

# STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

©2026, Issue #11

Free by request to residents of Sturbridge and Holland

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS

Thursday-Friday, March 19-20, 2026

## Big Bunny shoppers come through again!

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE  
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE  
MASONIC LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Saturday, March 7, the Major General Salem Towne Masonic Lodge (MGSTL) Community Outreach Program was in full swing at Big Bunny Supermarket in Southbridge. This event was a Food Drive to collect food donations for

the Food Share pantry located at 446 Hamilton St. in Southbridge. MGST Masonic Lodge volunteers spent five cloudy, wet cool hours in Southbridge collecting food donations. The food share provides services for the towns of Southbridge, Sturbridge, Holland, Wales, Brimfield, and Charlton. The uncomfortable weather did not



Courtesy

From left to right: Brother Clay Tull, seated Brother Paul Davidson, Brother Will Proper, and Brother Larry Burbridge. We Master Masons thank all the Big Bunny Shoppers for all their generous support for such a worthy event.

### Sturbridge Historical Society, Southbridge Garden Club explore "Victory Gardens: Then and Now"

STURBRIDGE — The Sturbridge Historical Society and the Southbridge Garden Club invite you to travel through time and discover the history of Victory Gardens and their inspiration on Thursday, March 26, 7 p.m. at the Publick House.

The presentation, by Debra Dellanina-Alvarez of Saved by the Garden, explains the history of Victory Gardens, what life was like during both WWI and WWII, the benefit and depth of information given to volunteers, and samples of what they created back then and how we can use that information today. There is a virtual visit to the oldest Victory Garden in the U.S., exploring its significance then and today, as well as virtually stopping in several garden plots showing garden architecture and noting interesting facts about plant history and details that are often unheard.

Debra Dellanina-Alvarez is a lifelong-gardener, healthcare provider, program designer, and speaker. Debra is passionate about nature, history, architecture, and science, and worked as an architectural/history guide and walking tour designer for Boston by Foot. Her latest tour – Art, Architecture and Gardens – can be enjoyed during the summer months when gardens flourish. Her time as a teacher naturalist at the Massachusetts Audubon's Drumlin Farm and Wildlife Sanctuary allowed her to share her knowledge and appreciation for green spaces and the fascinating world of nature with children and adults. In 2019, Debra founded Saved by the Garden and utilizes her past experiences and knowledge to provide insightful programming regarding noteworthy garden spaces, their elements, unique features, and special exhibits.

Please join us for an evening highlighting an important aspect of American history and gardening. This program is open to the public, and is graciously hosted by the Publick House.

stop, Big Bunny Market shoppers that morning and shoppers were very generous and supportive of the food drive.

Shoppers from Big Bunny market and community members donated food and other items. One couple donated three bags of food and an additional \$100. We had a gentleman stop his car in front of our table open his trunk and handed a box full of food. Shoppers donated so many boxes of pasta and canned goods items. By the time the MGST Masonic Lodge members put all these single items in paper bags along with the paper bags already

full of what the shoppers have given us, we were able to collect and donate 86 bags of groceries. We were able to collect for the food share 3 pickup trucks full of food. We also collected \$184 in cash donations thanks to the generosity of the Big Bunny shoppers. The lodge volunteers unanimously decided to take the \$184 and went back into the supermarket and purchased a lot more groceries and a lot of baby food for the Southbridge Food Share Pantry. A special thank you to Big Bunny market owners Pete and Jon Cournoyer and the staff at Big Bunny

for supporting their community and allowing us Master Masons to run this food drive.

The volunteers of the Southbridge Food Share were all smiles and very, very happy to see 3 pickup trucks full of grocery bags that were collected from the food drive. President of the Food share Karen Engell and Treasure Renee Proulx and a few more volunteers, was so appreciative and grateful to see those trucks full of food collected by us Master Masons and for doing this food drive. The way this community came together to meet our challenge

we Masons made to the community, to fill 3 pickup trucks full of food was amazing. Times are tough in this economy right now with Easter around the corner, and families not getting enough food assistance. The Food Share was very grateful to the Major General Salem Towne Masonic Lodge of Southbridge for picking the Southbridge Food Share as part of their Community Outreach Program again this year. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, go to [mass-freemasonry.org](http://mass-freemasonry.org) to read to and to find a lodge nearest you.

### Upcoming fundraiser will support Relay For Life

FISKDALE — The Relay For Life of Southern Worcester County is having a fundraiser on Saturday, April 18 at 2 p.m. at Brush It Off Art & Pottery Studio, 559 Main St., Suite 103-104, Fiskdale. Please sign up in advance on the Brush It Off website, <https://brush-it-off.com>

No painting experience needed, just a sense of humor. Come join us and see how differently a group interprets art, all while raising funds to fight cancer. A portion of the money from every painting goes to the American Cancer Society.

The Relay For Life of Southern

Worcester County will be held Saturday, June 20, 9 a.m.- 9:30 p.m. at McMahon Field, 25 Cole Ave., Southbridge.

If interested in participating, please check out our Web site at [secure.acevents.org](http://secure.acevents.org) and search for Relay For Life of Southern Worcester County.

## Charlton Lions Club induct new members

CHARLTON — The Charlton Lions Club welcomed two new members at its regular meeting on Wednesday, March 11. Karen Gauthier and Robert Knight, both of Charlton, were inducted into the local chapter of the largest service organization in the world.

Karen was sponsored by Michelle Piergallini and Bob was sponsored by Dana Gould. Michelle is the Charlton Club's treasurer and Dana is its pres-

Cynthia Young — Courtesy

(Right) Charlton Lions Club President Dana Gould (left) and Charlton Lion Rhonda Tetrault (far right) welcome new members Robert Knight and Karen Gauthier. Dana is Bob's sponsor and Rhonda is standing in for Karen's sponsor Michele Piergallini, who could not be present at the induction ceremony held on March 11.



ident. Rhonda Tetrault stood in for Michelle, who was not able to attend. Lion Dr. Carole Duquette led the induction ceremony at The Overlook where the Charlton Club meets the second and fourth Wednesdays, September through June.

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

# Applications welcome for Ronald J. Denault Memorial Law Enforcement Scholarship

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

To be eligible for consideration for this award, preferably, a student must be a Charlton resident who is planning to further his/her education in pursuit of a career in law enforcement or criminal justice. Applicants may be graduating from a public or private high school or from a home schooling program that has been approved formally by the School Committee. Ideally, applicants will show evidence of scholarship, leadership, and community service.

Any interested person should complete and submit an applica-

tion packet no later than April 30, 2026. The application packet will include the following: an application form; a one-page essay summarizing why the applicant is interested in a career in law enforcement; two letters of reference; and documentation of academic scholarship. Details regarding all requirements will be included with the application form. Application forms can be obtained at the Charlton Public Library, at the Charlton Police Station, or through the guidance offices at either Bay Path Regional or Shepherd Hill Regional High School. Further questions may be directed to Dr. Linda E. Denault, who can be reached via email at ledenault@aol.com or by calling 508-248-7711.

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



## ARTHRITIS?

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

**Osteoarthritis of Hands - Knees- Hips. Back and Shoulder Problems Rheumatoid Arthritis Psoriatic Arthritis - Gout**

**Charles A. Birbara, MD**

Associate Professor of Medicine, Umass-Chan Medical School  
25 Oak Ave., Worcester, MA 01605 508-799-2674

"Committed to Advancing appropriate care to people with arthritis"

## Comedy Night fundraiser – more than a music scholarship

WEBSTER — Join us for the second annual Comedy Night Fundraiser to benefit the More Than Music Scholarship in Memory of Shawn Marengo.

This scholarship supports graduating Seniors from Shepherd Hill Regional High School who exemplify leadership, community service, and academic excellence. It provides meaningful financial assistance to a deserving student pursuing higher education or vocational training, ensuring Shawn's legacy continues to make a positive and lasting impact on the community he loved.

Event Details:  
Date: March 28  
Time: Doors open at 6 p.m., show begins at 7 p.m.  
Location: PACC, 37 Harris St., Webster, MA 01570

Tickets:  
• \$25 in advance  
• \$30 at the door  
Tickets may be purchased online at:  
<https://www.funny4funds.com/events/more-than-music-in-memory-of-shawn-marengo-scholarship/1707>

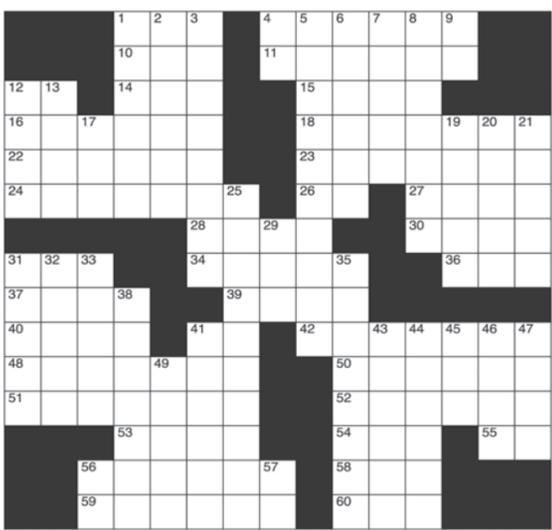
This event is presented in collaboration with Steven Donovan and Funny 4 Funds. We hope you will join us for an evening of laughter in support of a wonderful cause.

## Public hearing to be held on Brimfield school budget

BRIMFIELD — A public hearing on the proposed Brimfield Elementary School budget for 2026-2027 will be held on Tuesday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Brimfield Elementary School, in accordance with

M.G.L. Chapter 71, § 38N. Copies of the proposed budget are available from the Office of the Principal at Brimfield Elementary School.

The regular school committee meeting will begin at 6 p.m.



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Inclined to do
- 4. Sketches
- 10. Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
- 11. Atomic #58
- 12. Dorm official
- 14. Small Eurasian deer
- 15. Southern constellation
- 16. Workers' groups
- 18. Former
- 22. Excellent
- 23. Romance language related to Spanish
- 24. Reference
- 26. Equally
- 27. Dirty towels
- 28. A cargo (abbr.)
- 30. Ammunition
- 31. You get one in summer
- 34. Slang for trucks with trailers
- 36. Swiss river
- 37. Exchange rate
- 39. British School
- 40. College teacher
- 41. Foreign Service
- 42. Horse gear
- 48. Cost to fly
- 50. A salt or ester of boric acid
- 51. Mocking
- 52. One who bird-watches
- 53. Concluding passage
- 54. A major division of geological time
- 55. Sodium
- 56. A way to produce
- 58. Soak
- 59. Laughed loudly and harshly
- 60. Affirmative

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Moth species phalonia \_\_\_
- 2. Quantum of energy
- 3. Break the law
- 4. Location of White House
- 5. Official cancellation of a decision
- 6. Where rockers work
- 7. Cut of beef: \_\_\_ mignon
- 8. Nocturnal burrowing reptile
- 9. Atomic #62
- 12. Genus of evergreen shrubs
- 13. Flowering plant of the legume family
- 17. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 19. Tropical fruit
- 20. Hot fluid beneath the earth's crust
- 21. James \_\_\_ painter
- 25. Popular dessert
- 29. Payment (abbr.)
- 31. Cuisine style
- 32. Genus of true flies
- 33. City in western France
- 35. Arrogance
- 38. One holding a position of command
- 41. Weekday
- 43. An evening party
- 44. Print errors
- 45. Not good
- 46. Egyptian Sun god
- 47. East German town
- 49. Olfactory property
- 56. Atomic #37
- 57. "Pollock" actor Harris

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

		A	P	T		D	R	A	F	T	S	
		C	H	R		C	E	R	I	U	M	
R	A		R	O	E		V	E	L	A		
U	N	I	O	N	S		O	N	E	T	I	M
T	I	P	T	O	P		C	A	T	A	L	A
A	L	M	A	N	A	C		A	S		R	A
						S	H	P	T		A	M
T	A	N				S	E	M	I	S		A
A	G	I	O			E	T	O	N			
P	R	O	F			F	S		N	O	S	E
A	I	R	F	A	R	E			B	O	R	A
S	A	T	I	R	I	C			B	I	R	D
						C	O	D	A		E	R
						R	E	M	A	K	E	
						B	R	A	Y	E	D	

**184 SUTTON RD. WEBSTER, MA 508.943.9722**

**200 SPORTSMEN CLUB**

**Annual Ham Meat Raffle**

**Sunday March 29, 2025 1:00 pm**

**Free Admission and Complimentary Food**

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

**LEGAL NOTICES:**  
(508) 909-4127  
legals@stonebridgepress.news

**SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:**  
KERRI PETERSON  
(508) 909-4103  
kerri@stonebridgepress.news

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Sturbridge Villager (USPS#024-955) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, Inc., 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical postage paid at Southbridge, MA and additional mailing office(s). POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Stonebridge Press P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

## VILLAGER ALMANAC OPEN TO CLOSE

**SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN HALL**  
Monday-Wednesday:  
8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Thursday: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Friday: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

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

**CHARLTON TOWN HALL (508) 248-2200**  
*Office Hours:*  
Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays  
..... 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Tuesdays ..... 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Friday ..... Closed

visit [www.townofcharlton.net](http://www.townofcharlton.net) or more information.  
Individual offices may vary  
**PUBLIC LIBRARY (248-0452)**  
For library hours please check [www.charltonlibrary.org](http://www.charltonlibrary.org)  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT (248-2250)**  
Monday to Friday ..... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
For emergencies, dial 911  
**FIRE DEPARTMENT (248-2299)**  
Monday to Friday ..... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**POST OFFICES**  
Charlton Center Post Office ....(800) 275-8777  
Charlton City (01508) ..... (800) 275-8777

**SCHOOLS**  
Dudley-Charlton Regional School District  
..... (508) 943-6888  
Charlton Elementary School  
..... (508) 248-7774 or (508) 248-7435  
Heritage School ..... (508) 248-4884  
Charlton Middle School..... (508) 248-1423  
Shepherd Hill Regional High School  
..... (508) 943-6700  
Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School  
..... (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326

**HOLLAND: 413-245-7108**  
Mon – Thurs 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and  
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**FISKDALE: 508-347-6486**  
Weekdays 9:00-4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

**STURBRIDGE 508-347-6463**  
Weekdays 8:30 – 5:00 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

**BRIMFIELD: 413-245-3451**  
Weekdays: 9:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

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

### CHURCH LISTINGS

- **Central Baptist Church**  
256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550  
Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.
- **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 508- 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer worship is 9:30 a.m. [www.fed-church.org](http://www.fed-church.org)
- **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, [www.charltonbaptist.org](http://www.charltonbaptist.org), Sunday worship 10 a.m.
- **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: [CharltonCityUMC.org](http://CharltonCityUMC.org) Sunday worship and Children's church 10am
- **St. Anne St. Patrick Church**, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338  
[www.stannestpatparish.com](http://www.stannestpatparish.com)  
Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am
- **Elm Street Congregational Church**, 61 Elm Street, Southbridge, Ma 01550  
Phone: 508-764-8085 • Sunday service 10:00 am  
Pastor Kathryn Light
- **Faith Baptist Church**, 515 Dennison Drive, Southbridge  
Phone number 508-764-6132,  
Worship Service: Sunday 10:00 a.m.
- **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, [www.stjosephscharlton.com](http://www.stjosephscharlton.com), Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
- **Wayside Church**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144
- **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, [snedag.org](http://snedag.org), Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349  
Sunday Service 10:00am.  
[www.livingwordcharlton.com](http://www.livingwordcharlton.com)  
info@livingwordcharlton.com
- **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
- **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale** - 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021  
[www.sturfed.org](http://www.sturfed.org)  
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
- **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**- 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566  
Phone 508-347-7297  
Web: [www.bethlehemsturbridge.org](http://www.bethlehemsturbridge.org)  
Services - Sunday 9:00 am  
Pastor Dan Purtell
- **Holland Congregation Church "Where the Bible is preached."**  
11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926  
[Hollandchurch.org](http://Hollandchurch.org)  
Sunday Service @ 10:00 am  
Pastor Dan Maketansky
- **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**  
446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550  
Phone: 508-765-9559  
Web: [www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org](http://www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org)  
Sunday Service 11:00 am  
Pastor Dan Purtell
- **St. John Paul II Parish**  
279 Hamilton St., Southbridge  
Rev. Carlos Ardila, Pastor  
Weekend services Saturday 4 p.m.,  
Sunday 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon  
Weekday masses 8:30 & 8:45 a.m., St. Mary's Church (508) 765-3701

# LEARN Behavioral opens new Autism Learning Center in Sturbridge

STURBRIDGE — Behavioral Concepts (BCI), a provider of LEARN Behavioral, is proud to announce the grand opening of its new Sturbridge Learning Center at 179 Main St., Suite 2, Sturbridge.

BCI is Sturbridge's premiere contemporary applied behavior analysis (ABA) provider of center-based autism services for children ages one to 12 years. The Sturbridge Learning Center provides center-based ABA therapy, in-home ABA therapy, parent education, diagnostics, Early Intervention, and social skills.

The Sturbridge Learning Center also features an innovative Launchpad Learning Program, which focuses on children with autism ages three to five who are ready to transition from a one-on-one learning environment to a group setting to help prepare them for school. With Launchpad, half the day involves group activities with a 3:1 staff-child ratio, developing team skills and independence, and the other half of the day focuses on individual instruction, addressing personal growth areas.

"We are excited to have the opportunity to partner with new families by

expanding our services in Worcester County," said Annaleisa Delgado, BCBA, LABA, Regional Clinical Director for the Sturbridge Learning Center. "We value being a part of the Sturbridge community and look forward to collaborating with fellow organizations and professionals to help find success for every child in our care."

Key features of the Sturbridge Learning Center:

- Large facility with an indoor gross motor area and an enriching environment.
- ABA therapy, which includes a classroom-like environment, unique play-based learning spaces, and one-on-one support.
- Launchpad Learning, a preschool readiness program that empowers young learners for group success so they are prepared to enter kindergarten.
- Social skills programs to teach children communication skills.
- After-school and weekend treatment hours to accommodate busy family schedules.
- Serving children ages two to 12 years with personalized therapy plans.

• Conveniently located near Old Sturbridge Village, I-84, and US-20, and easily accessible for families in the region.

The center is now enrolling new clients based in Webster, Dudley, Southbridge, Sturbridge, the Brookfields, Ware, Spenser, Charlton, Brimfield, Warren, and beyond, with flexible treatment hours.

For more information or to enroll a child at the Sturbridge Learning Center, call 508-363-0200 or visit <https://bciba.com/locations/sturbridge>

### About BCI

BCI, part of the LEARN Behavioral network, is one of the nation's leading providers of compassionate autism care. For more than 20 years, BCI has been delivering evidence-based services, helping children with autism find success and reach their unique potential.

The Sturbridge Learning Center is BCI's 15th center-based ABA therapy location, with existing Learning Centers in Beverly, Brockton, Fitchburg, Framingham, Lawrence, Lowell,

New Bedford, Newton, Springfield, Taunton, Wilmington, two locations in Worcester, and one location in Nashua, New Hampshire.

About LEARN Behavioral  
LEARN Behavioral is a national leader in autism treatment, offering comprehensive diagnostic services and contemporary applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). With a nationwide network of ABA providers and more than 100 Learning Centers across the country, LEARN delivers the highest standard of evidence-based care—customized to meet the unique needs and interests of each child and family. For more information, visit [learnbehavioral.com](http://learnbehavioral.com).

## Brimfield to mark 250th anniversary of Independence

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

In recognition of this year's historic milestone, a full day of remembrance and celebration is planned. All are welcome

to attend the day's events, which include the following: Revolutionary War themed cemetery tours, a ceremony at the town common gazebo, a parade, and fun-filled festivities at the Brimfield Winery. The evening will close out with a spectacular fireworks display.

Additional details and updates will be available through the Friends of Historic Brimfield event Web site, [www.fohbrimfield.org](http://www.fohbrimfield.org). Tax-deductible donations can also be made in support of this celebration through this website, and in gratitude, donors will be recognized in the event pro-

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

This event is currently being sponsored by the Massachusetts Army National Guard and Classic Hits 97.7 FM. If

you or your company are interested in any level of corporate or business sponsorship, please visit the event website at [www.fohbrimfield.org](http://www.fohbrimfield.org). Additional volunteers are needed for both planning and to help with activities during the event, or if you are interested in putting a float

in the parade, contact Friends of Historic Brimfield at (413) 239-0288 for more information.

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

## Build a house, build a garage, build an addition with help from Tantasqua students

FIKSDALE — The Tantasqua Regional School Committee will be accepting applications for projects to be built during the

2026-2027 school year. The purpose of these projects is to provide practical work experiences for the carpentry students of Tantasqua's

Technical Division. Since there is no charge for student labor, qualified applicants realize substantial savings. Additional sav-

ings can result if Tantasqua's electrical students install any necessary wiring.

Applications and design plans will be accepted

for the construction of a single story house, garage, addition, or similar project. One or more projects may be selected. Applicant must reside in the Tantasqua School District.

All applications should be submitted directly to the Superintendent's Office by May 15.

For further information please call the Technical Division at 508-347-3045, ext. 0915 or access our Web site at <http://www.tantasqua.org/technical/forms.htm>.

**LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDERS**



**ASPHALT PAVING**

"Quality counts when no one is looking."  
Asphalt paving for over 50 years!

ACCREDITED BUSINESS  
A MEMBER FOR 25+ YEARS

**Bill Keyes**  
ASPHERAL PAVING INC.  
SPENCER, MA.  
774-261-5181  
ESTABLISHED 1963  
KeyesPaving.com | 508-347-7499  
Fully Insured • Owner/Operator

**Capstone Planning Group**  
WEALTHCARE | RETIREMENT | INCOME

[www.thecapstone.group](http://www.thecapstone.group)

Located at Cornerstone Bank  
200 Charlton Road (Suite B), Sturbridge, MA

Visit our website to schedule your courtesy retirement checkup today!

**Todd A. Ethier**  
B·U·I·L·D·E·R  
774-230-3967

- REMODELING EXPERT
- PROFESSIONAL INSTALLED
- WINDOWS AND SIDING

774-230-3967  
Quality Building Since 1985

**HARVEY WINDOWS**

◆ FINISHED BASEMENTS ◆ ADDITIONS ◆ KITCHENS ◆ BATHS ◆ GARAGES ◆ SIDING  
◆ ROOFING ◆ DECKS ◆ WINDOWS ◆ DOORS ◆ AUTHORIZED HARVEY DEALER  
◆ LICENSED & INSURED ◆ HONEST, CLEAN & DEPENDABLE

**WANTED TO BUY**  
*Antiques & Old Stuff*

- Bottles • Crocks • Jugs • Costume Jewelry • Pottery • Toys
- Pewter • Glassware • Sterling Silver • Coins • Gold
- Silver Plated Items • Watches • Typewriters • Sewing Machines
- Tools • Radios • Clocks • Lanterns • Lamps • Kitchenware
- Cookware • Knives • Hunting • Fishing • Military • Masonic
- Fire Dept • Advertising Signs & Much More

**CALL DONALD ROY 860-874-8396**

**Family Dining & Gift Guide**

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

Call Mikaela at 774-200-7308 or email [mikaela@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:mikaela@stonebridgepress.news) to advertise on this page.

**Got Space?**  
we do.

Contact Mikaela Today  
774-200-7308  
[mikaela@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:mikaela@stonebridgepress.news)

**CHARLIE'S**  
Diner • Bar • Grill • Functions

BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER

FRIDAY 3/20 & SATURDAY 3/21

**SEAFOOD TRIO**  
AFTER 5PM

HOURS: Wed-Sat 8-9; Sunday 8-8  
Closed Mon & Tue  
5 Meadow Rd., Spencer, MA 01562

Gift Cards **508-885-4033**  
[www.charliesdiner.com](http://www.charliesdiner.com)

**Salem Cross INN**  
RESTAURANT & TAVERN

In addition to our full menu

**THE SALEM SUNDAY SPECIAL \$28.00**  
FRESH LOCAL ROASTED TURKEY DINNER  
INCLUDES STUFFING, GIBLET GRAVY, BUTTERNUT SQUASH, WHIPPED POTATO, TOSSED SALAD AND A SUNDAE FOR DESSERT!  
Turkey raised at Liberty Family Farms.  
Every Sunday for as long as it lasts. Reservations are appreciated.

Hours: Thursday, Friday & Saturday 4-8; Sunday 12-5

Hexmark Tavern Hours: Thursday & Friday 4-8  
260 West Main Street, West Brookfield, MA 01585  
[www.salemcrossinn.com](http://www.salemcrossinn.com) (508)867-2345

Come on in for a delicious meal!  
Don't forget... TAKEOUT is available!

On Vacation  
March 26-April 1.  
Reopening April 2.



**PEPIN WASTE SERVICE**  
Your Local Roll-Off Specialist

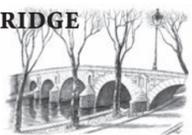
**WINTER SPECIAL**  
10 yd. Rental 1 Ton  
3 sizes available. Call for pricing.

**\$340**

**Roll Off Containers**  
Weekend Dumpsters for the Homeowner  
Houses • Attics • Cellars  
Construction Sites

10-15-20 Yd.  
508-892-4193 • Leicester, MA  
Fully Insured



STONEBRIDGE  
PRESS

25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550  
Telephone (800) 367-9898  
Fax (508) 764-8015  
www.StonebridgePress.com

FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER  
BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

## A community that shows up

On a gray, wet Saturday morning earlier this month, a small group of volunteers stood outside Big Bunny Supermarket in Southbridge collecting food donations. The weather was hardly inviting. The clouds hung low, the air was cool, and most people would have preferred to run their errands quickly and head home.

But something else happened that morning.

Shoppers stopped. They paused on their way in or out of the store. They reached into carts and trunks. Some handed over bags of groceries. Others dropped off boxes filled with food. One couple donated three bags of groceries and added a \$100 contribution. Another person pulled up in front of the volunteers, opened his trunk, and offered a box packed with food items.

By the end of five hours, volunteers from the Major General Salem Towne Masonic Lodge had collected 86 bags of groceries, enough to fill three pickup trucks. Cash donations totaling \$184 were also given, which the volunteers immediately used to purchase additional groceries and baby food for the Southbridge Food Share pantry.

It was not the weather that defined that morning. It was the generosity of the community.

The Southbridge Food Share serves families across several local towns, including Southbridge, Sturbridge, Holland, Wales, Brimfield, and Charlton. For many households, food pantries help fill the gap when grocery budgets run thin. In recent years, rising food prices and economic pressures have made that gap wider for many families.

Food pantries across Massachusetts and the country continue to report increased demand. The challenge is especially sharp during holidays and seasonal transitions, when family budgets are already stretched.

That is why events like this food drive matter.

They are not only about collecting food. They are about neighbors helping neighbors. They remind us that even in difficult economic times, communities still find ways to care for one another.

The volunteers who stood outside the store deserve recognition for giving their time and effort. But just as much credit belongs to the people who stopped to help. Each bag of pasta, each can of soup, each box of food added up.

In the end, three pickup trucks full of groceries were delivered to the Southbridge Food Share pantry. For the volunteers who run the pantry and the families who depend on it, those donations will make a real difference.

Another important part of the story is the cooperation that made the event possible. The owners and staff of Big Bunny Supermarket opened their doors and allowed the drive to take place outside the store. Community partnerships like that are often the quiet foundation behind successful local efforts.

Small towns thrive on these kinds of relationships. Local businesses, civic organizations, volunteers, and residents all play a role. When those pieces come together, even a cloudy, rainy Saturday can turn into something meaningful.

The truth is that no single food drive can solve the larger issue of food insecurity. But that does not diminish the value of what happened in Southbridge that day. Instead, it demonstrates something powerful about the character of the community.

When a need is identified, people respond.

They bring groceries. They offer donations. They volunteer their time. They show up, even when the weather is unpleasant and the morning is busy.

That spirit has long been one of the strengths of communities like Southbridge, Sturbridge, Charlton, and the surrounding towns. It is not always loud or widely noticed. Often, it happens quietly outside a local grocery store, one bag of groceries at a time.

But the impact is real.

And sometimes, three pickup trucks full of food tell the whole story.

## 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

## Ease the squeeze on your retirement income plan

Rising prices may not dominate headlines the way they did a year or two ago, but if you're retired, you're probably still feeling them. Even when overall inflation cools, the costliest expenses — like health care, utilities, insurance, and property taxes — tend to rise faster than broad inflation numbers suggest. That creates a squeeze that can make you question whether your income plan is built to last.

Fortunately, you often can adjust without drastic cuts that affect your lifestyle. Start by understanding where the pressure comes from and how to build more flexibility into your plan.

Inflation hits retirees differently. You've likely noticed your grocery bill, prescription drug costs and heating expenses haven't returned to "normal." Even small increases compound over time, and can chip away at your buying power.

If your income plan was created years ago, it may assume lower inflation or relatively stable price increases over time. Recent years have shown that's not always the case.

Why some income plans feel strained. Any plan relying on fixed withdrawals or rigid budgets can feel tight when living costs rise. If you're drawing from investments, you may hesitate to increase your withdrawals because of market volatility. And if you depend on fixed income sources like Social Security or a pension, yearly cost of living increases may



FINANCIAL  
FOCUS

TREVOR  
NIELSEN

not keep pace with your expenses. You might live 25 to 35 years in retirement, giving small annual cost increases decades to add up.

What you can do without sacrificing stability. A few adjustments can help you stay ahead of rising costs and maintain your financial confidence.

First, review your withdrawal strategy. Ask your financial advisor about flexible approaches that increase income when markets and portfolios perform well and pull back during tougher times. This protects your long-term plan with room to respond to rising prices.

Next, rebalance your portfolio. You may uncover opportunities to shift toward investments with more consistent income or better tax efficiency. Sometimes a small tweak can generate extra cash flow without increasing overall risk.

Finally, look at your income sources. You may be less affected by rising costs if you

delay taking Social Security, work a part-time job, add inflation-protected bonds, or create predictable lifetime income with annuities, if they're appropriate for your situation.

Don't overlook health care: Health care costs often grow faster than general inflation. Medicare premiums and out-of-pocket expenses can rise annually, and the need for long-term care remains a big financial uncertainty for retirees. Building health care-specific inflation into your plan now can help prevent surprises later. Any savings you have in a health savings account can help you cover health care costs. And many pharmaceutical companies offer financial assistance programs to help pay for costlier medications.

Stay flexible and informed: Today's retirements look different from those of even a decade ago. The key is staying flexible, reviewing your plan regularly and making small adjustments before pressure builds. A financial advisor can help you find the right approach to navigating rising costs without disrupting the life you've worked hard to build.

*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@edward-jones.com. Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

## TO THE EDITOR

### Emily Dabrowski Scholarship Committee seeks applications

To the Editor:

The Emily Dabrowski Memorial Scholarship Committee is seeking applications for 2026 scholarships. This is the ninth year that funds have been generously provided by members of our community.

The scholarships are in memory of my daughter, Emily, who died during her senior year at Shepherd Hill. Emily's "Happiest place on Earth" was a Haitian Orphanage called Espwa, where she worked for three summers with others from St. Joseph's Church in Charlton. This scholarship seeks to reward and encourage students like her to continue their volunteer efforts.

The number and amount of scholarships granted depend on the number of applications received. We seek students who have shown kindness to others, animals and our environment. We look for a histo-

ry of volunteering in our community and/or a desire to join the Peace Corps or similar efforts. A pursuit of humanitarian fields of study is preferred.

Scholarship applications must be submitted to the Bay Path Regional or Shepherd Hill Guidance Office by April 27.

To donate to the Emily Dabrowski Memorial Scholarship Fund, please contact Saver's Bank in Charlton at 508-248-4255. Please contact me for more information at Diane01507@gmail.com. I'd like to thank everyone who has donated to Emily's scholarship fund. Your generosity is deeply appreciated!

Thank you,

*Diane Dabrowski  
Charlton*

### Regionalizing 911 dispatch services in Southbridge based on safety and facts

To the Editor:

Southbridge deserves a town government that chooses solutions protecting both our safety and our wallets. Choosing what is best for the community must be done with caution, research, and facts — not feelings, hostility, or a quick Internet AI search.

On Nov. 3, 2025, the Town Council voted 6-3 against regionalizing dispatch services with the Central Massachusetts Regional Emergency Communications Center. The six councilors who voted no were Daou, Chenier, Ortiz, Provost, Lazo, and Montigny. Chief Woodson, Chief Normandin, and Town Manager Jack Jovan recommended regionalization. Despite the recommendation from our Chiefs, the Council's majority rejected that recommendation without offering factually based explanations to the public. Decisions that affect emergency response and municipal budgets should be justified with evidence and transparent reasoning. Voters deserve clear, rationales — not silence from the Councilors who voted no.

Public safety and fiscal responsibility are not mutually exclusive. The case for regional dispatch rests on concrete operational and budgetary benefits:

1. Faster, consistent response. CMRECC uses standardized protocols and Emergency Medical Dispatch practices that reduce call-processing time and improve pre-arrival instructions.

2. Joining CMRECC gives Southbridge access to hosted CAD, NG911 mapping, and integrated radio interoperability; CMRECC and state grants fund and maintain these systems.

3. CMRECC provides hardened facilities, backup power, and surge staffing during major incidents — capabilities a small local dispatch struggles to sustain.

4. Centralized staffing models and training reduce overtime pressure, improve certification rates, and create predictable schedules that benefit employees and the community.

5. State 911 grants and shared regional purchasing reduce the town's capital burden for radios, consoles, and facility hardening.

6. Regional cost-sharing lowers exposure to overtime, pension, and health-insurance swings.

7. Regionalization converts unpredictable local dispatch costs into a steady, budgetable assessment of about \$391,000 per year (estimate as of 11/1/2025.) By contrast, the FY26 budget for current dispatchers with fringe benefits and health insurance is approximately \$1.1

million.

8. At the Oct. 27, 2025, Joint Protection of Persons and Properties subcommittee meeting, Councilor Montigny proposed building an "Elite Local Dispatch" (increase staffing from nine to 14, that will include a director, three supervisors, and match CMRECC salaries.) An "Elite Local Dispatch" will cost roughly \$1.8 million per year plus the long-term retirement responsibilities.

8. Loss of local control is overstated. Modern location and mapping technology can locate callers within ten feet of their location and governance agreements can preserve local input while delivering regional capability. Southbridge will have several seats at the CMRECC table. We are not giving up local control — we are gaining local control over public safety and budgeting.

About 88 percent of Southbridge's property-tax levy is shouldered by residential property owners. That concentration means homeowners already carry most of the town's tax burden. Southbridge cannot responsibly absorb a permanent, large increase in annual dispatch costs without shifting more pressure on residents. Many seniors in our community cannot shoulder additional increases in property taxes. We must make smart decisions. We cannot burden homeowners further. Local government should always look for solutions that protect the community and residents. Regionalization offers budget stability, grant funding, and reduced long-term retirement obligations — outcomes that protect taxpayers and public safety.

Call to action: If you believe Southbridge should prioritize both safety and fiscal responsibility, please sign the initiative petition to put the non-binding question on the June 9 ballot. The deadline for collecting signatures is April 9. The initiative petition can be signed at the customer service desk at Big Bunny during business hours or stop by on Saturdays now through April 4 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to say hello, ask questions and sign the petition. A heartfelt thank you to Pete Cournoyer at Big Bunny, Cheyenne at Moon Magick, and Yolanda at Salon 769, and all the residents who are circulating petitions and standing out to get signatures for helping with our efforts to give voters a voice. Thank you to the hundreds of residents who have already signed.

Sincerely,

*Shelley Klein  
Southbridge*

## Spring arrives today!

To the Editor:

Spring arrives on Friday with vernal equinox (March 20). Thanks to all the shoveling and patching from the DPW and fire department, shoveling out all those hydrants. Thanks to the citizens who helped shovel their neighbors out and, as always, a shout out to my neighbors, the Engels, who helped with snow and car issues!

With spring comes vernal pools, a welcome sight and sound after this winter. These are great to observe as they are so full of life! Appreciate them as you soak up some sun and warmth. Mass Wildlife tells us that spotted salamanders, wood frogs, blue-spotted salamanders, Jefferson salamanders, American toads, spring peepers, four-toed salamanders, northern leopard frogs, and eastern red-backed salamanders are frequently encountered on roads during early spring rains. So be wary not to hit these valuable little creatures. "With little to no snow cover and the ground thawing in many areas, we expect migrations in milder, lower-elevation parts of Massachusetts to commence with the next warm, rainy night." (If you are not sure how these animals are valuable, vernal pools are valuable habitats to help humans with flooding issues and clean water and soil issues: these

habitats are being lost to development, pollution, and trash. We need to maintain these habitats and keep them clean. Then, they can live their lives, and we can enjoy watching them and hearing them! as well as enjoy the ecological functions!)

These animals can be difficult to see, as they are generally small-bodied and move under the cover of dark. This spring, please be mindful of our amphibians and our natural heritage. Please watch this short video for great footage of vernal pool animals and hear the pepper sound so you can identify it when you hear them. <https://youtu.be/KLARoicdmmY?si=vnF0QOTSIOftSMP2>

Did I mention the birds? Wetlands, in general, are great spots to see birds and vernal pools, being temporary water holes, serve as great stop-overs for ducks, herons, and other song birds.

Vernal pools offer something to everyone: listen to the noises, enjoy watching the plants, insects, frogs, and salamanders. Make a sketch. Get inspired by the action (and non-action) there.

*Maurren Doyle  
Southbridge*

# The lost art of knowing your town

The other day, I needed to stop at a small local bank branch to take care of a simple errand. Nothing complicated, just the sort of quick visit that most people expect to finish in a few minutes.

While I was waiting, I noticed something that used to be fairly common in Massachusetts towns but feels a little rarer these days.

The teller greeted nearly every person who stepped up to the counter by name. Not loudly, and not in a showy way. Just a friendly, matter-of-fact kind of greeting.

"Morning, Bob."  
"How are you today, Linda?"

One fellow walking out the door paused long enough for a quick conversation about someone's daughter who had recently gone off to college. Another customer asked about the progress of a new roof being put on the teller's house.

None of it lasted long. A minute here, 30 seconds there.

But it reminded me of something that used to be second nature in small towns: people knowing one another, not in the grand sense of lifelong friendships, but in the simple recognition that comes from sharing the same streets, shops, and sidewalks for years.

There was a time when nearly every town had places like that.

The hardware store where the owner remembered what kind of paint you had bought the year before.

The diner where the waitress didn't need to ask how you liked your eggs.

The post office where the clerk might mention that your neighbor had picked up a package earlier that morning.

None of these connections were particularly dramatic. They were small, everyday acknowledgments that people lived side by side in the same place.

Over the years, many parts of life have grown more efficient, which is not always a bad thing. Self-checkout lanes move quickly. Online banking saves a trip across town. Packages arrive at the door without anyone needing to stand in line at the counter.

Convenience has its advantages. But sometimes, I wonder if we've quietly traded away a few of those small human moments along the way.

When everything is done through a screen, there are fewer chances to run into someone you know. Fewer moments when a casual "How are you?" turns into a short conversation about a local ball game or the latest town

project.

And those small conversations matter more than we sometimes realize.

They help knit a town together.

In Massachusetts communities, where many residents have lived for decades and families often return generation after generation, those everyday connections create a sense that a place belongs to the people who live there.

You are not simply passing through. You are part of the town's ongoing

## LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET By CHARLES

story.

That doesn't mean everyone needs to know everyone else's life history. No one expects that.

But there is something reassuring about walking into a familiar place and seeing a face that recognizes yours.

A quick greeting. A nod.

Maybe a short conversation about the weather, or the Red Sox, or how quickly the kids seem to grow up.

By the time I finished my errand at the bank that day, I had heard at least

half a dozen people greeted by name. Some lingered to talk. Others hurried off to their next stop along Main Street.

The teller returned to her work without much fuss.

To her, it probably felt like a normal morning.

And perhaps that's exactly the point.

In the best small towns, the quiet habit of knowing one another doesn't feel unusual at all. It simply feels like the natural way a community should work.

A town where people recognize one another, even in small ways, is a town where neighbors are never very far apart.

## Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service at Old Sturbridge Village

STURBRIDGE — The annual Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service will be held at Old Sturbridge Village on April 5 at 6 a.m. The service is open to the public.

According to The Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale's pastor, the Rev. David W. Cote, seven local faith communities will gather at the original Baptist Meetinghouse located at the end of the Common at Old Sturbridge Village.

Also participating in this year's service are the faith communities from Bethlehem Lutheran

Church (Sturbridge), St. Anne/St. Patrick Catholic Church (Fiskdale), Brookfield Congregational Church (Brookfield), Elm Street Congregational Church (Southbridge), Holy Trinity Church (Southbridge), and St. Joseph Church (Charlton).

"The sunrise service is a simple but meaningful way to begin Easter," said Cote. "I believe that this Sunrise Service is a representation of Christ's love for us all. We come together as one body, as the sun rises to celebrate the hope that Easter brings. All

are welcome to join us."

Those planning to attend should enter the Village through the security gate at the top of the parking lot and proceed to the Meetinghouse on the Common. Attendees are encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather.

Food and drink are not permitted, except for bottled water. Old Sturbridge Village will not be open for touring during the event and restrooms will not be available. Guests are asked to leave the Village directly following the service.

## Sturbridge Affordable Housing Trust seeks input through survey

STURBRIDGE — The Sturbridge Affordable Housing Trust (SAHT) is leading the development of a new Housing Production Plan (HPP) to update its 2021-2026 Housing Production Plan and guide the Town's future housing strategy. The updated HPP will include current data and analysis on demographic trends and

housing conditions, identify priority housing needs, and recommend strategies to address them.

Community engagement is a central part of this process. The SAHT will offer multiple opportunities for residents to share input on local housing challenges, goals, and priorities. As part of this effort, the SAHT is con-

ducting a Community Housing Survey to gather additional feedback. The survey is designed to be brief and easy to complete, taking only a few minutes of your time.

To participate in the survey, visit the town Web site, sturbridge.gov, and click the link under the News tab on the main page.



# Community Connection

### Charlton Oil

508-248-9797 Propane

Don't Pay Too Much for Propane

PROPANE	PRICE PER GAL	PROPANE	PRICE PER GAL	Tanks Filled to 80%
0-50	\$4.99	301-500	\$2.25	Driver Discretion
50-75	\$3.49	500 PLUS	\$2.10	
76-150	\$2.95	Duel Fuel	\$3.75	
151-300	\$2.55	Drop off Tanks	\$3.00	

**DON'T PAY TOO MUCH FOR OIL!**  
Friday price 3/13/26 was **\$4.89** per gallon\*  
100 gallon minimum  
ONLINE ORDERING NOW AVAILABLE AT [www.charltonoil.com](http://www.charltonoil.com)  
"Call Us First!"  
\*prices subject to change



### Cormier JEWELERS

## WE BUY GOLD

Trusted with Appraisals, Custom Design, Repairs, and more since 1947!

42 Central St, Southbridge MA  
(508) 764-7415 | [www.Cormiers.com](http://www.Cormiers.com)



570 MAIN STREET • RT. 20 • FISKDALE, MA  
TEL: 508-347-0116 • FAX: 508-347-6985

VISIT OUR STORE FOR WEEKLY SPECIALS!



For Advertising Information Call 774-200-7308 email: [mikaela@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:mikaela@stonebridgepress.news)

### PLUMBING

#### JOHN DALY PLUMBING

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



Celebrating 20+ Years in Business

### Talbat Embroidery Shop

Custom Embroidery & Heat Transfer

We're here to service all of your heat transfer and embroidery needs, jobs big and small!

508-764-0555

### Morin JEWELERS

Fine Jewelry & Gifts  
The Jewelry store where you buy with confidence

## WE BUY GOLD

Specializing in Custom Designs  
All types of Jewelry Repairs

MASTER JEWELERS™  
BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®

409 Main St. Southbridge, MA  
[moringewelers.com](http://moringewelers.com) • 508-764-7250  
Located at CVS Plaza

## Crooked Creek Farm

East Brookfield, Massachusetts



**Stock up now!**

Retail Cuts, Quarter, & Half sides of Beef Available!

To purchase your meat packages  
CALL/TEXT: (774) 200-7308  
[www.crookedcreekfarmma.org](http://www.crookedcreekfarmma.org)

**FREE LOCAL DELIVERY!**

# “The Secret World of Elephants” exhibit now open at the EcoTarium!

WORCESTER — “The Secret World of Elephants” exhibit opened at the EcoTarium on March 7, with a special Opening Day celebration. As the inaugural exhibition in the Museum’s new Stoddard Exhibition Hall, the exhibit invites visitors to explore the remarkable lives, abilities, and history of the world’s largest land mammals, and reveals new scientific insights into how elephants think, communicate, and shape entire ecosystems, as well as the urgent challenges they face today.

“Today marks the first time Worcester, Massachusetts, is able to be the host city for a large-scale national science exhibition, thanks to the new Stoddard Exhibition Hall,” said Noreen Johnson Smith, President & CEO of the EcoTarium. “The 8,000 square foot Stoddard Hall features 16-foot high ceilings and flexible IT and electrical infrastructure to support modern, immersive, tech-driven exhibitions. The kind of exhibits you could only find in Boston or New York City or at the Smithsonian in Washington DC are now available right here in Worcester.”

The EcoTarium welcomed distinguished guests to the opening ceremony of “The Secret World of Elephants,” including Senator Michael Moore; EcoTarium Board Chair Joseph Bartulis; Trustees Ray Quinlan, Harry



Kokkinis, and Dr. Flo Tseng; and longtime supporters, community leaders, and friends Judy Stoddard King, Barbara Merolli, Sarah Ribeiro, Cynthia Pitcher, and Linda Robbins. EcoTarium Corporators, staff, and visitors also joined the celebration to mark this momentous occasion.

Following the ceremony, visitors excitedly formed a line, and then the doors

to Stoddard Hall opened to reveal this magnificent exhibit!

“As we enter our third century of continuous operation as a science and nature museum, we are singularly focused on our guests: the curious, the studious, the explorers, the passionate science students, and lifelong learners who are eager to discover and learn more,”

said Smith. “The Elephant exhibit will inspire everyone to learn more about these beautiful creatures who roam the forests of Southeast Asia and the savannahs of Africa.”

Featuring life-size models, including a scientifically accurate woolly mammoth, touchable teeth casts, multimedia experiences, and interactive displays, the exhibition highlights

elephants’ extraordinary senses and behaviors. Visitors can discover how elephants “hear” with their feet, use the 16 muscles in their trunks, and maintain complex social bonds.

The exhibit also explores the long relationship between elephants and humans, from their roles in war and work to their presence in religion and cultural symbolism. Notable objects on display include

Vietnamese puppets of the legendary Trung sisters and a large figure of the Hindu god Ganesha.

The exhibit will run through Sept. 7. Visitors can learn more, view ticket timeslots, and get tickets on the EcoTarium Web site.

The Secret World of Elephants is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (amnh.org).

**If “Great Service” still means something to you...  
It’s at Lamoureux!**



F150



**FORDS ...but NOT JUST FORDS!**



GV80

**Ford F-150s**  
Choose from 6! 2022/23/24  
**from \$46,999!** #TU11693R

**Ford Escapes** Choose from 10!  
2023/24/25 • Hybrid, Active, and ST-Line  
**from \$26,999!** #TU11696

**Lincoln Corsair** Choose from 2!  
2022 - Reserve - fully loaded and low miles  
**Save Thousands! \$35,999!** #TU11480R

**Ford Explorers** Choose from 3!  
XLT's, 4x4's - low miles  
**from \$31,999!** #TU11702

**2023 Ford Bronco “Heritage Edition”**  
Robin’s egg blue, Sasquatch, V6, loaded  
**\$58,999!** #TU11689R

**2024 Ford Transit T250**  
4 door Cargo Van, V6, automatic, 19k miles  
**\$35,995!** #TU11637

**2024 Genesis GV80**  
3.5 Prestige, loaded, low miles  
**\$61,999!** #TU11656

**2023 Chevy Tahoe “LT”**  
5.3/V8, 4x4, low miles  
**from \$56,988!** #TU11596

**2023 Mitsubishi Edge “SE”**  
AWD, roof, low miles  
**from \$22,999!** #TU11690

**2023 BMW XI-SUV**  
Navigation, roof, heated seats, 43k miles  
**\$31,499!** #TU11714R

**2022 Audi A4 “Premium Plus”**  
AWD, Turbo, heated seats  
**\$31,999!** #CU8033R

**2025 Nissan Sentra** Choose from 2!  
SVs, automatic, low miles  
**\$22,999!** #CU8037R

• On-site Finance Department • Extended Warranty Options

**Choose from over 50 Quality Fully Serviced Vehicles!**

**LAMOUREUX**



366 E. Main Street, Rte. 9 • East Brookfield

**877-LAM-FORD or 508-885-1000**

**SALES HOURS:** Mon-Fri: 8:30am-6:00pm • Sat: 8:30am-3:00pm

**SERVICE HOURS:** Mon-Fri: 8:00am-5:00pm • Sat: 8:30am-Noon • Sun: Closed

Visit us online at [www.lamoureuxford.com](http://www.lamoureuxford.com)

# A night of harmony and hope

## JAK-L Foundation to host Dueling Pianos in Auburn

AUBURN — Get ready to sing, dance, and make a difference. On Saturday, May 2, the local community will gather at J. Anthony's Italian Grill for a high-energy "Dueling Pianos" event presented by the JAK-L Foundation.

The evening promises a vibrant blend of music and laughter, but the mission behind the melodies is deeply personal. Proceeds from the event will directly support youth mental health and suicide prevention programs within the local community.

Turning pain into purpose  
The JAK-L Foundation was established in 2023 by President Joy Kochinskas. For Kochinskas, a local salon owner and stylist for more than 25 years, the cause is an intimate one. After losing her sister to suicide in 2017, she became a dedicated advocate, participating in the "Out of the Darkness" walks for years before founding the JAK-L Foundation to create a more direct impact on mental health awareness.

"I'm hoping to make more of an impact on the mental health society," Kochinskas said regarding the foundation's mission. Alongside an active event committee, the foundation is working to transform how the community discusses and supports mental wellness.

Event details  
The event kicks off at 8:00 PM, though supporters are encouraged to



Courtesy

The members of the JAK-L Foundation. Front row, from left: David Boucher, Christine Afful, Joy Kochinskas, Devon Renfro, Steve Kochinskas. Second Row, from left: Karen Sisko, Kathy Konkol-Saad, Kim Sterczala, Shirley Shepardson, Kerry Bielicki, Ruth Cahill, Laurie Boucher

Kochinskas. Supporting the front lines are team members Karen Sisko, Kathy Konkol-Saad, Kim Sterczala, Shirley Shepardson, Kerry Bielicki, Ruth Cahill, and Laurie Boucher.

By attending, guests aren't just buying a ticket to a show—they are helping to "spark meaningful change" for local youth who may be struggling in silence.

## From silver medals to success

Bay Path alumna Moreen Barber achieves milestone RN status

CHARLTON — In a journey defined by academic excellence and a deep-seated commitment to patient advocacy, Moreen Barber of Natick (formerly of Worcester) has officially reached the pinnacle of her nursing education. This March, Barber achieved a major career milestone, passing the NCLEX-RN on her very first attempt—a feat that follows her graduation from the Advanced Placement LPN program at Quinsigamond Community College (QCC).

For Barber, the road to becoming a Registered Nurse began in Charlton at the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. A standout member of the PN Class of 2022, she was recognized early on for her clinical sharpness and competitive spirit, earning a Gold Medal in Medical Terminology at the SkillsUSA District level and a Silver Medal at the State level.

A foundation in excellence  
Barber's time at Bay Path was marked by more than just high marks; it was defined by service. From serving as an officer for the UNICEF Club to volunteering at community health clinics and middle school screenings, she consistently looked for ways to apply her skills beyond the classroom.

After passing her NCLEX-PN on the first try in September 2022, Barber immediately entered the workforce, gaining vital experience in rehabilitation and geriatric care at Marlborough Hills and later at Eliot Rehabilitation in Natick. Even while working as a dynamic LPN, she remained focused on her goal of advanced practice.

A full-circle moment  
In December 2025, as she prepared to graduate with her Associate in Science in Nurse Education from QCC, Barber reached out to retired Academy Director, Dr. Gretheline Bolandrina, with a heartfelt invitation: "I'm kindly inviting you to attend my pinning ceremony at QCC. This has been a long journey starting with you at Bay Path. Please join me in celebrating this achievement. You are a blessing to me."

The pinning ceremony served as a bridge between her foundational training at Bay Path and her future as a Registered Nurse. During her clinical rotations at St. Vincent's Hospital (Maternity), and UMass, Barber was praised for her critical thinking and her ability to coordinate complex care plans in emergency and surgical settings.

Skills for the future  
With a robust clinical toolkit that includes certifications in Dementia Care, Mental Health First Aid, and Infusion Therapy, Barber brings a high level of expertise to the nursing field. Her background in end-of-life care, surgical recovery, and quality improvement makes her a vital asset to the Central Massachusetts healthcare community.

As she transitions into her new role as an RN, Barber continues to embody the spirit of the "lifelong learner." With a proven track record of enhancing patient outcomes and a dedication to ethical practice, her journey serves as



Courtesy Photo

Moreen Barber

an inspiration to nursing students across the Commonwealth.



**CASUAL WATERFRONT DINING ON LAKE LASHAWAY**

**LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEK!**

3/13 Stephen George  
3/14 Lower Level Duo  
3/15 St Patricks Day Celebration with Mike O'Meara

**MUSIC BINGO EVERY THURSDAY 7 TO 9**

**WEEKLY SPECIAL**  
Check out our **\$19.99** Three-Course Meal Deals  
Available Every Tuesday, Wednesday, And Thursday.

Please call 774-449-8333 for reservations, take-out or reserve online 308lakeside.com

308 MAIN STREET EAST BROOKFIELD 774-449-8333 308LAKESIDE.COM

2022 BEST OF CENTRAL MASS

Check out the new Fall/Winter menu

**Anniversary Sale!**

**Biggest Sale of the Year!**

COME CELEBRATE WITH US! We are celebrating by offering you savings of 20%-60% Off storewide.

As an added bonus, qualified buyers pay 0% Interest and NO DOWN PAYMENT for 1 FULL YEAR!

REGISTER TO WIN A \$500 SHOPPING SPREE! (No purchase necessary)

- ❖ Bedrooms
- ❖ Living Rooms
- ❖ Recliners
- ❖ Occasional Pieces
- ❖ Entertainment Centers
- ❖ Sealy Mattresses

**STOREWIDE SAVINGS!**

www.sundeenfurnitureinc.com

# Sundeen Furniture

241 Providence Rd., Whitinsville • 508-234-8777

FREE Delivery & Removal • FREE Financing Available

M.T.W. 9:30-6:00; TH., FRI. 9:30-7:00; SAT. 9:30-6:00; SUN 11-5

**IT'S MARCH MAYHEM!**

INSTANT FINANCING - HUGE REBATE PACKAGES AVAILABLE!

**HUGE KITCHEN PACKAGE & LAUNDRY REBATES**

- 32" HD Smart TV.....\$99.99 (Regularly \$149.99)
- 43" Smart TV.....\$199.99 (Regularly \$249.99)
- 50" HDTV Television...\$229.99 (Regularly \$269.99)
- 55" 2K HDTV Television...\$249.99 (Regularly \$349.99)
- 65" HDTV Television...\$329.99 (Regularly \$599.99)
- 75" HDTV.....\$499.99 (Regularly \$699.99)

**MATTRESS SALE!**

**TWIN: \$199** (REGULARLY \$299)  
**FULL: \$269** (REGULARLY \$499)  
**QUEEN: \$299** (REGULARLY \$599)

**PRE-SEASON BIKE SALE!**

1000's IN STOCK!  
E-BIKES IN STOCK!

<b>GE DELUXE DISHWASHER</b> Reg. \$499.99 <b>\$399.99</b>	<b>G.E. DELUXE AIR FRY GAS RANGE</b> Reg. \$899.99 <b>\$699.99</b>	<b>FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER</b> Reg. \$399.99 <b>\$299.99</b>	<b>SAMSUNG TOP LOAD WASHER &amp; DRYER</b> Pair - Reg. \$1199.99 <b>\$999.99</b> AFTER REBATE!	<b>G.E. 27 CU. FT. FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR</b> Reg. \$1999.99 <b>\$1399.99</b>	<b>5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER</b> Reg. \$199.99 <b>\$189.99</b>	<b>AMANA WASHER OR DRYER</b> Reg. \$599.99 <b>\$489.99</b>
<b>WHIRLPOOL 21 CU. FT. TOP MOUNT REFRIGERATOR</b> Reg. \$899.99 <b>\$699.99</b>	<b>FRIGIDAIRE 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR</b> Reg. \$599.99 <b>\$599.99</b>	<b>FAMOUS MAKER OVER THE STOVE MICROWAVE</b> Reg. \$249.99 <b>\$229.99</b>	<b>LG #3400 WASHER &amp; DRYER</b> Front Load, Reg. \$1599.99 <b>\$1399.99</b>	<b>MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER</b> Reg. \$599.99 <b>\$549.99</b>	<b>WHIRLPOOL SIDE BY SIDE</b> Reg. \$1499.99 <b>\$1199.99</b>	<b>WE INSTALL TELEVISIONS, MICROWAVES &amp; DISHWASHERS!</b>

**INSTANT FINANCING UP TO \$10,000!**



# WHITCO

Store Hours: Mon. thru Fri: 10am-8:30pm • Sat: 9am-8pm • Sun: 12 Noon-7pm

140 MAIN STREET, SPENCER, MA  
**508.885.9343**  
SEE WHITCOSALES.COM  
**FOR 100's OF DEALS!**

# St. Anne – St. Patrick’s Calendar

## Raffle celebrates Lucky Month

STURBRIDGE — St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish is celebrating the month of March with a St. Patrick’s Day Calendar raffle. One lucky winner will be drawn each day. The winning ticket will be reentered for more chances to win. Raffle tickets are \$10 each.

The calendar features four \$100 prizes drawn every Saturday in March as well as several random cash prizes throughout the month. On St. Patrick’s Day, the lucky winner will receive \$500.

Other prizes include gift cards to St. Anne’s Gift Shop, Tutti Quanti,

Napoli’s Pizzeria, Elm Street Café, Big Bunny Supermarket, Nova’s Restaurant Holland, Publick House, and tickets to Entertainment Luxury Theater.

Raffle tickets may be purchased in the St. Anne Gift Shop and in the St. Anne – St. Patrick office. Proceeds

benefit St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish.

St. Anne - St. Patrick Parish is an active parish community. It offers daily Mass for worship, religious education, and community ministries. It welcomes visitors to St. Anne Shrine, the new Memorial for the Unborn, the Hall

of Saints, the Russian Icon Exhibit, the Votive Chapel, the Generations Statue, and the Angel of Hope Monument. Our pilgrims feel at peace walking the ground, including the Stations of the Cross and the Holy Stairs. And weather permitting, pilgrims also have access to a

picnic grove. The Daily Rosary is recited at 3 p.m. in the St. Patrick Chapel, and weekend Masses are celebrated in its outdoor pavilion in the summer. Its religious gift shop is open every day from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## LEGALS

### LEGAL NOTICE

The United Way of South Central Massachusetts, Inc., will hold its **ANNUAL MEETING** on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at the Boys & Girls Club of Webster-Dudley in Webster, MA. The purpose of this meeting will be to nominate and elect the Corporation Treasurer, Secretary and Board of Directors; to receive reports and to act upon any other business presented.

Kristin McCarthy  
Secretary/Clerk

March 19, 2026  
March 20, 2026

The Brimfield ZBA will hold a public hearing at 5:00 pm on April 06, 2026, at the Town Annex (Clerk’s Office) 23 Main St. Brimfield, MA on behalf of Andrew and Joseph Comerford for their land on Shaw Rd. in Brimfield, MA. Assessor’s Parcels 5-A-1.3 and 5-A-1.5. Book 25931-582. The applicants seek to construct a common driveway (less than 500 feet) to serve two single family lots. A 33-foot easement will be provided. No more than two lots will be served and a 24-foot driving surface will be provided. Although not required to attend, abutters and members of the public are welcome to attend and provide feedback.

March 13, 2026  
March 20, 2026

### Town of Holland Zoning Board of Appeals Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with M.G. L Chapter 40A Section 9, the Holland Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 7:15 P.M.** at the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Rd, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Community Room, Holland, MA 01521.

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

The purpose of the hearing is to consider a request for a **Special Permit** according to Holland Bylaw section 8. **Relief requested: New build on a pre-existing non-conforming lot.**

The property located at: **83 Sandy Beach Rd Parcel ID # R38/E / 15.**

Don Beal, Chairperson  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
Date: 3/12/2026  
March 19, 2026  
March 26, 2026

### CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on March 25, at 7PM on the application of Connor Chaffee.

The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for the construction of a patio within the 100-ft buffer zone to Little Nugget Lake. The project location is: 189 Nugget Drive, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 20A-A-10 Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request.

Copies of the NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.

Thomas O’Malley  
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission  
March 19, 2026

### PUBLIC NOTICE ANNUAL MEETING

Savers Co-Operative Bank will hold its Annual Meeting April 13, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at the Bank, 270 Main Street, Southbridge, Massachusetts, for election of the Corporation Clerk and the members of the Board of Directors, and to take care of any other business that may be brought

up for attention. An Annual Disclosure Statement may be obtained by calling (508) 765-7398 or by writing to Savers Co-Operative Bank, P.O.Box 250, Southbridge, Massachusetts 01550.

Kenneth E. Rizner Clerk  
March 19, 2026  
March 26, 2026

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 Docket No. WO23P3106GD CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF A GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON

In the Interests of: **Maya Colon Of: Franklin, MA**

RESPONDENT  
Incapacitated Person/Protected Person

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

**Dept of Developmental Services of Worcester, MA**

in the above captioned matter alleging requesting that the court: Terminate the Guardianship.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **04/07/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

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

Date: March 06, 2026  
Stephanie K. Fattman  
Register of Probate  
March 19, 2026

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO26P0340EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate Of: **Polly C Vecchia** Date of Death: 06/28/2025

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Tracy L Vecchia 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:

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

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/07/2026.**

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

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

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

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

Date: March 09, 2026  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
March 19, 2026

### CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Town of Charlton Stormwater Management Rules & Regulations, the Charlton Conservation Commission will be accepting comments on the following application:

The applicant, Cory Hanson, has submitted a Land Disturbance/Stormwater Management Application on March 10, 2026, for land disturbance associated with the construction of a single-family home.

The project site is located at Lot B-5 Oxbow Road, Charlton, MA 01507, and is also known as: Parcel ID: 22-A-21.4

Copies of the Land Disturbance Application are available at the Charlton Conservation Commission office during business hours.

Thomas O’Malley  
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission  
March 19, 2026

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO26P0664EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate Of: **Betty V Warrington** Date of Death: 12/29/2009

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Debra A Warrington of Leominster 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: **Debra A Warrington of Leominster MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the estate in **unsupervised administration.**

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/07/2026.**

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

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

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

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

Date: March 10, 2026  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
March 19, 2026

### CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on March 25, at 7PM on the application of Dmytrii Moshkivskiyi.

The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for a single-family home partial demolition/reconstruction, an addition, retaining wall repair, a 30’x12’ patio, and associated landscaping work within the 100-ft buffer zone to Glen Echo Lake. The project location is: 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 NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.

Thomas O’Malley  
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission  
March 19, 2026

### CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Town of Charlton Stormwater Management Rules & Regulations, the Charlton Conservation Commission will be accepting comments on the following application:

The applicant, PCK Realty LLC, has submitted a Land Disturbance/Stormwater Management Application on March 4, 2026, for land disturbance associated with the demolition of an existing residential structure and regrading of the site.

The project site is located at 24 Sturbridge Road, Charlton, MA 01507, and is also known as: Parcel ID: 27-C-3 and 27-C-8

Copies of the Land Disturbance Application are available at the Charlton Conservation Commission office during business hours.

Thomas O’Malley  
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission  
March 19, 2026

# OBITUARIES

## Marie Jeanne Benoit (Mercier)

**SOUTHBRIDGE:** Marie Jeanne Benoit (Mercier) passed away peacefully on March 12, 2026, at the age of 88. She was born on August 1, 1937, in Southbridge, Massachusetts, to Henri Joseph Mercier and Rose Belle (Gagnon). She was the youngest of seven children and was preceded in death by her siblings:



Irene, Doris, Henry, Rita, Therese "Terry," and Cecile. She was also predeceased by her son, Brian Robert Benoit, in 2000, and her great-granddaughter, Janessa Marie Jimenez, in 2009.

Jeanne married Robert George Roger Benoit on August 18, 1956, at Sacred Heart Church in Southbridge. They shared 55 years of marriage before his passing in 2011.

She is survived by her daughter, Rebecca Ann McManus of Charlton, MA; her daughter-in-law, Doreen Ann Benoit of Southbridge, MA; her grandchildren, Malory Marie Jimenez (Benoit) and her husband Jonathan Jimenez of Templeton, MA, Andrew Robert Benoit of Southbridge, MA, and Heather Jean McManus; and her great-grandchildren, Jayden and Jordan Jimenez.

Jeanne attended Catholic school in Southbridge and later worked for many years locally at Providence House. She

also provided compassionate care as a private PCA to many patients in the community.

Jeanne found her greatest joy in caring for her grandchildren. She also enjoyed her daily walks around town with her husband, Sunday drives, dining out, and spending time at Old Orchard Beach, Maine. There will never be

a meal at Bill's Pizza with pier fries in OOB, a Shirley Temple film, or a Josh Groban song enjoyed without thinking of Jeanne.

She will also be remembered for her tough exterior yet deeply caring heart, her words of wisdom which she shared whether you were willing to listen or not, and the many memories she made sure to create with those she loved most. And so, as we say goodbye, we remember the words Jeanne often shared through life's moments: "c'est la vie."

A private service will be held at Belanger-Bullard Funeral Home, 51 Marcy St. Southbridge.

Burial will be at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Southbridge, where she will rest alongside her husband, son, and great-granddaughter.

She will be deeply missed and remembered always.

An online guestbook is available at [www.BelangerFuneralHome.com](http://www.BelangerFuneralHome.com)

## Charlotte J. Carpick, 98

**DUDLEY** — Charlotte J. (Kondek) Carpick, 98, died peacefully Thursday, March 12, 2026, after a period of declining health. Her beloved husband of 69 years, Louis J. Carpick, died in 2020.

She leaves a sister, Genevieve K. Pioppi and her husband N. William Pioppi of Sturbridge, several nieces, nephews, grandnephews, great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews. She was preceded in death by 5 brothers, Charles, Louis, Walter, John and Henry Kondek and by 3 sisters, Stasia Balkurna, Josephine Grzych and Joan Lesniewski.

She was born at home on August 18, 1927, the daughter of Stanislaw and Franciszka (Nycek) Kondek and lived in Dudley most of her life.

Mrs. Carpick was a lens inspector for 39 years at the former American



Optical Company in Southbridge, retiring in 1985. She was a member of its Quarter Century Club.

She was a communicant of Saint Andrew Bobola Church and belonged to the former Holy Rosary Sodality for many years.

Her funeral will be held on Saturday, March 21, at 11:00 AM in Saint Andrew Bobola Church, 54 West Main Street (please meet at

the church). Burial will be in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace, Webster. Donations in her name may be made to Saint Joseph Elementary School, 47 Whitcomb Street, Webster, MA 01570. Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster.

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

## Community invited to closing reception for art exhibit at Charlton Public Library

**CHARLTON** — The public is invited to a special closing reception for an exhibit at the Charlton Public Library on Tuesday, March 24 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

The exhibition features a unique collaboration between Laura Cenedella and Jim R. Wilton. When Cenedella was invited to show a large collection of her work at the library, she was so impressed by

Wilton's artistry that she asked him to co-present. Their styles and subjects complement each other perfectly, creating a cohesive and inspiring display.

Wilton's passion for art is rooted in his family history, influenced deeply by his grandparents. His grandfather, a renowned calligrapher and Aztec painter famous for his work with real

duck feathers, was a significant mentor who encouraged Jim's lifelong dedication to his craft.

Please join us for an evening of art and inspiration as we celebrate the beauty of spring. Refreshments will be served, and both artists look forward to meeting you and having you sign the guest book.

## Troop 163 to host fundraising waffle dinner

**STURBRIDGE** — Troop 163 will hold a fundraiser waffle dinner on Saturday, April 11 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 345 Main St. in Sturbridge. Waffles, toppings, and sausages will

be served, and gluten-free waffles will be available. No tickets are required—pay what you can. There will also be a silent auction with themed baskets, and Bluey and Bingo will be there for photos.

Troop 163 is a Scouting

America troop for girls ages 11-17. The troop is based in Sturbridge but has members across southern Worcester County. Please email [troop163sturbridge@gmail.com](mailto:troop163sturbridge@gmail.com) with any questions.

# Home Spring Auto

### AUTO BODY / REPAIRS

**KEARNS COLLISION REPAIR**  
Since 1969  
Always Going The Extra Mile For Our Customers

Free Written Estimates • Damage Appraisal  
Color Matching Specialists • Rental Car Services  
Warrantied Work & Repairs  
Diagnostics • A/C Repair  
Tune Ups & Engine Repair  
Brakes • Alternators • Starters • ABS  
Alignments • Tires...and more

Major Insurance Referral Shop  
Honoring All Insurance Estimates

1734 Providence Road (Rt 122)  
Northbridge, MA 01534  
Ph: 508-234-5211 • Fax: 508-234-2231  
[www.kearnscollision.com](http://www.kearnscollision.com)  
Fully Certified • RS# 2678

### BEST WINDOW COMPANY

Beautiful, Efficient, Affordable  
**WINDOWS & DOORS**

**KUBALA HOME IMPROVEMENT**  
Your Window & Door Experts!

Award Winning High Performance  
Windows & Doors

**Lifetime Warranty**

100% FINANCING AVAILABLE

CALL NOW FOR EXCLUSIVE SPRING SAVINGS  
**508-784-1550**  
MA CSL100114 | MA HIC150118 | CT HIC0619712

### Cleaning Services

**HOUSE CLEANING AVAILABLE**

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

### LAWNMOWERS

**WORCESTER COUNTY LAWNMOWER**  
ALWAYS THE BEST SERVICE

**Snowblower & Generator Repair  
Tractor Service  
Tune-Ups & Repairs  
Pickup & Delivery**

508-987-2775  
492 Main St Oxford  
WORCESTERCOUNTY LAWNMOWER.COM

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

### CHIMNEYS/MASONRY

**CHIMNEY CLEANINGS**  
Starting at \$99

ALL KINDS OF MASONRY & CONCRETE WORK  
New & Repairs, Repointing, Rebuilding, Re-lining, Waterproofing, Foundation & Chimney Repair, New & Stair Repair, Concrete Walkways, Stonewalls, New Roofs, Construction & Carpentry.

Need to get it done? Call me!  
-FREE Estimates-  
Quality Chimney (508)752-1003

### MASONRY

**MASONRY HARDCAPE  
RETAINING WALLS  
OUTDOOR  
LIVING CONSTRUCTION**

Chimney Repair  
Foundation Repair  
Steps, Patios  
Water Proofing  
Walkways  
Stone Veneer  
Brick and Block Work  
Cord Wood

Brian French  
(413)222-5542  
[cmasonryhardscap@gmail.com](mailto:cmasonryhardscap@gmail.com)

### GJ LEDUC PAINTING

Interior and Exterior

Power Washing  
Wallpapering  
General Repair  
Fully Insured  
Over 40+ Years Experience

508-764-8548  
774-230-8373

### Plumbing

**MIKE LAMBERT'S PLUMBING & HEATING INC.**  
Commercial, Residential, New Construction

369 Main St, Ste 4  
Spencer, MA  
1-833-969-4330  
Fully Insured

MIKELAMBERTSPANDH@GMAIL.COM

### ROOFING

**David Barbale ROOFING**

Roofing/Gutters Repair Work

Fully Licensed and Insured

MA LIC #CS069127  
MA HIC. LIC #1079721  
INS. # CAC032585

C: 508-397-6709  
O: 508-248-6709  
[davidbarbale.com](http://davidbarbale.com)

### Roofing

**SAUNDERS & SONS ROOFING**

Read our reviews at the Better Business Bureau. A+ rating and accredited member since 2009.

Call Bill Toll-Free  
1-866-961-Roof  
508-765-0100

Lifetime material warranty & 25 yr. labor warranty available

MA Reg #153955  
CSL #095459  
CT-HIC #0638641

Fully Insured, Free Estimates  
Family Owned and Operated  
Now Accepting All Major Credit Cards

# Got Space?

we do.

Contact Mikaela Today  
774-200-7308  
mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

# Southbridge Cultural Council announces 2026 awards

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency, is part of the overall grant program of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which provides allocations to each of the

## Laughter is the best medicine, so get your dose at the Bradley Playhouse

PUTNAM, Conn. — The Theatre of Northeastern Connecticut at the Bradley Playhouse is excited to present Season 12 of Scott Higgins Comedy All Stars. Four comedy headliners that perform all over the country and have been seen on Comedy Central, Amazon Prime, HBO, and Showtime are ready to take the stage. They have been heard on podcasts and SiriusXM Radio, and now Scott Higgins brings them live to The Bradley for one night of hilarious comedic skits, saying what we all think but wouldn't dare say out loud.

Dan Altano (Whose album "Stand-Up Dad" debuted #1 on iTunes), Emily Ruskowski (Appeared on Laugh TV on Fox and 2 Dope Queens podcast), Chris Monty (Seen on HBO and Amazon Prime), and Howie Mason (A Regular at Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods), with host Scott Higgins (Behind The Funny Podcast – Boston Comedy Choice Nominee Best Podcast) will bring a night of laughs that will surely leave you wanting more.

Laughter is the best medicine, so come and get your dose. This is a show you don't want to miss.

Scott Higgins Comedy All Stars is one show on March 28 at 7:30 p.m. The suggested audience is 18 and up. Line up is subject to change with notice.

The Bradley Playhouse is located at 30 Front St. (Route 44) in Putnam. All seats are reserved. Reservations may be made with a major credit card online at [www.thebradleyplayhouse.org](http://www.thebradleyplayhouse.org) or by calling 860-928-7887. Tickets may be purchased at the theater box office, either before the performance, or at the door if available. Purchasing your tickets ahead of time is always a good idea.

351 cities and towns of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in support of cultural activities. The Massachusetts Cultural Council receives its funding from the Massachusetts Legislature and from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Southbridge Cultural Council ranked second highest after the city of Worcester for the 2026 grant cycle funding in the South-Central area of Worcester County. All grant applications for 2026 are initially approved online by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Then the 2026 applicants receive the final acceptance for funding from the Southbridge Cultural Council for the 2026 cycle which was \$24,700.

The 2026 grant applications receiving partial or full support are:

Christine Higginbottom, "Home Garden Workshop on Growing and Storing Onions"; Richard Hamelin, "Colorful Clay Tile Relief Presentation"; Zack Combs, "African Crocodile River Music,"

Seema-Jayne Kenny, "Your Tree Begins Here: Learn Family Ancestry"; Michelle Wilson, "Michelle - evil gal - Wilson Performance"; Bernadette Meade, "Petals on Main Streetscapes - 250th Anniversary, Spring thru Winter"; Robin OHerin, "History of Protest Music - Its Part in Peaceful Protest"; Alexandra Burpee, "Traveling Petting Zoo"; Garine Arakelian; "A Whale of a Time With Puffer Fish"; George Sateriale, "Magic With George"; Aaron Larget-Caplet, "Revolutions in Music - Celebrating USA 250"; Elizabeth Silvia, "Catnip Junkies Live in Concert"; Delvena Theater Company, "Mangia, Meatballs and Murder"; Paula Bradley, "Finding Her Voice - Women in Early Country Music"; Henry Lappen, "Henry the Juggler"; Alexandra Burpee, "The Zoo Show"; James J. Manning, "Stomp, Chromo & Read"; Ricardo Frota, "Ecology of Sound"; Michael Bent, "Abrakidabra Summer Reading Show"; Leslie Havens, "Quintessential Brass Concert"; Bridget

Nault, "Badger and Nault Old Time and Traditional Songs"; Sarah Clay & Company, "Day Dream"; M. Morrissey, "The Carlos Odria Trio Concert"; Delvena Theatre Company, "Salem Witch Hysteria"; Anthony Tran, "Boston Flamenco Dance Performance"; Rianne Richards, "Mark Mandeville & Rianne Richards Concert"; Joe Kurland, "Jewish Life in Song & Company"; The Southbridge Cultural Council extends its gratitude to the Massachusetts Legislature and Massachusetts Cultural Council and to the above 27 of 42 applicants in the 2026 cycle who by their grant requests and acceptances have shown a special interest in expanding the cultural life of Southbridge for all ages. All programs are free to the public and handicapped accessible. Complete listings of the 2026 cycle performances with venues and date can be obtained at the Jacob Edwards Library, the Southbridge Community and Senior Center and in the main lobby of the Southbridge Town Hall.

Home Town Service, BIG TIME RESULTS

## CLASSIFIEDS

# 774-200-7308

Place your ad today!

**FOSTER PARENTS WANTED:**  
Seeking Quality Homes Throughout Central MA To Provide Foster Care To Children In Need.  
24/7 Support  
Generous Reimbursement, \$1000 Sign-On Bonus.  
Call For Details.  
**Devereux Therapeutic Foster Care.**  
(508)829-6769  
**Devereux**  
ADVANCED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

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

Advertise Here

## Got Space?

we do.

Contact Mikaela Today  
**774-200-7308**  
**mikaela@stonebridgepress.news**

## Here Today Adopted Tomorrow hosting "Spay"ghetti Supper

PALMER — Here Today Adopted Tomorrow (HTAT) invites all animal lovers to our annual "Spay"ghetti Supper fundraiser at the St. Thomas Parish Center in Palmer on Saturday, March 28.

Enjoy a delicious chef-prepared meal while helping the very cats in our community! Whether you're a true party animal or simply want to make a difference, it's a great way to support a good cause with friends and family. Plus, enjoy raffles, prizes, and plenty of fun throughout the evening!

Each year, HTAT sees more cats pawing at its doors for help. As prices rise, everyone feels the strain—but many people don't realize that rising costs affect pets, too. It's not just veterinary care that has exploded; as food and housing prices rise, many loving pet owners find themselves struggling to keep up. When life becomes overwhelming, cats can be the ones caught in the middle.

That's where HTAT steps in. Events like the "Spay"ghetti Supper make our support possible, helping us provide food, shelter, and care for cats who might otherwise fall through the cracks.

HTAT Executive Director Rachael Max says the event is a chance

for the community to come together while making a real difference. "Spay"ghetti Supper is one of our most popular events of the year," said Max. "It's always a fun night, but it also plays an important role in helping us continue our work with cats who need a little extra care and attention."

The "Spay"ghetti Supper takes place at the St. Thomas Parish Center in Palmer on Saturday, March 28, 2026, from 5:00-6:30 PM. Advance tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors and kids under 12, while limited door tickets will be available at \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors and kids. To purchase tickets, visit [www.heretodaysanctuary.org](http://www.heretodaysanctuary.org) or call 413-324-8224.

If you are local and need assistance feeding or caring for your pet, HTAT can help. Local cat owners can spay or neuter their cats for \$80 or less, and strays and ferals can be fixed for free! Visit [www.heretodaysanctuary.org](http://www.heretodaysanctuary.org) to learn more about our community assistance programs.

About Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary

Here Today Adopted Tomorrow (HTAT) was founded by mother-daugh-

ter team Barbara Horn and Rachael Max. HTAT is a volunteer driven group focused on helping cats and the people who love them in our community. In 2012 we opened our no kill, cageless cat adoption center for adult cats and kittens in Brimfield, MA. It is deeply important to us that every resident's stay at HTAT is comfortable and healthy, making for well-adjusted, happy animals. Shortly after opening, we realized there were more homeless cats than we could handle by adoption alone. We believe that pets are cherished members of the family and that every cat deserves care, respect, and the chance to thrive, no matter their circumstances. We have programs to help special needs cats flourish and get adopted, as well as community assistance programs to help pet owners keep their pets, such as our Pet Food Pantry, low-cost spay-neuter program, and free cat behavior program. Each year, HTAT helps over 1,500 animals and their families. For more information, visit [heretodaysanctuary.org](http://heretodaysanctuary.org).

Visit Here Today Adopted Tomorrow on Facebook at [facebook.com/heretodaysanctuary](http://facebook.com/heretodaysanctuary), and follow us on Instagram at [@heretoday-adoptedtommorrow](http://@heretoday-adoptedtommorrow).

## Friday's Child

Ana is mature, insightful, and incredibly understanding. They have a thoughtful way of looking at the world and bring a level of self-awareness that truly stands out. Ana's favorite colors — black, blue, red, and white — reflect their bold and expressive personality. Ana enjoys staying active and taking care of themselves. They participate in kickboxing, practice yoga, and enjoy spending time at the pool. Volleyball is a particular favorite, and they would love more opportunities to play and continue building their skills in the sport. Creative and artistic, Ana expresses themselves in many ways. They have a strong musical side and can play the bass clarinet, showcasing both talent and dedication. Whether through athletics, art, or music, Ana brings passion and depth to the things they love.

**Ana Age 15 Registration #9008**

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22622764828>

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

The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with. To learn more about adoption from foster care visit [www.mareinc.org](http://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.

## Celtic traditions come to life at Old Sturbridge Village

STURBRIDGE — Celtic traditions will come to life at Old Sturbridge Village's annual Celtic Celebration this March with live music, traditional dance performances, storytelling, and for the first time, the chance to meet two Scottish Highland calves visiting from Moonlit Run Farm in Barre.

Throughout the week-end of March 21-22, visitors will learn about Irish and Scottish history and the ways they shaped 19th-century New

England. They will be treated to a host of Celtic traditions including fiddle tunes, bagpipes, and musicians alongside a variety of demonstrations and activities, including:

- Irish poetry readings and folk tales
- Harp performances by Cate Mahoney on Saturday and Shelley Otis on Sunday
- Play Rounders (an Irish game similar to baseball)
- A Celtic magic show with magician Daniel GreenWolf & Bella

- A step dancing performance by the Inishfree Dance School
- Character presentations about an immigrant's experience in early New England

Celtic Celebration is sponsored by Southbridge Credit Union. This event will occur on March 21 and 22 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and is included with general daytime admission or Village membership. To learn more, or to purchase tickets, visit [osv.org/event/celtic-celebration](http://osv.org/event/celtic-celebration).

# Burgess third graders kick off Sturbridge celebration of America 250

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

commemorative banners featuring an historical flag posted on poles along Routes 20 and 131. Look for programs focusing on the history of America at the Joshua Hyde Public Library, and from the Sturbridge Historical Society. Old Sturbridge Village is hosting Revolutionary Game Nights at the Ox & Yoke Café. Participants will have the chance to win prizes such as special event tickets, Village crafts, and more! Check out “Revolutionary Bingo” March 27 and May 29

and “Revolutionary Trivia” Feb. 27, April 24, and June 26. For more information about these events and the many other new 250th events that the Village will be hosting, go to: osv.org. Additional events sponsored by the Committee include an essay program for Grade 5 students titled “What Does America Mean to You?” with an option for students to voluntarily submit essays to a Town-wide recognition contest. Local restaurants will participate in

a “Taste of Sturbridge” event during March and April featuring patriotic-themed offerings. Opacum Land Trust will incorporate Sturbridge historical landmarks into its April 2026 Vacation Scavenger Hunt. Also planned for May at the Senior Center are a tree planting and the burying of a time capsule. Events will culminate in May and June. A Family Fun Day on May 16 features a Children’s Bike Decorating and Parade, followed with activities

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

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



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

**hope2own.com**  
508.943.4333  
Sharon Pelletier - Owner Broker  
Licensed in MA, CT & RI

**We Want Your Listings!**



*Impressive view!*  
**Spencer - 86 Jolicoeur Ave.**  
Impressive view! 1/2 acre overlooking Cranberry Meadow Pond! Nicely appointed Colonial, better than new! 3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 Bath! Master Bedroom Suite, 2 car garage Howe State Park close by. Deeded Beach Rights! A Must See! assisted sale **\$545,000**

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

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



Sprawling 62'x30' fieldstone faced 1 Level Ranch, located on a +/- 0.5-acre level w/24'x24' 2 car att'd garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 2 stone fireplaces w/pellet stove inserts, FHW BB heat by oil. Open floor plan w/15'x13' kitchen, 15'x22' living rm, 13'x11' dining rm, 10'x28' breezeway w/sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom, hardwood & c-tile floors, replacement windows/doors & more, more, more! How do you like it? **Call today to schedule a showing!** **\$525,000**

*Webster - 24 Cooper Rd*  
*New Construction - Craftsman Style home*



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

**On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg**

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



**ON DEPOSIT**

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

*Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island*



**SORRY, SOLD!**

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

**Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!**



**SORRY, SOLD!**

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

REAL ESTATE



**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
**WEBSTER**  
4 Browns Brook Rd  
Mortgagee's Sale of Real Estate on Premises



**Deeded Access To Webster Lake**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25th @ 10:00 AM**

This 960±SF three bedroom ranch features approx 600±SF finished walkout basement with full bath. 10,019±SF Lot. TERMS: A \$5,000 deposit shall be paid in cash or bank cashier's check by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance to be paid within 30 days. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

[www.amgauction.com](http://www.amgauction.com)  
508-842-1900

**AMG** AUCTION MARKETING GROUP

Dale W. Schaezke, CAL, AARE PO Box 107, Shrewsbury, MA LIC#207

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

**PUT YOUR TRUST IN US**  
**TEAMWORK AND EXPERIENCE**  
Jo-Ann Szymczak 774-230-5044  
Diane Luong 774-239-2937  
Maria Reed 508-873-9254  
Bob Berk 508-367-9226  
Vicki Bennett, Client Coordinator

**ReMax Vision • 25 Union St., Worcester MA 01608**  
CALL FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS Licensed in MA & CT

**CHARLTON- 1.3 ACRES**



\*2 Baths \* Fireplace  
\*Finished Lower Level  
\*2 Mini Splits • County Kitchen  
50 Old Spencer Rd. **\$525,000**

**LAND**  
Dudley-Southbridge  
30.2 Acres, Great for Privacy, 4 Potential Lots  
Dudley-  
1.15 Acres, Perc Test  
Charlton-  
99 Acres, Possible  
Subdivision Development

**WANTED- Waterfront Properties**  
Beat the Spring Market  
Buyers begin their search early.  
Call for a Market Analysis

**TEMPLETON- NEW TO MARKET**



\*3 Bedrooms \* 1 Acre  
\*Privacy and Outdoor Space  
17 Gray Rd **\$709,000**

**2025 AWARDS**

TOP 3 PRODUCERS WORCESTER  
100% CLUB



JO-ANN SZYM CZAK  
**RE/MAX Vision**

MEET YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

Perfect for Realtors, Mortgage Companies, Banks, Real Estate Attorneys, Home Inspectors, Chimney Inspectors, Lead Removal businesses, Insurance Companies, etc... any business involved in the buying or selling of real estate.

To join this section, please contact your local sales rep, 774-200-7308 or email [mikaela@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:mikaela@stonebridgepress.news)



**Key Realty SERVICES**  
Donna Flannery Realtor®  
508-612-6771  
Donnaflanneryrealtor.com  
Donnaflannery@erakey.net

OVER 30 YEARS SELLING LOCAL REAL ESTATE  
NATIONAL ERA FINALIST TWICE FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE  
TOP AGENCY YEAR AFTER YEAR FOR # OF UNITS SOLD & SOLD DOLLAR VOLUME  
ERA HALL OF FAME

415B Main Street Spencer, MA 01562



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

**RE/MAX**  
RE/MAX Professional Associates

Buying or Selling a home?  
Every move is a new beginning! Let me help you navigate the path through your next journey...



**Bob Berk REALTOR**  
ReMax Vision  
Worcester MA  
508-367-9226  
bobberrealtor@gmail.com  
Call for a free market analysis!

**MLS**

COMING SOON!!  
FREE CLASSES

\*Learn about how to be show ready in selling your home  
\*Learn about the impact of Solar, Title 5, Home Inspection Requirements, and Buyer Agency when Selling Your Home



Jo-Ann (Nedoroscik) Szymczak  
CRS, GRI, SRES  
508-943-7669  
774-230-5044

**ReMax Vision**  
25 Union St., Worcester MA 01608  
CALL JO-ANN FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS Licensed in MA & CT

# Frisbie's Dairy Bar to open new location in Sturbridge

STURBRIDGE — Frisbie's Dairy Barn will open a new walk-up ice cream location in Sturbridge on March 28, bringing its handcrafted, super-premium ice cream to 195 Charlton Rd. in the Noble Gas Plaza. The new location will celebrate its grand opening from 1 p.m. to 10

p.m. and will feature Frisbie's signature small-batch flavors made with high-quality ingredients. The Sturbridge shop will be the company's second Massachusetts location, joining its scoop shop in North Attleboro. Frisbie's also operates locations in New Britain and Windsor, Conn.,

and plans to open another shop in Blue Back Square in West Hartford later this spring. "It is important that each of our locations reflect our high standards and commitment to community and quality" said Paul Parks III, Owner of Frisbie's Dairy Barn. Throughout the year,



## CCUMC hosting annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Supper Saturday



CHARLTON — Charlton City United Methodist Church invites you to join us for our scrumptious Corned Beef and Cabbage Supper on Saturday, March 21 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Dine-in or take-out available. We will be serving a delicious supper featuring tender corned beef,

cabbage, carrots, potatoes, turnips and homemade baked soda bread along with a St. Patty's Day cake. Free crafts will be provided for the kids. As always there will be continuous serving and take-out. \$15 for adults, \$8 for Children 6-12 and children 5 and under eat free. \$50 max

per family. We appreciate reservations but drop-ins welcomed. Call the church office at (508) 248-7379 for seating or takeouts. CCUMC is located at 74 Stafford St. in Charlton. Ample parking is available, and the building is handicapped accessible.

Frisbie's hosts a variety of events including its popular 24-Hour National Ice Cream Day celebration, when shops remain open for a full 24 hours serving ice cream around the clock. Customers even line up at midnight, while others stop by for breakfast. The Frisbie's Dairy

Barn first location in New Britain, Connecticut opened in 2015. In 2019, the business was purchased by Paul Parks, Jr. and Paul Parks III, who have expanded the brand while maintaining its focus on handcrafted ice cream and community-centered experiences. Customers visiting the

new Sturbridge location can expect Frisbie's signature rotating flavors, seasonal specials, and the same handcrafted ice cream that has become a favorite throughout Connecticut and Massachusetts. Eat Ice Cream. Be Happy!



**WE'RE GOING TO SPEND TODAY  
CREATING A BETTER TOMORROW.**

Because cancer is a terrible thing, and heart disease still exists. Because there are questions about the mind and body that still need answers, we'll continue to be relentless in our pursuit of better ways to help you live your healthiest life.

[ummhealth.org/choose](http://ummhealth.org/choose) | 855-UMASS-MD

**UMass Memorial Health**  
THE RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF HEALING