

Charlton Villager

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Thursday-Friday, May 14-15, 2026

A Good Samaritan returns lost Masonic apron



Courtesy Photo

Libertad Lodge #50 members stand with the recovered Masonic Apron, once believed lost, showing their satisfaction.

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Monday, May 4, Major General Salem Towne Masonic Lodge had the privilege of welcoming guests from the Libertad Lodge # 50 located in East Providence, R.I.

These brethren made the long trip to Major General Salem Towne Lodge

(MGSTL) in Southbridge to retrieve a case with a beautiful and valuable Masonic Apron that was lost. A Good Samaritan named Rick (full name unknown) found a briefcase on a Rhode Island on ramp, stopped his car, and picked it up from the road. It is believed that the individual in question resides in the Webster, Massachusetts area, as this briefcase bearing the Masonic symbol and

the name "Libertad Lodge #50" was discovered outside the entrance of the Webster Masonic building.

A note was found inside the briefcase saying I found this Masonic briefcase on the on ramp in Rhode Island, signed "Rick." A Masonic Brother from MGSTL learned that Libertad Lodge #50 is in East Providence, Rhode Island. A phone call



Courtesy Photo

Left to right: members of the Libertad Lodge holding the Big Beautiful Traveling Regalia Gavel Brother, Planas-Merced, Bro. Alfonzo, Master of (MGSTL) Bro. Anderson, Bro. Siverio and Bro. Alarado-Berris.

was made, and the owners of this Masonic Apron came for a fraternal visit to retrieve their Apron back. While these brethren from Libertad Lodge were here and heard than seen our big Traveling Regalia Gavel, they decided they wanted to take our big beautiful Traveling Regalia Gavel back to East Providence Rhode Island.

Masonic Lodges from

across the state or neighboring states may attend regular monthly meetings to collect these Traveling Regalia Gavels. The Libertad members noticed the large, striking big Traveling Regalia Gavel and showed enthusiasm about getting involved. To retrieve the gavel and return it to their lodge they must have a minimum of three brothers which must

include a Worshipful Master, an officer and a fellow brother. In return the lodge that it was taken from must go to one of their monthly meetings to retrieve it back. This is one way how fellow Master Masons meet new brethren. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, go to www.massfreemasonry.org and to find a lodge nearest you.

Town of Sturbridge earns Tree City USA recognition From Arbor Day Foundation

STURBRIDGE — The Arbor Day Foundation named the Town of Sturbridge a 2025 Tree City USA in honor of its commitment to plant, grow, and maintain trees to benefit its community.

The Arbor Day Foundation is a global nonprofit with a mission to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. Its network of more than a million supporters and partners has helped the organization plant more than 500 million trees in forests and communities across more than 60 countries. The Foundation's Tree City USA program is now celebrating its 50th recognition season. The anniversary underscores the program's rich history of growing healthier, greener, and more resilient communities through urban forestry.

"For five decades, Tree City USA has rallied passionate local leaders to enhance the livability and sustainability of their communities. Tree champions like Sturbridge are leading the way in a growing movement to shape a better future with trees and action," said Michelle Saulnier, Vice President of Programs at the Arbor Day Foundation. "Trees are critical infrastructure, building resiliency and fostering good health in our nation's cities. We're proud Sturbridge is among the Arbor Day Foundation's growing network of communities dedicated to creating positive impact through trees."

In cities and neighborhoods, trees are proven to help mitigate the urban heat island effect, reduce stormwater runoff, improve air quality, and boost mental and physical health. When the right trees are planted in the right places, they can also reduce traffic noise, increase property values, and lower energy costs for homeowners.

Town Administrator, Robin Grimm, commented, "Sturbridge has a rich tradition of celebrating the natural beauty of Central Massachusetts, and its Tree City designation stands as a testimony to the commitment in this town to preserving our precious natural resources."

To earn Tree City USA recognition, a city must uphold four core standards including maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and participating in an Arbor Day celebration.

The Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA program is operated in partnership with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service. To learn more about Tree City USA and other Arbor Day Foundation programs, visit arborday.org/programs.

About the Arbor Day Foundation

The Arbor Day Foundation is a global nonprofit inspiring people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. They foster a growing community of more than 1 million leaders, innovators, planters, and supporters united by their bold belief that a more hopeful future can be shaped through the power of trees. For more than 50 years, they've answered the critical need with action, planting more than half a billion trees alongside their partners. And this is only the beginning.

The Arbor Day Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit pursuing a future where all life flourishes through the power of trees. Learn more at arborday.org.

Charlton Lions to conduct toll road fundraiser

CHARLTON — If you drive through the intersection of Route 31 and North Main Street in Charlton on Saturday, May 16, you may encounter slower-than-normal traffic. The Charlton Lions Club will conduct its annual "Toll Road Fundraiser" in the intersection from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on that day, weather permitting.

The Town of Charlton has issued a permit for the Club to solicit donations from motorists passing through the intersection. Any size donation will be greatly appreciated and produce a smile and a thank you from the Lion holding the bucket. (Even if you don't give, you'll probably get a smile

and friendly wave.)

Donations will be used for a number of service projects carried out by The Charlton Lions Club each year — scholarships for Charlton residents who are continuing their education beyond high school, holiday gifts for needy families, diabetes programs, support of assistance dog organizations, disaster relief, installation of handicap ramps, and vision/hearing testing. You may request specific information about these programs by emailing thecharltonlions@gmail.com. For more information about the Club and its service activities, visit thecharltonlions.com.

St. Anne St. Patrick Parish announces return of outdoor weekend masses May 23



Rhonda Santos — Courtesy

The Pavilion where outdoor Mass is held at St. Anne St. Patrick Parish and Shrine.

FISKDALE — St. Anne St. Patrick Parish is delighted to welcome parishioners and visitors alike to the return of its beloved outdoor weekend Masses, beginning Saturday, May 23. Masses will once again be celebrated in the parish's spacious, covered pavilion (rain or shine), offering a peaceful and uplifting worship experience surrounded by the beauty of the outdoors.

Outdoor weekend Masses in the pavilion will be held at the following times:

- Saturdays at 4 p.m.
- Sundays at 10 a.m. and noon
- Indoor Masses will con-

tinue as scheduled in St. Anne's Church:

- Sundays at 8 a.m.
- Monday–Thursday at 7:30 and 10 a.m.
- Friday and Saturday at 7:30 a.m.

"Our outdoor Masses offer a unique opportunity to encounter God in a setting that naturally lifts the heart and spirit," said Fr. Salvator Musande, Pastor. "Whether you are a regular parishioner or someone looking to reconnect with your faith, we warmly invite you to join us and experience the peace and beauty of worship in the open air."

Visitors are encouraged to make the most of their time on the parish grounds, which are home to the Shrine of St. Anne, featuring a first-class relic of St. Anne, the grandmother of Jesus. The campus also includes the inspiring Hall of Saints, the Russian Icon Exhibit, the Angel of Hope, a Labyrinth, and the Memorial for the Unborn, where personalized tiles remain available for those wishing to honor and remember the lives of unborn children.

The grounds are rich with statues, prayer spaces, and quiet areas for reflection,

making it an ideal destination for individuals and families seeking both spiritual renewal and a moment of peace.

Guests are also invited to stop by the Religious Gift Shop, open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., offering a wide selection of devotional items, books, sacramentals, and gifts for all ages.

All are welcome to come and experience the beauty, serenity, and spiritual richness of St. Anne St. Patrick Parish this summer season. For more information, visit stannestpatrickparish.com or contact the parish office at 508-347-7338.

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.

REAL ESTATE

Charlton \$165,000, 145 Colburn Rd, Carpenter Jr, Roger W, to Salinas, Nailea.

\$445,000, 91 Newell Ave, Lamoureux, Nathan R, and Lamoureux, Rachel L, to Ortiz, Natalia, and Ortiz, Daniel.

\$435,000, 626 Dennison Dr, Bohm, Ric A, to Lamoureux, Rachel Lynne, and Lamoureux, Nathan Reginal.

\$400,000, 156 Maria Ave, Hilow, James F, and Rickey, Melissa D, to Neto, Jose M D S, and Miranda, Iasmim Elizandra.

\$367,000, 266 Marcy St,

Dion, Timothy, and Dion, Timothy A, to Weston, Lisa Marie.

\$256,000, 83 Plimpton St, Simon, Rachel, to Bousquet, Miranda F, and Bousquet, Glenn L.

\$217,500, 82 Hartwell St, 82 Hartwell LLC, to Lahaina Corp.

\$200,000, 20 Marc Ave, Secretary Of Hsng & Urban, to Heavenly Hm Solutions LLC.

\$615,000, 7 Woodlawn Ave, Sporna, Jan, and Kozaczka, Anna, to Essoh, Dorine Nkragbo, and Essoh, Esmel Eder.



ARTHRITIS?

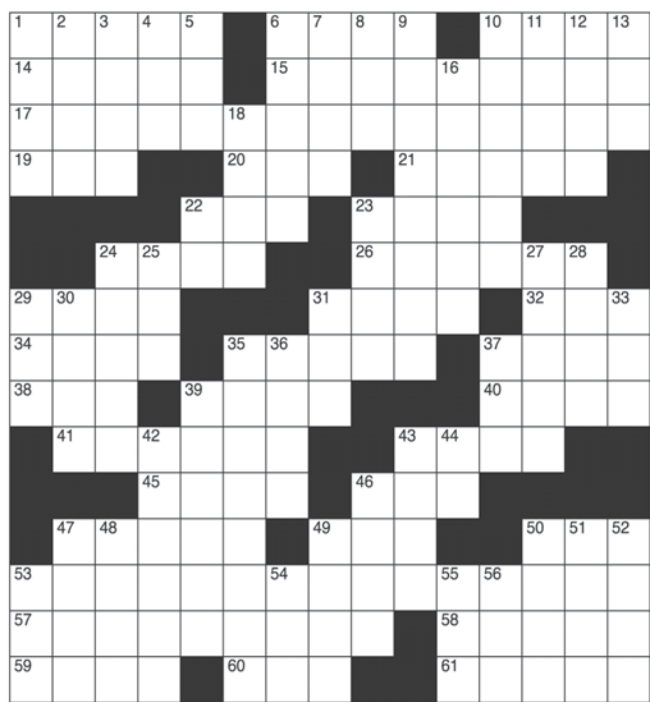
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Notable casino destination
- 6. Current units
- 10. Roman military unit
- 14. American lizard
- 15. Fates
- 17. The Yankees have lots of these
- 19. Unhappy
- 20. Mimic
- 21. Remove from the record
- 22. Where cargo ships dock (abbr.)
- 23. A way to fight
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Contract
- 29. Country along the Arabian peninsula
- 31. Tree species
- 32. Pituitary gland secretion (abbr.)
- 34. Perfect
- 35. "Partner" to groans
- 37. Jewish calendar month
- 38. Where wrestlers work
- 39. Egotistical
- 40. Potted plants
- 41. Containers
- 43. Large, flightless birds
- 45. Part of a book
- 46. American spies
- 47. Pancakes made of buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Disfigure
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal
- 58. Early English council
- 59. Area units
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Siskel and ___

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Animal jaws
- 2. Small water buffalo
- 3. An appliance has one
- 4. Every
- 5. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 6. Very skilled
- 7. No more than what is specified
- 8. Tire measurement
- 9. Towers
- 10. Forward
- 11. Jacob ___, American journalist
- 12. Vale
- 13. Former CIA
- 16. Middle Eastern nation
- 18. Exhausts
- 22. South Dakota
- 23. The complete duration of something
- 24. Kids love him
- 25. Singular
- 27. Cod genus
- 28. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- 29. Resistance unit
- 30. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 31. Cast out
- 33. 60-minute periods
- 35. Most worn
- 36. European river
- 37. Atomic mass unit
- 39. Items of food
- 42. Body parts
- 43. Ireland
- 44. Partner to Pa
- 46. Sammy ___, songwriter
- 47. Dutch settler
- 48. Full-grown pike fish
- 49. Sun or solar disk
- 50. Minute arachnid
- 51. From a distance
- 52. A monthly expense
- 53. Young women's association
- 54. Brazilian state
- 55. Air freight provider
- 56. Pointed end of a pen



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Individual offices may vary

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For emergencies, dial 911

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Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School

..... (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326

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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.bethlehesturbridge.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



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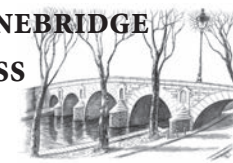
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Sturbridge America250 celebration invites community to Family Fun Day

STURBRIDGE — The Sturbridge America 250 Celebration Committee invites the community to our Family Fun Day on Saturday, May 16, from noon to 3 p.m. on the Sturbridge Common. This is the first of two community-wide events commemorating America's 250th anniversary. The second, on June 27, features a parade followed by activities on the Common. The Family Fun Day kicks off at Noon with a Patriotic Costume Parade. Participants can check in starting at noon and will receive a parade

number and patriotic goodie bag. The Parade begins at 12:15 p.m. Prizes will be given for: Most Historical, Most Patriotic, and Best Family/Group Theme. From 1 – 2 p.m., the Mighty Top Big Circus will perform. This is a small but mighty show with aerial silks, hula-hoop acrobatics, and aerial hoop acts. After the show, kids can jump in and try out hula hoop tricks and other circus skills themselves. By watching and joining in, kids can learn more about coordination, rhythm, and sticking with

something new. In collaboration with the Joshua Hyde Public Library, this program is supported in part by a grant from the Sturbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. Following the Circus there will be a potato sack race, and a three-legged race, with prizes awarded. Throughout the afternoon families can enjoy yard games, a selfie station, face painting, a balloon artist, and an inflatable double slide. Girl Scout Troop #65394 will have a col-

oring and crafts table, with the crafts sponsored by the Stephanie Lachapelle Group with Compass. Children can make a patriotic hat with the Daughters of the American Revolution. ADJ will be acting as emcee and providing music throughout the afternoon. Free hot dogs, chips, and water will be provided to the first 250 attendees. Food can also be purchased from attending Food Trucks. The Sturbridge America 250 Committee thanks Veolia for providing prizes, goodie bags, and the hot

dogs, chips, and water. On Saturday, June 27, the community is invited to participate in and enjoy a parade starting at OSV and ending on the Town Common, followed by a number of patriotic activities on the Common. Anyone who wishes to participate should go to the Sturbridge Recreation Dept. Web site: sturbridgema.myrec.com. More information on the parade and activities will be coming soon.

What should you do in the new year? Get your "estate needs in order". No one likes to talk about death, that is why you should have everything done in advance. Make sure your hard-earned money and investments are left to those you want. Call me for a free consultation. Also, handling all types of real estate matters.



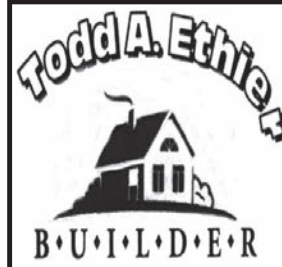
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Southbridge Lions Club

announces 15th Annual Al DiPetro

Memorial Golf Tournament

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Lions Club is preparing to host its 15th Annual Al DiPetro Memorial Golf Tournament on Friday, May 15, at Heritage Country Club in Charlton. The annual event, known for combining friendly competition with community spirit, is expected to draw golfers of all skill levels for a

day of recreation and fundraising. Registration will begin at 7 a.m., with a shotgun start scheduled for 8:30 a.m. The tournament will follow an A, B, C, D scramble format, making it accessible and enjoyable for both experienced golfers and casual participants. The entry fee is \$150 per player, which includes

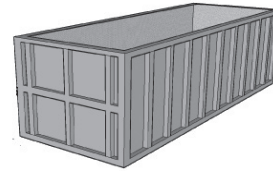
greens fees, a golf cart, lunch and refreshments, tournament prizes, and a steak or chicken dinner. Prizes will be awarded to the top three finishing teams, and a variety of raffle prizes will also be available. Advance registration is required. Those interested in participating can contact Gary Fontaine at

774-230-1412 or Steve Stella at 508-989-1974, or reach out to any Southbridge Lions Club member. Organizers say the tournament promises a full day of golf, camaraderie, and support for local initiatives, continuing a long-standing tradition of giving back to the Southbridge community.



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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.

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 community 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.

Southbridge Water Department to conduct hydrant flow test

SOUTHBRIDGE — Southbridge Water Department will perform a hydrant flow test on their hydrant on Tuesday, May 12 at approximately 9 p.m. The location tested will be 205 Main St. in Southbridge. The procedure will include testing the operation and capacity of the hydrant on the property.

The Department requests that during this period customers check their water before washing clothes. Customers may also get accumulated sediments in their house laterals the next morning. This will clear after a brief run of water at the tap.

Crew Leader
Sturbridge Department of Public Works
The Town of Sturbridge Department of Public Works (DPW) is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of **Crew Leader**. This is a full-time role with competitive benefits. Starting pay rate of \$35.05/hr, with yearly step increases.
Key Requirements:
• Valid Class A or B CDL
• Equipment Hydraulic License 2A (required)
• Equipment Hydraulic Licenses 4G and 4E (preferred, with the ability to obtain within 6 months)
• Effective communication skills.
• Two years of supervisory experience in the construction field or municipal.
• Proficiency in operating all DPW equipment, including but not limited to: grader, loader, roadside mower, excavator, backhoe, and street sweeper.
Application Details:
• Application and job description are available on the Town of Sturbridge website under job opportunities <https://www.sturbridge.gov/your-government/pages/job-opportunities>
• Interviews will begin on May 14, 2026, and will continue until the position is filled.
Additional Information:
• The DPW operates as a union shop.
• The Town of Sturbridge is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).
For more information, please refer to the job description or contact the Sturbridge DPW directly at 508-347-2515 or dpw@sturbridge.gov.

Friday's Child



Korben
Age 9
Registration #8266

Korben is a sweet and loving young boy with a gentle and joyful presence. He enjoys being around others and often engages with peers in his own unique way, using babbling as a form of communication. His personality shines through in the little moments, especially when he is feeling comfortable and connected. Korben finds happiness in simple, meaningful activities. He loves having books read to him and enjoys the closeness and connection that comes with sharing

a story. Music and TV shows are also favorites of his, bringing him comfort and enjoyment throughout the day. Korben especially enjoys spending time with people who are patient and attentive. Whether he's listening to a favorite book, enjoying music, or simply being near others, he thrives in environments where he feels supported and cared for.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21187524165>

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.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER
BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Rooted in community pride

There is something reassuring about a town that still values its trees.

In an era when development often moves faster than reflection, the recognition of Sturbridge as a 2025 Tree City USA community serves as a reminder that thoughtful stewardship still matters. The designation from the Arbor Day Foundation is certainly an honor, but more importantly, it reflects a philosophy that has long shaped life in this community: preserving the natural beauty that makes this corner of Central Massachusetts feel like home.

Visitors often notice Sturbridge's historic charm first. They admire the Common, the scenic roads, the stone walls, and the blend of village life and open landscape. But what quietly ties much of that beauty together are the trees themselves. Towering maples shading neighborhoods, pines lining country roads, and mature oaks standing watch over parks and homes all contribute to the identity of the town in ways that are easy to overlook until they are gone.

Trees are not merely decoration. They are infrastructure in the truest sense of the word.

Modern research continues to confirm what generations instinctively understood. Trees cool neighborhoods during increasingly hot summers. They absorb stormwater during heavy rains. They improve air quality, reduce noise, and create healthier public spaces. Studies have even shown that greener communities contribute positively to mental health and overall well-being.

In New England towns especially, trees also serve another purpose. They provide continuity.

Some of the trees standing in Sturbridge today were already mature when earlier generations gathered for parades, church suppers, or school graduations decades ago. They connect present-day residents to those who built the town long before modern concerns about climate resiliency or urban forestry entered the public vocabulary. Protecting and maintaining them is not only environmentally responsible, but culturally meaningful.

The Tree City USA designation also highlights something else worth recognizing: this kind of achievement does not happen accidentally. Communities must meet standards involving long-term planning, public investment, ordinances, and public participation. It requires cooperation between municipal leaders, public works staff, volunteers, and residents willing to care about the spaces beyond their own property lines.

That spirit of shared responsibility is becoming increasingly important. Across Massachusetts, communities continue balancing growth with preservation. Housing demands, infrastructure projects, and commercial development all place pressure on existing landscapes. While growth is necessary, towns that maintain a clear commitment to protecting natural resources often retain the very qualities that make people want to live there in the first place.

Sturbridge has long understood that balance better than many communities. The town has welcomed change over the years while still protecting its rural character and scenic identity. Recognition as a Tree City USA community fits naturally into that tradition.

Of course, planting and preserving trees may seem like a small thing in the context of larger national or global issues. But local actions matter. A healthier environment is not built solely through sweeping legislation or international conferences. It is built one town, one neighborhood, and sometimes one tree at a time.

The best communities think beyond the next season or budget cycle. They make decisions with future generations in mind. A tree planted today may not provide full shade for decades, but someone eventually will sit beneath it.

That kind of long view deserves recognition. And in a fast-moving world, there is something comforting about a town still willing to plant roots.

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

Saving for retirement:

Are you guessing or planning?

Let's say you dream of spending your retirement mornings on a warm beach, coffee in hand, waves rolling in. To get there, you had a simple plan: save \$1 million and buy the beach house you always wanted.

But when retirement arrives, reality hits. After accounting for keeping your current home, everyday expenses, and health care, \$1 million doesn't stretch as far as you thought, and the beach house remains a dream.

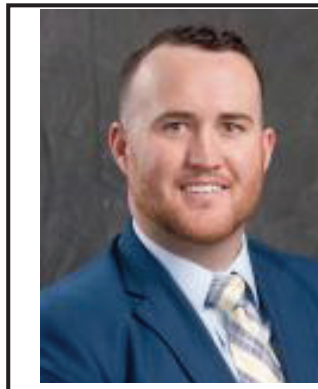
The problem wasn't your discipline – it was that your number was never really your number. It was arbitrary, not anchored to what your ideal retirement would actually cost.

How can you make sure your retirement number is right for you?

A solid savings goal starts with a clear picture of the retirement you want. Think through where you plan to live, whether you'll keep your current home or downsize, how much you plan to travel, if you'll help children and grandchildren financially and what health care might cost you later in life. Build a realistic monthly budget, then multiply by 12 months to find your annual need. Adjust this amount for inflation until the first year of retirement.

Then, multiply that figure by 25 to get a sense of how much may be needed to save. It's a formula based on the idea of withdrawing 4 percent annually from your savings, assuming you retire in your mid-60s. If you need \$60,000 a year, your target is around \$1.5 million. You may need more or less depending on your lifestyle, health, unexpected expenses, Social Security benefits and other income. No single rate or strategy will work for everyone. A financial advisor can help you determine your number and strategy.

Once you know your target, the path forward becomes



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clearer. Here are a few tips for next steps:

Start early. The sooner you begin saving, the more time compound interest has to work in your favor. Small amounts set aside automatically each paycheck have the opportunity to grow significantly over decades.

Live below your means. Spending less than you earn is one of the most powerful wealth-building habits. When your income rises, save and

invest the difference instead of upgrading your lifestyle.

Keep your debt under control. Since credit cards and other high-interest debt can slow your progress, pay off balances monthly when possible.

Invest consistently. If your employer offers a 401(k), aim to contribute at least 10-15 percent of your salary, and increase your contributions after every raise. If you max out your 401(k), a traditional IRA or Roth IRA may offer additional tax-advantaged growth (eligibility and contribution limits apply).

Boost your income when you can. Develop new skills, ask for a raise or explore a side income. Every extra dollar saved moves you closer to your goal.

The difference between a retirement you love and one full of compromises often comes down to the planning you do today. Know your real number, build a solid plan, and get the right help along the way.

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

The sound of a ball game on a spring night

LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET

By CHARLES

There are certain sounds a town doesn't realize it would miss until they come back again.

Around here, one of those sounds is the crack of a baseball bat on a cool spring evening.

Not the roar of a professional stadium, mind you. I mean the smaller sounds. The real sounds. Aluminum bats echoing off a school backstop. Cleats scraping gravel in a parking lot. A coach hollering "Run it out!" while somebody's little brother chases a foul ball toward the concession stand.

You hear it drifting through town this time of year. Through open pickup truck windows. Across the pond at dusk. Sometimes while standing in line at the hardware store, you suddenly realize you can hear a game going on somewhere nearby.

And for a moment, the whole town feels exactly the way it's supposed to feel.

I drove past one of the local fields the other evening after supper. I wasn't headed there. I had no grandson playing, no reason to stop, and my knees certainly weren't volunteering to sit on aluminum bleachers for two hours. But the parking lot was full, the lights were on, and there was something about it that pulled me in.

So I parked.

I sat there in the truck for a while with the windows cracked, listening.

A boy struck out and slammed his helmet down harder than necessary. A girl in the outfield was picking dandelions between innings. Somebody burned popcorn in the snack shack. Two older fellows near the fence were discussing the Red Sox as if the front office might call them for advice at any moment.

It was perfect.

You know, when people talk about small-town New England life, they usually mention the postcard things. Church steeples. White fences. Covered bridges. Fall leaves.

But they forget these spring nights at the ball field.

That's where communities really happen.

You see grandparents who haven't missed a season in twenty years. You see exhausted parents still wearing work boots, arriving just in time for the third inning. You see kids learning difficult lessons about teamwork, patience, embarrassment, effort, and occasionally what happens when you forget there's a runner on second base.

Nobody remembers the score ten years later.

But they remember who showed up.

I remember my father standing along a chain-link fence with his arms folded, saying almost nothing during

games. That was his generation. Men didn't chatter encouragement every thirty seconds back then. You knew they were proud because they came. Because they stood there after a ten-hour workday instead of heading home to rest.

Every once in a while, after a decent play, he'd clear his throat and say, "Not bad."

From him, that was

practically a parade.

I didn't appreciate those evenings enough at the time. Most kids don't. You think life will always include grass stains and orange slices and the sound of somebody dragging the infield after sunset.

Then one day you realize decades have passed, and suddenly you'd give quite a lot to stand near that fence again.

These days, life moves faster than it ought to. Everybody's rushing somewhere. Phones buzz through dinner. Half the country seems angry all the time. Folks wear earbuds walking down Main Street now, which still strikes me as a funny way to avoid hearing the world.

But at a local ball field, for an hour or two, things slow down again.

Neighbors talk.

Kids laugh.

Teenagers who act too cool for everything suddenly become ten feet tall after catching a fly ball.

And old men like me sit quietly in pickup trucks pretending we only stopped for a minute.

The best part may be that these evenings cost almost nothing. A couple dollars for a hot dog. Maybe another for a soda if you're feeling reckless. No fancy tickets. No valet parking. No giant video board demanding applause.

Just people gathering because spring finally returned to Massachusetts and somebody chalked the baselines again.

I think towns need traditions like that more than ever.

Not grand traditions. Not expensive ones.

Simple ones.

The kind that remind people they belong to one another.

By the time I finally drove home that night, the field lights had gone dark except for one near the parking lot. A few players were still fooling around by the dugout while parents folded chairs into car trunks.

And for a second, the place looked exactly the same as it probably did 30 years ago.

Maybe even 50.

That's comforting these days.

There aren't many things left in life that still sound the same after all that time.

But on a spring night in Massachusetts, the sound of a baseball game still does.

Charlton Garden Club Plant Sale fundraiser set for May 16!

CHARLTON — Once again, it's time for the Charlton Garden Club's annual plant sale. Held on the Common on Saturday, May 16 from 9 a.m. to noon, the sale offers a wide variety of flowering annuals and perennials, vegetables and herbs, as well as woody plants. Come peruse our plant selection, check out the Garden Treasures table, and be sure to bring a half cup of soil for a free pH test. Massachusetts Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your gardening queries.

The Charlton Garden Club was started 89 years ago by a group of 12 women, all wanting to share their interest in gardening. It didn't take them too long to find like-minded individuals in the community and the Charlton Garden Club was formed. The club has met continuously since 1937 except for a brief time during World War II due to gas rationing. At least 300 members have participated in and enjoyed the club's activities. Presently, the club meets on the second Monday of the month (March through December) typically at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Charlton Public Library. All are welcome to attend our advertised meetings at no charge. Those wanting to join the Charlton Garden Club would be asked to pay annual dues.

The purpose of the Charlton Garden Club is "To create interest in gardening in all its branches and encourage the beautification of home and community." The plant sale is our major

fundraiser with funds used for speakers and community beautification projects. Each year club members plant flowers at the Morton Memorial as well as beds on other parts of the Common. At Olde Home Day, the club sets up a flower show with arrangements from club members for pleasant viewing by all. Throughout the years, the

club has planted trees and flowers at our schools, police station, town hall and churches. In the past, scholarships were awarded to Shepherd Hill or Bay Path students entering horticultural related fields.

The Charlton Garden club offers opportunities to learn more about plants and the environment, to par-

ticipate in community beautification projects as well as to instill an appreciation for our natural resources. Plus, it is a great place to meet other local gardening enthusiasts. Those interested in learning more about the garden club, can email us at charltongardenclub@gmail.com.

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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.

“I love that this camp lets my kids step out of the usual roles that they have at home and in school, and explore different parts of themselves,” said the parent of 2025 Camp Invention campers. “At camp 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.

bankHometown welcomes Michael Missile as Vice President, Cash Management

OXFORD — bankHometown is pleased to announce the appointment of Michael Missile as vice president, cash management.

Missile has 25 years of banking experience, and a deep expertise in treasury and payment services. In his new role, Missile will lead the bank’s cash management strategy, delivering innovative solutions to help business clients optimize liquidity, streamline operations, and enhance financial efficiency.

Prior to joining bankHometown, Missile served as vice president of cash management at HarborOne Bank, where he was responsible for developing and managing comprehensive cash management services. Before that, he held the role of vice president, application services at Brookline Bank, overseeing critical banking technology platforms. Earlier in his career, he served as director of payment services at Middlesex Savings Bank, and head of cash management at Boston Private Bank & Trust Company, where he played a key role in advancing payment systems and client service capabilities.

Missile holds a Bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Vermont. He is an active member of the University of Vermont Alumni Association and the Camp Bauercrest Alumni Association. He was



Courtesy Photo

Michael Missile

previously a soccer coach for Framingham United, reflecting his commitment to community involvement and mentorship.

About bankHometown
Founded in 1889, bankHometown is headquartered in Oxford, Massachusetts. We have \$1.6 billion in assets and offer a

complete line of consumer and business deposit and lending products and services through 15 locations throughout Central Massachusetts and northeast Connecticut. We’re proud to fulfill our community banking mission—providing individualized financial support, comprehensive products and services, and banking tools—to ensure our customers can unlock their potential and build a successful future.

Through our charitable giving program, The Giving Tree, we support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties. In 2025 alone, The Giving Tree donated more than \$550,000 and over the last decade donated more than \$3.3 million. bankHometown was named a Corporate Citizenship Award winner by Boston Business Journal for the past six years, reaffirming our status as one of Massachusetts’ most charitable companies. Additionally, we were named a 2025 Top Place to Work award winner by The Boston Globe, and both bankHometown and our parent company, Hometown Financial Group, were recognized as five-time USA Today Top Workplaces award recipients. For more information, visit bankHometown.com.

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Trinity Catholic Academy Science Fair!

SOUTHBRIDGE — Trinity Catholic Academy recently hosted its annual Science Fair, highlighting the curiosity, creativity, and academic excellence of our students in grades 5-8. These amazing projects reflected weeks of research, experimentation, and critical thinking as students applied classroom learning to real-world scientific questions.

We are incredibly proud of the effort and enthusiasm our students demonstrated as they explored, discovered, and shared their knowledge with our school community. Thank you to the many folks from our community who volunteered to judge these incredible projects. Congratulations to all who participated, and special recognition to this year's winners:

Grade 5: 1st place Emma LaBarge & Elinor Matzell, Eggshell Geodes
2nd place



Charlotte Heckendorf, What Material Works Best for Uphill Skiing?

3rd place Jaime Cruz & Jeziah Suarez, Fruit Frenzy

Honorable Mention Sean Botter Lopes, Homemade Rain Gauge

Grade 6: 1st place Liliana DeLeon, Can Plants Grow by the Sound of Music?

2nd place Benjamin Zuziak, Which Metal Insulator Keeps Ice Frozen the Longest?

3rd place Kaleigh Haglund, Which Cleaning Product Works the Best?

Honorable Mention Carson Lazo, How Fabrics Absorb Liquids

Honorable Mention Sachi Swadia, How Does Caffeine Affect Plant Growth?

Grade 7: 1st place Evelyn Howard-Donlin, How Does Being Bilingual Affect Learning and Success?

2nd place Angel Delgado, What Toothpaste Whitens Teeth the Best?

3rd Olivia Latour, Do Fruits Have

Similar DNA? Honorable Mention Jalyan Cruz & Jayden Zarzycki-Kotarba, Acoustic and Electric Guitars

Grade 8: 1st place Abigail Frazier, Website Designs with Different Age Groups

2nd place Heer Swadia, AI vs Real

3rd place Sophia Gauthier & Celia Ladd, How Music Affects Memory

Honorable Mention Ayden Rodriguez, How Music Affects Plants

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While Supplies Last

Hitchcock's popular annual Plant Sale returns

BRIMFIELD — The "Grow With Us" Plant Sale will take place on Saturday, May 9 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the lawn of Hitchcock Free Academy.

Hitchcock's popular annual sale features perennials, annuals, and vegetable plants, as well as hanging plants, which make a great gift for Mother's Day.

For those thinning out their gardens, Hitchcock welcomes donations of plants on its porch the week leading up to the sale. It is requested that plants be labeled along with any other information such as sun or shade. Plants can be dropped off to the designated area by the building's porch through the Friday evening preceding the sale.

Plants offered in partnership with a local greenhouse will include geraniums, petunias, marigolds, impatiens, and many other varieties as well as vegetable plants such as peppers, tomatoes, cucumber, squash,

eggplant, and others. Hanging flower baskets will be offered in both 10- and 12-inch sizes.

Attendees are encouraged to arrive early for the best selection.

The Plant Sale kicks off the peak season of events at the community center, which includes the Brimfield Town-Wide Tag Sale on May 30, the Hitchcock Summer Concert Series on the Brimfield Town Common in July and August, and the Brimfield Farmers' Market every Saturday in the organization's parking lot with the exception of flea market weekends. It is one of the 501(c)3's important annual fundraisers which help to cover operational costs.

For more information, visit www.hitchcockacademy.org. Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Rd. in Brimfield, serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming.

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.

St. Michael Romanian Orthodox Church benefit turkey dinner coming May 18

STURBRIDGE — The Publick House Historic Inn and Restaurant will host another of its community dinners on Monday, May 18, this time benefiting St. Michael Romanian Orthodox Church in Southbridge.

These dinners are part of the Publick House's ongoing effort to support local organizations. A portion of each ticket sold will go directly to the church.

"We're grateful to be included in this program," said event organizer Spiro Thomo. "It's a simple way for people to come together, enjoy a good meal, and support the church at the same time."

Two seatings are available: 4:30-6 p.m.

and 6:30-8 p.m. The buffet menu includes oven-roasted turkey, cornbread-sausage stuffing, mashed potatoes, butternut squash, and cranberry sauce.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$5 for children ages four to 11. All tickets must be purchased in advance—no sales at the door. The deadline is Friday, May 15.

For tickets or information, contact Spiro Thomo at 774-200-8043, or by email to spirothomo@gmail.com. Payment is by cash or check made payable to The Publick House.

The mission of St. Michael Romanian Orthodox Church is to experience the grace of God and to share it with others.

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OBITUARIES

Dale F. Favreau



Dale F. Favreau passed away peacefully on May 2, 2026 at the Overlook in Charlton Ma

Dale had a loving wife which he cherished of 44 years, Lucette Favreau (Dunlop); he leaves his children: Michelle

Anctil and her husband Scott M Anctil of Charlton, his daughter Valerie J. Allard of East Brookfield, and his son Christopher D. Favreau and his wife Kim Favreau of Southbridge Ma. Dale had six grandchildren; Scott Anctil Jr, Brett Anctil, Drew Allard, Jacob Allard, Rory Allard and Ella Favreau, and was blessed with great grandchildren; Grant Anctil, Calvin Allard, Ariella Allard and Aven Allard.

Dale had two loving brothers; Ronald Favreau and Lyle Favreau who have previously passed.

Dale was born in Southbridge, the son of the late George Favreau and Mary Stafford Favreau. He was a graduate of Charlton High School and received a higher educational degree from Central New England in Engineering.

Dale served in the United States Air force for four years and was recently

awarded a quilt of valor for his service. He was employed by Pratt and Whitney as a Senior Project Engineer for 45 years retiring in 1999

Dale was a lifetime member of the Sturbridge Lions Club where he served in several positions; President as well as the Chairman of the Lions River race

Dale had a deep love for the outdoors and was an avid hunter. He passed his traits and love for the sport to his children and grandchildren as well as shared his talents in many capacities as an active member of the Hamilton Rod and Gun Club. He enjoyed fishing and boating both at the Cape and at their second home in Nova Scotia.

Celebration of life will take place at the Sturbridge Federated Church on Thursday May 21st at 10:00am.

Dale will be deeply missed by all who knew him and his memory will be cherished always.

Belanger-Bullard Funeral Home 51 Marcy St. is directing arrangements.

An online guestbook is available at <http://www.BelangerFuneralHome.com>

Southbridge Garden Club to hold annual plant sale May 17

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Garden Club is holding its annual Plant Sale on Sunday, May 17, at the Sturbridge Common, from 9 a.m. – noon.

This year, there will be plenty of varieties to choose from, including hanging baskets and potted annuals, early-Spring vegetables, locally-grown perennials, houseplants, a table of “garden treat-

ures,” free soil testing and information from the Master Gardener booth, and independent vendors. Take about 10 soil samples from different areas of your garden plot, put them in a plastic bag, and your soil will be analyzed with suggestions of amendments to add to your garden for growing healthy plants.

This is an opportunity for local residents to

purchase healthy plants for their homes and gardens as we kick off another gardening season, while supporting the Southbridge Garden Club’s mission to provide local scholarships and community gardening projects.

There will be plenty of parking and lots of opportunities to bring home some special items at reasonable prices!

Pulled pork dinner May 16 at CCUMC

CHARLTON — Where can you get a full meal for \$15? On Saturday, May 16, Charlton City United Methodist Church will be offering their delicious Pulled Pork Dinner. A tasty pulled pork sandwich with creamy potato salad, coleslaw, butternut corn, baked beans, along with strawberry

shortcake with whipped cream and beverages.

Dinner is served from 5 - 6:30 p.m., and as always, there will be continuous serving and take-out available. Adults \$15, children six to 12 \$8, children under six are free. Family maximum: \$50. Walk-ins are welcome although reservations are appre-

ciated. Call the church office at (508) 248-7379 for information and reservations. The building is handicapped accessible with ample parking and located at 74 Stafford St., Charlton. Invite the whole family and friends for an enjoyable meal.

LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court Worcester
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. W021 P3716PM
CITATION GIVING NOTICE
OF CONSERVATOR’S ACCOUNT
In the matter of: James Righi
Of: Webster, MA
Protected Person/Disabled Person/
Respondent**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule n of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the 1st and Final account(s) of Nicholas Marana of Shrewsbury, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance. **You have the right to object to the account(s).** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M on the return date of **05/26/2026** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you

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

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court. Date: April 23, 2026

Stephanie K. Fattman
May 14, 2026

**CHARLTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on May 27, 2026, at 7PM on the application of Ian Luksha. The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability to construct a 12x24’ shed within the 100-ft buffer zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. Address: 18 Hyde Road, Charlton, MA, 01507. Parcel ID: 37-

A-5.20
Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request. Copies of the RDA may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.
Thomas O’Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
May 14, 2026

**CHARLTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on May 27, at 7PM on the application of Robert Judson. The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for the construction of a single-family home, septic system, and well within the 100-ft buffer zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The project location is: Lot 55 Jennings Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 15-A-14

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request.

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

Thomas O’Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
May 14, 2026

**CHARLTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on May 27, 2026, at 7PM on the application of Jonathan Brooks.

The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for the removal of 10 trees within the 100-ft buffer zone to South Charlton Reservoir. Address: 236 Partridge Hill Road, Charlton, MA, 01507. Parcel ID: 73C-A-26

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request.

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

Thomas O’Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
May 14, 2026

**Town of Brimfield
Conservation Commission
Public Hearing Notice**

In accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Brimfield Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 5:30 PM to review a Notice of Intent (NOI) submitted by Green Hill Engineering, c/o Benjamin Morin. The NOI proposes to install a driveway.

Project Location: 351 Brookfield Road, (Assessor’s Map 4-A-2)

Meeting Location: Public Participation will be In-Person at Hitchcock Academy at 2 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, MA 01010 on May 27, 2026, at 5:30 PM.

Any person(s) interested or wishing to be heard on this request should appear at the time and place designated. A copy of the permit application and plan may be inspected at the Brimfield Town Annex in the Conservation Commission Office, Salisbury Annex Building, 2nd Floor, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA 01010 or contact the office at 413-245-4100 ext. 1101.

Roger deBruyn & Joseph Venezia
Co-Chairs
May 06, 2026
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. W026P1152EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Estate Of:
Joyce A. Nass

**Also Known As: Joyce A. Bailey
Date of Death: December 26, 2023**

To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Richard B. Whitney of Southbridge MA**

Richard B. Whitney of Southbridge MA has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without surety on the bond.

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

May 15, 2026

**Invitation for Bids (IFB)
Charlton Street School Oil Tank
May 2026
Bid #: 2026-004
INVITATION FOR BIDS**

Project Location:
220 Charlton Street
Southbridge, MA 01550

Requests for Information: Can be directed to mrobidou1@southbridge-public.org or by calling the Business Office at (508) 764-5415

Site Walkthrough: May 20, 2026 at 10:00 AM

Bid Closing: May 27, 2026 at 10:00 AM

Bid Submission: Please submit bids via email to mrobidou1@southbridgepublic.org or by dropping them off in person to 25 Cole Avenue, Southbridge, MA 01550. Reference Bid #: 2026-004 on all submissions.

Project Details
Sealed bids will be received for furnishing all labor, materials, equipment, and services necessary to complete the following scope of work at the above referenced location.

Scope of Work

- Furnish and install a new solid bottom tank sump with required tank fitting adapters and entry fittings.

- Furnish and install new bushings, suction stubs, foot valves, unions, mechanical fittings, and nipples for the feed/return piping.

- Furnish and install new double walled feed/return piping from the tank to the boiler room. This includes surface demolition and restoration, trenching, installation of piping, coordinating required inspections, testing, backfilling, and landscape restoration.

- Furnish and install a new interstitial riser and cap/ring kit.

- Furnish and install a new 44” EMCO manhole for the tank sump and an 18” EMCO manhole for the interstitial. The tank sump will have a 6’x6’ pad poured around it and the interstitial a 3’x3’ pad poured upon completion.

- Furnish and install a new TLS4 console for this tank. This includes the console and required boards/software, startup/commissioning, a new tank gauge probe and float, an interstitial sensor, and a sump sensor.

- Furnish and install new underground conduit from the boiler room to the tank top. This also includes new conduit for power from within the boiler room to the new TLS. The new TLS will be mounted where the old OC tank monitor is located.

- The Town will provide third party testing (coordinated by the contractor) as well as any environmental oversight required. Landscape restoration will consist of spreading loam set aside for reuse and fine grading. The Town will handle seed, watering, and any excess soils for treatment or disposal.

Bid Requirements

- All workers on site shall maintain required OSHA Training certifications.

- A bid deposit equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid amount must accompany the bid submission.

- A payment bond equal to fifty percent (50%) of the contract amount will be required.

- All work shall comply with Massachusetts Prevailing Wage requirements.

- Bids must include three references for similar jobs

The awarding authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive informalities, and award the contract in the best interest of the Town.

Interested contractors are encouraged to review all project requirements prior to submitting a bid.

May 14, 2026

New manual therapy & wellness center opens in Charlton

Center to bring holistic integrated wellness services to Community

CHARLTON — Holistic Integrated Manual Therapy & Wellness, a locally owned and independently operated wellness center, is proud to announce its official opening in Charlton. Founded by Despina Fazzuoli, the center is dedicated to providing personalized, holistic wellness services utilizing a whole-body approach focusing on alignment. Gentle hands-on techniques are applied to restore full-body alignment and normal movement patterns. Balancing the body as a whole, will decrease strain on soft tissue and

stress on joints, helping to reduce pain and prevent injury.

With a strong focus on individualized care, Holistic Integrated Manual Therapy & Wellness offers a range of services including Myofascial Release, Manual Lymphatic Drainage, Craniosacral Therapy, Visceral Releases, Somatics, Hesch Method and Cupping. Each session is tailored to meet the unique needs of each individual client.

“As a sole owner, my vision for Holistic Integrated Manual Therapy & Wellness is

deeply personal,” said Despina Fazzuoli. “I want to create a space where people feel seen, heard, supported and empowered to take charge of their well-being.”

About Holistic Integrated Manual Therapy & Wellness Holistic Integrated Manual Therapy & Wellness is a small, independently owned wellness center located in Charlton. Founded in 2026, the center is committed to delivering personalized wellness experiences that address the whole body.

About Despina

Fazzuoli Despina Fazzuoli is a trained and licensed Physical Therapist with more than 27 years of experience, with the last 12 years practicing

as a Holistic Physical Therapist and Wellness Practitioner.

For more information, to book an appointment, or to learn more about available services, visit

www.himtwellness.com or contact Despina “Dessie” Fazzuoli Holistic Integrated Manual Therapy & Wellness, 774-200-1536 or dfazzpt@gmail.com.



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Burgess third graders kick off Sturbridge celebration of America 250

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

Expect to see special commemorative banners featuring an historical flag posted on poles along Routes 20 and 131. Look for programs focusing on the history of America at the Joshua Hyde Public Library, and from the Sturbridge Historical Society. Old Sturbridge Village is hosting Revolutionary Game Nights at the Ox &

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

Additional events sponsored by the Committee include an essay program for Grade 5 students titled “What Does America Mean to You?” with an option for students to voluntarily submit essays to a Town-wide recognition contest. Local restaurants will participate in a “Taste of Sturbridge” event during March and April featuring patriotic-themed offerings. Opacum Land Trust will incorporate Sturbridge historical landmarks into its April

2026 Vacation Scavenger Hunt. Also planned for May at the Senior Center are a tree planting and the burying of a time capsule

Events will culminate in May and June. A Family Fun Day on May 16 features a Children’s Bike Decorating and Parade, followed with activities on the Common including: a Mini Big-Top Circus, face painting, T-shirt decorating, yard games, potato sack and 3-legged races, music and more. A hot dog cart will also be available. The Committee’s signature event will be held on June 27, 2026 and will feature a parade along Route 20 and Route 131, followed by a community festival on the Town Common. More information on these events will be forthcoming.

Volunteer recruitment and community engagement have been central to the Committee’s work.

The Committee extends its appreciation to all residents, volunteers, non-profit 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.

Hitchcock hosts seated tour of Brimfield’s historic downtown

BRIMFIELD — Hitchcock welcomes its next Brown Bag Speaker Series installation — The Brimfield Historical Commission’s Mike DeFalco will present “Brown Bag Speaker Series: Brimfield’s Historic Downtown.”

The talk will begin at 12:30 p.m., with an optional lunch at noon. Attendees may reserve a lunch ahead of time or bring one in. Reservations are required for both (\$10 for the talk and an additional \$10 for the optional lunch). The talk will likely run approximately one hour, and additional time is reserved for questions and discussion.

Take a sitting tour of the Common from the comfort of Hitchcock Academy. Learn about the historic buildings and monuments that make up Brimfield’s Historic District. Do you know about the privy in the Town Hall, the Academy students that died in WWI, the original use of the Town’s newly acquired Windmill and why the Bed & Breakfast at 8 North Main Street is named after Elias Carter? No need for comfortable shoes; you can walk through 300 years of Brimfield history without ever leaving your seat.

“We are fortunate to have a historian who is equally passionate about

Brimfield’s history as he is willing to give of his time and knowledge,” says Executive Director Cindy Skowrya. “Mike brings unrivaled curiosity, and is well-researched in his storytelling. We’re looking forward to this talk.”

The Brown Bag Speaker Series is presented with support from The Shirley Frye Memorial Fund.

For more information, visit www.hitchcock-academy.org. Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Rd. in Brimfield serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming.

Brimfield to mark 250th anniversary of Independence

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

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

with a spectacular fireworks display.

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

This event is currently being sponsored by the Massachusetts Army

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

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

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!

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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**

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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 at 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.

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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.

2026 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 pro-

vides 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, who brought the heat on the culinary mastermind behind Deadhorse Hill, Food Network's Beat Bobby Flay.

also have Jared Forman, who brought the heat on the culinary mastermind behind Deadhorse Hill,

Registration details to follow. Organizers are seeking a male actor to portray a notable Brimfield resident whose family sent fourteen men to fight for freedom.

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

Narrators, who will read short graveside scripts, are also needed. Contact Sue DeBruin through the Friends of Historic Brimfield at (413) 239-0288 to lend your talents and make history come alive!

Actors sought for living history cemetery tour!

BRIMFIELD — As part of Brimfield's 250th celebration of the American Revolution, a living history cemetery tour is being planned for June 13. The tour includes powerful stories of the men who left home to

serve in the patriot cause and the families they left behind.

Registration details to follow. Organizers are seeking a male actor to portray a notable Brimfield resident whose family sent fourteen men to fight for freedom.

Narrators, who will read short graveside scripts, are also needed. Contact Sue DeBruin through the Friends of Historic Brimfield at (413) 239-0288 to lend your talents and make history come alive!

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

Thompson ~ 6 Lillian Ave
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Webster - 106 East Main St (Rte 12)
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Featured Listing ~ New To Market!
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

Featured New Listing
Webster - 34 Eastern Ave Condos
~ Unit M ~ Move In Ready!

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 with access at Lake-side 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 Chargoggagogmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake Waterfront
22 Union Pt
Snug Harbor Villa

Waterfront Lake Snug Harbor Villa End Unit!
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Webster Lake Waterfront Listing!!
On Indian Point # 10 "Private Rd"

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Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island

SORRY, SOLD!
Lakefront home w/1,700+/- sq ft. Open kitchen/dining/living w/cathedral ceilings + wall of windows. Full baths. Lower level family room w/ walkout to water. \$775,000

Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!

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

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All Saints Academy honors veterans at Loyalty Day celebration



WEBSTER — On May 1, All Saints Academy welcomed local veterans to its annual Loyalty Day celebration, a meaningful tribute honoring the ser-

vice, sacrifice, and enduring patriotism of those who have defended our nation. Loyalty Day is a national observance set aside to affirm loyalty to the United

States and reflect on the values of freedom, democracy, and unity. The event brought together students, faculty, and community members in a heartfelt

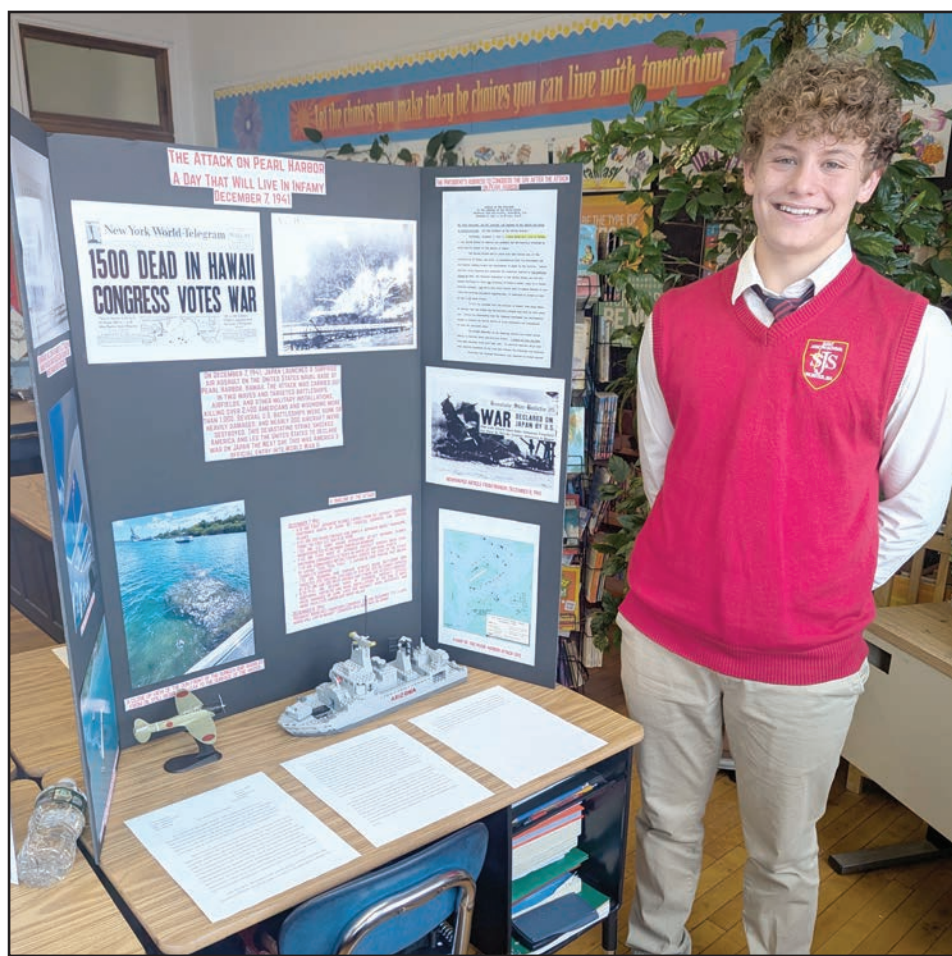
Saint Joseph School hosts engaging Social Studies Fair for students in PreK–Grade 8

WEBSTER — On April 30, Saint Joseph School proudly hosted its inaugural Social Studies Fair, welcoming families and community members after school to experience an afternoon of student learning, creativity, and discovery. Students from the PreK 3-year-old program through Grade 8 participated, transforming classrooms and hallways into vibrant showcases of historical knowledge, research, and hands-on exploration.

The purpose of a Social Studies Fair is to provide students with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of history, geography, civics, and culture through independent and guided research. It encourages critical thinking, organization, and presentation skills, while also fostering curiosity about the world and its people. Events like this allow students to take ownership of their learning and build confidence as they share their knowledge with others.

Across all grade levels, students created colorful, well-organized displays that reflected both their effort and enthusiasm. Each grade explored age-appropriate topics aligned with their curriculum:

- Grade 8 examined major wars, spanning from the Revolutionary War to the Gulf War
- Grade 7 focused on government, including the Constitution and the branches of government
- Grade 6 researched U.S. presidents
- Grade 5 studied individual states
- Grade 4 explored the history and significance of the Olympics
- Grade 3 also researched states, building foundational geography skills
- Grade 2 created family trees, making meaningful connections to their own histories
- Grade 1 learned about the American Revolution, choosing to study figures such as Betsy Ross, Benjamin Franklin, Paul Revere, or Thomas Jefferson, while also drawing George Washington and learning about the 13 original colonies
- Kindergarten students explored the United States by creating passports and



Saint Joseph School Grade 8 student Axel Kapitilik proudly stands beside his Social Studies Fair project focused on the attack on Pearl Harbor, which occurred on Dec. 7, 1941. As part of the Grade 8 study of major wars throughout history, Axel researched the events leading up to the surprise attack and its impact on the United States. His well-organized and informative display reflected both careful research and a strong understanding of this pivotal moment in history.

learning about states and presidents

- PreK 4 students investigated animals, including their habitats, diets, and predators
- PreK 3 students researched and shared information about their favorite animals

The Social Studies Fair provided meaningful benefits at every developmental stage. Younger students were introduced to foundational concepts through hands-on and visual learning experiences, sparking early curiosity and excitement. Elementary students strengthened their research and organizational skills while beginning to make connections between topics and

the real world. Middle school students demonstrated more advanced critical thinking, analysis, and presentation abilities, preparing them for future academic challenges.

The event was a true reflection of Saint Joseph School's commitment to fostering a "Foundation for Life" through engaging, student-centered learning. It was inspiring to see students of all ages take pride in their work and share their knowledge with confidence. The Social Studies Fair not only celebrated academic achievement but also highlighted the importance of inquiry, creativity, and a deeper understanding of our world.



expression of gratitude.

The ceremony opened with a prayer offered by Benjamin Mukuha, who reflected on the courage of those who have given their lives in service, as well as those who continue to serve today. Camden Trainor then led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by Colonel Bruce Finley's informative remarks on the United States Flag Code. A solemn performance of Taps honored fallen service members, while Mrs. Rose's kindergarten class sang "The Star-Spangled Banner," bringing a sense of pride and joy to the occasion. Following a moment of silence, Commander Randolph Snow of VFW Post 654 spoke about the origin and significance of Loyalty Day.

Lydia Burke then recited an original patriotic poem written by the seventh-grade class, titled "Where I'm From," celebrating the history, values, and pride of being American. The program continued with a flower presentation led by Graceanne Troiano, during which students presented red, white, and blue flowers to attending veterans. Each color symbolized a core virtue—red for courage and loyalty, white for purity, and blue for trust. All Saints Academy students created and distributed the flowers, with each veteran receiving a multicolored bouquet as a personal gesture of appreciation.

The ceremony concluded with a closing prayer by Eleanor Thompson, offering blessings and gratitude for the veterans' service and sacrifice.

The Loyalty Day celebration at All Saints Academy provided a powerful opportunity for reflection and unity, reinforcing a shared appreciation for the freedoms enjoyed in the United States and for those who have safeguarded them.

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