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Free by request to residents of Sturbridge and Holland

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS

Thursday-Friday, October 22-23, 2026

Sheriff's Office Organic Farm delivers fresh produce to local communities

Recipients include Sturbridge and Charlton Senior Centers

Courtesy Photo

WCSO Community Staff deliver fresh organic produce to the Charlton Senior Center.

Courtesy Photo

WCSO Community Staff deliver fresh organic produce to the Sturbridge Senior Center.

REGION — Thousands of pounds of fresh, organic produce grown at the Worcester County Sheriff's Office have been distributed to food pantries, senior centers, community refrigerators, and other charitable organizations throughout Worcester County this growing season.

Amongst dozens of other stops throughout Worcester County, the WCSO Community Outreach teams visited many senior centers, including the Sturbridge and Charlton Senior Centers.

"Every delivery represents fresh produce going directly to an organization serving people in Worcester County," said Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis. "At the same time, participating inmates experience the dignity of a full day's work and the satisfaction of knowing their efforts are helping the same communities many of them call home. The rehabilitative value of this program is tremendous."

Located at the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction in West Boylston, the Organic Farm spans more than 18 acres and produces approximately 40,000 pounds of fresh produce annually.

Favorable growing conditions during the spring and summer have resulted in bountiful harvests of zucchini, tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, summer squash, cucumbers, and most recently, pumpkins and fall squash varieties.

Following each harvest, the produce is sorted and prepared for delivery to food pantries, senior centers, veterans' organizations, women's shelters, community refrigerators, and other local nonprofits. A portion of the harvest is also incorporated into meals served to inmates at the facility.

Beyond providing fresh, locally grown food to those in need, the program serves an important rehabilitative purpose. Participating inmates are classified as low-risk and nonviolent and typically work between 10 and 25 hours per week, depending on the season and workload. Through their involvement, participants gain valuable work experience while developing responsibility, discipline, and teamwork.

Since Evangelidis took office in 2011, the Organic Farm has undergone several expansions, growing into the largest organic farm operating at a correctional facility in Massachusetts.

The farm is one of several initiatives through which the Sheriff's Office works to address food insecurity and support local families. Earlier this year, several organizations receiving fresh produce also benefited from a separate infant formula distribution initiative made possible through a partnership between the Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff's Association and the Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation.

For updates on the Organic Farm Program and its community deliveries, follow the Worcester County Sheriff's Office on social media.

Charlton Public Library to host paranormal researcher Dustin Pari

CHARLTON — On Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 6 p.m., the Charlton Library will host paranormal researcher Dustin Pari for a talk on the haunted history of Halloween.

With 30 years of experience researching the unknown, Dustin Pari brings exciting and positive lectures about the paranormal all across the country, As a part of television's Ghost Hunters, Ghost Hunters International, and appearances on Destination Truth and Ghost Nation, Dustin has traveled the world over looking for answers and expanding his understanding of the unseen realm. He has written two books based upon his findings and his unique approach to the paranormal, along with three other books that include stories from life on the road. In this lecture Dustin sheds some light on the spooky shadows of Halloween history and lore. Ghost stories? Oh yeah, he has some of those too.

All are welcome to this free program; no registration is required.

Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St. Additional parking is available at the Town Hall and Elementary School.

St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church taking orders for traditional pies, ethnic delicacies

SOUTHBRIDGE — St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church is inviting area residents to enjoy a taste of traditional Albanian cuisine with a special sale of homemade-style pies and ethnic delicacies, with orders being accepted through Wednesday, Nov. 4.

The church, located at 126 Morris St. in Southbridge, is offering a selection of savory pies and traditional pastries and cookies, providing an opportunity for residents to bring some distinctive flavors to their holiday tables.

The menu features four varieties of savory pies: spinach, leek, sauerkraut and squash. Whole pies, measuring 12 by 17 inches, are available baked or unbaked and frozen for $45 each. Half pies, measuring 12 by 9 inches, are available baked only for $23 each.

In addition to the pies, the church is offering an assortment of ethnic delicacies, including rolled baklava and kadaif for $3 each, twist cookies at four for $4, date-nut filled cookies for $2.50 each, and kourabias, traditional butter cookies, at four for $5.

The selection offers both savory and sweet options for family gatherings, holiday celebrations or anyone interested in sampling traditional foods associated with the region's Albanian heritage.

All purchases are available by advance order and takeout only. The deadline to place an order is Nov. 4, and no orders will be accepted after that date.

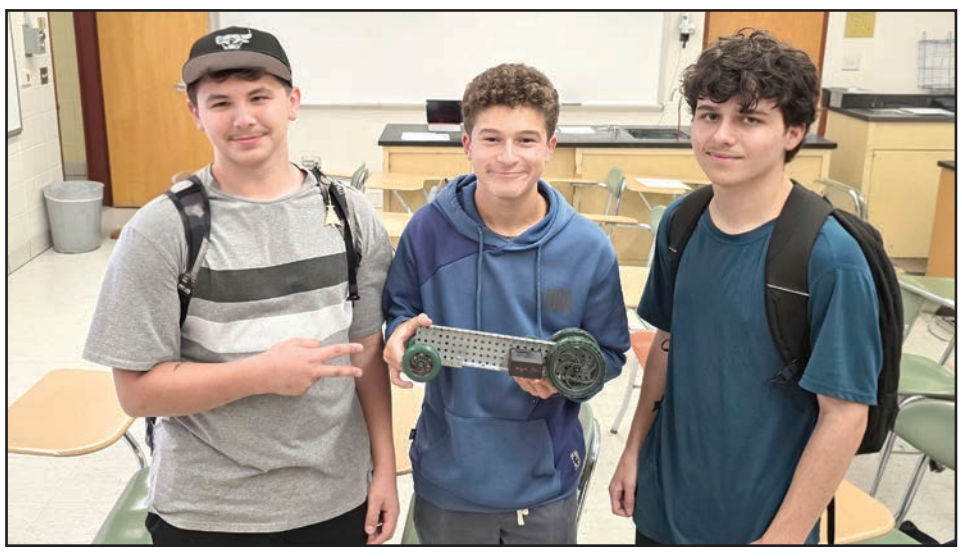
Orders will be available for pickup Monday, Nov. 23, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church, 126 Morris St., Southbridge.

To place an order, call 508-764-6226 and leave a name and telephone number. Callers will receive confirmation of their orders.

With Thanksgiving approaching, the sale provides an opportunity for local families to add traditional Albanian dishes and desserts to their holiday meals while supporting a Southbridge religious institution.

Shepherd Hill Regional continues innovative Engineering and Clean Energy Pathways programs

DUDLEY — Shepherd Hill Regional High School is proud to announce the continued expansion of its STEM curriculum with the launch of the updated Engineering and new Clean Energy Pathways programs. In partnership with Project Lead the Way (PLTW), the initiative brings hands-on learning, advanced technology, and practical engineering principles directly into the classroom.



Supported by grant funding provided through PLTW, Shepherd Hill has acquired materials and equipment to support interactive learning, including VEX robotics kits, electrical circuit equipment, and high-precision 3D printers. The new resources empower students to take engineering concepts off the whiteboard and apply them to physical designs through creative problem-solving.

"Our goal is to give students direct, hands-on experience with the tools and mindsets used by professional engineers," said Mr. Jugovic, engineering educator at Shepherd Hill. "When students can design, test, and iterate their own physical prototypes, abstract concepts like mechanics and physics suddenly make sense in a very tangible way."

Mr. Jugovic's classes feature rigorous design challenges that bridge theoretical concepts with real-world applications:

Tractor Pull competition: Combining mechanics and friendly competition, students engineered custom model "tractors" to compete in a bracket-style tractor pull. Through the activity, students directly applied principles of drag, friction, force, and gear ratios to maximize performance.

Human-centered design projects: Students practice real-world engineering workflows by interviewing Shepherd Hill teachers and staff to identify daily operational challenges.

Last year, an engineering student designed and 3D-printed a custom lab drain tool for a chemistry teacher—a device that remains in daily classroom use today.

The Engineering and Clean Energy Pathways program reflects Shepherd Hill's commitment to equipping students with high-demand technical skills, fostering innovation, and preparing graduates for future careers in advanced manufacturing, renewable energy, and technology.

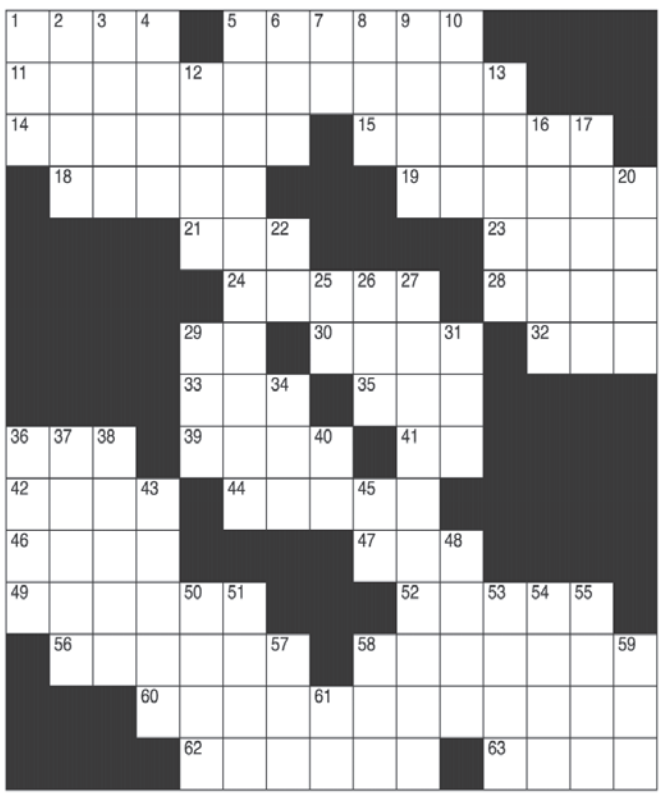
About Shepherd Hill Regional High School

Shepherd Hill Regional High School serves students in grades 9–12 from Dudley and Charlton. Dedicated to academic excellence, innovative career pathways, and

comprehensive student support, Shepherd Hill prepares students to thrive in a rapidly changingworld.

EARLY VOTING HOURS
FOR STATE ELECTION – CHARLTON
Located at Town Hall, 37 Main St. Charlton

Sat. 10/17	9AM-3PM
Mon. 10/19	8AM-5PM
Tues. 10/20	8AM-7PM
Wed. 10/21	8AM-5PM
Thurs. 10/22	8AM-5PM
Sat. 10/24	9AM-5PM (last day to register to vote)
Mon. 10/26	8AM-5PM
Tues. 10/27	8AM-7PM
Wed. 10/28	8AM-5PM
Thurs 10/29	8AM-5PM



CLUES ACROSS

1. El Dorado High School
5. A sculpture representing a human or animal
11. A type of return
14. Tie the knot again
15. Washington city
18. Hairlike structures
19. Mark used over a vowel
21. Explosive
23. Popular 500 car race
24. Pile up
28. Currency
29. Commercial
30. A minute amount (Scottish)
32. Mass of fish eggs
33. Baseball stat
35. Licensed accountant
36. Japanese classical theater
39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
41. Blood group
42. Assist in wrongdoing
44. Language of Cameroon
46. Grayish-white
47. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
49. Microorganism
52. Strong social customs
56. Calm and dependable
58. Congressman
60. Force
62. As a result of this document
63. A main branch of Islam

CLUES DOWN

1. Make a mistake
2. American DJ Rick
3. Fictional Asimov planet
4. Coughed out
5. Singing to one's lover
6. Scotland's longest river
7. One of the six noble gases
8. Body art
9. Two-toed sloth
10. Electronic counter-countermeasures
12. A foolish person
13. Of the wind
16. Mansion
17. Sound
20. English river
22. Business symbol
25. Exclamation of surprise
26. Pouch
27. Individually
29. Satisfaction
31. The bill in a restaurant
34. Japanese delicacy
36. Port in southern Japan
37. Double-reed instruments
38. Center
40. "The Mount Rushmore State"
43. Soldier
45. Indicates position
48. Beauty treatment: __-pedi
50. Nonsense (slang)
51. Republic of Ireland
53. Ballplayers' tools
54. American state
55. Clusters of a fern frond
57. Patriotic women's group
58. A person's brother or sister
59. Breed of sheep
61. Of I

PUZZLE SOLUTION

Charlton Land Trust leads hike through Cow Tunnel

CHARLTON — Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust (CHPT) will offer a free hike along the Midstate Trail and through the cow tunnel under Route 20 in Charlton on Saturday, Oct. 24, starting at 10 a.m. The hike will start at the CHPT Little River property on Fulling Mill Drive in Charlton and continue to Fay Mountain Farm on Cemetery Road. Fay Mountain Farm will be open and have bakery items and cider available for purchase.

The two-and-a-half-hour hike is approximately five miles in length with roughly two miles of the trail being on town roads. The hike is rated moderate, as this part of the trail is hilly and there are areas of uneven footing. All are welcome at no charge.

Hikers should meet at Fulling Mill Drive Trail Head Parking Lot at 9:45 a.m. to be ready to leave for the hike at 10 a.m. This is archery season, so please wear orange blaze. Hikers are encouraged to bring tick protection, water and snacks. People will meet at a property called Little River, which is one of 19 parcels of land owned and maintained by CHPT. Shuttle rides back to the Little River Property will be offered by CHPT at the end of the program. For further information please call CHPT board member Karin Johnson at 774–230–5322.

About CHPT

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

Real Estate

CHARLTON

$650,000, 16 Lindsey Ln, Grammer, Maryann, and Grammer, Robert, to Carter 3rd, David Lee, and Pagan, Irismar.

$495,000, 18 Ramshorn Rd, Birch Grove Prop Inc, to Chevalier, Patricia.

$480,000, 203 Center Depot Rd, Christa Lee Mansur Ret, and Mansur, Christa Lee, to Wise, James, and Wise, Sara.

$474,900, 1 Mcintyre Rd, Cyr, Robert St, to Piselli, Christopher D, and Baillargeon, Bobbolyn.

HOLLAND

$415,000, 47 Sandy Beach Rd, Ruby, Kevin, and Ruby, Kimberly, to Rosenberg, Jason, and Rosenberg, Kelly.

$390,000, 38 Island Rd, Robidoux, Nathan, and Adams, Kaylee, to Blotniski, Jennifer M.

$325,000, 8 Shore Dr, Blotniski, Jennifer M, to Vollmer, Mackenzie.

SOUTHBRIDGE

$440,000, 72 Dennison Hill Rd, Baker, Gail, to Baker, Roger Connant.

$275,000, 28 Lens St, Elizabeth Anacona T, and Anacona, Elizabeth, to Rincon, Ashley.

$230,000, 30 Tumpike, Jazzyb Real Estate LLC, to Sama Realty Group LLC.

STURBRIDGE

None

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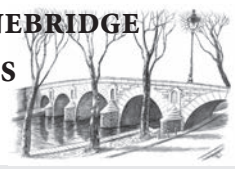

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Villager Almanac
Open to Close

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

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

Charlton Town Hall (508) 248-2200
Office Hours:
Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays ..... 7:30 a.m to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesdays .....7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday .....Closed
visit www.townofcharlton.net
or more information.
Individual offices may vary

Public Library (248-0452)
For library hours please check
www.charltonlibrary.org

Police Department (248-2250)
Monday to Friday..... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
For emergencies, dial **911**

Fire Department (248-2299)
Monday to Friday..... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Post Offices
Charlton Center Post Office ....(800) 275-8777
Charlton City (01508) ..... (800) 275-8777

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Church Listings

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

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

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

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

•**St. Anne St. Patrick Church, 1**6 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338
www.stannestpatparish.com
Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am

•**Elm Street Congregational Church,**
61 Elm Street, Southbridge, Ma 01550
Phone: 508-764-8085 • Sunday service 10:00 am
Pastor Kathryn Light

•**Faith Baptist Church,**
515 Dennison Drive, Southbridge
Phone number 508-764-6132,
Worship Service: Sunday 10::00 a.m.

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

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

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

• **Living Word Church of Charlton,** 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349
Sunday Service 10:00am.
www.livingwordhcarlton.com
info@livingwordcharlton.com

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

• **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale-** 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021
www.sturfed.org
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

• **Bethlehem Lutheran Church-**
345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566
Phone 508-347-7297
Web: www.bethlehemsturbridge.org
Services - Sunday 9:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell

• **Holland Congregation Church**
"Where the Bible is preached."
11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926
Hollandchurch.org
Sunday Service @ 10:00 am
Pastor Dan Maketansky

•**Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**
446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Phone: 508-765-9559
Web: www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org
Sunday Service 11:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell

•**St. John Paul II Parish**
279 Hamilton St., Southbridge
Rev. Carlos Ardila, Pastor
Weekend services Saturday 4 p.m.,
Sunday 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon
Weekday masses 8:30 & 8:45 a.m., St. Mary's Church (508) 765-3701

St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish introduces family-friendly schedule for 2026–2027 Faith Formation program

Courtesy Photo

Faith Formation students with leaders in the Parish Center.

FISKDALE — St. Anne–St. Patrick Parish is making it easier for families to participate in both Faith Formation and Sunday Mass with a newly redesigned class schedule for the 2026–2027 program year. By intentionally centering its Faith Formation schedule around the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass, the parish hopes families can more easily worship together while also having more time back in their Sundays.

"At St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish, we want to remove obstacles that make it difficult for families to practice their faith together," said Fr. Salvator Musande, Pastor of St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish. "Our new schedule allows children to grow in their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith while making Sunday Mass something families can attend together. We warmly invite both returning and new families to join us."

Registration is now open for Faith Formation for students in Kindergarten through Grade 11. Families are encouraged to register online by September 6, 2026, which will help with class planning, although registration will remain open after that date.

The new class schedule is:

• Grades K–6: Sundays, 8:45–9:45 a.m., before the 10 a.m. Mass.

• Grades 7–11: Sundays, 11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m., after the 10 a.m. Mass.

Faith Formation provides children and teens with age-appropriate instruction in the Catholic Faith, Sacred Scripture, Prayer, Christian living, and preparation for the Sacraments. Online registration is the preferred registration method and is available on the parish website. A paper registration form is also available for families who need one.

For more information or to register, visit www.StAnneStPatrickParish.com or call 508-347-9353.

St. Anne St. Patrick Parish & Shrine is an active parish community serving the Sturbridge area and beyond, offering daily Masses, religious education, and community ministries. The shrine grounds welcome thousands of visitors each year and feature St. Anne Shrine, Stations of the Cross and Crucifix, Hall of Saints, Russian Icon Exhibit, Generations Statue, Angel of Hope Monument, Memorial for the Unborn, Votive Chapels, weekend Masses celebrated in the outdoor pavilion during the summer, and a religious gift shop open daily from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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Charlton Cultural Council announces community art exhibit

CHARLTON — The Charlton Cultural Council, in collaboration with the Charlton Public Library, is delighted to announce this year's community art exhibit. The art submitted will be displayed in the Charlton Library.

The exhibit will be open to the public from Oct. 18 through 31, with a reception at 6 p.m. on Oct. 29 at the Library. There will a classic country music revue by musician Matt York, and readings by the 'Write Away' Writers Group from the Charlton Senior Center, appetizers provided by Charcuterie and a workshop for kids on AI for Everyday Art Use.

Artists are encouraged to submit their work for display. Please go to the Charlton Cultural Council Facebook page; you'll find a QR code to register your submitted work for the exhibit. Art Drop-off is Oct. 17, 10 a.m. to noon. Artists will be able to pick up their artwork on Oct. 31 from 9:30 a.m. until noon.

For any additional questions, our email address is cultural.council@townofcharlton.net.

Join us as we celebrate the creativity and skill of local artists. See you at the exhibit!

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Terms and Conditions May Apply | Offer Ends November 30, 2026

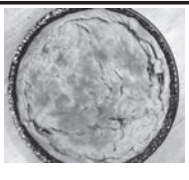
Dementia Friendly Charlton hosts educational program

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

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

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

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


ALBANIAN PIES AND ETHNIC DELICACIES
St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church
126 Morris Street, Southbridge
****
"TAKE OUT ORDERS ONLY"
WHOLE PIES (12x17): BAKED OR UNBAKED FROZEN - $45.00
HALF PIES (12x9): BAKED ONLY - $23.00
Spinach, Leek, Sauerkraut, Squash
ETHNIC DELICACIES
Rolled Baklava - $3.00/ea Kadaif - $3.00/ea
Twist Cookies – 4/$4.00
Date-Nut Filled Cookies - $2.50/ea
Kourabias (Butter Cookies) – 4/$5.00
****
Deadline: November 4, 2026
No orders accepted after deadline date
Call 508-764-6226 to place order and leave your name and phone number to receive confirmation.
Orders to be picked up at
126 Morris Street, Southbridge
November 23 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Winter Coat Closet opens Oct. 31

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

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

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

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

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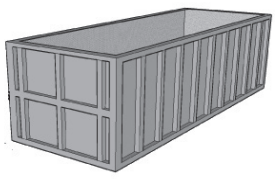
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OPINION

Building the future, one idea at a time

There is something particularly encouraging about a high school student designing a tool that solves an actual problem, especially when that tool proves useful enough to become part of a teacher's daily routine.

That is precisely the kind of achievement worth celebrating at Shepherd Hill Regional High School, where an expanded engineering curriculum and a new Clean Energy Pathways program are giving students opportunities to turn classroom lessons into practical solutions.

The school's partnership with Project Lead the Way represents more than an investment in new equipment. It reflects an understanding that preparing young people for the future requires giving them opportunities to experiment, make mistakes, solve problems and discover what they are capable of accomplishing.

With new robotics kits, electrical circuit equipment and high-precision 3D printers, students are gaining access to technology that allows them to explore engineering principles in ways a traditional textbook cannot replicate.

Consider the school's tractor pull competition, in which students designed miniature tractors and tested their creations against one another. On the surface, it sounds like an entertaining classroom activity. Beneath that friendly competition, however, students were learning about friction, force, mechanics and gear ratios.

More importantly, they were learning that an idea does not always work perfectly the first time.

That may be one of the most valuable lessons any school can teach.

In a world increasingly focused on immediate results, there is considerable value in teaching young people to approach a challenge, evaluate what went wrong, make adjustments and try again. Those skills extend well beyond engineering. They are essential in business, medicine, public service and everyday life.

Perhaps the most compelling example of the program's potential is the student who designed and 3D-printed a specialized drain tool for a chemistry teacher. The device remains in use today.

Think about what that experience must mean to a young person. Rather than completing an assignment that eventually ends up in a folder or recycling bin, the student created something that addressed a genuine need. That is education at its most effective.

The addition of clean energy education is equally significant. As communities consider questions involving energy costs, infrastructure, environmental protection and technological change, the next generation will need people who understand both the possibilities and the practical challenges associated with emerging technologies.

Students who develop those skills locally may eventually help businesses and communities throughout Central Massachusetts adapt to changing industries and economic demands.

There is also an important economic development component to programs such as these. For generations, communities throughout this region have depended on people who knew how to build, repair, manufacture and improve things. Those traditions remain relevant, even as the tools and technologies evolve.

Today's advanced manufacturing technician, renewable energy specialist or mechanical engineer may work with sophisticated computer systems and automated equipment, but the underlying principles of craftsmanship, precision and problem-solving remain remarkably familiar.

Shepherd Hill's expanded curriculum offers an opportunity to connect that regional heritage with the industries of tomorrow.

Of course, providing equipment is only the beginning. The long-term success of these programs will depend on sustained support, capable instruction and opportunities for students with different interests and abilities to participate. Partnerships with local employers, technical colleges and industry professionals could eventually strengthen those opportunities further, helping students understand how classroom skills translate into meaningful careers.

Equally important is ensuring that students who have never considered themselves particularly strong in science or mathematics have opportunities to discover an interest in these fields. Sometimes all it takes is one successful project to change a young person's understanding of what is possible.

The teachers guiding these experiences deserve recognition as well. Creating meaningful hands-on lessons requires preparation, creativity, patience and a willingness to allow students to work through difficult problems rather than providing immediate answers.

For families in Dudley and Charlton, the expansion of these programs offers another reason to take pride in their regional high school.

Not every student who participates will become an engineer. Some will pursue entirely different professions. Others may discover an unexpected passion that influences the direction of their education and careers.

All of them, however, can benefit from learning how to think critically, work creatively and approach unfamiliar challenges with confidence.

The future of education is not necessarily about replacing traditional lessons with technology. It is about using technology to make those lessons more meaningful.

And sometimes, the best evidence that a school is preparing students for the future is something as simple as a useful little tool, designed by a teenager, that makes someone's workday easier.

What do tenant protests in Spain have to do with Southbridge?

BY E. PRAIRIAL

On Sept. 23, Maricarmen Abascal, a disabled, working-class, 84-year-old tenant, was evicted from her apartment in Madrid. This particular scene has played out in Spain, but it plays out across the world daily — in Worcester County alone, 4126 households faced eviction in one year. But this time, Spanish renters, led by the Madrid Tenants Union and several left-wing organizations such as Movimiento Socialista, filled the streets of the city, putting it under the occupation of its student and worker majority. Building a massive encampment in Puerta del Sol, half a million in Madrid alone have refused to be moved for over two weeks as similar protests erupt in cities across Spain. The Spanish Parliament — what one might call the opposing "encampment" of the real estate barons and corporate capital — has been paralyzed by division between moderates who would quiet tenants with a few small scraps, and the right wing, which offers only police batons. In an act of desperation, the government has called snap elections and forced through housing reforms with hopes of taking the wind out of organized tenants' sails. The gambit seems to have failed following Abascal's hospitalization and death in the aftermath of her eviction. Following the demand of the Madrid Tenants Union, Spanish labor unions have announced a general strike.

Compared to recent social mobilizations in Spain, these are proudly of and for the working class. Tenants have identified that their problems stem not from some particular austerity measure, but with the system of capitalist "rentism" more broadly. A clear picture is painted by core demands of the organizations involved: abolition of housing speculation; abolition of landlords; and universal social housing. But what do striking tenants in Europe have to do with the town of Southbridge, Mass?

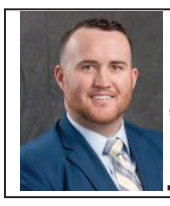
Despite being a relatively small town, Southbridge has seen no shortage of conflict between tenants and landlords in recent years. Following the sale of Lebanon Hill Housing (first for $7.1 million in 2023, and then, for $12.8 million a year later), rent for the complex's mostly senior tenants nearly doubled. The corporate landlord, Shorelight, has since worked to bleed its tenants dry, all while neglecting basic property maintenance. Fed up with terrible conditions at Lebanon Hill and across other properties, tenants have only just begun to organize themselves.

In Spain and in Southbridge, renters understandably begin with modest goals, desperately seeking any improvement to their immediate conditions. A tenant union in Southbridge implored a town council vote in favor of a measure on senior housing earlier this year — a measure which, while adopted by the council, was largely symbolic. Many tenants across Massachusetts may have set their hopes on Homes For All Massachusetts (H4A), a coalition of nonprofits that attempted to bring forward a ballot question that would implement a moderate form of rent control earlier this year. This proposal enjoyed supermajority support in early polls (69%!), but even before the state supreme court struck the question down entirely, H4A had already entered backroom negotiations to remove it from the ballot. Ironically, it was one of the many carveouts written by the nonprofits to try to preemptively blunt resistance from moneyed interests — its exemptions for religious institutions — that provided the courts with the legal basis to kill the initiative.

Having seen what compromise wins them, hundreds of voters in the 6th Worcester District, a state House district centered on Southbridge, signed the petition for a public policy question proposed by the Central Massachusetts and Worcester chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America that set a much loftier goal: universal social housing, funded by a tax on the large inheritances, that would totally eliminate the role of landlords. Without coordination, tenants in the overlooked town of Southbridge and in the city of Madrid have both found themselves pushed by the brutality of the private housing market to a shared vision: a world without landlords, where shelter and ownership is not a privilege granted at the mercy of the rich for an exorbitant fee, but a right collectively guaranteed to the working class. Passing this question sends a message to the Mass State House that the people of Southbridge no longer want profiteers standing between them and their basic needs. Given that many pockets in the State House are lined by (and, in many cases, simply belong to) these very profiteers, the question will surely not be entertained by Southbridge's misrepresentatives. But if tenants in Southbridge and beyond can become increasingly organized around the truly radical demands they need, then, much as Spanish tenants found their government move from violent repression to appeasement, the tenants of Southbridge might find that radical demands get them further than moderation ever could.

Author's Note: E. Prairial is a member of the Worcester and Central Massachusetts chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America, which helps workers and tenants organize, holds frequent political education events, and is campaigning for social housing for all. An event on the proposal will be held at the Jacob Edwards Library on the morning of Halloween, Saturday, Oct. 31, at 11:30 a.m. If you are interested in learning more about the campaign or chapter, visit https://worcesterdsa.org.

How to make the most of open enrollment this year



Financial Focus
TREVOR NIELSEN

Every fall, an email lands in Maya's inbox announcing open enrollment. And every year, she quickly clicks "renew" and moves on.

Open enrollment is when you choose your medical and other workplace benefits for the coming year. Most companies hold it in the fall. Once it closes, you usually can't make changes unless there's a major life event, like marriage, divorce, or a new child.

This year's decisions may carry more weight than usual. Many workers are facing higher health care costs, making it especially important to understand what you're paying for and what protection you're receiving in return.

It's tempting to renew last year's choices, but you owe your future-self more. Your employer's plans, providers, or costs may have changed, and your life might look different from a year ago, perhaps with a new dependent or new medical needs. A fresh look helps ensure your benefits match your life.

Compare health plans. Employers often offer more than one health, dental or vision option. Rather than simply glancing at the monthly premium, look at the total potential cost of each plan, including deductibles, copays, coinsurance, and out-of-pocket maximums.

Check whether your doctors are in network, your prescriptions are covered and what you'd pay out of pocket for visits and medications. If you and your spouse both have coverage, compare the plans. Some employers charge a fee if you enroll a partner who has their own workplace coverage.

Check your life insurance. Many employers provide basic coverage, often one or two times your salary, with the option to buy more. If your family has grown or your responsibilities increased, make sure that amount still fits your needs. If you've maxed out employer coverage, consider supplementing it with an individual policy.

Consider disability coverage. Short-term disability coverage, along with paid sick leave and emergency savings, should help bridge income gaps for up to six months during recovery from surgery, illness, or childbirth. Long-term disability insurance should protect you if you can't work for an extended period, up to age 65. Ideally, it should replace up to 100 percent of your after-tax income.

Look for tax-friendly accounts. Flexible spending accounts (FSAs) and health savings accounts (HSAs) let you use pretax dollars for eligible medical expenses. If you have dependents, ask about a dependent care FSA to pay for care costs. Remember that FSAs are use-it-or-lose-it, so contribute only what you expect to spend. HSAs, available with high-deductible plans, allow unused funds to roll over and can help supplement retirement savings.

Consider your retirement plan. While your retirement plan usually isn't part of open enrollment, this is a good time to revisit it. Make sure that, at a minimum, you're contributing enough to earn any employer's match.

Back to Maya. This year, she sets aside an hour, pours a cup of coffee and reads her options. She's adding more life insurance and increasing her HSA contribution. Open enrollment may never be thrilling, but time spent now can mean a more confident year for you and the people who count on you.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Trevor Nielsen, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.

When did calling someone become rude?

Lanterns Along Main Street
By CHARLES

I committed a minor social offense the other day. I called somebody on the telephone. Without warning.

No advance text message. No appointment. No carefully worded inquiry asking whether it might be convenient to speak for a few minutes. I simply looked up the number, pressed the little green button and waited.

You would have thought I'd shown up at the fellow's house at three in the morning carrying a trumpet.

Turn To **LANTERNS** *page* **A5**

To the Editor

Effective leadership means putting your constitutents first

To the Editor:

As a former member of the Charlton Select Board, I understand the responsibilities and challenges that come with serving the public. Municipal leaders must balance the needs of residents with limited resources, make difficult financial decisions, and ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly. These experiences have reinforced my belief that strong, accountable leadership at the state level is essential to the success of our communities. Consequently, I am pleased to express my support for John Marsi and Paul Frost in their respective candidacies for the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Our towns need state representatives who understand the realities facing local government and recognize that decisions made at the State House have a direct impact on municipal budgets, property taxes, public safety, education, infrastructure, and the overall quality of life in our communities. I believe it is critical that our representatives maintain open lines of communication with municipal leaders, listen to the concerns of residents, and work collaboratively to address the challenges facing our towns. Fiscal responsibility, government accountability, and respect for local decision-making must remain central priorities. Both John and Paul are great examples of these types of leaders.

Effective leadership begins with listening, earning the public's trust, and putting the needs of residents first. These principles should guide our elected officials at every level of government, and I'm proud to offer my endorsement of John Marsi and Paul Frost and wish them success in their campaigns.

Bill Borowski
Charlton

Charlton Public Library gets by with a lot of help from our Friends!

To the Editor:

In the last five years, the Friends of Charlton Public Library have raised a significant amount of funds for our library. These funds support a variety of youth and adult programs and the Summer Reading Program; provide museum and entertainment passes; contribute to new and emerging technology; and help support staff training.

But money isn't the only thing the Friends contribute—last year, several members dedicated their time and energy supporting programs and fundraising events, like the Old Home Day, the Overlook Fall Festival, the yarn sale, used book sale, and other events. In addition, the Friends have rallied countless times to advocate for adequate library funding.

Oct. 18-24 is the 21st annual National Friends of Libraries Week, and it's the perfect opportunity for the staff and trustees of the Charlton Public Library to give our Friends a big shout out for all they do to make a positive impact on us every single day.

We know the Friends are always looking for new members and volunteers. They have so much fun while working to make our community better. Joining is just a click away--visit https://charltonlibrary.org/friends-of-charlton-library/ to access a membership form. Be sure to fill out the volunteer application while you're there and you'll get a quick response.

Joining the Friends of the Library is a terrific way to make new friends of your own, give back to our community, and make the library even better.

Sincerely,

Betsy Perry
Director
Charlton Public Library

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.

DA hosts discussion on understanding addiction and supporting recovery

WORCESTER — On Oct. 14, Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. hosted the Prevention and Support Network's annual event, bringing together community partners for a discussion on addiction, recovery, and the importance of coordinated support to help individuals build stable, healthy lives.

The event featured Dr. Stephen Loyd, Chief Medical Officer at Cedar Recovery and the real-life physician portrayed by Michael Keaton in Hulu's "Dopesick," and Troy Sandifer, founder and CEO of H.U.S.T.L.E. (How U Survive This Life Everyday) Recovery, a Tennessee-based organization that connects individuals with addiction treatment and recovery support services.

Dr. Loyd shared his personal experience with addiction and recovery, while Sandifer discussed H.U.S.T.L.E. Recovery's respite housing model and its role in supporting individuals as they work toward long-term stability.

Dr. Loyd discussed the complex factors that can contribute to addiction, including genetics, trauma, and underlying mental health challenges. Drawing on his professional experience and personal journey through recovery, he emphasized the importance of understanding addiction and addressing the underlying factors that can contribute to substanceuse. He also spoke about the importance of breaking generational cycles of addiction and creating opportunities for individuals and families to move forward.

Sandifer also shared his personal journey through addiction and the criminal justice system and how those experiences inspired him to dedicate his work to helping others find recovery. Through H.U.S.T.L.E. Recovery, he works to connect individuals with recovery services and employment opportunities that can help them build stability and independence.

The discussion highlighted the importance of a comprehensive, collaborative approach to addiction that balances accountability with access to treatment and support. Addressing the opioid crisis requires more than a criminal justice response; it also calls for coordination among law enforcement, treatment providers, community organizations, and other partners to help individuals access the resources and opportunities they need to sustain recovery.

"These leaders came up from Tennessee to offer our community successful programs that help save lives. Their work interrupts death," said District Attorney Early. "They shared with us the importance of having people with real-life, lived experience help people overcome this disease and improve public safety."

The event offered an opportunity for members of the Prevention and Support Network to learn from the speakers' experiences and consider how their approaches could inform local efforts in Worcester County. Their work reinforced that lasting recovery requires more than access to treatment alone. It also depends on coordinated support and a commitment to helping individuals build stable lives in recovery.

Sandifer emphasized the critical step of securing stable housing and employment options for individuals in early recovery, "Treatment is not recovery. Treatment is stabilization. Recovery begins after treatment."

Early has long been committed to addressing substance use, trauma, and mental health in Worcester County. In 2015, he established the Central Massachusetts Opioid Taskforce, which later became the Prevention and Support Network, which continues to fostercollaboration among professionals, law enforcement, and community organizations to address substance use and its impact on individuals, families, and communities throughout Worcester County.

LANTERNS

continued from page A4

He answered after several rings, sounding slightly alarmed.

"Everything OK?"

"Sure," I said. "Why?"

"Well, you called."

Apparently, that's enough to suggest an emergency these days.

I remember when calling somebody was considered a perfectly ordinary way to communicate. In fact, for a considerable portion of my life, it was the only practical way to communicate with someone who wasn't standing directly in front of you. You picked up the telephone, dialed a number and hoped the person you wanted was home. Sometimes, somebody else answered. Sometimes, you had to make polite conversation with a parent, spouse or sibling before being handed over to the intended recipient. And sometimes, nobody answered at all. In those cases, you simply tried again later. Nobody assumed the unanswered call represented a personal rejection or the collapse of a friendship.

Today, the rules appear to have changed. A telephone call without a preliminary text is apparently an intrusion. A voicemail is an unexpected burden. And leaving a message that says "Call me when you get a chance" can produce enough anxiety to warrant a family conference.

My wife understands these new customs considerably better than I do. She recently watched me leave a voicemail for someone and shook her head.

"Why didn't you text him?"

"Because I wanted to talk to him."

"You could have texted him to see if he was available."

"Wouldn't calling him accomplish the same thing?"

She gave me the look she reserves for moments when explaining modern civilization to her husband seems like an unreasonable use of her remaining years.

I don't object to texting. It's a wonderful invention for certain purposes. If I need to tell my wife I'm stopping for milk, a text is ideal. If I want to know whether somebody has arrived safely, a text works beautifully.

And if someone sends me a photograph of a dog wearing sunglasses, I can respond with the appropriate expression of amusement without interrupting either of our afternoons.

But there are conversations that don't fit neatly into little rectangular bubbles on a screen. A story, for example.

A proper story requires timing. It requires pauses, interruptions and the occasional "You're not going to believe what happened next." It requires the ability to hear someone laughing before you've even reached the funny part. Try accomplishing that through a series of text messages.

By the time you've finished typing the setup, the other person has responded with a thumbs-up symbol, which could mean anything from enthusiastic agreement to "Please stop contacting me."

I have also discovered that punctuation has become a delicate matter. Apparently, ending a text message with a period can sometimes make you sound angry. I learned this after responding to a perfectly innocent question with the words, "Sounds good." A younger acquaintance later explained that the period made the message seem unnecessarily stern. I had no idea.

For more than six decades, I'd been under the impression that periods were simply how sentences ended. Now, evidently, they are tiny symbols of disapproval.

I've started wondering what other grammatical offenses I've been committing. Does a semicolon suggest hostility? Is a colon a threat? Should I apologize for using parentheses?

And don't get me started on the three little dots that appear when somebody is typing a response. Those dots can keep a grown man staring at his phone like he's awaiting the results of an important medical examination. They appear. They disappear. They appear again. Then nothing.

What happened? Did the person change their mind? Did the phone malfunction? Were they composing a lengthy declaration and decide against sending it?

In the old days, if somebody stopped talking halfway through a sentence, you could at least ask whether they were all right.

Still, I recognize that communication changes with every generation.

My grandparents probably thought answering machines were peculiar. My parents had their own opinions about call waiting. And I distinctly remember a time when people complained about teenagers spending too many hours talking on the telephone. Now we complain because nobody wants to talk on the telephone. There's a certain symmetry to that.

The other evening, I decided to call an old friend I hadn't spoken with in several weeks. For a moment, I considered sending a text first. Then I decided to take my chances.

He answered on the second ring.

"What's wrong?" he asked.

"Nothing. Thought I'd see how you were doing."

There was a pause. Then he laughed.

"Well, that's a pleasant surprise."

We talked for nearly half an hour. Nothing especially important came up. We traded a few stories, complained mildly about the price of things and remembered an incident from years ago that somehow gets funnier every time we tell it. When we hung up, I realized how much I'd enjoyed hearing his voice.

A few minutes later, my phone buzzed. It was a text from him.

"Good talking to you."

I wrote back, "You too."

Then I looked at the message and made one small adjustment before sending it.

I removed the period. No sense starting an argument.

Southbridge Lions to host Fall Texas Hold 'Em Tournament

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friday's Child

Joshua
Age 14
Registration #8744

Joshua, who likes to be called Josh, is a friendly, active, outgoing, and talkative young boy with a great sense of humor. He loves to tell stories, make others laugh, and connect with the people around him. Josh is also very helpful and enjoys being given jobs or responsibilities because he likes knowing that he can contribute and be helpful to others. He is thoughtful toward others and even makes a point of waving goodbye to each of his teachers when he leaves school each day. Josh enjoys encouragement and does well when he is given opportunities to participate and be involved. He forms bonds quickly and enjoys spending time with others. Josh is an active kid who loves playing video games, jumping on his trampoline, and swimming. He also enjoys playing sports, especially soccer and basketball. Josh has participated in a soccer league and is currently signed up to play on a basketball team. Josh has a fun-loving personality and enjoys keeping those around him smiling and laughing. He has plans for his future and dreams of becoming a police officer someday.

https://www.mareinc.org/child/21191377413

Can I Adopt?

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

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

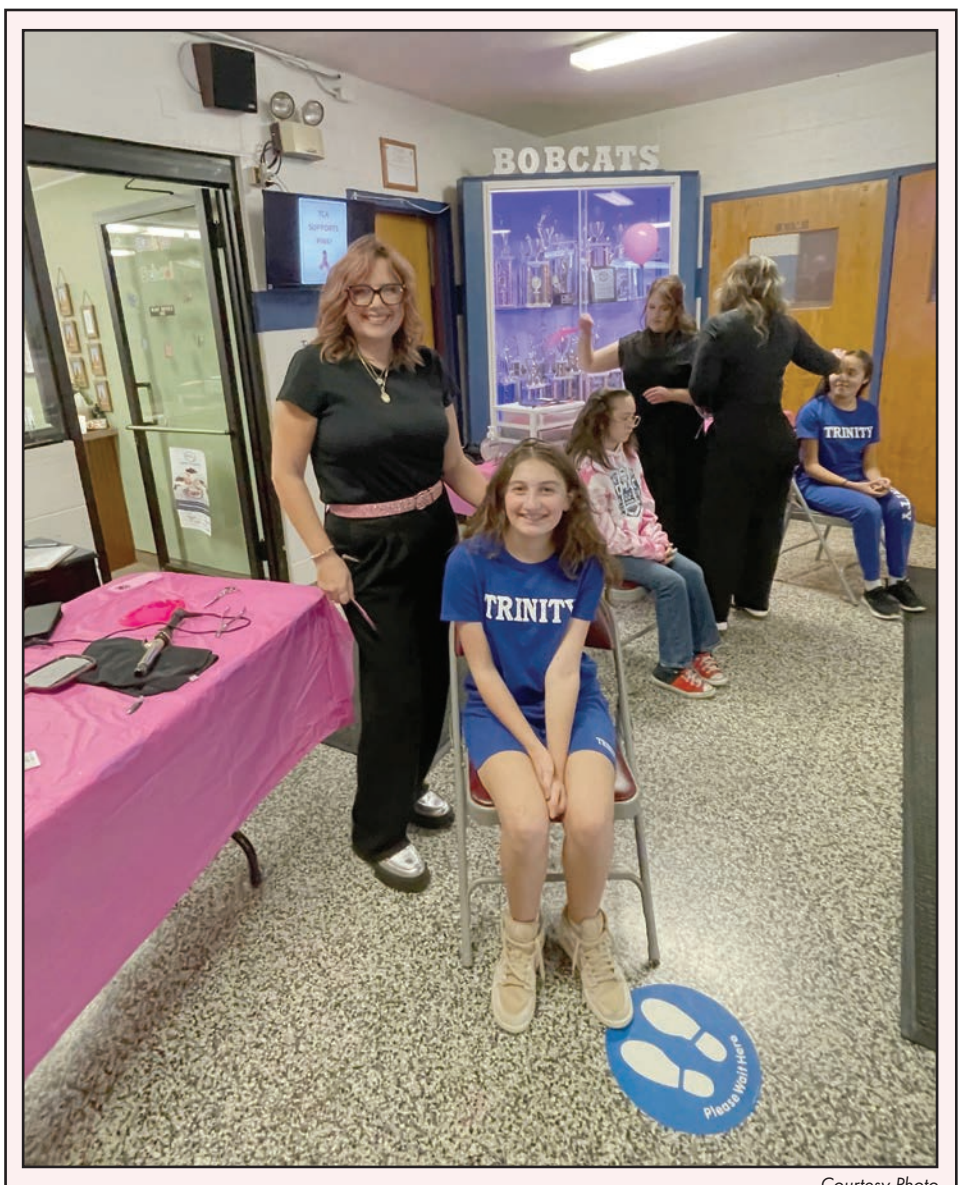
Grassroots Central Mass to host skill sharing workshops in Brookfield

BROOKFIELD — Grassroots Central Mass., a local citizens' organization, announces new quarterly workshops focused on teaching specific skills, promoting self-sufficiency, and building community.

Each workshop will feature one skill presented by a member of the community with the goal of teaching that skill to anyone who wishes to learn. The first topic will be "How to Make a Fabric Origami Butterfly," and will be taught by accomplished textile artist and seamstress, Sandra Riccio Holmes of West Brookfield. In the workshop, attendees will learn how to make a fabric origami butterfly that can be worn as a pin or used as an appliqué on a garment. The workshop will take place on Saturday, Oct. 24, 10-11:30 a.m. at the Brookfield Library Barn, 18 Common St., Brookfield.

"As a maker, I see sewing as a skill set, a creative outlet and a place for peace of mind," says Holmes. "Sewing is a true passion of mine, and I am looking forward to sharing this skill with my friends and neighbors."

There is no fee for the workshop; however, a donation of $5-$10 made directly to the instructor to cover materials is suggested. Space is limited, so pre-registration is recommended. Register here today (https://bit.ly/OragamiFabric).



Courtesy Photo

Trinity Catholic Academy students in Pre-K through eighth-grade students, along with several staff members, showed their support for breast cancer research and awareness by rocking pink hair extensions and pink spray-painted hair! Thanks to everyone who participated and donated, we raised more than $800 to benefit the Cancer Center at UMass Memorial – Harrington. A special thank-you to Finally Lisa's Hair Salon for generously donating their time and products to make this event a success! We are so proud of our TCA community for coming together to support such an important cause.

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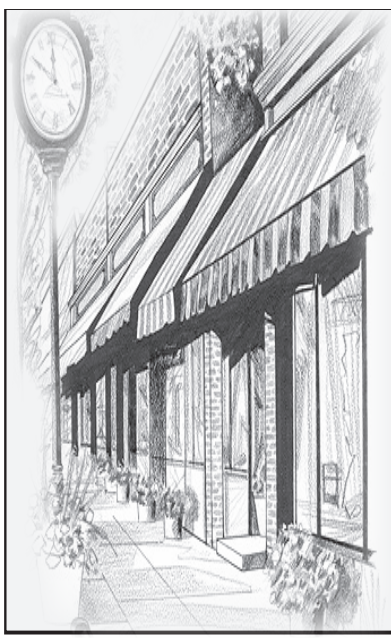

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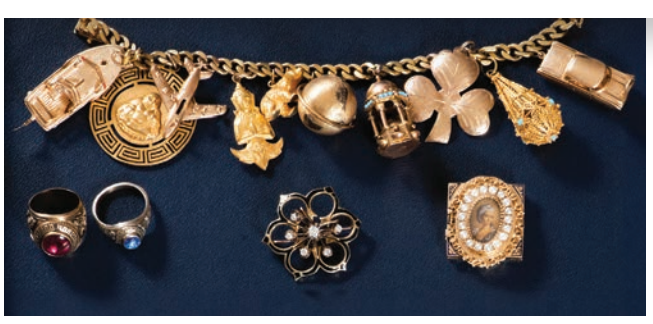
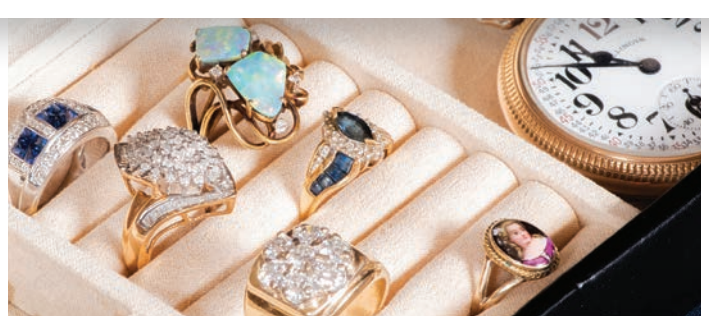

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Repair Café coming to Charlton Library Oct. 24

CHARLTON — The Charlton community is invited to bring broken household items to a special Repair Café at the Charlton Library on Saturday, Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The event will bring together volunteers with practical repair skills to help community members troubleshoot and repair everyday items, while sharing knowledge and encouraging a culture of reuse and sustainability.

Rather than throwing something away when it stops working, residents are encouraged to bring it to the Repair Café and see whether it can be given a second life. Fixers are available for the following categories: Bicycles, Small Appliances, Sewing Machines (not gears or programming issues), Stringed Instruments, Fabric (Clothes/stuffed animals/dog toys), Computer/Information Technology, Knife Sharpening, Jewelry, Wood, General Small Repairs, and Simple electronics.

The Repair Café is designed as a hands-on, community learning event. Visitors can work alongside volunteers, learn basic repair techniques, and connect with others who enjoy fixing, maintaining, and reusing everyday items.

Registration is not required, we will do our best to accommodate walk-ins. This is a free event open to all from Charlton and surrounding communities.

The event is part of a growing effort to reduce waste, extend the useful life of household goods, and build practical skills within the community. Our Repair Café is a partnership between the Charlton Lions Club, Keep Charlton Beautiful, the Charlton Business Alliance, and the Charlton Public Library.

For additional information, visit the Charlton Library Web site at https://charltonlibrary.org.

Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St.

LEGALS

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
STURBRIDGE PLANNING BOARD
PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENT

In accordance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Sturbridge Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, November 9, 2026 at 6:35 PM** in the **Center Office Building 2nd Floor, located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and/or by virtual means** if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law, to consider amendments to the Town's Zoning Bylaw.

The proposal would amend the Zoning Bylaw by inserting a new **Article XXI Temporary Moratorium on Data Centers**

Section 300-21.1 PURPOSE

In recent years, the introduction of Data Centers in many areas of the United States has introduced new challenges for communities, creating substantial demands on energy and water supplies and causing environmental disturbances, including noise. The Town needs time to study and consider the regulation of Data Centers in light of the land use considerations they raise and potential negative impacts they can cause to communities.

Section 300-21.2 DEFINITION

"Data Center" shall mean: "A facility composed of networked computers, storage systems, and computing resources that is used to process, store, and disseminate large amounts of data, and that such a facility is either a principal use or is used in a standalone capacity".

Section 300-21.3 TEMPORARY MORATORIUM - DURATION

For the reasons set forth above and notwithstanding any other provision of the Zoning Bylaw to the contrary, the Town of Sturbridge hereby enacts a temporary moratorium on the application for and on the use, building or installation of Data Centers, as defined herein. The moratorium shall be in effect through September 30, 2027. During the moratorium period, the Town shall undertake a planning process to address the effects of such structures and uses in the Town and to enact bylaws in a manner consistent with sound land use planning goals and objectives.

The purpose of this temporary moratorium is to provide the Town with temporary time to develop and adopt appropriate zoning regulations specific to this rapidly evolving technology. Data centers are significantly different from traditional utility or industrial uses and raise unique considerations related to environmental impacts and compatibility with surrounding land uses.

Additionally, this moratorium will allow sufficient time to study best practices, review updated state guidance and fire code requirements, consult with public safety officials, and engage the public, while preventing development proposals that could outpace local regulations. The moratorium is a temporary pause only and is intended to result in a well-crafted bylaw that provides clear standards and predictability for applicants while protecting public health, safety, and welfare. Presently the Town has no zoning bylaw adequately addressing these issues.

During the time of this moratorium the Planning Board will work to develop and enact Bylaws in a manner consistent with sound land use planning goals and objectives. This moratorium shall be in effect through September 30, 2027 or the date on which the Town adopts amendment to the bylaw concerning Data Centers, whichever first occurs.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted in person and may be conducted via remote means if circumstance warrant, in accordance with applicable law. This means

that members of the public body as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. https://meet.goto.com/619527397

Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post of the Town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Charles Blanchard
Chairperson
October 22, 2026
October 29, 2026

Planning Board
Public Hearing

In accordance with the provisions of In accordance with MGL Ch. 40A, and the Town of Brimfield Zoning Bylaw section 7, the Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, at 8:00 p.m. at Hitchcock Academy located at 2 Brookfield Rd. Brimfield, MA 01010.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider a Site Plan Review application for Lawrence Bronner of Brimfield LLC who is looking to add an additional storage building for Parcel: 9/B/9 located at 338 Palmer Rd. Brimfield, MA 01010.

David Killian
Planning Board Chair
October 22, 2026
October 29, 2026

Sturbridge Planning Board
Public Hearing
Application for Site Plan Approval
NBM Realty, LLC

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, **November 9, 2026 at 6:45 PM** in the **Center Office Building located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and/or by virtual means** if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law; on the application of NBM Realty, LLC for the property located at **152 Main Street.**

The applicant requests Site Plan Approval as required by the Sturbridge Zoning Bylaws Article XIX, Site Plan Review, to construct two 3-story, 2,323 sq. ft. multi-family residential buildings and associated paved parking per the plans and specifications submitted for the property located at 152 Main Street, Sturbridge.

The parcel is currently developed with two 2-story multi-family residential buildings, a paved parking area and a gravel parking area. The existing buildings will remain in place with no proposed additions or alterations, and the existing parking areas will be removed to accommodate the new parking configuration.

The proposed request can be viewed at at https://www.sturbridge.gov/830/Recent-Filings or arrangements can be made to view the application packet by contacting the Sturbridge Planning Department.

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

It is the intent to have this Public Hearing in person. However, if circumstances warrant, the Board may choose to hold this Hearing via virtual or hybrid (in person and virtual) means. In the event of a virtual or hybrid meeting, please follow this link:
https://meet.goto.com/619527397.

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

Charles Blanchard
Chairperson
October 22, 2026
October 29, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P3308EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

Estate Of:
Patricia A Gaumond
Date of Death: 09-02-2026

To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Richard F. Gaumond of Sturbridge MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Richard F. Gaumond of Sturbridge MA

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

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

October 22, 2026

To the owners of the hereinafter described parcels of land situated in STURBRIDGE in the county of WORCESTER and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to all others concerned:

You are hereby notified that on Monday, November 9, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sturbridge Town Hall pursuant to the provisions of General Laws Chapter 60, Section 53 as amended, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, it is my intention to take for the Town of Sturbridge the following parcels of land for non-payment after demand, of the taxes due thereon, with interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

BARBARA A. BARRY
COLLECTOR

GCY, LLC,
Parcel: 415-02457-0U2,
BUILDING located at 392 MAIN STREET in STURBRIDGE, BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 415024570U2, recorded at WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS - Book/Page 6586/385. For FY-2023 Tax Due $4,850.67.

GCY, LLC,
Parcel: 415-02457-0U3,
BUILDING located at 392 MAIN STREET in STURBRIDGE, BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 415024570U3, recorded at WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS - Book/Page 6586/385. For FY-2023 Tax Due $2,304.18.

GCY, LLC,
Parcel: 415-02457-0U4,
BUILDING located at 392 MAIN STREET in STURBRIDGE, BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 415024570U4, recorded at WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS - Book/Page 6586/385. For FY-2023 Tax Due $2,551.72.

GCY, LLC,
Parcel: 415-02457-0U5,
BUILDING located at 392 MAIN STREET in STURBRIDGE, BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 415024570U5, recorded at WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS - Book/Page 6586/385. For FY-2023 Tax Due $2,776.92.

GCY, LLC,
Parcel: 415-02457-0U6,
BUILDING located at 392 MAIN STREET in STURBRIDGE, BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 415024570U6, recorded at WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS - Book/Page 6586/385. For FY-2023 Tax Due $5,326.85.

GCY, LLC,
Parcel: 415-02457-U10,
BUILDING located at 392 MAIN STREET in STURBRIDGE, BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 41502457U10, recorded at WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS - Book/Page 6586/385. For FY-2023 Tax Due $1,126.04.

GCY, LLC,
Parcel: 415-02457-U11,
BUILDING located at 392 MAIN STREET in STURBRIDGE, BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 41502457U11, recorded at WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS - Book/Page 6586/385. For FY-2023 Tax Due $284.76.

SLATE CAROL TRUSTEE OF,
C/O MICHAEL SLATE,
SUBSEQUENT OWNER: SLATE, MICHAEL
Parcel: 415-02445-433,
LAND & BUILDING located at 433 MAIN STREET in STURBRIDGE,
LAND & BUILDING containing 1.290 ACRES shown on Assessor's
Map 41502445433, recorded at WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF
DEEDS - Book/Page 19370/0293. For FY-2023 Tax Due
$12,049.48.
October 22, 2026

NOTICE OF SALE
Lein Sale

Request a Notice of Lein Sale be Published on the following listed Units
Household & Misc, Items
Unit No 616
Dennis Curboy
99 Elm Street, Apt. 2
Southbridge, MA 01550
Household & Misc, Items
Unit No 273
Henry Skiba
126 North Street
Ware, MA 01082
Household & Misc, Items
Unit No 014
Shawn Gillette
49 Eden Street
Ludlow, MA 01056
Household & Misc, Items
Unit No 259
Simeon Paresky
P.O. Box 402
Sturbridge, MA 01566
Household & Misc, Items
Unit No 005
Corey Varnum
426 Cronin Rd
West Brookfield, MA 01585
Household & Misc, Items
October 15, 2026
October 22, 2026
October 29, 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 October 28, at 6:30 PM on the application of Ronald & Paula Wilmot.

The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for the replacement of a failed septic system, the construction of a small retaining wall, and the repair of an existing driveway within the 100-ft buffer zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The project location is: 104 Colburn Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 69-C-7.1

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 remotely can access the meeting 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
October 22, 2026

Saint Joseph students take classroom learning to Cape Cod

WEBSTER — Forty-six Saint Joseph School students in Grades 5 and 6 traded their traditional classrooms for the forests, fields, ponds, cranberry bogs, and coastal environments of Cape Cod during a three-day Outdoor Classroom experience in Yarmouth Port, Massachusetts, from Sept. 28–30.

The overnight program combined environmental science, outdoor adventure, and team-building activities designed to strengthen students' critical-thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills. The Yarmouth Port location was selected to complement Saint Joseph School's annual STEM Days at Webster Lake while giving students an opportunity to investigate a very different ecosystem.

"We selected the Yarmouth Port location because it allowed our students to build upon the environmental learning they experience during our annual STEM Days at Webster Lake while exploring an entirely different ecosystem," said Principal Beth Boudreau. "The students were able to learn through direct observation, hands-on investigation, and collaboration—and they had an incredible time doing it."

The highlight of the trip was an excursion to Chapin Memorial Beach. Arriving at low tide, students explored the beach's vast intertidal zone and searched for signs of coastal and marine life, including hermit crabs, moon snails, and other organisms that inhabit the changing environment between land and sea. Students observed firsthand how tides influence habitats and the plants and animals that depend upon them.

Throughout their stay, students selected from a variety of hands-on classes based on their individual interests. In Camouflage and Stalking, they learned how and why animals use camouflage before practicing their own ability to hide within a natural environment. During Terrarium Making, students created miniature ecosystems while learning how living and nonliving components interact.

Orienteering introduced students to the use of maps and compasses, while Wood Carving emphasized tool safety and traditional outdoor skills. In Forest Fires, students explored how fires begin, spread, and sometimes contribute to the natural process of forest renewal. During the evening Science Fair, students participated in demonstrations involving scientific principles such as air pressure, electricity, convection, and states of matter.

Some students selected a Wild Wellness class, during which they learned about the historical uses of plants and created an all-natural facial scrub. The popular Night Experience, also known as the "Night Hike," encouraged students to explore the outdoors after dark while learning how human senses adapt to nighttime conditions.

Beyond the academic lessons, students challenged themselves on a low ropes course, visited a cranberry bog, and participated in team-building exercises. Competitive—but friendly—games of gaga ball were a favorite during free time. Evenings were filled with singing, laughter, and camaraderie.

The food also earned especially enthusiastic reviews, with many students returning for second and even third helpings.

Although the trip began with rainy weather and many students were nervous about spending their first nights away from home, the group quickly adjusted.

"One of the most rewarding parts of the trip was watching students grow in confidence and independence," Boudreau said. "Some were nervous about being away from home for the first time, but by the final day, many were asking if they could stay longer. That transformation says so much about the quality of the experience."

The students were accompanied by Boudreau, Grade 5 Instructor Miss Norah Brennan, Middle School Science Instructor Mr. Mathew Kolesnik, and parent chaperones Mrs. Kristen Kracjik, Mrs. Melissa Copeland, and Mr. Michael Coan.

Saint Joseph School is grateful to the phenomenal Outdoor Classroom staff and to the faculty members and parents who helped make the trip a safe, meaningful, and memorable learning experience. Following the success of this year's program, the school has already booked its Outdoor Classroom trip for 2027.

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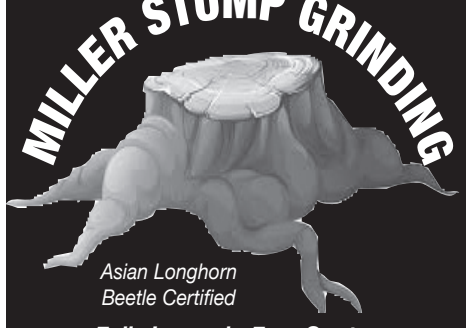
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QCC honors athletic greatness with inaugural Hall of Fame

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College will celebrate the history and legacy of its athletics program with the inaugural Athletics Hall of Fame Celebration on Saturday, Nov. 7 at 11 a.m. at the 670 West Boylston Street campus.

The QCC Alumni Athletics Hall of Fame was established to recognize former student athletes, coaches, teams and supporters whose achievements and service have made significant contributions to Quinsigamond Community College Athletics and the broader college community.

"The Athletics Hall of Fame provides an opportunity to recognize the individuals and teams whose accomplishments have elevated QCC Athletics and strengthened our college community," said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja. "These honorees have left a lasting impact on our campus and exemplify the determination, excellence and perseverance that define the QCC spirit."

The inaugural Hall of Fame class includes the 2006-07 men's basketball team and former student-athletes Maurice "Mo" Horton, Rich Small and Trafficia Warburton.

Courtesy Photo

The 2006/2007 Quinsigamond Community College Men's Basketball team.

The 2006-07 men's basketball team remains one of the most accomplished teams in QCC history. Despite competing with a nine-player roster, the team captured state and regional championships and advanced to the National Junior College Athletic Association Division III Final Four, ultimately finishing fifth in the nation. The team was inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame in 2015.

Horton helped lead the 2006-07 team and remains the only player in program history to surpass 1,400 career points. He went on to play for Worcester State University and remains connected to local sports organizations through coaching and volunteerism.

Warburton remains one of the top-performing women's basketball players at QCC. In her second season, she led the league in both scoring and rebounding. In addition to her stats, she was known as being incredibly hardworking on and off the court.

Small's connection to QCC Athletics has spanned decades. He was a member of the men's basketball program and later returned to support the program as a volleyball coach and mentor, helping develop future student athletes. Today, Small remains a dedicated athletics ambassador, promoting and documenting QCC sporting events through his photography and community engagement.

This event is free and open to the public with registration required. Spectrum NECN Sports Director Kevin Shea will serve as the emcee. Additional details and registration information are available at QCC.edu/event/2026-11-07/athletics-hall-fame.

Worcester Chamber announces 12th Startup Worcester cohort

WORCESTER — The Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the 10 companies and organizations selected for the 2026–2027 cohort of StartUp Worcester, marking the 12th year of the entrepreneurship program.

StartUp Worcester is a joint program of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce and WorcLab designed to help launch and grow new businesses while supporting entrepreneurs in Central Massachusetts. Presented with support from program sponsors M&T Bank and Millstone Law, participants receive a complimentary membership to the Chamber and WorcLab, access to coworking space, and opportunities for mentorship via the program and SCORE, networking, fundraising, and other programming designed to help early-stage ventures develop and scale.

Since its launch, StartUp Worcester has supported entrepreneurs across a wide range of industries, from technology and professional services to food, health, transportation, and social enterprise. Alumni have gone on to secure funding, expand their operations, earn regional and national recognition, and continue growing their businesses in Central Massachusetts.

The members of the 2026–2027 StartUp Worcester cohort are:

• Artist Health Coverage: Led by Magdelene Barjolo, Artist Health Coverage is a nonprofit initiative in the early validation phase that helps freelance creatives access affordable healthcare through enrollment assistance, venue partnerships, and member-owned coverage models.

• Avanza Ability Partners Inc.: Founded by Mayerling De La Rosa and two partners, Avanza Ability Partners provides bilingual navigation and culturally responsive support for families of individuals with developmental disabilities while preparing for state agency contracting.

• Born For More: Founded by Michaelangelo Shavies, Born For More is a youth-empowerment social enterprise that pairs mentorship with a gamified mission platform, aiming to generate up to $25,000 this year through curriculum licensing and pilot programs.

• Dewar Performance: Founded by Melissa Dewar, Worcester-based Dewar Performance provides transparent SEO and website strategies for local contractors and service providers, aiming to establish repeatable systems and recurring retainer revenue.

• Golden Transportation and Logistics LLC: Founded by Navy veteran Maxwell Adu-Boakye, this pre-launch non-medical transit service leverages 13+ years of healthcare contracting experience to provide dignified, dependable transportation for Worcester County veterans, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

• Greenhouse Bread: Founded by head baker Vanthara Hill with technical support from David Hill, Greenhouse Bread is a bootstrapped Millbury bakery finalizing its municipal licensing to bring sustainable, artisan sourdough directly to local markets and pop-ups.

• Lexagy LLC: Founded by Raymond Carville, Lexagy LLC is a bootstrapped, Worcester-based software company currently in beta testing for its subscription-based family reading and community-sharing platform ahead of a November 2026 launch.

• My Collective: Founded by Crystal McGlynn, My Collective blends mindfulness, movement, and art through proprietary wellness frameworks at its Sturbridge studio while actively working to scale B2B corporate wellness packages.

• Vanguard Insight: Co-founded by Andrew and Jacqueline Swenson, Vanguard Insight is an early-stage, self-funded Worcester consulting firm utilizing StartUp Worcester to scale its operations and workforce development services for local businesses and nonprofits.

• Wuoti Law LLC: Founded by Amanda Wuoti, Wuoti Law LLC provides accessible, unbundled contract legal services across Massachusetts and Rhode Island, having generated $45,000 in its first year while serving roughly 30 active clients.

"The 12th StartUp Worcester cohort reflects the breadth of entrepreneurship taking place across Central Massachusetts," said Mike Kane, of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce. "These founders are tackling challenges in areas ranging from transportation and healthcare access to technology, professional services, food, and youth development. We look forward to connecting them with the resources, mentors, and relationships that can help them take their businesses to the next level."

The 2026–2027 cohort begins programming this month. Throughout the program year, participants will have opportunities to connect with fellow entrepreneurs, business leaders, mentors, and members of the region's broader startup ecosystem while developing the skills and relationships needed to strengthen their ventures.

StartUp Worcester alumni include companies and founders that have achieved milestones ranging from significant outside funding and facility expansion to national startup recognition. Alumni of the program include: Petricore, Solvus Global, HydroGlyde Coatings, Munq, Wicked Wheels, Wake the Way, the Jewelry Co-Op, and EZBusy.ai.

United Way of Central Massachusetts supports Girls on the Run Worcester County

WORCESTER — Girls on the Run Worcester County is pleased to be the recipient of a grant from the United Way of Central Massachusetts Women's Initiative. This grant aligns with the United Way of Central Massachusetts Women's Initiative mission of addressing violence in the lives of middle school age girls.

Girls on the Run Worcester County inspires girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident through an evidence-based curriculum that creatively integrates running. The after-school program teaches girls healthy habits and critical life skills such as positive self-talk, teamwork, and navigating big emotions. Volunteer coaches undergo training to effectively create welcoming environments, support individual growth, and deliver lessons that help girls improve competence, confidence, caring, character, and connection.

Each eight-week season culminates with a team-led Community Impact Project and celebratory 5K event. The end-of-season Girls on the Run 5K provides participants with a tangible sense of confidence that comes through accomplishment and a framework for setting and achieving life goals.

"Girls on the Run Worcester County is incredibly grateful to the United Way of Central Massachusetts Women's Initiative for this generous investment in our girls and our mission. This partnership allows us to create spaces where girls can build confidence, form meaningful connections, discover their strengths, and develop the skills they need to navigate life with courage and resilience. We are proud to partner with an organization that shares our belief in the power and potential of every girl," said Karen Spencer, Executive Director, Girls on the Run Worcester County.

United Way of Central Massachusetts Women's Initiative is dedicated to igniting positive change for adolescent girls (ages nine to 15) through philanthropy, women's leadership, and advocacy. By supporting Girls on the Run Worcester County, the United Way of Central Massachusetts Women's Initiative will directly impact girls by helping Girls on the Run Worcester County provide scholarships and high-quality programming for girls who may otherwise be unable to participate due to financial barriers. This funding ensures that more girls have access to a safe, supportive environment where they build confidence, strengthen social and emotional skills, and discover the power of believing in themselves. Together, the non-profit and the United Way of Central Massachusetts Women's Initiative are excited to continue empowering the lives of young girls throughout Worcester County.

"The United Way of Central Massachusetts Women's Initiative is proud to partner with Girls on the Run in creating opportunities for girls to build meaningful relationships, connect with positive role models, and develop skills that will serve them throughout their lives. Their work reflects our shared commitment to helping girls across Central Massachusetts thrive," said Anabelle Santiago, Manager, Women's Initiative United Way of Central Massachusetts.

Since, 2014, Girls on the Run Worcester County has served and inspired thousands of girls to cross the 5K finish line. In a recent end-of-season survey, caregivers and coaches alike confirmed the power of the program. Ninety-six percent of parents/caregivers agree that Girls on the Run was a valuable experience for their child, and 95 percent of coaches felt that they were making a difference in participants' lives.

Additionally, a third-party study that surveyed coaches and program site hosts showed that Girls on the Run (GOTR) supports a positive school climate. Of the current teacher coaches surveyed, 99 percent said that GOTR supports their school climate by encouraging physical activity and health among students and by fostering an environment where students' thoughts, feelings, and ideas are valued. Ninety-five percent of current program site hosts said GOTR supports their school climate by supporting mental health by building students' social-emotional capacities and by fostering feelings of connectedness among students.

To learn more about the organization's mission or how to get involved, please visit www.gotr-worc.org.

About Girls on the Run Worcester County

Girls on the Run Worcester County creates and offers empowering after-school programs designed for girls in grades 3 to 8. The nonprofit helps participants build confidence, increase physical activity, and develop life skills like managing emotions, resolving conflicts, and forming friendships. With the support of trained coaches, team members activate their limitless potential through a blend of physical activities and engaging lessons. The research-based curriculum explores topics relevant to eight- to 13-year-old girls, such as expressing empathy and standing up for oneself and others. The program includes a Community Impact Project and culminates with a celebratory 5K. Discover more at www.gotr-worc.org.

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Saint Joseph School honors priests

WEBSTER — Saint Joseph School in Webster recently recognized Father Richard Polek and Father Anthony Kazarnowicz in observance of Priesthood Sunday, celebrated this year on Sept. 27.

Following the school's weekly Friday Mass on September 25, Grade 3 students Rayna Parslow and Camden Bergman presented gifts to the priests on behalf of the entire school community. The presentation followed remarks by Principal Beth Boudreau, who thanked both priests for their service to Saint Joseph School and Saint Joseph Basilica.

Priesthood Sunday is an annual celebration honoring the vocation of the priesthood and recognizing the dedication and faithful service of Catholic priests. It also provides an opportunity to pray for priests, for an increase in vocations, and for those discerning a call to the priesthood.

Father Richard, pastor of Saint Joseph Basilica and headmaster of Saint Joseph School, and Father Tony are important members of the school community. Through their celebration of Mass and the sacraments, their prayers and spiritual guidance, and their presence at school events, they help students grow in faith and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ. Their support strengthens the school's Catholic identity and reminds students that faith is at the heart of everything they do.

The students, families, faculty, and staff of Saint Joseph School expressed their gratitude to Father Richard and Father Tony for the many ways they serve the school and parish communities.

Courtesy Photo

Saint Joseph School Grade 3 students Rayna Parslow and Camden Bergman join Father Richard Polek and Father Anthony Kazarnowicz at the altar of Saint Joseph Basilica after presenting them with gifts in recognition of Priesthood Sunday.

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Webster - 106 East Main St (Rte 12) Commercial Opportunity!

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Webster- 3 Oakwood Dr

Presenting a meticulously maintained Colonial! This inviting home, spans 2,042 sf +/-, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths. The living room offers a sophisticated ambiance, enhanced by hardwood floors, crown moldings & custom built in shelves. Also provides a 2 car att'd garage for secure parking & storage. MLS#73523347 $589,900

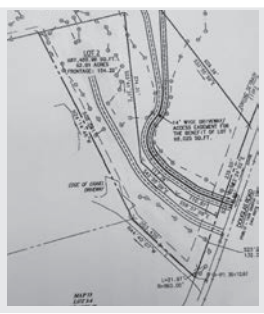
Featured New Listing! 24 Laurelwood Dr Webster Lake Waterfront

On the shores of prestigious Webster Lake! Experience ultra-luxury lakefront living with direct water access. This young modern craftsman lake home is masterly designed to maximize panoramic Western views through a two-story architectural tower. The home boasts 3,790 +/- square feet of sophisticated, three-story living space, complete with multilevel waterside decks, a radius stone faced patio, and a tiered landscape with its own waterfall. From morning coffee to sunset gatherings, you will enjoy every minute overlooking your waterfront. The 1,735 +/- square feet main level features a spacious open floor plan, welcoming you into a kitchen, dining, and living area tailored for intimate social hosting. The living room flows seamlessly onto an expansive open deck and into an exquisite sun-drenched sitting room. A magnificent primary bedroom suite offers a private full bath, double sink vanity, walk-in closet and dressing room. The purposely designed lower level delivers effortless, large-volume entertainment, featuring a full second kitchen and a sprawling recreation room that opens to a substantial lakeside patio. With 2 additional bedrooms and bath, this level easily serves as a private guest floor. This Lake property is designed to create long-lasting memories! MLS#73563787 $1,750,000

Webster ~ 33 Slater Street

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

Featured New Listing! Webster Lake Waterfront - 86 Bates Point Rd
This Beautifully Maintained Two-Level Waterfront Panoramic WATER VIEWS from almost every Single Window!! 50 Ft of Sandy Shoreline!! Front-row Northwest-facing Sunsets !!.. Offering a sweeping Wall of Windows to enjoy watching Mother Nature at her Finest!! Wood Flooring!!...This Main Level has an Effortless Layout adding a Roomy Convenient Bedroom & Large Closet, Full bath, 1/2 Bath & Laundry!!... Downstairs, the Walk-out Lower Level Transitions into a phenomenal Guest Retreat with 2 Bedrooms, Living space, and Full Bath!!..2 Car Garage! MLS#7356983 $1,050,000.


Webster - Douglas Rd (Rt 16) ANR Lot # 2
Building Lot, 2.01 +/- acres, 154' road frontage, Surveyed and portioned out of a larger tract of land, Zoned ASFR (Agricultural Single Family Residential) Located near State Land
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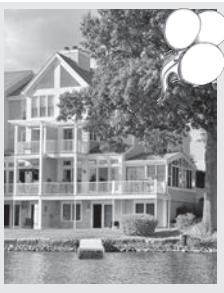
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Webster Lake ~ 60 Wakefield Ave ~ Corner Lot!
Rare Lake Residential Building Opportunity! 1 of 2 build-ready level, landscaped lots ~ each with 1/3 ownership of a private, prime waterfront lot, swimmable & boatable, where you will enjoy a sun drenched sandy shoreline & boat dock ~ just baby steps away from your NEW home! You will have direct lake access, low off-Lake taxes, access to municipal water/sewer services and an established neighborhood. Build now or build later BUT enjoy Webster Lake IMMEDIATELY!

Go To MLS # 73582966 $277,500.

Webster Lake ~0 Wakefield Ave

Rare Lake Residential Building Opportunity! 1 of 2 build-ready level, landscaped lots ~ each with 1/3 ownership of a private, prime waterfront lot, swimmable & boatable, where you will enjoy a sun drenched sandy shoreline & boat dock ~ just baby steps away from your NEW HOME! You will have direct lake access, low off-Lake taxes, access to municipal water/sewer services and an established neighborhood. Build now or build later BUT enjoy Webster Lake IMMEDIATELY!
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Rotary Club of Sturbridge presents Sixth Annual TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K & Fun Walk

STURBRIDGE — Runners, walkers, families and Halloween enthusiasts are invited to hit the trails again this fall when the Rotary Club of Sturbridge presents its annual TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K and Fun Walk on Sunday, Oct. 25.

Pre-registration is now open for the family-friendly event, according to Race Director Klaus Hachfeld. Participants can pre-register at RaceRoster.com by entering "Sturbridge" in the search field. Those who register before Oct. 19 will receive this year's free collectible TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K T-shirt.

Courtesy Photo

Costumes are part of the fun at the annual TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K & Family Fun Walk, as this spirited group demonstrated before hitting the trail at last year's race.

"Partnering with TREK Sturbridge has become a great way to bring people together, enjoy some of Sturbridge's beautiful trails and have a little Halloween fun at the same time," Hachfeld said. "More importantly, every registration helps Rotary put money back into the community through scholarships for local students and support for other community projects and needs."

All activities begin at the Old Sturbridge Village Education Center on Old Sturbridge Village Road. (Participants should note that the Education Center is not the Old Sturbridge Village Academy located near the village's main entrance.) Parking will be available in the Education Center lot.

The event features a timed 5K Trail Run, a Fun Walk and a timed 1K Pre-Teen Run. In keeping with the Halloween spirit, participants are encouraged to come in costume. Activities begin at 9 a.m. with a free costume parade, relay races and organized games for young children at the Education Center.

The timed 1K Pre-Teen Run begins at 9:15 a.m. and is open to children ages 12 and younger. Registration is $20, and the course is accessible to participants with mobility challenges.

The timed 5K Trail Run and Fun Walk begin at 10 a.m. The course follows Old Sturbridge Village Road and the Arbutus Park Trail through the Leadmine Mountain Wildlife Conservation Lands. Registration is $35 for the 5K and $30 for the Fun Walk.

Registered runners and walkers can also compete in the Best Costume competition prior to the 11:15 a.m. awards ceremony, with winners selected by popular choice.

Race-day registration will be available beginning at 8:30 a.m. Participants may register on their own devices using a QR code available at the site. Paper registration forms will also be available for those unable to register online.

The TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K & Fun Walk is a fundraiser of the Rotary Club of Sturbridge, with proceeds supporting the club's scholarships for local students and other community service projects.

"People who participate in the TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K & Fun Walk aren't just signing up for a race," said Sturbridge Rotary Club President, Tim Gresenz. "They're helping Rotary continue the work we do throughout the year to support students, families and organizations in our community. We hope they'll come out, bring the family, wear a costume and make a morning of it."

For additional information or to become an event sponsor, contact Race Director Klaus Hachfeld at laserklaus@gmail.com or visit the Sturbridge Rotary Club Web site at https://sturbridgerotary.com.

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Celebrate Winnie the Pooh's 100th birthday at Wales Public Library

Courtesy Photo

Proceeds from the Raffle will help support future programs and needs of the Wales Public Library. Tickets are available to purchase now during regular library hours Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 2-6 p.m., Wednesday noon to 6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to noon.

WALES — All are welcome to join the Friends of the Wales Public Library, 77 Main St., Wales, in celebration of Winnie the Pooh's 100th Birthday!

Festivities will be on Saturday, Oct. 24. Drop in for this free celebration anytime between 9-Noon to hear stories of Winnie the Pooh and his friends, play a game of Pooh sticks, build a house for Eeyore, write birthday cards for Winnie the Pooh, get a tattoo of the characters from the book, enjoy a scavenger hunt, meet a beekeeper, and try a smackerel of "hunny" along with a birthday treat.

The real-life Winnipeg (Winnie) was a Canadian black bear who was a military mascot brought to England by a Canadian veterinary officer. Before Lieutenant Harry Colebourn left for the WWI front in France, he left Winnie at the London Zoo, where she became a friendly and popular attraction.

A.A. Milne visited the zoo with his son Christopher Robin and when they went home, Christopher renamed his stuffed bear Winnie. The Pooh part of Winnie-the-Pooh's name came from a swan that the family met on their holiday.

Inspired by Christopher Robin's stuffed animals including Eeyore, Piglet, and numerous stuffed friends, A.A. Milne created tales full of adventures in the 100-acre woods that we can still enjoy one hundred years later.

Please register on the Wales Public Library Facebook events page, email: wales@cwmars.org, or call 413 245-9072. We are grateful to Country Bank for Savings for sponsoring this event. The Publick House will provide birthday treats.

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