiction but not sure what to read next? Join bestselling author, Kristan Higgins (and Ashland fave!),

quarterly for 30 minutes of pure book recommendations - the best of women's fiction out there! We're sure you'll find something to like from Kristan's many enthusiastic reviews. This is a Zoom event and registration is required.

Friday, July 18 - 5:30pm to 8:00pm
PIZZA & PUZZLES: PUZZLE RACE
8 teams will be given the same puzzle to finish in the allotted 2 hours. The first team to complete the puzzle wins! There will be prizes for the first place and the runner up teams. Teams may have between 2 and 6 members. Pizza will be served at 5:30pm. The Puzzle Race starts promptly at 6:00pm! Registration is required. There will be a separate sign up for those who would like to participate but do not have a team. Participation is not guaranteed.

Saturday, July 19 - 11:00am to 12:00pm
BRING THE BEACH HOME: SEA GLASS CRAFTING
Create your own coastal-inspired art in this fun, hands-on workshop! Glue colorful sea glass pieces onto a wooden base to design a unique and beautiful piece of art. All materials provided, and no experience is needed. Join us to relax, get creative, and take home a piece of stunning sea glass art!

Tuesday, July 22 - 6:30pm to 7:30pm
WORLD BUILDING BOOK GROUP
This month's book is "A Short Walk Through a Wide World" by Douglas Westerbeke.

Wednesday, July 23 - 6:30pm to 7:30pm
DISCOVERING HERBS: A HANDS-ON WORKSHOP WITH SNAP-ED
Join Lauren, The SNAP-ED Garden Educator from Ascentria Care Alliance, for an engaging workshop where you'll dive into the fascinating world of common herbs! Learn about the history, uses, and care of popular herbs like basil, rosemary, and sage from our knowledgeable instructor. After gaining insight into herb gardening, you'll pot your very own herbs to take home and nurture! Perfect for teens and adults, this hands-on event combines educa-

tion with creativity. Don't miss out on the chance to grow your green thumb and enjoy the fresh flavors of home-grown herbs! Registration is required.

Tuesday, July 29 - 6:00pm to 7:00pm
SNAP-ED COOKING CLASS FOR ADULTS
Join Lauren, the SNAP-ED Garden Educator from Ascentria Care Alliance, for a fun and educational class where we will learn how to prepare delicious snacks and meals using seasonal fruits and vegetables. Registration is required.

Wednesday, July 30 - 2:00pm to 3:00pm
VIRTUAL - "V IS FOR VENOM: AGATHA CHRISTIE'S CHEMICALS OF DEATH WITH AUTHOR DR. KATHRYN HARKUP
We are such huge Agatha Christie fans and

this book is right up our alley! Dr. Kathryn Harkup, writer, science communicator and vampirologist, will be with us discussing her book "V is for Venom: Agatha Christie's Chemicals of Death". With a tagline of "Fourteen stories. Fourteen more poisons. Just because it's fiction doesn't mean it's all made-up ...", you just can't go wrong! Join us for this fun and fascinating conversation! This is a Zoom program and registration is required.

Wednesday, August 6 - 4:45pm to 7:45pm
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS GAME NIGHT FOR ADULTS
Ever wanted to play Dungeons & Dragons or other tabletop role playing games (also known as RPGs) but didn't know where to start? Join us for a night of adventure, comradery, and excite-

ment for Adult D&D Night! Our Dungeon Masters will lead their groups on a fantastic adventure in one evening. Character sheets will be provided to save time and to get play started quickly. Previous experience is not required and newcomers are encouraged to attend. Registration is required.

We are thankful for the organizations and businesses that make the Summer Reading Program possible. This year's sponsors include: The Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library, BT's Smokehouse, Alternatives for Health, Southbridge Credit Union, Entertainment Luxury Cinemas, the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, Ascentria Health Alliance and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

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ONE-TIME KIDS PROGRAMS

Thursday, June 26 ~ all day
PRIDE: CHALK THE WALK

Thursday, July 8 at 6:00pm to 7:30pm
INTRO TO MAGIC: THE GATHERING
For ages 12-17. Registration is required.

Thursday, July 10 from 11:00am to 12:00pm
SING & SWING WITH DEB HUDGINS
Registration is required.

Thursday, July 10 from 3:30PM to 5:30PM
COMFY COZY READING PARTY

Thursday, July 17 from 3:00pm to 6:00pm
ONE UP GAMES
Open gameplay with virtual reality headsets. 3:00pm to 5:00pm ~ Players aged 7 to 12. 5:00pm to 6:00pm ~ Players aged 13 plus & adults. Registration is required.

Friday, July 25 at 2:30pm & 3:30pm
ANIMALS OF THE RAINFOREST WITH JOYS OF NATURE
Live animal show. Registration is required for the 2:30pm OR the 3:30pm show.

Thursday, July 31 from 3:30pm to 4:30pm
ROCK PAINTING
Registration is required.

RECURRING KIDS PROGRAMS

Thursday, June 26 & Thursday, July 24 from 6pm to 7pm
FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Wednesday, July 2, Wednesday, July 16 & Wednesday, July 30 at 2:30pm
TODDLER TIME SENSORY PLAY

Tuesday, July 8 & Tuesday, July 22 at 2:00pm
SNAP-ED: COOKING FOR KIDS!
Registration is required

Friday, June 27, Friday, July 18 & Friday, August 1 at 2:30pm
OPEN CRAFTING FOR KIDS!

DROP-IN SUMMER CRAFTS FOR KIDS:
Saturdays from 12pm to 4pm
June 28 - Bead and Stamp Craft
July 12 - Shark Craft
July 19 - Animal Habitat Craft
July 26 - Paper Mosaic Craft

WEEKLY KIDS PROGRAMS

MONDAY MORNING MOVIES
Mondays at 10:30am
June 30 - Wreck It Ralph (PG)
July 7 - Angry Birds (PG)
July 14 - The Super Mario Bros Movie (PG)
July 21 - Jumanji (PG)
July 28 - Detective Pikachu (PG)
Aug 4 - Sonic the Hedgehog (PG)

MAKE IT MONDAYS:

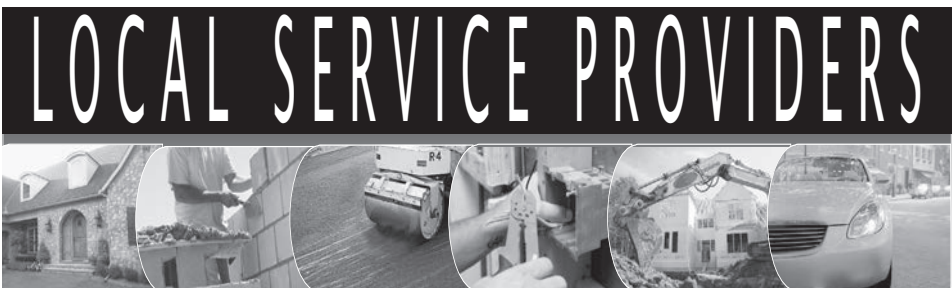
Mondays at 3:30pm
Registration is required.
Register for one or all sessions.
June 30 - Minecraft
July 7 - Pokémon
July 14 - Sonic the Hedgehog
July 21 - Super Mario
July 28 - Roblox
August 4 - Animal Crossing

SUMMER STORY TIME:
Tuesdays at 10:45am
7/1, 7/8, 7/15, 7/22, 7/29 and 8/5
Join us for stories, songs, rhymes, and a craft!

SUMMER BABY TIME
Wednesdays at 10:45am
7/2, 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 7/30, 8/6
Join us for rhymes, songs, and lap bounces!

FRONT LAWN FRIDAYS:
Fridays at 10:45am
6/27, 7/11, 7/18, 7/25 and 8/1
Join us for stories and outdoor play!

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Please apply for consideration at greenpathcannabis.com or email kailyhepburn@kailyhepburnlaw.com.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

This is your brain on fun

When’s the last time you had some real, stupid, joyful fun?

Not the kind that’s scheduled on a calendar or costs \$85 a ticket. I mean the kind of fun that sneaks up on you and reminds you life isn’t all stress and headlines. A kitchen dance-off. A late-night ice cream run. A ridiculous game of charades where everyone ends up crying from laughter.

We forget how much we need that.

The world’s heavy enough. People are tired. Disconnected. But fun, real, low-stakes, no-reason fun brings us back to life. It connects us and reminds us we’re human.

And there’s science to it. Research from Harvard found that playfulness, humor, and spontaneous joy reduce cortisol levels, improve brain function, and increase our capacity for empathy and resilience. Even the Harvard Law Review has noted how community and levity can improve public well-being and reduce conflict which sounds pretty good right about now. Fun doesn’t fix everything. But it makes everything easier to carry.

Harvard Study on Happiness: A long-term Harvard study on adult development found that close relationships and shared joyful experiences are the strongest predictors of health and longevity more than money or fame. Fun, especially when shared, strengthens those bonds.

Stanford Neuroscience Research: Engaging in fun and playful activities increases dopamine levels, which improve mood, motivation, and focus. It’s your brain’s natural “reward” system.

National Institute for Play: This institute emphasizes that play reduces stress, boosts creativity, and improves overall well-being, especially when it includes laughter or spontaneous moments.

American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine: Reports that people who prioritize leisure and play have lower levels of cortisol (the stress hormone), improved immune function, and reduced risk of cardiovascular disease.

More examples of everyday fun:

Hosting a “bad movie night” with neighbors and popcorn.

Setting up a spontaneous water balloon fight on a hot day.

Having a board game potluck everyone brings a snack and a game.

Organizing a “slow bike ride” zero competition, just cruising.

Creating a temporary sidewalk chalk gallery on your street.

Starting a DIY music night a few instruments, no expectations.

Holding a “try something new” night. People teach each other random skills like yoyo tricks, juggling, or how to whistle with fingers.

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

Mix up These “Solutions” to Your Gardening Challenges

It’s growing season and nearly every successful backyard gardener uses a few tricks of the trade to ensure success. But the average gardener is not without challenges this time of year; whether it is repelling pesky garden pets or curing black spot disease. With this in mind, the following tried and true “recipes,” made from ordinary household ingredients offer a creative solution to common garden problems.

- ****
- Flower Bed Pet Deterrent**
- Made from pantry dry goods, this chemical free recipe has been used for generations of gardeners to repel pets from garden beds.
- Ingredients:** one part cayenne pepper; two parts dry mustard powder; four parts flour
- Directions:** Mix in a large paper grocery bag by holing the neck of the bag and shaking it. Distribute generously in the beds. Repellent must be reapplied after watering.
- ****
- Cut Garden Flower Preservative**
- The theory behind this recipe is that Listerine contains sucrose and a bactericide to extend the life of cut flowers.
- Ingredients:** two ounces Listerine mouthwash; one gallon water
- Directions:** Mix together and pour into vase of cut flowers.
- ****
- Green Lawn Cocktail**
- Give your lawn a



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

- healthy boost with this cocktail made from common ingredients.
- Ingredients:** one cup Epsom salts; one cup household ammonia; one can beer; two cups water
- Directions:** Pour into hose-end sprayer and apply. Covers and peeps up about 2000 square feet.
- ****
- Black Spot Cure for Roses**
- Get roses back in tip top shape with this simple spray.
- Ingredients:** three tablespoons baking soda; one gallon water.
- Directions:** Mix together both ingredients and spray roses. Pick up any fallen rose leaves and burn them or take them to the dump.
- ****
- Exterior Mildew Wash**
- Extinguish mold on outside garden walls and other surfaces with this powerful mildew wash.
- Ingredients:** three quarts warm water; one quart liquid laundry bleach, such as Clorox; one quarter cup powdered laundry detergent; two thirds of a cup TSP (trisodium phosphate, available at paint stores)
- Directions:** Mix well and apply to surfaces with a stiff broom. Let stand for one half hour. Rinse well with a garden hose to prevent

damage to plants. Wear rubber gloves when handling.

Note: These recipes were collected from several different published sources. Use with care and at your own risk.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I’m in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I’m counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or email KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

one. The victim. The almost-was.

We play them so well that we forget we’re performing until it becomes our truth.

Some would look at that Harvard study and scoff, “They were putting on a facade.” But that’s not what happened at all. I think they were peeling off the facade.

I think, for five days, they stopped pretending to be old—and remembered who they really were. They told a new story in their heads. And their bodies followed. Their minds led. And biology responded.

That’s the power of identity.

“We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful about what we pretend to be,” wrote Kurt Vonnegut.

Because here’s something most people never consider: every one of us is pretending. All the time. Based on what we believe. Based on what we’ve agreed to about ourselves. Based on what we were told—and accepted—about what’s possible.

So ask yourself: Are you really who you’ve been pretending to be?

Because if you want to know who you’re acting like, just look at your results. Your life is the clearest revelation of who you’ve agreed to be. And if you want new results, you don’t need to push harder—you need to play a new role.

That starts with changing your in-

Should you trust a ‘finfluencer?’



FINANCIAL FOCUS
TREVOR NIELSEN

In the age of social media, it’s easy to find advice on just about anything — including how to manage your money. Content creators known as “finfluencers” — short for financial influencers — use platforms like TikTok, YouTube and Instagram to share their takes on investing, budgeting, and building wealth. Many of them are charismatic and relatable, and they often speak from personal experience. But while their content may be engaging, taking financial advice from a finfluencer without digging deeper can come with significant risks.

While some finfluencers may have formal training or credentials, many do not. Instead, their influence stems from their popularity rather than professional experience. But popular advice may not necessarily be good advice. A 2025 study by the Swiss Finance Institute even found that unskilled finfluencers typically have larger followings than skilled ones.

Why be cautious?

For young or new investors, social media can make finance feel accessible. In fact, a 2022 FINRA study says that more than 60 percent of Americans younger than 35 get investing information from these platforms. But social media isn’t regulated the same way traditional financial advising is, so anyone, qualified or not, can offer financial tips.

Unlike traditional financial advisors, finfluencers don’t know your unique goals, financial situation, or risk tolerance. And likely, they’re not licensed (you can check here: Check Out Your Investment Professional | Investor.gov). Even well-meaning guidance might lead you down a risky path if it’s not tailored to your needs. And unfortunately, some finfluencers have exploited the trust they build with followers to promote questionable investments or outright frauds.

Warning signs to watch for

Here are a few signs that a finfluencer’s advice may be worth avoiding:

Unrealistic “get-rich” promises: Claims like, “Turn \$500 into \$50,000 in a year,” are highly improbable, and may indicate a scam.

Hurry, hurry: Be wary of advice that pressures you to act fast or plays on fear of missing out. Important financial decisions shouldn’t come with a countdown clock.

Flashy displays of wealth: Images of luxury cars, watches or cash can be more about generating views than offering sound advice. If a finfluencer is trying that hard to convince you to take an action, it often means they will profit — perhaps they’ll get paid to promote a product or service, or earn a fee for referring you, or are trying to boost clicks and followers to earn more.

What you can do

Do your own homework. Don’t take finfluencers’ advice at face value. Cross-check it with reliable sources. The finfluencer may even be under investigation by a federal or state securities regulator. Talking to a licensed financial advisor you trust can help you discern good advice from the bad.

Recognize conflicts of interest. If a finfluencer promotes a product or service, find out if they’re being paid to do so. And remember, online personalities make money by generating high viewership, not because their advice has a track record of success.

Use common sense. When something sounds too good to be true, it usually is. And of course, never disclose your bank or brokerage account numbers to a finfluencer, and never send money.

Finfluencers can make financial topics more engaging and accessible. But when it comes to your money, a social media video from someone who doesn’t know you is no substitute for informed, personalized guidance. Take the time to verify, research and, when in doubt, seek advice from a professional.

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.

Pretend!

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

In 1979, a Harvard psychologist named Ellen Langer conducted a study that still raises eyebrows today. She gathered a group of men in their 70s and 80s and asked them to do something radical: pretend they were 20 years younger.

For five days, these men lived in a recreated environment styled entirely from two decades earlier. The furniture, the magazines, the music, even the way they spoke—all designed to transport them back in time.

They didn’t just reminisce about the past. They were asked to live it. To speak in the present tense, as if 1959 wasn’t a memory but their current reality.

“Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life’s coming attractions,” said Albert Einstein.

What happened next sounds like fiction: Their IQ scores jumped by an average of 60 points. Their posture improved. They stood taller. Their posture and joint flexibility improved. Even finger length increased—an observable biological response. Some tossed their canes. A few played touch football on the lawn. All without medication. No surgery. Just belief, imagination, and embodiment.

Draw from that what you will. But here’s the question worth asking: Who are you pretending to be?

We don’t always think of ourselves as actors. But we are. Every day, we step into roles—some conscious, many not. The tired one. The anxious one. The tootlate one. The responsible-but-forgotten

Create, plant, and maintain a pollinator garden

Celebrate National Pollinator Month this June by creating and maintaining a garden that attracts and supports these important members of our ecosystem. Pollinators are responsible for about 75 percent of the food we eat and play an important role in producing food, fiber, medicine and more. The European honeybee is the most well-known but our native bees along with moths, wasps, beetles, flies, bats, and some birds also help pollinate our gardens.

Just like the honeybees and Monarch butterflies, many pollinators are struggling with their populations dwindling due to pesticides and loss of habitat. You can make a difference by creating pollinator gardens filled with their favorite plants.

Start helping all pollinators and the environment by reducing or better yet eliminating the use of pesticides. If you opt for a chemical solution, look for the most eco-friendly product and as always read and follow label directions to minimize the negative impact on the environment and pollinators.

As you create your



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

pollinators' paradise include shelter from predators and the weather. Include trees and shrubs, if space allows, providing you with year-round interest and nectar, pollen, and tasty leaves as well as nesting sites and safe havens for the various life stages. Leave patches of open soil for ground nesting bees and some leaf litter to shelter some butterflies, bumblebees, and other pollinating insects.

Plant a variety of native plants, herbs and other pollinator favorites that provide nectar and pollen throughout the season. Spring bulbs, early blooming wildflowers and perennials provide essential food that is often in limited supply early in the season. Fall flowering plants provide needed energy supplies as the bees, hummingbirds, and other pollinators prepare for winter.

Include plants with different colors and shaped flowers to attract and support a



A Hemaris Hummingbird Moth on a Monarda flower.

Courtesy

variety of pollinators. Plant flowers in mass. You will enjoy the display, the garden will require less maintenance, and the pollinators will use less energy when they can gather lots of food from a smaller area.

Plant masses of flowers like columbine,

sweet alyssum, annual and perennial salvia, cupheas, cosmos, phlox, zinnias, bee balm, liatris, sedum, asters and more to help attract these beauties to your landscape. Fuchsias, begonias and impatiens are perfect for shady locations. And don't let a lack of space dissuade you; even a window box

of flowers can help.

Bigger flowers are not always better. Double flowers may be showy, but they have less nectar and pollen. The multiple layers of petals may hinder access to the nectar and pollen they contain.

Grow some herbs in the garden and containers for you, the bees, and other beneficial insects. Let some go to flower and watch for visitors on thyme, borage, oregano, and other herb flowers. Tolerate a bit of damage on parsley, dill and fennel as the swallowtail caterpillars dine on the leaves. These vigorous plants will recover once the caterpillars transform into beautiful butterflies.

Add some native plants to your gardens whenever possible. They are a richer source of nectar and pollen than cultivated plants. Pollinators and other beneficial insects have evolved with these plants, providing a mutual benefit.

Puddles, fountains, birdbaths and even a damp sponge can provide needed water. Include water features with sloping sides or add a few stones for the

visitors to sip without getting wet. Sink a shallow container of sand in the ground. Keep it damp and add a pinch of sea salt for the butterflies and bees. Add a flat stone for warming and be sure to watch for and snap a few photos of visitors as they sip and sun in your garden.

If you create it, they will come. Be patient, make note of their favorites, and keep growing to attract, support and enjoy these important garden visitors.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Myers hosted "The Plant Doctor" radio show on WTMJ radio for more than 20 years and seven seasons of Great Lakes Gardener on PBS. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com which features gardening videos, free webinars, monthly gardening tips, and more.

Pretend

continued from page 6

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From "I'm stuck" to "I'm growing." From
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"Live out of your imagination, not your history," wrote Stephen R. Covey

The question isn't whether it works. The science is there. The results are real.

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It's something you choose.

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Democracy in action



Gus Steeves

Gus Steeves

One voter takes her time with the ballot that afternoon.

Dave Adams chats with Jasmin Rivas in the collegial atmosphere of candidate tents that pops up along Chestnut Street almost every election day.



Gus Steeves

Gus Steeves

Gus Steeves

Angelina Battista advertises her step-father's candidacy while playing on her phone.

Mike Montigny talks to an incoming voter.

Jasmin Rivas



Gus Steeves

Gus Steeves

As usual, the Rotary was festooned with candidate signs for weeks before the election.

Mike Montigny (center) and Gil Provost (back to camera at right) talk to residents on Chestnut Street.

SOUTHBRIDGE — Last week, Southbridge residents exercised their annual chance to decide who will govern the town for the next year.

Although the common phrase is “signs don’t vote,” their frequency did accurately predict who’d win. For Council, that meant David Adams,

Mike Montigny and Gil Provost took three-year seats, while in the write-in race for a year on the School Committee, Stephanie Rivers did.

At the polls, morning rain, few candidates, and possibly East Main Street construction had a dampening effect

Turn To **ELECTION** page 10

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“No Kings” protests come home to region



Gus Steeves

The day’s “no kings” theme stands beside other issues raised by protest signs.



Gus Steeves

Signs portray the clash between democracy and kingship.



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This woman’s sign makes her point of view clear.



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Even Garfield the Cat got involved.



Gus Steeves

This sign might have fit as well in 1525 as in 2025.



Gus Steeves

A Paul Revere reference.



Gus Steeves

A man in a flag jacket waves a flag.



Gus Steeves

Some younger participants highlight protecting the diversity of America.



Gus Steeves

A woman paced the other side of the street with signs that carried complementary messages against fascism and tyranny. The right one’s phrase, slightly misspelled, is Latin for “Thus always to tyrants,” and is interpreted as meaning tyrants will always fall. It was allegedly first stated regarding the assassination of Julius Caesar and is Virginia’s state motto, per Wikipedia.



Gus Steeves

Several canines joined the protest, including this one objecting to some “DOGE-y” behavior in Washington.

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CHARLTON — Despite the drizzle and fairly chilly weather, hundreds of people came together on Charlton Common for last Friday’s “No Kings” protest. It was just one of roughly 1,500 across the nation, with others nearby in Douglas, Oxford, Leicester, West Brookfield, Worcester and Killingly, to name a few.

The entirely peaceful protestors sported signs objecting to President Trump’s policies favoring the wealthy, ruling by executive order, threatening large cuts to social services, targeting immigrants, and other issues. Many made references to 1776 and the nation’s revolution against the King of England, while some expanded their target to include Congress, Elon Musk and other figures.

Large and small US flags were numerous, with several people wearing something with those colors, reinforcing the concept that dissent is what ensures democracy survives. As one occasional chant noted, “What does democracy look like? This is what democracy looks like.

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Cornerstone Bank supporting efforts to serve vulnerable populations

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, is donating money to support Wellstorm, Inc., a Southbridge-based charity providing resources to families facing homelessness, mental health challenges and food insecurity. The \$5,000 contribution goes toward the organization's Christmas in July event scheduled for July 12.

About Cornerstone Bank
Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities, through a broad range of deposit and loan products, and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit [CornerstoneBank.com](#) or call 800-939-9103.

Local student named to Fairfield University Dean's List

“This event is a really fun way to uplift the important work Wellstorm does every day,” said Cornerstone CEO Todd Tallman. “We know the high cost of housing has left some families in crisis, and the emotional impact can be devastating. Wellstorm offers a lifeline.”

FAIRFIELD, Conn. — Samuel Bailen of Charlton received the Spring 2025 semester Dean's List Honors for at Fairfield University. 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.

Local residents earn degrees at Clark University's Commencement exercises

According to Wellstorm, the Christmas in July event is a crucial fundraising platform allowing for the expansion of its services, including “the bridge fridge,” a well-stocked community refrigerator full of pantry essentials for both humans and pets. The organization also provides mental health services, peer support programs and educational support for underserved populations such as those in BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ communities, the elderly, veterans, people with disabilities and those facing homelessness.

Worcester — Clark University awarded 468 undergraduate degrees and 1,014 advanced degrees during two ceremonies as part of the University's 121st Commencement exercises, held at the DCU Center in Worcester on Monday, May 19.

Ryan P. Bonja, of Sturbridge, graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts.

Sean Thomas Keane, of Sturbridge, graduated with a Master of Public Administration. Keane is a member of the Alpha Epsilon Lambda honor society.

President David B. Fithian '87 urged the graduates to celebrate their accomplishments.

"For this day, smile upon yourself, applaud your achievements, reflect upon your growth, celebrate your friends and classmates and, perhaps most importantly, bask in the love of those here with you and for you," President Fithian said.

"All of us up here representing the trustees, administration, faculty, staff, and alumni are so proud of you, especially for overcoming all that you have had to in the past four years. We are smiling upon you, we applaud you, we celebrate you, and we thank you for sharing these years with us."

Esther Duflo, the Abdul Latif Jameel Professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development Economics in the Department of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, delivered the Commencement Address during the bachelor's degree ceremony and was presented with the degree of Doctor of Laws.

"I have no advice for you as you embark on this task, but I have one plea. Do not let anyone convince you that the world is a Hobbesian dystopia where everything is zero-sum and wealth is the ultimate metric of success. It's not a place where there is a concentric center of caring, and beyond some radius, the value of others is zero. Think about this day, about how you got here, remember the kindness of many, and ask yourself what you can do to keep that going," said Duflo.

Temera De Groot, a first-generation college student who emigrated from Guyana when she was 10 years old and plans to pursue law school, spoke to her peers at the undergraduate ceremony.

NPR journalist Ari Shapiro spoke to the students receiving master's and doctoral degrees, and encouraged them to prioritize connecting with and helping those around them.

"All of us carry a baton that our ancestors handed us. And all of us will pass it to those who come after us. Wherever we are in that relay race, there are people we can help. So the question we need to ask is, 'How can I be helpful?'" Shapiro told the crowd.

Shapiro was presented with an honorary Doctor of Letters degree at the afternoon ceremony.

Kumar Gaurav, a first-generation college student from India who received his MBA, also spoke at the graduate ceremony.

President David Fithian concluded the day's celebrations and told the graduates, "I applaud you. I congratulate you. And I urge you to put to work - anywhere in the world you find yourself next - the knowledge you have developed and the skills you have honed here to address the challenges and opportunities we face as global citizens."

The University conferred 975 master's and 39 doctoral degrees to a class that included graduates from 41 states and 35 countries.

For more coverage of Clark's Commencement ceremonies, visit the web.

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.

Friday's Child



Rowan
Age 13
Registration #9215

Rowan is a funny, playful, and high-spirited young boy who keeps everyone around him smiling. Always on the move, Rowan enjoys staying active with sports like football, karate, and even waterskiing—a passion he's proud of from his time in a water skiing club. He's especially proud to have earned his boating license at a young age! In addition to his athletic interests, Rowan has a creative side. He loves writing fictional stories and sharing them with others, using his vivid imagination to bring characters to life. He's always dreaming big—right now, he's determined to master a backflip to add to his growing karate skills. Rowan is also a big country music fan and enjoys jamming out to his favorite tunes. His mix of energy, humor, and creativity makes him a truly unique and unforgettable kid.

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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.

Election

continued from page 8

on turnout despite there being a ballot question. Just 863 people cast ballots (including mail-ins). The actual results were:		Bay Path School Committee Kirsten Congdon – 612	Others – 42
ON THE BALLOT	The Question: Yes – 638 No – 154		Assessors (3 yrs) Priscilla Arpin – 22 Others – 50
	Council (3 yrs) David Adams – 651 Mike Montigny – 539 Gil Provost – 490 Jasmin Rivas – 416		Housing Authority (5 yrs) Diane Servant – 14 Others – 43
School Committee (3 yrs)	WRITE-INS (Seats below had no balloted candidates) School Committee (1 yr) Stephanie Rivers – 168 Jacqueline Fernandez – 63		Redevelopment Authority (5 yrs) Maria Torres – 14 Others – 59
	Maria Torres – 546 Norma Tyznik – 402		

Schoolhouse

continued from page 1

gressing nicely, and will eventually lead into other planned projects as part of a full renovation of the building.

“Future project phases will look to complete the exterior paint work, re-point the foundation and additional exterior wood repair around the ground level of the building,” said Golas.

The first phase has also included some bio-hazard remediation in the attic space. As part of the grant parameters, much of the work for Phase 1 needs to be completed before the end of June and Golas said they are well on their way to meeting that deadline.

The #2 Schoolhouse remains one of Charlton's most notable historic landmarks. Housed on the site of the former Baptist Meetinghouse and constructed in 1848, the building served as one of Charlton's last remaining one-room schoolhouses until 1950. Today, it is enshrined on the State Register of Historic Places. Renovation is being handled in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and Rehabilitation.



Town Manager Jack Jovan speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony.



Gus Steeves

Southbridge

continued from page 1

the Elm Street station was built. “... I’ll be much more excited when we’re doing the ribbon-cutting in 18 months.”

Hulyk has “spent over half my life in the current fire headquarters,” and described getting this project to this point as “an amazing ride.” But he noted it “would not have happened without the work of everyone,” praising the collaboration it took to achieve.

Council Chair Scott Lazo agreed, saying, “the team concept was the

priority, not a choice.” To him, the whole effort was evidence of the attitude “Act like you’ve been there, never let them see you sweat, and never quit. ... What makes us durable here in Southbridge is we never quit.”

That was most notable when the town rejected the first bid as being too expensive (nearly \$4 million over the voter-approved \$25.7 million total) and had to re-bid it earlier this year. Lazo described that process as “biting our nails, but the team never broke.”

He was referring to the April 28 council vote

to accept a \$20 million contract with PDS Engineering & Construction Inc, the lowest of five bids. That figure does not account for some things. One is the “soft costs” including furniture, equipment, architecture and project management. Some of those are in the \$5 million already spent, some are being covered by a \$913,000 USDA grant and some of the land costs are being reimbursed by a \$1 million congressional earmark at the end of the project. There’s also \$1 million from Free Cash being applied to contingency that

may or may not be needed. It also doesn’t include interest, which will add millions over the 20-year payback period.

The speakers thanked the state and federal governments for assistance, and some of those officials took turns at the podium themselves. All noted they’d repeatedly had local requests for financial aid to fund it.

“You deserve a government that works at all levels, and for this one, it did,” said State Rep John Marsi, who noted “keeping it local is key.”

Sen Ryan Fattman agreed, observing he’d

Behind the ceremony, the project’s real work rolls on.

received frequent communication from local leaders that were “a testament to your commitment to this project.”

US Rep Richard Neal said the fact the town approved a debt exclusion was a “courageous thing

to do” when many of them fail, and he noted “I appreciate how difficult it is to undertake this.”

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

Summerfest

continued from page 1

art by Helen Boyle and Laurel Wolfe. Summerfest is free to all and families are encouraged to attend. Crafters will be selling handmade creations- jewelry, toys, wood items, fabric crafts, journals, something for everyone. There will also be a table of records for collectors.

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- Blackstone Valley Tribune

LEGALS

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 20,2025 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 MAKE:2020 Infiniti QX60
VIN: 5N1DL0MM1LC502956
LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Anuj Vohra
77 LOFGREN RD
AVON CT, 06001

VEHICLE MAKE: 2017 CHEVEROLET EQUINOX
VIN: 2GNFLGE36H6136074
LAST REGISTERED OWNER : ROBERT DUBE
471A MILL ST
WORCESTER MA,01602

VEHICLE MAKE :2005 ACURA TL
VIN: 19UUA66235A081640
LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Winder A Moronta
157 CHANDLER ST APT 1
Worcester MA ,01609

VEHICLE MAKE: 2007 GMC YUKON
VIN:1GKFK63807J385321
LAST REGISTERED OWNER : Claudio Alessandro Vitiello
349 Braeside Ave Apt 108
East Stroudsbu PA 18301

VEHICLE MAKE : 2013 Audi allroad
VIN: WA1UFAFL6DA063024
LAST REGISTERED OWNER : Joseph Mickarweil
RANDOLPH 02368

VEHICLE MAKE : 2003 GMC Sonoma
VIN: 1GTCS19X638149015
LAST REGISTERED OWNER : Quezada Velez Arturo Jr
118 Morris St
New Haven CT 06519

VEHICLE MAKE : 2012 CHEVROELT CRUZ
VIN: 1G1PK5SC7C7110352
LAST REGISTERED OWNER : Carolina Castillo
388 Prairie Ave
Providence RI 02905

VEHICLE MAKE : 2006 ACURAL TL
VIN: 19UUA66266A028268
LAST REGISTERED OWNER : Omar Garcia
54 Esther ST # 2
Worcester MA 01607

VEHICLE MAKE : 2010 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGFG1B6XAH535221
LAST REGISTERED OWNER : Glenda Colon
249 Thomaston Ave
Waterbury CT 06704

VEHICLE MAKE : 2008 ACURA MDX
VIN: 2HNYD28278H541931
LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Carlos Manuel Santiago Medina
94 Vine St ,APT 3B
Hartford CT 06112

VEHICLE MAKE : 2014 CHEVROLET SONIC
VIN:1G1JC5SH3E4241653
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:J OHN J HANLON
5638 ELEUTHERA WAY
NAPLES FL 34119

VEHICLE MAKE: 2005 ACURA TL
VIN:19UUA66245A002718
LAST REGISTERED OWNER : Kelley Williams
410 SHELTON ST FL 2
BRIDGEPORT CT 06608

VEHICLE MAKE: 2006 MAZDA MAZDA6
VIN:JM1GJ1V5XG1415434
LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Progressive Casualty Insurnace
PO Box 1388
Windham MA 04062
June 6, 2025
June 13, 2025
June 20, 2025

Planning Board Public Hearing

In accordance with MGL Ch. 40A, and the Town of Brimfield Zoning Bylaw section 7, the Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Hitchcock Academy located at 2 Brookfield Rd. Brimfield, MA 01010.
The purpose of the hearing is to consider a Site Plan Review application for Babe's Lawncare to expand from 2,124 sqft by constructing a 7400 sqft building, with a proposed storage building, and salt shed. The property is located at 345 Sturbridge Rd. Brimfield, MA 01010 owned and operated by Christopher Predella.
David Killian
Planning Board Chair
June 13, 2025
June 20, 2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 775 Dennison Drive, Southbridge, Massachusetts
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Susan L. Bourdelais to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as mortgagee, as nominee for One Reverse Mortgage, LLC its successors and assigns and now held by Longbridge Financial, LLC, said mortgage dated April 30, 2012, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 48949, Page 119, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated February 27, 2023, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68899, Page 78, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated September 12, 2023, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69658, Page 286, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on July 11, 2025 at 01:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: Land Situated in the City of Southbridge in the County of Worcester in the State of MA.
THE LAND IN SAID SOUTHBRIDGE WITH THE BUILDINGS THEREON, SITUATED ON THE EASTERLY SIDE OF DENNISON DRIVE, BEING ON A PORTION OF THE ROAD LEADING FROM THE HOUSE NOW OR FORMERLY OF JAMES MASON TO THE VILLAGE OF WESTVILLE, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED;
BEGINNING AT AN IRON PIN ON THE EASTERLY LINE OF DENNISON DRIVE AT THE SOUTHWESTERLY CORNER OF LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF IRENE C. DAY; THENCE S. 81 DEGREES 18` E. BY LAND OF SAID DAY, 180 FEET TO AN IRON PIN;
THENCE N. 3 DEGREES 17` E. BY LAND OF SAID DAY, 157.1 FEET TO A DRILL HOLE ON WALL AT LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF GERARD LEMOINE;
THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG WALL BY SAID LEMOINE LAND, ABOUT 420 FEET TO A JUNCTION OF WALLS AT LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF VICTOR BEAUDREAU ET UX;
THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY ALONG WALL BY SAID BEAUDREAU LAND, ABOUT 223 FEET TO AN IRON PIN IN WALL;
THENCE N. 82 DEGREES W. BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF WILLIAM W. POTTER ET UX ABOUT 8 FEET TO A DRILL HOLE IN STONE;
THENCE STILL N. 82 DEGREES W. BY SAID LAND OF POTTER, 453.3 FEET TO AN IRON PIN ON THE EASTERLY LINE OF DENNISON DRIVE;
THENCE N, 8 DEGREES E. BY THE EASTERLY LINE OF DENNISON DRIVE, 180 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
CONTAINING AN AREA OF ABOUT 2.87 ACRES OF LAND
The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.
For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated October 20, 1986, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 9915, Page 152.
TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.
TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within forty-five (45) days after the date of sale.
Other terms to be announced at the sale.
Marinosci Law Group, P.C.
275 West Natick Road, Suite 500
Warwick, RI 02886
Attorney for Longbridge Financial, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
Telephone: (401) 234-9200
MLG File No.: 23-00998
June 12, 2025
June 19, 2025
June 26, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P1911EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
George R McDonald
Date of Death: 04/20/2025
To all interested persons:
A Petition for S/A - Formal Probate of

Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Georgette Martin of Sturbridge MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Georgette Martin of Sturbridge MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration
IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/15/2025. 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. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 12, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
June 19, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P1954EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Elizabeth Ann Gorodeckas
Date of Death: 1/04/2017

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by Vytenis R Gorodeckas of Charlton MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Vytenis R Gorodeckas of Charlton MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/01/2025. 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. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 30, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
June 19, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)831-2200
Docket No. WO25C0319CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
In the matter of:
Daniel Joseph Harris
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Daniel Joseph Harris of Charlton MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Lexie Rose Harris
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10 a.m. on the return day of 07/08/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 05, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
June 19, 2025

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
WATER / SEWER RATES
SOLID WASTE/CURBSIDE
The Town Manager of the Town of Southbridge will hold a public hearing on Thursday, June 26th , 2025 at 5:00 PM in Town Council Chambers. Hearing to be conducted on the proposed rate changes for
• Water and Sewer Rate effective with bills issued as of July 1, 2025.
• Solid Waste and Recycling Curbside Rate effective with bills issued as of July 1, 2025
Those wishing to speak on this matter will be given the opportunity to do so. The proposed rates are on display on the Town's website www.ci.southbridge.ma.us
June 12, 2025
June 19, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P2023EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Mark Andrew Baron
Date of Death: 03/29/2025

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Christine E. Baron of Southbridge MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Christine E. Baron of Southbridge MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in unsupervised administration
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/08/2025. 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. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 06, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
June 19, 2025

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 July 16, 2025, at 7PM on the application of Dmytrii Moshxivskiy.
The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for the proposed expansion of an existing residence and repair of an existing deck. Address: 48 Stevens Park Road, Charlton, MA, 01507. Parcel ID: 17A-G-22
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 RDA may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.
Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
June 19, 2025

Bay Path Continuing Education launches fall term preview

CHARLTON — Bay Path Continuing Education announced their Fall Term preview Sunday, June 8. This season promises to be the most engaging yet, featuring over 80 brand-new classes designed to spark creativity, build skills, and bring families together. In total, this makes more than 140 classes offered.

Registration opens July 7 — no catalog needed

Starting Monday, July 7, people can register online for a wide range of courses without needing the Fall Catalog, which will be released in late July/Early August. Classes officially begin on Monday, Sept. 9.

A focus on family collaboration and hands-on learning

This fall, the Evening School is emphasizing interactive, hands-on experiences, with a major expansion of adult and child collaborative classes, especially in art and cooking.

From Cake Decorating and Pasta Making to Zentangle workshops, Soap Making, and Clay Tile Making, families will find numerous opportunities to create side by side and share meaningful experiences together.

Cooking classes are receiving a flavorful boost with enhanced offerings, including Asian cuisine workshops featuring Pad Thai, Korean BBQ, and more. Themed pasta nights—such as Candy-Shaped Pasta, Flower Petal Pasta, and Santa Hat Pasta—add a creative twist to traditional favorites.

Additionally, new this season is the Evening Delights series, where participants can craft their own charcuterie boards and take home their edible masterpieces.

Whether you're kneading dough, shaping soap, or sculpting clay, this fall's lineup offers countless ways for families and individuals to learn, connect, and create.

Diverse offerings across categories

The Fall lineup spans a wide range of interests, careers, and skills, ensuring there's something for every learner.

Down to Business

Business and finance: Explore the world of real estate with the new Let's Talk Real Estate series, designed for aspiring investors and homebuyers looking to build knowledge and confidence.

Career and licensing: Advance your career on your sched-

ule with a self-paced Electrical Motor Control lab. Dive into the world of bookkeeping, or sharpen your beauty skills by Perfecting the Art of Lashing.

Fun & Play

Hobbies and crafts: Get creative with hands-on workshops in rubber duckie soap-making, Floral Design body balms, sugar scrubs, quilled paper pendants, pottery, modern calligraphy, and In need of a change of scenery? Try Watercolor in Nature, a series of painting classes held at scenic outdoor locations.

Sports and leisure: Get certified with Boat America, a course that meets boating education requirements and ensures you're safe and prepared on the water. Build confidence with Paddling Safety workshops, express your creativity in Songwriting sessions, and learn the timeless strategy of the classic card game Cribbage.

Mind & Body

Growth & development: A new resilience-building workshop for parents focusing on self-compassion and emotional well-being.

Health & fitness: New Yoga for All class designed for individuals of backgrounds and experience levels.

Opening new doors

Explore a trade: Take your first step into a skilled trade with introductory courses in leather working and blacksmithing. Forge your own full-tang knife, learn the basics of auto body work, or get practical, hands-on training toward becoming an electrical apprentice.

Home & Garden: Prepare for a thriving garden with Seed Starting 101 and Gardening with Native Plants—ideal for both beginners and seasoned green thumbs looking to plan ahead for the growing season.

Register early and secure your spot

With so many new classes, participants are encouraged to register early starting July 7 to secure their spot at www.bay-path.net/bpce to explore the full course catalog and sign up.

This fall promises to be a season of discovery, learning, and family bonding—don't miss out!



Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis greets residents from the Brookfields communities during an annual senior picnic.

Area residents attend Sheriff's Office Senior Picnic

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Residents from throughout the Route 9 corridor welcomed summer by attending the Senior Picnic offered by the Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO).

For more than 1,000 seniors in Worcester County, the annual picnic is a highly anticipated event that kicks off the summer season.

This year, seniors from all corners of Worcester County attended the June 7 program at SAC Park in Shrewsbury. Many guests from Spencer, the Brookfields communities, and surrounding towns drove through the park to receive a free barbecue lunch and many other giveaways.

"The Senior Picnic is one of my favorite days of the year, and we strive to provide the best experience possible for attendees," said Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis. "In addition to the numerous treats and giveaways that we hand out, we also have over a dozen vendors on site to speak with seniors about programs, products, and services that they may benefit from." The program is made possible by team-

work from the WCSO, the Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff's Association, and various vendors and sponsors.

"Sheriff Evangelidis and his team have honored Worcester County's senior citizens for over a decade," read a statement released by the WCSO. "Each summer, more than 100 volunteers prepare barbecue boxed lunches and hand out other raffle prizes, goodie bags, Massachusetts state lottery scratch tickets, Chick-fil-A gift cards, and more. For all involved, it's a special time filled with fun and community spirit."

This year, Janet Morin, Carolyn Boucher, Gen Cook, and Diana Perron—who live in the Brookfields communities and attend the picnic each year—enjoyed an opportunity to step out of their vehicle and take a photo with Sheriff Evangelidis. They even wore custom T-shirts celebrating the picnic.

Officials thank all volunteers who support local seniors each year at the event, helping to distribute products while also connecting guests with resources.

"It is the dedicated group of volunteers who make this event possible year after

year. Despite the unfavorable weather forecast, Mother Nature granted a nice morning, which encouraged seniors to attend," read the statement issued by the WCSO.

This year's picnic was sponsored or supported by several community partners, including Table Talk Pies, Mercadante Funeral Home, Massachusetts State Lottery, Chick-Fil-A, Automatic Rolls of New England, JV Mechanical Contractors, Inc., Diamond Auto Group, Falcone Enterprises, NEPBA Local 550, the Savickas Family, and the Worcester Housing Authority.

Vendors at the picnic included Worcester County District Attorney Joesph Early, Central Mass Housing Alliance, Vickstrom Law Office, CareOne at Millbury, Rockland Trust Bank, The Overlook, the Worcester Red Sox, Tri-Valley, Inc., Saint Francis Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Senior Connection, and Heart to Home Meals.

Students and staff members from Worcester Technical High School are also thanked for volunteering their time to help make the day memorable for attendees.

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in Millbury

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Capt. Peter Simpson Rd.

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Jess Ertsgard named to President's List at Miami University

OXFORD, Ohio — Jess Ertsgard from Sturbridge was named to the Miami University spring 2025 President's list.

Miami University students ranked in the top three percent of undergraduate students within each division for the spring 2025 semester have been named to the President's list recognizing academic excellence.

Nationally recognized as one of the most outstanding undergraduate institutions, Miami University is a public university located in Oxford, Ohio. With a student body of more than 22,600 undergraduate and 2,200 graduate students, Miami effectively combines

a wide range of strong academic programs with faculty who love to teach and the personal attention ordinarily found only at much smaller institutions.

Established in 1809, Miami University is consistently ranked among the top 50 national public universities by the U.S. News & World Report for providing students with an Ivy League-quality education at a public school price. Located in quintessential college town Oxford, Ohio-with regional campuses in Hamilton and Middletown, a learning center in West Chester, and a European study center in Luxembourg-Miami serves more than 22,600 undergrad-

uates across more than 100 areas of study, and more than 2,200 graduate students through 78 master's and doctoral degree programs. At this comprehensive research university, students engage and conduct research with premiere teacher-scholars. Miami adds \$2.3 billion each year to Ohio's economy through innovative partnerships and job creation. Miami is an NCAA Division I school, serving more than 500 student-athletes across 19 varsity sports. For more information, visit MiamiOH.edu.



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\$435,000

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Featured Listing
Snug Harbor Villa!
WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT LISTING!



WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT LIVING AT IT'S FINEST! THIS 4000+/- SF ** THE VILLA'S at SNUG HARBOR! ** END UNIT IS TRULY A RARE FIND! ONE OF ONLY 6 UNITS**
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NEW PRICE \$1,150,000

WEBSTER - 8 VICTORY DR.



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Featured New Listing !
WEBSTER - 18 GRAYSTONE AVE



Welcome to this "CLASSIC CAPE" offering the perfect blend of modern amenities. Recently remodeled open concept kitchen living room & dining area featuring granite countertops, new flooring & recent appliances. Updates include roof, windows, doors, Roth oil tank & Hot Water Heater (2021). New heating system in 2023. This is a "GEM" Possibility of a 4th bedroom/home office. 1 car under
\$405,000

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



SORRY, SOLD!

Webster Lake Waterfront
88 Union Point
Excellent opportunity! Natural Western Facing Shoreline-Beautiful Sunsets - Views of Middle to North Pond! 7,000 +/- Sq. Ft. Waterfront Lot! Winterized cottage Fireplaced living room ! 12 X 30 one car garage. Beautiful Pine trees at the water's edge!
\$660,000

SORRY, SOLD!
WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT!
15 CEDAR POINT RD
100+/- feet of Pristine, Sandy Shoreline! Boasting 6 Large rooms, 2 Baths, 3 Bedrooms, Garage. All on a Private road
\$1,000,000



Webster Lake Waterfront Lots
Bates Point Rd
In Beautiful, Calm, *Winter Cove*
Lot# 1003R Natural Level Shore line
3800 +/- Sq Ft **\$180,000 SORRY SOLD!**
Lot# 1004R Natural Level Shore line
5000+/- Sq Ft **\$350,000 SORRY SOLD!**
Lot# 1005R Natural Level Shore line
7800 +/- Sq Ft **\$380,000 SORRY SOLD!**



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DUDLEY- INGROUND POOL
Located in Tobin Farms Subdivision
*Heated Saltwater Pool (19'x33")
*Cathedral Ceiling Livingroom
*Potential 1st Floor Bedroom
* American Walnut Flooring
in Familyroom
*Proximity to All Major Highways
*1st Floor Laundry
* Fireplace
* 3 Bedrooms
* Familyroom w/ Wet Bar
*Hardwood Floors throughout
*2400 sq. ft. not including Lower Level
10 Tobin Drive \$685,000



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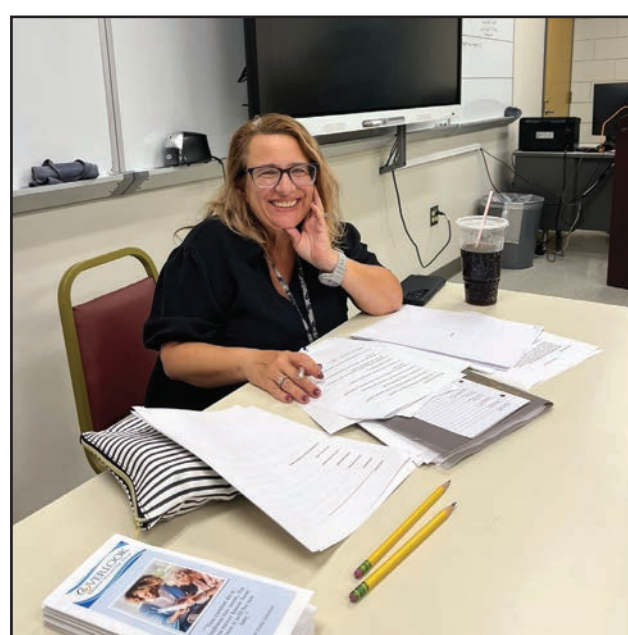
**Check out
 the new Fall
 Winter menu**

Bay Path Practical Nursing students sharpen interview skills through mock sessions with healthcare leaders

CHARLTON — Dana Aspero, Director of Hospice at The Overlook, recently conducted mock interviews with the Practical Nursing (PN) Class of 2025 at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. This annual tradition allows students to engage in realistic job interview simulations with actual members of the healthcare community, providing essential practice before they begin their careers.

Each year, members of the graduating PN cohort participate in these mock interviews — a “trial by fire” designed to replicate the experience of interviewing for an entry-level nursing position. This year, Aspero was so impressed with the students that she remarked, “They are all so nice — I would hire them!”

The interviews are held on campus and are a key component of the Transition into Practice course, led by Professor Melissa Zeien, BSN, RN, WCC. Professor Zeien not only prepares the students for the interviews but also manages the logistics — from scheduling volunteer interviewers to guiding students in re-



fining their résumés and
cover letters

"The idea is that when our graduates walk into their first real interview for that coveted new grad position, they'll feel more confident and prepared because they've already experienced the process," explained Dr. Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director.

Preparation for this moment begins as soon as students enter Bay Path. Over the course of the program, students build a comprehensive academic portfolio that documents their clinical experience, observa-

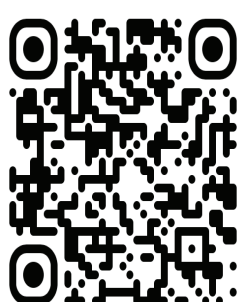
tions, volunteer service, and participation in initiatives like the Mock Code Team.

The mock interview experience is made possible thanks to generous volunteers from the healthcare field. These professionals see their participation not only as a way to give back but also as a vital part of strengthening the nursing pipeline and supporting the continued growth and reputation of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. Their involvement is deeply appreciated by faculty and students alike.

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