

Charlton Villager

©2026, Issue #20

Free by request to residents of Charlton, Charlton City and Charlton Depot

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS

Thursday-Friday, May 21-22, 2026

Charlton Earth Day Cleanup nets more than two tons of trash

CHARLTON — On Saturday, April 25, approximately 150 residents participated in the annual Earth Day cleanup, collecting a total of 2.13 tons of trash. This figure exceeded last year's amount of 2.12 tons.

Residents — including many young children — ventured out to clean up roads, parks, sports fields, parking lots, highways, and other areas. Cigarette butts and nip bottles comprised the bulk of the trash, although fast food wrappers, plastic bags and bottles, glass and metal were also prevalent.

Nip bottles were collected separately in clear plastic bags. Residents found approximately 5,000 nip bottles. The Charlton Earth Day Planning Group hoped this specific endeavor



will encourage legislators to consider finding a viable solution to this problem.

The Charlton Earth Day Planning Group handed out heavy duty plastic bags, sturdy gloves, vests, tick prevention

stickers, tick removal kits, and grabbers to residents to ensure safety while picking up trash. Tee shirts, courtesy of Millenium Power, were distributed to the first 100 registrants. Seventh-grader Riley Boland cre-

ated the winning design.

The Earth Day celebra-

tion also included a Fest, which was held on the Charlton Town Common. Vendors included the Buffumville Corps of Engineers; Opacum Land Trust; AnnieMike's Honey; Keep Charlton Beautiful Committee; the Lions Club; Charlton Garden Club; Charlton Public Library; Capen Hill Nature Sanctuary; Charlton Conservation Commission; SwampDog Native Plant Farm; Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust; The Last Green Valley; Charlton Business Alliance; Second Chance Animal Shelter Mobile Unit, and several others.

The Fest also featured three food trucks: The Toasted Roasters, Suzy Q Ice Cream, and Big T's BBQ and Jerky House.

The Acoustic Ruckus (formerly the Grey Whisker Pickers) and Wormtown Mugwumps provided musical entertainment. Cara Smick Photography captured the day in photos from start to finish. The Charlton Fire Department conducted a car seat clinic for parents.

The Charlton Earth Day Planning Group is grateful to the Last Green Valley, which provided financial support for the event.

Our Bright Future awarded grant from FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund

SOUTHBRIDGE — Southbridge-based Our Bright Future has been selected as one of the first grant recipients of the FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund, an international initiative supporting education and youth opportunity through sport.

Our Bright Future focuses on empowering young people and families through educational support, mentorship, wellness initiatives, and community engagement programming in the Southbridge area.

Our Bright Future was among 27 grassroots organizations worldwide selected from more than 3,500 applications. Grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$250,000 will help expand programs serving children in underserved communities.

The FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund aims to mobilize \$100 million by the end of the FIFA World Cup 2026™ to expand access to education and football for children around the world. To date, the Fund has raised over USD 30 million with contributions from philanthropic foundations, leading brands and corporations, individual donors, and proceeds from ticket sales linked to major music and sporting events, including the FIFA Club World Cup 2025™ and the upcoming FIFA World Cup 2026™.

The first cohort of FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund grantees reflects both the global scale of need and the opportunity for meaningful impact. Collectively, the selected organisations reach thousands of children worldwide, including in regions where fewer than 15 per cent of students complete secondary education and poverty rates exceed 60 per cent. These figures highlight the urgency for targeted investment.

By supporting proven, community-led models that combine education, sport and local engagement, the FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund seeks to broaden access to learning, improve educational outcomes, and create pathways to opportunity for children in some of the world's most underserved communities.

"Football has the power to unite, inspire and create lasting change, and through the FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund we are putting that power into action to invest in the future of children around the world," said FIFA President Gianni Infantino.

"These organizations are doing extraordinary work, often in the most challenging environments, to ensure children have access to education and the

life skills that football provides. Together with Global Citizen, we are committed to expanding this impact and helping many more children realize their potential."

More information on the FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund and the inaugural grantees is available on globalcitizen.org/education-fund-grantees.

Applications are now open for the second cycle of grants from the FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund. Organisations providing access to education and sport for children in underserved communities worldwide are invited to apply for grants ranging from USD 50,000 to USD 250,000 by visiting globalcitizen.org/education-fund-apply.

Hugh Evans, Co-founder & CEO of Global Citizen, commented, "For children growing up in extreme poverty, access to education is not only life-changing, it's life-saving. The impact of the FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund is far reaching — beyond the lives of young people in classrooms and on sports fields, into these communities, where their quality of life will improve and cycles of poverty will be broken. I extend heartfelt congratulations to our first grantees, and gratitude for their remarkable work."

"We are deeply honored to play a role in an initiative of this scale and purpose — one that has the potential to transform lives and expand access to education for children around the world," said Joseph Mrak III, CEO of Foundation Source. "For more than 25 years, we have maintained that impactful philanthropy requires more than good intentions. Strong operational and compliance infrastructure is the cornerstone that allows generous gifts to reach those who need it most."

Founding donors to the FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund include Bank of America, the Official Bank Sponsor of the FIFA World Cup 2026™, which also serves as the bank of record for the Fund, as well as ticket sales from the FIFA Club World Cup 2025, the FIFA World Cup 2026, and FIFA Collect. Further pledges are expected from philanthropies, corporations and individuals in the coming months.

The non-fiduciary FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund advisory board includes FIFA President Gianni Infantino, Global Citizen Co-Founder and CEO Hugh Evans, Australian actor Hugh Jackman, US businesswoman and entrepreneur Ivanka Trump, Canadian singer-songwriter The Weeknd, Colombian singer-songwriter

Turn To **OBF GRANT** page **A10**

Charlton Middle School students compete in balloon race

CHARLTON — The annual Balloon Car Race at Charlton Middle School was an exciting—and occasionally unpredictable—celebration of creativity, engineering, and friendly competition for fifth-grade STEM students. Guided by teacher Nancy Doucimo-Garcia, students took on the challenge of designing and building balloon-powered cars while following the 8 Steps of the Engineering Design Process and applying Newton's Laws of Motion (yes, science really does make things go!).

Using recycled materials, students were tasked with creating a car that could travel at least 24 feet in a straight line—though as many quickly discovered, "straight" can be a bit of an ambitious goal

for a balloon-powered vehicle. Before building, students used a PBS simulation program to test and refine their ideas, saving themselves from a few early design disasters (and a lot of exploding balloons and runaway balloons).

Through hands-on testing, students learned how factors like air pressure, wheel size, and axle length affected performance. Some cars zoomed across the floor like rockets, while others... took their time, exploring at a more "scenic" pace. Each trial brought new insights, and students continuously improved their designs using data, teamwork, and plenty of determination.

The project culminated in a highly anticipated compe-

tion held on April 17. Out of more than 150 determined students, only 27 advanced to the final stage in the gymnasium—officially earning bragging rights as top innovators. The finals were structured into three heats, with nine students competing at a time. Each launch was filled with excitement as cars raced forward (or occasionally collided), all in pursuit of the coveted Thompson Speedway designer hats and checkered flags.

From these heats, nine standout racers advanced: Cayliana Pacher, Lily Soponski, Avery Nguyen, Anna Mancini, Nora Bright, Benson Bullock, Kerolos Sayed, Owen Dean, and Sierra Perec. The compe-

Turn To **BALLOON** page **A10**

Brimfield to hold Memorial Day services Sunday



BRIMFIELD — The Town of Brimfield will hold its annual Memorial Day Services on Sunday, May 24 at 2 p.m. on the Town Common. The committee encourages everyone to gather for this important day of remembrance and extends a special invitation to all area veterans, enlistees, and reservists.

As the nation celebrates its 250th, Brimfield is proud to pay tribute to the brave citizens who played a part in the establishment of our country and our freedoms. Town historian Mike

DeFalco will speak and share poignant details of the monumental impact of this milestone.

Ceremonies begin with the drum roll, and the Veterans call to order, followed by patriotic music and poems reflecting on the day, remembrance of current and former town residents who have died in the last year, and the ceremonial tolling of the bell.

State Representative Todd Smola will speak, Brimfield elementary sixth grade twins Emma and Bria Commeaux will recite the poems, and Father Jack Brennan of St.

Christophers will lead the prayers. The musical performances will include the Brimfield Elementary Band, Lillian Donahue, Audrey Spicer, and members of St. Christophers Folk Group.

"Brimfield has held services for Memorial Day as a town tradition that goes back beyond the memories of its oldest residents. As a committee, we believe it is important to take time to honor those who sacrificed everything," said committee chair Cindy Skowyra.

Committee chair Cindy Skowyra said, "Brimfield Turn To **MEM DAY** page **A10**

LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDERS



ASPHALT PAVING
Quality counts when no one is looking.
Asphalt paving for over 50 years!
Bill Keyes
SPENCER, MA.
774-261-5181
ESTABLISHED 1963
KeyesPaving.com | 508-347-7499

Local author Wally Hersee to present to Sturbridge Historical Society

STURBRIDGE — On Thursday, May 28, local historian and author Walter J. Hersee will give a presentation on his recently published book, “To Defend All That Is Dear.” This program, sponsored by the Sturbridge Historical Society, will take place

at 7 p.m. at the Publick House in Sturbridge. Hersee’s book centers on the recovery of the men who served but were never fully acknowledged — those omitted from monuments, misidentified in town histories, or lost to transcription errors in early archival work.

Hersee notes, “Not through intention, but through the quiet erosion of memory and record keeping over generations. This book shows how any community can find its forgotten soldiers and restore them to their rightful place in history.”

The book is designed by Hersee both as an historical contribution and as a practical tool for others. “This is more than Sturbridge’s story,” Hersee notes. “It’s a model. Any town, from the smallest village to the largest city, can do this work and recover those who stood ‘to defend all that is dear.’”

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

ARTHRITIS?
Is your arthritis care all that you would hope it to be? If not we may be able to help.
Osteoarthritis of Hands - Knees- Hips.
Back and Shoulder Problems
Rheumatoid Arthritis
Psoriatic Arthritis - Gout
Charles A. Birbara, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine, Umass-Chan Medical School
25 Oak Ave., Worcester, MA 01605 508-799-2674
“Committed to Advancing appropriate care to people with arthritis”

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-43 indicating clue positions.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Government lawyers
4. The back of a person’s neck
8. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
10. In a less flashy way
11. Living room piece
12. Shepherd dog
13. A citizen of Iran
15. Moved slowly
16. Small finch
17. Previously
18. What a kid does on Halloween
21. Monetary unit
22. Using dry humor
23. Ocean
24. Greek goddess of the dawn
25. Not close
26. NHL legend Bobby
27. A ballplayer would love to do this
34. Charity
35. City in Finland
36. Loomed over
37. Vaccine developer
38. Avoids capture
39. We all need it
40. Openwork fabrics
41. Get away
42. Something you might hit
43. Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Abstain from
2. Admirer
3. Expedition to observe animals
4. Act that is legally void
5. WW2 combatants
6. A tool
7. Looked at
9. Showing wild excitement
10. Banknotes
12. Tired
14. Printers need it
15. Women’s patriotic group
17. When you anticipate getting somewhere
19. Functions
20. Breed of sheep
23. Mocking pieces
24. A major division of geological time
25. Andiron
26. Many not ands
27. Cuban city
28. He voiced “Olaf”
29. Criticize
30. “Thundercats” character
31. Markings
32. Gets up
33. MLB lefty reliever A.J.
34. An assembly of witches
36. High energy lasers (abbr.)

PUZZLE SOLUTION
A grid of letters corresponding to the crossword puzzle clues.

Absentee ballots available in Southbridge
SOUTHBRIDGE — Absentee ballots are now available in the office of the Town Clerk/Board of Registrars, Town Hall, for the Local Election, which will take place on Tuesday, June 9. Persons wishing to vote by absentee ballot must obtain an application for completion and return to the Town Clerk/Board of Registrars

Absentee ballots available in Southbridge

no later than Monday, June 8 at noon. Voters may vote by absentee ballot for the following reasons:
• Absence from Town during the hours the polls are open
• Physical Disability
• Religious Beliefs
Relatives may apply for absentee ballots for Southbridge residents absent from the state, residents in the armed forces or merchant marines, their spouses or dependents, and prisoners. Applications must be registered voters of the Town of Southbridge. The Local Election will take place on Tuesday, June 9, with voting at Precincts 1,2,3,4 and 5 from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Voters are urged to exercise their right to vote at all elections.

REAL ESTATE

Charlton
\$1,160,000, 106 Northside Rd, Abbott, Curtis K, to Eastman, Nancy M, and Eastman Jr, Waldo H. \$600,000, 263 N Sturbridge Rd, Guevara Jr, Jose A, and Guevara, Kimberly A, to Grasso, Stephanie, and Grasso, Kathryn Joan. \$545,000, 4 N Meadow Ln, Ouellette, Richard, to Chapman, Brooke, and Beliveau, Joseph. \$525,000, 50 Old Orchard Rd, Prestes, Daniel R, and Hejwosz, Stacey A, to Black, Capriha, and Mikell, Kirwin. \$162,500, 56 Lakeview Dr, Rinaldo, Maria, and Bousquet, Christian, to Bousquet, Christian M, and Lowell, Marc. \$110,000, 189 Daniels Rd, Young Mens Christian Assn, to Timothy J Pac Lt, and Pac, Timothy J. SOUTHBRIDGE \$830,000, 43 River St, Kbg Realty Properties LLC, to 5 Oliver Street LLC. \$662,500, 182 Clemence Hill Rd, Oppewall, Jamie R, and Oppewall, Heather L, to Kupstas, Janet, and Kupstas, Brian. \$450,000, 82 Prince Rd, Mk3 Properties LLC, to Buendia, Sara Aleida-G, and Crespo, Israel. \$411,897, 74 Locust Ave, Henderson, Cierra C, and Lopes, Gabriel A, to Appiagyei, Evans. \$197,000, 44 Maria Ave, Sladdin, John A, to Dubey, Cole. STURBRIDGE \$455,000, 73 New Boston Rd, Erickson, Kory, and Osborn, Rachael, to Lyons, Tristan N.

TO PLACE AN AD WITH STONEBRIDGE PRESS.
ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE MIKAELA VICTOR (774) 200-7308
LEGAL NOTICES: (508) 909-4127
SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES: KERRI PETERSON (508) 909-4103
TO PRINT AN OBITUARY: E-MAIL obits@stonebridgepress.news CALL: 508-909-4149
OR send to Stonebridge Ppress P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550
TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR: E-MAIL: news@stonebridgepress.news OR send to Stonebridge Press, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550
STONEBRIDGE PRESS
BUSINESS MANAGER RYAN CORNEAU 860-928-1818 EXT. 102
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR JIM DINICOLA 508-764-6102
EDITOR BRENDAN BERUBE 508-909-4101
PRODUCTION MANAGER JULIE CLARKE 508-909-4105

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH LISTINGS

- Central Baptist Church
256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.
Charlton Federated Church, 64 Main St., 508- 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer worship is 9:30 a.m. www.fed-church.org
Charlton Baptist Church, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 10 a.m.
Charlton City United Methodist, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org
Sunday worship and Children’s church 10am
St. Anne St. Patrick Church, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338
www.stannestpatparish.com
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.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
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

Brimfield to host first living history cemetery tour

BRIMFIELD — On June 13, the Spirit of Brimfield- 250th Committee and the Brimfield Historical Commission will co-host a Revolutionary War themed cemetery tour at the Brimfield Cemetery located at 28 Wales Rd. Guided groups will depart every 30 minutes, beginning at 10 a.m. from the Brimfield

Elementary School parking lot. Along the route, narrators and costumed interpreters will present powerful stories of the Brimfield men who left home to serve in the patriot cause, and the families they left behind. Stories told by actors in role, include the following: James and Mary Thompson, a husband-and-wife

duo, telling their story of pride and sacrifice, and the family's concern for a certain cousin who led the patriot cause. Eudocia Janes, sharing her father William's service beginning at age 17, and the emotional court testimony he gave in detail 55 years later to secure his war pension. Joseph Hitchcock, the first English child born in

Brimfield, who watched a wilderness become a town and colonies become a country. He answered the Lexington alarm, stood at the siege of Boston, and proudly sent his sons and grandsons to fight for freedom. Deacon David Morgan, from a Springfield love story to a Revolutionary legacy, not to mention a family tree that stretched

all the way to a Gilded Age financier. Beulah Danielson, the steady support behind her husband, General Timothy Danielson, who held the home and family together while he was away. When peace finally came, would she be there to enjoy the liberty so dearly won? The tour will also feature the

short stories of Captain John Sherman and his son Bazaleel, Nathaniel Danielson, Abner Morgan, Christopher Ward, and the infamous General William Eaton. Members of the Brown family, the Blodgett family and the Blashfield family will also be recognized as their graves are passed, among others. Registration for this free event

is required and to register or to learn more information. Call Sue DeBruin (508) 523-9544

Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall

Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall. This two-bedroom cottage near Tignish provides sweeping views of the ocean, the beach, and the North Cape lighthouse. Enjoy kayaking, bicycling, walking the beach, swimming in the warmer Gulf Stream waters, and exploring the community of Nail Pond and the many PEI attractions. Full Appliances. The cottage sleeps six comfortably. Weekly rent is only \$1,100. Contact Scott, for more information at 603-254-5032, or scottm@plymouth.edu.

YEAR-ROUND SHORT-TERM RENTAL
Egrets Landing-31A - LIGHTHOUSE POINT CONDOMINIUMS -TYBEE ISLAND, GEORGIA

Oceanfront 2-bedroom condo.
Gated community with pool. Full Appliances.
Ocean views of ships and birds with a short walk to the beach.
Bookings Contact: Oceanfront Cottage Rentals. (800) 786-5889
<https://www.oceanfrontcottage.com/rentals/egrets-landing-31a>

Battling Sox Music Festival to raise funds for American Cancer Society

FISKDALE — Live music, barbecue, raffles, and community spirit will come together later this month as the Battling Sox Relay For Life team hosts an all-day music festival fundraiser at Hyland Orchard & Pavilion in Fiskdale. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 30, from noon to 9:30 p.m. at the orchard and pavilion located at 199 Arnold Road. Organizers say the fundraiser will benefit the American Cancer Society through Relay For Life of Southern Worcester County. Admission to the

rain-or-shine event is a requested \$10 donation, with attendees encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets to enjoy a full afternoon and evening of performances. Two stages will operate throughout the day, featuring separate acoustic and full-band lineups as part of a Battle of the Bands-style showcase. "This is really about bringing the community together for a good cause while celebrating local music," organizers said. "People can come for a favorite performer or stay all day and experience everything."

The festival will feature competitions for both acoustic performers and bands, giving local musicians a chance to perform before the crowd while supporting cancer research and patient services through the American Cancer Society. The lineup currently includes:
• Noon to 12:30 p.m. — Emma
• 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. — Back Seat Boogie
• 1:30 to 2 p.m. — Steve Robinson
• 2 to 3 p.m. — Shedding Zen
• 3 to 3:30 p.m. — Mama Kilsmith and the unofficial T. Swift

Experience
• 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. — SuperChild
• 4:30 to 5 p.m. — FM Radio
• 5 to 6 p.m. — The Vig
• 6 to 6:30 p.m. — Princess Pupule and the Pineapple Cowboy performing "Barefoot in Margaritaville"
• 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. — Wonderland Mafia
• 8 to 9 p.m. — Vivi and Da Funk
Organizers noted that the performance schedule remains subject to change. In addition to the music, food and refreshments will be available throughout the day. Paradise

BBQ and Catering will offer food for purchase, while Glazed Gourmet Bakery will provide desserts and sweet treats. Beer and wine will also be available through the pavilion bar. A raffle table featuring donated items and prizes will help raise additional funds during the event. Relay For Life events throughout the region help support cancer research, patient transportation programs, lodging assistance, advocacy efforts, and educational outreach coordinated by the American Cancer Society.

Auction Acres to host Seventh Annual Pioneer Valley Wine Festival

BRIMFIELD — Brimfield Auction Acres, birthplace of the world-famous Brimfield Antique Shows, will host the sixth annual Pioneer Valley Wine Festival Saturday and Sunday, June 6 & 7, from noon to 5 p.m. Marks the 7th year of the Pioneer Valley Wine and Food festival. This exciting event brings together New England Wineries, Cideries, Distilleries, and Meaderies from across the Pioneer Valley and Farmers of many sorts selling their wares. The event started

in 2018 by the collaboration with farm wineries throughout New England and local farmers to create a festival to highlight the magnificent products Massachusetts provides all in unison and support of Massachusetts Agricultural Department. The Festival will feature local vintners and craft brewers ready to spill their secrets, Live Art demonstrations, sizzling chef panel starring culinary celebs - to be announced soon. Last year celebrity guests

include; Brynn Gibson, the youngest Black Jacket finalist from Fox's Hell's Kitchen with

Gordon Ramsay. We also have Jared Forman, the culinary mastermind behind Deadhorse Hill, who

brought the heat on Food Network's Beat Bobby Flay.

WANTED TO BUY
Antiques & Old Stuff

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

CALL DONALD ROY 860-874-8396

Todd A. Ethier
BUILDER

- REMODELING EXPERT
- PROFESSIONAL INSTALLED
- WINDOWS AND SIDING

774-230-3967
Quality Building Since 1985

HARVEY WINDOWS

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

NOW OPEN
in Auburn

RENDAL

GREENDALE PHYSICAL THERAPY

440 Washington St./Rt. 20
508-426-8066 • greendalept.com

If you're interested in becoming a patient of our new Auburn office scan to receive more info.

Where you don't have to be an Olympic athlete to be treated like one.

PEPIN WASTE SERVICE
Your Local Roll-Off Specialist

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

\$375

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

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

MasterCard VISA DISCOVER NOVUS

Friday's Child

John is a relaxed and easy-going boy who thrives in a calm and structured environment. He enjoys engaging in quiet, hands-on activities that allow him to focus and explore at his own pace. Matching games are one of his favorite pastimes, as they give him a sense of accomplishment and enjoyment. John also loves physical activity, especially jumping on his mini trampoline, which helps him release energy in a fun and healthy way. He is particularly fond of sensory play—spending time with a beaded necklace and other small objects, which he enjoys manipulating and examining. These activities bring him comfort and help him stay grounded. John's gentle demeanor and steady interests make him a joy to spend time with.

John
Age 13
Registration # 8291

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21191223350>

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.

STONEBRIDGE
PRESS

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

FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER
BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

A small town on a global stage

For generations, communities like Southbridge have understood something that large institutions sometimes overlook: real change often begins at the local level. It starts with neighbors helping neighbors, mentors guiding young people, volunteers giving their time, and organizations quietly working behind the scenes to create opportunities where few existed before.

That is why the recent recognition of Southbridge-based Our Bright Future by the FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund deserves not only congratulations, but genuine community pride.

Out of more than 3,500 applications submitted worldwide, Our Bright Future was selected as one of only 27 grassroots organizations to receive funding through the international initiative. For a small-town organization rooted right here in Southbridge to stand alongside programs from across the globe says something important about both the quality of the work being done locally and the people behind it.

Too often, conversations about small towns focus only on challenges. We hear about economic struggles, population changes, workforce shortages, or young people leaving for larger cities. Those concerns are real. But stories like this remind us that small communities are also places of innovation, compassion, and determination.

Organizations like Our Bright Future succeed because they understand that helping young people requires more than simply offering programs. It means building trust. It means creating safe spaces where children and families feel seen and supported. It means recognizing that mentorship, wellness, education, and community engagement are deeply connected.

What makes this recognition especially meaningful is the scale of the initiative itself. The FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund aims to mobilize \$100 million worldwide to improve access to education and opportunity through sports and community engagement. The organizations selected are working in underserved areas where poverty rates remain high and educational access remains limited. Southbridge may be a small Massachusetts town, but it clearly shares many of the same challenges facing communities around the world: ensuring children have access to support systems, opportunity, encouragement, and hope.

There is also something refreshing about seeing sports connected to education and personal development rather than simply competition. Athletics have long played an important role in shaping confidence, teamwork, discipline, and resilience. Whether it is soccer, football, basketball, baseball, or simply organized recreation, sports can become a gateway to mentorship and belonging for young people who need both.

The fact that international leaders recognized a Southbridge organization for doing this work should remind local residents that meaningful efforts happening close to home do not go unnoticed. Sometimes the people making the greatest difference are not those making headlines every day, but those steadily investing in children and families year after year.

This recognition also reflects positively on the broader Southbridge community itself. Successful nonprofits do not operate in isolation. They rely on volunteers, donors, local partnerships, educators, parents, businesses, and residents willing to support their mission. When a local organization earns international recognition, it says something about the community that helped sustain it.

In many ways, this story is larger than one grant announcement. It is a reminder that small towns are capable of producing work with global impact. The compassion, creativity, and persistence found in places like Southbridge still matter.

And sometimes, the world notices.

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

Help your graduate use credit and debit cards wisely

As your new graduate prepares to step into the next chapter of life — whether that's more education or starting a career — one of the best things you can do is help them understand how to use credit cards, debit cards, and prepaid cards wisely. They can be powerful financial tools, but without some basic knowledge, they can also lead to trouble.

Here are a few things for graduates, whether from high school or graduate school, should know.

Credit cards have benefits — and risks. About 69 percent of Americans ages 18-29 have at least one credit card, according to the Federal Reserve. They can borrow money up to a set limit, pay it back and borrow again — a cycle known as revolving credit. Used responsibly, credit cards can help build their credit history, cover unexpected expenses, and even earn rewards like cash back or travel discounts.

On the cautionary side, if your child or grandchild doesn't pay the full balance each month, interest charges can accumulate quickly. Carrying a high balance relative to the credit limit can hurt their credit score. Perhaps most importantly, it's easy to fall into a debt cycle in which they charge more than they can pay, interest can add up to more than the original purchases cost, and they might even open new cards to cover old ones. It creates a hole that's hard to climb out of.

The key message is simple: pay off the balance monthly, pay on time and treat the card as a convenience, not a life-line.

Debit cards can be a good option. Since debit cards draw directly from a bank account, they naturally limit overspending. But they aren't risk-free. Overdrawing the account



FINANCIAL
FOCUS

TREVOR
NIELSEN

can trigger fees, and debit cards generally offer fewer fraud protections than credit cards. Additionally, since you're spending your own money rather than borrowing, debit cards don't help build a credit score. Still, for a young person just starting out, a debit card can be a practical way to manage day-to-day spending.

Prepaid cards can help teach the basics. Money is loaded onto the card before

use, and your young adult can only spend what's already on the card. Because of this, there's no risk of debt, no credit history needed and no bills to pay.

Prepaid cards come in several forms. General purpose reloadable cards can be used anywhere cards are accepted. Payroll cards are sometimes used by employers to distribute wages. Gift cards are another option.

The downside is that prepaid cards typically don't help build a credit history, since transactions usually aren't reported to credit bureaus. Some also come with fees for activation, reloading or transactions. These fees can add up, so it pays to read the fine print.

Teaching your graduate the difference between these tools, and how to develop good habits for each, can help them build financial confidence for decades to come.

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

The quiet things we carry home

LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET

By CHARLES

There's a certain sound to Memorial Day in small towns.

It's the distant thump of a bass drum echoing down Main Street. The squeak of folding chairs being opened along a parade route. The soft flutter of little American flags planted in damp cemetery grass before sunrise by volunteers who probably didn't tell anyone they were doing it.

When I was a boy, Memorial Day seemed simple to me. It meant a day off from school, a parade, maybe the smell of charcoal grills drifting through the neighborhood by late afternoon. I remember old veterans standing straighter than usual in their uniforms, though I was too young then to notice how some of them walked a little slower than others.

As a kid, you don't fully understand why grown men go quiet during the playing of "Taps."

You just know they do.

Now that I'm older, Memorial Day feels different. Not heavier exactly, but deeper. The older you get, the more you realize every town has names carved into stone somewhere. Boys who grew up on the same streets we drive every day. Young men who probably fished the same ponds, sat in the same diners, worked summer jobs, complained about cold winters and muddy springs just like the rest of us.

And then one day, they left home wearing a uniform and never came back.

That's what Memorial Day really asks of us. Not grand speeches. Not perfect patriotism. Mostly remembrance.

Just remembrance.

I think that's why New England towns observe Memorial Day the way they do. There's something modest about it here. The ceremonies are rarely flashy. A few speeches. A prayer maybe. Flowers placed carefully at a monument. Veterans standing shoulder to shoulder, even when age has bent their backs a little.

People still show up.

That matters.

I've always noticed how children behave differently during Memorial Day ceremonies too. Even the fidgety ones somehow sense this is not quite like the Fourth of July. There's usually one little boy waving a flag too enthusiastically until his mother gently lowers his arm. Somebody's toddler starts asking questions halfway through the ceremony. Teenagers stand around trying to look uninterested while quietly paying attention anyway.

That matters too.

Because remembrance has to keep getting handed down. The older generation understood that. My father cer-

tainly did, though he wasn't much for emotional speeches. He belonged to that old school of men who believed you showed respect by showing up. Rain or shine. Suit jacket on. Hat off during the anthem. Handshake firm. No fuss made about it.

A lot of those men are gone now.

Truth be told, Memorial Day can

feel a little lonely sometimes because of that. You look around town greens and realize many of the veterans who once led the parades now ride quietly in the passenger seat instead of marching. Some are missing altogether.

Time catches everybody eventually.

Still, there's comfort in the traditions staying put even as generations change. The local scout troops still help. High school bands still miss a few notes halfway through the march. Volunteers still place flags at gravesites. Somebody still brings extra donuts nobody asked for.

And somehow that ordinary kindness feels connected to the meaning of the day itself.

Memorial Day was never really meant to glorify war. At least I don't think so. It's about honoring sacrifice while quietly hoping future generations won't have to make the same sacrifices quite so often.

That may sound old-fashioned nowadays. So be it.

I suppose I've reached the age where I don't mind sounding a little old-fashioned now and then. There are worse things a man can be.

Over the years, I've noticed something else too. The people who attend Memorial Day ceremonies most faithfully are often not the loudest people the other 364 days of the year. They're usually steady people. Humble people. Folks who understand gratitude doesn't always need a microphone.

Maybe that's the lesson I keep carrying home from Memorial Day each year.

A healthy town remembers.

Not perfectly. Not dramatically. But sincerely.

It remembers the people who built the community, protected it, sacrificed for it, and never made it back to enjoy the peaceful little moments the rest of us often take for granted. Ballgames. Backyard cookouts. Kids riding bicycles at dusk. A quiet evening with family while the screen door creaks open and shut.

Ordinary American life.

The kind of life somebody else once gave up everything to protect.

And every Memorial Day, whether we realize it or not, we carry that gift home with us.

Town-Wide Tag Sale takes on flea market town

BRIMFIELD — Brimfield is known world-wide as a destination for treasure hunting, but once a year, the entire town turns into a secondhand shopper's paradise. Organized by Hitchcock Academy, the area's community center located in Brimfield, the 16th annual Brimfield Town-Wide Tag Sale will take place on Saturday, May 30 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All of the sales are included on a map complete with listings that describe what shoppers can find at each site, also noting any sales that will continue through Sunday. Several sales are on-site at Hitchcock, so the community center is a great place to start your shopping. The Brimfield Farmers' Market is also running in the organization's parking lot that day from 9am to 1pm, so consider fueling up with kombucha and baked goods, or adding some fresh farm and handcrafted goods to your day's loot.

Shoppers can pick up a printed 11x17 map at Hitchcock for \$2 on the day of the event or download it from Hitchcock's

website the day prior. So far, listings include typical tag sale fare such as clothing, household items, toys, tools, housewares, small appliances, free garden pots, cleaning supplies, kitchen items, dishes, jewelry, holiday décor, crafts, baking, books, cds and dvds, baby items, furniture, pet supplies, assorted tools and tech items, and knick-knacks, along with vintage and antique items.

Unique items in the listings include an original Atari system, kayaks, truck boxes, Amazon Mystery Boxes, a 12-foot aluminum boat, tin toys, andirons, prints, baseball cards, a bamboo fly rod, a Modern Glenwood Home Grand Wood Burning Cook Stove, antique sewing machine, table saw, bench sander, and more.

"It's such a fun day and a unique way to foster a sense of community," says Hitchcock Executive Director Cindy Skowrya. "We hear often how people enjoy interacting with one another as much as they enjoy the hunt."

For more information, visit www.hitchcockacademy.org. Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield serving the

community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming. Hitchcock is celebrating 70 years this year following its 100 year history as a school.

"Mangia, Meatballs and Murder" comes to Casaubon Senior Center

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Delvena Theatre Company will be presenting "Mangia, Meatballs and Murder" at the Casaubon Senior Center, 153 Chestnut St., Southbridge on Tuesday, June 16, at 1 p.m.

Who dunnit? An exciting, live, comedic, interactive murder mystery performance set in Luigi's Ristorante featuring Lynne Moulton, Joseph Zamparelli and Fran Baron in multiple roles. Come put your "super sleuth" on — having much fun along the way. Token prizes will be awarded.

The Delvena Theatre Company has been doing to-go shows for the last several years at various venues throughout the New England area. The Company was founded in 1992, and prior to "going on the road" per-

formed at different locations throughout Massachusetts, most often at the Boston Center for the Arts. Delvena was nominated for five Independent Reviewers of New England awards. Its production of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" was on Theatre Mirror's Best List for acting, directing and production. Presentations of "Anna Weiss" and "Beyond Therapy" were included on Theatre Mirror's best play list and 'Blue Heart' was placed on Aisle Say's best list.

"Mangia Meatballs and Murder" is supported in part by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. For more information, call the Senior Center at (508) 764-1469.

Casaubon Senior Center announces upcoming trips

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Casaubon Senior Center is sponsoring these up and coming trips from And Away We Go Travels and Best of Times Travel. For more information contact Jeanne Dupuis at jtd1154@yahoo.com or visit the senior center to pick up a flyer. A \$25. deposit is needed at sign up.

June 20 — Newport Flower Show-Visits the Rosecliff Mansions gardens and lunch the Wyndham Newport Hotel. Lunch choices are Chicken, scrod or pasta primavera \$129 a person.

July 19 — Day In Maine Clambake-Short stops along the way for shopping and a feast on Foster's New England Clambake. A chicken meal and vegetarian meal are offered. \$119. a person.

Aug. 29—Charles River Cruise-Great two-hour cruise, lunch at the Cheesecake Factory

and a trip to Quincy Market.\$145 a person
Sept. 30 — Turkey Train-A turkey dinner with all the trimmings on the Winnepesaukee Scenic Railroad-\$149. a person and there are no meal substitutions.

Nov. 29 — Holiday Jamboree at Ivoryton Playhouse-First stop is at the Scotch Plains Tavern for lunch. Your choice of chicken, scrod or vegetable primavera is offered. The Jamboree plays homage to the Grand Ole Opry holiday music. \$169 a person for a wonderful way to start the holidays.

We have one overnight trip to New York City sponsored by Best of Times Travel

Sept. 3 & 4. \$899 for double, \$1,099 for single and \$869 for triple or quad. This includes a Broadway Show, 911 Memorial and a trip to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

Matthew Wilbur of Holland named to Dean's List at Cedarville University

CEDARVILLE, Ohio — Matthew Wilbur of Holland was named to the Dean's List at Cedarville University for Spring 2026. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.50 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Cedarville University, an evangelical Christian institution in southwest Ohio, offers undergraduate and graduate residential and online programs across arts, sci-

ences and professional fields. With 7,265 students, it is among Ohio's largest private universities and is ranked among the nation's top five evangelical universities in The Wall Street Journal's 2026 Best Colleges in the U.S. Cedarville is also known for its vibrant Christian community, challenging academics and high graduation and retention rates. Learn more at cedarville.edu.



Community Connection

Edward Jones Member SIPC

Finding solutions for your financial needs. We're just around the corner.



Trevor Nielsen
Financial Advisor
419 Main Street
Sturbridge, MA 01566
508-347-1420

MKT-58940-A AECSPAD edwardjones.com

Got Space? we do.

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

PLUMBING

JOHN DALY PLUMBING
The Homeowners Plumber, SINCE 1988

Faucets, Toilets, Pipe Repair, Garbage Disposals, Sinks, Vanities, Shower Valves, Outside Hose Connections, New Kitchen Sink Strainers and Undersink Re-Pipes, Sump Pumps, Sink Drain Cleaning,
Buy What You Like And I Will Install.
Fully Licensed And Insured, License Number MPL-21763-J
Call 508 304 7816 • jdman714@aol.com

PIANO LESSONS
BROOKFIELD MA
Beginners to Advanced
774-200-3294

Cormier JEWELERS

WE BUY GOLD

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

42 Central St, Southbridge MA
(508) 764-7415 | www.Cormiers.com

Morin JEWELERS
Fine Jewelry & Gifts

The Jewelry store where you buy with confidence

WE BUY GOLD

Specializing in Custom Designs
All types of Jewelry Repairs

MASTER JEWELERS™
BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®

409 Main St. Southbridge, MA
morinjewelers.com • 508-764-7250
Located at CVS Plaza

Charlton Oil Company Propane

508-248-9797

Don't Pay Too Much for Propane

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

Tanks Filled to 80%
Driver Discretion

DON'T PAY TOO MUCH FOR OIL!
Thursday price 5/14/26 was **\$4.59** per gallon*
100 gallon minimum
ONLINE ORDERING NOW AVAILABLE AT www.charltonoil.com
"Call Us First!"
*prices subject to change



Morse Lumber Co., Inc.

Building Materials & Supplies
Lumber • Insulation • Mouldings
Drywall • Ceilings • Flooring
Hardware • Cements • Siding • Roofing
Windows • Doors • Concrete Block
Sawmill Products
Rough Sawn • Dimension Lumber
Boards • Timbers • Industrial Lumber

994 North Woodstock Road
(Rt. 169) • 1/2 mile from CT line
Southbridge, MA 01550
www.morse-lumber.com

Toll Free 1-800-764-3231 or 508-764-3231
"Quality Materials and Service Since 1951"

MICKNUCK'S
Nicknuck's
FRESH MARKET PLACE

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

VISIT OUR STORE FOR WEEKLY SPECIALS!



Crooked Creek Farm
East Brookfield, Massachusetts

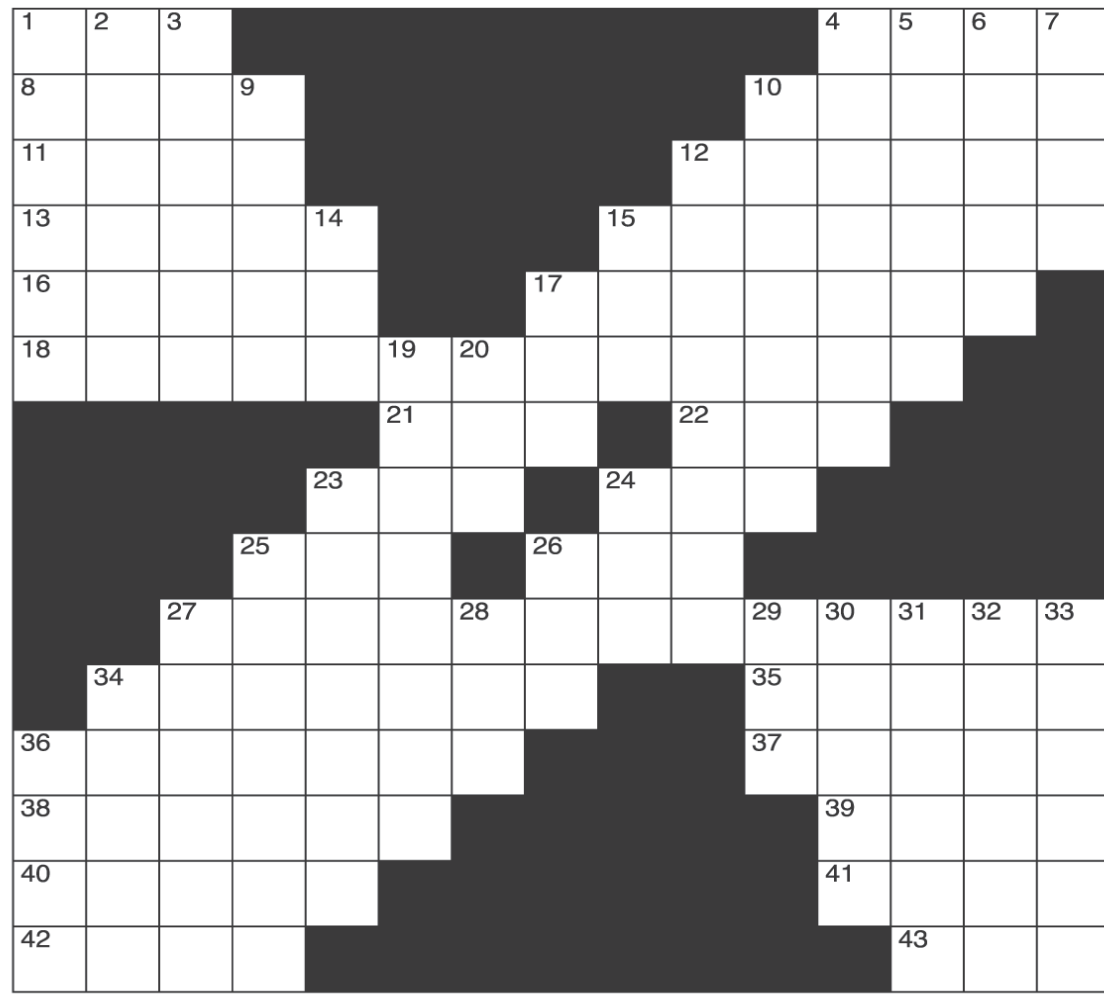
Stock up now!

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

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

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY!





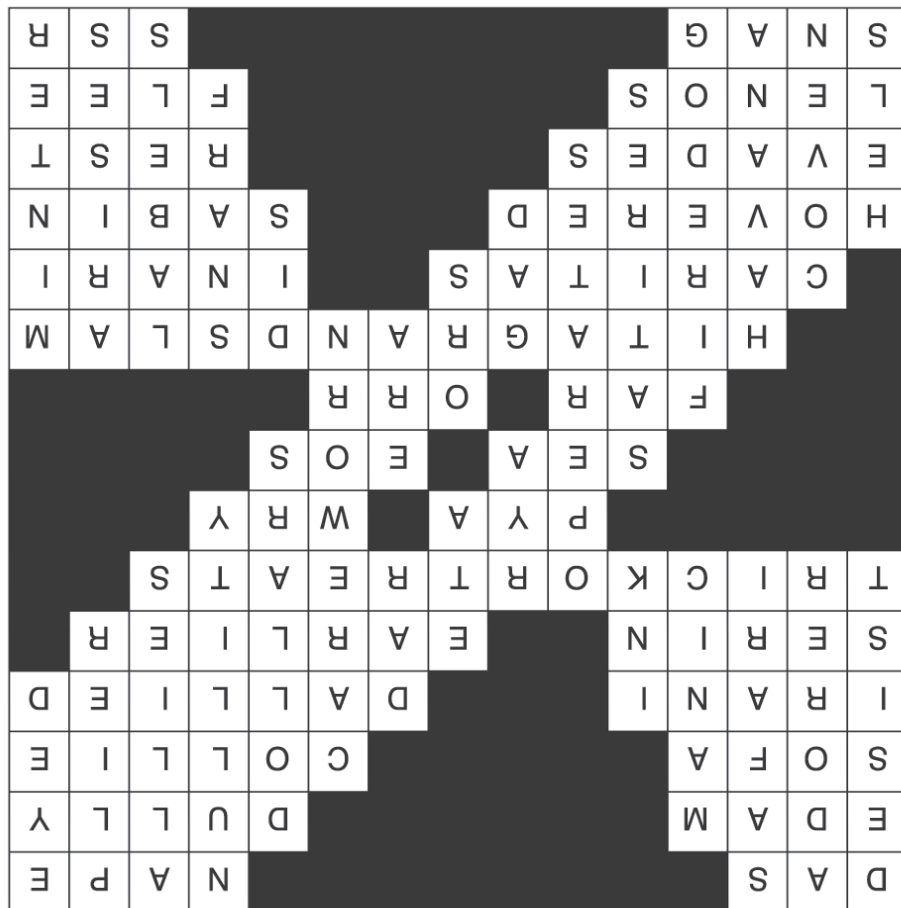
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Government lawyers
- 4. The back of a person's neck
- 8. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- 10. In a less flashy way
- 11. Living room piece
- 12. Shepherd dog
- 13. A citizen of Iran
- 15. Moved slowly
- 16. Small finch
- 17. Previously
- 18. What a kid does on Halloween
- 21. Monetary unit
- 22. Using dry humor
- 23. Ocean
- 24. Greek goddess of the dawn
- 25. Not close
- 26. NHL legend Bobby
- 27. A ballplayer would love to do this
- 34. Charity
- 35. City in Finland
- 36. Loomed over
- 37. Vaccine developer
- 38. Avoids capture
- 39. We all need it
- 40. Openwork fabrics
- 41. Get away
- 42. Something you might hit
- 43. Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Abstain from
- 2. Admirer
- 3. Expedition to observe animals
- 4. Act that is legally void
- 5. WW2 combatants
- 6. A tool
- 7. Looked at
- 9. Showing wild excitement
- 10. Banknotes
- 12. Tired
- 14. Printers need it
- 15. Women's patriotic group
- 17. When you anticipate getting somewhere
- 19. Functions
- 20. Breed of sheep
- 23. Mocking pieces
- 24. A major division of geological time
- 25. Andiron
- 26. Many not ands
- 27. Cuban city
- 28. He voiced "Olaf"
- 29. Criticize
- 30. "Thundercats" character
- 31. Markings
- 32. Gets up
- 33. MLB lefty reliever A.J.
- 34. An assembly of witches
- 36. High energy lasers (abbr.)

PUZZLE SOLUTION



New Bocce League open to community

SOUTHBRIDGE — Bay Path Continuing Education & the Southbridge Italian Club have teamed up to launch an exciting new bocce league on Tuesday nights throughout May and June. Bocce is a game that all can enjoy—no special skills or talents are required! If you can roll a ball, you can play! These two community organizations are thrilled to bring this sport to a wider audience. Both Bay Path Continuing Education and the Southbridge Italian Club are dedicated to offering various events for people to engage, socialize, and have fun. This new league is a perfect fit. Here are the details: Tuesdays: May 12 – June 30 (eight weeks)

- \$240 per team
- One game per week at either 6 or 7 p.m.
- Maximum of eight teams – don't wait!
 - o Only team captains need to register for their team.
 - o A brief informational captain meeting will be held before the season starts.
 - o Gather your friends (18 and older), form a team, and come join us for a fantastic time on the court!
- Games will be held at: Italian American Club 20 North St., Southbridge
- To register your team, call Bay Path Continuing Education at 508-248-5971, ext. 1715. Spots for teams are limited, so don't hesitate—call today!

Dominic Penny of Charlton awarded undergraduate degree by Salve Regina University

NEWPORT, R.I. — Dominic Penny of Charlton was awarded an undergraduate degree during Salve Regina University's 76th Commencement held May 17, on the University's oceanside campus. Dr. Kelli J. Armstrong, president, conferred 525 Bachelor's degrees upon the Class of 2026. A separate ceremony was held Thursday, May 14 for recipients of graduate degrees -- 204 Master's degrees, 25 doctoral degrees and five Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees. Located in historic Newport, RI, Salve Regina University is a Catholic, coeducational institution of higher education founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1947. It offers rigorous, innovative academic programming in the liberal arts tradition

that prepares students to be global citizens and lifelong learners. More than 2,700 students from around the world are enrolled in Salve's more than 60 academic programs, which include bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees along with graduate certificates and combined bachelor's/master's programs. Every undergraduate student engages in Salve Compass, a four-year experience that charts a personalized, values-based path connecting college to a successful, fulfilling career and life. The University is also home to the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy, a multi-disciplinary research center focused on the intersection of politics, policy and ideas. For more information, visit salve.edu.

Southbridge's Ivori Hidalgo earns certificate in Finance & Banking from College of the Holy Cross

WORCESTER — Ivori Hidalgo of Southbridge, majoring in Economics, was awarded a Certificate in Finance & Banking from College of the Holy Cross' Carlyse and Arthur A. Ciocca '59 Center for Business, Ethics and Society. Launched in 2018, the Ciocca Center's mission is to foster a distinctively liberal arts approach to the study of business and its role in society. Through the Certificate in Finance & Banking, the Ciocca Center offers students an inside look at the fast-paced world of banking, financial services, and wealth management through

immersive learning and mentorship from industry professionals. About Holy Cross The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester is among the nation's leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,200 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

Naomi Monney Hori of Guatemala City named to dean's list at Olivet Nazarene University

BOURBONNAIS, Ill. — Naomi Monney Hori of Guatemala City, Guatemala, was named to the dean's list at Olivet Nazarene University during the recently completed spring 2026 semester. To qualify for inclusion on the dean's list, a student must have been enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student and must have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher on a 4.00 grading scale. Olivet Nazarene University is an accredited Christian, liberal arts univer-

sity offering more than 200 areas of undergraduate and graduate study, including the Doctor of Education in ethical leadership. Olivet's 275-acre park-like main campus is in Bourbonnais, Illinois, 45 miles south of Chicago. Additionally, Olivet offers Graduate and Continuing Studies via online education. From Oxford to Tokyo, hundreds of Olivet students also experience the global classroom each year through study abroad opportunities, internships and worldwide mission trips.

Nursing alum returns to QCC as trustee after rewarding career

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College recently announced that Florence LeClair has been appointed by the governor as the newest alumni trustee on the Board of Trustees, after being voted in by the Alumni Association. LeClair, a lifelong Worcester resident, credited QCC for laying out the foundation of her nursing career, which included multiple positions at UMass Memorial Medical Center.

“Flo LeClair has the most marvelous history and dedication to



Courtesy Photo

Florence LeClair said President of the Board of Trustees Dr. Linda Maykel. “We are honored to have her.”

LeClair’s career spanned over 30 years in oncology and hospice nursing, where she became a pio-

neer in palliative care. She launched the hospice program at UMass Memorial Medical Center in 1995 and later served as a nurse case manager in the Emergency Department until her retirement.

“QCC is thrilled to have Flo LeClair return to the college as a trustee,” said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja. “Her lifelong commitment to community service, leadership and patient care exemplifies the spirit of Quinsigamond alumni.”

LeClair began her career as a licensed practical nurse after graduating from Fanning Trade School in 1972. Seeking to deepen her knowledge, she earned her associate degree in nursing from Quinsigamond Community College in 1978, followed by a bachelor’s degree

from Assumption College in 1988.

“I am honored to have been selected as a trustee for QCC,” LeClair said. “I believe I received wonderful training as an LPN, but QCC’s program taught me the theory and science behind my clinical practice. I hope in my role as a trustee, I can further educate and promote QCC’s programs to the community.”

Since retiring, LeClair continues to serve the community through volunteer work with Elder Services of Worcester, Notre Dame Assisted Living and her parish. She also maintains a connection to QCC by overseeing a nursing scholarship established in memory of her sister, Carmen Tobin, a QCC alum.

For more information on the QCC Board of Trustees, visit qcc.edu/board-trustees.

New England Water Ski Collective to host State Slalom Championships at Buffumville Lake

CHARLTON — The New England Water Ski Collective (formerly known as the Webster Water Ski Collective) is proud to announce that it will host the Massachusetts State Slalom Championships on July 15 at Buffumville Lake, located on the Oxford/Charlton town line. A competitors practice session will take place on July 14 for this event.

This event marks the first time in many years that a Massachusetts State Slalom Championship tournament will be held in the Commonwealth. The New England Water Ski Collective is honored to bring this prestigious competition back to Central Massachusetts, where it will showcase the best water skiers from across the state and surrounding regional area.

How Slalom works

Slalom skiing is one of the most popular and recognizable disciplines in water skiing. Performed on a single ski, it is the skill that many beginners aspire to master — and what elite skiers make look effortless.

In competition, a slalom course is comprised of six fixed buoys positioned 11.5 meters (37.73 feet) to the left and right of the boat’s centerline. The centerline itself is marked by boat guide buoys spaced 2.1 meters (6.89 feet) apart to ensure precise boat path alignment.

A successful pass requires the skier to:

- Enter through the starting gates
- Pass around the outside of all six buoys
- Exit cleanly through the end

gates. Only after clearing the exit gates is the pass considered complete.

Depending on a skier’s category and ability level, rope length begins as long as 18.25 meters (60 feet) and can shorten to an incredibly challenging 9.75 meters (32 feet). After each successful pass, the rope is shortened — increasing the difficulty — while boat speeds can increase up to a maximum of 36 mph depending on division.

As rope lengths shorten and speeds increase, the physical demands grow dramatically. Professional skiers are known to generate cross-course speeds between 60–75 mph across the wake as they accelerate from one buoy to the next.

Final scores are recorded based on boat speed, rope length, and the number of completed buoys. The skier who can complete the most buoys at the shortest rope length and highest speed earns the victory.

Competition will be conducted under the standards of the American Water Ski Association (AWSA), whose official rules govern sanctioned tournament slalom events.

Supporting conservation and accessibility

Tournament profits will be donated to support conservation efforts and improvements to the grounds at Buffumville Dam, maintained by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

In addition, the New England Water Ski Collective plans to install accessible beach mats at Buffumville Beach this summer to improve shoreline access for individ-

uals with mobility challenges — ensuring more members of the community can safely enjoy the lake.

Built on partnership and community. The Collective’s Slalom / Competition Team has worked diligently to build partnerships with regional ski teams, individual competitors, and the Army Corps of Engineers to bring this championship event to life. The coordination of athletes, officials, volunteers, and site logistics represents months of collaboration.

Led by director Joe Zmetra, the New England Water Ski Collective’s competition team is especially excited to see many of its own members compete on home water as they pursue qualification for AWSA Eastern Regionals and Nationals.

Zmetra reflected on the athleticism required in the sport: “Slalom is as much about strength as it is about precision. The skier has to generate incredible power across the wake, maintain perfect form in and out of their cuts, and carry maximum velocity into each turn. At the buoy, you need the ability to stop on a dime, change direction instantly, and set up your next cut with total control. It’s a balance of explosive power and technique — and when it all comes together, it’s an amazing thing to watch.”

All abilities — one passion

The championship represents more than just competition — it reflects the Collective’s mission of “All Abilities — One Passion.”

“Our team is

incredibly excited to bring the Massachusetts State Slalom Championships back to Central Massachusetts,” said Leonardo Topa, President of the New England Water Ski Collective. “All three divisions of our organization have worked together to make this event possible, while also supporting our other major initiatives this season — including our Learn to Ski programs and our traveling adaptive ski clinics. This tournament shows how our organization continues to grow while making sure everyone has the opportunity to get out on the water and enjoy the sport we love.”

The New England Water Ski Collective is eagerly awaiting the warmer weather as it prepares to begin a busy season that will see its members actively skiing and competing across the New England region.

About the New England Water Ski Collective

The New England Water Ski Collective is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization devoted to making water skiing and water sports accessible to all. Through its Adaptive, Competitive, and Recreational ski teams, the organization works to remove barriers to participation and grow the sport throughout the New England region.

As a nonprofit, the Collective relies on the generosity of donors, community partners, and sponsors to help expand programming, host events, and provide opportunities for athletes of all abilities.

If you are interested in donat-

ing to support our Adaptive, Competitive, or Recreational ski teams, please contact our Sponsorship Coordinator, Juliet, at Juliet@NewEnglandWaterSki.org

By supporting the New England Water Ski Collective, you are helping ensure that more individuals — regardless of age or ability — have the chance to experience the thrill and community of water skiing.

For more information about the Massachusetts State Slalom Championships or the New England Water Ski Collective, please contact New England Water Ski Collective at (774) 495-0165 or comp@newenglandwaterski.org.

VILLAGE GARDEN CENTERS

389 Main Street, Spencer (across from Ahearn’s equipment)
508-885-3560 (Open 7 days a week)

11” Hanging Baskets



2 for \$42

or \$24.99 ea.

6” Geraniums

6 for \$46

or \$7.99 ea.



12” Geranium

Patio Pots

2 for \$55

or \$29.99 ea.

While Supplies Last

MEMORIAL DAY sale

red hot prices... limited time only!

SPECIAL SAVINGS ON

- ★ BEDROOMS
- ★ LIVING ROOMS
- ★ RECLINERS
- ★ OCCASIONAL PIECES
- ★ ENTERTAINMENT CENTERS
- ★ SEALY MATTRESSES

STOREWIDE SAVINGS!

MEMORIAL DAY

0% INTEREST - FOR 1 FULL YEAR!

www.sundeenfurnitureinc.com

Sundeen Furniture

241 Providence Rd Whitinsville, MA 01588 • 508-234-8777

FREE LAYAWAY • FREE DELIVERY

M.T.W. 9:30-6:00; THURS, FRI. 9:30-7:00pm; SAT. 9:30-6:00; Sun. 11-5



Brimfield to mark 250th anniversary of Independence

BRIMFIELD — Save the date! On Saturday, June 13, a community-wide

SNHU announces Spring Dean's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Spring 2026 Dean's List. The spring terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Yashira Sagastibelza of Southbridge
Marion Adomako of Southbridge

celebration marking the 250th anniversary of our nation's freedom will take

Noa Jones of Sturbridge
Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 93-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

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.

LEGALS

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

The applicant, T Reardon Builders, Inc., has submitted a Land Disturbance/Stormwater Management Application on May 11, 2026, for land disturbance associated with the construction of a single-family home and site work.

The project site is located at 135 Bond Road, Charlton, MA 01507, and is also known as: Parcel ID: 69-B-1.33

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

Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
May 21, 2026

Town of Sturbridge Seeking Members for Historical Commission

The Town of Sturbridge is seeking two (2) new members for the Historical Commission, to help preserve and protect the community's historic buildings, sites, and artifacts. The Commission works to identify and evaluate important local historic assets, conduct research on places of historical and archeological significance, collaborate with state preservation partners, and recommend actions that support long-term protection of Sturbridge's heritage.

Interested parties can contact the Sturbridge Planning Department at 508-347-2508.

May 14, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by EZ Learning Realty LLC to Middlesex Loans LLC, dated December 11, 2023, and recorded at the Worcester County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69982, Page 207, of which mortgage the undersigned together is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction, at 11:00 A.M. on the 11th day of June 2026, at 100 North Street, Southbridge, MA 01550, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To wit:

The land in Southbridge, with the buildings thereon and all privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING at an iron pin on the southerly line of North Street, 39 feet westerly from the corner of said Street and Crystal Street;

THENCE westerly by said North Street, 55 feet, 1 inch to an iron pin;

THENCE southerly by land now or formerly of Alfredo and Clorinda Francuzzi, 47 feet, 5 inches to an iron pin;

THENCE westerly at right angles by the last named land, 8 feet to an iron pin;

THENCE southerly at right angles by the last named land, 49 feet, 1 inch to an iron pin at land now or formerly of the Estate of Morton et al;

THENCE easterly, 34 feet 2 inches to an iron pin in the ground; THENCE northerly, 17 feet, 10 inches to an iron pin in the ground;

THENCE again, easterly 21 feet, 10 inches to an iron pin in the ground at land now or formerly of Guiseppi A. Salviuola;

THENCE northerly by last named land, 70 feet, 6 inches to the point of beginning.

Said land is conveyed subject to and with the privilege of enjoying two certain rights of way to pass from said North Street to the building on

the above-granted premises, first, that right of way described in an indenture dated November 16, 1926 between Channing M. Wells et al and Francuzzi and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 2423, Page 332, and second, that right of way described in a deed from said Channing M. Wells et al to Guiseppi A. Salviuola dated July 17, 1928 and recorded with said deeds.

For title see deed recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 66274, Page 300.

Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

Terms of sale: A deposit of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by wire transfer to Ligris + Associates, PC, 1188 Centre Street, 2nd Floor, Newton, MA 02459 on or before thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.

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

Middlesex Loans LLC,
Present holder of said mortgage,
By its Attorneys,
Ligris + Associates,
PC 1188 Centre Street
Newton Center, MA 02459 (617) 274-1500
May 21, 2026
May 28, 2026
June 4, 2026

Town of Sturbridge Seeking Members for Design Review Committee

The Town of Sturbridge is seeking three (3) new members for the Design Review Committee. The DRC is advisory to the Building Inspector, Planning Board and/or ZBA, and is responsible for reviewing architectural and signage proposals for commercial and industrial project within Sturbridge. The Committee meets one Monday afternoon per month as needed.

Interested parties can contact the Sturbridge Planning Department at 508-347-2508.

May 14, 2026

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROPOSAL: The proposed project

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

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

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 166, §22F notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the Southbridge Town Manager on Wednesday, June 17 at 1:00 p.m. in the George Parent Meeting Room, second floor of the Southbridge Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, in regards to a petition filed by National Grid for the following Order:

SNOW ST.:
National Grid, Inc., requests permission to install underground cable and new manhole covers beginning approximately 1000' west of the intersection of Worcester St. and Snow St. Anyone wishing to be heard regarding this petition will be given the opportunity to speak.

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
John D. Jovan Jr., Town Manager
May 21, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 166, §22F notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the Southbridge Town Manager on Wednesday, June 17, at 1:15 p.m. in

the George Parent Meeting Room, second floor of the Southbridge Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, in regards to a petition filed by National Grid for the following order:

MOON ST.:
National Grid, Inc., requests permission to install underground cables and new manhole covers beginning approximately 40' east of the intersection of Moon St. and Snow St.

Anyone wishing to be heard regarding this petition will be given the opportunity to speak.

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
John D. Jovan Jr., Town Manager
May 14, 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. WQ26P1491EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:
Robert C Sebetes
Date of Death: 03/01/2026

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/02/2026.**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 07, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
May 21, 2026

Auction

The equipment was owned and abandoned by John Carpenter of Carpenter Molds, located at 316 County Home Road, Thompson CT 06277.
The items listed are HURCO CNC MILL
The auction will be held at 342 Compass Circle, Unit B4
North Kingston, RI 02852
June 12, 2026 at 9am

May 21, 2026
May 22, 2026
May 28, 2025
June 4, 2026

Southbridge Food Share adds monthly Saturday hours to expand community access

SOUTHBRIDGE — Residents who rely on the Southbridge Food Share now have an additional opportunity each month to receive assistance, as the pantry expands its schedule to include one Saturday distribution day.

The added weekend hours are intended to make services more accessible for individuals and families who may not be able to visit during the organization's regular weekday schedule. Southbridge Food Share continues to operate on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and will now also open one Saturday each month at its location at 446 Hamilton St.

Distribution hours remain the same on all service days, running from 10 to 11:15 a.m.

Upcoming Saturday dates include April 25, May 16, June 27, July 25, Aug. 22 and Sept. 26.

No appointments are required to receive food, and visitors are not asked to provide

income documentation or legal identification.

The pantry serves residents from Southbridge and surrounding communities and operates with support from local partners, including the United Way of South Central Massachusetts. Community donations and volunteer efforts continue to play a key role in sustaining the program's operations.

Southbridge Food Share has remained a central resource for area households facing food insecurity, particularly as grocery costs and household expenses continue to affect many families across the region.

Organizers encourage residents to share information about the expanded Saturday schedule with neighbors and community members who may benefit from the service.

For more information, residents may call 508-765-6583 or visit the Hamilton Street location during operating hours.

OBITUARIES

G. Reed Ide, III, 77



G. Reed Ide, III, (77) of Sturbridge, MA died peacefully on April 28, 2026. Born in Springfield, Massachusetts, he was the son of Gustavus and Priscilla (Cranston) Ide. Ide began his career at the Southbridge (MA) Evening News as a reporter in 1967. He went on to work at the New York Daily News and became the Executive Editor of the Villager in Greenwich Village in 1973. From there he became a magazine editor at Collector Communications, Inc., in New York City.

When the AIDS epidemic broke out, Ide became a Special Graduate Admissions student at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and served as co-director of (now) The Stonewall Center at the University of Massachusetts. He received a Master of Education degree in counseling in 1989 and began second career as an AIDS educator and a service provider, serving as director of the AIDS Buddy Program in Springfield, MA. In 1991, he became the founding director of the Hampshire County Ryan White Consortium, to provide comprehensive services to people with HIV/AIDS and their families. Ide served as director of AIDS Care/Hampshire County through Cooley Dickenson Hospital in Northampton, Massachusetts for five years. He then moved to the Netherlands for

several months. Coming home, he returned to journalism, specializing in European Travel. He served as a founding Editor of Passport Magazine serving the LGBT community. He also wrote two gay travel guides, one to Iceland and the other to Amsterdam.

In retirement, he was a substitute teacher at the local Jr. High for seven years. In 2017, he undertook what he called the most life-affirming event of his life. He adopted Collin LaCroix as his son, supporting Collin's success through his education, service in the US Navy, and launching into a thriving adult life and career.

In addition to his son, Ide is survived by cousins Althea Cranston (MA), Jeremy Cranston (WA), and James Cranston (MA), as well as his sister-in-law Cynthia (Wyman) Ide, a nephew Mark C. Ide, Jr. and his wife Rebecca (Gaddis) Ide, and a niece Ashley E. Ide, all of Massachusetts.

Services will be at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA on May 14th, 10:30am.

Arrangements are being handled by the Belanger Bullard Funeral Home, 51 Marcy Street, Southbridge, MA 01550.

An online guestbook will be available at www.BelangerFuneralHome.com

Joni Collaku of Tirana named to Dean's Honor List at Cedarville University

CEDARVILLE, Ohio — Joni Collaku of Tirana, was named to the Dean's Honor List at Cedarville University for Spring 2026. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.75 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Cedarville University, an evangelical Christian institution in southwest Ohio, offers undergraduate and graduate residential and online programs across arts, sci-

ences and professional fields. With 7,265 students, it is among Ohio's largest private universities and is ranked among the nation's top five evangelical universities in The Wall Street Journal's 2026 Best Colleges in the U.S. Cedarville is also known for its vibrant Christian community, challenging academics and high graduation and retention rates. Learn more at cedarville.edu.



AUTO BODY / REPAIRS

KEARNS COLLISION REPAIR

Since 1969
Always Going The Extra Mile For Our Customers

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

Major Insurance Referral Shop
Honoring All Insurance Estimates

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

BEST WINDOW COMPANY

Beautiful, Efficient, Affordable
WINDOWS & DOORS

KUBALA HOME IMPROVEMENT
Your Window & Door Expert

Award Winning High Performance
Windows & Doors

Lifetime Warranty

100% FINANCING AVAILABLE

CALL NOW FOR EXCLUSIVE SPRING SAVINGS
508-784-1550

MA CSL100114 | MA HIC150118 | CT HIC0619712

CONTRACTING

Indoor/Outdoor Remodeling
Decks~ Kitchens ~Bathrooms
Door~ Bedrooms ~ Floors ~Painting ~ Etc.
Landscaping
Mowing ~ Leaf Cleanups Plowing
Hedge Trimming ~ Stone/Mulch beds
Tree Work ~Etc

Owner: Seth Goudreau
774-402-4694
Prices beating the competition
Free Estimates Fully Insured

Black Diamond CONTRACTING

LAWNMOWERS

WORCESTER COUNTY LAWNMOWER
ALWAYS THE BEST SERVICE

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

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

CHIMNEYS/MASONRY

CHIMNEY CLEANINGS Starting at \$99
ALL KINDS OF MASONRY & CONCRETE WORK
New & Repairs, Re-pointing, Rebuilding, Re-lining, Waterproofing, Foundation & Chimney Repair, New & Stair Repair, Concrete Walkways, Stonewalls, New Roofs, Construction & Carpentry.
Need to get it done? Call me!
-FREE Estimates- Quality Chimney (508)752-1003

ELECTRICIAN

COLONNA ELECTRIC LLC
Lic.# A1-8844

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL ELECTRICAL, GENERATORS, FIRE ALARM & EV CHARGERS

Call (508) 234-4889

Home Improvement

BONETTI'S Home Improvement
Roofing Siding Decks Remodeling Windows Doors Basement Finishing Gutters Cleaning Pressure Washing Painting Landscaping

Over 25 Years Experience Residential Specialist
Licensed and Insured 128231
508-347-4906 Cell 508-688-0072

MASONRY

C J MASONRY HARDSCAPE
RETAINING WALLS OUTDOOR LIVING CONSTRUCTION

Chimney Repair Foundation Repair Steps, Patios Water Proofing Walkways Stone Veneer Brick and Block Work Cord Wood
Brian French (413)222-5542
cjmasonryhardscape@gmail.com

Got Space? we do.

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

Stump Grinding

MILLER STUMP GRINDING

Asian Longhorn Beetle Certified
Fully Insured • Free Quotes
REASONABLE RATES PROMPT SERVICE
ROD MILLER • NICK MILLER OWNERS / OPERATORS
508-688-2159

GJ LEDUC PAINTING

Interior and Exterior
Power Washing
Wallpapering
General Repair
Fully Insured
Over 40+ Years Experience
508-764-8548
774-230-8373

PAINTING

Scott Bernard's PRECISION PAINTERS
Finest Craftsmanship Since 1979
Interior-Exterior Paints, Stains, Wallpaper and Fine Faux Finishes
Satisfaction Guaranteed
Free Estimates
774.452.0321

Plumbing

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

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

MIKELAMBERTSPANDH@GMAIL.COM

ROOFING

David Barbale ROOFING
Roofing/Gutters Repair Work
Fully Licensed and Insured

MA LIC #CS069127
MA HIC, LIC #1079721
INS. # CAC032585
C: 508-397-6709
O: 508-248-6709
davidbarbale.com

Roofing

SAUNDERS & SONS ROOFING
Read our reviews at the Better Business Bureau. A+ rating and accredited member since 2009.
Call Bill Toll-Free 1-866-961-Roof 508-765-0100
Lifetime material warranty & 25 yr. labor warranty available
MA Reg #153955
CSL #095459
CT-HIC #0638641
Fully Insured, Free Estimates
Family Owned and Operated
Now Accepting All Major Credit Cards

ACCREDITED BUSINESS A+

Advertise on this page for one low price! Get 7 papers. Call 774-200-7308

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

Burgess third graders kick off Sturbridge celebration of America 250

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

Expect to see special commemorative banners featuring an historical flag posted on poles along Routes 20 and 131. Look for programs focusing on the history of America at the Joshua Hyde

Public Library, and from the Sturbridge Historical Society. Old Sturbridge Village is hosting Revolutionary Game Nights at the Ox & Yoke Café. Participants will have the chance to win prizes such as special event tickets, Village crafts, and more! Check out “Revolutionary Bingo” March 27 and May 29 and “Revolutionary Trivia” Feb. 27, April 24, and June 26. For more information about these events and the many other new 250th events that the Village will be hosting, go to: osv.org.

Additional events sponsored by the Committee include an essay program for Grade 5 students titled “What Does America Mean to You?” with an option for students to voluntarily submit essays to a Town-wide recog-

ognition contest. Local restaurants will participate in a “Taste of Sturbridge” event during March and April featuring patriotic-themed offerings. Opacum Land Trust will incorporate Sturbridge historical landmarks into its April 2026 Vacation Scavenger Hunt. Also planned for May at the Senior Center are a tree planting and the burying of a time capsule.

Events will culminate in May and June. A Family Fun Day on May 16 features a Children’s Bike Decorating and Parade, followed with activities on the Common including: a Mini Big-Top Circus, face painting, T-shirt decorating, yard games, potato sack and 3-legged races, music and more. A hot dog cart will also be available. The Committee’s signature event will

be held on June 27, 2026 and will feature a parade along Route 20 and Route 131, followed by a community festival on the Town Common. More information on these events will be forthcoming.

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

SNHU announces

Spring President’s List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Spring 2026 President’s List. The spring terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

- Hannah Burke of Charlton
- Garrett Mandeville of Charlton
- Michelle Houghton of Charlton
- Loriauna Graika of Charlton
- Katelyn Halley of Charlton
- Russell Sanborn of Charlton
- Camron Dagnese of Charlton
- Anne Wasega of Sturbridge
- Emma Keith of Brimfield
- Kaighley Obuchowski of Southbridge
- Carol Bernardone of Southbridge
- Alicia Lempitski of Southbridge
- Hanna Etheridge of Southbridge
- Kalie Hernandez of Southbridge
- Rebecca Jacques of Southbridge

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 93-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the “Most Innovative” regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

Join Sturbridge America250 Parade June 27

STURBRIDGE — The Sturbridge America250 Committee is moving forward with plans for a parade and festival on Saturday, June 27 – rain or shine. The parade will step off from the Old Sturbridge Village Museum Education parking lot at 10:30 a.m. It will proceed on the OSV access road to Route 20, then to Route 131 and end at the Town Common. Bill Emrich will emcee the parade. The parade will include marching bands, entertainers, antique cars, floats made by local businesses, and area groups.

Bob Briere, recognized by many as the Town’s historian, is the parade Grand Marshal. Virginia Jalbert, the Town’s oldest resident at 101, is the guest of honor.

There is still time for businesses or groups to get involved – with a float, vintage car, or marchers. Children are invited to decorate their bikes or scooters and ride in the parade (helmets are required and a parent/guardian must walk alongside their child throughout).

Anyone wishing to participate can

email sturbridge250@gmail.com.

Following the parade there will be a Festival on the Common. This festival will include historical reenactors, entertainers, patriotic music, a reading of the Declaration of Independence, a cherry-pie eating contest and other participatory activities, and food trucks.

Mark your calendars on June 27 to celebrate the 250th anniversary of American independence in Sturbridge!

Dementia Friendly Charlton hosting brunch

CHARLTON — Dementia Friendly Charlton will be hosting a morning brunch for those living with dementia and their care partners on June 13 from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Charlton Federated Church, 64 Main St., Charlton.

This event will be welcoming, low-key, and flexible, recognizing that social outings can be challenging for those with a dementing illness. The meal will be buffet, with self-seating and plenty of table space.

To help us plan, please register your interest in attending before June 8. Recognizing that unexpected situations may arise, cancellations can be made up to the morning of the event. To register, cancel, or for questions: phone (508-248-5550 at the Charlton Federated Church) or email: dementiafriendlycharlton@gmail.com. Please provide name and number of attendees. There is no cost to attend this event. Donations are welcome to help support our organization.

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.

Amropali Karmakar makes Academic Achievement List at Georgia Southwestern State University

AMERICUS, Ga. — Amropali Karmakar, a resident of Auburn, made the Spring 2026 Academic Achievement List at Georgia Southwestern State University and was among 849 students recognized for scholastic achievement.

To be eligible for the Academic Achievement List, a student must pre-

viously earn at least 12 credit hours at GSW, be enrolled in 3 to 11 hours of courses, and earn a 3.5 or higher GPA.

Georgia Southwestern State University, located in Americus, Ga., is a public, four-year unit of the University System of Georgia with approximately 4,000 students. Georgia Southwestern offers out-

standing professional programs of study as well as degrees in the arts, humanities, sciences and graduate programs in business, computer science, education, and nursing. Founded in 1906, Georgia Southwestern is recognized as one of the best value colleges in the nation. Visit www.gsw.edu for more information.

Home Town Service, BIG TIME RESULTS

CLASSIFIEDS

774-200-7308

Place your ad today!

Estate/Garage Sale
Sat, May 23 8:30AM to 3:30PM
1282 Quaker St, Northbridge

Bedroom Sets, Living Room Set, Recliner
 Dining Room Set, Kitchen Set, Washer
 Courier, Roll Top Desk, Lamps, Wing Chair
 Kitchenware, Quilting Supplies,
 Sewing Supplies
 Knitting Supplies, Lawn Mowers, Tools,
 Gas Grill
 Knick Knacks, Wall-hangings, Pictures,
 Appliances
 Glassware, Dishes and Much, Much More!

Large Items: Priced or BO
Small Items: Make an Offer
Rain or Shine Cash and Carry

WAR RELICS & WAR SOUVENIRS WANTED:
WWII & EARLIER CASH WAITING!

Helmets, Swords, Daggers, Bayonets, Medals, Badges, Flags, Uniforms, etc.
 Over 40 years' experience.
Call David (508) 688-0847. I'LL COME TO YOU!



BOY SCOUT TROOP 273 YARD SALE
SATURDAY, MAY 23RD

Universal Tag Parking Lot, 36 Hall Road, Dudley
 Early Birds (8am to 9am) • \$10.00 per person fee
9am until 3pm FREE
 24,000 sq.ft. of yard sale items **ONE DAY ONLY**
Pick your items and Make an offer!
CREDIT CARD ACCEPTED!

Grouped Items: **Electronics** - stereos, speakers, etc. (no TVs) **Tools** - hand tools, lights, flooring etc., **Furniture** - Tables, chairs, bed frames, cabinets, hutches, etc., **Housewares** - glassware, dishes, pictures, mirrors, bowls, cups, small appliances **Sporting goods** - Bikes, skis, baseball equipment, golf, exercise equipment **Clothes** - shirts, pants, jackets, shoes, bags **Kids toys and baby items** - high chairs, bouncy, games, **Antiques**

HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS, FRIES AND DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE

FOSTER PARENTS WANTED:
 Seeking Quality Homes Throughout Central MA To Provide Foster Care To Children In Need.
 24/7 Support
 Generous Reimbursement, \$1000 Sign-On Bonus.
 Call For Details.

Devereux Therapeutic Foster Care.
(508)829-6769

Devereux
 ADVANCED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

OBF
 continued from page A1
 Shakira, US tennis great Serena Williams, Brazilian football legend Kaká, and co-president of Bank of America Jim DeMare.

Half of the funds raised for the FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund will be allocated to the FIFA Football for Schools (F4S) programme, an initiative that advances life skills, learning, and community development through football around the world.

The first group of FIFA Global

Citizen Education Fund grantees were selected through a highly competitive, multi-stage process designed to ensure credibility and impact. From more than 3,500 applications submitted through an open global call, independent screening by Foundation Source verified eligibility and compliance before Global Citizen programme staff shortlisted top candidates against a rigorous evaluation framework.

All applications were subject to a rigorous evaluation framework developed by Global Citizen and

administered jointly with Foundation Source, encompassing eligibility screening, compliance verification and comprehensive due diligence before any disbursements are made. Ongoing monitoring and spot checks will ensure accountability and results through the grant period. Grantees benefit from a single platform to manage their relationship with Global Citizen from application through grant agreement and reporting, simplifying the administrative process so organizations can stay focused on their work.

BALLOON
 continued from page A1
 titution intensified as these finalists raced again, narrowing the field to the top five. With every inch counting and the crowd cheering loudly, the gymnasium was filled with suspense—and a few last-second hopes for “just a little more air.”

The final results were:
 5th place: Lily Soponski
 4th place: Avery Nguyen

3rd place: Anna Mancini
 2nd place: Owen Dean
 1st place: Kerolos Sayed

Congratulations to all of the incredible racers for their hard work, creativity, and perseverance—and for proving that balloon-powered engineering is harder than it looks!

With an energetic audience, supportive teachers, and lots of high-flying (and sometimes not-so-straight-flying) cars, the event was a wonderful reminder that learning can be both

fun and inspiring. By combining science, engineering, and problem-solving in a hands-on and competitive way, the Balloon Car Race showed that success often comes from experimentation, teamwork, and learning from mistakes.

In the end, it wasn’t just about crossing the finish line—it was about the journey, the creativity, and maybe a few balloons that had a mind of their own. Truly, a race day to remember!

MEM DAY
 continued from page A1
 has a proud tradition to pause and reflect on the significance of Memorial Day and those that we honor on that day, especially those who sacrificed everything and helped make it possible for us to enjoy our freedoms because of their sacrifice and selflessness.”

A parade immediately follows the ceremony, and all are invited to participate. A wagon is available for veterans and others who want to join the parade but are unable to march, courtesy of Village Green Campgrounds, who will also pro-

vide ice cream to all who participate in the parade. Children are encouraged to decorate their bikes and doll carriages in patriotic themes.

The parade will stop at the cemetery and war monuments in town to pay respect with ceremonial gun salute, the laying of wreaths donated by Green Thumb Florist, raising of the flag and the playing of Taps by Grant MacFarlane and Cassandra Mungai. Tina Harkness and Linda Mercier will play the bagpipe at the cemetery.

During the American Civil War, citizens placed flowers on the graves of those who had been killed in battle. In recognition of that tradition,

red carnations will be handed out to place on veterans’ graves marked with flags placed by Scout Troop 7 and additional volunteers. Girls on the Run planted the geraniums at town monuments.

The committee wants to thank all who worked behind the scenes to make this possible especially the Brimfield Police Department and the Champeau-Vilandre American Legion Post 109 for their support.

Be sure to join us on this Day of Remembrance in honor of those who have sacrificed so much for the freedoms that we enjoy. In case of rain the ceremony will be held at St. Christopher’s church.

Charlton Middle School sixth graders showcase engineering skills in Boston

CHARLTON — Eight select sixth grade students from Charlton Middle School represented their school at the Applied Learning Showcase on Friday, May 8, demonstrating innovation, teamwork, and public speaking skills alongside students from across the region.

The students arrived early in the morning at Shepherd Hill Regional High School, where parents dropped them off to meet the bus for the trip to Boston. Accompanied by chaperones and fellow middle and high school participants, the group traveled to the showcase held at The TRACK at New Balance. The event ran from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and featured more than 1,500 student projects.

The showcase highlighted projects developed through the Project Lead The Way curriculum, where students studied cerebral palsy, occupational therapy, and the Engineering Design Process. Working in small groups, students were challenged to design and build “therapeutic toys” while

meeting specific criteria and constraints. After completing their first prototypes, students spent additional class periods critiquing one another’s work and discussing ways to improve their designs. They were then given more time to revise and enhance their projects before three different groups of therapeutic toy designs were chosen to attend the showcase in Boston.

Throughout the event, the Charlton students spent over two hours presenting their projects to industry professionals and answering questions from attendees.

The students talked almost nonstop from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. It was truly impressive to watch.

Despite the long hours on their feet, every student said they would participate again.

One visitor was especially impressed when students explained how they used a decision matrix to evaluate design choices — a concept she said she had not encountered until her late 20s or early 30s. Judges and attendees also praised the organization of the students’

binders and presentation materials.

Preparation for the showcase required significant dedication from the students, many of whom arrived at school as early as 7 a.m. and stayed until 4 p.m. to organize poster boards, prepare binders, and rehearse presentations.

The compliments I received about my students truly warmed my heart. I am so proud that we did the extra work before and after

school to prepare for this showcase.

Following the event, students reviewed feedback cards together, discussing both the compliments they received and suggestions for improvement.

For the students of Charlton Middle School, the experience provided not only recognition for their hard work, but also valuable lessons in engineering, collaboration, and communication.

Relay For Life returns to Southbridge June 20

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Relay For Life of Southern Worcester County will hold its 29th Relay in Southbridge on Saturday, June 20 at McMahon Field from 9 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.

The Relay For Life is the signature fundraiser of the American Cancer Society. 29 years is no small feat! We walk to honor, remember and celebrate all those that we have lost to cancer, those still fighting and the ones that have beat it.

We can't do it without help from the com-

munity and we are thankful to partner with The Duck and Avellino in Sturbridge to hold a fundraiser day on Tuesday May 19th. Dine in or take out at either of these locations all day on May 19, and 20 percent of all food sales will be donated to the American Cancer Society. You must present the attached coupon, either in print form or on your phone. Reservations are strongly suggested. Gather up family or friends, eat great food and help raise funds to fight cancer, one plate at a time.



43 East Main Street Webster, MA 01570
Finest Realtor Associates to Serve You!

hope2own.com
508.943.4333

Sharon Pelletier - Owner Broker
Licensed in MA, CT & RI

We Want Your Listings!



Southbridge - 14 Servant Way
OPEN HOUSE Saturday 11am-1pm

Gently used, well maintained RANCH on a cul-de-sac! 1,300 sf +/-, 3 BRs, 2 full baths, gas fireplace, central AC. A comfortable open space w/lots of natural light, private main BR w/California closets, a remodeled Bath w/handicap accessible wide-door roll-in shower. Offers a half acre of land Close to I-84 & Sturbridge. List Price: \$459,000

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

Thompson ~ 6 Lillian Ave
Bonnette Acres on Webster Line



Young (2019) Pristine Raised Ranch, 1800+ SF, 3 BRs, LL Family Rm, 2-1/2 Baths, Primary BR Suite, Central AC, Country Setting with .70 Acre Lot & Lg Fenced Area on Cul-de-sac! \$489,900

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



Corner Lot, 275' +/- Road Frontage, Extremely High Traffic Count, 6,200 SF (75x80) Commercial Building, Currently 2 Units -> Potential for More. Economical, Efficient Natural Gas FHA Heat & Cooling. Its close proximity to Successful National Franchised Businesses generates Significant Commerce at this Location. Convenient Access. List Price: \$615,000

Featured Listing
Webster ~ 33 Slater Street



Sprawling fieldstone faced 1 Level Ranch, located on a +/- 0.5-acre level, w/24'x24' 2 car att'd garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 2 stone fireplaces w/pellet stove inserts, FHW BB heat by oil. Open floor plan kitchen, living rm, dining rm, breezeway w/sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom, hardwood & c-tile floors. \$525,000

Webster - 34 Eastern Ave Condos
~ Unit M ~



Original Owner, 1st Time Offered, Well-Kept, 2-BRs, 1-1/2 Baths, 1,500+ SF, LL Living Potential, Private Deck, 20-Unit Complex, Desirable Setting, 1395 in mins. List Price: \$310,000

Webster - 24 Cooper Rd
New Construction - Craftsman Style home



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

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagogmanchauggaggoggchaubunagungamaugg



Webster Lake Waterfront
22 Union Pt
Snug Harbor Villa

Waterfront Lake Snug Harbor Villa End Unit!

Most Luxurious & Largest on the Lake! Presenting a distinguished condo residence that will provide an exceptional waterfront lifestyle! Offers an expansive 4600 sf +/- featuring 4BRs, 4-1/2 baths, 3 frpics & more, all designed for relaxation & convenience! Nothing quite compares! Priced to Sell. List Price: \$1,050,000.

Webster Lake Waterfront!!
On Indian Point # 10



ASTONISHING PANORAMIC VIEWS ACROSS MID-SECTION OF WEBSTER LAKE! VIEW THE LAKE FROM ALL WINDOWS. Located on a peninsula providing 2 Shorelines. Fireplaced Living Room! 2 Baths. FHW Oil Heat! Central Air. Garage. \$900,000.

Webster Lake -
302 Killdeer Island



Webster Lake Waterfront -
31 Bayview!!



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

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

To join this section, please contact your local sales rep, 774-200-7308 or email mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

PUT YOUR TRUST IN US
TEAMWORK AND EXPERIENCE
Jo-Ann Szymczak 774-230-5044
Diane Luong 774-239-2937
Maria Reed 508-873-9254
Bob Berk 508-367-9226
Vicki Bennett, Client Coordinator
ReMax Vision • 25 Union St., Worcester MA 01608
CALL FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS Licensed in MA & CT

OXFORD COLONIAL
*Central Location
*Private Yard
*Sided
*1st Floor
Main Bedroom
*2 Full Baths
* 1st Floor Laundry
3 Elm St. \$445,000

BROOKFIELD-
55+ COMMUNITY LIVING
*Cathedral Ceiling *3 Bedroom *2 Full Baths
*Center Fireplace * Open Living Concept for Cabinet packed Kitchen/ Dining Area/ Living Room
20 Deer Run \$285,000

WORCESTER-
SPACIOUS 3 UNITS
*3 bedrooms each unit
*Gas Heat
*Sided
*De-Lead Certificate
25 Almont Ave \$825,000

SOUTHBRIDGE CONDO
*2 bedrooms
*2 Baths
(*Open Living Concept Kitchen/ Dining room.
Livingroom *Deck
18A Maria Ave \$219,900

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

ERA Key Realty SERVICES
Donna Flannery Realtor®
508-612-6771
Donnaflanneryrealtor.com
Donnaflannery@erakey.net
OVER 30 YEARS SELLING LOCAL REAL ESTATE
NATIONAL ERA FINALIST TWICE FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE
TOP AGENT YEAR AFTER YEAR FOR # OF UNITS
SOLD & SOLD DOLLAR VOLUME
ERA HALL OF FAME
415B Main Street Spencer, MA 01562

When Experience and Commitment Matter
Mary Vigliatura Stolarczyk
ABR, GRI, CRS, C2EX RE/MAX Hall of Fame
508.612.1382
MESRealty.com
Mary@WillSellit.com

IT'S A GREAT TIME TO BUY!
DUDLEY-NEW CONSTRUCTION
*2 Acres *24' Great Room
*2 Car Garage * Central Air
* Gas heat * Privacy but
Highway Convenience
Deb Listewnik 508-847-0872
Jo-Ann (Nedorosik) Szymczak
CRS, GRI, SRES
508-943-7669
774-230-5044
CALL JO-ANN FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS
ReMax Vision
25 Union St., Worcester MA 01608
Licensed in MA & CT

Camp Invention's fun, action-packed summer STEM program coming to area

REGION — Camp Invention®, a nationally recognized, nonprofit summer enrichment program, is coming to the following locations.

Auburn: Auburn Middle School the week of July 6 - July 10.

Uxbridge: Our Lady of the Valley Regional School the week of June 22 - June 26.

Regional program sponsors include Johnson Controls Foundation and Overdeck Family Foundation.

A program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame® in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Camp Invention challenges children in grades K-6 to tap into their natural curiosity and use their creativity to solve



problems. Through hands-on activities, Camp Invention promotes STEM learning; builds confidence, leadership, perseverance and resourcefulness; and encourages entrepreneurship - all in a fun and engaging environment.

Each year, the program features new curricula inspired by

some of our nation's most world-changing inventors - the National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductees. This year's Spark program encourages children to be confident in their ideas and explore their innovativeness through hands-on activities including:

- **Space Morphers™:** Kids build a DIY rocket and launch an epic mission to transform a new planet's atmosphere, terrain and ecosystem. After a high-energy Rover Race to collect samples and data, they grow dazzling crystal trees and hatch a mysterious animal egg in a Space Lab.
- **Make Waves™:** Campers ride the waves of entrepreneurship and invention! Inspired by a surfer's journey, they create prototypes, pitch their innovative products to hook investors and build a billboard boat to set sail and "make waves" in the market.

- **Fur-ensics™:** Kids sharpen their animal detective skills with Cap E. Bara and a fleet of robotic capybaras. They investigate a trail of footprints, collect bits of fluffy fur and examine suspicious splatters before forensically analyzing evidence that has a surprising twist.

- **The Infringers™:** Campers use their invention superpowers to solve challenges in their community and around the world. They miniaturize top-secret innovations, safeguard their designs using cryptography and protect their intellectual property from the Infringers.

my son learns to be more creative and my daughter learns to be more independent."

All local Camp Invention programs are facilitated and taught by qualified educators who reside and teach in the community. Camp Invention serves 147,000 students every year and partners with more than 2,600 schools and districts across the nation. For more information or to register, visit invent.org/camp.

About Camp Invention

Camp Invention is the only nationally recognized summer program focused on creativity, innovation, real-world problem solving and the spirit of invention. Through hands-on programming, Camp Invention encourages children entering kindergarten through sixth grade to explore science, technology, engineering and mathematics curricula inspired by some of the world's greatest inventors. Since 1990, our education programs have served more than 3.3 million children, and 297,000 teachers and Leadership Interns. Regional program sponsors include the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Janet Malser Humanities Trust announces 2026 grant recipients

REGION — The Janet Malser Humanities Trust is pleased to announce the 2026 grant award recipients below. Trustees make awards annually to verified tax-exempt organizations meeting the charitable purposes of the Trust.

The causes for which funding is considered include: "the restoration and preservation of historic sites; the furtherance of art and music in the schools, both public and private; public concerts with an emphasis on classical music; the improvement and growth of public libraries; the support of church work aiding the indigent, homeless, aging citizens and needy children; beautification through planting and the preservation of park areas and cemeteries; the improvement of service and equipment at the Hubbard Regional Hospital [now UMASS Memorial], and the environmental protection of Webster Lake." For more information visit janetmalser-trust.org.

All Saints Academy (Creative Pathways)
Boys & Girls Club of Webster-Dudley (Club Creations)
Church of the Reconciliation (Boiler Replacement in Church Hall)
Dudley-Charlton Regional School (Art Through the Ages)
Dudley Conservation Land Trust (Perron Barn Renovation)
Dudley Conservation Land Trust (Perron House Renovation)
Dudley Grange # 163 (Dudley Grange Charter Restoration)
Dudley Grange # 163 (Dudley Grange Ticket Booth Repair)
Dudley Historical Commission (Tradesmen on the Common)
Friends of the Gladys E. Kelley Library, Inc. (Music

Concert Series)
Gladys E. Kelly Public Library (One Book, One Community)
Local 4 Life, Inc. (Creating a Community Pollinator Garden at the Pearle Crawford Library)
Nichols College (Utilizing Ground Penetrating)
Our Bright Future, Inc. (Feeding Our Future)
Park Avenue Parent Teacher Organization (Sensory Supports)
Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library (Crawford Curiosity Center)
Reconciliation House, Inc.
St. Anthony of Padua Church (Handicapped Family Bathroom)
St. Joseph School (Indoor Garden and STEM Lab Integration)
St. Louis League of Catholic Women (WSO & Choir Holiday Pops)
St. Roch Church (Free Community Dinners)
Shepherd Hill Regional High School
Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative
Town of Dudley Recreation Commission (Community Events)
Town of Oxford/Community Center
Webster Lake Association

308 LAKESIDE

CASUAL WATERFRONT DINING ON LAKE LASHAWAY

LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEK!

5/22 EASY SEASON
5/29 PROFESSOR POP
6/5 JEFF ANDERSON

MUSIC BINGO EVERY THURSDAY 7 TO 9

WEEKLY SPECIAL

Check out our \$19.99 Three-Course Meal Deals

Available Every Tuesday, Wednesday, And Thursday.

OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK
11 - CLOSE
CLOSED MONDAYS

Please visit our website or Facebook page for our full menu.

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

Find us on Facebook

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

Make Reservations for our Fathers' Day Brunch

TOP-RATED, LOCAL ROOFING CONTRACTOR SERVING CHARLTON AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES.
Financing available and major credit cards accepted.

ANDREW PORTER CONTRACTING, INC

ROOFING

NO ONE DOES IT BETTER

It's a bold statement. But one that we proudly stand behind—because **trust, quality and affordability** come standard with every job. No gimmicks, no markups and no shortcuts. Just good, honest work.

Call or text 774-452-2129, or visit APCROOFS.com.

MEMORIAL DAY at THE SPAGS OF SPENCER!

BEAT THE COMING PRICE INCREASES!

GREAT SELECTION OF GAS GRILLS!

END OF THE YEAR TV SALE!

43" Smart TV...\$199.99
50" HDTV Television...\$229.99
65" HDTV Television...\$329.99
75" HDTV...\$499.99

MATTRESS SALE!

TWIN: \$199 / FULL: \$269 / QUEEN: \$299
(REG. \$299) (REG. \$499) (REG. \$599)

DEALS BETTER THAN ANY BIG BOX STORE!

FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER - Reg. \$449.99	\$329.99
G.E. STOVE w/AIR FRY - Reg. \$899.99	\$699.99
SMOOTH TOP STOVE - Reg. \$699.99	\$599.99
21 CU. FT. FREEZER - Reg. \$999.99	\$799.99
G.E. 27 CU. FT. FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR - Reg. \$1999.99	\$1499.99
5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER - Reg. \$699.99	\$189.99
AMANA WASHER OR DRYER - Reg. \$599.99	\$489.99
ENERGY STAR 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR - Reg. \$699.99	\$599.99
FAMOUS MAKER OVER THE STOVE MICROWAVE - Reg. \$249.99	\$229.99
LG WASHER & DRYER - Front Load, Reg. \$1599.99	\$1,399.99
MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER - Reg. \$699.99	\$499.99
FRIGIDAIRE SIDE BY SIDE - Reg. \$1,499.99	\$1099.99

BIKE SALE!

1000's IN STOCK!
WE REPAIR BIKES!

SPRING BIKE TUNE-UP: \$49.99!

E-BIKES IN STOCK!

WHITCO

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

INSTANT FINANCING UP TO \$10,000!

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