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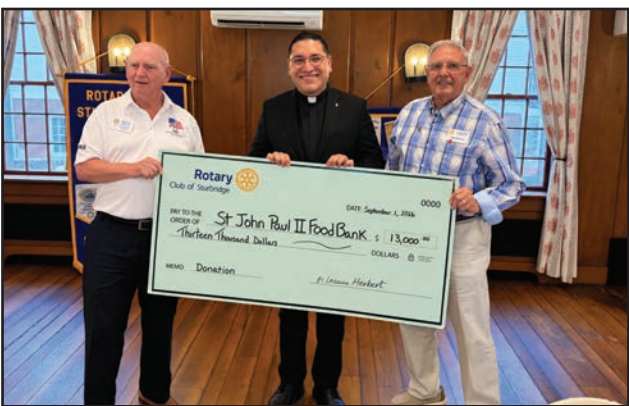
Thursday-Friday, September 17-18, 2026

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO News@StoneBridgePress.news

Sturbridge Rotary presents \$13,000 to St. John Paul II Food Pantry

STURBRIDGE — The Rotary Club of Sturbridge presented a check for \$13,000 to the St. John Paul II Food Pantry at its Tuesday, Sept. 1 meeting at the Publick House Historic Inn.

Rotary Club President Tim Gresenz and Rotarian R. Austin Jenkins, chair of the club's annual charity golf tournament, presented the check to Father Carlos Ruiz, pastor of St. John Paul II Parish. The donation represents proceeds from the club's Annual Charity



Courtesy Photo

Rotary Club of Sturbridge President Tim Gresenz (right) and tournament chair Rotarian R. Austin Jenkins (left) present a check for \$13,000 to Father Carlos Ruiz, pastor of St. John Paul II Parish, to benefit the St. John Paul II Food Pantry. The funds were raised through the club's Annual Charity Golf Tournament held Aug. 24.



Courtesy Photo

Rotarians Tim Gresenz (left) and R. Austin Jenkins (right) visit with St. John Paul II Food Pantry Co-Director Ajay LaRochelle. The food pantry serves approximately 230 local families, including 95 senior families, representing about 800 individuals.

"The success of this tournament really reflects the generosity of our entire community," said Rotary Club of Sturbridge President Tim Gresenz. "Our golfers, sponsors and volunteers came together to raise \$13,000, and we're proud to put those dollars right back into the community by supporting the St. John Paul II Food Pantry and the important work it does for local families."

Forty-three golfers participated in this year's tournament. The first-place foursome included Bruce Kingman, Steve Kingman, Justin Tesene and Bob Howland. Finishing second were Chris Wszolek, Ron Murphy, Adam Sgariglia and Peter Kazlawkiss. Third place went to Al Hargrave, Greg Hassett, Mike Contreras and Tony Zannotti, while Kate Theodoss, Tony

Turn To **FOOD PANTRY** page **A10**

"Salem Witch Hysteria" at Casaubon Senior Center

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Delvena Theatre Company will be presenting "Salem Witch Hysteria" at the Casaubon Senior Center, 153 Chestnut St., Southbridge, on Tuesday, Oct. 6, at 1 p.m.

Watch history come alive with these fascinating dramatizations of the true stories of the Salem Witch Hysteria.

The setting is Salem, Mass. 1692, a year in which, of the 168 men and women were accused of practicing

witchcraft. Twenty of those accused were executed.

Let's see how things go in the 21st century when the audience members become the jury in the trial of Susannah Martin. They will have the opportunity to question the defendant and form their own opinion as to her guilt or innocence. The cast will open up again to the audience after the performance for a lively discussion.

The Delvena Theatre Company has

Turn To **HYSTERIA** page **A10**

Federated Church Pumpkin Patch returns Sept. 26

STURBRIDGE — For nearly a decade, the arrival of a tractor-trailer filled with pumpkins at the Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale has signaled the start of a busy October on Maple Street. This year, the church's Ninth Annual Pumpkin Patch opens Saturday, Sept. 26, and continues through Saturday, October 31, with pumpkins, seasonal displays and a growing schedule of activities for the community.

Before the Patch can open, however, there are a lot of pumpkins to unload. The Pumpkins USA truck will arrive early Saturday morning carrying pumpkins and gourds from New Mexico, and the church is welcoming volunteers to lend a hand with unloading and setting up the grounds. Pizza and refreshments will follow

Turn To **PUMPKIN** page **A10**



Courtesy Photo

Rock Voices Auburn will be returning to perform in the Pumpkin Patch again this year.

24th Masonic District participates at Old Home Day

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

CHARLTON — On Sunday, Sept. 6, Charlton's common was filled with people, at the Old Home Day festivities. The tradition began more than 129 years ago and continues to feature entertainment, music, games, crafts, food vendors, citizenship awards, and parades. For the past decade, two local lodges from the 24th Masonic District—Major General Salem Towne Lodge (MGSTL) of Southbridge and Oxford Lodge of Oxford—have taken part in the event by setting up booths to sell their goods. Both lodges had a very busy and exciting day as they



Courtesy Photo

Brother Sean LeBlanc, wearing a red shirt, hands fresh-cut homemade French fries to happy customers waiting in long lines. Major General Salem Towne Lodge has sold these French fries at Old Home Day for more than a decade. Oxford Lodge's booth is set up to the left of the French fries sign, where lobster rolls sold quickly and children enjoyed snow cones.

worked to keep up with wide variety of food, demand. entertainment, and activ-

The event offered a

Turn To **OHD** page **A10**

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Shepherd Hill students hosting Tackle the Stigma 5K to promote mental health awareness

CHARLTON — The Shepherd Hill Regional High School cheerleading program, in partnership with the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District community, is inviting residents to lace up their running shoes and help break down barriers surrounding mental health during the annual Tackle the Stigma 5K and 2.5K Walk/Run on Saturday, Sept. 27.

The event will begin at 10 a.m. at the Shepherd Hill football field and is designed to raise awareness about mental

health and mental wellness while encouraging open conversations throughout the local community.

Organizers hope participants of all ages will come together to demonstrate support for those facing mental health challenges and reinforce the message that no one has to struggle alone.

"This event is very important to us as we work to raise awareness about mental health and mental wellness throughout our local community," organizers said in announcing the event.

The walk and run carries the theme, "Run toward awareness, stand up for support, and tackle the stigma one mile at a time," reflecting its focus on education, compassion and community involvement.

Mental health advocates continue to emphasize the importance of reducing the stigma surrounding anxiety, depression and other mental health conditions, which can often prevent individuals from seeking help. Community events such as Tackle the Stigma aim to create a welcoming environment where conversations about mental wellness are encouraged and support resources are highlighted.

In addition to providing an opportunity for exercise and community engagement, the event serves as a reminder that mental health is an important part of overall well-being. Organizers hope the day will inspire participants to check in with friends, family members and neighbors while promoting a culture of understanding and acceptance.

The Shepherd Hill cheerleaders have made mental health awareness a priority, using the event to unite students, families, educators and community members around a common cause. By bringing together participants from across Dudley, Charlton and surrounding communities, they hope to build momentum for ongoing conversations that extend well beyond race day.

Whether participants choose the full 5-kilometer course or the shorter 2.5-kilometer walk/run, organizers say every step represents a commitment to supporting mental wellness and reminding those who may be struggling that help is available.

Registration information and additional event details are expected to be available through Shepherd Hill Regional High School and the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District as the event approaches.

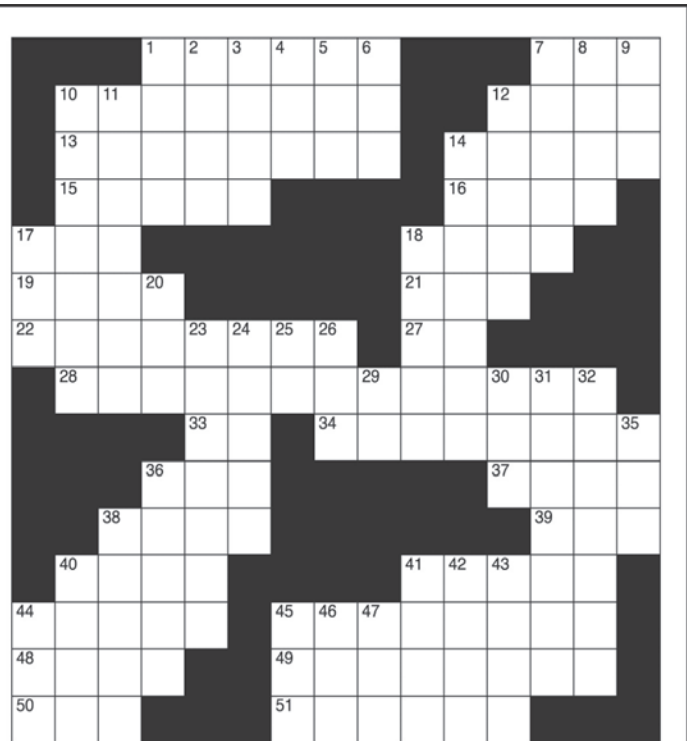


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CLUES ACROSS

1. A place for worship

7. Referee declaration

10. Torsos

12. Used to introduce something

13. Healing method

14. Takes to the sea

15. Make law

16. French coastal city

17. Hawaiian dish

18. Young of domestic cattle

19. Women's undergarments

21. 60-minute intervals (abbr.)

22. One after another

27. It's a hot topic these days

28. Folk band frontman
33. They precede C

34. Heavenly

36. Fiddler crabs

37. Major Hindu deity

38. Hebrew given name

39. Cost per mile

40. __ Romeo, car

41. Rural municipality in Manitoba

44. Narratives

45. "A tragedy had __ him"

48. Iranian city

49. Praises publicly

50. Founding Father Franklin

51. Herbal tea

CLUES DOWN

1. Indian unit of mass

2. "Tears in Heaven" singer Clapton

3. Part of a sailing vessel

4. Part of (abbr.)

5. Polynesian garland of flowers

6. Keyboard key

7. One who steals

8. Large oven

9. Former CIA

10. Idea

11. Solomon Islands capital

12. Afrikaans

14. Remove thatch

17. Television network

18. Jalen Brunson is one

20. Title of respect

23. Flowering trees

24. Occurring in a tube
25. Exists

26. Woman (French)

29. Expression of doubt

30. NHL legend Bobby

31. Accomplished

32. Makes slightly wet

35. National Assn. of Manufacturers

36. Not sated

38. Poe's middle name

40. Swiss river

41. Rhythmic pattern in Indian music

42. "Shane" actor Ladd

43. Popular whodunit board game

44. Bar bill

45. Ballplayer's tool

46. Indicates near

47. Feet per second

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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\$650,000, 83 Pine St, 68 Southbridge LLC, to Bre Investment Group LLC.
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\$420,000, 76 Hall Rd, Dion, Randy A, and Dion, Paula A, to Latour Property Group LLC, and Latour Plumbing & Const L.
\$299,000, 11 Maple St, Macneil, Charlene M, to Frieswyk, Cameron John.



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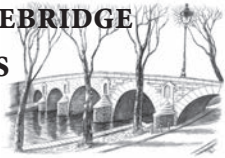


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• Central Baptist Church
256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.

• 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 Service 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

Sturbridge Historical Society hosting presentation by historian Manisha Sinha

STURBRIDGE — Join the Sturbridge Historical Society and the Joshua Hyde Public Library for an evening with renowned historian and Sturbridge resident Manisha Sinha on Thursday, Sept. 24, at 7 p.m. The event will take place at the Sturbridge Senior Center.

As our nation celebrates the 250th anniversary of its founding, Professor Sinha will explore how the Civil War and emancipation functioned as a "Second American Revolution." This transformative period led to the re-founding of the American Republic during Reconstruction, establishing birth-right citizenship and the first federal civil rights laws. Her talk is drawn from her latest acclaimed work, *The Rise and Fall of the Second American Republic: Reconstruction, 1860-1920*. The presentation will delve into the overthrow of this Second Republic by domestic terror and legal decisions that hollowed out Reconstruction-era protections. The promise of American citizenship regard-

less of race or color would not be realized until the Civil Rights Movement in the twentieth century. We still live with the competing legacies of reactionary authoritarianism and progressive democracy bequeathed by this history. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing following the presentation. Having resided in Sturbridge since 1994, Professor Manisha Sinha has authored several distinguished, prize-winning volumes including *The Slave's Cause: A History of Abolition* (2016), a work that earned a spot on the National Book Award longlist for non-fiction. A graduate of Columbia University with a Ph.D. in American history—where her doctoral research was a Bancroft Prize nominee—she spent more than two decades at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. During her tenure there, she received the Chancellor's Medal, the faculty's most prestigious commendation. Since 2016, she has served as the Draper Chair in American History at the University of Connecticut,

Historians of the Past President of the Society for Early American Republic.

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Tantasqua Class of '76 to hold 50th reunion

STURBRIDGE — Tantasqua class of 1976 is celebrating its 50th reunion this year. We want to reach out to all former students.

The big event happens on Sept. 26 at 5 p.m. at Rapsallion Pub, 3 Arnold Rd., Sturbridge. Fifty years have passed

since we walked the halls of Tantasqua Regional HS. We hope to reunite and reconnect with as many fellow classmates/friends as possible.

Please help us spread the word. If you were a member of the THS Class of '76 or if you know how to reach a classmate,

please get in touch.

You can visit our THS Class of '76 Facebook page for more details and to buy tickets. If you are not a Facebook member, you can reach out to Kathy Thompson at katherinethmp@aol.com.

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Music Bingo at the Holland Community Center

HOLLAND — The Friends of the Holland Community Center will be hosting a Music Bingo event with MacKenzie of Wise Guys Trivia on Saturday, Sept. 26 from 6-8 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The Center is located at 40 Brimfield Rd. in Holland.

This fundraising event has been a huge success in the past, so we suggest you purchase your

tickets ahead of time by calling 413-245-3163 or stopping by the Community Center Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (We are open most evenings, you may call for evening hours- closed on Fridays!). Laniecakes Homemade Desserts will also have her delectable treats available for purchase. Tickets are \$10, and you will

automatically be included in the door prize drawing. We will also have a table with raffle baskets. All proceeds benefit programs and events for all ages held at the Holland Community Center.

For questions or additional information, you may email us at FriendsOfHolland@gmail.com.



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Hydrant flow test scheduled for Sept. 17

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Water Department will perform a hydrant flow test on their hydrant on Thursday, Sept. 17 at approximately 9 p.m. The location tested will be 114 Pleasant 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.

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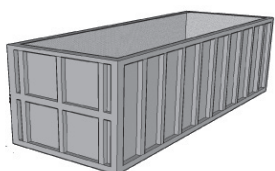


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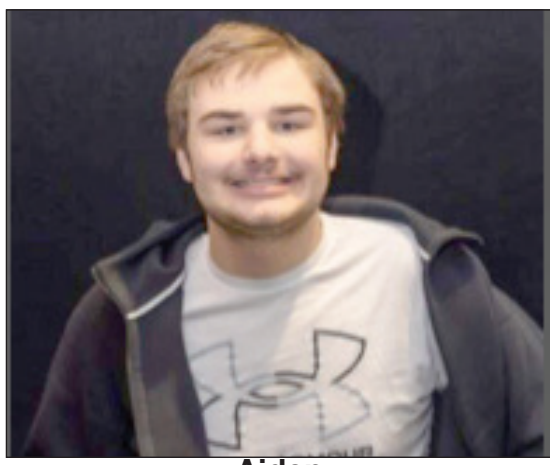
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Aiden
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Registration #5427

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<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22543252044>

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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PRESS



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A golf tournament becomes groceries on the table

There is a tendency to measure the success of a charitable event by the size of the crowd, the amount of money raised or whether everyone had a good time. Those things matter. But the most important measure comes afterward.

In the case of the Rotary Club of Sturbridge's annual charity golf tournament, the result this year was \$13,000 for the St. John Paul II Food Pantry, an organization serving approximately 230 families and 800 people in Sturbridge and Southbridge. That puts the significance of a day on the golf course into perspective.

Forty-three golfers participated in the Aug. 24 tournament. Sponsors contributed. Volunteers gave their time. Organizers handled the countless details required to put together an annual fundraiser.

Then, on Sept. 1, all of that effort was distilled into a check presented to Father Carlos Ruiz. The money will now help put food on tables. That is community fundraising at its best.

Food insecurity can sometimes be difficult to see in communities such as ours. There is no single face of a family that needs help from a food pantry. People may be working and still struggling with rising household expenses. A sudden job loss, illness, rent increase, major repair or other unexpected expense can quickly upset a family's finances.

The numbers from St. John Paul II Food Pantry provide an important reminder of how widespread that need can be.

Among the households it serves are 95 senior families. For older residents living on fixed incomes, increases in the cost of food, utilities, housing, transportation and medical care can leave little flexibility in a monthly budget. A food pantry can provide some breathing room while allowing limited income to cover other necessities.

There is also something particularly valuable about the local nature of this effort. The golfers were local. Many of the businesses and organizations supporting the tournament have deep connections to the region. The Rotary Club organized the event locally. And the money is being directed to an organization feeding people in Sturbridge and neighboring Southbridge.

The distance between donor and recipient is remarkably short. That matters because strong communities are built not only through major public programs and large institutions, but through hundreds of smaller acts of participation.

Someone registers for a golf tournament. A business agrees to become a sponsor. A volunteer gives up part of a day. A civic organization spends months planning an event.

Individually, those contributions might seem modest. Combined, they produced \$13,000 for a pantry helping hundreds of neighbors.

The tournament itself also demonstrates why long-running community traditions deserve support. Annual fundraisers do not continue automatically. They survive because organizers remain willing to do the work and because residents and businesses continue showing up.

That consistency is valuable. Food insecurity does not disappear when a fundraising campaign ends. Pantries need dependable community partners because the families walking through their doors need dependable help.

There will always be worthy causes competing for attention and resources. No single organization can address every need. What civic groups such as Rotary can do, however, is identify a need close to home and mobilize people around it. The Sturbridge tournament accomplished exactly that.

The final score from Aug. 24 will eventually be forgotten. The foursomes will change. Next year's tournament will bring another round of competition and camaraderie.

But \$13,000 worth of community generosity has now moved from the golf course toward pantry shelves and, ultimately, kitchen tables throughout Sturbridge and Southbridge. That is a result worth remembering.

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

Don't lose track of financial accounts

For years, people save and invest in 401(k) plans, IRAs, and other financial accounts. They wouldn't lose track of this money, would they?

You might be surprised. About one in seven people has unclaimed cash or property, totaling billions of dollars, according to the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators.

People lose track of their money for a variety of reasons: They change jobs and forget about their retirement accounts; they move and leave no forwarding address; they change names and don't notify former employers; or their employers go out of business or merge with another company.

Whatever the reason, losing tabs on accounts that could be worth thousands of dollars is never a good thing. What can you do to avoid suffering this type of loss?

- Here are a few suggestions:
- Maintain good records. Keep records of all your financial, investment and retirement accounts — and let a family member know where these records are kept.
 - Keep a manageable number of financial accounts. The fewer bank and brokerage accounts that you have, the easier it will be to keep track of everything. You might even want to consolidate accounts when possible.
 - Report your change of address. Whenever you move, contact your financial services providers and any former employers with whom you may have retirement accounts.
 - Report name changes. If you change your name, notify new and old 401(k) plan administrators, banks, brokerages, and any other institution connected to your money.
 - Manage retirement accounts when you change jobs. If you leave your job, you might be able to leave your 401(k) behind with your old employer. But if you do, keep track of it. On the other hand, you could roll your old plan into your new employer's plan or into an IRA.
 - Inform your financial professional about all your



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accounts. If you work with a financial professional, they can help you track your accounts, so inform them of all past and present IRAs and 401(k)s or similar employer-sponsored plans.

So far, we've looked at ways you can prevent losing track

of financial accounts. But can you do anything if you suspect you've already left some money behind?

If you think you've lost tabs on an IRA, you can check old tax returns and bank statements to help you track your contributions and find the name of the financial provider that held your account. If it's a 401(k), you can contact your old employer's plan administrator.

You can get some help from other sources, too. The Department of Labor recently launched a retirement savings lost-and-found database (lostandfound.dol.gov)

that can help you find pension or 401(k) plans connected to your Social Security number. For a stray IRA, you can check unclaimed.org, the Web site of the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators. And for various other sources of money — including uncashed checks from corporations and financial institutions, inactive brokerage accounts, and unclaimed safe deposit boxes — you can check MissingMoney.com, the unclaimed property website of the National Association of State Treasurers.

These sites offer no guarantees of finding your lost or missing accounts or other sources of money, so you still may have to do your own sleuthing. But as the old saying goes, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" — which, in this case, means you'll help yourself greatly by tracking your accounts from beginning to end.

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

Somebody is stealing the daylight

LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET

By CHARLES

It happens every September, and every September, I somehow manage to be surprised by it. I look out the window sometime after supper and think, "Why is it getting dark?" As though there has been some sort of mistake. As though I should call somebody.

For most of the summer, daylight spoils us. You can finish supper, look around the house, decide you ought to do something useful and still have enough daylight left to avoid doing it for another hour.

There is time to mow a little grass, putter around outside, talk to a neighbor or stand in the driveway staring at something that needs fixing while making absolutely no progress toward fixing it.

Then September arrives. At first, nothing seems particularly alarming. The afternoons can still be warm. The trees are mostly green. Nobody has put the snow shovel by the back door yet, unless that person is either extremely organized or knows something the rest of us don't. But the daylight is quietly packing its bags. One evening you are outside at 7:30 without giving it a thought. A couple of weeks later, you glance at the clock at 7, and the windows have turned into mirrors. That is when you know summer has begun slipping away.

My wife handles this transition better than I do. She accepts that seasons change because she is a rational adult. I behave as though daylight is something we purchased and therefore ought to receive in the quantity promised.

"It's dark already," I'll announce.
"Yes," she'll say.
"It wasn't dark this early last week."
"I know."
"Seems awfully early."
This conversation has taken place every September for roughly 30 years.

Marriage is partly about love, partly about companionship and partly about listening patiently while another human being reports the same seasonal phenomenon three decades in a row. There is something about these September evenings that changes the rhythm of a small town.

In July, evening stretches. People are still outside. Lawnmowers are running. Somebody is washing a car. Kids are squeezing another half-hour out of the day. A neighbor wanders over and a five-minute conversation becomes 25

because nobody is particularly concerned about the clock.

September puts everybody on notice. The shadows stretch across the yard earlier. Porch lights appear. Cars traveling down Main Street have their headlights on before supper has had much time to settle.

You start measuring outdoor jobs differently. In June, you might think, "I'll get to that after supper." In September, "after supper" is no longer a time.

It is a threat. You also discover how many things are harder to find in the dark.

I recently went outside to retrieve something I had left in the yard. I knew precisely where it was. At least I knew precisely where it had been when there was daylight. I spent several minutes wandering around before admitting defeat and going back for a flashlight. The object had not moved. Apparently, my ability to locate stationary objects disappears shortly after sunset.

There is a melancholy side to all of this, of course. Summer always seems as though it ought to last longer. We spend months waiting for warm evenings, open windows, cookouts, gardens and those long stretches of daylight when 8 o'clock somehow feels like the middle of the afternoon. Then suddenly, the sun starts keeping bankers' hours.

But I've reached an age where I appreciate September more than I once did. There is something comforting about lights coming on in houses a little earlier.

Drive through one of our towns around dusk and you see lamps glowing through kitchen windows. Porch lights flicker on. Restaurants and little businesses look warmer against the darkening street. The world seems to draw inward a bit.

Soon enough, there will be leaves to rake, furnaces to consider and the annual mystery of discovering what happened to the gloves you distinctly remember putting somewhere sensible last spring. I'm in no hurry for any of that. For now, though, I'm trying to appreciate these September evenings for what they are. They are the hinge between seasons. Summer has not entirely left us, and autumn has not entirely arrived. There is still warmth in the afternoon, but evening carries a warning. Use the daylight while you've got it.

Take the walk. Finish the yard work. Sit outside for another few minutes. And when you look up one evening and discover that darkness has arrived much earlier than expected, don't bother announcing it to your spouse.

Trust me. They already know.

St. Anne-St. Patrick Parish announces grief support group

STURBRIDGE — St. Anne-St. Patrick Parish is holding a faith-based grief support workshop this fall to help those who have experienced a loss. “Grieving with Great Hope,” a bereavement resource from Good Mourning Ministry, is dedicated to accompanying those who are grieving on their healing journey through prayerful, practical and personal grief support.

Each session includes viewing a video followed by small group discussions for those who wish to share. Prayer guides participants through the seven intentions of mourning. The program offers tools to help those who are grieving find comfort, support, and healing.

The workshop is open to those grieving a loss of any type, regardless of faith, age, or when the loss occurred. However, it is recommended that the loss has taken place at least three months previously. The program has helped thousands of people find hope and healing.

The next series of workshops is scheduled for Sept. 12, 19, and 26, and October 3 and 10. Meetings take place on Saturdays at 9 a.m. in the Rendezvous inside St. Joachim’s Chapel at St. Anne-St. Patrick church.

Space is limited and registration is necessary. For more information or to register, please call the parish office at 508-347-7338 or email Chris Williams at cwkiki@charter.net. Visit www.goodmourningministry.net to learn more about this grief resource.

St. Anne-St. Patrick Parish is an active parish community. It offers daily Mass for worship, religious education, and community ministries. It welcomes visitors to St. Anne Shrine, the new Memorial for the Unborn, the Hall of Saints, the Russian Icon Exhibit, the Votive Chapel, the Generations Statue, and the Angel of Hope Monument. The Daily Rosary is recited at 3 p.m. in the St. Patrick Chapel, and weekend Masses are celebrated in its outdoor pavilion in the summer. Its religious gift shop is open every day from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

BHS Class of 1986 seeks community’s help locating classmates for 40th reunion

REGION — As the Bartlett High School Class of 1986 prepares to celebrate its 40th reunion on Sept. 26, organizers are asking the community for assistance in locating classmates who have not yet been reached through social media or via text.

To make the process simple, the reunion committee has created a short contact-information form and is encouraging residents, friends, and former classmates to help spread the word. If you know someone on the “missing classmates” list, organizers ask that you text them the link to the form so they can update their information.

Contact Info Form: <https://tinyurl.com/BHS1986-40Years>

If it’s easier, you may also complete the form on a classmate’s behalf—so long as you have their current contact details. Organizers emphasize that any help tracking them down is truly appreciated, as personal connections often succeed where digital outreach falls short.

A list of classmates the committee is hoping to locate appears below. With the community’s support, they hope every member of the Class of ’86 will have the opportunity to join this milestone celebration.

Peter Allain
Beth Antonopoulos
Marie Aperges
Andrew Baca
Austin Bailey
David Beardsley
Frank Belanger
Carolyn Bembenek
Richard Bernier
Sheila Bialoncik
Beth Bialy
Jason Borski
Doreen Bourget
Eric Brisbois
Kathleen Brown
Paul Browning
Paul Bugan
Cindy Bullens
Sandra Butt
Mont Canterbury
Stephen Carlson
Daniel Chapdelaine
Kelly Cobb
Ken Cournoyer
Timothy Decker
Tammy Deschenes
Aaron Dorcas
Daniel Doyle
Dorothy DusoSelina Fife
James Gardner
Jeffrey Gatto
Tina Giakoumis
Alicia Goudreau
Richard Guerin

Robert Hamm
Scott Horanzy
Jane Houle
Todd Hufault
Joseph Hughes
Melissa Jankowski
Thor Johnson
Nena Johnston
Lisa Kozlowski
Robert Krasnecky
Jill Krause
Michael Kryger
Rick Lawson
Deborah Leite
Linda Lifer
Patricia Majewski
Renee Marchand
Jennifer Marsh
Jennifer Mason
John Meagher
Fumiyo Mochizuki
Deborah Munsch
Brett Napierata
Wayne Parmentier
Brian Poplawski
Gary Poplawski
Edward Powers
William Radcliffe
James Remy
Debra Ross
Collin Salmon
Dale Schleis
Theresa Sergel
Henry Skiba
Alan Standrowicz
Jeffrey Surozenski
Karen Toukonen
Joseph Veronick
Douglas Waldron
Robert Wheeler
Edward Zdrok

Massasoit Art Guild to hold 23rd annual Art Show and Sale

SPENCER — The Massasoit Art Guild will showcase the work of area artists when its 23rd annual Art Show and Sale returns to Spencer Town Hall in October.

The show will be held Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 10 and 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Spencer Town Hall, 157 Main St. Admission is open to the public.

In addition to giving visitors an opportunity to view original artwork, the event will feature works available for purchase, including original pieces, fine art prints and cards.

A public reception and awards ceremony will be held Saturday, Oct. 10, from 1 to 3 p.m. Cash prizes will be presented in each category.

This year's special challenge category is "Fantasy," with organizers specifying that entries in the category must be family friendly.

Massasoit Art Guild members interested in participating may submit up to three pieces of original artwork. The entry fee is \$8 per piece, and the deadline to submit entries is Sunday, Sept. 27.

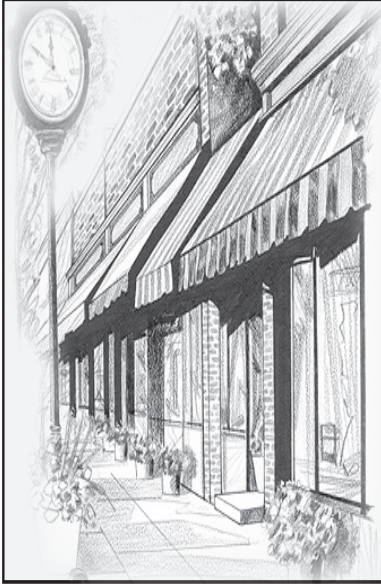
Artwork entered in the show should be dropped off at Spencer Town Hall on Friday, Oct. 9, from 5 to 7 p.m. Following the conclusion of the show, artwork may be picked up Sunday, Oct. 11, from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m.

The event will also include a raffle table, with donations encouraged. Raffle winners will be announced Sunday afternoon.

The guild's 2025 Best in Show honor went to artist Doug Caves for his oil painting "Intersection No. 1."

Complete show guidelines, registration information and other details are available at the Massasoit Art Guild's website. Questions may also be directed to massasoitartguild@gmail.com.

The 23rd annual Art Show and Sale is supported in part by a grant from the Spencer Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



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

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

"At St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish, we want to remove obstacles that make it difficult for families to practice their faith together," said Fr. Salvator Musande, Pastor of St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish. "Our new



Courtesy Photo

(Left) Faith Formation students with leaders in the Parish Center.

schedule allows children to grow in their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith while making Sunday Mass something families can attend together. We warmly invite both returning and new families to join us."

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

The new class schedule is:

- Grades K–6: Sundays, 8:45–9:45 a.m., before the 10 a.m. Mass.
- Grades 7–11: Sundays, 11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m., after the 10 a.m. Mass.

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

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

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

*St. Vincent de Paul Society to host
Friends of the Poor Walk in Sturbridge*

FISKDALE — The St. Vincent de Paul Society in Fiskdale will host its third annual Friends of the Poor Walk on Sunday, Oct. 18, at noon at the Sturbridge Common during the harvest fest. Proceeds from the fundraiser will support local individuals and families in need across Brimfield, Brookfield, Holland, Sturbridge, Wales, and other nearby towns.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society in Fiskdale provides practical assistance throughout the year, including emergency housing, rental and utility help, food, clothing, and other essential needs—serving people of all backgrounds and faiths.

The Fiskdale conference raises funds through parish poor boxes, public donations, and events such as this one. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul operates in 153 countries, with more than 4,000 local conferences, and is run entirely by volunteer members committed to tackling poverty in all its forms. Residents are encouraged to come to



the harvest fest and join us in our walk
for our neighbors in need.

For more information, contact svd-

pfiskdalepr@gmail.com. To donate, visit our website: svdpfiskdale.org and click on the “Donate” button.

**The 7th Annual
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The Beckman honor adds to Lepper's accomplishments as an undergraduate researcher. In 2025, she was the primary author of a research paper published in *The ISME Journal*, an international scientific journal specializing in microbial ecology.



Joanna Lepper

Courtesy Photo

This is a reproduction of the abstract painting 'The Mother' by Francis Bacon. The artwork is characterized by its vibrant, non-representational color palette, featuring large areas of orange, yellow, green, and purple. The composition is dominated by thick, expressive brushstrokes that create a sense of movement and texture. A central, somewhat indistinct figure is visible, rendered in shades of purple and green, surrounded by swirling colors. The overall effect is one of intense emotional energy and abstract form. The painting is signed 'Bacon' in the bottom right corner.

Courtesy Photo

A painting by Lindsay Fleming on display at the Ruth Wells Center.

Next month is Haunted Halls. The month-long celebration will feature spooky, eerie art, opening party with costumes food and music, Harvest Fair with craft and vintage vendors and children's activities. For more information, or to reserve a vendor space, go to the Web site, ruthwellscenter.com, or call 508-909-6155.






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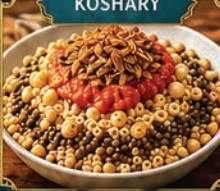
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LEGALS

**PUBLIC NOTICE
DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT
68 DUDLEY-OXFORD ROAD
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Phone (508) 943-6888
Fax (508) 943-1077**

The Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee hereby invites sealed bids for “SNOW PLOWING AND SALTING.” Snow plowing and salting services are for three (3) years commencing October 31, 2026 and terminating June 30, 2029. Specification and bid proposal forms are available at.
Office of the Superintendent
Dudley-Charlton Regional School District
68 Dudley-Oxford Road
Dudley, MA 01571
(508) 943-6888
The Commbuys bid number is:
BD-26-1500-DO001-DO001-133123
The forms are also available upon request by email to spusateri@dcrsd.org. All bids must be in conformity with all pertinent statutes and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. All bids must be sealed and labeled “SNOW PLOWING AND SALTING BID 2026-2029-01” and received in the Office of the Superintendent, Dudley Charlton Regional School District 68 Dudley-Oxford Road, Dudley, MA not later than 10:00 a.m. on October 2, 2026 at which time and place bids will be publicly opened and read.
A Mandatory Pre-Bid walkthrough will be conducted on Thursday September 17, 2026 at 08:00 starting the Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 68 Dudley Oxford Road, Dudley MA 01571
The School Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or any part thereof, when it appears to them that the best interests of the district are served by doing so.
Joseph DeSantis
Director of Finance and Operations
September 18, 2026

**Sturbridge Planning Board
Public Hearing
Application for Modification of Site Plan
Old Road Realty, LLC**
In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Sturbridge Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing in the **Center Office Building 2nd floor, located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566** and/or by virtual means if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law, on **Monday, September 28, 2026 at 6:35 PM** on the application of Old Road Realty, LLC, 1 West Boylston Street, Worcester, MA 01605. The applicant requests Modification of an approved Site Plan for the property located at 660 Main Street.
The applicant seeks modifications to the Site Plan Approval granted on August 11, 2025, for the creation of a 40,150 sq. ft. building for a manufacturing facility. The applicant requests to revise the site plan to increase the office space/dispatch use for Coastal Medical Transportation as shown in the plans and application submitted.
A copy of the site plan and application can be inspected on the Sturbridge Town Website or arrangements can be made to view the application packet by contacting the Sturbridge Planning Department.
Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this proposal should appear at the time and place designated. Members of the public may watch the meeting online via the Town's on demand video broadcast or via cable television on Channel 191.
It is the intent to have this Public Hearing in person. However, if circumstances warrant, the Board may choose to hold this Hearing via virtual or hybrid (in person and virtual) means. In the event of a virtual of hybrid meeting, please follow this link:
<https://meet.goto.com/619527397>
Please note that the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast. Unless otherwise required by law.
Charles Blanchard
Chairperson
September 10, 2026
September 17, 2026

**Town of Holland Zoning Board of Appeals
Notice of Public Hearing**
In accordance with M.G. L Chapter 40A Section 9, the Holland Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 7:15 P.M.** at the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Rd, 1st Floor Community Room, Holland, MA 01521.
If dial in access is needed, please contact the Town Hall at 413-245-7108 x101.
The purpose of the hearing is to consider a request for a **Special Permit** according to Holland Bylaw section 240.7. **Relief requested: New build on a pre-existing non-conforming**

lot.
The property located at: **10 Cove Rd.**
Parcel ID # **R16/A / 6.**
Don Beal, Chairperson
Zoning Board of Appeals
Date: 8/31/2026
September 10, 2026
September 17, 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. WO26P2848EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
Anne A. Grehoski
Also known as: Anne Adelaide Grehoski, Anne Perrin
Date of Death: 07/04/2026
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Paul Carbone of Boston 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: .
Paul Carbone of Boston MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/29/2026.** 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: September 03, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
September 17, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
In accordance with the provisions of MGL Ch. 40A, §11, the Southbridge Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the G.A.R. Hall, lower level, Town Hall, 41 Elm St, Southbridge, MA. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider the special permit application, in accordance with Table 1 of the Southbridge Zoning Bylaw, as filed by Tiger Gillespie, for the keeping of livestock under 5 acres, located at 249 Pleasant Street; Map 19; Lot 6 (Tiger Gillespie, owner).
The application and plan are on file for review during normal business hours with the Town Clerk. This notice is also published electronically on www.ma.mypublicnotices.com.
Any person interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.
David V. Payeur
Chairman, Southbridge Planning Board
September 17, 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 Christine Diane MacDonald, Deilya Nap to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Geneva Financial, LLC, dated July 31, 2023 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69461, Page 191, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:
Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Geneva Financial, LLC, its successors and assigns to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, recorded on March 8, 2024, in Book No. 70264, at Page 198
JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as Owner Trustee of the Residential Credit Opportunities Trust IX-B, recorded on November 28, 2025, in Book No. 72896, at Page 34 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on October 2,

2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 46 and 48 New Boston Road, Sturbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT:
The land in said Sturbridge with the buildings thereon situated on the easterly side of the New Boston Road, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the southwesterly corner thereof, at an iron pipe in the ground at the northwesterly corner of land of Walter L. Szolusha et ux.; THENCE N 0° 20' W. along the easterly line of New Boston Road 76.01 feet to an iron pipe in the ground; THENCE N. 80° 16' E. by land of grant-or 101.27 feet to an iron pipe in the ground by fence at land of Clifford F. Chamberlain; THENCE Southeasterly along fence by said Chamberlain land about 112.23 feet to an iron pipe in the ground at said Szolusha land; THENCE S. 80° 16' W. by said Szolusha land 197.17 feet to the point of beginning.
ALONG WITH;
The land in Sturbridge, situated on the easterly side of New Boston Road, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the southwesterly corner thereof, at an iron pipe in the ground on the easterly side of the New Boston Road at land of grantees; THENCE N. 0° 20' W. along the easterly line of New Boston Road about 83 feet to the line of a fence at land of Clifford G. Chamberlain; THENCE Southeasterly along the fence of said Chamberlain land about 119. 74 feet to an iron pipe in the ground by fence at land of grantees THENCE S. 80° 16' W. by land of grantees 101.27 feet to the point of beginning.
For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69461, Page 187.
These premises will 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 Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars 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 certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.
Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, AS OWNER TRUSTEE OF THE RESIDENTIAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES TRUST IX-B
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
27691
September 3, 2026
September 10, 2026
September 17, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
Premises: 423 Morris Street, Southbridge, MA 01550
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jacqueline Baldina to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., and now held by **Rocket Mortgage, LLC**, said mortgage dated September 28, 2017 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 57845, Page 366, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., its successors and assigns to Rocket Mortgage, LLC by assignment dated June 4, 2026 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 73693, Page 236; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on October 21, 2026 at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:
Land situated in the Town of Southbridge in the County of Worcester in the State of MA
The land with the buildings thereon located in Southbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, situated on

the easterly side of Morris Street bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the northwesterly corner thereof, at an iron pipe on the easterly side of Morris Street in the southwesterly corner of land now or formerly of George Rousseau, et ux; THENCE S. 65 degrees 59 minutes E. by said Rousseau land, 200 feet to an iron pipe at land now or formerly of the Southbridge Water Supply Company; THENCE S. 24 degrees 01 minute W. by land now or formerly of the Southbridge Water Supply Company, 100 feet to an iron pipe at land now or formerly of Paul O. Laliberte, et ux; THENCE N. 65 degrees 59 minutes W. by said Laliberte land, 200 feet to an iron pipe on the easterly side of Morris Street; THENCE N. 24 degrees 01 minute E. by the easterly side of Morris Street, 100 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 20,000 square feet. Being the same property conveyed to Jacqueline Baldina, by deed dated August 25, 2010 of record in Deed Book 46227, Page 146, in the County Clerk's Office.
The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.
For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated August 25, 2010 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 46227, Page 146.
TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.
FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.
Other terms to be announced at the sale.
Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Rocket Mortgage, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
September 17, 2026
September 24, 2026
October 1, 2026

**Sturbridge Planning Board
Public Hearing
Proposed Zoning Amendments**
In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Sturbridge Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing in the **Center Office Building 2nd floor, located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566** and/or by virtual means if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law, on **Monday, September 28, 2026 at 6:50 PM** to consider amendments to the Town's Zoning Bylaw.
The proposed amendments will:
1. Amend §300-2.2 Terms defined. By inserting a new definition for Site Footprint, Solar Energy Facility, Solar Energy Facility Building Mounted, and Solar Energy Facility Canopy, and remove the outdated definition of Large Solar Energy Facility, consistent with recent changes to Massachusetts General Law.
2. Amend §300-5.6 Use regulations. By inserting a new allowed by Special Permit use into the Groundwater Protection District regulations for Solar and BESS.
3. Amend Article X Solar Energy Facilities. By updating §300-10.1 through §300-10.12 and to establish a new §300-10.13 and §300-10.14 to insert language to accommodate Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and the consolidated local permit guidelines per recent changes to Massachusetts General Laws.
A copy of the zoning bylaw proposal can be viewed on the Sturbridge Town Website or arrangements can be made to view the zoning bylaw proposal by contacting the Sturbridge Planning Department.
Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this proposal should appear at the time and place designated. Members of the public may watch the meeting online via the Town's on demand video broadcast or via cable television on Channel 191.
It is the intent to have this Public Hearing in person. However, if circumstances warrant, the Board may choose to hold this Hearing via virtual or hybrid (in person and virtual) means. In the event of a virtual of hybrid meeting, please follow this link:
<https://meet.goto.com/619527397>
Please note that the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast. Unless otherwise required by law.
Charles Blanchard
Chairperson
September 10, 2026
September 17, 2026

Tri-Valley, Inc. celebrates 50 years of service, independence and community

DUDLEY — Tri-Valley, Inc. is proud to celebrate its 50th anniversary, marking five decades of service to older adults, people with disabilities, caregivers and families throughout the communities it serves.

Since its founding in 1976, Tri-Valley has grown and evolved alongside the people and communities it serves. What began with a commitment to helping individuals remain independent in their homes and communities has developed into a broad network of programs, services and partnerships designed to promote dignity, choice, safety and quality of life.

“Fifty years represents much more than the passage of time,” said Lisa Prince, CEO. “It represents generations of people who have trusted Tri-Valley, employees who have dedicated their careers to serving others, community partners who have worked alongside us, and leaders who had the vision to build and strengthen this organization. Most importantly, it represents the thousands of consumers whose independence, determination and voices have shaped who we are.”

Honoring the leaders who helped shape Tri-Valley

Tri-Valley’s 50-year history has been guided by dedicated executive leadership, beginning with Mr. Donald Warner and continuing through former Executive Directors Ms. Patricia Clark, Mr. Bernard Gagnon and Ms. Marilyn Travinski.

Each brought different strengths to the organization while carrying forward a common purpose: ensuring that people have access to the services and supports they need to live as independently

as possible.

Under their leadership, Tri-Valley responded to changing community needs, expanded services, developed new partnerships and navigated significant changes in aging and disability services. Their contributions established the foundation on which Tri-Valley continues to build today.

Celebrating the staff behind 50 years of service

At the heart of Tri-Valley’s history are its employees.

Over five decades, hundreds of staff members have answered phones, visited consumers in their homes, coordinated services, delivered meals, supported caregivers, advocated for consumers, managed programs and performed the countless behind-the-scenes tasks necessary to keep services available to people who depend on them.

Some employees have devoted decades of their careers to Tri-Valley, carrying the organization’s institutional knowledge and mission from one generation of staff to the next.

Their stories — and those of every employee who has been part of Tri-Valley during the past 50 years — demonstrate that the organization’s greatest resource has always been its people.

Programs that have evolved with the community

Throughout its history, Tri-Valley has adapted its services to meet the changing needs of older adults and people with disabilities.

Programs and services over the years have included our well-known and long-standing Meals on Wheels program and the original State Home Care program. Program offerings

have expanded over the years to better serve the needs of community members. These include the Adult Family Care program, information and referral services, care management, caregiver and Veteran supports, protective services, options counseling, transportation and others.

Today, Tri-Valley continues to provide services that give consumers greater choice and control over how and where they live. Its work includes Personal Care Management functions within the Massachusetts MassHealth system, one example of the organization’s continuing role in supporting people who choose to live independently in their communities.

The programs may have changed, expanded and modernized during the past half-century, but the purpose behind them has remained remarkably consistent: listen to the individual, respect their choices and connect them with supports that help make independence possible.

A community achievement

Tri-Valley’s 50th anniversary is also an opportunity to thank the many people and organizations that have shared in its work: consumers and their families, current and former employees, volunteers, Board members, community organizations, health and human-service providers, municipal leaders, state partners, donors and advocates.

To every person who has been part of Tri-Valley’s first 50 years: thank you.

And as Tri-Valley begins its next 50 years, its commitment remains rooted in the principle that has guided its work for generations

— helping people live with choice, dignity and independence in the communities they call home.

Fifty years — and the work continues

As Tri-Valley celebrates its anniversary, the organization is also looking toward the future.

The needs of older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers continue to change. Technology, workforce challenges, health care delivery and demographic shifts are transforming the human-services landscape.

Tri-Valley enters its next chapter with the same willingness to adapt that has sustained the organization for five decades.

“As we recognize everyone who helped bring Tri-Valley to this milestone, we are equally excited about what comes next,” said Prince. “Our mission continues because the need continues. We will keep listening to consumers, supporting our staff, strengthening our partnerships and finding new ways to help people live with independence and dignity.”

About Tri-Valley, Inc.

Tri-Valley, Inc. is a community-based human-services organization headquartered at 10 Mill St. in Dudley, Massachusetts. For 50 years, Tri-Valley has connected older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers with programs, services and supports designed to promote independence, dignity and quality of life.

For more information about Tri-Valley and its 50th anniversary, visit www.tri-valleyinc.org.

Boat America Safe Boating Certificate course offered at Bay Path Oct. 13 & 15

CHARLTON — The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts will be instructing the Boat America course that meets current state mandated educational requirements offered in a two-night format developed to provide the skills and confidence needed to explore the coast and inland waters by boat. Basic knowledge and skills are needed to have safe and enjoyable boating experiences. This course is perfect for families that have just purchased any type of boat or are planning to in the future, and for the boater keeping up with changes to boating regulations and laws.

The Hanson-Milone Boater Safety Act, signed into Mass. Law, now requires all Mass. motorboat operators over 12 years of age to complete an approved Safe Boating Certificate course before April 1, 2026 for anyone born after Jan. 1, 1998, and by April 1, 2028 for boaters born before Jan. 1, 1998. Enforcement of the new law

began on Sept. 1. Personal Watercraft / Jet Ski operators are required to be at least 16 years of age also included. A certificate, required to be carried onboard, will be issued by the state to resident motorboaters.

Successful completion of this BA course offered meets this requirement and inclusion into the Mass. Environmental Police Boating Safety Database, Approved by National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) it will also cover the requirements to operate a vessel in most other states & many countries where boating safety education is mandatory including NH, RI and CT. You will receive the additional USCG Auxiliary certification and a possible discount on premiums for most boating insurance companies for successful completion of this course. Some basic marlinespike seamanship (knots etc.) will also be included as part of the course. Participants 16

years old and under must be accompanied, in person, by a registered parent/guardian. SPACE IS LIMITED so register soon.

Register online at www.baypath.augusoft.net Personal Enrichment – Sports& Leisure – More recommendations - Class ID 43489 or by calling Sheri Dreitlein (508) 248-5971 email sdreitlein@baypath.net You can also contact our Flotilla Commander Kyle Cimochowski (860) 227-7274 or Marc French at (508) 318-7152 for additional information.

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

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



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Wales Community Pantry announces first-ever fundraising golf tournament

FISKDALE — The Wales Community Pantry today announced its first annual fundraising golf tournament, inviting the community to swing for a cause that hits close to home. The event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 3, with a 9 a.m. start at Hemlock Ridge Golf Course in Fiskdale.

This is more than a day on the course. It is a chance to stand with neighbors and families who face the stress of not knowing whether there will be enough food for dinner. Or breakfast. In just the past two years, the number of people the pantry serves has roughly tripled. Hundreds of families across Brimfield, Holland, Wales, and more than 20 surrounding communities now rely on the pantry for nutritious food provided with dignity. The pantry also sends weekend food home with 85 elementary students through its Backpack Program and delivers to more than 40 homebound neighbors.

In the immediate area there are no grocery stores and limited public transportation, making the pantry a critical lifeline. Rising costs of food, housing, and healthcare continue to push more households to seek help. The tournament will feature food, prizes, and the chance to make a tangible difference.

“Golf is fun, but this day is about something bigger,” said Dave Sweeney, Executive Director of the Wales Community Pantry. “Every player, sponsor, and volunteer helps us keep food on the shelves for families who need it. We’re grateful for the community’s support and excited to grow this event into an annual tradition.”

Event Details

- Date & Time: Saturday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m. start
- Location: Hemlock Ridge Golf Course, Fiskdale
- Includes: Golf, food, and prizes
- Registration: <https://bit.ly/WalesGolfFundraiser>
- Sponsorships: Available at multiple levels. Contact WalesCommunityFoodPantry@gmail.com or visit the golf tournament registration page for more details.

Players, sponsors, and volunteers are encouraged to sign up early. Sponsorship opportunities offer visibility while directly supporting the pantry’s mission. For more information or to discuss sponsorship, email WalesCommunityFoodPantry@gmail.com or visit the golf tournament registration page for more details.

About the Wales Community Pantry

The Wales Community Pantry provides nutritious food with dignity to families, seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, working households, and children in Brimfield, Holland, Wales, and surrounding communities in western Massachusetts. Through open pantry hours, home delivery, and a Weekend Backpack Program, the pantry serves as a vital resource in an area with limited access to grocery stores. For more information, visit the pantry’s Facebook page or email WalesCommunityFoodPantry@gmail.com.

Town of Charlton accepting applications for Opioid Settlement Funds Grant Program

CHARLTON — The Town of Charlton is accepting applications for funding through the Town’s Opioid Settlement Funds Grant Program.

The purpose of this program is to support initiatives that prevent opioid misuse, expand access to treatment and recovery services, reduce the harms associated with substance use disorders, and improve the health and well-being of Charlton residents. Funding is made available through the Town’s allocation of national opioid settlement funds and must be used for eligible purposes consistent with applicable settlement agreements and guidance. Funding may be requested to a maximum of \$2,500 per applicant. Final awards will be distributed based on available funding as well as demonstrated need and community impact.

Eligible applicants may include:

- o Nonprofit organizations
- o Educational institutions
- o Healthcare providers
- o Community-based organizations
- o Other organizations serving Charlton residents

Projects may include, but are not limited to:

- o Prevention and education programs
- o Treatment and recovery support services
- o Harm reduction initiatives
- o First responder or public safety initiatives related to opioid response
- o Behavioral health and mental health services
- o Community outreach and support programs
- o Data collection, evaluation, and other evidence-based strategies that address opioid use disorder

Applications will be evaluated based on demonstrated community need, alignment with eligible opioid settlement uses, measurable outcomes, organizational capacity, and the anticipated impact on Charlton residents.

Completed applications and all required supporting documentation for the first round of this grant program must be submitted by Aug. 31. Late or incomplete applications may not be considered.

Applications welcome for Southbridge Cultural Council grants

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Cultural Council announces that applications for the 2027 grant funding cycle will become available only online to www.mass-culturalcouncil.org.

The official submission cycle for 2027 begins on Sept. 1, and ends on Oct. 15 at 11.59 p.m. No applications are accepted after the official deadline established by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Boston. Officially required is that all 2027 applicants review and understand the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Southbridge Cultural Council specific criteria online before submission of the grant application.

The Southbridge Cultural Council (SCC), a local agency, is part of the overall grant program of the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), a state agency, providing grant allocations to each of the 351 cities and towns of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in support of cultural activities in their respective areas. The Massachusetts Cultural Council is funded by the Massachusetts Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For questions of the 2027 grant cycle, please call Michelle LeBoeuf, SCC Chairperson at 508-764-4803 or Ted Bartlett, SCC Treasurer at 508-764-7909.

FOOD PANTRY continued from page A1

Theodoss, Maria Torres and Romon Torres finished fourth.

This year’s tournament, the 9th consecutive of 30 annual tournaments, was supported by major donors bank-Hometown, Country Bank, Dave’s Pest Control, Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, Dexter-Russell Inc., Four Seasons Maintenance, McCarthy

Hargrave Wealth Management, Militia Administrative Services Inc., Paul’s Automotive Machine, Power Specialist, Safety Source, Savers Bank and Southbridge Credit Union.

The annual tournament is one of the Rotary Club of Sturbridge’s major fundraising efforts and supports the club’s commitment to addressing needs in the local community.

PUMPKIN continued from page A1

in Fellowship Hall for all “Helping Hands.” Those interested in volunteering should contact the church office at (774) 304-1021.

Once the work is done, the front lawn at 8 Maple Street, Sturbridge, will once again be filled with pumpkins and gourds of all shapes and sizes, along with mums, hay bales, corn stalks and loose hay for scarecrows. Cookbooks will also be available.

The Pumpkin Patch will be open Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., weather permitting. Payment may be made by cash, credit card or Venmo.

Visitors will find more than pumpkins during the five-week run. Plans include pumpkin carving, face painting, music and Storytime with Judy, along with a performance by Rock Voices Auburn, with the date to be announced.

The Central Mass Plein Air Painters will also return on Saturday, Oct. 10, setting up their easels around the church grounds to paint the Patch and surrounding autumn landscape. “The Pumpkin Patch is such an idyllic fall scene it begs to be painted,” said organizer Diane Vanaskie Mulligan.

“The Pumpkin Patch began in 2018 as a simple fundraiser, but it has grown into something the church and community look forward to every year,” said committee co-chair Paul Medeiros. “It gives people a chance to spend some time together, enjoy the season and, at the same time, help us support the mis-

sions and ministries that are important to our church.”

The Patch also has a connection extending well beyond Sturbridge. A portion of the proceeds supports the Navajo Nation in Farmington, New Mexico, where Pumpkins USA grows the pumpkins and provides seasonal and year-round employment.

What began nine years ago as a seasonal fundraiser has become one of the church’s most visible community traditions — part pumpkin sale, part gathering place and part reminder that a simple fall activity can help support worthwhile work throughout the year.

Proceeds help the Federated Church support a variety of local missions and ministries, including Sturbridge Girl Scout and Scouting America troops, both of which meet at the church, the local Veterans Association, and the church’s ecumenical work with other area congregations.

October will be a particularly active month at the Federated Church. In addition to the Pumpkin Patch, the church will host its monthly movie night and ice cream social on Thursday, Oct. 1; a Roots and Relics concert on Friday, Oct. 9, from 7-8:30 p.m.; and the Koinonia women’s group Rummage Sale on Oct. 23 and 24.

For additional information about the Pumpkin Patch, October activities or volunteering to help with unloading and setup, visit sturfed.org, call the church office at (774) 304-1021 or email churchoffice@sturfed.org.

The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale, 8 Maple St., Sturbridge, welcomes all to share in Christ’s presence and God’s grace. Sunday worship is held at 9:30 a.m.

HYSTERIA continued from page A1

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” performed 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.

Salem Witch Hysteria 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. To reserve a seat, call the Senior Center at (508) 764-1469.

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OHD continued from page A1

ities for children. Members of the Charlton Old Home Day committee announced the day’s activities, and the live bands and music were outstanding. I enjoyed viewing the Grizzly Adams photos; he is buried in the town cemetery just down the road from the festivities. Many organizations, non-profits, craft makers, and vendors were also on hand selling their goods. The day concluded with a parade featuring beautiful antique cars, fire trucks, and more. MGSTL served fresh, hand-cut homemade French fries, and the long lines made it clear they were worth the wait. The lodge went through many, many pounds of potatoes.

Oxford Lodge sold lobster rolls, and snow cones. The lobster rolls were especially popular and sold quickly, while children eagerly lined up for flavored snow cones. At times, both lodge booths had long lines as visitors waited for their treats. To learn more about Freemasonry or find a lodge near you, visit www.massfreemasonry.org.

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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, 3 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 **MLS # 73534271 \$649,000**

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21 Fox Run Brookfield Meadows Brookfield \$230,000

1993 Ritz-Craft 24x44 modular home located in Brookfield Meadows 55+ community. This is a 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with master bath, eat in kitchen dining area, wooden back deck and storage shed. Recently rehabbed. Buyer responsible for smoke cert at closing. Subject to park approval, lot rent includes water, sewer, taxes, road maintenance and trash removal. Community septic, title v not required for sale.



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Rotary Club of Sturbridge presents Sixth Annual TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K & Fun Walk

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

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

“Partnering with TREK Sturbridge has become a great way to bring people together, enjoy some of Sturbridge’s beautiful trails and have a little Halloween fun at the same time,” Hachfeld said. “More importantly, every registration helps Rotary



Courtesy Photo

Education Center.

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

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

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

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

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

put money back into the community through scholarships for local students and support for other community projects and needs.”

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

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

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The performances are held at Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. in Southbridge. Entrance is on Park Street (around the corner). Directed by Patrick Bracken, Produced by Ed Humphries. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals, A Dramatists Play Service Title.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors and youth under 18. Tickets may be reserved by calling Gateway at 508-764-4531. Online credit card ticket sales are available at <https://events.ticketleap.com/tickets/gateway-players/the-outsider>

The Cast features Jordan Miller, Billy Bolster, Eric Hart, Elyssa Miller, Nicole Rawdon, and Peter Amaral.

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BBQ chicken supper at Charlton City UMC

CHARLTON — Saturday, Sept. 20, Charlton City United Methodist Church, located at 74 Stafford St. in Charlton., will be preparing their delicious Chicken Barbecue with potato salad, tossed salad and sweet buttery corn. Dessert is peach cobbler with whipped cream topping. Come and enjoy delicious food and fellowship with friends and neighbors! Fall craft available for children.

Supper 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 \$7, children five and under free. Household maximum: \$50. Tickets may be purchased at the door although reservations are appreciated. Call the church office at (508) 248-7379 for information and reservations. The building is handicapped accessible, with plenty of parking. Invite the whole family and friends for a nice Saturday out in a family-friendly place.