

Charlton Villager

©2026, Issue #12

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

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Thursday-Friday, March 26-27, 2026

Charlton Lions Club & Overlook Tree Advisory Committee join forces

CHARLTON — The Charlton Lions Club and The Overlook Independent Living Tree Advisory Committee will join forces in April to improve their town. The two groups will host a booth at Charlton's Earth Fest, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Saturday, April 25 on the Charlton Town Common where they'll give away 100 sweetgum trees. As they do each

year, the Lions will also participate in the town's roadside cleanup effort, which starts at 8 a.m. and the trees will be available at that time.

Each small sweetgum tree will come with instructions for planting and caring for it as it grows. Sweetgums (Liquidambar styraciflua) are large, decorative deciduous trees native to eastern North America.

Their star-shaped leaves turn red and gold in the fall. The baby trees will be given to the first 100 Charlton residents who commit to planting and caring for the trees on their property. The trees will be donated by Bartlett Tree Experts.

The Overlook Tree Advisory Committee

is comprised of residents and staff of the Independent Living community as well as representatives of Bartlett Tree Experts and Babe's Landscape & Construction. The Committee's mission is to advise on ways to protect and maintain the trees on The Overlook

Campus and to educate the community about trees and the importance of trees to our environment and well-being. Through the work of the Committee, The Overlook was recently named a Tree Healthcare Campus by the Arbor Day Foundation.

One focus of Lions

Clubs International is protecting the environment to create healthier communities and a more sustainable world. The worldwide service organization encourages planting and caring for trees to contribute to cleaner air as part of their mission.

Southbridge Community Center presents Magic by George

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Community Center, 153 Chestnut St., Southbridge, is excited to present Magic by George. This multi-generational presentation and parents and grandparents are encouraged to bring their children and grandchildren to enjoy this fun-filled afternoon. All are welcome to join.

With exciting magic, nonstop audience participation, and laugh-out-loud family-friendly humor, Magic by George will do the trick! George's fun-filled performances keep audiences of all ages on the edge of their seats. Whether young or old, everyone is guaranteed to have an amazing time.

George travels across Massachusetts and throughout New England performing for audiences large and small, sharing his unique blend of astonishing illusions and upbeat comedic energy. His talent and showmanship have earned him widespread recognition, including appearances on the CBS Early Show, Sesame Street's "Fun to Be One" celebration, and recurring performances at Universal Studios' CityWalk. His reputation for excellence has also earned George some of the highest honors in the world of magic. In addition to receiving multiple awards, he has been voted "Boston's Favorite Family Entertainer" two years in a row by The Boston Parents' Paper.

Magic by George will be demonstrating his skills on Monday, April 23rd at 12pm at the Southbridge Community Center. All ages are welcome. This fun and exciting program is supported by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

The Southbridge Community Center and Senior Center is a multi-functional facility providing social and recreational opportunities for all citizens of Southbridge and the local area. We hope to see you soon.



Charlton St. School in Southbridge had a school wide jump rope assembly on March 20! The students got to see and learn jump rope tricks all while learning about the importance of staying active! Photo courtesy of the school's Facebook page.

Auction Acres to host Seventh Annual Pioneer Valley Wine Festival

BRIMFIELD — Brimfield Auction Acres, birthplace of the world-famous

Brimfield Antique Shows, will host the sixth annual Pioneer Valley

Wine Festival Saturday and Sunday, June 6 & 7, from noon to 5 p.m.

2026 Marks the 7th year of the Pioneer Valley Wine and Food festival. This exciting event brings together New England Wineries, Cideries, Distilleries, and Meaderies from across the Pioneer Valley and Farmers of many sorts selling their wares.

The event started in 2018 by the collaboration with farm wineries throughout New England and local farmers to create a festival to highlight the magnificent products Massachusetts provides all in unison and support of Massachusetts Agricultural Department.

The Festival will feature local vintners and craft brewers ready to spill their secrets, Live Art demonstrations, sizzling chef panel starring culinary celebs - to be announced soon. Last year celebrity guests include; Brynn Gibson, the youngest Fox Jacket finalist from Fox's Hell's Kitchen with Gordon Ramsay. We also have Jared Forman, the culinary mastermind behind Deadhorse Hill, who brought the heat on Food Network's Beat Bobby Flay.

Master Mason presents his artwork

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On March 12, Brother Clay Tull from Major General Salem Towne Lodge in Southbridge was the guest featured artist hosted by the 321 Club located on the second floor in the Washburn Hall located at the Mechanic Hall building in Worcester. This club features local talent. The evening's musical performer was Grace Givertz, a nominee for the Boston Music Awards and recipient of the City of Boston Extraordinary Women Award. She blends folk, Americana, and indie rock into a distinctive musical style. What an honor for Brother Tull to be the featured artist to this great event to showcase his artwork.

Bro. Tull has been



Brother Clay Tull stands behind his artwork, smiling as he explains his creative process and painting style.

painting this style of art painting for about two years now. He calls his style Abstract Surreal Expressionism and

paints without brushes, using only his storytelling blade which looks like a Masonic Trowel with a longer handle.

His artwork combines abstraction, surrealism, and emotional expressionism.

Bro. Tull was excited

to discuss and describe his paintings. The attendees were actively engaged, showing interest in his artwork by connecting with it, responding thoughtfully, and asking a variety of questions. The background music created a warm, emotional mood that complemented the paintings well. Bro. Clay Tull credits Freemasonry principles for inspiring his art. His time with peers at Major General Salem Towne Lodge in Southbridge convinced him that determination can achieve anything. If you would like to see more artwork by Brother Clay Tull go to pages.@Tullsdancingcolors. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, go to massfreemasonry.org to read to and to find a lodge nearest you.

April 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 will be closed Monday, April 20.

Movies @ the Library

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

April 7: RENTAL FAMILY. A down-and-out actor living in Tokyo is hired as a token American guy for a Japanese rental-family company, leading him on an unexpected journey of self-discovery through the roles he plays in other people's lives. 2025. Rated PG-13. 110 minutes. Starring: Brendan Fraser, Takehiro Hira, Mari Yamamoto.

April 14: SONG SUNG BLUE. Lightning and Thunder, a Milwaukee husband and wife Neil Diamond tribute act, experience soaring success and devastating heartbreak in their musical journey together. 2025. Rated PG-13. 133 minutes. Featuring: Hugh Jackman, Kate Hudson, Ella Anderson.

April 21: NOW YOU SEE ME: NOW YOU DON'T. A diamond heist reunites retired Horsemen illusionists with new performers Greenblatt, Smith and Sessa as they target dangerous criminals. 2025. Rated PG-13. 112 minutes.

Cast: Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrelson, Dave Franco, Isla Fisher, Justice Smith.

April 28: ELLA MCCAY. An idealistic young woman juggles her family and work life in a comedy about the people you love and how to survive them. 2025. Rated PG-13. 115 minutes. Starring: Emma Mackey, Jamie Lee Curtis, Woody Harrelson, Ayo Edebiri, Albert Brooks.

Play Games!

Mondays, April 6 (party games), 13 (Cribbage), 27 (Scrabble), 12:30-2:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required. Beginners and experienced players are welcome! Join us to play an old favorite or learn a new game!

Wiggles & Giggles

Mondays, April 6, 13, 27 (no class 4/20) and May 4, 10:00-11:00 am - Storytime Room - registration required

Children, ages 2-5, with a parent/caregiver, will sing, move, play musical instruments, learn rhythm, and listen to stories in this FREE series facilitated by music teacher Laine Hanlon! "Wiggles &

Giggles" fosters physical, cognitive, social, and emotional learning through music and motion. Registration is required. Space is limited.

This program is run by the YMCA Family & Community Partnership. This series is sponsored by the YMCA Family & Community Partnership (YFCP) and hosted by the Charlton Public Library. YFCP is a Massachusetts Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE) grant funded by the Department of Early Education & Care and awarded to the YMCA of Central Massachusetts.

Tiny Tots Storytime (ages 0-2.5)

Tuesdays, April 7, 14, 28, 10:00-10:45 am - Storytime Room

For babies and toddlers ages 0-2.5 with a caregiver. Join us for songs, fingerplays, board books, shakers, scarves, dancing, motor skills activities, and free play! Due to the high number of attendees, this is now a ticketed program. A certain number of tickets will be given to each child on a first-come-first-served basis. Once all tickets have been passed out, the program will be full. Late Arrivals: Available tickets will be given out until 5 minutes after the program has started. After that time, the program will be closed until free play time. We thank you for your understanding.

Baby Storytime (0-12 months)

Wednesdays, April 1, 8, 15, 29, 10:00-10:45 am - Storytime Room - no registration required

For infants to 12 months only. Join us for board books, songs, fingerplays, music, shakers, scarves, bubbles & free play! This is a drop-in program. No registration or ticket required.

Better Read Than Dead Book Club

Wednesday, April 1, 11:00-12:00 - Local History Room - no registration required

Do you love true crime? So do we! Join us for a monthly meet up to discuss entertaining and fascinating details about true crimes. The book will be available at the adult circulation desk one month prior to the meeting. This month we will discuss The Devil Behind the Badge by Rick Jervis.

Dementia Friendly Charlton Meeting

Wednesday, April 1, 2:30-3:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required, all welcome.

Open Session with Jack-Jack the Therapy Dog

Wednesdays, April 1, 15, 29, 3:30-4:30 pm - Storytime Room - no registration required

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! (If you are interested in having a private visit with Jack-Jack for a reading session or any other reason, please register for one of our Private Visit sessions.)

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

Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

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

Using DNA in Family Research

Thursday, April 2, 6:00-7:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

This beginner-friendly session explains how DNA testing works, why it's useful, and how to make sense of your results — whether you're just starting or already matched with distant cousins. 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 6:30-7:30 in the Local History Room. Meetings will alternate between general discussion topics and guest presenters. The meetings are free and open to the public.

Preschool Storytime (Ages 3-5)

Fridays, April 3, 10, 17, 10:00-10:45 am - Storytime Room

For ages 3-5. Join us for stories, songs, fingerplays, scarves, activities, crafts, and free play! This is a TICKETED program. A certain number of tickets will be available for each child on a first-come, first-served basis. Once all tickets have been passed out, the program is full. Late Arrivals: Available tickets will be given out until 5 minutes after the program has started. After that time, the program will be closed until free-play begins. We thank you for your understanding.

Lego Club

Friday, April 3, 3:30-4:30 pm - Storytime Room - no registration required

This is a drop-in program recommended for ages 5-10.

Discovering New England Stone Walls

Saturday, April 4, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

Why are we so fascinated with stone walls? Kevin Gardner, author of The Granite Kiss, explains how and why New England came to acquire its thousands of miles of stone walls, the ways that they and other dry stone structures were built, how their styles emerged and changed over time, and their significance to the famous New England landscape. Along the way, Kevin occupies himself by building a miniature wall or walls on a tabletop, using tiny stones from a five-gallon bucket.

Intro to Zoom

Saturday, April 4, 1:30-2:30 pm - Local History Room - registration required

This hands-on workshop is designed to help job seekers feel confident using Zoom for virtual job interviews. Participants will learn how to join and schedule a Zoom meeting, test audio and video, adjust camera and microphone settings, and use basic tools such as mute/unmute, chat, and screen view options. The session will also cover best practices for professional appearance, lighting, and interview etiquette on Zoom. No prior experience is required — this workshop is ideal for anyone preparing for an online job interview. This project was funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the MassTech Collaborative under the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation

Turn To **EVENTS** page A6

VILLAGER ALMANAC

OPEN TO CLOSE

SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN HALL

Monday-Wednesday:

8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Thursday: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

JACOB EDWARDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Monday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

Tuesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Wednesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Thursday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (May 25 will be our last open Saturday until Labor Day) Sunday: Closed

CHARLTON TOWN HALL (508) 248-2200

Office Hours:

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays

..... 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tuesdays 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday Closed

visit www.townofcharlton.net

or more information.

Individual offices may vary

PUBLIC LIBRARY (248-0452)

For library hours please check

www.charltonlibrary.org

POLICE DEPARTMENT (248-2250)

Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For emergencies, dial 911

FIRE DEPARTMENT (248-2299)

Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Charlton Center Post Office (800) 275-8777

Charlton City (01508) (800) 275-8777

SCHOOLS

Dudley-Charlton Regional School District

..... (508) 943-6888

Charlton Elementary School

..... (508) 248-7774 or (508) 248-7435

Heritage School (508) 248-4884

Charlton Middle School (508) 248-1423

Shepherd Hill Regional High School

..... (508) 943-6700

Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical

High School

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

HOLLAND: 413-245-7108

Mon - Thurs 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

FISKDALE: 508-347-6486

Weekdays 9:00-4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

STURBRIDGE: 508-347-6463

Weekdays 8:30 - 5:00 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

BRIMFIELD: 413-245-3451

Weekdays: 9:00 - 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

WALES: 413-245-9808

Weekdays 8:30 - 12:30 and 2:00 - 4:30 and
Sat. 9:00 - 12:00

CHURCH LISTINGS

• **Central Baptist Church**

256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550

Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.

• **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 508- 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer worship is 9:30 a.m. www.fed-church.org

• **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org,

Sunday worship 10 a.m.

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

Sunday worship and Children's church 10am

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

www.stannestpatparish.com

Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am

• **Elm Street Congregational Church**, 61 Elm Street, Southbridge, Ma 01550

Phone: 508-764-8085 • Sunday service 10:00 am

Pastor Kathryn Light

• **Faith Baptist Church**, 515 Dennison Drive, Southbridge

Phone number 508-764-6132,

Worship Service: Sunday 10:00 a.m.

• **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.

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

• **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

• **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349

Sunday Service 10:00am.

www.livingwordcharlton.com

info@livingwordcharlton.com

• **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

• **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale** - 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021

www.sturfed.org

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

• **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**-

345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566

Phone 508-347-7297

Web: www.bethlehesturbridge.org

Services - Sunday 9:00 am

Pastor Dan Purtell

• **Holland Congregation Church**

"Where the Bible is preached."

11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926

Hollandchurch.org

Sunday Service @ 10:00 am

Pastor Dan Maketansky

• **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**

446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550

Phone: 508-765-9559

Web: www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org

Sunday Service 11:00 am

Pastor Dan Purtell

• **St. John Paul II Parish**

279 Hamilton St., Southbridge

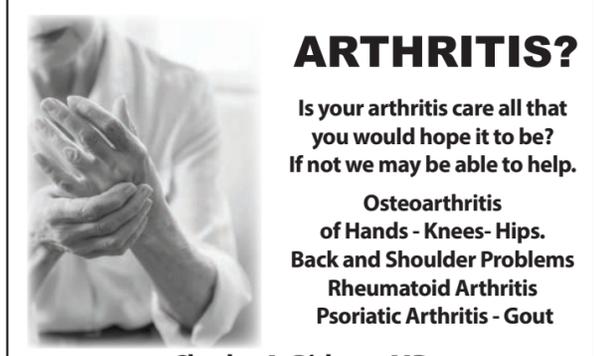
Rev. Carlos Ardila, Pastor

Weekend services Saturday 4 p.m.,

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

Weekday masses 8:30 & 8:45 a.m., St. Mary's Church

(508) 765-3701



ARTHRITIS?

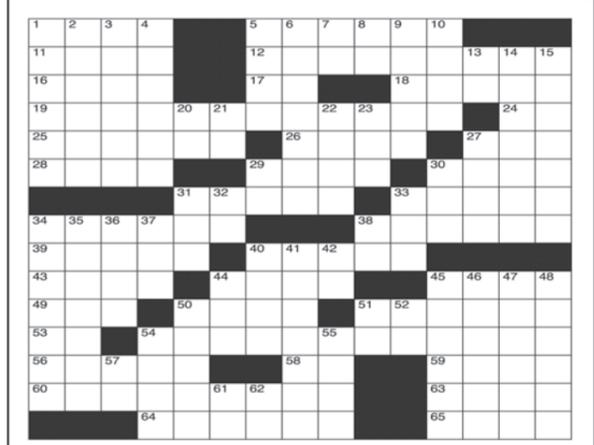
Is your arthritis care all that you would hope it to be? If not we may be able to help.

Osteoarthritis of Hands - Knees- Hips. Back and Shoulder Problems Rheumatoid Arthritis Psoriatic Arthritis - Gout

Charles A. Birbara, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine, Umass-Chan Medical School
25 Oak Ave., Worcester, MA 01605 508-799-2674

"Committed to Advancing appropriate care to people with arthritis"



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. "Bird of Paradise" constellation
- 5. Red Sox WS winner Bronson
- 11. Whirl
- 12. The State Dept. has a notable one
- 16. Energy, style and enthusiasm
- 17. Part of the mind
- 18. Mountainous country
- 19. Type of beverage
- 24. Atomic #109
- 25. Opposite of falsities
- 26. Female sheep
- 27. Rocky peak
- 28. Sensitive information sharing environment
- 29. Ethnic group of Thailand
- 30. Patron saint of Rome Philip
- 31. Psychedelics
- 33. Japanese pine
- 34. Have an impact on
- 38. Violent disorder
- 39. A French river
- 40. Early Mesoamerican civilization
- 43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 44. Musician Clapton
- 45. Ancient Greek sophist
- 49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 50. Valley
- 51. A way to unwind
- 53. Atomic #93
- 54. Recommending
- 56. Indigo bush
- 58. Larry and Curly's pal
- 59. Off-Broadway theater award
- 60. Fencers
- 63. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
- 64. Relating to songbirds
- 65. A way to assign

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Some are "secret"
- 2. Intestinal openings
- 3. Distant planet
- 4. Assembly possessing high legislative powers
- 5. Genus of typical owls
- 6. One with distinctively colored hair
- 7. Red cross
- 8. An alternative
- 9. Abominable snowmen
- 10. About ear
- 13. The opening letters
- 14. Feeling of regret
- 15. Atomic #39
- 20. Luteinizing hormone
- 21. Atomic #55
- 22. Carries a debt
- 23. Albanian monetary unit
- 27. Semitic abjad letter
- 29. Yes
- 30. Negative
- 31. Earn a perfect score
- 32. Connecticut
- 33. Partner to cheese
- 34. Snack nuts
- 35. Quadruped's body part
- 36. Locate
- 37. Pitching statistic
- 38. "___, myself and I"
- 40. Utah city northwest of Provo
- 41. Football players in the trenches
- 42. One who runs the show
- 44. Wood
- 45. Performing artists
- 46. Slang for a cut
- 47. More breathable
- 48. Most crafty
- 50. Provokes into action
- 51. University of Dayton
- 52. Sodium
- 54. Large fish of the mackerel family
- 57. ___ and behold
- 61. Sports highlight show
- 62. "The Great Lakes State"



PUZZLE SOLUTION

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The Charlton Villager (USPS#024-954) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, Inc., 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical postage paid at Southbridge, MA and additional mailing office(s). POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Stonebridge Press P. O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Burgess third graders kick off Sturbridge celebration of America 250

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

Expect to see special commemorative banners featuring an historical flag posted on

poles along Routes 20 and 131. Look for programs focusing on the history of America at the Joshua Hyde Public Library, and from the Sturbridge Historical Society. Old Sturbridge Village is hosting Revolutionary Game Nights at the Ox & Yoke Café. Participants will have the chance to win prizes such as special event tickets, Village crafts, and more! Check out “Revolutionary Bingo” March 27 and May 29 and “Revolutionary Trivia” Feb. 27, April 24, and June 26. For more information about these events and the many other new 250th events that the Village

will be hosting, go to: osv.org.

Additional events sponsored by the Committee include an essay program for Grade 5 students titled “What Does America Mean to You?” with an option for students to voluntarily submit essays to a Town-wide recognition contest. Local restaurants will participate in a “Taste of Sturbridge” event during March and April featuring patriotic-themed offerings. Opacum Land Trust will incorporate Sturbridge historical landmarks into its April 2026 Vacation Scavenger Hunt. Also planned for May at the Senior Center

are a tree planting and the burying of a time capsule

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

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

Applications welcome for Ronald J. Denault Memorial Law Enforcement Scholarship

CHARLTON CITY — A \$1,500 scholarship, honoring the memory of Ronald J. Denault, a highly respected police officer at both the state and local levels, will be awarded again this June to a student in the Class of 2026.

To be eligible for consideration for this award, preferably, a student must be a Charlton resident who is planning to further his/her education in pursuit of a career in law enforcement or criminal justice. Applicants may be graduating from a public or private high school or from a home schooling pro-

gram that has been approved formally by the School Committee. Ideally, applicants will show evidence of scholarship, leadership, and community service.

Any interested person should complete and submit an application packet no later than April 30, 2026. The application packet will include the following: an application form; a one-page essay summarizing why the applicant is interested in a career in law enforcement; two letters of reference; and documentation of academic scholarship. Details regarding all requirements

will be included with the application form. Application forms can be obtained at the Charlton Public Library, at the Charlton Police Station, or through the guidance offices at either Bay Path Regional or Shepherd Hill Regional High School. Further questions may be directed to Dr. Linda E. Denault, who can be reached via email at ledenault@aol.com or by calling 508-248-7711.

Completed application packets should be mailed to the Ronald J. Denault Law Enforcement Scholarship Committee c/o P.O. Box 352, Charlton City, MA 01508.

All invited to Feast of Divine Mercy at St. Joseph’s

CHARLTON — All are invited to attend the Feast of Divine Mercy at St. Joseph’s Church, 10 H. Putnam Ext., Charlton, on Sunday, April 12, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Celebrate all or part of the day with us! (Please note that Confession will not be available that day.)

11 a.m.
• Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass
• Adoration with music and silence

Noon
• Image Explanation & Reflection from St. Faustina’s Diary
• Divine Mercy Chaplet (Sri Lankan,

Polish, Italian, Spanish, English)
• Adoration with music and silence

1 p.m.
• Rosary: Glorious Mysteries (various ministries)
• Guided Meditation: Jesus speaks to St. Faustina
• Adoration with music and silence

2 p.m.
• Reflection from St. Faustina’s Diary
• Songs with words from St. Faustina’s Diary
• St. Faustina’s Way of the Cross

3 p.m. Hour of Mercy
• Bell rings three

times
• Divine Mercy Chaplet in song
• St. Faustina’s Litany of the Divine Mercy
• Litany of Trust

4 p.m.
• Benediction & Repose of the Blessed Sacrament (Deacon Peter)

The Live Streaming YouTube link for the Divine Mercy Sunday at St. Joseph’s Church services: https://youtube.com/live/JOCasR4M_PU?feature=share.

Southbridge Historical Society to examine Publick House’s role in WWII

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Historical Society will meet Wednesday, April 8 at 7 p.m. in the Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, 111 Main St.

Our program for the evening is “When War Came to the Public House.”

Local historian and author Wally Hersee will present a fascinating illustrated talk on the little-known role the Publick House played during World War II. In 1941 — weeks before Pearl Harbor — the property became home to the Sturbridge Defense Center, where soldiers and civilians were trained in guerrilla warfare and homeland defense. The presentation includes rare photographs, original documents, and a restored 1941 motion picture of the dedication ceremony, offering a

remarkable glimpse into this unique chapter of local history.

Hersee, a photographer and amateur historian, lives in Sturbridge with his wife, Mary. He writes for the Sturbridge Historical Society on their Facebook page.

This meeting is free and open to the public.

Upcoming fundraiser will support Relay For Life

FISKDALE — The Relay For Life of Southern Worcester County is having a fundraiser on Saturday, April 18 at 2 p.m. at Brush It Off Art & Pottery Studio, 559 Main St., Suite 103-104, Fiskdale. Please sign up in advance on the Brush It Off website, <https://brush-it-off.com>

No painting experience needed, just a sense of humor. Come join us and see how differently a group interprets art, all while raising funds to fight cancer. A portion of the money from every painting goes to the American Cancer Society.

The Relay For Life of Southern Worcester County will be held Saturday, June 20, 9 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. at McMahon Field, 25 Cole Ave., Southbridge.

If interested in participating, please check out our Web site at secure.acevents.org and search for Relay For Life of Southern Worcester County.

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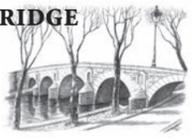
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PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER
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EDITOR

OPINION

Ask these two questions before buying a home

Planting something that lasts

On a spring Saturday morning in Charlton, residents will have a chance to carry home something small that promises to grow into something lasting.

The Charlton Lions Club and The Overlook Independent Living Tree Advisory Committee plan to give away 100 young sweetgum trees during Earth Fest on April 25 at the Town Common. The effort will take place alongside the annual roadside cleanup, another familiar sign that winter has loosened its grip and the season of renewal has begun.

It is easy to think of tree giveaways as modest gestures. A sapling fits easily in the trunk of a car. It can be planted in an afternoon. Yet the value of planting a tree stretches well beyond the moment when the shovel first breaks the soil.

A tree planted this spring may shade a front yard for decades. It may soften the edge of a busy road, cool a neighborhood during the heat of summer, or provide a splash of color each fall. It may become part of a child's memory of home. In time, it becomes part of the town's landscape itself.

Efforts like this one show how local organizations quietly shape the character of a community. The Lions Club has long been associated with hands-on service, whether through roadside cleanup, public events, or support for residents in need. The Overlook Tree Advisory Committee brings another perspective, combining environmental stewardship with education and the experience of residents who understand the long view of community life.

There is something especially fitting about that partnership.

Older residents helping guide the planting of trees that will mature long after today's volunteers have stepped back from public roles is a reminder of how towns endure. Communities grow stronger when generations work together on projects that benefit people they may never meet.

The choice of sweetgum trees adds another thoughtful touch. Native to eastern North America and known for their distinctive star-shaped leaves and brilliant fall color, they offer both beauty and ecological value. They also reflect a broader understanding that environmental stewardship is not only about protecting distant forests or faraway coastlines. It begins at home, one yard at a time.

Charlton's recognition of Earth Fest as a moment for action rather than simply observation deserves notice as well. Pairing a tree giveaway with roadside cleanup turns a symbolic day into a practical one. Residents are not only talking about the environment. They are improving it.

Perhaps most important, the trees come with a simple expectation. They will be given to residents who commit to planting and caring for them.

That small promise carries weight. A tree survives only if someone waters it, protects it, and gives it the chance to grow. In that way, the effort reflects something true about community life itself. The places people value do not stay healthy on their own. They thrive because someone chooses to care for them.

A hundred trees will not change Charlton overnight. But they will change it gradually, quietly, and permanently. Years from now, when those leaves turn red and gold each autumn, they will stand as living reminders of neighbors who chose to invest in the town's future one planting at a time.

You may have heard that buying a home is better than renting. After all, why "throw money away" on rent when you could be building wealth through homeownership? Financial professionals say the decision isn't that simple.

The answer depends on your personal and financial situation. Before you begin house hunting, ask yourself two key questions: Can you afford to buy? And should you buy?

Can you afford to buy? While being ready to purchase a home means having enough money for a down payment and a monthly mortgage, other financial obligations are involved.

It's important that your debt levels are manageable before you buy. Without a mortgage, it's ideal for your monthly debt payments to be less than 20 percent of your gross monthly income. With a mortgage, debt payments should stay lower than 35 percent.

You'll also need to cover homeowner's insurance premiums with a deductible, pay annual property taxes, hold emergency savings for the costs of major repairs such as roof or driveway replacement, and build flexibility into your budget for routine expenses like HVAC tune-ups and lawn care. Don't forget the upfront costs, such as closing costs, that come with homebuying. They typically run between 2 and 6 percent of the purchase price.

Should you buy? One of the biggest factors in deciding whether to buy or rent relates to time. The longer you plan to stay in your house, the more likely it is that buying makes financial sense. Generally, professionals say it doesn't make sense to buy unless you're planning to stay in the home at least three to five years.

When you buy a home, you face high purchasing costs



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right away. Initially, you build equity slowly since most of your mortgage payment goes to interest. Staying in your house longer offers more time to build equity. Overall, the total cost of buying could be lower than renting.

Many factors can impact whether it will be more cost effective to rent than buy. Job stability, potential reduction in income for one or both spouses, mortgage rates,

rental costs, the rate at which homes are appreciating in value and the cost of homeowners insurance all come into play. Fortunately, many online calculators account for these factors and help you compare your options.

Beyond the numbers. When deciding whether to buy a house, don't just look at the cost. Buying a home is more than an investment. Your home is where you live your life. So, you should consider your lifestyle and preferences. Buying might be more suitable if you need stability, want to personalize your home and are comfortable with tying a portion of your wealth to a house. Renting offers more flexibility and fewer maintenance responsibilities.

Ultimately, choosing to rent or buy comes down to understanding your finances, your plans and what you want from the place you call home. Take the time to assess costs and lifestyle trade-offs to help make a choice that supports your long-term goals.

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 bulletin board by the door

Just inside the entrance of our town library, there's a bulletin board that most people walk past without really noticing.

I try not to be one of them.

It's not much to look at. A sheet of cork. A scattering of pushpins. A collection of flyers printed on everything from bright neon paper to the back side of what used to be someone's grocery list. But if you stand there long enough and read what's posted, you begin to understand something about the place you live that you might otherwise miss.

I stopped in last week to return a book and found myself lingering there longer than expected.

There was a notice for a spaghetti supper. A handwritten card offering piano lessons. A flyer for a church rummage sale with the date circled three different times in blue marker, as if to make sure nobody overlooked it. Someone had pinned up a careful request for help finding a lost cat. Another note announced a fundraiser for a neighbor going through a difficult stretch.

None of these things would make big headlines. But together they told a story.

It struck me that the bulletin board might be the most honest page in town.

Nobody is trying to impress anyone there. The paper curls at the corners. The tape never sticks quite right. Some notices are printed neatly at home, others written in block letters with a felt-tip marker. Every one of them represents somebody who decided to reach out instead of keeping quiet.

That still means something.

Years ago, before everything moved onto screens, those bulletin boards were how people found out what was happening. If you wanted to know when the pancake breakfast was scheduled, or who was collecting coats for winter, or whether someone was offering snow shoveling for a few dollars after school, that's where you looked.

LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET

By CHARLES

I suppose today most of that information can be found online. But I've noticed that the bulletin board still fills up anyway.

I don't think that's an accident.

There's something reassuring about seeing those little pieces of paper pinned up in a real place where real people walk past them. It reminds you that the town is still paying attention to itself. It reminds you that neighbors are still asking for help and still offering it.

One flyer announced a community clean-up day along a stretch of roadside I drive past all the time. I had no idea it was happening. Another advertised a local concert I might otherwise have missed entirely. A third simply said "Volunteers Needed," followed by a phone number and a hopeful-looking smiley face drawn in pen.

Someone clearly believed someone else would call.

What I admire most about that board is how ordinary it is. Nobody gets paid to maintain it. Nobody organizes the colors or straightens the corners. It grows and changes week by week, quietly reflecting whatever the town happens to need at the moment.

In a way, it feels like a conversation that never quite ends. Sometimes I think those boards are small acts of trust. A person puts something up there believing that someone else will read it and care. That's not a grand gesture. It's not dramatic. But it says a lot about the kind of place we live.

We still expect each other to notice.

On my way out of the library, I stepped back and looked at the board again before heading through the door. I didn't take down any phone numbers. I didn't sign up for anything that day. But I left with the quiet feeling that the town was doing what it has always done best, which is keeping track of its people in simple, steady ways that don't require much explanation.

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.

TO THE EDITOR

Charlton voters, meet your future town leaders

To the Editor:

On Saturday, April 11, Charlton residents have a vital opportunity to meet the many candidates seeking to lead our town government at the Candidate Forum, at 10:30 AM, in Dexter Hall, on the top floor of Charlton's Public Library.

In an era when local decisions directly impact our property taxes, public safety, education, and quality of life, can we afford to vote without knowing who's asking for our trust? This nonpartisan event offers citizens the rare chance to evaluate all candidates in one convenient setting.

The forum begins with introductions and a moderated forum at 10:30 a.m. Each candidate will present a three-minute introduction, followed by responses to questions submitted by residents. This will be followed by the opportunity to

mingle with candidates at 12:15 p.m.

Democracy thrives on informed participation. The decisions made by those we elect will shape Charlton's future for years to come.

Attending this forum can help to transform some of our town's residents from passive voters into an engaged, knowledgeable citizens. Residents can submit questions in advance at Noreen.Smith@TownofCharlton.net, or in writing during the event.

In local government, your vote carries exceptional weight—but only if you know who truly represents your values and vision for our town.

Dave Smolksi
Charlton

OBITUARIES

Marc A. DiPietro, 59

Southbridge: Marc A. DiPietro, 59, of Ashland Ave., passed away peacefully on March 21st, at Brookside Rehabilitation and Healthcare, Webster, after an illness.

He is survived by his three sons, Anthony A. DiPietro and his wife Anne of Auburn, Alfred J. DiPietro and his wife Katelyn of Southbridge and Vincent M. DiPietro and his wife Haley of Southbridge; his daughter, Adrianna M. DiPietro of Woodstock, CT; two sisters, Gina M. DiPietro and her husband Majid Goharzadeh of Charlton and Bonnie A. Lovely and her husband Stephen of Charlton; his four cherished grandchildren, Gia DiPietro, Aurelia Spont-DiPietro, Michael DiPietro, Rocco DiPietro and many nieces and nephews.

Marc was born in Southbridge the son of the late Alfred J. and Barbara M. (St. Martin) DiPietro.

He graduated from Marian Hill high school and went on to obtain his bachelor's degree in business administration from Nichols College in Dudley. Marc worked for many years alongside his dad at D and D Welding before taking over the family business. He



also owned and operated Three D Enterprises of Southbridge. Marc enjoyed traveling the world and his time most recently living in Sarasota, FL prior to coming back home. He was a past member of the Southbridge Lions Club, a Deputy Sheriff for the Worcester County Sheriffs Office. Marc assisted the Sheriffs office with search and rescue incidents as well as their annual Senior picnics. He was a past member of the Southbridge Town Council. Marc was an avid golfer and enjoyed playing golf with his boys. Above all he was a proud father and grandfather and loved spending time with his grandkids.

Calling hours for Marc will be held on Friday, March 27th, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home. His funeral will be held on Saturday, March 28th, from the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a Mass at 10:00 am in St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Rd. Ext., Charlton. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Southbridge, will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Anne and St. Patrick Parish, 16 Church St., Fiskdale, MA 01518.

Charlotte J. Carpick, 98

DUDLEY – Charlotte J. (Kondek) Carpick, 98, died peacefully Thursday, March 12, 2026, after a period of declining health. Her beloved husband of 69 years, Louis J. Carpick, died in 2020.

She leaves a sister, Genevieve K. Pioppi and her husband N. William Pioppi of Sturbridge, several nieces, nephews, grandnephews, great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews. She was preceded in death by 5 brothers, Charles, Louis, Walter, John and Henry Kondek and by 3 sisters, Stasia Balkurna, Josephine Grzych and Joan Lesniewski.

She was born at home on August 18, 1927, the daughter of Stanislaw and Franciszka (Nycek) Kondek and lived in Dudley most of her life.

Mrs. Carpick was a lens inspector



for 39 years at the former American Optical Company in Southbridge, retiring in 1985. She was a member of its Quarter Century Club.

She was a communicant of Saint Andrew Bobola Church and belonged to the former Holy Rosary Sodality for many years.

Her funeral will be held on Saturday, March 21, at 11:00 AM in Saint Andrew Bobola Church, 54 West Main Street (please meet at the church).

Burial will be in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace, Webster. Donations in her name may be made to Saint Joseph Elementary School, 47 Whitcomb Street, Webster, MA 01570. Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster. www.websterfunerals.com

Dennis R. Desroches

Dennis R. Desroches, of The Villages, Florida, passed away on March 5, 2026.

He was born on June 19, 1943, in Southbridge, Massachusetts, to Edward and Estelle Desroches and grew up in Southbridge. Dennis graduated from Mary E. Wells High School and went on to earn his master's degree from Salem State College and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (CAGS) from Springfield College.

Dennis dedicated his entire professional career to the Southbridge Public School System, where he served as an educator and administrator. He retired as principal of Southbridge middle school after many years of service to the community and its students.

Dennis enjoyed spending time on the golf course and was a passionate fan of the New England Patriots.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, Patricia Page Desroches of Florida his twin brother, Donald Desroches (Frances) one nephew; three nieces; and his sisters in law, Judy Harrauld (Jack), Jacqui Page, Penny Hazen (Chuck)

A Memorial Mass will be held at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Leawood, Kansas, on March 23 at 4:30p.m.

The family would like to extend special thanks to Penny and Chuck for their support and care during Dennis's illness.

Sturbridge Affordable Housing Trust seeks input through survey

STURBRIDGE — The Sturbridge Affordable Housing Trust (SAHT) is leading the development of a new Housing Production Plan (HPP) to update its 2021–2026 Housing Production Plan and guide the Town's future housing strategy. The updated HPP will include current data and analysis on demographic trends and housing conditions, identify priority housing needs, and recommend strategies to address them.

Community engagement is a central part

of this process. The SAHT will offer multiple opportunities for residents to share input on local housing challenges, goals, and priorities. As part of this effort, the SAHT is conducting a Community Housing Survey to gather additional feedback. The survey is designed to be brief and easy to complete, taking only a few minutes of your time.

To participate in the survey, visit the town Web site, sturbridge.gov, and click the link under the News tab on the main page.

Troop 163 to host fundraising waffle dinner

STURBRIDGE — Troop 163 will hold a fundraiser waffle dinner on Saturday, April 11 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 345 Main St. in Sturbridge. Waffles, toppings, and sausages will be served, and gluten-free waffles will be available. No tickets are required—pay what you can. There will also be a silent

auction with themed baskets, and Bluey and Bingo will be there for photos.

Troop 163 is a Scouting America troop for girls ages 11-17. The troop is based in Sturbridge but has members across southern Worcester County. Please email troop-163sturbridge@gmail.com with any questions.

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EVENTS

continued from page A2

Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Drop-in Tech Help - Local History Room - no registration required

Tuesdays, April 7, 14, 21, 28 from 4:30-5:30 pm

Saturdays, April 4, 11, 18 from 10 am - noon

Tuesday, April 21, Wednesday, April 22, and Friday, April 24, from 3:00-4:00 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 in person at the library, online, or by calling 508-248-0452. 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.

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

Thursdays, April 2, 9, 30 at 4:30, 5:30, or 6:30 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. Please make a one-on-one appointment in person at the library, online, or by calling 508-248-0452. 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.

Adulting 101, Mindfully (Session 8)

Tuesday, April 7, 5:00-6:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Join us for a free, eight-week series for teens presented by Sur-thrive Wellness. Each session covers a different "Adulting" theme/topic combined with mindful practices. These sessions are best for teens aged 12-16, but older teens are welcome to attend.

Tidying Up Your Google Drive

Tuesday, April 7, 6:00-7:30 pm OR Saturday, April 11, 1:30-2:30 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. This project was 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.

Book Group @ the Senior Center

Wednesday, April 8, 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 *Rough Sleepers* by Tracy Kidder. Books are available to pick up at the library one month prior to the discussion date.

The Crafty Chapter (Formerly Fiber Arts Club for Tweens & Teens)

Wednesdays, April 8 & 29, 3:30-4:30 pm - Storytime Room - registration not 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 best suited for tweens and teens aged 9-18. (Teen Volunteers: You can earn community service hours for attending and participating in this program!)

CPL Book Discussion - The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

Thursday, April 9, 6:00-7:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

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

Kids Yoga with Lindsey

Fridays, April 10 & 24, 4:00-4:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration 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.

Navigating the Settings on iPhone and iPad

Tuesday, April 14, 12:30-1:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

In this class, we explore the Settings app, examining ways to adjust our devices to suit our individual needs. We learn to access important information about our devices, update the software, and customize important features like Do Not Disturb, Face ID, and notifications.

Friends of Charlton Public Library

Tuesday, April 14, 3:30-4:45 pm - Community Meeting Room

The monthly meeting of the Friends of Charlton Public Library. Everyone is welcome to attend.

DIY Seed Bombs

Tuesday, April 14, 6:00-7:45 pm OR Wednesday, April 15, 11:00-12:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

This month's adult craft is a blooming ballistic: we are making seed bombs! Participants will mix clay, seeds, and soil to make various types of portable, giftable, throwable, bits of gardening. For adults and teens ages 13 and up.

Intro to Google Calendar

Tuesday, April 14, 6:00-7:30 pm OR Saturday, April 18, 1:30-2:30 pm - Local History Room - registration required

New to Google Calendar? This beginner-friendly class will introduce you to the basics of managing your schedule online. Learn how to create events, add details like locations and reminders, and keep track of appointments in one convenient place. We'll also explore helpful features such as color-coding events and viewing your schedule by day, week, or month. Perfect for anyone looking to stay organized and manage their time more effectively using Google Calendar. This project was 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.

Talking Book Library Info Session

Wednesday, April 15, 10:30-11:30 am - Community Meeting Room - registration appreciated

The Worcester Talking Book Library provides free services to Massachusetts residents of any age who are unable to read standard print due to a permanent or temporary visual, physical, or reading disability. Join us for a presentation on all things Talking Book Library: who they are, what they do, who they serve, and the materials, programs, and services they provide.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group

Thursday, April 16, 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 Cafe

Thursday, April 16, 6:30-7:30 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 6-7:30 pm in Dexter Hall. Questions? Email kwalker4@mac.com. The Death Cafe model was developed by Jon Underwood and Sue Barsky Reid, based on the ideas of Bernard Crettaz.

Craftemooon for Kids

Friday, April 17, 3:30-4:30 pm - Storytime Room - registration required

Drop by the Storytime Room and make a fun craft! Best for ages 5-10. Please register so we know we will have enough supplies!

Early Readers Book Club

Saturday, April 18, 10:00-10:45 am - Storytime Room - registration required

Join our parent/child book club for early readers, ages 3-7. Read the monthly book selection at home with your child, and join us for a short discussion, activity, and a snack. Please register so we know how many people to expect. Copies of the book will be available at the Adult Circulation Desk. April Selection: *Grumpy Monkey*, Mom For A Day.

Learn How to Play the Ukulele for Kids ages 8-12

Saturday, April 18, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

For children ages 8-12. Learn how to play the ukulele! No experience necessary. Ukuleles provided or bring your own. Participants will learn about tuning, strumming, fretting, and how to play songs.

Learn How to Play the Ukulele for Teens & Adults

Saturday, April 18, 1:00-2:30 pm - Dexter

Hall - registration required

Learn how to play the ukulele! No experience necessary. Ukuleles provided or bring your own. Participants will learn about tuning, strumming, fretting, and how to play songs. This class is for adults and teens ages 13 and up.

Registration is required as space is limited!

Saturday Acoustic Roots Jam-SARJ Saturday, April 18, 12:00-1:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

An acoustic only music jam. Open to all 18+. Email Rich at Cule5632@gmail.com for more information.

Book Donations Accepted!

The Friends of Charlton Library is accepting donations of books in like new or very good condition for their big book sale on Saturday, May 9! Donations may be brought into the Library during open hours from Tuesday, April 21 until Friday, May 8. Please note we will not accept: items with mold or water damage, covered in dirt or dust, VHS tapes, music CDs, Readers Digest Condensed books and encyclopedias. Please do not leave donations in our outside book return bins.

Drop-in Needle Felting for Adults - no registration required

Tuesday, April 21, 6:00-7:30 pm (Community Meeting Room) and Wednesday, April 29, 10:00-11:30 am (Local History Room) This time is just for you to drop-in and work on your projects! There will be needles, wool, and pads for use but no formal instruction or project planned. Feel free to bring a project you've already started or use our supplies to bring your ideas to life. This program is for adults 18 and older due to the nature of the materials being used.

Family Storytime with Author Michelle Chalmers

Tuesday, April 21, 10:00-10:45 am - Storytime Room - registration not required

This family event is designed for children and families to listen together to "Vitamin D and Me," an amazing story of how and why human beings have different color skin tones. From dark brown to light, human beings and our evolution have an amazing story to tell, and it's all here to learn and share. This engagement encourages open conversation and questions after the story that will give families jumping-off points for later conversations.

Intro to Canva

Tuesday, April 21, 10:30-11:30 am - Local History Room - registration required

Unlock your creativity and bring your ideas to life with Intro to Canva! This beginner-friendly course is perfect for anyone looking to create stunning visual content without needing graphic design experience. Whether you're a student, small business owner, content creator, or just someone who wants to make eye-catching presentations, social media posts, flyers, or resumes, this course will walk you through the basics of using Canva. This series was 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.

Canva for Kids: Vision Boards

Tuesday, April 21, 1:30-2:30 pm - Storytime Room - registration required

Get creative and learn digital design with Canva! In this fun, kid-friendly series, participants will explore the basics of the Canva platform while creating their own colorful projects. Kids will learn how to add and style text, choose images and graphics, and experiment with some of Canva's built-in AI tools to spark ideas and enhance their designs. Throughout the series, students will build their skills while creating exciting projects such as a vision board, a summer bucket list, and their own custom bookmarks. By the end, kids will feel confident navigating Canva and using its creative tools to design projects they can share, print, and enjoy. Perfect for curious creators who want to bring their ideas to life! In today's program, we will be making vision boards! This program is intended for ages 8-12. Registration is required.

Moving Together: An Intergenerational Music & Movement Experience

Wednesday, April 22, 10:30-11:30 am - Dexter Hall - registration appreciated

Join Tri-Valley's Behavioral Health Outreach Team for a welcoming, intergenerational program that brings children, adults, and older community members together through music, rhythm, and gentle movement—perfect for school vacation week. Taking time to support mental and emotional wellness is important at every age. This dementia-friendly program is designed to be accessible, inclusive, and joyful, with familiar music, simple movement, and opportunities for meaningful interaction across generations. No experience is needed — just come as you are and move together. Registration is appreciated but not required.

Intro to Libby

Wednesday, April 22, 10:30-11:30 am - Local History Room - registration required

Discover the joy of reading and listening on the go with Libby, the free, easy-to-use app that connects you to your library's digital collection. This course will guide you through the process of accessing thousands of eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines using Libby, available through your local library. Participants will learn how to download and navigate the Libby app, sign in with a library card, borrow and return items, adjust reading and listening settings, and explore advanced

features like tags, holds, and syncing across devices. Whether you're a first-time user or looking to make the most of Libby's features, this course will help you enjoy your library anytime, anywhere. This series was 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.

Personalizing Your Device

Wednesday, April 22, 12:30-1:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

In this class, we learn about different ways to customize the iPhone and iPad to suit your preferences better. We'll cover reorganizing our Home Screens, creating folders, changing the appearance of our displays, and changing the image used for the wallpapers and Lock Screens.

Canva for Kids: Summer Bucket List

Wednesday, April 22, 1:30-2:30 pm - Storytime Room - registration required

Get creative and learn digital design with Canva! In this fun, kid-friendly series, participants will explore the basics of the Canva platform while creating their own colorful projects. Kids will learn how to add and style text, choose images and graphics, and experiment with some of Canva's built-in AI tools to spark ideas and enhance their designs. Throughout the series, students will build their skills while creating exciting projects such as a vision board, a summer bucket list, and their own custom bookmarks. By the end, kids will feel confident navigating Canva and using its creative tools to design projects they can share, print, and enjoy. Perfect for curious creators who want to bring their ideas to life! In today's program, we will be making summer bucket lists! This program is intended for ages 8-12. Registration is required.

Workshop and Reading of Independence Cake with Old Sturbridge Village

Thursday, April 23, 10:30-12:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required

Old Sturbridge Village will be visiting us for crafts and a storytime! Listen to a fictional story about America's first cookbook author, explore recipes and cookbooks from the early days of the United States, and create your own cookbook to take home. Recommended for ages 6-12.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover!

Thursday, April 23, 2:00-4:00 pm - Storytime Room - registration required

Drop off your stuffed animals in the Story Time Room between 2 and 4 pm to participate in our stufie sleepover! Create a nametag and sleep mask for your fuzzy friend, have them spend the night, and then pick them up anytime during the following day (Friday, the 24th)! Kiddos will be given a sleepover book detailing all of the shenanigans that their stuffed animal got up to that night (parents and caregivers should remember to check our Facebook page for live updates as well!).

Songwriting Workshop

Thursday, April 23, 6:00-7:00 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

Music gives us space to express ourselves in a way like no other. Songwriting is a tool we can come back to again and again when we need an outlet for our feelings, a space to freely say what we mean, and a canvas to explore life. When you learn the art of songwriting, you learn to find your voice. Join award-winning songwriter Ash L'Esperance for a songwriting lesson and learn how to hone your song ideas, and craft them into something you'd want to hear your favorite artist sing.

CULE: Charlton Ukulele League & Ensemble

Thursday, April 23, 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.

Canva for Kids: Summer Reading Booklist & Bookmark Design

Friday, April 24, 10:30-12:00 pm - Storytime Room - registration required

Get creative and learn digital design with Canva! In this fun, kid-friendly series, participants will explore the basics of the Canva platform while creating their own colorful projects. Kids will learn how to add and style text, choose images and graphics, and experiment with some of Canva's built-in AI tools to spark ideas and enhance their designs. Throughout the series, students will build their skills while creating exciting projects such as a vision board, a summer bucket list, and their own custom bookmarks. By the end, kids will feel confident navigating Canva and using its creative tools to design projects they can share, print, and enjoy. Perfect for curious creators who want to bring their ideas to life! In today's program, we will be making summer reading lists & designing bookmarks! This program is intended for ages 8-12. Registration is required.

Intro to Chat GPT

Friday, April 24, 1:00-2:00 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Curious about ChatGPT and what it can do for you? Join us for a hands-on introduction

Saint Joseph School's Migration Mass celebrates faith and culture



Courtesy

Students of Saint Joseph School stand with Bishop Robert J. McManus on the altar of Saint Joseph Basilica during the Annual Migration Mass, representing 26 nations through flags and traditional cultural dress in a celebration of faith, culture, and unity.

WEBSTER — On Sunday, March 15, the Saint Joseph School community gathered at Saint Joseph Basilica to celebrate its beloved Annual Migration Mass, a cherished tradition that had originally been scheduled during Catholic Schools Week in January but was postponed due to winter weather. The celebration brought together students, families, and parishioners in a vibrant expression of faith, culture, and unity.

The Migration Mass is one of the most meaningful traditions at Saint Joseph School. It celebrates the rich cultural diversity of the school community while highlighting the unity that flourishes through a shared Catholic faith.

The day began with a solemn yet joyful Mass, featuring an entrance procession of more than one hundred students proudly carrying flags representing their families' heritage. Twenty-six countries—the largest procession to date—were represented through flags and traditional attire, showcasing the cultural richness of the Saint Joseph School community. Flags

from nations including the United States, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, Ghana, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Puerto Rico, Portugal, Scotland, Sweden, Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, and Venezuela filled the basilica with vibrant color, symbolizing the beauty of unity in diversity. Many students proudly wore traditional attire from their heritage, embracing the opportunity to share and celebrate their cultural roots.

The Most Rev. Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester, served as the main celebrant and homilist.

Fourth grade students Olivia Guinto and Nella Copeland participated in the Liturgy of the Word. Following the readings, Grade 8 students Ivonka Warnajtys and Tenleigh Dowd led the congregation in the Responsorial Psalm, guiding the assembly in prayerful response to the Word of God.

The Prayer of the Faithful reflected the global spirit of the celebration. Prayers were

offered in multiple languages, including Swahili by Michael Kamangu (Grade 5), Polish by Amadeusz Gacek (Grade 6), Gaelic by Mia Reed (Grade 5), Arabic by Ariel Corbin (Grade 5), Spanish by Hayley Benes (Grade 8), Greek by Giorgios Sgouritsas (Grade 6), and English by Cecilia Coan (Grade 5). These multilingual prayers beautifully illustrated the interconnectedness of the school's culturally diverse community and the universality of the Catholic faith.

In his homily, Bishop McManus reflected on the meaning of the Fourth Sunday of Lent and reminded the congregation that the Catholic Church is truly universal—bringing together people of every nation, language, and culture as one family of faith. He noted that the beautiful procession of flags and cultural attire was a powerful sign of the Church's unity in diversity. The bishop encouraged everyone to recognize Christ in one another and to welcome people of all backgrounds with compassion, reminding those present that our differences are

gifts that strengthen the Church.

The Saint Joseph School Children's Choir, directed by Fine Arts Director Brigid Campbell and organist Maria Helena Czarnecka-Cieslak, elevated the celebration with inspiring Lenten selections. Hymns including "Save Your People, O Lord," "Your Only Son," "One Bread, One Body," "Bread for the World,"

and "From a King to a King" resonated throughout the basilica and added to the reverent and joyful atmosphere.

The Mass concluded with a special presentation to Bishop McManus by Student Council President Mychael Jones and Vice President Tenleigh Dowd, a heartfelt moment that reflected the gratitude and leadership of the students. Following the Mass,

students gathered with the bishop for a commemorative photo, capturing the joy and spirit of this meaningful occasion.

The Annual Migration Mass stands as a powerful testament to the Saint Joseph School community's commitment to embracing cultural diversity, fostering unity, and celebrating faith—values that lie at the very heart of the school's mission.

Build a house, build a garage, build an addition with help from Tantasqua students

FISKDALE — The Tantasqua Regional School Committee will be accepting applications for projects to be built during the 2026-2027 school year. The purpose of these projects is to provide practical work experiences for the carpentry students of Tantasqua's Technical Division. Since there is no charge for student labor, qual-

ified applicants realize substantial savings. Additional savings can result if Tantasqua's electrical students install any necessary wiring. Applications and design plans will be accepted for the construction of a single story house, garage, addition, or similar project. One or more projects may be selected. Applicant must

reside in the Tantasqua School District.

All applications should be submitted directly to the Superintendent's Office by May 15.

For further information please call the Technical Division at 508-347-3045, ext. 0915 or access our Web site at <http://www.tantasqua.org/technical/forms.htm>.

Southbridge Lions Club hosts successful Poker Tournament

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Lions Club hosted a successful No-Limit Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament on Saturday, March 7 at Maqui's Restaurant in Southbridge. The event drew strong community participation, with 79 players competing for a prize pool of \$4,000.

Players enjoyed an evening of friendly

competition, food, and refreshments in a lively and welcoming atmosphere. The tournament brought together community members for an entertaining night while supporting a meaningful cause.

The Southbridge Lions Club extends its sincere thanks to the many players, volunteers, and supporters who helped make

the tournament a success.

Proceeds from the event will support local Lions' initiatives that assist individuals and families in need and help strengthen the Southbridge community. With the strong turnout and enthusiastic support from the community, the club looks forward to bringing the tournament back again next year.

Holy Trinity announces honor roll

SOUTHBRIDGE — Holy Trinity Catholic Academy has released its honor roll for the second trimester of the 2025-2026 school year.

Grade 4
Honors: John Nadeau, Joseph Nellenback, Owen Quigley, Vincent VLK
High Honors: Lucius Bath, Victoria LaBonte, Elizabeth Nellenback

Grade 5
Honors: Vera Abud Fuentes, Jaime Cruz,

Mason Gonzalez, Jameson Howard-Donlin, Emma LaBarge, Matthew Olson

High Honors: Charlotte Heckendorf, Connor Kreidemaker, Elinor Matzelle

Grade 6
Honors: Emiliana Boswell, Karieliz Colon-Martinez, Juliana Dintino, Theodore Frazier, Elizabeth Gordon, Sachi Swadia, Jaydin Wales

High Honors: Tesslynn Cahill, Cameron Clifford,

Alerix Gonzalez, Kaleigh Haglund, Carson Lazo, Jake Simanski, Benjamin Zuziak

Grade 7
Honors: Jaliany Cruz, Angel Delgado, Ainsley Heckendorf, Evelyn Howard-Donlin, Jayden Zarzycki-Kotarba

Grade 8
Honors: Sophia Gauthier, Celia Ladd, Carilynne Norris, Ayden Rodriguez, Alexio Yacavace
High Honors: Abigail Frazier, Heer Swadia

EVENTS

continued from page A6

workshop, you'll learn what ChatGPT is, how it works, and how it can help with everyday tasks like writing, researching, organizing ideas, learning new skills, and more. No technical experience is required — just bring your curiosity and get ready to explore the world of artificial intelligence in a simple, practical way. This project was 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.

Critical Thinking Discussion Group
Friday, April 24, 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.

Honey bee swarms, no fear, the bees are on

to one of today's most popular AI tools! In this beginner-friendly

workshop, you'll learn what ChatGPT is, how it works, and how it can help with everyday tasks like writing, researching, organizing ideas, learning new skills, and more. No technical experience is required — just bring your curiosity and get ready to explore the world of artificial intelligence in a simple, practical way. This project was 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.

Critical Thinking Discussion Group
Friday, April 24, 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.

Honey bee swarms, no fear, the bees are on

the move to a new home

Tuesday, April 28, 6:00-7:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration appreciated

Swarms are a healthy and natural part of the bee life cycle. Beekeeper Dave Wade will talk about what to do if you spot one. When honey bees outgrow their home half of them and their queen move on to a new home. It is nature's way of building new bee families. Honey bees are useful in pollinating more than half the food that we eat, so who would not want more bees moving into their neighborhood? Honey bees need our help, so if you spot a swarm, report it. A beekeeper can catch it, if it is not way up high out of reach, and give the bees a new home. Registration is appreciated.

Intro to Google Keep

Tuesday, April 28, 6:00-7:30 pm OR Saturday, May 2, 1:30-2:30 pm - Local History Room - registration required

Looking for an easy way to keep track of notes, lists, and reminders? This beginner-friendly class will introduce you to Google Keep, a simple tool for organizing

ideas and everyday tasks. Learn how to create notes and checklists, set reminders, add labels, and use color-coding to keep everything organized. Perfect for anyone who wants a quick and convenient way to capture thoughts, plan tasks, and stay organized across their devices. This project was 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.

At Home In The World: Reflections of A Travel Addict

Thursday, April 30, 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

Join author Matt Davis as he discusses his childhood inspiration for travel, shares some of his favorite stories and photos from his book, and offers some travel tips. Colliding with a kangaroo in Australia, navigating Italy's strict dining customs, trying to avoid choking on a popular Japanese confection, and strolling the shores of Israel's Sea of Galilee — these are a few of the hilarious,

suspenseful, and introspective highlights of one traveler's international adventures. Featuring over 100 original photos, the book brings to life exotic locations and the author's extraordinary experiences in a way that will make you feel that you're traveling right along with him.

A Massachusetts native, Matt returned to the area after a 30-year long career as a psychology professor in California. An avid traveler, he's visited 35 countries and made over 40 cross-country road trips across the USA. He's been an invited guest speaker for many professional and community groups, and regularly appears as a travel expert on WJAR TV's Studio 10 program in Providence, RI. Books will be available for purchase and can be personally signed by Matt (\$20 cash or check).

Tiny Tots @ Night

Thursday, April 30, 6:00-6:30 pm - Storytime Room - registration required

This is an evening version of our Tiny Tots program! Best for babies to age 3. Includes songs, fingerplays, scarves, shakers, music, books & free play!

LEGALS

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT CHARLTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIRE ALARM SYSTEM REPLACEMENT

The Dudley-Charlton Regional School District (DCRS), 68 Dudley-Oxford Rd, Dudley, MA 01571, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from qualified bidders for the Charlton Elementary School at 9 Burlingame Rd, Charlton, MA 01507, in accordance with Contract Documents prepared by Gienapp Architects, LCC, 20 Conant Street, Danvers, MA 01923. Bidding procedures and the award of the contract shall be conducted pursuant to procurement procedures of M.G.L. c.30 §39M, as applicable and as amended.

The project generally consists of testing of existing fire alarm wiring, demolition and removal of existing fire alarm devices, modifications to existing fire alarm control panel, connection of new fire alarm control panel, testing and adjusting of new fire alarm control panel, installation of new fire alarm devices and detectors using existing wiring where acceptable, replacement of unsuitable wiring per testing results, cutting and patching of new penetrations, fire-stopping of new penetrations, testing and adjusting of completed fire alarm system, and the production and submission of fire alarm shop drawings and as-builts to regulating authorities.

The estimated cost of the project is **\$137,000.00**.

In order to be eligible to bid on this Contract, bidders must be licensed and possess the necessary skill, ability, integrity, and financial soundness necessary for the faithful performance of the work; who shall certify, that they are able to furnish labor that can work in harmony with all other elements of labor employed or to be employed in the work; who shall certify that all employees to be employed at the worksite will have successfully completed a course in construction safety and health approved by the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration that is at least 10 hours in duration at the time the employee begins work and who shall furnish documentation of successful completion of said course with the first certified payroll report for each employee; as well as be bonded and insured in an amount sufficient to meet the requirements of this contract.

Each bidder shall submit with its bid only those certifications and documents required by the applicable Massachusetts procurement statute, including the bid form, bid deposit, and statutory certifications. After bids are opened, the Awarding Authority may request from the apparent lowest responsible bidder such additional information as is reasonably necessary to determine bidder responsibility and eligibility, including evidence of financial capacity, bonding capability, prior project experience, references, and key personnel qualifications. Failure of the apparent successful bidder to provide such information within a reasonable time may be grounds for determining the bidder not responsible and awarding the contract to the next lowest responsible and eligible bidder. Bids for the General Contract will be received until **11:00 AM on Wednesday, April 22, 2026**

A **Pre-bid Walkthrough and Briefing** will be held at the project site on **Monday, March 31, 2026, at 3:30 PM**. Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend.

This project is being Electronically Bid (E-Bid). All bids shall be submitted online at www.Projectdog.com. Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. Tutorials and Instructions are available online at www.Projectdog.com. For assistance, contact Projectdog Inc. at (978) 499-9014.

Bid documents will be available after **11:00 am on Wednesday, March 11, 2026**, at www.Projectdog.com or for pick-up at: Projectdog, Inc, 18 Graf Road, Suite 8 Newburyport, MA 978-499-9014 (M - F 8:30AM - 5PM). Go to www.Projectdog.com and login with an existing account or click "Sign Up" to register for free. Enter Project Code **873194** in the project locator box. Select "Acquire Documents" to download documents, review a hard copy at Projectdog's physical location, or request a free project CD. Registered Bidders (General and Sub-Bidders) so designated are those entities recognized by DCRSD as included in an "official list of plan holders" for the particular project for purposes of issuing Addenda and updating the Massachusetts Central Register. **DCRS assumes no responsibility for distribution of Addenda to third parties or others, excepting official plan holders or Registered Bidders.** Copies of the FORM FOR GENERAL BID are available at no cost at the above-named location and are included

in the electronic file.

Each bidder is advised to visit the site of the proposed work, become fully acquainted with conditions as they exist, and thoroughly examine the Contract Documents. Failure of any bidder to visit the site and to examine the Contract Documents shall in no way relieve the bidder from any obligation with regard to the bid as submitted.

Arrangements for site visitation, during the bidding period, may be made in the manner set forth in the INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS.

Each general bid shall be submitted and will be considered in accordance with the INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS and other Contract Documents, and shall be accompanied by a bid bond (a) in form satisfactory to the Awarding Authority substantially conforming to the sample contained in the Contract Documents, b) with a Surety Company qualified to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and satisfactory to the Awarding Authority, and (c) conditioned upon the faithful performance by the principal of the agreements contained in the bid; or cash; or a certified check; or a treasurer's check; or by cashier's check; issued by a responsible bank or trust company, made payable to the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the bid amount.

The successful Bidders will be required to provide a Labor and Materials Payment Bond in the amount of Fifty (50%) Percent of the Contract Amount. Bonds must be written with a company qualified to do business in Massachusetts and acceptable to the Awarding Authority.

The minimum wages to be paid for all labor on the project are established in a schedule issued by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, in accordance with Section 26A - 27D, of Chapter 149 of the M.G.L., as amended, said schedule being made a part of the Contract Documents and is included therein.

Section 6(f) of Chapter 64H of Massachusetts General Laws exempts Massachusetts sales tax on building materials and supplies to be used in the project, and bidders shall not include in their bids any amount therefore.

The successful Bidder must agree to commence work as stipulated in the receipt of Notice to Proceed and complete the work in accordance with the times established in the Contract.

The Awarding Authority will reject general bids when required to do so by the above referenced General Laws. In addition, the Awarding Authority reserves the right to waive any informality in or to reject any or all general bids if it be in the public interest to do so.

Attention of all bidders is directed to the requirements of the Supplemental Equal Opportunity, Anti-Discrimination and Affirmative Action Program of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which is incorporated in the Contract Documents. State law prohibits discrimination.

By: **Dudley-Charlton Regional School District**
68 Dudley-Oxford Rd.
Dudley, MA 01571
March 27, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE ANNUAL MEETING

Savers Co-Operative Bank will hold its Annual Meeting April 13, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at the Bank, 270 Main Street, Southbridge, Massachusetts, for election of the Corporation Clerk and the members of the Board of Directors, and to take care of any other business that may be brought up for attention. An Annual Disclosure Statement may be obtained by calling (508) 765-7398 or by writing to Savers Co-Operative Bank, P.O.Box 250, Southbridge, Massachusetts 01550. Kenneth E. Rizner Clerk
March 19, 2026
March 26, 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. WO25P0087EA
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR ORDER OF
COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**

Estate of:
Genesse Marie Alicea
Date of Death: 11/20/2024
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Heliodoro Alicea of Southbridge MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object

to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/14/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. **WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.**
Date: March 16, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
March 26, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Commonwealth of Massachusetts Probate and Family Court

To all interested persons, A Petition for S/A-Formal Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Daniel B. Flynn of Woodstock, Connecticut regarding the Estate of Eleanor K. Flynn who passed away on October 24, 2023, Docket No. WO25P3880EA, requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that Daniel B. Flynn of Woodstock, Connecticut be appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in unsupervised administration. 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 April 14, 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. 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.** Dated March 16, 2026, Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate.
March 26, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 37 Breakneck Road, Sturbridge, MA 01566

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Stephanie Anne St. Germain and Ryan Lucas Goff to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Home Point Financial Corporation, and now held by **Freedom Mortgage Corporation**, said mortgage dated October 22, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 63565, Page 41, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Home Point Financial Corporation, its successors and assigns to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment dated October 15, 2025 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 72674, Page 258; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on April 27, 2026 at 01:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land located on the easterly side of Breakneck Road in Sturbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, and being shown as "Lot B-2" on page 1 of 3 pages, plan entitled "Plan of Property surveyed for Oliver L. Howlett located in Sturbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts" by Sturbridge Abstract Co., Jalbert Engineering, dated March 6, 1985 and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 532 Plan 10. Said Lot B-2 contains 4.29 acres, more or less. For our title see deed recorded herewith.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated October 22, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 63565, Page 39.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances,

unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
March 26, 2026
April 2, 2026
April 9, 2026

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Sec 40, a public hearing by the Holland Conservation Commission will be held on Tuesday 04/14/2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Conservation Commission Room, second floor, in the Holland Town Hall, at 27 Sturbridge Rd, Holland, MA. This meeting is to review a request for an amendment to the Order of Conditions filed by Black Rose Realty Group, LLC, with changes to the proposed driveway for the Campground Development at Mashapaug Road, (Map 10-A-5) Holland, MA 01521. To comply with the Open Meeting Law, all public hearings are scheduled for 6:30 PM and, barring unforeseen circumstances, will be taken in the order in which they appear on the agenda. This meeting will be held in person. The application is available for review by at the Conservation Commission Office, Town Office Building on Mondays (1:00 PM - 4:00 PM) and Tuesdays (9:00 AM - 4:00 PM).

Conservation Commission
Town of Holland
March 26, 2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT COMPLAINT TO FORECLOSE TAX LIEN [seal]

No. 19 TL 001264

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN and to all persons having any interest in the following described parcel of real estate; Dale F. Favreau, now or formerly of Sturbridge, Worcester County, and said Commonwealth; or their heirs, devisees or legal representatives:

A Complaint has been filed by the Plaintiff Town of Sturbridge. The Complaint asks the Court to enter a judgment ending any ownership rights or interests in the land described below. The Complaint is about one parcel of land located in the Town of Sturbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, described in the Complaint as follows: Property: Land Containing: 211.00 AC (more or less) Location: 372 New Boston Road Assessors: 455-00244-372 Registry: 6040/356 Land Court: - Recorded at: Worcester District Registry of Deeds

To respond to the Complaint, you or your attorney must take these steps by the Deadline to Answer, which is May Eleventh, two thousand and twenty-six.

First, prepare a written Answer. You may write your own Answer or use the form or the online guided interview program on the Court website. Second, file your Answer with the Land Court Recorder's Office, or in the Assistant Recorder's Office at the Registry of Deeds where the land is located, or using the Court's online eFiling system. Third, serve a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff by mail or e-mail.

If you do not answer the Complaint by the above Deadline to Answer, this Court will find you in default. You may lose the chance to answer or dispute the facts listed in the Complaint or pay the taxes owed. You may lose all ownership rights or interest in the land described above. If a judgment of foreclosure is entered, you will lose ownership of your property. If the property is worth more than the amount owed to cover the tax debt and foreclosure costs, you may be entitled to receive any remaining funds (excess equity) from the Plaintiff.

It is ordered that this citation be published right away, once in Southbridge Evening News a newspaper published in Southbridge.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER**, Esquire, Chief Justice of said Court, this Sixteenth day of March in the year two thousand and twenty-six.

Attest with Seal of said Court.
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
Plaintiff's Attorney: David E. Condon, Esq. Louison, Costello, Condon and Pfaff, LLP, Ten Post Office Square, Suite 1350, Boston, MA 02109 Tel: (617) 439-0305
March 26, 2026

Brimfield to mark 250th anniversary of Independence

BRIMFIELD — Save the date! On Saturday, June 13, a community-wide celebration marking the 250th anniversary of our nation's freedom will take place in Brimfield. In recognition of this year's historic milestone, a full day of remembrance and celebration is planned. All are welcome to attend the day's events, which include the following: Revolutionary War themed cemetery tours, a ceremony at the town common gazebo, a parade, and fun-filled festivities at the Brimfield Winery. The evening will close out with a spectacular fireworks display.

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

with "Spirit of Brimfield" in the memo.

This event is currently being sponsored by the Massachusetts Army National Guard and Classic Hits 97.7 FM. If you or your company are interested in any level of corporate or business sponsorship, please visit the event website at www.fohbrimfield.org. Additional

volunteers are needed for both planning and to help with activities during the event, or if you are interested in putting a float in the parade, contact Friends of Historic Brimfield at (413) 239-0288 for more information.

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church announce Easter week schedule

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Rev. Dan Purtell will officiate the services for the Holy Week services for Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 345 Main St. (Park & Ride), Sturbridge, and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church at 446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, welcoming people from all walks of life.

The Holy Week schedule includes the following services:
 April
 Thursday, April 2 (7 p.m.) - Maundy Service at Bethlehem

Friday, April 3 (7 p.m.) - Good Friday Service at Holy Trinity

Saturday, April 4 (7 p.m.) - Easter Vigil at Bethlehem
 Sunday, April 26 (10 a.m.) - Shared Easter Worship Service with Holy Trinity at Bethlehem

All are welcome.
 Services are also live streamed on Bethlehem's Facebook page. Please visit bethlehemsturbridge.org.

LEGALS

Town of Holland Zoning Board of Appeals Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with M.G. L Chapter 40A Section 9, the Holland Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 7:15 P.M.** at the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Rd, 1st Floor Community Room, Holland, MA 01521. If dial in access is needed, please contact the Town Hall at 413-245-7108 x101.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider a request for a **Special Permit** according to Holland Bylaw section 8. **Relief requested: New build on a pre-existing non-conforming lot.**

The property located at: **83 Sandy Beach Rd Parcel ID # R38/E / 15.**

Don Beal, Chairperson
 Zoning Board of Appeals
 Date: 3/12/2026
 March 19, 2026
 March 26, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 111 Plimpton Street, Southbridge, MA 01550

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Hicham Elkhazbi to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nomi-

nee for ARC Home LLC, and now held by **Freedom Mortgage Corporation**, said mortgage dated July 22, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 65676, Page 230, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for ARC Home LLC, its successors and assigns to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment dated October 17, 2025 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 72693, Page 252; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on April 27, 2026 at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

THE LAND IN SOUTHBRIDGE, WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS, WITH THE BUILDINGS THEREON AND ALL PRIVILEGES AND APPURTENANCES THERETO BELONGING SITUATED ON PLIMPTON STREET, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT AN IRON PIN IN THE GROUND ON THE WESTERLY SIDE OF PLIMPTON STREET, AT THE NORTHEASTERLY CORNER OF LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF LIONEL BEAUDRY ET UX;

THENCE N. 28 DEG. 28' E., ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF PLIMPTON STREET, 21.1 FEET TO A TOWN BOUND;

THENCE N. 15 DEG. 39' W., 47.8 FEET ALONG PLIMPTON STREET EXTENSION TO AN IRON PIPE IN THE GROUND AT LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF FRANCIS OHOP ET UX;

THENCE N. 78 DEG. 59' W., 79.43 FEET TO A DRILL HOLE IN THE WALL AT LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF E. DESMARAIS;

THENCE SOUTHERLY 41.0 FEET ALONG SAID DESMARAIS LAND TO A STAKE AT THE NORTHWESTERLY CORNER OF LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF SAID BEAUDRY; THENCE S. 66 DEG. 32' E., 108.5 FEET ALONG SAID BEAUDRY LAND TO THE IRON PIN IN THE GROUND AT THE POINT OF BEGINNING. BEING PARCEL 2 AS SHOWN ON PLAN ENTITLED "PLAN OF LAND OWNED BY NOE AND YVONNE FRENIER, SOUTHBRIDGE, MASS, AUGUST 23, 1958, W. MORSE, C.E."

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagee's Title see deed dated July 22, 2021 and recorded

in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 65676, Page 227.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
 23 Messenger Street
 2nd Floor
 Plainville, MA 02762
 Attorney for Freedom Mortgage Corporation
 Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701

March 26, 2026
 April 2, 2026
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Joshua Hyde Public Library

306 Main St, Sturbridge
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mayent@cwmar.org

SPRING TODDLER TIME - Tuesdays at 10:45am
A play-based story time where toddlers will work on valuable skills with their caregivers and socialize with kids their own age.

SPRING BABY TIME - Wednesdays at 10:45

Join Ms. Meredith for songs, rhymes, fingerplays and stories. For children 2 years and younger with an adult caregiver.

SPRING STORY TIME - Fridays at 10:45

Stories, songs, rhymes and a craft. Designed for children ages 3-5 years old but open to kids of all ages with an adult caregiver.

BASIC TECH HELP - Wednesdays from 5:00pm to 7:00pm

Make a 30-minute appointment for free hands-on basic tech help. Bring your own device or use one of the library's computers. Drop-ins are welcome but priority will be given to those with an appointment. **PLEASE NOTE:** We cannot repair broken devices, recover lost passwords, or enter your private information online.

Tuesday, April 14 at 1:00 pm

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

This month's book is "The River is Waiting" by Wally Lamb

Wednesday, April 15 at 6:30 pm

A R M C H A I R TRAVELERS BOOK GROUP

This month's book is "The Mighty Red" by Louise Erdrich

Tuesday, April 28 at 6:30pm

WORLD BUILDING BOOK GROUP

This month's book is "Wool" by High Howey

March 22 through April 18
PEEPS DIORAMA CONTEST

It's time to get crafty, Peeps lovers! Patrons of all ages are invited to participate in the Joshua Hyde Library's 2026 Peep Diorama Contest! The rules are simple: using a shoebox sized container, participants will create a diorama depicting a book, movie, TV show, or band featuring Peeps as the main characters! Let your imagination run wild and have fun with it! The completed dioramas can be dropped off in the Children's Room anytime between Sunday, March 22nd and Saturday, April 4th. No dioramas will be accepted after April 4th! The public can come and vote on their favorite dioramas during the week of April 6th through the 11th. Winners for each category will be announced by April 18th. The age categories are as follows: children - ages 12 and under; teens - ages 13 to 17; adults - ages 18 and over; and family/group: a mix of ages. Sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.

April 1 through April 30 - all day
SPRING READ FOR TREATS
Kids will take a reading log home, fill it in and return it for a prize. Reading logs and more information are available in the Children's Room at the JHPL.

Wednesday, April 1 - 2:00pm to 3:30pm

WOMEN OF THE AMERICAN RENAISSANCE: MARGARET FULLER

This project shines a light on the little-known stories of inspiring women of Concord, MA during the American Renaissance of the 1800's. This presentation focuses on Margaret Fuller, Presented by Ellen Duzak. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Sturbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Wednesday, April 1 - 5:30pm to 7:30pm

COLOR ME CALM

Slow down, settle in, and color. Drop by the library for a friendly, low-key coloring session. We'll provide a wide variety of coloring pages and plenty of supplies. Come explore a creative activity that has been shown to support mindfulness and reduce everyday stress. This program is suitable for teens and adults.

Tuesday, April 7 - 3:30pm to 4:30pm

BUILD A BEAVER DAM
April 7 is International Beaver Day! To mark this momentous occasion, kids are invited to try their hands at building one of nature's wonders: a dam. Find out what it takes to be an industrious engineering beaver and why these animals are so important to their ecosystems. This program will be held outside, weather permitting. Registration is required. For children ages 5 to 12 with an adult caregiver.

Thursday, April 9 - Virtual - 7:00pm to 8:00pm

IN CONVERSATION WITH ROMANCE AUTHOR & BASEBALL ENTHUSIAST, KD CASEY

This is a virtual program and registration is required. Just in time for Spring Training, we are thrilled to be chatting with MM romance author, KD Casey. Her most recent book, "Breakout Year", features some of our favorite tropes - fake relationships and second chance romance. We'll find out why KD is such a huge baseball fan, how she decided to feature this in her writing and all of the reasons why we should pick up her books. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Ashland Public Library and is in partnership with a multitude of MA libraries.

Monday, April 13 - 3:30pm to 4:30pm

FAMILY CRAFT TIME: PIPE CLEARER CHERRY TREE

Kids and their grown-ups can bring home that pink cherry blossom vibe with this fun pipe-cleaner craft! This program is intended for ages 7-12 with an adult caregiver. Registration is required.

Thursday, April 16 - 6:00pm to 7:00pm

LEGO CLUB

Come build with Legos. For ages 5 to 12 with an adult caregiver. Registration is required.

Thursday, April 16 - 6:30pm to 7:30pm

HONEY BEE SWARMS AND THE MOVE AND WHAT TO DO

Swarms are a healthy and natural part of the bee life cycle. This PowerPoint presentation will teach you what to do if you spot one, and how

beekeepers can help. When honey bees outgrow their home half of them and their queen move on to a new one. It is nature's way of building new bee families. Honey bees are useful in pollinating more than half the food we eat, so who would not want more bees moving into their neighborhood? Honey bees need our help, so if you spot a swarm report it. A beekeeper can catch it, if it is not way up high out of reach, and give the bees a new home. David Wade is a 20 year beekeeper in Sturbridge and is a long time member, mentor, and newly elected board member with the Worcester County Beekeepers Association.

Saturday, April 18 - 12:00pm to 1:00pm

FAMILY NATURE WALK

Join the JHPL, conservation agent Lauren and community engagement coordinator Emma, for a family-friendly nature walk! We will meet at the Heins Farm parking lot before walking the Pond Loop. This 0.7 mile trail is wheelchair and stroller accessible. Registration is required.

Tuesday, April 21 - 3:00pm to 4:30pm

CHAIN REACTIONS AND CREATIVE CONTRAPTIONS

Playful Engineers is bringing STEAM-based fun to the JHPL this April vacation! Kids are invited to come play and experiment with a variety of materials to build their own Rube-Goldberg machines. This program is highly hands-on and encourages learning through play. Registration is required and children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver.

Thursday, April 23 -

6:00pm to 7:00pm
KIDS SPRING PAINT NIGHT: BLOSSOMING HYDRANGEAS

Kids ages 7-12 are invited for a fun and seasonal paint night! We will use a variety of methods to create a portrait of blooming hydrangeas. Registration is required.

Friday, April 24 - 3:30pm to 4:30pm

UPCYCLED ART FOR KIDS

Kids ages 6 to 12 can come and create works of art using recycled materials! We will provide the supplies, you bring the creativity. Registration is required and children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. **DONATIONS** of clean, recycled items will be accepted in the Children's Room through April 13.

Saturday, April 25 - 11:00am to 11:45am

BEGINNING BIRDING WITH HANDS ON NATURE

Come learn more about the local birds in your yard and how to start identifying them! Learn which birds are common in Massachusetts and easy ways to get started in the world of birding. We will also create two simple bird feeders to bring home and enjoy. Begin the easy journey to learn more about these beautiful creatures that are an essential part of our natural world. For ages 4 to 12 with an adult caregiver. Registration is required.

Monday, April 27 - 3:30pm to 4:30pm

FAMILY CRAFT TIME: FELT MONSTER DOLLS

Kids ages 7-12 and their caretakers are invited to create their own felt monster dolls using simple sewing techniques. Registration is

required.
Tuesday, April 28 - 6:30 to 8:00pm

COME AS YOU ARE: HOW SEXUAL DESIRE REALLY WORKS

Part 1 of 3 discussions of the book "Come as You Are: The Surprising New Science That Will Transform Your Sex Life" by Emily Nagoski, PhD. The topic of this discussion is How Sexual Desire Really Works. For anyone who has ever wondered if their desire is "normal". You can attend any or all of the 3 discussions. The discussions will take place upstairs at the Sturbridge Town Hall. Books are available at the JHPL, and downloadable as e-books or e-audio on Libby.

Thursday, April 30 - 6:30 to 8:00pm

MUSHROOM BASICS & FORAGING

This presentation on mushrooms focuses on what they are, how they live, and why they're fascinating. Jonathan Kranz - MA Audubon Certified Field Naturalist and vice president of North America's oldest mushroom organization, the Boston Mycological Club - covers the basics of fungal life with insights on foraging for food and avoiding toxics. There will be a special emphasis on common mushrooms participants are likely to find in New England.

The library will be CLOSED Sunday, April 5th for Easter. The library will be CLOSED Monday, April 20th for Patriots Day.

All programs are sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL unless otherwise indicated.

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

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SUMMER TEMPORARY – GROUNDS MAINTENANCE
STURBRIDGE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Town of Sturbridge DPW seeks temporary summer workers for grounds maintenance at cemeteries, ball fields, and recreational areas. Duties include mowing, weeding, watering, planting, operating mowers, weed whackers, maintaining flower beds, and other assigned tasks. Requirements: Must be 18 years old, have a current valid driver's license, and pass a drug test. Landscaping experience preferred. May–September (approx. 20 weeks) 40 hours/week, 7:00 AM–3:30 PM, pay rate \$20/hour Apply: Sturbridge Municipal Garage, 1 New Boston Rd. Ext., Sturbridge, MA, or download an application from the Town website. Submit applications to the garage or email dpw@sturbridge.gov. Deadline: April 1, 2026. Positions open until filled.

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Call BC Industries
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Friday's Child



Layla is a resilient, energetic, and curious young girl who brings enthusiasm and joy into the spaces she enters. She loves expressing herself through colorful, hands-on arts and crafts, using creativity as a way to explore and share her ideas. Layla is very active and especially enjoys games that involve movement, where she can stay engaged and have fun at the same time. Layla attends elementary school and has built wonderful, positive connections with her teachers. She is an extroverted and outgoing child who truly enjoys being around others. Spending time with her friends at school and participating in activities within her community are among her favorite things to do.

Layla
Age 8
Registration #9377

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/44789227065>

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.



Advertise Here

Comedy Night fundraiser – more than a music scholarship

WEBSTER — Join us for the second annual Comedy Night Fundraiser to benefit the More Than Music Scholarship in Memory of Shawn Marengo. This scholarship supports

graduating Seniors from Shepherd Hill Regional High School who exemplify leadership, community service, and academic excellence. It provides meaningful financial assistance to a

deserving student pursuing higher education or vocational training, ensuring Shawn's legacy continues to make a positive and lasting impact on the community he loved. Event Details:

Date: March 28
Time: Doors open at 6 p.m., show begins at 7 p.m.
Location: PACC, 37 Harris St., Webster, MA 01570
Tickets: • \$25 in advance

• \$30 at the door
Tickets may be purchased online at:
<https://www.funny-4funds.com/events/more-than-music-in-memory-of-shawn-marengo-scholarship/1707>

This event is presented in collaboration with Steven Donovan and Funny 4 Funds. We hope you will join us for an evening of laughter in support of a wonderful cause.



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We Want Your Listings!



Dudley - 108 Southbridge Rd
Featured New Listing!

ESTATE SALE - REHAB PROPERTY BEING SOLD AS IS - ONE LEVEL RANCH HOME w/980 SF, Eat-in Kitchen, Living Rm, 3 BR, 1 Bath, Full, unfinished basement w/walkout access. FHW Baseboard Oil Heat, ~ In need of a septic system. Sloping back yard with views of the Quinebaug River. \$210,000.

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

Featured Listing ~ New To Market!
Webster ~ 33 Slater Street



Sprawling 62'x30' fieldstone faced 1 Level Ranch, located on a +/- 0.5-acre level w/24'x24' 2 car att'd garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 2 stone fireplaces w/pellet stove inserts, FHW BB heat by oil. Open floor plan w/15'x13' kitchen, 15'x22' living rm, 13'x11' dining rm, 10'x28' breezeway w/sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom, hardwood & c-tile floors, replacement windows/doors & more, more, more! How do you like it? **Call today to schedule a showing!** **\$525,000**

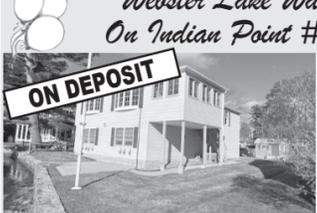
Webster - 24 Cooper Rd
New Construction - Craftsman Style home



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

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake Waterfront Listing!!
On Indian Point # 10 "Private Rd"



ON DEPOSIT

Astounding Panoramic Views across mid-section of Webster Lake! Sun drenched from early morning sunrise till sunset! View the lake from all windows. Located on a peninsula providing 2 Shorelines. Fireplaced Living Room! Recent Kitchen & Bath! Primary Bedroom w/walk-in closet. Hardwood Floors. 2 Baths. FHW Oil Heat! Central Air. Garage. **\$ 900,000.**

Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island



SORRY, SOLD!

Renovated + move-in ready lakefront home w/1,700+/- sq ft. Open kitchen/dining/living w/cathedral ceilings + wall of windows. Primary suite w/private bath! 2 add'l bedrooms, 2nd Full bath. Lower level family room w/walkout to water. Wraparound deck, new vinyl railings, terraced yard, sandy beach, professional landscaping. Many updates **\$775,000**

Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!



SORRY, SOLD!

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

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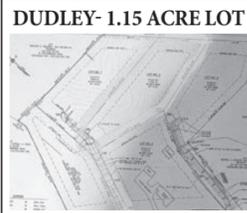
TEMPLETON- RANCH ON 1 ACRE



*3 Bedrooms * 1 Acre
*Privacy and Outdoor Space

17 Gray Rd \$409,000

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Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service at Old Sturbridge Village

STURBRIDGE — The annual Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service will be held at Old Sturbridge Village on April 5 at 6 a.m. The service is open to the public.

According to The Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale's pastor, the Rev. David W. Cote, seven local faith communities will gather at the original Baptist Meetinghouse located at the end of the Common at Old Sturbridge Village.

Also participating in this year's service are the faith communities from

Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Sturbridge), St. Anne/St. Patrick Catholic Church (Fiskdale), Brookfield Congregational Church (Brookfield), Elm Street Congregational Church (Southbridge), Holy Trinity Church (Southbridge), and St. Joseph Church (Charlton).

"The sunrise service is a simple but meaningful way to begin Easter," said Cote. "I believe that this Sunrise Service is a representation of Christ's love for us all. We come together as one body, as the sun rises to celebrate the hope that Easter brings.

All are welcome to join us."

Those planning to attend should enter the Village through the security gate at the top of the parking lot and proceed to the Meetinghouse on the Common. Attendees are encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather.

Food and drink are not permitted, except for bottled water. Old Sturbridge Village will not be open for touring during the event and restrooms will not be available. Guests are asked to leave the Village directly following the service.

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

STURBRIDGE — St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish is celebrating the month of March with a St. Patrick's Day Calendar raffle. One lucky winner will be drawn each day. The winning ticket will be reentered for more chances to win. Raffle tickets are \$10 each.

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

Other prizes include gift cards to St. Anne's Gift Shop, Tutti Quanti, Napoli's

Pizzeria, Elm Street Café, Big Bunny Supermarket, Nova's Restaurant Holland, Publick House, and tickets to Entertainment Luxury Theater.

Raffle tickets may be purchased in the St. Anne Gift Shop and in the St. Anne – St. Patrick office. Proceeds benefit St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish.

St. Anne - St. Patrick Parish is an active parish community. It offers daily Mass for worship, religious education, and community ministries. It welcomes visitors to St. Anne Shrine, the new Memorial for the

Unborn, the Hall of Saints, the Russian Icon Exhibit, the Votive Chapel, the Generations Statue, and the Angel of Hope Monument. Our pilgrims feel at peace walking the ground, including the Stations of the Cross and the Holy Stairs. And weather permitting, pilgrims also have access to a picnic grove. The Daily Rosary is recited at 3 p.m. in the St. Patrick Chapel, and weekend Masses are celebrated in its outdoor pavilion in the summer. Its religious gift shop is open every day from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.



Courtesy Photo

The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, located at 111 Main St. in Southbridge, is pleased to announce the upcoming workshop for kids. Make a leafy dreamcatcher on Saturday, April 25 at 10 a.m. All materials will be provided. Workshop is \$5 or free to paid family members. The registration form may be found on the Web site, ruthwellscenter.com.

Jacob Edwards Library welcomes Michelle "Evil Gal" Willson

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Jacob Edwards Library welcomes renowned blues vocalist Michelle "Evil Gal" Willson and her band for a free, one hour per-

formance on March 26 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. All are invited to enjoy an evening of high energy blues and jazz in a community setting.

Support for this performance is provided by the Southbridge Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Anniversary Sale!

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Courtesy Photo

Ruth Wells Center for the Arts is offering a neck chain workshop for adults and teens on Saturday, April 11 from noon- 3 p.m. Trish O'Brien will teach the group to create a beautiful copper wire 16-inch necklace with a hand crafted clasp. All materials will be provided to make this beautiful piece, the registration form is found n the Web site, ruthwellscenter.com. These workshops fill up quickly- register now! The Ruth Wells Center is located at 111 Main St in Southbridge and offers classes, workshops and exhibits to promote art and culture in the community. For more information, go to Web site or call 508-764-3341.

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