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Thursday-Friday, July 23-24, 2026

Sturbridge Rotary Club honors local youth at annual Student Recognition Dinner

STURBRIDGE — The Sturbridge Rotary Club hosted its annual Student Recognition Dinner on July 15, 2026, at the Publick House Historic Inn, bringing together students, educators, Rotarians, and local leaders for an evening recognizing exceptional youth achievement and service. The event took place in Paige Hall during the Club's regular meeting, combining tradition with celebration.

Club President Tim Gresenz opened the meeting and invited Past President Klaus Hachfeld to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and Rotary's Four-Way Test. Special guests included Rotary District 7910 Governor Penny Hamel, and English



Courtesy Photo

Sturbridge Rotary Club President Tim Gresenz (left) with 2026 scholarship recipients. Front row: Willow Andersen, Evelyn Spencer, and Julie Anne Peterson. Back row: Emmett Deatte, Logan Oko, Ethan Zhu, and Alex Wilson. Missing from photo: Payton Thompson.

Teacher and Interact Advisor Amy Willard. A highlight of the evening was the presentation by Past-President Klaus Hachfeld of Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) to Stephen

Giaquinto, Norah Hanrahan, Vivian Jaeger, Tamas Jiang, Kaitlyn Kenney, Avery Lanier, Hannah Whittier, and Matilda St. Clair. RYLA is a signature program of Rotary

International that brings together young people for a multi-day leadership development experience, that helps participants build confidence, develop communication and problem-solving

skills, and discover the power of Service Above Self. This year, the Sturbridge Rotary Club awarded RYLA scholarships to eight local students selected to join over 200 Massachusetts high school sophomores at the RYLA Conference, held at Fitchburg State University in June. Recipients were selected based on demonstrated leadership potential, strong citizenship, and a compelling desire to benefit from the experience, all qualities confirmed through a competitive interview process.

The Club also celebrated the transition of leadership in the Interact Club at Tantasqua, Rotary's youth service organization. Outgoing officers - Emmett Deatte, president; Ethan Zhu, vice president; Evie Spencer, treasurer; Mairaed Fairbrother, secretary, and Julie Anne Petersen, publicist - were on hand to formally pass the torch to the incoming board. The new slate of officers, all rising seniors, includes

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Shop, sip, and support at Here Today Adopted Tomorrow's Feline Fun Day

BRIMFIELD — Here Today Adopted Tomorrow (HTAT) invites cat lovers of all ages to its annual Feline Fun Day on Saturday, Aug. 1 at the Brimfield Winery. This free, family-friendly event brings the community together for an afternoon of fun while raising funds to support shelter cats and HTAT's community programs.

Visitors can browse local craft vendors, enjoy delicious food, sip wine from the winery's own selection, listen to music, and try their luck at exciting raffles throughout the day. Guests will also have the chance to enjoy kitten cuddling with some of HTAT's youngest residents. While the kittens won't be available for adoption at the event, they're sure to bring plenty of smiles. Whether you're spending the day with family, meeting friends, or simply celebrating your love of cats, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Every dollar raised by HTAT during Feline Fun Day helps provide care for shelter cats while supporting programs that keep pets with the families who love them. Through services like low-cost spay and neuter, a pet food pantry, and other community assistance programs, HTAT works to ensure that cats and their owners have access to the support they need. As more families face financial challenges each year, the organization remains committed to being a trusted resource for pets.

HTAT Executive Director Rachael Max says Feline Fun Day is about more than just a fun afternoon; it's about bringing the community together for a shared cause.

"Every person who attends, shops with a vendor, or purchases a raffle ticket helps make a difference for cats both inside and outside our shelter," said Max. "It's a wonderful opportunity to have fun while supporting programs that strengthen our entire community."

Feline Fun Day will take place on Saturday, Aug. 1 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Brimfield Winery, 35 Main St., Brimfield. Admission is free. For more information, visit www.heretodaysanctuary.org or call 413-324-8224.

About Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary Here Today Adopted Tomorrow (HTAT) was founded by mother-daughter team Barbara Horn and Rachael Max. HTAT is a volunteer driven group focused on helping cats and the people who love them in our community. In 2012 we opened our no kill, cageless cat adoption center for adult cats and kittens in Brimfield. It is deeply important to us that every resident's stay at HTAT is comfortable and healthy, making for well-adjusted, happy animals. Shortly after opening, we realized there were more homeless cats than we could handle by adoption alone. We believe that pets are cherished members of the family and that every cat deserves care, respect, and the chance to thrive, no matter their circumstances. We have programs to help special needs cats flourish and get adopted, as well as community assistance programs to help pet owners keep their pets, such as our Pet Food Pantry, low-cost spay-neuter program, and free cat behavior program. Each year, HTAT helps over 1,500 animals and their families. For more information, visit heretodaysanctuary.org.

Visit Here Today Adopted Tomorrow on Facebook at facebook.com/heretodaysanctuary, and follow us on Instagram at [@heretodayadoptedtommorrow](https://instagram.com/heretodayadoptedtommorrow).

Overlook launches free summer concert series in Charlton

CHARLTON — Music lovers have six opportunities to enjoy live outdoor performances this summer as The Overlook hosts its annual Summer Concert Series on Tuesday evenings throughout July and into August.

The free concerts will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on the outdoor commons at The Overlook, 88 Masonic Home Rd., offering a variety of musical styles ranging from jazz and brasas to classic rock and blues. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and

enjoy an evening of live entertainment with family and friends. In the event of rain, performances will move indoors to the Performing Arts Center.

The Salty Sister Project Acoustic Trio will perform July 28, offering an evening of acoustic favorites and harmonies.

The series continues into August with The Reminisants on Aug. 4, bringing audiences back to the golden era of 1950s and 1960s rock and roll.

The final concert will be held Aug.

11, when The Lustre Kings perform a mix of blues, rhythm and blues, and rockabilly music.

The Summer Concert Series has become a popular seasonal tradition, offering residents and visitors an opportunity to gather outdoors and enjoy live music in a relaxed setting.

Admission is free and open to the public.

For more information, call 508-403-4987 or visit OverlookMass.org/events.

Charlton resident promoted to Captain at Worcester County Sheriff's Office

WEST BOYLSTON — Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis is pleased to announce the promotion of Charlton resident Adam Richard to the rank of Captain at the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction.

Richard began his career with the Worcester County Sheriff's Office in 2011 and has served the agency for 15 years. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2017 and Lieutenant in 2021. Throughout his career, Richard has demonstrated a strong commitment to leadership, professionalism, and public safety.

Richard also serves as a member of the Sheriff's Office Special Operations Group (SOG), the agency's tactical unit that responds to critical incidents both inside and outside of the correctional facility.

"At the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, promotions



Courtesy

Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis (right) and WCSO Captain Adam Richard (left).

are earned through hard work, merit, and dedication to public safety," said

Sheriff Lew Evangelidis. "Captain Richard has consistently demonstrated

those qualities throughout his career. He represents the very best of our profession, and I know he will continue to strengthen our organization in this new role."

As Captain, Richard will supervise lieutenants, sergeants, correctional officers, and civilian staff while overseeing the safe, secure, and orderly operation of the facility. He will also be responsible for maintaining the care, custody, and control of the inmate population.

Richard was presented with the gold captain's bars, signifying his advancement.

The Worcester County Jail and House of Correction, located in West Boylston, houses both pre-trial detainees and individuals serving sentences of up to two and a half years. The facility accommodates approximately 1,000 inmates and employs over 500 staff members.

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Gateway Players celebrate music of Jimmy Buffett

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Theatre in Southbridge presents “Jimmy Buffett’s Escape to Margaritaville,” with book by Greg Garcia and Mike O’Malley, music and lyrics by Jimmy Buffett. Performance dates are July 31 and

Aug. 1 at 7:30 p.m. & Aug. 2 at 2 p.m. at the Southbridge Middle/High School Auditorium, 132 Torrey Rd., Southbridge. Directed by Patricia Haddock, Produced by Kathi Grenier, Music Director Chris Rubenacker, and Choreographer Harlie Packard. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 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/jimmy-buffett-s-escape-to-margaritaville>

The cast includes: Andrew George, Sarah Tonkin, Jonathan Martin, Abi Simpson, Billy Bolster, Gwen O’Brien, Peter Amaral, Chris Lam, Asher McCoy, Shawn Davis, Hillary Robertson, David Yutzler, Ray Petrelli, Cheri Cooper, Mari Cordero, Emma Holtz, Tiffany Betty, and Lydia Woznicki.

On a small island in the Caribbean, vacation goes and the laid-back staff of the Margaritaville bar flirt, unwind and sip drinks under the sun. When an ambitious tourist named Rachel arrives with her friend Tammy for a much-needed vacation, she finds an unexpected romance with Tully, the island

bartender and musician. As paradise collides with real life, both are faced with deciding what they want beyond the sandy beaches of Margaritaville. This tropical romantic comedy has plenty to laugh at and a sweet love story – all underscored by Jimmy Buffett’s classic tunes, including “Cheeseburger in Paradise,” “Margaritaville,” “It’s Five O’Clock Somewhere,” “Fins,” “Volcano,” and many more. With a book by Emmy Award winner Greg Garcia (My Name is Earl, Raising Hope) and Emmy nominee Mike O’Malley (Survivor’s Remorse, Shameless), this hilarious, heart-warming musical is the party you’ve been waiting for!

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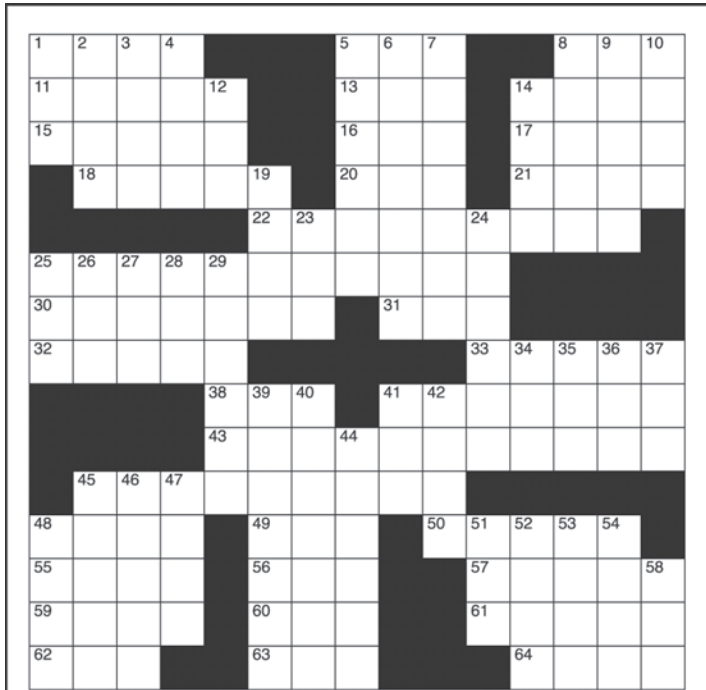
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Egyptian bull god

5. Romanian monetary unit

8. Santa’s helper

11. Fictional Pink Floyd corporal

13. Sea eagle genus

14. Broad volcanic crater

15. Minneapolis suburb

16. Actual commercial worth (abbr.)

17. Exchange rate

18. Ethnic peoples in Guinea

20. Men’s fashion accessory

21. Craft material

22. Offerings

25. Early

30. Large room

31. Soviet Socialist Republic

32. One who hauls
33. Shorthand for accepting

38. Promotional materials

41. Loss of memory

43. One who beheads

45. Photographers

48. Small, rich sponge cake

49. White clerical vestment

50. Partner to “oohed”

55. Abba __, Israeli politician

56. Zero

57. Owl monkey genus

59. Lace bug genus

60. Mild expression of surprise

61. Storage devices

62. Keyboard key

63. Make a mistake

64. One-time Korean president

CLUES DOWN

1. Bridge building degree

2. Expression of sorrow or pity

3. Large, stocky, lizard

4. Rumanian river

5. Missive

6. Stout-bodied moths

7. Brings out

8. Bird of prey

9. King of Thebes

10. Cleaving tool

12. African antelope

14. Three are particularly famous

19. Satisfy

23. C. European river

24. Dictator

25. Portion of (abbr.)

26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet

27. Consume food

28. Woman (French)
29. Scrape or wear away by friction

34. Popular vegetable

35. Pacific Standard Time

36. Brazilian state capital

37. Paddle

39. Cause to become insane

40. Drier and flakier

41. Mimic

42. ESPN host Kimes

44. One who moseys

45. Secret political clique

46. Behind the stern of a ship

47. Supernatural force

48. Sanctuary in Orthodox churches

51. Swiss river

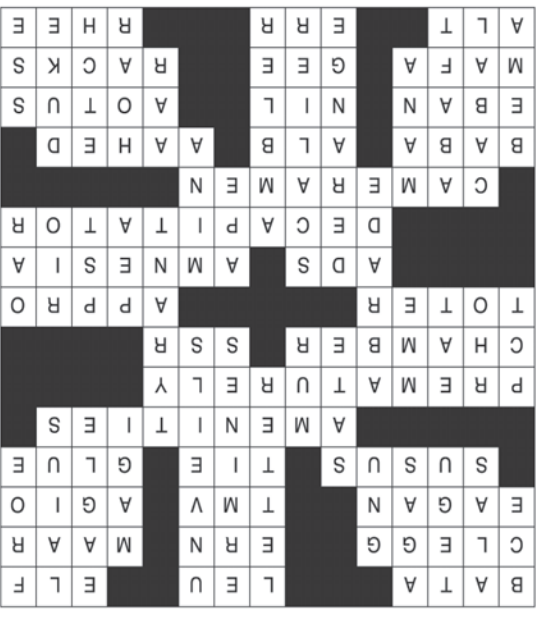
52. Grayish white

53. Engrave

54. UNC’s chief rival

58. Midway between south and southeast

PUZZLE SOLUTION



REAL ESTATE

Charlton \$640,000, 62 Bond Rd, Lemaire, Barbara L, to Dimke, Christine, and Heale, Thomas A.

\$550,000, 102 City Depot Rd, Bibber, Donna M, to Lare Rt, and Lemansky, Robert F.

\$464,900, 314 Stafford St, Polito, Mark D, and Polito, Amy B, to Renaud, Brandi, and Renaud, Carl.

\$407,000, 9-L Stevens Rd #A, Leblanc, Ronald, to Skeates, Marissa.

\$209,500, 49 Harrington Rd, Crosscountry Mortgage LLC, to Gjl Rnl Nt, and Levine, Gwendolyn J.

\$130,000, 189 Daniels Rd, Young Mens Christian Assn, to Hansen, Krystal L, and Hansen, Christopher.

SOUTHBRIDGE

\$565,000, 207 Hamilton St, 207 Hamilton Prop Hldg LL, to Samuels, Shamica, and Samuels, Shawana.

\$530,000, 61 Goddard St, 68 Southbridge LLC, to Torres, Phillip.

\$320,000, 441 Hamilton St, Karole Mary Daigle Irt, and Daigle, Janet, to Legacy Inv Ventures LLC.

\$180,000, 13 Crestwood Dr, Chernisky, Brooks, to Trafford, Brandon Thomas.

\$135,000, 325 Ashland Ave #12, Gloss, Patrick, to Miftari, Remzije.

STURBRIDGE

\$735,000, 24 Evergreen Ln, Scibelli, Melissa M, to Geckler, Jocelyn, and Geckler, Sean.

\$625,000, 260 Holland Rd, Jones, Christopher Patric, and Ball, Karolina Dagna, to Hollingshead, Stephen.

\$565,000, 51 Clark Rd, Decataldo, Louis A, and Decataldo, Sheryl M, to Patel, Dhruvkumar V, and Patel, Kusumben Vinodbhai.

\$482,000, 8 Old Farm Rd, Burt, Jonathan Paul, to Song, Ji Su, and Park, Gyeongsu.

\$250,000, 10 Bates Hl, Thompson, George, and Thompson, Jean M, to Lugo, Eliah.



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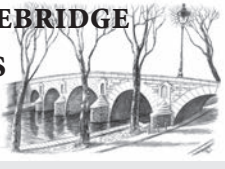
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CHURCH LISTINGS

• **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.sturfd.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

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August events at Charlton Public Library

For further details and to register for programs, please visit our website (charltonlibrary.org).

Additional parking is available across the street at Town Hall and at the Elementary School.

The library is closed Saturdays.

Movies @ the Library

All showings are on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm ONLY unless noted - Dexter Hall - no registration required.

August 4: PERCY VS. GOLIATH. In rural Canada, a farmer finds his livelihood in jeopardy when a substantial corporation utilizes genetically-modified plants to grow larger produce, the chemicals used by the farming operation leeching into his fields and tainting his crops. He then resolves to face the company head-on in an effort to save his farm. 2020. Rated PG-13. 99 minutes. Starring: Christopher Walken, Roberta Maxwell, Pathy Aiyar, Monique Alvarez & Adam Beach.

August 11: PROJECT HAIL MARY. In the near future, astronaut Ryland Grace wakes from a coma afflicted with amnesia. He gradually remembers that he was sent to the Tau Ceti solar system, 12 light-years from Earth, to find a means of reversing a solar dimming event that could cause the extinction of humanity. 2026. Rated PG-13. 156 minutes. Featuring: Ryan Gosling, Milana Vayntrub & Sandra Hüller.

August 18: LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS. A quiet, shy flower-shop employee finds an extraordinary plant with unusual appetites. 1986. Rated PG-13. 88 minutes. Cast: Rick Moranis, Ellen Greene, Steve Martin, Levi Stubbs & Vincent Gardenia.

August 25: WISH I WAS HERE. A 35-year-old father who's never quite grown up learns about life when he's forced to homeschool his kids, since their grandfather can no longer afford their private-school tuition and their public school is a mess. 2014. Rated R. 106 minutes. Starring: Zach Braff, Kate Hudson, Mandy Patinkin, Josh Gad & Joey King.

Play Games!
Mondays, August 3 (Cribbage), 10 (party games), 17 (Cribbage), 24 (party games), 31 (Cribbage), 12:30-2:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required. Beginners and experienced players are welcome! Join us to play an old favor-

ite or learn a new game!

AI Image Generators
Monday, August 3, 12:30-2:00 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Do you envision something in your mind's eye but struggle to bring it to life? There's an AI tool for that! This lecture will explain how artificial intelligence can turn your words into stunning realistic and imaginative images in seconds. We'll demonstrate an AI image generator and the wide range of visual and artistic styles it can produce. You'll also learn tips for getting the most out of this new and exciting technology so you can get started! This is for people ages 60 and up. This Senior Planet from AARP class is being offered through the Senior Planet licensing program.

Staying on Schedule Using Calendar and Reminders*

Tuesday, August 4, 12:30-1:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required
Discover how to use the Calendar and Reminders apps to keep track of appointments, tasks, and daily routines. You'll learn how to add events, set reminders, create lists, and even use Siri to help you stay on schedule with ease. Registration is required.

Tidying Up Your Google Drive*

Tuesday, August 4, 2:30-3:30 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Thursday, August 6, 6:00-7:00 pm - Local History Room - registration required
Feeling overwhelmed by files in your Google Drive? This beginner-friendly class will show you how to bring order to your digital storage. Learn how to create and organize folders, move files into the right places, and use color-coding to quickly identify important folders. By the end of the session, you'll have practical strategies to keep your Google Drive neat, easy to navigate, and simple to maintain. Perfect for anyone who wants to save time and find their files faster.

The Crafty Chapter for Tweens & Teens
Tuesday, August 4, 5:30-6:30 pm - Storytime Room - no registration required

Do you like to knit, crochet, sew, embroider, needle felt, or do other fiber arts? Really, any portable craft is welcome! Join us to hang out, practice your craft, learn from more experienced friends, or share your knowledge with others! **Please bring your

current projects to work on!*** This group is for tweens and teens aged 9-18. Registration is not required! (Teen Volunteers: You can earn community service hours for attending and participating in this program!)

Tidying up your Gmail*- Local History Room - registration required

Tuesday, August 4, 6:00-7:00 pm OR Wednesday, August 5, 10:30-11:30 am

Is your inbox overflowing with unread messages, promotions, and clutter? Join us for this beginner-friendly workshop on tidying up your Gmail! You'll learn simple, practical tools to organize your inbox, delete unwanted emails in bulk, unsubscribe from mailing lists, create folders and filters, and take control of your email once and for all. Whether you're aiming for "Inbox Zero" or just want to find important messages faster, this session will help you feel more confident and organized online.

Visual Identity & Accessibility*

Tuesday, August 4, 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

This is the fourth part of a six part beginner-friendly workshop series designed to help small business owners and entrepreneurs build a professional, safe, and effective digital presence. Participants will learn practical digital skills including branding, websites, AI tools, online visibility, cybersecurity awareness, and social media integration. Learn the fundamentals of creating a cohesive and accessible visual brand.

Organize Your Photos Without Feeling Overwhelmed*

Tuesday, August 4, 6:00-7:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Most people have thousands of photos stored in boxes, albums, computers, and phones. While these images capture meaningful memories, the sheer quantity can make organizing them feel daunting. In this presentation, Susan McCarthy shares a practical approach to sorting and organizing both printed and digital photographs. Participants learn how to focus on preserving the photos that best tell their story while letting go of duplicates and unnecessary images. Simple organizing strategies make it easier to store, find, and enjoy photographs again.

Attendees receive a downloadable handout with additional ideas for continuing the process at home.

Drop-in Tech Help* - Local History Room - no registration required
Tuesdays, August 4 & 11, from 3:30-6:00 pm; Thursdays, August 6 & 13, 2:00-4:00 pm

Do you have a few quick questions about technology? Would you like to learn how to use apps like Libby or Kanopy? Drop in and speak with Charlton Library's Digital Skills Instructor and get the dedicated support you need. If you will need more than 15 minutes of tech help, please make a one-on-one appointment. We cannot assist with setting up a new device; fixing/restoring/repairing a broken or infected device, app, or email account; entering sensitive information for you (e.g., credit card information, social security number, online banking, etc.); keyboarding, typing, or proofreading documents. We cannot provide medical, legal, and business advice or opinions.

Visit with Jack-Jack the Therapy Dog- Children's Room - no registration required

Wednesdays, August 5 and 19, 10:00-11:00 am

This is an open session to visit with our Therapy Dog, Jack-Jack. Jack-Jack's breed is Coton de Tulear, and he is a licensed therapy dog. Registration is not required. All ages are welcome!

Baby Open Play
Wednesday, August 5, 10:00-11:00 am - Storytime Room - no registration required

Meet up with other babies & caregivers for fun open play and socialization! Age-appropriate toys will be available to play with. This program is for caregivers with babies ages 0-12 months (non-walkers) only, please!

Dementia Friendly Charlton Meeting

Wednesday, August 5, 2:30-3:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required, all welcome.

Threaded Together Fiber Arts Group (formerly Silver Needles Knit & Crochet Group)

Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 pm - Local History Room - no registration required

Bring your current project and relax with friends. All are welcome regardless of skill level.

One-on-One Tech Help* - Local History Room - registration required

Wednesdays, August 5 & 12, at 3:00 or 4:00 pm; Thursdays, August 6 & 13, at 4:00 or 5:00 pm

Do you have a more complicated

question than we can cover during Drop-in Tech Help? Would you like to learn some basic email or internet skills? Make a one-on-one appointment with the Charlton Library's Digital Skills Instructor and get up to 60 minutes of dedicated support. We cannot assist with setting up a new device; fixing/restoring/repairing a broken or infected device, app, or email account; entering sensitive information for you (e.g., credit card information, social security number, online banking, etc.); keyboarding, typing, or proofreading documents. We cannot provide medical, legal, or business advice or opinions.

Genealogy Group
Thursday, August 6, 6:00-7:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

The Charlton Library Genealogy Group is a friendly group of people who share an interest in genealogy. We meet monthly on the first Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:30 in the Community Meeting Room. Meetings will alternate between general discussion topics and guest presenters. The meetings are free and open to the public.

Exploration Corner

Thursdays, August 6, 13, 20, 5:30-6:30 pm - Storytime Room - registration required

Join facilitator Alexis Moore for Exploration Corner: a series of fun classes for kids! Listen to a short book, then engage in sensory play and a craft. For ages 3-6. Limited spaces available. Register for each session you can attend.

Puzzle Race
Thursday, August 6, 6:00-7:30 pm

Can your team complete a jigsaw puzzle faster than your friends and neighbors? Each team will receive the same 300 piece puzzle provided by the library. The team that finishes first or completes the most

before time is called wins! Adults, teens, and families with children aged 8+ are welcome to participate. Registration is required—only one person from each team should register. Teams can have up to six members. Don't have a team? Email Betsy at per-ryb@cwmmars.org and we'll put together a team of interested folks!

Tidying Up Your Google Drive*

Thursday, August 6, 6:00-7:00 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Feeling overwhelmed by files in your Google Drive? This beginner-friendly class will show you how to bring order to your digital storage. Learn how to create and organize folders, move files into the right places, and use color-coding to quickly identify important folders. By the end of the session, you'll have

practical strategies to keep your Google Drive neat, easy to navigate, and simple to maintain. Perfect for anyone who wants to save time and find their files faster.

Wait, is That Real?: Exploring Truth, Trust, and Safety in the AI Era*

Friday, August 7, 2:00-4:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Think you can spot what's real and

what's AI-made? Put your sleuthing skills to the test in this interactive and family-friendly workshop presented by Joint Family! Through hands-on activities, we'll see how easy it is to create AI-generated images, voices, and videos and how hard it's becoming to tell the difference. Together we'll explore emerging trends in deepfakes and AI-generated content, real-world

Turn To **EVENTS** page **A10**

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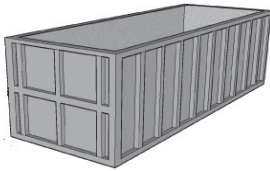


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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER
BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Investing in tomorrow's
leaders starts today

There is something especially encouraging about an evening devoted to celebrating young people not simply for what they have accomplished, but for who they are becoming.

The Sturbridge Rotary Club's annual Student Recognition Dinner is about far more than handing out scholarships or recognizing academic success. It reflects a belief that leadership, service and character deserve the same attention as grades and test scores. In an era when headlines often focus on the challenges facing young people, events like this remind us there is another story unfolding quietly every day in our communities.

This year's recipients have impressive resumes. They are valedictorians, athletes, National Honor Society members, student leaders and future engineers, scientists, political scientists and interpreters. They have earned scholarships through hard work, perseverance and academic excellence. Yet one detail stands out even more than their accomplishments: many have already demonstrated a commitment to serving others.

Several scholarship recipients participated in Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, where students spend days developing leadership skills rooted in teamwork, ethics and community service. Others helped establish and lead the Tantasqua Interact Club, Rotary's youth service organization. These experiences teach lessons that cannot be measured by transcripts alone. They encourage students to ask not only, "What can I achieve?" but also, "How can I help?"

That distinction matters.

Communities thrive when they produce citizens who understand that success carries responsibility. Leadership is not about titles or recognition. It is about listening, collaborating, solving problems and making life better for others. Those qualities are desperately needed in every profession and every town.

The evening also highlighted the importance of mentorship. Organizations like Rotary do not simply write scholarship checks. Members invest their time. They interview students, sponsor leadership programs, advise service clubs and create opportunities that might otherwise never exist. Behind every successful student is usually a long list of adults who quietly opened doors, offered encouragement or believed in someone's potential before that student fully believed in themselves.

Teachers deserve equal recognition. Amy Willard's Community Appreciation Award acknowledges the enormous influence educators have beyond the classroom. Advising a student organization requires countless hours that rarely appear in a job description. Yet those experiences often become the moments students remember most years after graduation.

The leadership transition within the Tantasqua Interact Club offers another reminder that communities remain strong when each generation prepares the next. Outgoing student officers are leaving behind an organization that incoming seniors are ready to guide. That continuity does not happen by accident. It happens because experienced leaders intentionally prepare others to follow them.

Scholarships, leadership conferences and service clubs are investments whose returns cannot always be measured immediately. Years from now, some of these students may return as physicians, engineers, teachers, scientists, business owners or public servants. Others may build careers elsewhere while carrying with them the lessons they learned in this region about civic responsibility and giving back.

Either way, the investment continues to pay dividends.

Communities often worry about whether young people will stay, whether future leaders are ready, or whether volunteer organizations can continue attracting new members. The answer begins with opportunities like these. When young people are trusted with responsibility, challenged to lead and encouraged to serve, many rise to the occasion.

The Sturbridge Rotary Club has spent decades proving that leadership can be taught, service can be cultivated and generosity can change lives. This year's Student Recognition Dinner was not simply a celebration of eight scholarship recipients or a new slate of student officers. It was a celebration of the values that help small communities remain strong across generations.

Those values deserve recognition every bit as much as the students who embody them.

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

Building your child's education
fund, one brick at a time

Every solid house starts with a good blueprint and a strong foundation. Saving for a child's education is very similar.

College costs can seem daunting. In addition to tuition, you'll need to account for housing and food, books and supplies, transportation, and other expenses. The average annual budget at an in-state public university runs around \$30,990 today, and a private school is \$65,470 according to the College Board. While most families won't pay a college's list price, you'll still want to start saving as early as possible to be ready when your child is.

Lay the foundation early. You don't have to wait until you have the perfect set of plans to start building. There are specific accounts designed to save for education, and some do not require a minimum opening deposit. Setting up automatic recurring contributions, even modest ones, lets you build steadily over time without requiring constant attention.

As your child ages, look for ways to redirect expenses you no longer have towards the build. For example, daycare costs, which can exceed \$1,000 a month, can be shifted into a college savings account once your child enters school. Tax refunds and annual bonuses make excellent additional contributions. And others can pitch in – instead of birthday or holiday toys, ask grandparents or relatives to contribute directly to a college savings account.

Know the size of the house you're building. Families saving for community college followed by two years at a public university might target around \$65,000. Those aiming for four years at a public school are looking at roughly \$100,000. Whatever the goal, plan for education inflation of about 4 percent annually, which can roughly double costs over 18 years.

You don't have to source all the building materials yourself.



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Scholarships, grants, student loans, and income from part-time work are all legitimate ways to help finish the structure.

Don't let one project consume the whole budget. One risk for parents is pouring so much into the college fund that the retirement fund goes neglected. Remember, loans and grants exist for college, but not for retirement. Striking the right balance may mean targeting a more affordable school, planning to cover only a portion of costs, or adjusting retirement timelines slightly.

Choose the right building materials. For many families, a 529 plan is the right foundation. Earnings grow tax-free, distributions are federally tax-free when used for qualified education expenses, and many states offer additional income tax deductions for contributions. Even better, anyone – such as grandparents or friends – can contribute.

Additionally, qualified expenses for a 529 plan go beyond tuition and cover books, computers, internet access, room and board, and more. Vocational and trade schools often qualify, too, opening the door to careers in skilled trades, healthcare, and technology.

No contractor builds alone. A knowledgeable financial advisor can help you draw up a realistic blueprint and make sure the college project doesn't crowd out the rest of your financial future. The earlier you break ground on that conversation, the stronger the structure will be.

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

The last pay phone

LANTERNS ALONG
MAIN STREET

By CHARLES

Every once in a while, something disappears so quietly that you don't realize it has gone until you go looking for it. That happened to me a few weeks ago.

I wasn't actually planning to make a phone call. I simply drove past an old convenience store where I distinctly remembered a pay phone standing outside for decades. It had been tucked beneath a little metal hood, facing the parking lot. It wasn't attractive. It wasn't historic. It wasn't something anyone photographed.

It was simply...there. Except it wasn't.

The concrete pad remained, along with four rusty bolts sticking out of the ground like tiny gravestones. If you didn't know what had once occupied that spot, you'd never give it a second glance.

For anyone under about 30 years old, the idea of needing a pay phone probably sounds ridiculous. We all carry computers in our pockets now. If we're lost, we have GPS. If we need help, we can text. If we're running late, we can call before anyone has time to wonder where we are.

But there was a time when finding a pay phone could feel like finding water in the desert.

You always needed a quarter. If you didn't have one, you started checking cup holders, coat pockets or the bottom of your glove compartment. Sometimes you'd ask a stranger, "Do you have change for a dollar?" Nobody thought that was odd.

There was an unspoken etiquette, too. You kept your conversation short if someone else was waiting. If the weather was bad, you'd hunch beneath the little metal cover while rain dripped off the edges. In winter, the handset always seemed about twenty degrees colder than the air around it.

The pay phone was also a witness to life. Teenagers nervously calling home after missing curfew. Parents letting family know they had arrived safely. Drivers reporting breakdowns before roadside assistance came with smartphone apps. Young couples talking longer than they

could afford because hanging up first somehow felt impossible.

Looking back, it's amazing how much trust we placed in those phones. They sat outside through blizzards, thunderstorms and heat waves. Thousands of hands touched them. Somehow they almost always worked.

Today's technology is unquestionably better. I wouldn't trade my cell phone for a pocket full of quarters. But convenience has changed something else. Because every call is private now.

You never overhear someone happily announcing they got the job. You don't hear somebody telling their spouse they'll be home in twenty minutes. You don't watch a nervous teenager practicing what they're about to say before dropping a coin into the slot.

Life still happens, of course. We just experience it behind screens instead of out in the open.

Small-town Massachusetts has always been full of ordinary landmarks that quietly stitched communities together. A hardware store with creaky floors. The diner where everyone knew the waitress's name. The corner barber shop. The bulletin board covered with handwritten notices.

The pay phone belonged on that list. It wasn't important because of what it was. It mattered because everyone, sooner or later, needed it.

Maybe that's why seeing those four empty bolts caught my attention. They reminded me that progress rarely arrives with a parade. More often it comes one unnoticed change at a time, until the world you've always known has become somebody else's history.

Someday, a child will ask what those rusty bolts are for. Someone my age will smile.

"They used to hold a pay phone," we'll say.

The child will probably look puzzled. And for a brief moment, we'll realize we're telling a story that has quietly become history.

TO THE EDITOR

Glad to see our efforts come to fruition

To the Editor:

I was pleased to read the headline in the Southbridge News, Thursday-Friday July 16 & 17, "Community Broadband Networks and Massachusetts Broadband Institute announce launch of high-speed Internet initiative in South Worcester County." The Southbridge Housing Authority finally received the High Speed Internet "retrofit," with a Go-Live event June 17 which celebrated the activation of service at 60 Charlton St., "Quinebaug Plaza."

This initiative started back in November 2024, when the MBI held a public hearing at the Jacob Edwards Library. I was serving on the town council at the time, and myself and several other officials including Peg Dean attended. I advocated on behalf of the Quinebaug Plaza, while Ms. Dean advocated for low income housing downtown.

Afterwards, I received an email from a spokesperson at MBI. I forwarded her email to Ashley Wolf, Manager at the Housing Authority. I also emailed a resident of the Plaza to let him know that high-speed internet could be made available at the high rise. Following up, the spokesperson at MBI said they spoke to Ashley and she expressed interest. I also attended a Southbridge Housing Authority meeting to discuss the program.

In June of 2025, I followed up to see how the retrofit program was progressing. I received a response that they were assisting Southbridge in applying for the MBI Municipal Digital Equity Implementation program.

So here it is, 2026, and I am thankful that our efforts came to fruition. I'm glad for the residents of the Quinebaug Plaza (and Dresser Park I believe) that they are finally able to receive high speed Internet.

Thanks,
Mike Marketti (Former Town Councilor)

Below is the email I received.

"Nov 22, 2024, 12:29 PM
Hi Councilor Marketti and Peg,
It was great to see you all in person earlier this week.
As mentioned during the meeting, MBI has expressions of interest for both the MAPC Apartment Wi-Fi program and MBI's related program, Residential Retrofit.

- The MAPC Apartment Wi-Fi program provides funding, project management, and procurement support to fund the construction of Wi-Fi networks which provide residents with equal or superior service than what is available from commercial ISPs, at no cost to residents. The funding covers all capital costs associated with network design, construction, and equipment, and the first year of ongoing operating expenses.
- The Residential Retrofit Program deploys state-of-the-art broadband infrastructure to approximately 22,000 public and affordable housing properties across Massachusetts. MBI intends to increase low-income residents' opportunities to access high-quality, reliable and affordable broadband service in their homes by addressing deficient wiring and infrastructure through grants for the deployment of fiberoptic cabling to the unit to qualified Internet Service Providers (ISP's) who will install, own and maintain equipment.

Weblink for More Information: <https://broadband.masstech.org/retrofit>
Weblink to the Expression of Interest: https://mbicx.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3aCFDYWAYTbEBUy
Kindly let us know if you need anything else in the meantime."

Many thanks,

Lisa Juan
Southbridge

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.

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.



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ROTARY

continued from page A1

M a d e l i n e Guertin, president; Sophia Bocchicchio, vice-president; Lily Duga, treasurer; Eliza Jaeger, secretary, and Bralynn Fenneuff, publicist. District 7910 Governor Penny Hamel officiated the swearing-in ceremony, followed by the presentation of officer pins and gavel.

The Rotary Club of Sturbridge sponsors the Interact Club at Tantasqua, where students collaborate with Rotarians on fundraisers, community events and hands-on service projects. Interact is Rotary International's service club for young people ages 12-18 who want to take action, develop leadership skills, and make a difference in their school and community. Interact members plan and carry out at least two service projects each year – one that serves their local community and one that promotes international understanding.

The centerpiece of the evening was the awarding of eight scholarships totaling \$8,000 presented by Club President Tim Gresenz. Seven scholarships were given through Sturbridge Rotary Club Fundraising efforts, and an additional scholarship was awarded in memory of late Rotarian Dr. Otto Prohaska, from his family. This year's scholarship recipients are:

Willow Anderson (East Brookfield) is the daughter of Eric and Ellen Anderson. She will be attending The College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, where she will be studying language in the hopes of someday working as a government interpreter.

Emmett Deatte (Warren), is the son of William and Jennifer Deatte. Emmett served as president of the 2025-2026 Interact Club of Tantasqua, and vice-president of his class. He was also a member of the National Honor Society and the TRHS tennis team. He will be attending Northeastern University, Boston, MA, where he will be studying politics, philosophy, and economics.

Logan Oko (Fiskdale) is the son of Jennifer and Matt Oko. He attended RYLA in his sophomore year and was a founding member of Tantasqua Interact. Logan will be attending the University of Massachusetts, Amherst where he will be studying biomedical engineering.

Julie Anne Petersen (Brimfield) is the daughter of Laurie Krusas and Bill Petersen. Julie Anne attended RYLA in her sophomore year, was a founding member of Tantasqua Interact, and served as publicist in her senior year. She will be attending the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, where she will be studying Political Science.

Evelyn Spencer (Sturbridge) is the daughter of David and Jessica Spencer. Evelyn served as treasurer of the 2025-2026 Interact Club of Tantasqua, and was valedictorian of her class. She attended RYLA in her sophomore year, was a member of SAVE Promise, and was varsity captain of the TRHS volleyball team. She will be attending Mt. Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA, where she will be studying biochemistry.

Payton Thompson (Sturbridge) is the



District 7910 Governor Penny Hamel (left) and Tantasqua Interact advisor Amy Willard (right) with 2026-2027 TRHS Interact officers (front row) Maddie Guertin, president; Eliza Jaeger, secretary, and Bralynn Fenneuff, public relations, and 2025-2026 TRHS Interact officers (back row) Emmett Deates, president; Ethan Zhu, vice-president, Mairead Fairbrother; Evelyn Spencer, treasurer, and Julie Anne Petersen, public relations.



Immediate Past President Klaus Hachfeld with 2026 Rotary Youth Leadership Award recipients Avery Lanier, Matilda St. Clair, and Tamas Jiang. Missing from photo: Stephen Giaquinto, Noah Hanrahan, Vivian Jaeger, and Hannah Whittier.

son of Meghan Looney and Daniel Thompson. Payton will be attending Western New England University, Springfield, MA, where he will be studying electrical engineering.

Alex Wilson (Sturbridge), is the son of Danielle and Mark Wilson. He attended RYLA in his sophomore year and was a founding member of Tantasqua Interact. Alex will be attending the University of Massachusetts (Amherst) where he will be studying biomedical engineering.

Ethan Zhu (Fiskdale), is the son of Alice Kao and Weining Zhu. Ethan served as vice-president of the 2025-2026 Interact Club of Tantasqua, and president of the National Honor Society. He was a finalist in the Massachusetts State swimming competition, a Central Mass. Boys Swimming MVP, and nine-times school record holder in swimming. He will be attending Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, where he will be studying Molecular Biology and

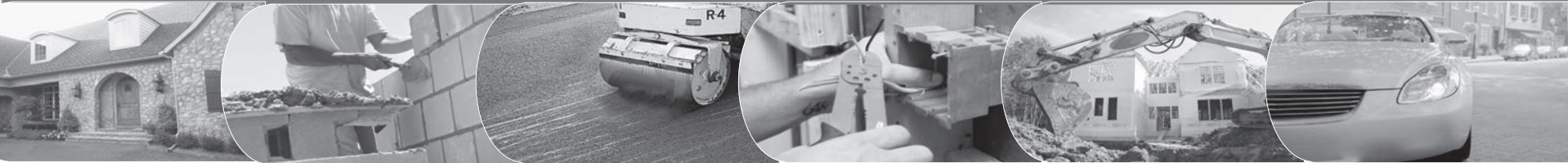
Biochemistry.

A Community Appreciation Award was also presented to Tantasqua Regional High School English Teacher Amy Willard. Amy was recognized for her consistent administrative guidance and support of the Interact Club of Tantasqua.

Newly elected Rotary District 7910 Governor Penny Hamel offered her reflections on the values of Rotary and the importance of fostering youth leadership. The meeting concluded with the traditional Rotary toast by President Gresenz: "To Sturbridge USA, Stourbridge UK, and Rotary International. Hear-hear!"

About the Sturbridge Rotary Club
The Rotary Club of Sturbridge, chartered in 1972, is a vibrant service organization serving the communities of Sturbridge, Charlton, Brimfield, Holland and Wales. Members gather in person of the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 6 p.m. at the Public House Historic Inn, in Sturbridge. The club invests in local youth by sponsoring the Interact Club at Tantasqua, funding student attendance at the Rotary Youth Leadership conference, and awarding annual scholarships to Tantasqua Regional High School students. Beyond youth leadership development, the Club addresses local needs such as hunger relief, organizes popular community events, like the Charity Golf Classic and TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, and contributes to global efforts including polio eradication.

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Ruth Wells Center presents art by Laurie Boniface

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts is excited to announce the July exhibit will be of works by Laurie Boniface. The galleries, located at 111 Main St. in Southbridge, will be filled with photographs, paintings and jewelry.

Opening reception is Saturday, July 11 from noon to 4 p.m., and the galleries will be open Saturday and Sunday throughout the month.

"Thanks for the privilege of allowing me to show my work," Boniface says. "I'm excited to focus on what I feel to be a new chapter in my life."

"How lucky I was as a child growing up on River Road in Sturbridge with the woods, river, and ponds as our playground. My love of nature was nurtured by daily reality - creating camps, collecting specimens of every kind - full of wonder and observation of plants and animals of every description we came upon as we ranged. I loved the turtles, mushrooms, flowers, frogs, insects and endless array of fauna and all walks of forest life.

As an adult, antiquities became a focus. My life's work was creating jewelry from found parts. Providence RI was the costume jewelry manufacturing capitol of the



world at the beginning of the 20th century and I built my jewelry design studio utilizing materials from old factories shuttering their doors after a century, creating a business that has sustained me and my helpmates over my lifetime.

"I believe we are all artists and creators. Our media vary and our talents are many. We are creators; when we give ourselves permission to explore and experiment, when the process is more significant than the outcome, when we're executing our creations for the joy of creativity and not necessarily for gain, our visions nourish both self and society.

And now, I return to the simplicity of painting. I'm an amateur but challenged by the process and content attempting the portrayal. My brain chatters about Impressionism and methodology and endless ideas, but hand to paper or canvas gives me the outlet of expression! I enjoy it!"

Laurie Boniface is well-known as the guiding star of the beloved Sadie Green's in Sturbridge. To make a viewing appointment please call 508-909-6155. For more information about the Ruth Wells Center, go to the Web site, ruthwellscenter.com.



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Camila Da Silva named to Mississippi State University's spring President's List

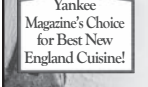
MISSISSIPPI STATE, Miss. — Camila Da Silva, of Starkville, Miss., was named to the Mississippi State University spring 2026 President's List.

Students on the President's List achieved a 3.80 or better GPA, based on a 4.0 scale, while completing at least 12 semester hours of coursework.

About Mississippi State University

Mississippi State University is a national STEM-focused, doctoral degree-granting, land-grant university offering a wide range of educational experiences for learning and growth to a student body of more than 23,000 students. Holding the R1 "Very High

Research Activity" designation from the Carnegie Foundation, MSU is committed to its comprehensive research university mission, addressing complex local and global challenges with innovative ideas and solutions. MSU also provides access and opportunity to students from all 50 states and 95 countries.



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OBITUARIES

Daniel “Danny” M. Roscioli, 81



Fiskdale: Daniel “Danny” M. Roscioli, 81, of Big Alum, Fiskdale, MA, passed away peacefully on Monday, July 13, at UMass Memorial Health – Harrington Hospital in Southbridge, MA, after a long illness.

He leaves his beloved wife of 47 years, Virginia “Ginne” (Rice) Roscioli; his daughter, Kacey Lorenson, her husband Rob, and his cherished granddaughters, Adalynne and Haylee of Southborough, MA; his brothers, Richard J. Roscioli of Berlin, VT, and David F. Roscioli of Brookfield, MA; his sister, Romona P. Kirker-Head and her husband, Carl, of Sturbridge, MA; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and close friends whom he considered family. He was predeceased by his brother, Stephen M. Roscioli.

Born in Southbridge, MA, Danny was the son of the late Romaldo P. and Marjorie F. (McCann) Roscioli. He attended Staunton Military Academy, Staunton, VA, graduated from Tantasqua Regional High School, Stubridge, MA in 1963, and earned his culinary degree from the Culinary Institute of America in New Haven, CT, in 1964.

Danny devoted much of his life to Rom’s Restaurant, the iconic Italian-American eatery and family business in Sturbridge,

MA, where he combined his love of food with the opportunity to serve his community. He served his country in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War era.

Outside of work, Danny enjoyed collecting Coca-Cola memorabilia, owning classic and exotic automobiles, and spending time on the water, both Little Alum in Brimfield, MA and Big Alum in Fiskdale, MA. Above all, he treasured time with his family, taking great pride in his daughter and granddaughters. He will be remembered for his love of family, his dedication to “THE” restaurant, and the many friendships he built throughout his life. His family is comforted knowing that the values he lived by and encouraged—hard work, loyalty, conviviality, and love of family—will continue through the generations he leaves behind.

His funeral will be held on Monday, July 27, with calling hours from 9:30 to 11:30 am at the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton Street, Southbridge, followed by a 12:00pm Mass in St. Anne Church, 16 Church Street, Fiskdale. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made directly to the St John Paul II Food Pantry, 279 Hamilton St, Southbridge, MA 01550 or online at <https://giving.myparish-soft.io/app/giving/WeShare-3088?tab=home>



Local students receive degrees from Quinnipiac University

HAMDEN, Conn. — Jodie Terry of Sturbridge received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical from Quinnipiac University during commencement ceremonies held in May.

About Quinnipiac University

Quinnipiac is a private, coeducational institution located 90 minutes north of New York City and two hours from Boston. The university enrolls 9,700 students

in more than 100 degree programs through its Schools of Business, Communications, Education, Computing and Engineering, Health Sciences, Law, Medicine, Nursing and the College of Arts & Sciences. Quinnipiac is ranked 51st in The Wall Street Journal/College Pulse “2026 Best Colleges in the U.S.” and is also recognized by U.S. News & World Report and The Princeton Review’s “The Best 391 Colleges.” The university is expanding innovative pro-

grams for both traditional and adult learners and developing dynamic corporate partnerships. Quinnipiac recently completed a significant capital expansion on its main campus, including a state-of-the-art new School of Business and an interdisciplinary science and innovation hub. For more information, please visit qu.edu. Connect with Quinnipiac on Facebook and Instagram and follow Quinnipiac on X @QuinnipiacU.

Trevor Wallace graduates from Tufts University

MEDFORD — Tufts University awarded more than 3,600 degrees across all schools during its ceremony commemorating the accomplishments of the Class of 2026.

Trevor Wallace of Charlton graduated Summa Cum Laude with a degree from Tufts University.

Tufts University, located on campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Grafton, and in Talloires, France, is recognized among the premier research universities in the United States. Tufts enjoys a global reputation for academic excellence and for the preparation of students as leaders in

a wide range of professions. A growing number of innovative teaching and research initiatives span all Tufts campuses, and collaboration among the faculty and students in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs across the university's schools is widely encouraged.

LEGALS

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Under G.L. c.255 Sec.39A Notice is hereby given by Cruise Control Transportation Inc. Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that on or after **July 31,2026** at Cruise Control Transportation Inc. the following motor vehicle/s will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper’s lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle:

Vehicle:2014 Chevrolet Cruze
Vin :1G1PE5SBXE7324575
Last Registered owner :
Bruno Silva
2546 Providence Rd ,
Northbridge MA 01534

Vehicle:2008 Honda CR-V
Vin :JHLRE48558C002470
Last Registered owner :
QR Auto Clinic
101 Skyline Dr #1
Arlington WI 53911

Vehicle:2011 Honda Accord
Vin :1HGCP2F8XBA141609
Last Registered owner :
Brianna Chanel Rodriguez
28 Norcross Ter Apt 2
Lynn MA 01902-2546

Vehicle:2010 Lincoln Navigator
Vin :5LMJJ2J53AEJ08147
Last Registered owner :
Hannah Gallant
21 VILLAGE DR, APT 10
SOUTHBRIDGE MA 01550-3140

Vehicle:2007 Scion TC
Vin :JTKDE167070207732
Last Registered owner :
Cathleen Degraw
82 Blackstone St FL 1
Woonsocket RI 02895

Vehicle:2008 Hyundai SANTA FE
Vin :5NMSH13E78H140265
Last Registered owner :
Jacob Rodriguez
360 MAIN ST, APT 350
STURBRIDGE MA 01566-1390

Vehicle:2010 Subaru Forester
Vin :JF2SH6DC3AH756144
Last Registered owner :
Jenna M Raleigh
555 WORCESTER ST
Southbridge MA 01550-3300

Vehicle:2013 Nissan Versa
Vin :3N1CN7AP6DL869782
Last Registered owner :
LM Services Llc
104 Grove St Apt 2
Meriden CT 06451

Vehicle:2003 Chevrolet Astro
Vin :1GNEL19X83B140381
Last Registered owner :
Bobby Jo Samek
12 Pleasant St Apt 2
West Brookfield MA 01585

Vehicle:2014 Kia Forte
Vin :KNAFX4A60E5154408
Last Registered owner :
Lucas M. Oliveira
36 Cotting Ave.
Marlborough MA 01752-2977

Vehicle:2008 Chevrolet Malibu
Vin :1G1ZK577484283193
Last Registered owner :

Chandler Paul
33 Kingman Ave
Brockton ,MA 02302

Vehicle:2013 Hyundai VELOSTER
Vin :KMHTC6AD4DU110245
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537 Broad St Apt 3
Meriden ,CT 06450

Vehicle:2013 Dodge Dart
Vin :1C3CDFBA0DD322666
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Erie Insurance Group
245 Grandview Ave Ste. 200
Camphill ,PA 17011

Vehicle:2005 Toyota Prius
Vin :JTDKB20U357016855
Last Registered owner :
Newton Bruno De Oliveira Pedro
71 Blue Hills Ave Apt C3
Hartford CT, 06112-1845
July 24, 2026
July 31, 2026
August 7, 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.WO26P2218EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Robert A. Levite
Date of Death:06/01/2026

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/04/2026**.

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: July 07, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
July 23, 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 Angela Broden, Alan Broden to Bank of America, N.A., dated August 23, 2006 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 39630, Page 1, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Bank of America N.A. to Nationstar Mortgage, LLC, recorded on March 20, 2012, in Book No. 48693, at Page 132
Nationstar Mortgage LLC to Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc., recorded on July 1, 2024, in Book No. 70707, at Page 350
Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as Owner Trustee of the Residential Credit Opportunities Trust IX-C, recorded on January 29, 2026, in Book No. 73135, at Page 293
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 August 3, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 71 Shepard 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, and all privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, bounded and described as follows:

Being Lot No. 9 as shown on plan entitled “Revised Plan of Lots in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, owned by William A Swiacki, dated April 1967, Robert F. Para, Land Surveyor” said Plan not of record, and more particularly bounded and described as follows:
BEGINNING at an iron pin on the easterly side of Shepard Road;
THENCE N. 14° 00’ E. along the easterly side of said Street, a distance of one hundred thirty-five (135.0) feet to an iron pin in the ground;
THENCE S. 76° 00’ E. a distance of one hundred eighty (180) feet;
THENCE S. 14° 00’ W. a distance of one hundred thirty-five (135.0) feet;
THENCE N. 76° 00’ W. a distance of one hundred eighty (180) feet to the point of beginning.

For mortgagor’s(s’) title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 39629, Page 389.

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-C

Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.

150 California St.

Newton, MA 02458

(617)558-0500

27034

July 9, 2026

July 16, 2026

July 23, 2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket No. 26 SM 002235

ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: Karen M. McRoy and James H. McRoy

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq): Onity Mortgage Corporation f/k/a PHH Mortgage Corporation

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Southbridge, numbered 35 Dresser Street, given by Karen M. McRoy and James H. McRoy to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Allied Mortgage Group, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated November 17, 2016, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 56357, Page 253, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant’s/ Defendants’ Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 8/31/2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 7/14/2026.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder July 23, 2026

Drought conditions prompt water restrictions

SOUTHBRIDGE/CHARLTON — The Massachusetts Drought Task Force issues a Level -2 Significant Drought status for Worcester County. The Town of Southbridge now has to require that all Southbridge and Charlton water customers refrain from all outside water use except for handheld watering between the hours of 5 and 9 p.m. Please turn off all outside sprinkler systems.

This declaration from the State also applies to homes with private wells.

Certain water uses are not subject to restrictions such as production of food and fiber, health and safety reasons, maintenance of livestock, and core functions of a business (for example irrigation for a nursery).

For the general public's information, Currently the Southbridge Water Departments reservoir system is at 100.1 percent of total capacity. This is within our historical average for this time of year.

The declaration is a county wide declaration, and not due to any current water storage shortfalls within the Southbridge Water Department. This declaration is part of new

laws and regulations put forth by the State legislature, and enforcement went into effect in April of 2025.

To be clear, the Southbridge Water department is not experiencing any water storage shortages currently.

The declaration of Level-2 significant drought will remain in effect until the State Drought Task Force

deems that the conditions within Worcester County have returned to acceptable levels.

More information can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/drought-management-task-force>

Please feel free to contact the Southbridge Water Department at 508-764-3207 if you have any questions or concerns.

Area residents named to Dean's List at Salve Regina University

NEWPORT, R.I. — Alfred Laskowski of Fiskdale and Dominic Penny of Charlton were named to the Dean's List during the spring 2026 academic semester at Salve Regina University. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 for full-time students completing at least 12 graded credits, or a semester grade point average of 3.8 for part-time students completing at least six credits.

Salve Regina University is a Catholic, coeducational institution of higher education founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1947. It offers rigorous, innovative academic programming in the liberal arts tradition that prepares students to be global citizens and lifelong learners. More than 2,700 undergraduate and graduate students from around the world are enrolled in Salve's 60+ academic programs, which include bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees along with graduate certificates and combined bachelor's/master's programs. Every undergraduate student engages in Salve Compass, a four-year experience that charts a personalized, values-based path connecting college to a successful, fulfilling career and life. The University is also home to the Pell

Center for International Relations and Public Policy, a multidisciplinary research center focused on the intersection of politics, policy and ideas. For more information visit salve.edu.

Area residents named to dean's list at Tufts University

MEDFORD, MA (07/20/2026)-- Sebastian Suprenant, Class of 2028 of Fiskdale and Trevor Wallace, Class of 2026 from Charlton, were named to the dean's list at Tufts University for the spring 2026 semester. Dean's list honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

Tufts University, located on campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Grafton, and in Talloires, France, is recognized among the premier research universities in the United States. Tufts enjoys a global reputation for academic excellence and for the preparation of students as leaders in a wide range of professions. A growing number of innovative teaching and research initiatives span all Tufts campuses, and collaboration among the faculty and students in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs across the university's schools is widely encouraged.



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EVENTS

continued from page A3

case studies of scams and misinformation, and practical strategies for protecting ourselves, our families, and our communities. No prior experience with AI necessary. Open to ages 13 and up. Bring someone you trust - a friend, a grandparent, a neighbor!

Kids Yoga with Lindsey
Fridays, August 7 & 14,
2:30-3:30 pm - Community
Meeting Room - registra-
tion required

In these classes, we will practice breathing techniques (pranayama), yoga postures (asana), and more to help participants connect with their bodies, minds, and spirits. This focus invites kids to recognize the ability to act and behave mindfully with compassion, to be brave, to know happiness, and to find inner peace and calm. While yoga helps build strength and flexibility, it also helps develop techniques for handling stress. Dress comfortably, and bring water and a mat if you have one. For ages 5-11. Registration is required for each child. Caregivers may attend with children, but do not need to register. Classes are provided by Lindsey Haantrella at Haantrella Healing.

AI Voice & Video Generators
Monday, August 10,
12:30-2:00 pm - Local
History Room - registration
required

Have you heard about voice-cloning, digital avatars, or text-to-video? This lecture will explain how artificial intelligence programs can turn scripts and even just ideas/a few sentences into realistic voices and videos in a matter of minutes. We'll explore AI voice and video generators, their common features, and the wide range of content they can produce. You'll also learn tips and considerations for using these tools so you can get started!

This is for people ages 60 and up. This Senior Planet from AARP class is being offered through the Senior Planet licensing program.

Staying in Touch Using Phone, Messages, and FaceTime*
Tuesday, August 11,
12:30-1:30 pm - Community
Meeting Room - registra-
tion required

This class focuses on using the iPhone and iPad to stay in touch with friends and loved ones. We learn about sending texts in Messages, managing contacts in Phone, and setting up video calls in FaceTime. We also learn to use Siri to make calls and send messages. Registration is required.

Creating a Budget Tracker through Google Sheets* - Local History Room - regis-

tration required

Tuesday, August 11,
2:30-3:30 pm OR Thursday,
August 13, 6:00-7:00 pm

Take control of your finances with this beginner-friendly workshop designed to help you build a fully functional budget tracker using Google Sheets. Whether you're new to spreadsheets or just starting your personal finance journey, this workshop will guide you step-by-step through creating a simple, organized, and customizable budgeting system. You'll learn how to set up income and expense categories, use basic formulas to automate calculations, and design a clean, easy-to-use layout. By the end of the course, you'll have your own personalized budget tracker that helps you monitor spending, identify savings opportunities, and make more informed financial decisions. No prior experience with spreadsheets is required—just a willingness to learn and a desire to better manage your money.

Bead Therapy For Teens
Tuesday, August 11,
4:30-5:30 pm - Community
Meeting Room - registra-
tion required

Join ZMakesBeads at the library and make some beaded jewelry! Bead Therapy is a hands-on expressive arts workshop where participants work with semi-precious stones and natural materials to create wearable art in a calm, supportive group environment, with no prior art or jewelry-making experience required. This is for teens ages 13 - 18.

Bead Therapy For Adults
Tuesday, August 11,
6:00-7:00 pm - Community
Meeting Room - registra-
tion required

Bead Therapy is a hands-on expressive arts workshop where participants work with semi-precious stones and natural materials to create wearable art in a calm, supportive group environment, with no prior art or jewelry-making experience required. This is for adults ages 18 and up.

Websites and Online Presence*

Tuesday, August 11, 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

This is the fifth part of a six part beginner-friendly workshop series designed to help small business owners and entrepreneurs build a professional, safe, and effective digital presence. Participants will learn practical digital skills including branding, websites, AI tools, online visibility, cybersecurity awareness, and social media integration. Learn how to plan an effective and user-friendly business website.

Email Features* - Local History Room - registration required

Tuesday, August 11, 6:00-7:00 pm OR Wednesday, August 12, 10:30-11:30 am

Learn the essential skills to use email confidently and safely in this beginner-friendly workshop. Participants will explore common features found across all email platforms, including sending messages, adding attachments, creating signatures, and setting up away messages. The session will also cover how to recognize and avoid spam and phishing emails, helping you protect your personal information online. Perfect for beginners or anyone looking to build stronger digital communication skills, this workshop includes guided instruction and hands-on practice in a supportive environment.

Book Group @ the Senior Center

Wednesday, August 12, 10:30-11:30 am - Senior Center @ Town Hall

The Senior Center Book Group meets at the Senior Center at 10:30 am on the second Wednesday of the month. Everyone is welcome! We will discuss The Swans of Harlem by Karen Valby. Books are available to pick up at the library one month prior to the discussion date.

You, Me and AI: Exploring Mental Health, Connections, and Boundaries*

Wednesday, August 12, 2:00-4:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

What happens when AI becomes a friend, a tutor, a therapist, a co-worker? Come find out in this hands-on workshop led by Joint Family. In this session, we'll test the limitations and capabilities of popular AI tools and how they're quietly reshaping the way we connect with technology and each other. We'll explore the support gaps they're filling, where we need to draw boundaries and why real world human connections matter more than ever. No prior experience with AI necessary. Open to ages 18 and up.

Neil Rosenberg Art Reception

Thursday, August 13, 6:00-7:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

The photographs by Neil Rosenberg are this month's featured display in our Community Room Art Gallery. Join us this evening for a reception to meet the artist. For over 50 years, Neil has pursued a life of making, building, teaching, and close observation. His photographs reflect an evolving way of seeing, finding surprise and joy in landscapes, objects, and ordinary places. Mentored in his early creative years by Minor White, Neil's images invite a second look. His work can be found online at

https://neilrosenbergphoto.com

CPL Book Discussion - Beloved by Toni Morrison
Thursday, August 13, 6:00-7:00 pm - Dexter Hall - no registration required

Books are available for checkout at the adult circulation desk one month prior to discussion.

Creating a Budget Tracker through Google Sheets*

Thursday, August 13, 6:00-7:00 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Take control of your finances with this beginner-friendly workshop designed to help you build a fully functional budget tracker using Google Sheets. Whether you're new to spreadsheets or just starting your personal finance journey, this workshop will guide you step-by-step through creating a simple, organized, and customizable budgeting system. You'll learn how to set up income and expense categories, use basic formulas to automate calculations, and design a clean, easy-to-use layout. By the end of the course, you'll have your own personalized budget tracker that helps you monitor spending, identify savings opportunities, and make more informed financial decisions. No prior experience with spreadsheets is required—just a willingness to learn and a desire to better manage your money.

Using the Google Gemini App

Monday, August 17, 12:30-2:00 pm - Local History Room - registration required

In this hands-on workshop, we'll practice chatting with Google Gemini using the mobile app. We'll go over tips for writing effective questions, or prompts, as well as different use cases, from drafting emails to travel planning. We'll also practice using the app's voice features, including Gemini Live. Finally, we'll explore the privacy settings and discuss best practices to ensure you can use the app safely and confidently. This is for people ages 60 and up. This Senior Planet from AARP class is being offered through the Senior Planet licensing program.

Cat Lovers Book Club

Monday, August 17, 2:00-3:00 pm - Storytime Room - registration required

A place for cat lovers to enjoy time together, talking about books, and doing cat-themed activities! Each month, we will choose a book to read and then discuss for a few minutes in the next month's meeting. The next book is TBA. This book club is best for ages 8 to 13. Please register so we know how many to expect!

Using the iPhone for

Health and Emergencies*

Tuesday, August 18, 12:30-1:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

In this class, we explore how the iPhone can help in different emergency situations and offer insight into our health. We learn how to set up emergency contacts, use the SOS feature, turn on voice activation, and use the Health app to find patterns and changes in our physical health. Registration is required.

Connecting Your Digital Ecosystem*

Tuesday, August 18, 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

This is the last part of a six part beginner-friendly workshop series designed to help small business owners and entrepreneurs build a professional, safe, and effective digital presence. Participants will learn practical digital skills including branding, websites, AI tools, online visibility, cybersecurity awareness, and social media integration. Learn how to connect your website, Google presence, and social media platforms into a cohesive digital strategy.

Organize Your Digital Files So You Can Find Things Again*

Tuesday, August 18, 6:00-7:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Computers, phones, and tablets make it easy to store information—but without a clear system, digital files can quickly become difficult to find. Documents, downloads, photos, and email messages accumulate until searching for something becomes frustrating. This non-technical presentation focuses on simple ways to organize digital information so it's easier to locate when needed. Susan McCarthy shares practical strategies for managing files, organizing folders, handling email, and saving useful information online. Participants learn techniques that can be applied to almost any device or operating system. A downloadable handout provides additional ideas for organizing digital information at home.

Make a Bag Charm!

Wednesday, August 19, 2:30-3:30 pm - Storytime Room - registration required

Head back to school with a super cute DIY bag charm! Kids and teens ages 9-17 are invited to design and make a charm that reflects their personality and style and attach it to a backpack, purse, or tote!

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group

Thursday, August 20, 6:00-7:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

The Alzheimer's Support Network Caregiver Support Group is led by Alzheimer's

Care Professionals and experienced caregivers. We offer information, resources, and strategies specific to caring for someone with Alzheimer's and other dementias along with support for transitioning to different care settings. Co-sponsored by Tri-Valley and Charlton Public Library.

Death Café

Thursday, August 20, 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - no registration required

A Death Café is a group directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives or course of action, no set conclusions and no judgement. Death Cafés provide a safe environment to gather, eat cake, drink tea or coffee, and enjoy open-minded conversation about dying and death. It is an opportunity to share, explore and question our own perceptions of death. It's not a bereavement session—just an open conversation about a topic that we often find taboo. You are welcome to share as much or as little as you wish. The group meets monthly on the third Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:30 pm in Dexter Hall. Questions? Email kwalk-er4@mac.com. The Death Café model was developed by Jon Underwood and Sue Barsky Reid, based on the ideas of Bernard Crettaz.

Nature Walk and Leaf Rubbing

Friday, August 21, 10:00-11:30 am - Storytime Room - registration required

Join us for a stroll through the woods to collect leaves and other organic materials to then turn into colorful artwork! Registrants will meet up in the Storytime Room and then take a short walk to the forest behind the library to gather materials. Once our leaves have been collected, we will return to the Storytime Room to create leaf rubbings! This program is best suited for children ages 6-12. In the event of unfavorable weather, materials will already have been collected and participants will only create their leaf rubbings. Please note, caregivers must attend this program with their child. Any child who is not attended by an adult will not be able to participate.

Craft Materials Drop-off

From August 24 to September 11, during regular open hours, we will be collecting arts and crafts materials only (fabrics, yarn, paper, patterns, tools, beads, etc.). We will NOT accept office supply donations (binders, file organizers, etc.). Items must be able to be reused (new or gently used, not expired). When in doubt, use the best friend rule—would I give this to my best friend? We cannot accept opened liquids such as paints, chemicals and glue. Items should be brought to the adult circulation desk.

Turn To **EVENTS** page **A11**

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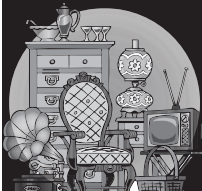
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EVENTS

continued from page A10

lation desk. PLEASE do not put items in the outside return bins or leave them outside the library. Our very popular Craft Supply Swap will be back on Saturday, September 12 from 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to come and take materials regardless of whether they donated any.

Creating an AI Agent with Gemini

Monday, August 24, 12:30-2:00 pm - Local History Room - registration required

In this hands-on workshop, we'll introduce Google Gemini's version of a custom AI agent, known as a gem. We'll explore

Gemini's premade gems that can help with writing, learning, brainstorming, and more. Then, you'll learn how to create a new gem from scratch for your specialized requests. We'll also cover tips and best practices for testing, refining, and using gems. Please note that you must have your Google (Gmail) username and password to sign in to Gemini. This session is designed for people who are already somewhat familiar with AI chatbots.

This is for people ages 60 and up. This Senior Planet from AARP class is being offered through the Senior Planet licensing program.

iPhone Essentials: Control Center and Files*

Tuesday, August 25, 12:30-1:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

This class covers essential features included in the iPhone and iPad. We learn to use tools such as a flashlight, timer, calculator, and alarm. We also explore the Files app, where we can scan documents and organize files.

Registration is required.

Adult Craft: Paint-by-Number - Dexter Hall - registration required

Wednesday, August 26, 11:00-12:30 pm OR Thursday, August 27, 6:00-7:30 pm

In this month's adult craft, we are taking a break from decisions with floral paint-by-number.

Participants will paint a predetermined design, filling in each section with the specific corresponding paint color. Each design is printed on a framed canvas.

CULE: Charlton Ukulele League & Ensemble

Thursday, August 27, 6:00-8:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

This club is a FREE, fun, low stress and entertaining way for adults 18+ to learn music together. You will be guided by experienced musicians who encourage you to find your own level of achievement. Making music together is the perfect antidote to the feeling that you will never be able

to play music. You can! What's more you'll enjoy the company of others. Any questions? Email Rich at Cule5632@gmail.com.

Tiny Tots at Night

Thursday, August 27, 6:00-6:30 pm - Storytime Room

This is an evening version of our Tiny Tots program! Best for babies - age 3. Includes songs, finger-plays, scarves, shakers, music, books & free play! This is a great opportunity for caregivers to model singing, playing & sharing the early literacy experience with their littles learners! Caregivers should plan to sit with their child and participate.

Critical Thinking

Discussion Group

Friday, August 28, 1:00-2:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

No experience with critical thinking discussion groups is necessary. Books/materials are available for checkout one month prior to discussion. Questions? Email saga3@charter.net.

*These programs are funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the MassTech Collaborative under the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

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MLS#73542689 **\$1,650,000.**

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Sprawling fieldstone faced Ranch! Located on a +/- 0.5-acre, 2 car garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 2 stone fireplacesFHW BB heat. Open floor plan kitchen, living rm, dining rm, breezeway w/sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom MLS # 73500183 **\$479,900**

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MLS # 73534271 **\$679,900**

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Hitchcock’s Summer Concert Series rocks

Brimfield Town Common on Wednesday evenings

BRIMFIELD — The Hitchcock Summer Concert Series sponsored by Country Bank will take place on Wednesdays, 6 to 8 p.m., July 1 through Aug. 19 on the Brimfield Town Common. In the case of rain, concerts will move to Thursday. A food truck will be on site at each event. Picnics are also welcome; chairs and blankets are encouraged.

The series kicks off on July 1 with Woodshed, bringing Acoustic Folk, Country & Americana. Members Jason Wood of Brimfield, along with A.J. Kiernan, Karen Gallant, and Mike St. Germain are four musical friends who found each other through a love of music and mutual admiration, and are known for their signature three-part harmony. BT’s Smokehouse will be on site.

July 8 brings The Island Castaways whose love of Buffet-style escapism infuses the pride they take in creating a relaxing atmosphere where there are many smiles, laughter and dancing, and lasting good time memories that create the ultimate Trop Rock experience. The featured food truck will be Flippin’ the Bird BBQ.

After a weeklong hiatus for July’s Brimfield Flea Market, The New England Digital Accordion Orchestra returns on July 22. Conducted by Sam Falcetti, the nation’s first digital accordion orchestra features about 20 musicians from across New England. Using state-of-the-art Roland digital accordions, the group replicates the sounds of various instruments like flutes, trumpets, and



a rhythm section to showcase an impressive range of genres including Big Band, Broadway, Ethnic, Country, and Rock. BT’s Smokehouse will return on this evening.

July 29 is all about polka with the return of The Eddie Forman Orchestra, also known

as "E.F.O.," is a western Massachusetts polka band that has been performing before audiences since 1968. Eddie Forman started the band while he was still in high school, and has been creating and recreating music ever since, garnering one of the largest polka followings in the New England area. Off The Hook will be the evening’s featured food truck.

August 5th brings the Brimfield debut of The Willies - a popular, community-focused classic rock and Americana band based out of Belchertown. The band performs across the Western Mass region, playing high-energy hits from the 1950s through the 1980s, modern country, and rock standards. Flippin’ the Bird BBQ returns for this concert.

Long-time series favorite CobbleStone Road of Connecticut returns on August 12th with high-energy country. Well-known throughout the region for playing modern and classic country hits from the 1990s to today, their energetic style mixes classic country with rock and blues. Smashing Patties will have their concert series debut this evening.

The series closes out on August 19th with Hard Knox, a Westfield, Massachusetts-based party rock and cover band known for their high-energy shows and "forgotten classics" setlist. Instead of regular cover tunes, they play unique, underappreciated gems from the '70s and '80s, making them a fixture in the Western Mass and Northern

Connecticut music scenes. BT’s Smokehouse will return to bookend this year’s food truck lineup.

In addition to Presenting Sponsor Country Bank, this program is supported in part by a grant from the Brimfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council.

Hitchcock Summer Concert Series At-a-Glance:

- July 1 Woodshed
Acoustic Folk, Country & Americana | BT’s
- July 8 The Island Castaways
Tropical Rock | Flippin’ the Bird BBQ

- July 29 Eddie Forman Orchestra
Polka Band | Off the Hook
- Aug. 5 The Willies
‘50s, ‘60s, ‘70s & more! | Flippin’ the Bird BBQ
- Aug 12 CobbleStone Road
Country | Smashing Patties
- Aug. 19 Hard Knox
Classic sounds of the ‘70s, ‘80s, & ‘90s | BT’s

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.

Friday’s Child



Jaslyn

Age 18

Registration #7206

Jaslyn is a friendly, outgoing teen who truly lights up when she’s around others. She loves being in the company of people and thrives in social settings where she can talk, laugh, and share experiences. Jaslyn has a warm and welcoming personality that helps her connect easily with both peers and adults. She enjoys expressing herself through fashion and self-care, especially getting her hair and nails done. It’s something that makes her feel confident and happy. Jaslyn’s favorite activities include singing and dancing — she loves music and isn’t shy about showing off her moves when a good song comes on! Jaslyn is also very active and enjoys spending time outdoors. Whether she’s participating in community activities, going for walks, or simply soaking up fresh air, she appreciates opportunities to be out and about. She enjoys staying busy and benefits from environments where she can engage in fun, structured activities. Jaslyn’s joyful energy, love for connection, and enthusiasm for life make her a bright presence wherever she goes.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22533457815>

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.

Joshua Hyde Public Library

306 Main St., Sturbridge

508-347-2512

mayent@cwmmars.org

STORY TIMES

SUMMER BABY TIME - Join us for rhymes, songs, and lap bounces.

Mondays at 10:45am - 7/27 & 8/3

SUMMER TODDLER TIME - Join us for stories, songs, rhymes, and a craft.

Tuesdays at 10:45am - 7/28 & 8/4

FRONT LAWN FRIDAYS - Join us for stories and outdoor play.

Fridays at 10:45am - 7/31

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS

Registration is required. All children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult caregiver.

ROCK PAINTING AT THE SENIOR CENTER

Wednesday, July 29 at 2:00pm. For ages

4 to 12.

PIRATE PARTY

Saturday, August 1 at 11:00am. For ages 3 to 12.

MAKE IT MONDAYS - At 3:30pm. For ages 7 to 12.

July 27 - Ancient Pottery Excavation

WEDNESDAY MORNING MOVIES - At 10:30am - All movies are rated PG

July 29 - The Croods

SCAVENGER HUNTS - In the Children’s Room

Ice Age - July 22 through August 4

SUMMER COLORING CONTEST

Pick up a coloring page at the library and return it by August 5. Entries will be displayed in the stairwell and one winner from each age group (3-5yrs; 6-9yrs; 10-12yrs) will be chosen by the staff.

BIG Summer SALE

GREAT SELECTION!

TV SALE!

DEALS BETTER THAN the BIG BOX STORES!



OUR PRICES ARE THE BEST!

MATTRESS SALE!

TWIN: \$199 / FULL: \$269 / QUEEN: \$299

(REG. \$299) (REG. \$499) (REG. \$599)

FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER

REG. \$449.99

\$329.99

G.E. STOVE w/AIR FRY

REG. \$899.99

\$699.99

SMOOTH-TOP STOVE

REG. \$699.99

\$599.99

21 CU. FT. FREEZER

REG. \$999.99

\$799.99

G.E. 27 CU. FT. FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR

REG. \$1999.99

\$1499.99

5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER

REG. \$239.99

\$189.99

AMANA WASHER OR DRYER

REG. \$599.99

\$489.99

ENERGY STAR 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR

REG. \$699.99

\$599.99

FAMOUS-MAKER OVER-THE-STOVE MICROWAVE

REG. \$249.99

\$229.99

LG WASHER OR DRYER

Front Load - REG. \$1599.99

\$1,399.99

MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER

REG. \$699.99

\$529.99

FRIGIDAIRE SIDE BY SIDE

REG. \$1,499.00

\$1099.99

GAS GRILL SALE!



2025 CHOICE AWARDS

BIKE SALE!

1000's IN STOCK!

WE REPAIR BIKES!

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SPRING BIKE TUNE-UP: \$49.99!



INSTANT FINANCING UP TO \$10,000!

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

TEEN PROGRAMS

Registration is required.

Thursday, July 30 at 3:30pm - DIY Book

TEEN & ADULT PROGRAMS

Registration is required.

Celebrating America's 250th: "THE ESCAPES OF DAVID GEORGE" with author Gregory E. O'Malley. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Ashland Public Library.

Virtual - Monday, July 27 at 7:00pm

WORLD BUILDING BOOK CLUB -

Registration is not required.

This month’s book is “His Majesty’s Dragon”

Tuesday, July 28 at 6:30pm

BEAD ANIMAL KEYCHAINS

Saturday, August 1 at 2:00pm

SUMMER TAKE & MAKE CRAFTS

Week of July 27 - Book Lover Garden Stake

All programs are sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.

To register for programs and for more information go to sturbridgelibrary.org.