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Thursday-Friday, February 5-6, 2026

33rd Annual Cartoon Character Breakfast returns soon

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Lions Club reminds the community that its 33rd Annual Cartoon Character Breakfast will take place on Sunday, Feb. 8 — Super Bowl Sunday — at the Southbridge Community Center, 153 Chestnut St.

This family-favorite event runs from 7 a.m. to noon and invites children to meet their favorite cartoon characters while enjoy-

ing an all-you-can-eat breakfast featuring pancakes, French toast, and ham. A DJ will be on hand throughout the morning, playing great tunes to add to the festive atmosphere.

In the spirit of Super Bowl Sunday, attendees are welcome to come dressed in their best New England Patriots gear or game-day attire. Jerseys, hoodies, lucky hats, and game faces are all encouraged, with priz-



Brimfield to mark 250th anniversary of Independence

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

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

Additional details and updates will be available through the Friends of Historic Brimfield event Web site, www.fohbrimfield.org. Tax-deductible donations can also be made in support of this celebration through this website, and in gratitude, donors will be recognized in the event program. Donations can also be mailed to: Friends of Historic Brimfield, P.O. Box 52, Brimfield, MA 01010 with "Spirit of Brimfield" in the memo.

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

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

Friends of Sturbridge Trails Sixth Annual ice carving winter event returns

STURBRIDGE — The Friends of Sturbridge Trails invites you to reserve a free block of ice and give ice sculpting a try at its sixth annual Ice Carving Event. Sculpt at home, experiment with friends or family, and then place your creation along our Riverlands trail. This year's theme is patriotic with and evening lit stroll, transforming the Riverlands trail into a glowing winter gallery for the whole community to enjoy. This is a perfect creative winter project and adventure for families, scout troops, classrooms, friends, and neighbors.

Ice Blocks must be reserved by emailing Jen Scherer at: jenchriss27@aol.com by 6 p.m. Feb. 9. The Ice Blocks are free, courtesy of the Sturbridge Tourist Association who is covering some of the costs of this event.

Ice blocks will be delivered to the Riverlands, 52 Stallion Hill Rd., on Wednesday, Feb. 11 for pick up from 4 until 6 p.m. The



theme for this year's event is Patriotic: "Celebrating our 250th Anniversary". Carvers can set out their work on Saturday, Feb. 14, starting at 3 p.m. Volunteers will be assisting ice block set out. Submission judging, and professional ice carver

es awarded to the top three looks for a fun and friendly competition.

All proceeds from the breakfast will support the Southbridge Lions Club's charity fund, benefiting local families, individuals, and community organizations in need.

Tickets may be purchased in advance from any Southbridge Lions Club member or at the door. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 10, with credit and debit cards accepted in addition to cash.

The Southbridge Lions Club looks forward to welcoming families for a morning of food, fun, music, and community spirit — a great way to kick off Super Bowl Sunday.

Distillery is also providing a gift certificate that will be awarded to the judges favorite Ice sculpture. Ice sculptures will remain out on the main trail of the Riverlands until Mother Nature melts them away. Parking for this event will be in the main Old Sturbridge Village parking lot, at 29 Stallion Hill Rd, directly across the street from the Riverlands, extra lighting and volunteers will assist in safe crossing of Stallion Hill Rd for this event. Thanks to Old Sturbridge Village for the use of their parking lot!

Wondering how on earth you could sculpt ice?

Here is a video highlighting 10 levels of sculpting ice: from using only hand tools to using more intricate power tools:

https://youtu.be/jmeO6oPaoI0?si=fM_gkUc8fhQbFcggan

Additional questions, and to reserve your block of ice contact Jenifer Scherer at jenchriss27@aol.com

The Friends of Sturbridge Trails (FrOST) is a 501 3c

Charlton Lions grateful for your cast-offs

CHARLTON — The Charlton Lions Club turns your redeemable cans and bottles into cash that helps fund their annual scholarships to graduating high school seniors in their community. This past year, they awarded three \$1,000 scholarships. A good portion of that money came from the Club's frequent redemption sessions at Ted's Package Store in Charlton.

Thus, the Lions are grateful for the cast-off bottles and cans that residents and friends leave in the two large blue bins on North Main Street across from the Charlton Fire Department garage.

Every few weeks, several members of the Charlton Lions meet at 7:30 a.m. on a Sunday morning to empty the bins into pick-up beds and drive a mile down route 31 to Ted Mroczkowski's



Courtesy

Charlton Lions recently spent a chilly Sunday morning redeeming cans and bottles to raise money for their scholarship fund.

store. Ted graciously opens his redemption center just for them. They spend the next hour or so feeding cans and bottles into the machines. It's a messy, loud job, but worth

the time and effort when they cash in their slips and realize about \$200 each session for their scholarship fund.

They are especially grateful to friends and neighbors who bring only redeemable items: containers that are labeled returnable in Massachusetts. Bottles and cans that held juice, water and wine are not redeem-

able. Only containers that held liquids with carbonation are returnable for their deposits. (Also, cans from certain local breweries — such as those from Tree

House — must be taken back to the brewery.)

Odd items sometimes turn up in the recycle bins. During the last redeeming session, a brand-new Junior Railers whistle was found. If you accidentally put it in the recycle bin with your cans and bottles, you can claim it by sending the name of the person written on the box to thecharltonlions@gmail.com.

The Lions of Central Massachusetts are part of Lions Clubs International District 33A, a network of 45 local Lions Clubs dedicated to serving the communities of Central Massachusetts. Lions focus on addressing critical community needs, including hunger, vision care, youth services, and disaster response. To learn more, visit www.lionsdistrict33a.com.

Cards & Collectibles Show

in Charlton Feb. 7

CHARLTON — Our Goal at Dynamic Card Collectors was to bring a show to Central Massachusetts that truly had the entire family in mind. By designing a show with a truly unique variety of vendors, we feel we succeeded in bringing a unique family friendly event close to home.

Just minutes from Worcester — the second-largest city in New England — don't miss out on Central Massachusetts' biggest quarterly Cards and Collectibles Show! Now with nearly 90 tables featuring Sports Cards & Memorabilia, Trading Card Games like Pokémon and One Piece, Anime

Collectibles, Funkos, and so much more, this event is a must-attend! You'll find some of the top vendors in the state, exciting door prizes, and food and beverages available for purchase. It's an event you won't want to miss! The cost to enter is \$5 at the door, kids 12 and under are free.

The excitement kicks off Feb. 7 at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph's Church, located at 10 H Putnam Rd. Ext., Charlton, and runs until 4 p.m. Each event will feature fantastic door prizes for both Sports and TCG enthusiasts! Door prize tickets will be drawn at 3 p.m., and winners do not need to be present to

claim their prizes!

A big thank you to our amazing sponsors—Best Flippin' Card Show, Mana Springs TCG, and the volunteers from Charlton City UMC—for making this event possible, as well as for providing delicious breakfast and lunch options!

Look for signs guiding you to the event, which is in the lower level of the church around the back. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out. Tickets can be purchased at the door, and we accept cash, credit cards, and Venmo. We can't wait to see you at the show!

St. Anne – St. Patrick's Calendar Raffle celebrates Lucky Month

STURBRIDGE celebrating the month — St. Anne – St. Patrick's Day

Calendar raffle. One lucky winner will be drawn each day.

The winning ticket will be reentered for more chances to win. Raffle tickets are \$10 each.

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

Other prizes include gift cards to St. Anne's Gift Shop, Tutti Quant, Napoli's Pizzeria, Elm Street Café, Big Bunny Supermarket, Nova's Restaurant, Holland, Publick

House, and tickets to Entertainment Luxury Theater.

Raffle tickets may be purchased in the St. Anne Gift Shop and in the St. Anne

– St. Patrick office. Proceeds benefit St.

Anne – St. Patrick Parish.

St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish is an active parish community.

It offers daily Mass for

worship, religious

education, and

community minis

tries. It welcomes

visitors to St. Anne

Shrine, the new

Memorial for the

Unborn, the Hall of

Saints, the Russian

Icon Exhibit, the Votive Chapel, the Generations Statue, and the Angel of Hope Monument.

Our pilgrims feel at peace walking the ground, including the Stations of the Cross and the Holy Stairs. And weather permitting, pilgrims also have access to a picnic grove.

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

Charlton City UMC tackles

hunger with Souper Bowl of Caring

CHARLTON — The Charlton City United Methodist Church is tackling hunger this Super Bowl Sunday by participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring.

The Souper Bowl of Caring began in a church in 1990 with a simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy this Super Bowl foot

ball game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat."

In 2026, the CCUMC is bringing it to Charlton. They are trying to Tackle Hunger by collecting for their Manna Food pantry. Each month, they help more than 35 families from Charlton,

Southbridge, Sturbridge, and Spencer. If you would like to donate, please send a check to CCUMC, PO Box 1151, Charlton City, MA 01507, made out to the church and marked Souper Bowl, or use the QR code at <https://www.charltoncityumc.org/>.

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

Sunday worship and Children's church 10am

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

Saturday Vigil Mass at 4pm, 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 Dennis Drive, Southbridge

Phone number 508-764-6132,

Worship Service: Sunday 10:00 a.m.

• **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862,

www.stjosephscharlton.com Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.

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

• **Assemblies of God Southern New England District**

Headquarters, Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

• **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Pastor

Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349

Sunday Service 10:00am.

www.livingwordcharlton.com

info@livingwordcharlton.com

• **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA,

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

• **Federated Church of Sturbridge and**

Fiskdale

8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021

www.sturfed.org

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

• **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566

Phone 508-347-7297

[Web: www.bethlehemsturbridge.org](http://www.bethlehemsturbridge.org)

Services - Sunday 9:00 am

Pastor Dan Purtell

• **Holland Congregation Church**

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11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926

[Hollandchurch.org](http://www.hollandchurch.org)

Sunday Service @ 10:00 am

Pastor Dan Maketansky

• **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**

446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550

Phone: 508-765-9559

[Web: www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org](http://www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org)

Sunday Service 11:00 am

Pastor Dan Purtell

• **St. John Paul II Parish**

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Rev. Carlos Ardila, Pastor

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

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visit www.townofcharlton.net

or more information.

Individual offices may vary

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For emergencies, dial 911

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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

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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

<p

Final public hearing on CDBG Mini Entitlement grant application set for Feb. 9

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Town of Southbridge will hold public hearings to receive public input on the Town's FY21- FY24 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Mini Entitlement (ME) Program Activities and the FY2025 CDBG ME Grant Application. Current CDBG activities include code enforcement, street improvements, housing rehabilitation, and commercial façade improvements. Potential activities include downtown beautification, business development, street

improvements, and public social services. All activities are based on the FY24 Community Development Strategy.

The final hearing will be held

in the Economic Development and Planning Department, Town Hall, 41 Elm St., Southbridge, on Monday, Feb. 9 at 5 p.m.

The Town

encourages any member of the public wishing to provide input and be heard to attend any meeting. Comments may be submitted in writing by email to

sstarkey@southbridgemass.org or by mail: Attn: Sue Starkey, Economic Development and Planning Office, Southbridge

Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA 01550. Written comments will be accepted until Feb. 6 at 11 a.m.

Any comments received will be read at the next public hearing.

Funding by the U.S. Department of

Development and the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, Massachusetts CDBG Program.



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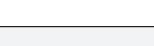
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER
BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

*Anchoring community
through winter's
quiet days*

In the quiet stretch between the new-year energy of January and the first spring buds, our tri-town communities of Southbridge, Sturbridge, and Charlton settle into a rhythm that can feel both slow and profoundly steady. February's cold does not halt life here; it changes its pace.

Winter can teach us something about endurance. The trees that look bare are quietly conserving their strength. Under snow and frost, roots stretch and ground itself stores life. Residents of our area know this intuitively: we tire of the short days, but we adapt to them. We celebrate the Little League sign-ups and the arrival of February vacation week with equal anticipation, because both remind us that this season—like all others—is part of the larger cycle of community life.

Right now, civic and nonprofit groups are planning through the winter months, scheduling select board and planning board meetings, organizing youth programming at Old Sturbridge Village, and hosting library events that offer a midday respite from the chill. These small gatherings and committee meetings might not always make headlines. But they are where local residents roll up their sleeves to shape our towns' futures.

The local winter event calendar reflects a mix of practical assembly (town commissions, neighborhood meetings) and family-oriented programming. Organizations are making space for homeschool days, educational workshops, informal social gatherings, and even food truck visits that bring neighbors out of home and into shared spaces. These interactions, small and simple, build the connective tissue that helps our towns move forward together—especially in winter's quieter days.

It's important to note that the vibrancy of our community does not only come from headline festivals or big ticket events. It's also in the Scout troop meeting at the municipal building, in conversations at the local library between toddler story time and evening seminars, in the conversation around a table at a local brewery's food truck night. Participation matters. Attending matters. Even just knowing these things are happening matters.

We invite everyone to look closely at the calendar in this paper as more than just dates and times. See it as a reminder of the ongoing story of our tri-town region: one of civic engagement, neighborly support, volunteer energy, and the steady hum of community life. Winter may suppress the flower buds, but it does not diminish the value of community effort that carries us toward spring.

Letter submission

policy

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

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

OPINION

Love languages can help you enjoy Valentine's Day on a budget



FINANCIAL
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Valentine's Day doesn't have to break the bank. In fact, the most meaningful expressions of love often cost little to nothing. The key is understanding your partner's love language and tailoring your approach accordingly. When you know what makes your partner feel truly valued, you can create memorable experiences without the financial pressure that often accompanies this holiday.

The five love languages — words of affirmation, acts of service, receiving gifts, quality time and physical touch — offer a roadmap for showing affection without overspending. Here's how to express your love while staying financially smart this Valentine's Day.

Words of affirmation: For partners who value verbal expressions of love, heartfelt words matter far more than expensive gifts. Write a letter expressing what you appreciate about them, create a personalized playlist with songs that remind you of your relationship or record a video message. All are free but carry immense emotional value. For this love language, thoughtful expression surpasses financial investment every time.

Acts of Service: If your partner feels loved through helpful actions, Valentine's Day is about sweat equity, not spending. Cook their favorite meal, tackle chores they've

been dreading or, for those who have expressed frustration with budgeting, create a simple budget tracker or spreadsheet tucked into a decorative folder. Your time and effort demonstrate your love. The beauty of acts of service is that they cost little to nothing but demonstrate care and attention.

Receiving Gifts: Even gift-oriented partners don't need expensive presents to feel valued. Focus on thoughtfulness and personalization over price tags. Try DIY crafts that show you put time into creating something. Explore thrift stores for vintage treasures or consider giving stock in a company your partner loves — a retail store, a tech brand or a coffee chain. Many platforms offer fractional shares, so you don't need a huge budget. Remember: A \$10 item chosen with care can mean more than a \$100 generic gift.

Quality time: For those who value undivided attention, experiences often cost less than gifts. Check for free museum days, plan a scenic hike, go stargazing or create a cozy home movie night with homemade popcorn. The key is being fully present without dis-

tractions. For a longer-term outlook, consider a future fund jar for shared goals, like a couples massage or a trip. Make the first deposit and pair it with a handwritten note about building dreams together.

Physical Touch: Intimacy and affection are inherently free, but small comfort investments can enhance closeness. Create an at-home spa experience with inexpensive bath products, invest in cozy blankets for cuddling, or clear space in your living room for dancing together. These minimal purchases amplify connection without requiring significant spending.

There's no wrong way to celebrate Valentine's Day, and overspending isn't necessary. If you're diligent about budgeting, you'll know what you can afford to spend. Understanding your partner's love language empowers you to express affection in ways that resonate deeply — without the financial stress. The best Valentine's celebrations come from the heart, not the wallet.

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

Auction news and goodbye



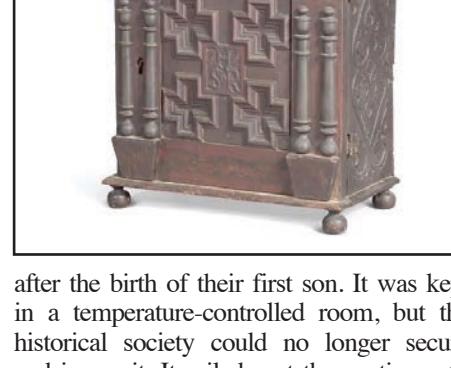
ANTIQUES,
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• • • • •

WAYNE TUISKULA

It's been a few weeks since I shared the latest auction news, and plenty has taken place since then.

Beginning with local news, a Western Massachusetts historical society recently consigned a piece of furniture for auction that generated significant funds for the group. I've noted in previous columns that most antique furniture has dropped in value over the years. This piece was certainly an exception. The Swift River Valley Historical Society's website describes themselves as "the leading resource in preserving the artifacts, stories and records of the lost towns of the Quabbin Valley." It is the historical society for the towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts took residents' properties in those four towns by eminent domain, and everyone had to relocate by April 28, 1938. The land was flooded several months later to create the Quabbin Reservoir, which provides water to the Eastern part of the state. The Swift River Valley Historical Society had a cabinet from 1677 that had been donated by Annie Frances Ballard, according to the Greenfield Recorder. Ballard was a descendant of one of the cabinet's original owners. The cabinet door was crafted with two sevens for 1677 and a heart with the initials of Symon and Rebeckah Horne. They were an Andover, MA, couple who commissioned the cabinet



after the birth of their first son. It was kept in a temperature-controlled room, but the historical society could no longer secure and insure it. It sailed past the auction estimate of \$600,000 to \$800,000, selling for \$1,636,000 earlier this month. According to the Greenfield Recorder, the historical society will use the funds to make their "building accessible for people with disabilities, and make the facility more user-friendly for archivists and historians."

An auction of memorabilia related to our nation's history also took place earlier this month, with two George Washington paintings selling very well. A 1783 painting depicting Washington as a general by Charles Peale Polk brought \$577,850, while a Gilbert Stuart portrait of Washington went for \$2.8 million, according to Artnet News. A printed copy of the Declaration of Independence from 1776 sold for \$5.6 million, and a printed copy of the Emancipation Proclamation signed by Abraham Lincoln earned \$6.7 million.

A draft of the United States Constitution with notes by founding father Rufus King was the highest selling piece, bringing \$7.3 million.

A more contemporary item set an auction record in November. Auction records for sports memorabilia and comic books are frequently being broken, and a rare Superman 1939 first issue comic book has done it again. The comic book was discovered by three brothers who were cleaning out their mother's attic, according to an AP article. The copy graded a 9.0 out of 10, remarkable for an issue that old. It went up, up, and away, fetching over \$9 million.

I've greatly enjoyed the 10-plus years I've been writing this column. It's been wonderful meeting many of you who've invited me to appraise items at local appraisal events, asked me to lecture about antiques, have consigned items with me, or have taken the time to email me about articles I've written. Our workload has been increasing every year, leading me to take a hiatus from writing. Please keep my contact information in case you may need help in the future. Once again, thank you to everyone who has read this column and thank you for your support.

Our single-collector Civil War auction starts next week. The following sale will include fine jewelry, sterling silver, art, and other antiques and collectibles. We'll be running a major sale with sports cards and memorabilia in the summer. We are accepting consignments for our next two sales. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services info@centralmasauctions.com or (508-612-6111).

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MAIN STREET
By CHARLES

There is a corkboard inside our local post office that I pass every time I mail a letter. It is cluttered in the best possible way. Thumbtacks hold up handwritten notes, curling flyers and business cards that have seen better days. Guitar lessons. Snow plowing services. A lost cat notice that has been there long enough to feel like part of the décor. Community dinners. Yard sales scheduled and then rescheduled with a pen scribble in the margin.

Most people walk past it without stopping. They are in a hurry to drop mail, grab a package and get back to their day. But every now and then, someone pauses. They lean in. They read. Sometimes they smile. Sometimes they pull out a phone to take a picture of a phone number written in blue ink.

That board is not fancy. It is not digital. It does not send notifications. Yet it quietly does its job, connecting neighbors in a way that feels very Massachusetts.

I grew up in a time when community news traveled slowly and personally. You heard things at the counter of the general store, in the pews at church or while waiting for your coffee to cool. Today, information moves faster than ever, yet it often feels less human. We scroll past announcements without really seeing them. We click "interested" on events we never attend. We collect more information but fewer connections.

That corkboard is a small act of resistance to that trend. It says: here is a place where real people leave messages for other real people. It is imperfect. It is slightly crooked. It smells faintly of paper and tape. And it works.

You see similar boards in libraries, town halls and coffee shops across our region.

They are community living rooms in miniature. Each note represents someone taking a chance that a neighbor might need what they are offering or offering what they need.

There is something brave about pinning up a piece of paper with your phone number on it. It is a quiet statement that says, "I am part of this place, and I am willing to be found."

It made me think about how often we hide behind screens. We text instead of talk. We email instead of knock on doors. None of that is wrong, but it does change the texture of community life. A handwritten sign taped to a window or pinned to a board carries a different weight. You can see the handwriting.

You can tell if the person was in a hurry or took their time. You can sense effort.

I watched an older woman stop at the post office board last week. She read carefully,

adjusting her glasses, nodding slightly at a few notices. Then she pulled out a small stack of papers and added one of her own. I did not see what it said, but I saw the care she took in placing it just right, smoothing the corners before stepping back to admire her work.

That moment felt important. It was not loud. It was not broadcast to hundreds of followers. It was one neighbor speaking quietly to another through paper and thumbtacks.

We often talk about keeping Main Street alive. We focus on storefronts, parking spaces and foot traffic. Those things matter. But so do these smaller, almost invisible threads that tie us together. Bulletin boards. Flyers. Handwritten notes. Conversations that start because someone stopped long enough to read.

Next time you pass one of these boards, take a moment. Read a few notices. You might find something useful. You might learn something new. Or you might simply be reminded that community is not built by algorithms. It is built by ordinary people sharing space and information in ordinary ways.

Sometimes the lanterns along Main Street are not hanging from poles or glowing in windows. Sometimes they are pieces of paper, quietly lit by the simple hope that someone else is paying attention.

Gateway Players to hold fundraising performance of “Godspell”

SOUTHBIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre is excited to announce special fundraising performances of the beloved musical “Godspell” in support of Elm Street Congregational Church. This collaborative event promises an uplifting evening filled with inspiring music, energetic performances, and a shared spirit of community.

Gateway Players Theatre has called Elm Street Church home since 2017 when our long-time home; The Barn at the Ruth Wells Art Center was discovered to be structurally unsound. We are so appreciative of the church and their support that we feel the need

to give back. All proceeds from these performances will go directly toward supporting the Roof Capital Campaign held in 2025. By attending, you’ll not only enjoy a night of fantastic entertainment but also contribute to important improvements to this historic church.

Performance dates are March 20 & 21 at 7:30 p.m. and March 22 at 2 p.m. The performances will be held at Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. in Southbridge.

Entrance is on Park Street (around the corner). Book by John Michael Tebelak, Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz.

Conceived and Originally Directed by John Michael Tebelak, Based on The Gospel According to St. Matthew.

“Godspell” is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). Directed by Lynn Boucher, Produced by Lou-Ellen Corkum and the Musical Director is Chris Rubenacker.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, and \$17 for Seniors and Youth. Tickets may be reserved by calling Gateway at 508-764-4531. Online credit card ticket sales are available at <https://www.ticketleap.com/events/tickets/gateway-players/godspell>

The cast includes: “Jesus” - Alex Gardner, “John the Baptist/Judas” - Mark Lammert Ensemble: Billy Bolster, David Yutzler, Davyn Walsh, Deb Hollett, Erin Simpson, Hannah Bilis

Heather Crabbe, Kirsten Smaltz, and Robyn De Gennaro.

“Godspell” was the first major musical theatre offering from three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner, Stephen Schwartz (“Wicked,” “Pippin,” “Children of Eden”), and it took the world by storm. Led by the international hit, “Day by Day,” “Godspell”

features a parade of beloved songs, including “Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord,” “Learn Your Lessons Well,” “All for the Best,” “All Good Gifts,” “Turn Back, O Man” and “By My Side.”

A small group of people help Jesus Christ tell different parables by using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques, and hefty doses of comic timing. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus’ life dances across the stage. Dissolving hauntingly into the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, Jesus’ messages

of kindness, tolerance, and love come vibrantly to life.

Boasting a score

with chart topping and a feature songs, a book by film, “Godspell” is a sensation that continues to touch audiences.

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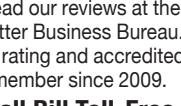
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All Saints students visit Worcester Art Museum

All Saints students visit Worcester Art Museum

WORCESTER — Grade 6 students from All Saints Academy recently visited the Ancient Civilizations galleries at the Worcester Art Museum, where they explored artwork from Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, and beyond. In addition to touring the galleries, students participated in a hands-on studio workshop focused on Egyptian cartouches. A cartouche is an oval shape that encloses a pharaoh's name in hieroglyphs and symbolizes protection and eternity. Reserved for royalty, cartouches often displayed both a ruler's birth name and throne name and later became essential to historians in deciphering hieroglyphs, including those found on the Rosetta Stone.

This immersive experience brought classroom learning to life by allowing students to see firsthand the artifacts, symbols, and artistic techniques they have been studying. Concepts discussed in class—such as the role of writing in ancient societies, the significance of art in expressing power and belief, and the daily lives of ancient peoples—became more meaningful as students observed authentic works of art up close. Creating their own cartouches helped students better understand the importance of names, symbolism, and written language in ancient Egypt while reinforcing lessons on hieroglyphs and historical interpretation.

During the visit, students also stopped by the Center for Nonviolent Solutions, where they were excited to view artwork created by 7th grade students from All Saints Academy on display. The pieces were submitted in the fall as part of a project that asked students



to respond to the question, "What does peace look like in your community?" Seeing student artwork displayed in a museum setting made the experience especially meaningful, inspiring students to connect history, art, and their own voices in powerful ways.



Courtesy

SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES DECEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the following students who were selected as December Students of the Month at Saint Joseph School. Pictured with Principal, Mrs. Beth Boudreau, are the following — Pre-K 3-year-old: Amelia Deptula; Pre-K 4-year-old: Grayson Larsen; Kindergarten: Marcus DiTullio-Cedeno; Grade 1: Dominik Kicilinski; Grade 2: Liam Buschle; Grade 3: Paulina Obrycki; Grade 4: Tamara Giteru; Grade 5: Mia Reed; Grade 6: Kirolos Ibrahim; Grade 7: Grayson Dollar; Grade 8: Ivonka Warnajtys. Students are awarded Student of the Month for their outstanding exemplification of Religion, Respect, and Responsibility. Keep up the great work!

Saint Joseph School student advances in Lions Peace Poster Contest



Courtesy

Saint Joseph School seventh grader Sophia Surowaniec proudly holds her winning Lions Clubs International Peace Poster Contest entry, "Together as One," alongside Dr. John Kalinowski of the Webster-Dudley Lions Club, who visited the school to notify her that her poster is advancing to the district level.

WEBSTER — A seventh-grade student at Saint Joseph School has been selected as the school's winner in the 2025 Lions Clubs International Peace Poster Contest, earning the opportunity to advance to the district level.

Sophia Surowaniec, daughter of Piotr and Kristy Surowaniec of North Grosvenordale, Conn., received the news during a visit to Saint Joseph School by Webster-Dudley Lions Club member Dr. John Kalinowski, who personally notified her that her poster was moving forward and posed for photos with the student.

This year's contest theme, "Together as One," encourages students to share their vision of peace through original artwork. The Peace Poster Contest aims to allow children in schools and youth groups everywhere to express their visions of peace through their art. Lions Club members, through local service, strive to spread joy, kindness, hope, and peace within the community.

Sophia is a repeat winner for Saint

Joseph School—her 2024 entry was also selected to move on in the competition. She is also deeply involved in school leadership and service as a member of Saint Joseph School's Eagles Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society, Treasurer of the Children of Mary Sodality, a member of the Varsity Cheer Team, and an Assistant Coach for the Eaglets Cheer Team.

Students develop and refine their contest ideas in art class with Saint Joseph School's Art Instructor and Fine Arts Director, Ms. Brigid Campbell, who supports students in connecting artistic choices to the message they want to communicate.

School leaders noted that the contest aligns closely with Saint Joseph School's mission of Religion, Respect, and Responsibility, giving students a meaningful way to express compassion, unity, and respect through creativity.

Congratulations to Sophia Surowaniec on this achievement.



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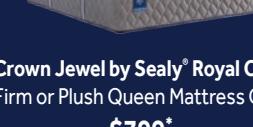
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All Saints Academy comes together to honor local veterans

WEBSTER — The All Saints Academy community came together to honor local veterans with a special breakfast and ceremony this past Veterans Day.

In the school gym, decorated by Grades 4 and 5 with handmade cross table decorations symbolizing gratitude for veterans' bravery, courage, and service, we gathered to honor local veterans from our community as well as veterans invited by our students. A Veterans Wall, thoughtfully created by Grade 6, displayed meaningful acrostic poems that reflected students' appreciation and respect for those who have served our country.

The morning began with a warm welcome to our honored guests, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Students in Kindergarten through Grade 3 proudly recited poems expressing thankfulness and admiration for our veterans. Grades 7 and 8 played an important role throughout the event by assisting with serving food and engaging the veterans in friendly, respectful conversation.

The veterans were extremely appreciative of the morning and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to share their experiences. They were especially touched by our commitment to teaching students the importance of honoring and understanding the sacrifices made throughout their military careers.



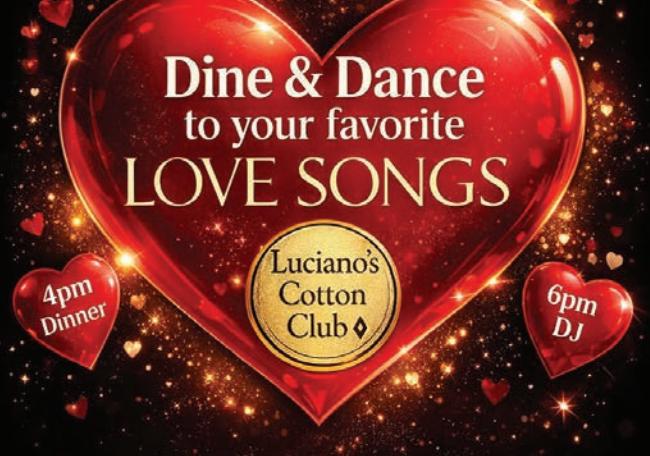
and learning first-hand about their service, making the celebration both meaningful and memorable for everyone involved.

Through this special event, we wanted our veterans to know that

they are remembered, valued, and appreciated not only on Veterans Day, but every day.

Valentine's Night

Maxwell Luciano's at Union Station



Saturday, February 14, 2026

Call 508 755-1200 for reservations

The Groundhog Day verdict is in!

Cornelia's prediction at EcoTarium comes as no surprise



WORCESTER — Monday morning at the EcoTarium, Worcester's very own weather-predicting groundhog, Cornelia, emerged from her burrow and carefully looked around her habitat, sniffing at lettuce and other treats. Mayor Joe Petty watched Cornelia carefully and then delivered the official Groundhog Day proclamation before a crowd of teachers, students, and community leaders.

"Today, Cornelia has emerged from hibernation to search the ground at the EcoTarium for her shadow, as, like her ancestors before

time-honored tradition," said Noreen Smith, EcoTarium President & CEO. "This really is Cornelia's day to shine. While most groundhogs were still asleep, Cornelia was hard at work analyzing the conditions and making her forecast."

Guests were treated to a close-up experience with Cornelia,

as her dedicated keeper shared fascinating insights into her daily care: "Cornelia is still shaking off her winter sleepiness, as at the EcoTarium, Cornelia does not fully hibernate, although she does slow down between October and March, eating less and sleeping for most of the day. She managed to wake up

to enjoy breakfast with all of us this morning. She enjoyed a spread of greens and vegetables. After eating, she quickly made herself comfortable again in her toasty nest!"



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LEGALS

The Brimfield ZBA will hold a public hearing at 5:00 pm on February 23, 2026 at the Hitchcock Free Academy, 2 Brookfield Rd, Brimfield on behalf of Christopher and Crystal Harry of 212 East Hill Rd. Assessor's parcel 5-A-4.2, Book 19519, Page 438. The applicants are seeking reversal of zoning enforcement actions pertaining to their home-based auto detailing business in the AR district. Abutters are welcome to attend and share feedback.

January 30, 2026

February 6, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200

Docket No. WO26P0324EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR

FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:

Edgar Charles Smick, Jr.

Date of Death: 09/25/2025

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Cathy P Renaud of Southbridge MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:

Cathy P Renaud of Southbridge MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/03/2026**.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: January 30, 2026

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

February 5, 2026

TOWN OF CHARLTON DPW INVITATION TO BID MAINTENANCE OF RECREATIONAL PROPERTIES MOWING & SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES

The Town of Charlton is seeking proposals from qualified landscape & plowing contractors, hereinafter referred to as the Bidder, for the purposes of maintaining town recreation fields, town common, and other municipal sites. Bidders must be able to perform varied landscaping services including mowing, trash removal, field maintenance, mulching, and snow removal.

Prospective bidders must obtain and utilize the bid package which shall be requested from the Office of the Town Administrator beginning Wednesday, February 4, 2026. To obtain a copy of the bid package, contact the Office of the Town Administrator either by email: mary.devlin@townofcharlton.net, phone: (508) 248-2206, or pick up at the Office of the Town Administrator, Charlton Municipal Offices, 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA, 01507. The Office of the Town Administrator must receive sealed bids appropriately marked "Grounds Maintenance" no later than Thursday, February 26, 2026, by 10:00 a.m. The sealed bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in Meeting Room 1, Charlton Municipal Offices, 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507.

Any questions should be directed to Harold Piehl, DPW Superintendent at (508) 248-2212.

The Town Administrator in his capacity as Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to waive any minor informality in the bids and reject any or all bids and to make awards in the manner deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.

February 5, 2026

February 12, 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 February 11, 2026, at 7PM on the application of 13 Gables Inc.

The applicant has requested an Amendment to the Order of Conditions DEP # 128-1908 for an upgrade to an existing culvert. The project location is: (Lot 1B) 45 Northside Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 25-A-2.15

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request. Copies of the NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.

Thomas O'Malley

Chair, Charlton Conservation

Commission

February 5, 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 February 11, at 7PM on the application of Nelson Burlingame.

The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for the remodeling of an existing garage into a single-family home and the installation of a septic system and associated grading within the 50-ft buffer zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The project location is: 186 Burlingame Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 51-C-2.1

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 can access the meeting remotely by request. Copies of the NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.

Thomas O'Malley

Chair, Charlton Conservation

Commission

February 5, 2026

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL

The Sturbridge Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Town Hall Veterans Hall - 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566.

The Public Hearing concerns an administrative appeal filed by Spencer Joseph Caron, Esq. on behalf of Patricia McCleary of 17 Plimpton Avenue Sturbridge. The appellant requests relief from a decision of the Building Inspector refusing to enforce the Zoning Bylaws against the alleged use of property at 20 Ponton Street for commercial purposes.

A copy of the appeal is available for review at the Office of the Town Clerk during normal business hours or at <https://www.sturbridge.gov/zoning-board-appeals/pages/recent-filings>.

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://global.gotomeeting.com/join/472675877>

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

Diane Trapasso, Chair Sturbridge Zoning Board of Appeal

February 5, 2026

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Ben Wright and Heather Wright to Champion Mortgage, a Division of Keybank National Association, dated November 25, 2005 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 37952, Page 128, subsequent-

ly assigned to Household Finance Corp II by Champion Mortgage, a division of Keybank, NA, A National Bank by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 40970, Page 240, subsequently assigned to DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc. by Household Finance Corporation II by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 55824, Page 293, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank National Association, as indenture trustee, for the CIM Trust 2016-1, Mortgage-Backed Notes, Series 2016-1 by DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc. by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 60063, Page 29, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as indenture trustee of CIM Trust 2021-NR1 by U.S. Bank National Association, as indenture trustee, for the CIM Trust 2016-1, Mortgage-Backed Notes, Series 2016-1 by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 66663, Page 144, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, as Trustee, as successor-in-interest to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as Indenture Trustee of CIM Trust 2021-NR1 by U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as indenture trustee of CIM Trust 2021-NR1 by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 70920, Page 1, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as Indenture Trustee of CIM Trust 2021-NR1 by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 71976, Page 325 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 2:00 PM on February 19, 2026 at 8 Simpson Street, Sturbridge, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

ALL THAT PARCEL OF LAND IN TOWNSHIP OF STURBRIDGE, WORCESTER COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN DEED BOOK 34734,

PAGE 297, ID# 588-35E43-008,

BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOTS NUMBERED 175, 176, 177,

178 AND 179 AS NUMBERED AND

SHOWN UPON A PLAN OF LOTS OF

BELLEVUE PLAT MADE FOR EAGLE

REALTY COMPANY BY MITCHELL

AND GENEREUX, ENGINEERS,

DATED MAY 1919 AND RECORDED

WITH THE WORCESTER DISTRICT

REGISTRY OF DEEDS PLAN BOOK

33, PAGE 15. LOTS NO. 175, 176,

177, 178 AND 179. BY FEE SIMPLE

DEED FROM JOHN W. GILES AS SET

FORTH IN BOOK 34734 PAGE 297

DATED 09/09/2004 AND RECORDED

09/30/2004, WORCESTER COUNTY

RECORDS, COMMONWEALTH OF

MASSACHUSETTS.

The premises are to be sold subject to

and with the benefit of all easements,

restrictions, encroachments, building

and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes,

tax titles, water bills, municipal liens

and assessments, rights of tenants

and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of **FIVE THOUSAND**

DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00)

in the form of a certified check, bank

treasurer's check or money order will

be required to be delivered at or before

the time the bid is offered. The suc-

cessful bidder will be required to ex-

ecute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement

immediately after the close of the

bidding. The balance of the purchase

price shall be paid within thirty (30)

days from the sale date in the form

of a certified check, bank treasurer's

check or other check satisfactory to

Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee

reserves the right to bid at the sale,

to reject any and all bids, to continue

the sale and to amend the terms of the

sale by written or oral announcement

made before or during the foreclosure

sale. If the sale is set aside for any rea-

son, the Purchaser at the sale shall be

entitled only to a return of the deposit

paid. The purchaser shall have no fur-

ther recourse against the Mortgagor,

the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's

attorney. The description of the prem-

ises contained in said mortgage shall

control in the event of an error in this

publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE

ESSENCE.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

U.S. Bank Trust Company, National

Association, not in its individual capaci-

ty but solely in its capacity as Indenture

Trustee of CIM Trust 2025-NR1

Present Holder of said Mortgage,

By Its Attorneys,

ORLANS LAW GROUP PLLC

Local historian releases groundbreaking Revolutionary War study

Book signing scheduled Feb. 14 at Joshua Hyde Public Library

STURBRIDGE — Local historian and author Walter J. Hersee announces the release of “To Defend All That Is Dear,” a groundbreaking reconstruction of Sturbridge’s Revolutionary War roster that recovers dozens of forgotten patriots and provides a replicable research model for communities preparing for the nation’s 250th anniversary.

A public book signing and author talk will be held on Saturday, Feb. 14 at 10:30 a.m. at the Joshua Hyde Public

Library, located at 306 Main St., Sturbridge. Unlike traditional Revolutionary War histories that retell familiar battles, *To Defend All That Is Dear* focuses on the recovery of the soldiers whose service was omitted, mis-recorded, or lost through generations of incomplete documentation. Through meticulous archival work—including cross-referencing the Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors volumes, pension files, muster rolls, Continental

“Every community has missing patriots,” Hersee explains. “Their absence isn’t intentional—it’s a quiet drift caused by record loss, transcription errors, and assumptions passed down over centuries. This book shows how towns can recover

returns, bountiful records, and town meeting those names and restore them to the story.”

The study also serves as a practical guide. Hersee’s transparent methodology demonstrates how individuals, local historians, genealogists, and historical societies can rebuild their own Revolutionary War rolls using both traditional and modern tools. With the 250th anniversary approaching, the book arrives at a crucial time for communities seeking accurate histories and inclusive commemorations.

Hersee, a

member of the Sturbridge Historical Commission, the Community Preservation Committee, and several regional history initiatives, has been widely recognized for his work updating Sturbridge’s honor rolls and re-examining long-standing assumptions about local Revolutionary War service.

“This is more than Sturbridge’s story,” Hersee notes. “It’s a blueprint. Any town—large or small—can do this work and rediscover those

who stepped forward ‘to defend all that is dear.’”

Published under his imprint, Heritage Oak Press, the book includes corrected service profiles, narrative insights, and detailed explanations of the research process—bridging scholarly rigor with accessible community history.

Residents, history enthusiasts, genealogists, and representatives from regional historical societies are encouraged to attend the Feb. 14 event to meet the author, learn about the research, and

He serves on several historical and municipal committees and is the author of “Common Witness: Leaves from a New England Town” and forthcoming works from Heritage Oak Press.

LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Trial Court

Probate and Family Court

Worcester Probate

and Family Court

225 Main Street

Worcester, MA 01608

(508) 831-2200

Docket No. WO25P2247EA

CITATION ON PETITION

FOR ORDER OF

COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

Estate of:

Angele Bulotiene

Also known as: Anele Bulotiene

Date of Death: 10/15/1965

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Helen Lozoraitis of Mattapoisett MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, 1st and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/24/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 28, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
February 5, 2026

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
COURT
26 SM 000274
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
Stephanie Anne St. Germain; Ryan Lucas Goff
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq):

Freedom Mortgage Corporation claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Sturbridge, numbered 37 Breakneck Road, given by Stephanie Anne St. Germain and Ryan Lucas Goff to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Home Point Financial Corporation, dated October 22, 2020, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 63565, Page 41, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant/s/ Defendants’ Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before March 16, 2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on January 27, 2026.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
February 5, 2026

Eastern student Hannah Johnson of Holland makes fall Dean’s List

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — Eastern Connecticut State University recently released its Dean’s List for the fall 2025 semester, in which 1,311 students were recognized for maintaining high GPAs.

Among them is Hannah Johnson of Holland, a full-time junior who majors in Physical Education.

To qualify for Dean’s List, full-time students must complete a minimum of

12 credits in letter-graded courses with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher in the semester. Part-time students are eligible if they’ve accumulated 15 or more credits of letter-graded coursework with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Eastern Connecticut State University is the state of Connecticut’s public liberal arts university, serving upwards of 4,000 students annually on its Willimantic campus. A residential cam-

pus offering 41 majors and 68 minors, Eastern offers students a strong liberal arts foundation grounded in a variety of applied learning opportunities. Ranked among the top 25 public institutions in the North by U.S. News & World Report in its 2025-26 Best Colleges ratings, Eastern has also been awarded ‘Green Campus’ status by the Princeton Review 15 years in a row. For more information, visit www.easternct.edu.

Charlton resident Marisa DeJesus named to Dean’s List at Boston University

BOSTON — Marisa DeJesus of Charlton has been named to the Dean’s list of Boston University. DeJesus received academic honors at Boston University for the 2025 fall semester.

A senior at BU, DeJesus is majoring in Earth & Environmental Sciences, with a dual minor in Biology and Marine Science, in the

University’s College of Arts & Sciences.

Founded in 1839, Boston University is an internationally recognized institution of higher education and research. With nearly 37,000 students, it is one of the largest private residential universities in the United States. BU consists of 17 schools and colleges, along with the Faculty of Computing &

Data Sciences and a number of multi-disciplinary centers and institutes integral to the University’s research and teaching mission. In 2012, BU joined the Association of American Universities (AAU), a consortium of leading research universities in the United States and Canada.

Wales Community Pantry hosting Bingo fundraiser

BRIMFIELD — The Wales Community Pantry is hosting a Bingo afternoon at the First Congregational Church in Brimfield Feb. 15 from 2-5 p.m.

Get your game on and come join us for an afternoon of Bingo fun and support a good cause! Win gift cards for a night out.

All proceeds go to the Wales Community Pantry! Coffee & tea will be available, and baked goods will be available for purchase. Bingo night pricing is \$20 entry fee, which includes two tickets. \$5 for each additional ticket. You can buy ticket online or at the door. Bring friends, fami-

ly, and your lucky Bingo charm!

All proceeds directly support the Wales Community Pantry so we can continue helping neighbors in need.

To purchase tickets online, visit <https://secure.givelively.org/event/wales-community-pantry/bingo-win-a-night-out?>

Allison Moloney named to Dean’s List at Stonehill

EASTON — Allison Moloney, a member of the Class of 2026 from Brimfield, has been named to the Fall 2025 Dean’s List at Stonehill College.

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

Visit here for the full list.
About Stonehill College

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

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

business and pre-professional fields, Stonehill College provides an education of the highest caliber that fosters critical thinking, free inquiry and the interchange of ideas for over 2,500 students.

Stonehill College educates the whole person so that each Stonehill graduate thinks, acts and leads with courage toward the creation of a more just and compassionate world.

Colleen Thomas named to University of Bridgeport’s President’s List

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. — Colleen Thomas of Charlton was named to University of Bridgeport’s Fall 2025 President’s List.

Thomas was among more than 330 students named to the Fall 2025 President’s List.

To be named to the President’s List,

a student must maintain a term grade point average of 3.7 or higher.

University of Bridgeport offers career-oriented undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees and programs for people seeking personal and professional growth. The University promotes academic excellence, per-

sonal responsibility, and commitment to service. Distinctive curricula in an international, culturally diverse, and supportive learning environment prepare graduates for life and leadership in an increasingly interconnected world. The University is independent and non-sectarian. www.bridgeport.edu

He serves on several historical and municipal committees and is the author of “Common Witness: Leaves from a New England Town” and forthcoming works from Heritage Oak Press.

Walter J. “Wally” Hersee is a Sturbridge-based historian, researcher, and author whose work centers on recovering forgotten local stories through deep archival research.

OBITUARIES

Patricia Lyons Corey

Patricia Lyons Corey passed away on Sunday, November 23, 2025 in Seattle, Washington. Born in Southbridge, Massachusetts on June 29, 1948 to Joseph Lyons and Beatrice Paul Lyons. Pat attended Notre Dame Parochial School and graduated from Southbridge High School. Pat spent most of her adult life in New Canaan, CT.

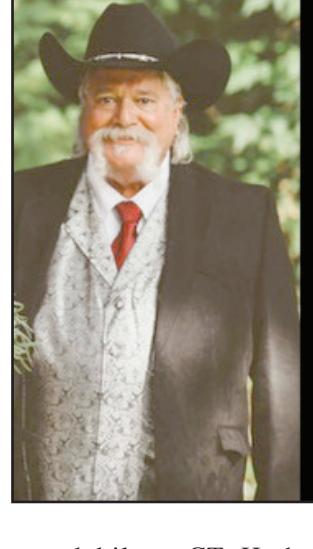
She is survived by her husband Michael Corey of 56 years, son Andrew Corey, daughter-in-law Kimburly Corey, grandchildren Julian and Sydney and

brothers Paul and Joe Lyons. During her time in New Canaan, Pat held volunteer roles within the New Canaan school system as well as with the New Canaan Nature Center. Pat earned a B.A. from Montclair State College and an M.B.A. from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Pat and Michael moved to Seattle in 2019 to be closer to their son and his family. Her grandchildren brightened her days. Pat had a passion for helping others, nature, animals and above all her family. She is greatly missed.

Robert J Peloquin, 72

Robert J Peloquin, 72, of Norwich CT [formally of Southbridge, MA] passed away on January 22, 2026, at his home after a long illness. He graduated from Southbridge High School/Cole Trade in 1972 as Class Vice-president and captain of the Southbridge High School Pioneers football team. He was a machinist by trade and held various positions including General Dynamics, TI Group Automotive and Walbro Plastics. He was happiest when he was with his children and grandchildren, Cullen Baudner and Harrison Peloquin. He enjoyed watching New England sport teams and cooking.

He is survived by his children, Jay and Samantha Baudner of Colchester, CT, Daniel Peloquin and Elise Stanmyer of Moosup, CT and Jaclyn Peloquin of Colchester,



CT. He was predeceased by his parents, George and Charlotte Peloquin of Southbridge, MA. He is also survived by his siblings: Ellen Ruppert of Newport, RI, Patti and Ted Nikolla of Southbridge, MA, Anne Leduc of Newport, RI, William and Cynthia Peloquin of Bakersfield, CA, Paul and Karen Peloquin of Sun City, AZ, Peter and Lisa Peloquin of Myrtle Beach, SC, Mary and Ron Childs of Newport, RI and Jane and Bill Proulx of Bolton, CT. He has several nieces and nephews including many great-nieces and great-nephews. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. A Celebration of life will be held at later date. For online condolences or to share a story of Robert, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneral-home.com

Bay Path graduates sought for Class of 1976 reunion

REGION — Hello, lassmates of Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School Graduating Class of 1976. Can you believe it's been 50 years?!

A small group of us have gotten together to begin planning our 50th class reunion. The people in this group are Bonnie (Aker) Courtemanche, David Saad, Jeff Mitchell and Clifford Cloutier.

We are searching for our classmates for a 50th year class reunion. We have a Facebook page setup that you can go to and let us know your contact information and if you are interested in a reunion party. You can reach

out to the Facebook page BAY PATH VOCATIONAL HIGH CLASS OF 1976.

We would like to hear from you even if you don't think you will be able to make it. We invite you to send a message/well wishes to your classmates. We can share your messages for others to read that night.

We will be compiling a list of those we have not heard from in hopes that classmates we have heard from can help locate them. We would love to get this message out to all our classmates.

We hope to hear from you and see you at our reunion.

Hampton, NH- Diane C. Sawicki, 76, of Dearborn Ave., passed away unexpectedly on January 26th in her home.

She leaves her son, Joseph Z. Sawicki and his wife Meghan of Faribault, MN; her loving daughters, Laurie Sawicki of Wolfeboro, NH and Amanda Broder and her husband Rob of Shelburne, VT; her brother, Robert Jacques and his wife Sandy of Southbridge; Grandchildren, Emma Sawicki, Aaron Sawicki, Cole Butcher, and Eleanor Broder.

She was predeceased by her brother Richard Jacques.

Diane was born in Southbridge, the daughter of Roger J. and Cecile E. (Lamothe) Jacques. She loved growing up on Mechanic Street in Southbridge and often spoke fondly of playing with neighborhood friends and spending time with her grandparents. Diane spent most of her working life as a bank teller in Southbridge and New Hampshire before retiring from LTC Partners Insurance in 2020.

Diane was vibrant and active, with a deep love of crafting, reading, and time at the beach.

Above all, she cherished her family and



Diane C. Sawicki, 76

friends. She started weekly dice games with neighbors in her apartment building and kept up regular lunch dates with former coworkers. Christmas was especially dear to her, she delighted in creating meaningful, handmade gifts for the people she loved. Quick-witted and playful like her father, and warm and joyful like her mother, Diane laughed easily and loved to tease. When asked recently what she was most proud of, her answer was simple and heartfelt: her children.

A funeral service for Diane will be held on Tuesday, February 10th, in the Daniel

T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, at 11:00am. A calling hour in the funeral home will be held Tuesday, February 10th from 10:00-11:00am, prior to the service. Burial will be held at a later date.

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, is directing arrangements.

Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home
130 Hamilton St.
Southbridge, MA 01550
508-764-7922 Fax 508-764-3262
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the New Hampshire SPCA.

Cornerstone Bank renews support for Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester to expand ESOL and workforce readiness programs

WORCESTER

— Cornerstone Bank has committed \$4,000 in continued support to Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester (LGVW) to help expand its English as a Second Language (ESOL) and Workforce Readiness Program for New Americans, strengthening access to English language education and employment pathways for immigrants, refugees and migrants in the greater Worcester community.

The 2025 contribution builds on Cornerstone Bank's prior support of \$3,000 in both 2023 and 2024 and will help LVGW expand class offerings, recruit and train volunteer tutors and provide individualized career and employment assistance. The program addresses critical barriers to employment, education and civic participation faced by New Americans while supporting long-term economic stability in the region.

"With strong community partners like Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester, we can help ensure that

opportunity is accessible to everyone," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "By supporting ESOL and workforce readiness programs, we are investing not only in individual success, but in the strength and vitality of the entire Worcester community."

In 2025, LVGW helped 451 adult learners benefit from English instruction, individualized tutoring and direct pathways to greater economic security. LVGW has served nearly 12,000 adult learners from more than 120 countries since its founding in 1973.

Cornerstone Bank's renewed investment will support the program's second year of expansion, helping New Americans gain the English language and workforce skills they need to succeed in work, school and daily life.

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

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Help Wanted

The Resident Care Facility at Saint Joseph's Abbey, 167 North Spencer Road, Spencer, MA., has an opening for a part time facility cook.

Hourly wage negotiable depending on experience and related skills

Requirements: High School Diploma or GED. Ability to speak and read English required. Must be able to understand written policies and procedures. Must be able to work unsupervised while following food safety protocols.

For more information and to apply,
contact Wally Connor,
Facility/HR Manager at
(508) 885-8700 Ext. 550 or
by email: wally@spencerabbey.org

Laborer/Driver STURBRIDGE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Town of Sturbridge D.P.W. is accepting applications to fill a Laborer/Driver Position. This is a full-time position. Valid Class A or B CDL and Equipment Hydraulic License 2A are preferred and required within 6 months of appointment. See the Job Description for more information. The starting rate for the position is \$24.64/hr. Applications are available at the Sturbridge Municipal Garage, New Boston Road Extension, Sturbridge, MA or on the Town of Sturbridge website under job opportunities. Applications are due by February 6, 2026. The Department is a Union shop. The Town is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).

Boat America safe boating course offered at Bay Path March 10 & 12

CHARLTON — The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts will be instructing the Boat America course that meets current and future state mandated educational requirements offered in a two-night format developed to provide the skills and confidence needed to explore the coast and inland waters by boat. Basic knowledge and skills are needed to have safe and enjoyable boating experiences.

This course is perfect for families that have just purchased any type of boat or are planning to in the future, and for the boater keeping up with changes to boating regulations and laws. Basic marlinespike seamanship (knots etc.) will also be included.

Successful completion of the BA course will certify any minor, from 12 to 16 years of age, to operate a powerboat, including a Personal Water Craft / Jet Ski (for 16 & 17-year-old operators), on all Massachusetts waters; in conjunction with the Mass. Environmental Police. Approved by National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) it will also cover the requirements to operate a vessel in most other states & many countries where boating safety education is mandatory including Rhode Island and Connecticut.

The Hanson-Milone Boater Safety Act, signed into Mass. Law Jan. 8, will now require all Massachusetts motorboat operators to complete an approved Safe Boating

Certificate course before April 1, 2026 for anyone born after Jan. 1, 1998, and by April 1, 2028 for boaters born before Jan. 1, 1998. Enforcement of the new law will begin on September 1, 2026. The BA course meets the future Mass. requirement. Most boating insurance companies offer a discount on premiums for successful completion of this course.

Participants 16 years old and under must be accompanied, in person, by a registered parent/guardian. Space is limited, so register soon:

Register online at via www.baypath.augusoft.net Fun & Play>Sports & Leisure links.

Class ID 42920 or by calling Sheri

Dreitlein (508) 248-5971 email sdreitlein@baypath.net

You can also contact our Public Education Officer Phil Kubat for registration or additional

information: email phil.uscgaux@verizon.net or call (508) 478-3778.

To locate these and other USCG Auxiliary courses go to: https://www.cgaux.org/boating/class_finder/index.php

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, please visit www.cgaux.org.



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Featured Listing
DUDLEY - 13 OXFORD AVE

2 -FAMILY offers 2,354 SF of living area! 2 Large Apartments, 5 Spacious Rms, 2 BRs, 1 Bath each. Beautiful grand front entry foyer with the charm of yesteryear! double French doors & other unique features. Plenty of Natural light that flows into these apartments! 2nd flr apt has a private enclosed rear entry with its own outside covered porch. Updates were done to electric & roof to accommodate Solar Panels. Property was family occupied \$379,900.

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



Two decades ago, Hope Real Estate Group opened its doors with a simple mission:
to serve our community by helping our Clients navigate the real estate market!
As we celebrate 20 years of success, we wish to express our sincere gratitude for the support of
our amazing Clients ~ Past, Present & Future & the Communities we serve in MA, CT & RI!

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



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Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!

SORRY, SOLD!

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



Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island

Renovated + move-in ready
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cathedral ceilings + wall of
windows. Primary suite w/
private bath! 2 add'l bedrooms,
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water. Wraparound deck, new
vinyl railings, terraced yard,
sandy beach, professional
landscaping. Many updates
\$775,000



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Bob Berk 508-367-9226

Vicki Bennett, Client Coordinator

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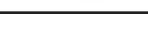
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New members join Fraternal Family

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MASONIC LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Saturday, Jan. 31, brethren from all around the 24th Masonic District, and dignitaries from the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts from Boston gathered at the Major General Salem Towne Masonic Lodge, Webster Masonic Apartments.

Many of these men traveled from long distances to witness and congratulate 3 young men who were raised to



Courtesy

Master Masons from the Major General Salem Towne lodge and the 24th Masonic District along with dignitaries from the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts from Boston.

Dog licenses now on sale in Southbridge

SOUTHBRIDGE — Dog licenses are now on sale for the Town of Southbridge for the year 2026.

A one-year license for a non-altered dog is \$20. If the dog is spayed or neutered, the price is \$10 for a one-year license. A certificate of spaying or neutering must be shown for first-time licenses.

**Crocodile River Music to perform
at Jacob Edwards Library**

SOUTHBRIDGE — Join

Crocodile River Music on Feb. 26 at 6:30 p.m., when they return to Jacob Edwards Library in Southbridge for a celebration of Black History Month!

This is a free event thanks to the support of Southbridge Cultural Council and Massachusetts Cultural Council.



Courtesy

From left to right—new members Brother Brendan Shunaman, Brother Harmon Hirtz, Master Paul Davidson (Major General Salem Towne Lodge), and Brother Aidan McCann.

the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. They are Brothers Harmon Hirtz of Charlton, Brother Brendan Shunaman of Southbridge and Brother Aidan McCann of Charlton. These men, along with other men, have followed this path and joined this great fraternity because of "Who We Are." We're men, each trying to be the best version of ourselves. We find it's easier to do that when we're with other men who share the same values. We're there for our brothers no matter what life may bring, and our brothers are there for us. We help others, not just because it's the right thing to do, but also because it helps us grow. We value Honor and Integrity. We believe there's always more to learn. As Freemasons we thrive to make good men even better.

Major General Salem Towne Masonic Lodge was chartered in 1859. What we do know is that after 167 years, the Major General Salem Towne Masonic Lodge and Freemasonry have continued to grow and make good men better. This is because we value our old traditions, and we think this is what attracts this younger generation of men. These men want to see and learn how it used to be and what it is like to value honor and integrity. If you would like more information about Freemasonry and to find a lodge nearest you, visit our website at www.massfreemasonry.org

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