



©2026, Issue #17

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Thursday-Friday, May 7-8, 2026

Community contributions make a difference

How you can help the Joshua Hyde Public Library Thrive

STURBRIDGE — The Joshua Hyde Public Library relies on the generosity and involvement of the community to support programs and services that go beyond what the town budget can provide. There are many ways to lend a helping hand and make a positive impact. By donating your time and energy, you can support the JHPL Friends book sale team. We organize and sort books for the book sales. It's a terrific

way to stay on top of authors and all sorts of books.

We warmly welcome book donations! Whether you have a cherished novel, a delightful children's storybook, or a favorite paperback to share, your contribution makes a meaningful difference. Each donated book helps grow the JHPL Friends of the Library collection and it will find a new home during our book sales. If you're interested in donating books, please



Courtesy

Volunteers from Cornerstone Bank help the Friends of the Library prepare for book sales! A big thank you for their great support of Joshua Hyde Public Library and the community.

reach out to the Joshua Hyde Public Library 508-347-2512. We're excited to help you share your love of reading and books with others!

On Sunday, May 17, the JHPL Friends will sup-

port the amazing work of the Southbridge Garden Club. Join us on Sturbridge Common to purchase plants or to purchase a book. The JHPL Friends will be offering the opportunity to

purchase gardening books, home improvement books, and decorating titles. This event is perfect for anyone looking to spruce up their home and garden. Additionally, there will be a

wonderful selection of children's books and summer reading paperbacks, ensuring there's something for every reader. All plant sales will support the Southbridge Garden Club. Book sales will directly benefit Joshua Hyde Public Library programs.

And be sure to mark your calendars for the JHPL Friends August Book Sale, an event that brings book lovers of all ages together. The August Book Sale will be held on Saturday, Aug. 8. The sale offers a wonderful way to find new reads at affordable prices and will fund library initiatives that enrich the community.

No matter how you choose to support—whether you're pitching in as a volunteer, donating a beloved book, or hunting for your next favorite read at our upcoming sale, your involvement brings energy and excitement to the Joshua Hyde Public Library. When we come together as a community, we help the library flourish and keep educational, cultural, and recreational experiences alive for everyone. Let's make a difference, one book and one act of kindness at a time!

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

Join Sturbridge America250 Parade June 27

STURBRIDGE — The Sturbridge America250 Committee is moving forward with plans for a parade and festival on Saturday, June 27 – rain or shine. The parade will step off from the Old Sturbridge Village Museum Education parking lot at 10:30 a.m. It will proceed on the OSV access road to Route 20, then to Route 131 and end at the Town Common. Bill Emrich will emcee the parade. The parade will include marching bands, entertainers, antique cars, floats made by local businesses, and area groups. Bob Briere, recognized by many as the Town's historian, is the parade Grand Marshal. Virginia Jalbert, the Town's oldest resident at 101, is the guest of honor.

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

Anyone wishing to participate can email sturbridge250@gmail.com.

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

Southbridge Historical Society hosting program on local Revolutionary War veterans

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Historical Society will meet on Wednesday, May 13 at 7 p.m. at the Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, 111 Main St.

Re-enactors from the Sturbridge Roster will describe what it was like to be militia men in period clothing, and will display weaponry and other equipment and artifacts from that time.

Raymond Pettrelli of

Southbridge and Doug Quigley of Sturbridge and others will present the program about the Sturbridge Militia. Pettrelli portrays Dennison Wheelock, and Quigley portrays Timothy Parker, a captain of one of the three companies in the Sturbridge Militia. Parker was also a veteran of the French and Indian War.

Wheelock is buried at Oak Ridge Cemetery. This will be a fitting program for our nation's 250th.

Both local historians, Pettrelli is a longtime and well known driving instructor, and Quigley is a retired postal clerk from the Southbridge Post Office.

Following the veterans' presentation, Sturbridge historian and author Wally Hersee will talk briefly about additional local veterans who had been lost to history and not necessarily commemorated on bronze memorial plaques

and monuments. Hersee's extensive research has uncovered dozens of other soldiers who are documented in his next book, titled "To Defend All That is Dear: The Soldiers Who Served Sturbridge, Massachusetts in the War for Independence." Many are buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

The public is invited to history and not necessarily commemorated on bronze memorial plaques

From canvas to concert

Tantasqua celebrates student talent

FISKDALE — Tantasqua Regional School District's Annual All-Region Arts Show is coming up on May 13! Showcasing the artwork of student artists from grades K - 12 throughout the district, this community favorite event will be rounded out by musical performances from the high school band and choruses. Set to take place on Tuesday, May 13, the art show will be held from 5pm to 7pm with the musical performances starting at 7 p.m.

The annual All-Region Arts Show provides an opportunity for students from all of the district's schools, including Brimfield Elementary, Brookfield Elementary, Burgess Elementary, Holland Elementary, Wales Elementary, and the Tantasqua Regional Jr./Sr. High Schools, to display their creative talent. This year, the show will bring together an impressive array of 2D and 3D works combined with live musical performances by the senior high bands and choruses, offering a glimpse

into the wide-ranging artistic talent cultivated across the district.

Among the evening's highlights are the senior showcase celebrating artwork created by graduating seniors, immersive elementary art presentations, face painting, and fun activities for all ages, with raffles and prize drawings for Tantasqua Regional students attending the event.

The Tantasqua community and beyond are warmly invited to attend the Annual All-Region Arts Show and experience the remarkable talent of the district's students firsthand.

For more information, please contact Bryce French at 508-347-9301, ext. 5010.

Key details of the Annual All-Region Arts Show:

Date: Tuesday, May 13

Time: Art Show - 5 - 7 p.m., Musical Performances - 7 to 9 p.m.

Location: Tantasqua High School, 319 Brookfield Rd., Fiskdale



Courtesy Photo

The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, located at 111 Main St. in Southbridge, will hold its annual Community Flea Market on Saturday, May 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The rain date is May 16. The flea market will offer spacious front lawn space for vendors selling vintage goods. This is a great opportunity to clean out treasures, as well as find great bargains. There may be space left, go to the Web site, ruthwellscenter.com, for registration form. Space is only \$30. Don't miss this terrific sale. The Ruth Wells Center offers art exhibits, workshops, rental space for functions and has been a cultural icon in Southbridge for almost 50 years.

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

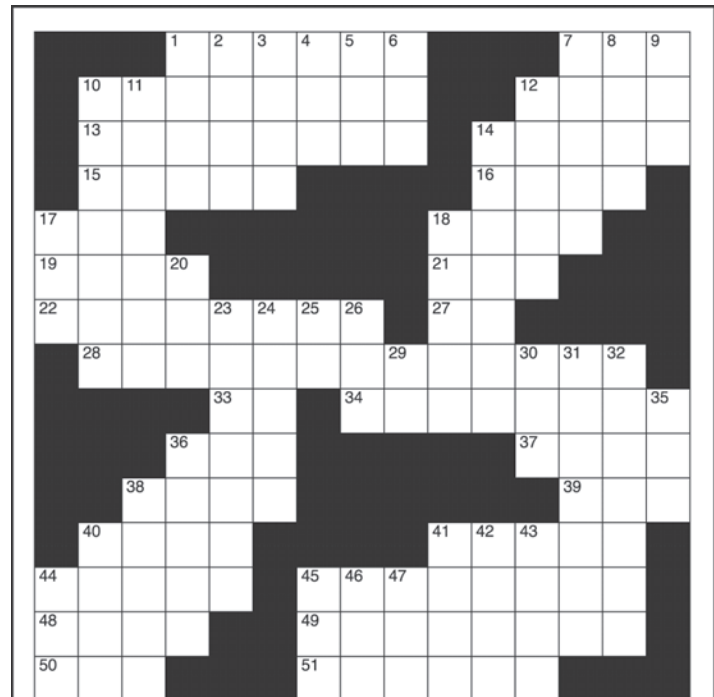
Events will culminate in May and June. A Family Fun Day on May 16 features a Children’s Bike Decorating and Parade, followed with activities on the Common including: a Mini Big-Top Circus, face painting, T-shirt decorating, yard games, potato sack and 3-legged races, music and more. A hot dog cart will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

Health & Wellness Fair
Feria de Salud y Bienestar

Join us for the annual community health fair!
¡Únase a nosotros en la feria anual de salud comunitaria!

MAY 14, 2026 • 10 A.M. -12 P.M.
CASAUBON SENIOR CENTER
153 CHESTNUT ST.
SOUTHBRIDGE



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Large dung beetle
- 7. Gambling game _-lo
- 10. Further along
- 12. Type of tobacco
- 13. Looked for
- 14. Silk fabric
- 15. Computer method to solve equations
- 16. As fast as can be done (abbr.)
- 17. Tear
- 18. Brews
- 19. “Famous” cookie baker
- 21. Women’s Army Corps
- 22. Front parts of an animal
- 27. It’s causing quite a stir
- 28. Beloved March holiday
- 33. 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 34. More impudent
- 36. Indicates center
- 37. Young woman (French)
- 38. A cause of distress
- 39. Santa’s helper
- 40. Hillside
- 41. Many wombs
- 44. Is afraid of
- 45. Popular baked goods ingredient
- 48. Popular computers
- 49. Conceiving of
- 50. Google certification (abbr.)
- 51. Sturdy

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Peruse quickly
- 2. Automobiles
- 3. Razorbill genus
- 4. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 5. Consumed
- 6. A place to sleep
- 7. Small seeds
- 8. Legendary law man Wyatt
- 9. Female sheep
- 10. Indigenous peoples of eastern Siberia
- 11. A place ships dock
- 12. Reciprocal of sine
- 14. Discomfort
- 17. British Air Aces
- 18. Exit sleep
- 20. Solar energetic particle
- 23. Plagues characterized by starvation
- 24. Short musical composition
- 25. Trauma center
- 26. Habitual twitching
- 29. A place where checks are exchanged (abbr.)
- 30. Decimeter
- 31. Hinged surface in a wing
- 32. Shouting
- 35. Sports official
- 36. Volcanic craters
- 38. Supportive device
- 40. It’s part of a rosary
- 41. Two-toed sloth
- 42. Body art
- 43. Let out
- 44. Foreign medical graduate
- 45. Nonprofit journalism organization (abbr.)
- 46. Couples say it
- 47. Bird’s beak

Sturbridge resident receives Doctorate of Philosophy in Biomedical Science from UMass Chan Medical School and WPI

AMHERST — Kathryn R. Monopoli of Sturbridge, MA received a Doctor of Philosophy from the Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences part of the UMass Chan Medical School in combination with Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Her concentration was in quantitative and computational biosciences and bioengineering and her research concentrated on RNA therapeutics and machine learning. A graduation ceremony held on the institution’s Worcester

campus on Sunday, May 31. Kathryn is the daughter of Michael and Carolann Monopoli of Sturbridge. Dr. Monopoli graduated from Tantasqua High School, attended Colorado School of Mines and earned her undergraduate and masters degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 2015. Presently, Monopoli is employed as a senior scientist in oligonucleotide therapeutics at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals.

REAL ESTATE

Charlton \$440,000, 150 Ramshorn Rd, Stewart Denise I Est, and Mckinstry, Jennifer J, to Mckinstry, Cole P, and Mckinstry, Forrest P.

SOUTHBRIDGE \$427,000, 88 Highland St, Doris W Kiura Ret, and Gachagua, Peterson, to Manbeck, Katerine, and Manbeck, Justin.

\$424,000, 311 Lebanon Hill Rd, Rondeau, Adam M, and Rondeau, Joni M, to Sleeper, Brian A.

\$393,000, 13 Ridge Rd, Mcdonald, Travis J, to

Sinkis, Tiffany. \$386,000, 858 N Woodstock Rd, Kinovate Homes LLC, to Perkins, Astra Eloise.

STURBRIDGE \$718,000, 19 Preserve Way, Holloway, Kimberly, and Braun, Todd, to Wish, Alan, and Riccio, Cara.

\$560,000, 74 Fairview Park Rd, Leblanc, Matthew, and Leblanc, Kellie, to Orellana, Fernando J, and French, Alexandra C.

\$19,000, 24-A Camp Rd, Boudreau John F Est, and Boudreau, Deborah M, to Lussier, Chance.

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

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

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Charlton City (01508) (800) 275-8777

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Dudley-Charlton Regional School District
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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.bethlehemsturbridge.org
Services - Sunday 9:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell
- **Holland Congregation Church** “Where the Bible is preached.”
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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
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G D E R O B U S T

Sturbridge America250 celebration invites community to Family Fun Day

STURBRIDGE — The Sturbridge America250 Celebration Committee invites the community to our Family Fun Day on Saturday, May 16, from noon to 3 p.m. on the Sturbridge Common. This is the first of two community-wide events commemorating America's 250th anniversary. The second, on June 27, features

a parade followed by activities on the Common. The Family Fun Day kicks off at Noon with a Patriotic Costume Parade. Participants can check in starting at noon and will receive a parade number and patriotic goodie bag. The Parade begins at 12:15 p.m. Prizes will be given for: Most Historical,

Most Patriotic, and Best Family/Group Theme. From 1 – 2 p.m., the Mighty Top Big Circus will perform. This is a small but mighty show with aerial silks, hula-hoop acrobatics, and aerial hoop acts. After the show, kids can jump in and try out hula hoop tricks and other circus skills themselves. By watch-

ing and joining in, kids can learn more about coordination, rhythm, and sticking with something new. In collaboration with the Joshua Hyde Public Library, this program is supported in part by a grant from the Sturbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Following the Circus there will be a potato sack race, and a three-legged race, with prizes awarded. Throughout the afternoon families can enjoy yard games, a selfie station, face painting, a balloon artist, and an inflatable double slide. Girl Scout Troop #65394 will have a coloring and crafts table, with the

crafts sponsored by the Stephanie Lachapelle Group with Compass. Children can make a patriotic hat with the Daughters of the American Revolution. ADJ will be acting as emcee and providing music throughout the afternoon. Free hot dogs, chips, and water will be provided to the

first 250 attendees. Food can also be purchased from attending Food Trucks. The Sturbridge America250 Committee thanks Veolia for providing prizes, goodie bags, and the hot dogs, chips, and water. On Saturday, June 27, the community is invited to participate in and enjoy a parade

starting at OSV and ending on the Town Common, followed by a number of patriotic activities on the Common. Anyone who wishes to participate should go to the Sturbridge Recreation Dept. Web site: sturbridgema.myrec.com. More information on the parade and activities will be coming soon.

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

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

These dinners are part of the Publick House's ongoing effort to support local organizations. A portion of each ticket sold will go directly to the church. "We're grateful to be included in this program," said event organizer Spiro Thomo. "It's a simple way for people to come together, enjoy a good meal, and

support the church at the same time." Two seatings are available: 4:30–6 p.m. and 6:30–8 p.m. The buffet menu includes oven-roasted turkey, cornbread-sausage stuffing, mashed potatoes, butter-nut squash, and cranberry sauce. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$5 for children ages four to 11. All tickets must be purchased in

advance—no sales at the door. The deadline is Friday, May 15. For tickets or information, contact Spiro Thomo at 774-200-8043, or by email to spirothomo@gmail.com. Payment is by cash or check made payable to The Publick House. The mission of St. Michael Romanian Orthodox Church

is to experience the grace of God and to share it with others.

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CALL DONALD ROY 860-874-8396

Southbridge Garden Club to hold annual plant sale May 17

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Garden Club is holding its annual Plant Sale on Sunday, May 17, at the Sturbridge Common, from 9 a.m. – noon. This year, there will be plenty of varieties to choose from, including hanging baskets and potted annuals, early-Spring vegetables, locally-grown perennials, houseplants,

a table of "garden treasures," free soil testing and information from the Master Gardener booth, and independent vendors. Take about 10 soil samples from different areas of your garden plot, put them in a plastic bag, and your soil will be analyzed with suggestions of amendments to add to your garden for growing healthy plants. This is an opportunity for local residents to purchase healthy plants for their homes and gardens as we kick off another gardening season, while supporting the Southbridge Garden Club's mission to provide local scholarships and community gardening projects. There will be plenty of parking and lots of opportunities to bring home some special items at reasonable prices!

Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall

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

YEAR-ROUND SHORT-TERM RENTAL
Egrets Landing-31A - Lighthouse Point
CONDOMINIUMS - TYBEE ISLAND, GEORGIA

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

SPRING PLANT SALE
Sturbridge Common
SUNDAY, May 17th
One Day Only - Rain or Shine
9am – Noon

Hanging baskets, Annuals, Perennials, Houseplants and more at reasonable prices!

Proceeds support Southbridge Garden Club's Community outreach, local scholarships & programs.

LOCAL FOLKS
Locally owned businesses here to serve you!

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

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Friday's Child

Cristian
Age 12
Registration #9325

Cristian, who goes by CJ, is a cheerful and affectionate young boy who brings joy to those around him with his frequent smiles and laughter. He is polite, respectful, and enjoys connecting with others. CJ thrives during community outings—whether it's going to the movies, visiting local parks, or spending time outdoors when the weather is nice. CJ has a special love for animals and enjoys sharing his drawings, proudly naming different animals and mimicking the sounds they make. He is creative and expressive, with interests in coloring, drawing, and practicing his writing skills. CJ's favorite color is red, and he especially loves Spiderman. If he could choose, he'd happily eat chicken and rice every day. CJ shows and receives affection through high-fives and hugs, making him a warm and engaging child who enjoys meaningful connections with others.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/34301707102>

Can I Adopt?

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A library built by its community

In towns like Sturbridge, a library is never only about books.

It is a gathering place. A quiet corner for reflection. A starting point for curiosity, whether that curiosity belongs to a child discovering a first chapter book or an adult searching for something new. And while the Joshua Hyde Public Library is supported by public funding, much of what makes it special comes from something less predictable but far more powerful: the steady, generous involvement of the community itself.

That truth is easy to overlook. We walk through the doors, attend a program, or check out a book, and rarely stop to consider how many of those offerings are made possible not by a line item in a budget, but by neighbors who chose to give their time or share something they no longer needed.

The work of the Friends of the Library is a clear example. Their book sales are not only popular events, they are a quiet engine that helps fund programs and services that might otherwise be out of reach. Behind those sales are volunteers who sort, organize, and prepare thousands of donated books. It is careful, hands-on work, and it speaks to a simple idea: when people invest their time, the entire community benefits.

The act of donating a book may seem small, but it carries surprising weight. A novel read and loved once can find its way to a new reader. A children's book can spark imagination again in a different home. A gardening guide or how-to manual can help someone tackle a new project. These are modest exchanges, but together they create a cycle of sharing that strengthens the community in ways that are hard to measure but easy to feel.

Events like the upcoming gathering on Sturbridge Common bring that spirit into the open. Pairing book sales with plant sales in support of the Southbridge Garden Club is a reminder that local organizations rarely operate in isolation. Instead, they thrive when they work alongside one another, each effort reinforcing the next. It is a model that has long defined small-town life, where cooperation is not a strategy but a habit.

And then there is the annual August book sale, a tradition that draws readers of all ages. It is the kind of event that feels familiar year after year, yet remains essential. In an era where so much of daily life has moved online, there is something enduring about browsing a table of books, discovering an unexpected title, and leaving with something tangible.

What stands out most is not any single event or effort, but the collective impact. A volunteer's hour, a donated paperback, a purchase at a book sale, these are small contributions on their own. Together, they help sustain a library that offers far more than shelves and circulation numbers.

The continued success of the Joshua Hyde Public Library depends on that shared sense of responsibility. It depends on people choosing to take part, in whatever way they can. Not everyone has time to volunteer, but many can donate a book. Not everyone has books to give, but many can attend a sale. Participation takes many forms, and each one matters.

A strong library reflects a strong community. It reflects people who believe that access to knowledge, creativity, and connection is worth supporting. In Sturbridge, that belief is still very much alive.

The invitation now is simple. Show up. Lend a hand. Pass along a book. Support an event. These are small acts, but they carry forward something larger.

A library does not flourish on its own. It flourishes because a community chooses to help it do so.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

OPINION

Four estate planning myths that could cost your family

Consider this scenario: A teacher of 30 years and mother of three passes away at age 58. She leaves behind a modest home, a retirement account and cherished family heirlooms – but no estate plan. Her children, still grieving, find themselves navigating a confusing probate process, disagreeing about when to sell the house, and considering who gets their grandmother's ring.

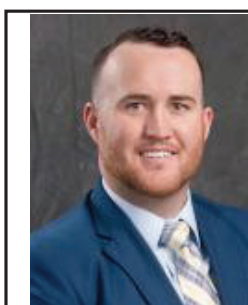
This mom wasn't wealthy by most measures, but her lack of planning created confusion, conflict, and uncertainty at a time when her family needed clarity. Her story reminds us of an important truth: estate planning is about easing conflict and making sure what you have goes where you want it to go.

As you think about your own legacy, consider these myths that can lead to costly mistakes and unintended outcomes.

Myth 1: Estate planning is only for wealthy people. The desire to make things easier for loved ones has nothing to do with net worth. Formally documenting your wishes reduces the burden on family members and gives you control. Without a plan, your state's laws will decide how your estate is handled, and you may not like what those laws say.

Myth 2: Having a will is all you need. While a will is important, it only takes effect after death. That means it offers no protection if you become incapacitated and cannot make decisions for yourself. It does, however, allow you to name legal guardians for dependent children.

The foundation of most estate plans includes a will (which directs asset distribution), a financial power of attorney (for financial decisions), a health care power of attorney (for medical decisions), and a medical directive (to share your end of life wishes). While not everyone needs a trust, there are several that allow you to make special provisions, such



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as for minor children, a special needs family member or even a cherished pet. Consulting with a financial advisor and an estate planning attorney can help determine the right combination based on your situation.

Myth 3: Equal distribution is always fair. It's likely that the individuals in your estate plan, especially if they are adult children, have different family and financial situations. You may have one child who's extremely successful financially while another is struggling. Or you may have assets, such as a house or ownership of a family business, that are more suitable for one beneficiary than another. It's important to consider any unique circumstances as you develop your estate plan.

Myth 4: I can set it and forget it. You'll want to review your estate plan every few years or when a major life event occurs. Life is full of changes, such as marriages, divorces, new children and relocations, and they will likely impact your goals. Reviewing your plan helps keep everything aligned with your wishes and serves as a reminder to keep your beneficiaries on all your assets up to date.

Ultimately, estate planning is about helping ensure your voice is heard and your loved ones cared for, no matter what the future holds.

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.

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The quiet way our mothers shape us

There's a certain quiet to a Sunday morning in May that feels different from the rest of the year. Maybe it's the way the light comes in softer, or the way people seem to move a little slower, a little more thoughtfully. Or maybe it's just that we all know what the day is, even before we say it out loud.

Mother's Day has a way of doing that. It doesn't need much announcement. It settles in gently, like a familiar song you haven't heard in a while but still remember every word to.

I was thinking the other day about how we tend to mark time in our lives. We remember the big things, of course, the graduations, the weddings, the first jobs. But when you really sit with it, it's often the smaller, quieter moments that come back the clearest. And more often than not, there's a mother somewhere in the middle of those memories.

Not always in the foreground, mind you. Sometimes she's just off to the side, making sure everything is running the way it should. Packing lunches, folding laundry, reminding someone about an appointment, or standing in a doorway watching the whole thing unfold.

It's funny how much of that work goes unnoticed at the time. Not appreciated, exactly, just... assumed. Like the sun coming up in the morning. You don't always stop to think about it because it's always been there.

I can remember, years ago, coming home after a long day, the kind where nothing seems to go quite right. You're tired, maybe a little irritated with the world, and not particularly good company. And there she is, asking how your day went, as if she's got all the time in the world to listen to the answer.

And she means it. That's the part that sticks with you.

There's a steadiness to mothers that's hard to put into words. Not all of them are the same, of course. Some are quiet, some are talkative, some are firm, some are gentle. But there's usually a thread that runs through all of them, a kind of quiet determination to make things better for the people they care about.

You don't always see it when you're young. In fact, I'd say most of us miss it entirely at the time. We're too busy growing up, figuring things out, making our own mistakes. It's only later, when life has had a chance to knock a few

LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET By CHARLES

corners off us, that we start to understand what was really going on.

I've come to believe that a lot of what we carry with us into adulthood, the good habits, the sense of right and wrong, the way we treat other people, has roots that go back to those early days. To kitchens and living rooms and car rides where lessons were

taught without ever feeling like lessons.

And if you're lucky, those roots hold firm. Mother's Day, for all the cards and flowers and phone calls, isn't really about any of that, at least not entirely. Those things are nice, and they matter, but they're more like symbols than anything else. What the day really does is give us a reason to pause.

To notice. To think about the people who shaped us in ways we didn't always recognize at the time. To pick up the phone if we can. To say thank you, even if it feels a little overdue.

And for those who can't make that call anymore, it's a day to remember. To sit with those memories and let them come as they are, sometimes warm, sometimes a little bittersweet.

I don't think there's a right way to spend the day. Some folks gather with big family dinners, full tables and loud conversations. Others keep it quiet, maybe a visit, maybe a walk, maybe just a moment to themselves.

But however it's spent, there's something steady about it. Something that reminds us that no matter how much the world changes, some things remain constant.

The care. The patience. The way someone showed up, day after day, whether we noticed or not.

You don't need a grand gesture to recognize that. Sometimes it's enough just to stop, look around, and understand, maybe a little better than we did before, what was given to us along the way.

And if you happen to find yourself on Main Street this weekend, passing by the shops and the familiar faces, you might notice something else too. A few more people carrying flowers. A few more smiles exchanged. A few more quiet moments tucked into an otherwise ordinary day.

That's Mother's Day, I suppose. Not loud, not showy. Just present, the way it's always been.

And if you ask me, that feels about right.

TO THE EDITOR

Let's continue to listen to one another

To the Editor:

Friends and neighbors, I want to thank all the voters of Charlton who came out to vote this past Saturday. The overwhelming response that my campaign for the Charlton Select Board received from the community is heartwarming; the emails, comments, letters to the editor, and most importantly the face-to-face conversations we had were inspiring, informative and heartwarming.

This is a great community, and one that like so many others, is in transition. Many wonderful, new families are moving here. Charlton faces similar issues to those that towns and cities across the country are facing; maintaining town infrastructure, funding continuous improvement in schools, managing the environment we live in, and protecting our rights. We need to strongly support existing businesses, while expanding the business community. With our growing families and aging parents, we need to ensure that our youth

and our seniors have the services and respect due them. There is a lot of work to do.

The new Select Board has some very significant work ahead. That work will require meaningful, fact-based conversation, collaboration, creativity, and civility. I wish them the best going forward, doing the people's business; and congratulate new Select Board member Mike Kavorkian. I consider it a privilege and a civic responsibility to be engaged in those conversations, and I look forward being part of them.

Thank you, Charlton. Let's continue listening and talking to one another, as time and circumstances move us all into the future.

With gratitude,

Bruce Menin
Charlton

Brookfield-based painter and photographer's work on display at Ruth Wells Center

SOUTHBRIDGE — A new spring exhibit celebrating color, renewal, and creative expression will open this month at the Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, featuring recent work by local painter and photographer Laura Cenedella.

Titled "April Showers Bring May Flowers," the show will run from May 9 through May 24, with an opening reception scheduled for Saturday, May 9, from noon to 4 p.m. Admission to both the reception and the exhibit is free.

Cenedella, a Brookfield-based artist, brings a wide-ranging body of work that reflects her background in both painting and photography. Working across oil, acrylic, watercolor, and pastel, she has built a reputation for vibrant, expressive pieces as well as commissioned works including murals and pet portraits. Her photography has

also gained recognition, most recently appearing in the Small Stones 2026 Art Catalog.

Her artistic path began in high school and has evolved into a largely self-directed practice. Over the years, her work has earned awards from organizations such as the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Blackstone Valley Art Association, and the Massasoit Art Guild. She remains active in the regional arts community, serving as a board member of the Blackstone Valley Art Association and maintaining memberships with several arts organizations.

Cenedella's work has been displayed in venues across Massachusetts, including libraries and the Worcester Art Museum, and she continues to expand her reach through both in-person exhibitions and an online following built through videos documenting her creative process.

In addition to her studio work, Cenedella has been involved in community outreach, leading art workshops in partnership with Open Sky Community Services in Whitinsville and teaching through adult education programs, including at Bay Path Technical High School. She has also participated in recent local exhibits at the Jacob Edwards Library in Southbridge and the Charlton Public Library.

The upcoming show marks her latest solo exhibition and continues her focus

on making art accessible within the community.

The opening reception will also feature live music by George Hamilton Smith, who will perform jazz standards on the gallery's grand piano.

The gallery will be open weekends from noon to 4 p.m., with weekday and evening visits available by appointment. To schedule a viewing, visitors may contact ruthwellsart@gmail.com or call 508-764-3341.

Actors sought for living history cemetery tour!

BRIMFIELD — As part of Brimfield's 250th celebration of the American Revolution, a living history cemetery tour is being planned for June 13. The tour includes powerful stories of the men who left home to serve in the patriot cause and the families they left behind. Registration details to follow.

Organizers are seeking a male actor to portray a notable Brimfield resident whose family sent fourteen men to fight for freedom. Narrators, who will read short graveside scripts, are also needed. Contact Sue DeBruin through the Friends of Historic Brimfield at (413) 239-0288 to lend your talents and make history come alive!

Southbridge Lions Club announces 15th Annual Al DiPetro Memorial Golf Tournament

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

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

which includes greens fees, a golf cart, lunch and refreshments, tournament prizes, and a steak or chicken dinner. Prizes will be awarded to the top three finishing teams, and a variety of raffle prizes will also be available.

Advance registration is required. Those interested in participating can contact Gary Fontaine at 774-230-1412 or Steve Stella at 508-989-1974, or reach out to any Southbridge Lions Club member.

Organizers say the tournament promises a full day of golf, camaraderie, and support for local initiatives, continuing a long-standing tradition of giving back to the Southbridge community.



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Saint Joseph School students embark on memorable Washington, D.C. journey

WEBSTER — During April Vacation week, students in Grades 7 and 8 from Saint Joseph School embarked on an enriching and faith-filled trip to Washington, D.C., combining history, culture, and fellowship into a truly unforgettable experience.

The group gathered in the early morning hours on Monday, April 20, meeting at the school at 4:30 a.m. before departing by coach at 5 a.m. for the nation's capital. Upon arrival, students immediately immersed themselves in American history with a visit to Arlington National Cemetery, where



Courtesy

Students in Grades 7 and 8 from Saint Joseph School, along with their chaperones, gather on the steps of the Jefferson Memorial during their April vacation trip to Washington, D.C., pausing for a group photo while taking in the historic setting and reflecting on the legacy of one of the nation's Founding Fathers.

they observed the solemn Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Changing of the Guard. The day continued with visits to iconic memorials, including the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and Korean War Veterans Memorial.

Tuesday offered a meaningful blend of civic and spiritual experiences. Students toured the grounds of the United States Capitol and visited the magnificent Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. A highlight of the trip was Mass at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine, where Headmaster Fr. Richard Polek served as a concelebrant. Following Mass, students were warmly greeted by Sister Veritas Green of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, who presented each student with a Divine Mercy prayer card featuring the image revealed to Saint Faustina Kowalska. She

then spent time speaking with the students about the message and significance of the Divine Mercy, offering a meaningful moment of reflection.

The afternoon included a visit to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, along with photo stops at the White House and the Washington Monument. Students concluded the day by visiting additional memorials honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Thomas Jefferson.

Wednesday's itinerary continued to bring history to life. Students visited Ford's Theatre, gaining insight into the life and legacy of President Abraham Lincoln. The group then traveled to Virginia to explore the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, part of the Smithsonian Institution. This stop proved to be a favorite among students, many of whom enthusiastically participated in flight simula-

tors and explored historic aircraft. Another highlight was the National Museum of the United States Army, where hands-on STEM activities engaged students in interactive learning. The day concluded with visits to the Pentagon Memorial and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

While visiting the Kennedy Center's terrace, students were treated to a breathtaking sunset overlooking the city. With sweeping views of Washington, D.C. as their backdrop, students captured memorable photos, taking in the beauty of the nation's capital in a truly special moment of reflection and joy.

On the final day, students visited The People's House—an interactive museum experience focused on the White House—where many enjoyed stepping inside a full-scale replica of the Oval Office. The group also toured the United States Holocaust Memorial

Museum. While there, several students had the extraordinary opportunity to meet and listen to Holocaust survivor Rose-Hélène Spreiregen, who shared her story as a young Jewish girl in France during World War II. After her mother was arrested and deported to Auschwitz, Rose-Hélène fled Nazi-occupied Paris with her grandmother and survived the war in hiding, enduring fear, separation, and uncertainty at a very young age.

Her powerful testimony brought history to life in a deeply personal way and left a lasting impression on all who were present. The final Smithsonian stop was the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, providing students with a fascinating look at the natural world.

Throughout the trip, students demonstrated curiosity, respect, and enthusiasm as they explored the rich history and culture of the nation's cap-

ital. Supported by the expertise of a professional tour guide provided by the travel program—who offered meaningful historical context and engaging insights at each stop—students were able to deepen their understanding of the people, places, and events that have shaped our nation. Among their favorite experiences were the Air and Space Museum's flight simulators, the interactive exhibits at the Museum of the United States Army, the engaging exhibits at The People's House, and the powerful and inspiring visit to the Lincoln Memorial.

More than just an educational excursion, the trip fostered a strong sense of community and fellowship among students and chaperones. The experience was led by Principal Beth Boudreau, Headmaster Fr. Richard Polek, and Grade 5 teacher Susan Gallivan, whose leadership and dedication helped make the journey both meaningful and memorable.

This Washington, D.C. trip is quickly becoming a valued and emerging tradition at Saint Joseph School. Now in its second offering—following the inaugural trip in 2023—the experience is extended to students who demonstrate strong character, responsibility, and a genuine desire to participate. More than just a trip, it is an opportunity earned through consistent effort and positive contributions to the school community. As this tradition continues to grow, it stands as a meaningful way to celebrate student commitment while providing an unforgettable educational and faith-filled experience.

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Charlton Garden Club Plant Sale fundraiser set for May 16!



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

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

to pay annual dues.

The purpose of the Charlton Garden Club is "To create interest in gardening in all its branches and encourage the beautification of home and community." The plant sale is our major fundraiser with funds used for speakers and community beautification projects. Each year club members plant flowers at the Morton Memorial as well as beds on other parts of the Common. At Olde Home Day, the club sets up a flower show with arrangements from club members for pleasant viewing by all. Throughout the years, the club has planted trees and flowers at our schools, police station, town hall and churches. In the past, scholarships were awarded to Shepherd Hill or Bay Path students entering horticultural related fields.

The Charlton Garden club offers opportunities to learn more about plants and the environment, to participate in community beautification projects as well as to instill an appreciation for our natural resources. Plus, it is a great place to meet other local gardening enthusiasts. Those interested in learning more about the garden club, can email us at charltongardenclub@gmail.com.

St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish calls for volunteers for Novena

FISKDALE — Since 1887, pilgrims and parishioners have gathered at Saint Anne Shrine for the annual Novena, first celebrated with a procession of thanksgiving for miraculous healings. The Novena is always held July 18 through July 26, for the Feast of Saints Anne and Joachim. Each evening begins with a procession and the Rosary, followed by Mass. On the final day, we celebrate a special Mass for Healing and honor grandparents in a particular way.

The theme of this year's Novena is "One in Christ, United in Mission," and we invite all parishioners, visitors, and pilgrims to join us in deepening our relationship with Christ in the Eucharist. Whether you come for one evening or for all nine days, we look forward to celebrating this beautiful tradition with you.

To help make this sacred event welcoming and safe for all, the parish needs volunteers with medical experience, such as nurses, doctors, and paramedics; parking attendants; shuttle drivers; and trained security.

If you feel called to serve in any of these capacities, please contact the parish office at 508-347-7338 by May 15. There will be an orientation meeting for all volunteers before the novena begins.

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, Hall of Saints, Russian Icon Exhibit, Votive Chapels, Generations Statue, Angel of Hope Monument, and the new Memorial for the Unborn. The Daily Rosary is recited at 3 p.m. in the St. Patrick Chapel, and weekend Masses are celebrated in the outdoor pavilion in the summer. The religious gift shop is open every day from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.



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Girls on the Run Worcester County will host 5K event May 17

WORCESTER — Girls on the Run Worcester County will host its 5K event on Sunday, May 17 at Polar Park in Worcester.

This spring season, Girls on the Run Worcester County is supporting more girls than they ever have in a single season, reaching 986 girls throughout Worcester County. Girls on the Run is a physical activity-based, positive youth development program that uses fun running games and dynamic discussions to teach life skills to girls in 3rd to 8th grade. During the eight to ten-week program, girls participate in lessons that foster confidence, build peer connections and encourage community service while they prepare for an end-of-season celebratory 5K event.

event will benefit Girls on the Run Worcester County. This season's 5K event is expected to bring together approximately 4,000 participants including program participants, their family, friends, and community members. Registration is \$55 or \$65 for day of registration and includes a finishers medal. This event is not chip timed as Girls on the Run volunteer coaches coach their girls to run at their "happy pace" and the goal is to cross the finish line.

The doors will open at Polar Park at 8:30 a.m., and the run will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 17 at Polar Park. Early arrival is suggested. For more information about the event, how to register and volunteer opportunities, visit www.gotr-worc.org.

Participation in the 5K event on May 17 is open to the public and all proceeds from the

About Girls on the Run Based in Charlotte, N.C., Girls on the Run

is a nonprofit organization with local Councils in all 50 states. Founded in 1996 with 13 girls, Girls on the Run has now served over 2 million girls. Over the course of the program, girls in 3rd-8th grade develop essential social, emotional and physical skills to successfully navigate life experiences. The program culminates with girls positively impacting their communities through a service project and being physically and emotionally prepared to complete a celebratory 5K event.

With the largest 5K series by number of events in the world, Girls on the Run hosts more than 330 5Ks per year. Girls on the Run is included as a top research-based program in a Social-Emotional Learning Guide developed by researchers at Harvard University and has been recognized by the National

After school Association (NAA) as one of the most influential after-school programs. Girls on the Run is offered in more than 13,000 across the US. Visit {council website} to learn how to get involved in your community.



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OBITUARIES

Mary Harriett Louise Prunier

Mary Harriett Louise Prunier of Jonesborough, Tennessee passed away on April 23, 2026.

She is survived by her loving and devoted husband of nearly 50 years, Len Prunier, and her daughters, Joy Clark, Cynthia Fortin, and Deanna Andres. She also leaves behind four grandchildren and two great-grandsons. She was incredibly proud of her girls and never missed an opportunity to say so.

Mary was creative to her core, she loved to sew and was a talented quilter, putting care and personality into everything she made. She had a natural sense of style and was ahead of her time in fashion, always putting things together in her own unique way.

Mary attended Quinsigamond Community College and Worcester State University, and earned a cer-



tification from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Mary worked for many years at American Optical and Rathbone Precision Metals, where she was known for her dedication and strong work ethic.

Mary had a big heart and gave back in meaningful ways. She volunteered with hospice, offering comfort and compassion to others, and she was a

passionate supporter of rescue dogs.

She loved music, classic icons, and a little bit of glamour—especially Elvis Presley, Dolly Parton, Patsy Cline, Marilyn Monroe, and Diana, Princess of Wales. She also had a love for anything that sparkled—diamonds especially made her smile.

Mary will be remembered for her creativity, her honesty, her strength, and the deep love she had for her family. She will be deeply missed.

Andrew J. Kosiba, 38

Andrew J. Kosiba, age 38, of Danielson, CT passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at his home in Danielson, CT. Born in Worcester, MA and raised in Dudley, MA, Andrew was the son of the late John Kosiba and Kathleen (Peterson) Kosiba.



Andrew graduated from Shepherd Hill Regional High School in 2006 and later earned a degree in Jazz Studies from Western Connecticut State University in 2010. A pianist since the age of 7, he dedicated his life to mastering the instrument. Andrew shared that passion with others through music education, aiding many students in pursuing their own musical dreams.

Over the last 20 years, Andrew collaborated and played with musicians across Connecticut, New York, and Massachusetts in multiple ensembles, bands, and projects. Through hard work and creativity, he recorded and was featured on 13 albums and toured all across the Eastern US. He was one of the first members of the New Haven Jazz Underground, a guild of musicians dedicated to performing and producing concerts in the Greater New Haven area. Andrew often accompanied special guests and jazz luminaries through his work with the Underground.

More locally, Andrew was the Music Director and Organist at Sturbridge Federated Church for 15 years. Under his direction, the Music Ministry used their musical talents to praise God weekly at church services. The Ministry also performed in the community, including holiday performances at Old Sturbridge Village, and participated in ecumenical community choral workshops. Andrew was always eager to bring in small groups and solo musicians to church services throughout the year to do God's good work through voice and instrumentation.

Andrew's professional commitment to youth music education began 15 years ago and included various roles including Private Lessons Instructor, Jazz Clinician, Classroom General Music Teacher, Choral Director, Band Director, Jazz Band Director, and Pep Band Director, in the communities of Shrewsbury, Framingham, Uxbridge, Dudley-Charlton, and his most recent employment at Sutton Middle School. Andrew had turned his interest towards working in Special Education where he hoped to spend his future.

In his free time, Andy could be found boating with family on Quaddick Lake, playing a round of golf with his late father, listening to vinyl records on his favorite sound systems, or going for a drive to find and enjoy himself a solid cup of coffee.

He is survived by his mother Kathleen (Peterson) Kosiba of Woodstock CT; Uncle James and his wife Marylee Kosiba of Dudley, MA; Aunt Kathie and her husband Bernie Faucher of North Grosvenordale, CT; and his life long friends Nick Di Maria of New Haven, CT and Dave Macuga of Storrs Mansfield, CT. Andrew will also be missed by numerous cousins, countless friends and colleagues, his Pastor David Cote, and his beloved Church family at Sturbridge Federated Church.

A celebration of life will be held 10:00 am on Saturday, May 16 at Sturbridge Federated Church, 8 Maple St., Sturbridge, MA with Pastor David Cote officiating. Burial will follow in Oakridge Cemetery in Southbridge. Calling hour at the church will be Saturday, May 16 from 9:00AM to 10:00 AM. Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, MA, is assisting the family with arrangements. www.bartelfuneralhome.com

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 starting culinary celebs - to be announced soon. Last year celebrity guests include; Brynn Gibson, the youngest Black Jacket finalist from Fox's Hell's Kitchen with Gordon Ramsay. We also have Jared Forman, the culinary mastermind behind Deadhorse Hill, who brought the heat on Food Network's Beat Bobby Flay.

LEGALS

Town of Holland

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Sec 40, a public hearing by the Conservation Commission will be held on Tuesday 05/12/2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conservation Commission Room, second floor, in the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Rd, Holland, MA. This meeting is to review a Request for Determination (RDA) filed by Robert Fabrizi for installing a patio and stairs 33 Shore Drive 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 (12:30 PM – 4:00 PM) and Tuesdays (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM). Conservation Commission
Town of Holland
May 7, 2026

Town of Sturbridge Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing Notice Special Permit Mark & Anne Carroll

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 6:35 PM at the Center Office Building located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566** and/or by virtual means if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law; on the application of Mark & Anne Carroll. The applicant is requesting a Special Permit pursuant to Article XVIII §300-18.2 (2) and a Finding pursuant to Article XV §300-15.2A of the Zoning Bylaw to demolish the existing single-family home and to construct a new two-story single-family home in its place. The home will be placed in the same footprint and an 8' X 24.2' addition will be added to the front. A Special Permit is required to increase the lot coverage over the 15% maximum allowed by the zoning bylaw as shown on the plans and application submitted. The property is located at 91 Shore Road. The proposed request can be viewed at <https://www.sturbridge.gov/zoning-board-appeals/pages/recent-filings>

or arrangements can be made to view the application packet by contacting the Sturbridge Planning Department. Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this proposal should appear at the time and place designated. Members of the public may watch the meeting online via the Town's on demand video broadcast or via cable television on Channel 191. It is the intent to have this Public Hearing in person. However, if circumstances warrant, the Board may choose to hold this Hearing via virtual or hybrid (in person and virtual) means. In the event of a virtual or hybrid meeting, please follow this link: <https://meet.goto.com/619527397>. Please note that the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law. April 30, 2026
May 7, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Lisa S. Phaneuf-Perry, Raymond K. Perry to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC, dated May 3, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66563, Page 353, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC, its successors and assigns to Rocket Mortgage, LLC, FKA Quicken Loans, LLC, recorded on June 12, 2023, in Book No. 69240, at Page 103 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 3:00 PM on May 22, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 294 Brookfield Road, Fiskdale (Sturbridge), Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT: Tax Id Number(s): 173-00443-294 Land situated in the City of Sturbridge in the County of Worcester in the State of MA THE LAND IN STURBRIDGE, WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS, WITH THE

BUILDINGS THEREON SITUATED ON THE EASTERLY SIDE OF BROOKFIELD ROAD (ROUTE 148) AND BEING LOT 4 AS SHOWN ON PLAN ENTITLED "PLAN OF LAND OF LOTS 2-3-4 IN STURBRIDGE, MASS. OWNED BY SWIACKI REALTY TRUST DATED AUGUST 20, 1985, ROBERT F. PARA, LAND SURVEYOR" SAID PLAN RECORDED WITH WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN PLAN BOOK 541, PLAN 77, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: WESTERLY BY SAID BROOKFIELD ROAD, (ROUTE 148), 150 FEET; NORTHERLY BY LAND FORMERLY OF SWIACKI REALTY TRUST, 290.40 FEET; EASTERLY BY OTHER LAND OF SWIACKI REALTY TRUST, 150 FEET; SOUTHERLY BY LOT 3 ON SAID PLAN, 290.40 FEET. CONTAINING 1.00 ACRE. For mortgagor's(s)' title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 44353, Page 360. These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A

QUICKEN LOANS, LLC
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
29093
April 23, 2026
April 30, 2026
May 7, 2026

POSTING NOTICE

Commercial Dishwasher Procurement & Installation

Owner: Southbridge Public Schools
Project Location: Southbridge High School, 132 Torrey Road, Southbridge, MA 01550
Southbridge Public Schools is seeking sealed bids from qualified contractors/vendors for the procurement, delivery, installation, and commissioning of a commercial conveyor-type dishwasher system.
Scope of Work Includes:
- Supply of commercial conveyor-type dishwasher system (Hobart CL44-DWR+BUILDUP or equivalent)
- Provision of vent hood, electric tank heater, sheet pan racks, and accessories
- Delivery, installation, and full system assembly
- Connection to utilities (electrical, plumbing, ventilation)
- System testing, calibration, and commissioning
- Demonstration of system operation
- Provision of warranty for equipment and labor
Special Requirements:
- Prevailing wage rates apply
- OSHA certification required for all personnel
- 5% bid deposit required
- 50% payment bond required for projects exceeding \$25,000
- Provide three references for similar projects
Bid Submission Deadline: May 20, 2026 10 AM
Submission Method: Email proposals in PDF format to mrobidou1@southbridgepublic.org or drop off at 25 Cole Ave, Southbridge, MA 01550. Southbridge Public Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities.
May 7, 2026

Gateway Players brings "Charlotte's Web" to life with youth production

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge presents the children's production of "Charlotte's Web." Adapted by Joseph Robinette. Based on the book by E.B. White. Performance dates are May 1 and 2 at 7 p.m., May 3 at 2 p.m., and May 8 and 9 at 7 p.m. The performances are held at Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. in Southbridge. Entrance is on Park Street (around the corner). Directed by Lou-Ellen Corkum. Produced by Stephanie Ruggiere. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors and youth under 18. Tickets may be reserved by calling Gateway at 508-764-4531. Online credit card ticket sales are available at www.gatewayplayers.com. The Children's Literature Association named this "the best American children's book of the past two hundred years," and Joseph Robinette, working with the advice of E.B. White, has created a play that captures this work in a thrilling and utterly practical theatrical presentation. The costumes and unit set may be simple or as colorful and elaborate as you wish; it's the story and relationships that make the show. All the enchanting characters are here: Wilbur, the irresistible young pig who des-

perately wants to avoid the butcher; Fern, a girl who understands what animals say to each other; Templeton, the gluttonous rat who can occasion-

ally be talked into a good deed; the Zuckerman family; the Arables; and, most of all, the extraordinary spider, Charlotte, who proves to be "a true friend and a good writer." Determined to save Wilbur, Charlotte begins her campaign with the "miracle" of her web in which she writes, "Some information and reservations. The building is handicapped accessible with ample parking and located at 74 Stafford St., Charlton. Invite the whole family and friends for an enjoyable meal."

ing and take-out available. Adults \$15, children age six to 12 \$8, children under six are free. Family maximum: \$50. Walk-ins are welcome although reservations are appreciated. Call the church office on (508) 248-7379 for

information and reservations. The building is handicapped accessible with ample parking and located at 74 Stafford St., Charlton. Invite the whole family and friends for an enjoyable meal.

CCUMC offering Annual pulled pork sandwich dinner May 16

CHARLTON — Saturday, May 16, Charlton City United Methodist Church will be offering their delicious Pulled Pork Dinner. Come and enjoy food and fellowship with friends and neighbors. A

tasty pulled pork sandwich with creamy potato salad, coleslaw, but-tery corn, baked beans, along with strawberry shortcake with whipped cream and beverages. Dinner is served from 5-6:30 p.m., and as always, there will be continuous serv-

ing and take-out available. Adults \$15, children age six to 12 \$8, children under six are free. Family maximum: \$50. Walk-ins are welcome although reservations are appreciated. Call the church office on (508) 248-7379 for

information and reservations. The building is handicapped accessible with ample parking and located at 74 Stafford St., Charlton. Invite the whole family and friends for an enjoyable meal.



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Charlton Library Friends combine books and blooms

CHARLTON — The Friends of Charlton Public Library will hold a Book Sale on Saturday, May 9, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Dexter Hall, second floor inside the Charlton Public Library. Current members in good standing are invited to a preview on Friday, May 8 from noon to 4:30 p.m. A call for book donations will begin on April 21 and continue until May 8. Donations of cash, check, and Venmo will be accepted during the sale.

“Books & Blooms” will serve as a lead-up to the Friends’ book sale.

This collaborative event involves the Charlton Public Library, the Friends of Charlton Public Library, and the Charlton Garden Club as they celebrate reading, the changing season, and community. “Books & Blooms” aims to draw attention to all three organizations, enlightening the public about our missions, purpose, accomplishments, and benefits to the wider community

derived through books.

Members of the Charlton Garden Club and Friends of Charlton Public Library will create floral arrangements tied in some way to a book. The arrangements will reflect the cover image, theme, a character in the book, or some other aspect of the selection. Book titles range from novels, classics, Westerns, non-fiction, poetry,

children’s books, and others.

The floral arrangements will be on display in the main room of the Charlton Public Library on May 6, 7, and 8. Those who come to view the displays may enter their name in a drawing to win one of the arrangements at the conclusion of the event.

For more information, email charltonfriends@gmail.com.

Casaubon Senior Center announces upcoming trips

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

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

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

Aug. 29—Charles River Cruise-Great two-hour cruise, lunch at the Cheesecake Factory and a trip to Quincy Market.\$145 a person

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

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

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

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

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.

Juniors named to Bay Path honor roll

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School congratulates the following students in grade 11 on being named to the honor roll for the third quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

High Honors
Lillian Lauren Araujo, Alyssa Rose Bonneville, Alexia Rose Brown, Sagesse Mpolo Budimbu, Clara Mae Burlingame, Jenna Lynne Cianci, Naomi Natania Cooper, Trinity Chevelle Crompton, Brianna Nyarkoa Dwomoah, Dylan Michael Filipkowski, Aria Faith Fournier, Brooke Nicole Fuller, Aliyah Marie Gauvin, Adrian Dariusz Golemo, Liam Reed Greenwood, Emma Grace Harrington, Julia Abigail Holton, Kelsey Rose Karlowicz, Fynnian John Keefe, Nicholas Isaac Meneguzzo, Jonny Ly Nhan, Autumn-Rayne Rondeau, Jordyn Alexandra Sabotka, Owen Wajer Sanford, Kayla Lynn Schroeder, Travis Jacob Tong, Timothy Nicholas Tripp, Brady Matthew Weeks, Lucy Vivian Zaleski

Honors
Anais Annette Alamo-Abad, Monica Jelis Alvarez-Rivera, Salette Hellen Alves, Winifred Donna Aucoin, Collin William Bachand, Kennadie Taylor Balcunas, Boden Richard Barrell, Benjamin Whitman Bassett, Samantha Mackenzie Belanger, Brett Julius Beltzer, Kayleigh Rose Bissell, Alexandria Helene Blanchard, Olivia Raychal Burgos, Bella Kristina Calnan, Michaela Sarah Carter, Dominic William

Cincotta, Liam Zachary Colon, Benjamin Jackson Cryan, Eric Murphy Day, Hunter William Defosse, Livia Cassandra Deluca, Nathan Stephan Donnelly, Madisson Clara Drewry, Zachary Michael Dumas, Molly Elizabeth Dwyer, Jackson Christopher Edwards, Ava Lila Erkok, Samantha Lynn Fleck, Ely Eric Gemboski, Emma Lynn Grensavtich, Kaebrille Amberleigh Hammond, Vikram Kanchan Jha, Jayme Douglas Kenney, Alexander James Kowalski, Filip Tadeusz Kulma, Abena Kwartemaa Kwarteng, Benjamin Mitchell Labbe, Sangey Dawa Lama, Owen David Lemansky, Bret Robert Leonardi, Perry Khai Lima, Apollo Ridge Logan, Emily Arlene Malia, Julie-Anna Marie Marchetti, Christopher Warren Martin, Aaron Robert Mazur, Finn McDaniel, Colin Archak McIlvaine, Ava June McKellick, Joshua Daniel McLaughlin, Miles Joseph Moriarty, Miguel Angel Mosqueda, Nathaniel Thomas Munson, Kayla Rowan Murphy, Thomas Andrew Nault, Melany Tuyet Ngo, Anastasia Marie Nieuwenhoff, Daniel Anthony Nowlan, Corey Amoako Ntim, Jacey Okyere-Tawiah, Izabella Grace Paquin, Matthew Dean Parmenter, Kiley Marie Paronto, Aylah Mae Patraw, Mayli Ann Pedersen, Iban Alexander Pelaez, Katie Ann Putnam, Sophia Morrigan Ramirez-Murphy, Ava Marie Rennie, Isabella Lynn Richard, Danie Roemer, Jake Albert Roemer, Leilani Marie Rohena Torres, Jariel Noel Rosario, Eziajah Gianni Santiago, Anthony Mark Savasta, Logan James Schoff, Ella Lanmei Schofield,

Michael Ryan Scott, Isabella Christina Sepulveda, Lucas Clement Silva, Julia Rose Simpson, Zachary Stephen Sirard, Addisyn Theresa Skeates, Brady Patrick Smith, Rebecca Marie Smith, Alexander Gregory St. Jacques, Amelia Jean St. Petyer, Sean Michael Francis Sullivan, Marley Ray Talbot, Eskil John Tranes, Nicholas Aiden Tremblay, Kyle Dennis Twombly, Sophia Ann Vigeant, Jazzelle Gia Wolverson, Nico Anthony Yacavace, Jackson Robert Young, Payton Cailee Ziemski

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New Bocce League open to community

SOUTHBRIDGE — Bay Path Continuing Education & the Southbridge Italian Club have teamed up to launch an exciting new bocce league on Tuesday nights throughout May and June.

Bocce is a game that all can enjoy—no special skills or talents are required! If you can roll a ball, you can play! These two community organizations are thrilled to bring this sport to a wider audience. Both Bay Path Continuing Education and the Southbridge Italian Club are dedicated to offering various events for people to engage, socialize, and have fun. This new league is a perfect fit. Here are the details:

- Tuesdays: May 12 – June 30 (eight weeks)
- Teams of four to eight players
- \$240 per team
- One game per week at either 6 or 7 p.m.
- Maximum of eight teams – don’t wait!
 - Only team captains need to register for their team.
 - A brief informational captain meeting will be held before the season starts.
 - Gather your friends (18 and older), form a team, and come join us for a fantastic time on the court!
- Games will be held at: Italian American Club, 20 North St., Southbridge
- To register your team, call Bay Path Continuing Education at 508-248-5971, ext. 1715. Spots for teams are limited, so don’t hesitate—call today!

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Southbridge Food Share adds monthly Saturday hours to expand community access

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

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

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

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

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

to provide income documentation or legal identification.

The pantry serves residents from Southbridge and surrounding communities and operates with support from local partners, including the United Way of South Central Massachusetts. Community donations and volunteer

efforts continue to play a key role in sustaining the program's operations.

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

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

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

Maria Pinheiro recognized by Stonehill College at 2026 Student Life Awards

EASTON — Maria Pinheiro, a member of Stonehill College's Class of 2028 from Uxbridge, was recently honored at the institution's Student Life Awards, held Sunday, April 26. This program celebrates campus community members for their outstanding contributions to the betterment of Stonehill.

Visit Stonehill College's Web site for more information on the 2026 Student Life Awards.

About Stonehill College

Stonehill College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1948. Located on the beautiful 387-acre campus and former estate of Frederick Lothrop Ames in North Easton, Massachusetts, it is a community of scholarship and faith, anchored by a belief in the inherent dignity of each person.

Through more than 100 academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences,

business and pre-professional fields, Stonehill College provides an education of the highest caliber that fosters critical thinking, free inquiry and the interchange of ideas for over 2,500 students.

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



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Featured New Listing
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Webster - 24 Cooper Rd
New Construction - Craftsman Style home



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

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Berkshire-based musician hosting program on women in early country music

SOUTHBRIDGE — Berkshire-based roots musician Paula Bradley (vocals, guitar, banjo) brings stories and songs of women in early country music, highlighting their often-overlooked contributions to America's rich musical legacy, to Jacob Edwards Library, 236 Main St., Southbridge, on Thursday, June 11 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Admission to the concert is free and open to the public. This program is funded in part by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state



instructor and has been on staff at music camps including Swannanoa Gathering, Mars Hill, Winter Village Music, Augusta Heritage and Ashokan.

Athol Savings Bank donates \$2,500 to support veteran grave maintenance in Central Massachusetts

WORCESTER — Athol Savings Bank (ASB), a Division of Cornerstone Bank, has donated \$2,500 to Mulch For Military to support the maintenance and beautification of veteran graves across nine cemeteries in Central Massachusetts.

The funding will be used to purchase approximately 53 grave markers that will be installed as part of ongoing, volunteer-driven efforts to preserve and honor the resting places of military veterans. The initiative focuses on maintaining military grave markers and ensuring that veteran memorials remain visible, respectful and well cared for.

Mulch For Military has steadily expanded its impact since its founding, now serving nine cemeteries throughout the region. The organization engages local volunteers in hands-on stewardship activities that honor those who served.

"We are proud to support Mulch For Military and their mission to honor veterans in such a meaningful and lasting way," said Daniel Zona, president of Cornerstone Bank and former president and CEO of Athol Savings Bank. "This work reflects the deep respect our communities have for those who served our country."

The donation reinforces Athol Savings Bank, a Division of Cornerstone Bank's ongoing commitment to community investment and support for local initiatives that preserve history, promote civic pride and recognize the sacrifices of veterans.

About Athol Savings Bank, a Division of Cornerstone Bank

Founded in 1867 in Athol, Massachusetts, Athol Savings Bank, a Division of Cornerstone Bank, has built a legacy of local service, integrity and trust for over 150 years. As a mutual savings bank, we answer to our customers, not shareholders, offering personalized financial solutions with a focus on community values. We are committed to continuous improvement, planned growth and delivering strength, stability and security to those we serve. As "A Solutions Bank," we strive to meet the evolving needs of our customers and communities every day. Athol Savings Bank is a Division of Cornerstone, Bank.

Relay For Life returns to Southbridge June 20

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

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

We can't do it without help from the community and we are thankful to partner with The Duck and Avellino in Sturbridge to hold a fundraiser day on Tuesday May 19th. Dine in or take out at either of these locations all day on May 19, and 20 percent of all food sales will be donated to the American Cancer Society. You must present the attached coupon, either in print form or on your phone. Reservations are strongly suggested. Gather up family or friends, eat great food and help raise funds to fight cancer, one plate at a time.

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agency.

A West Virginia-born multi-instrumentalist residing in the Berkshires, Paula Bradley has been involved in old-time and roots music for many years. Known for her strong, spirited vocals, she has toured (on banjo) with old-time darlings "Uncle Earl"; with old-time powerhouse Bruce Molsky (on guitar and banjo uke); and with Tony Trischka and Bruce as part of the acoustic roots trio "Jawbone". She was a founding member of the popular New England honkytonk combo (on piano and vocals) "Girl Howdy," and with her late husband, Bill Dillof, the old time duet "Moonshine Holler." She currently leads her own popular honky tonk/country swing combo "Miss Paula & The Twangbusters" and pursues many musical side projects. Paula is also an on-demand traditional music

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

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

To make the process simple, the reunion committee has created a short

contact-information form and is encouraging residents, friends, and former classmates to help spread the word. If you know someone on the "missing classmates" list, organizers ask that you text them the link to the form so they can update their information.

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

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

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

- Tammy Deschenes
- Aaron Dorcas
- Daniel Doyle
- Dorothy Duso
- Selina Fife
- James Gardner
- Jeffrey Gatto
- Tina Giakoumis
- Alicia Goudreau
- Richard Guerin
- Robert Hamm
- Scott Horanzy
- Jane Houle
- Todd Hufault
- Joseph Hughes
- Melissa Jankowski
- Thor Johnson
- Nena Johnston
- Lisa Kozlowski
- Robert Krasnecky
- Jill Krause
- Michael Kryger
- Rick Lawson
- Deborah Leite
- Linda Lifer
- Patricia Majewski
- Renee Marchand
- Jennifer Marsh
- Jennifer Mason
- John Meagher
- Fumiyo Mochizuki
- Deborah Munsch
- Brett Napierata
- Wayne Parmentier
- Brian Poplawski
- Gary Poplawski
- Edward Powers
- William Radcliffe
- James Remy
- Debra Ross
- Collin Salmon
- Dale Schleis
- Theresa Sergel
- Henry Skiba
- Alan Standrowicz
- Jeffrey Surozenski
- Karen Toukonen
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