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Thursday-Friday, September 18-19, 2025



Courtesy

TCA CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF GOLF!

Thank you to everyone who joined us last Saturday for our 30th Annual Golf Tournament, one of Trinity's largest fundraisers. Congratulations to alumnae Lori Primavera and Angiolina Brady, honored for their continued dedication of Catholic education. We were also delighted to feature our current eighth grade class and alumni who participated in the tournament. Trinity Catholic Academy is truly blessed!

Historical Society delves into history of Worcester South Agricultural Society

STURBRIDGE — On Thursday, September 25 at 7 p.m., Kitty Lowenthal and Sandy Gibson-Quigley will give a presentation at the Publick House on the history of the Worcester South Agricultural Fair and Fairgrounds. From 1844 through 1938 Sturbridge hosted an annual agricultural fair to promote progressive farming. A locally, then regionally, popular event, the Fair outgrew the Common where it was held originally, and fairgrounds were established on Cedar Lake (on the site of the current Host Hotel). In addition to the exhibitions and contests featuring farm animals and produce, horse racing soon became one of the prime

attractions of the Fair, along with other amusements – such as acrobats, balloon ascensions, and firemen musters. This presentation will explore the origins of the Fair; its growth, and unfortunate demise, along with a brief look at the development of the property since 1939. Kitty Lowenthal and Sandy Gibson-Quigley are on the Board of Directors for the Historical Society. Kitty has had a lifelong passion for history. She worked as an interpreter at Old Sturbridge Village for 20 plus years, and then as a museum educator for the Deerfield Teacher Center. Almost everything she enjoys best revolves around history and the people and lives of the

past, from land use and settlements, to food and textiles and crafts, and the ways people live together. Sandy has been involved with history and education since her college years. She worked in the Education Dept. at OSV, was the Education Director for Preservation Worcester, and then taught Social Studies at Notre Dame Academy for 26 years. Sandy continues to enjoy exploring history as well as the built and natural environments and sharing her discoveries with others. Please join us at the Publick House, which graciously hosts our programs. This presentation is free and open to the public,

Drought conditions prompt restrictions on outside water use

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Sept. 9, the Massachusetts Drought Task for issues a Level -2 Significant Drought status for Worcester County. The Town of Southbridge now has to require that all Southbridge and Charlton water customers refrain from all outside water use except for handheld watering between the hours of 5 and 9 p.m. Please turn off all outside sprinkler systems. This declaration from the State also applies to homes with private wells. Certain water uses are not subject to restrictions, such as production of food and fiber; health and safety reasons, maintenance of livestock, and core functions of a business (for example irrigation for a nursery). For the general public's information, currently, the Southbridge Water Department's reservoir system is at 91 percent of total capacity. This is within our historical average for this time of year. The declaration is a county wide declaration, and not due to any current water storage shortfalls within the Southbridge Water Department. This declaration is part of new laws and regulations put forth by the state legislature, and enforcement went into effect in

Turn To **DROUGHT** page **A10**

Charlton Lions carry on 50-year tradition of service



CHARLTON — The Charlton Lions Club held it's first meeting of the 2025-26 year on Wednesday, Sept. 10 at their usual meeting place – the Great Room at The Overlook Independent Living. This was the first meeting for new officers who were elected last spring. Business was conducted by President Dana Gould, who is now newcomer to leading a Lions Club – he was previously the president of a Rhode Island club. Other officers elected in

June are Patrick Husereau, 1st vice president; Kathy Gallant, 2nd vice president; Gerry Wolfe, 3rd vice president; Carole Duquette, reporting secretary; Michele Piergallini, treasurer; Cynthia Young, marketing chair; Jennie Frisella and Tim Prouty, membership co-chairs; Debra Ciesluk, Rhonda Tetreault, Edward Ciesluk and Helen Doucette, directors. Dennis Tucker is immediate past president. Kathy Gallant and Patrick Husereau serve as tail twister and lion

tamer, respectively. The twice-monthly business meetings are not held in July or August, but that does not mean the Lions are idle in the summer. This year, the Club helped sponsor one of the outdoor public concerts at The Overlook in July. They planned, shopped and set up for, then cooked and served from their food booth at Charlton Old Home Day on Aug. 31, raising funds for scholarships and other charitable work. They'll also be serving their

sausage, pepper and onion sandwiches at The Overlook's Fall Festival on Oct. 4. Throughout the summer, a committee led by Helene Doucette, met to plan the Club's celebration of 50 years of service to the Charlton community. Join them on Sunday, Nov. 2, 1-4 p.m. at the Pine Ridge Country Club in Oxford for hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. For more information and to make a reservation by Oct. 5, send email to helene33a@aol.com. The Charlton Lions Club meets the second and fourth Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at The Overlook. Lions support local, district, national and international initiatives that assist those in need, encourage youth development, and pay special attention to the sight- or hearing-disabled and those with diabetes. Among the many things they do locally, are conducting a Peace Poster Contest for middle school children and a Speech Competition among high school youth; hosting a community talent show; providing higher education scholarships; and giving holiday gift cards to needy families. If you live in Charlton and are interested in serving your town by becoming a Lion, please contact Jennie Frisella (atwinnh1013@gmail.com).

Charlton embraces regionalized dispatch

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The Charlton Select Board has expressed support for the regionalization of local dispatch, albeit with the pending support of the Finance Committee.

Talks of regionalization have been ongoing for over a year with plans eventually being presented to the Select Board on Sept. 9. The Central Mass Regional Communications Center (CMRCC) submitted a formal proposal which Select Board members supported, although they requested the Finance Committee also look over the plan. That committee was set to meet in the days after this story was issued for print.

The plan was touted more as a way to create efficient and effective support and staffing for local communities rather than as a cost saving measure. While Charlton's current dispatch staff were complimented for their hard work, the regional dispatch was considered a better model. Both local chiefs agreed, showing their support before the Select Board's deliberation.

“You can either bring on a few more dispatchers and probably a director to keep it here in Charlton. If you're not willing to do that so we're doubled up all the time and we have available resources, I think you should consider regional because that will accomplish that,” said Police Chief Daniel Dowd. “I don't think we can do it the way we currently exist. We're putting Band-Aids on our staffing when we really should be two or three people at all times.”

Fire Chief Rob Barton agreed noting the data presented in a study included in the Select Board's meeting packets.

“The findings were pretty evident that regional was the way to go. We are kind of at that crossroad of having to decide if the benefits are there,” Barton stated. “The benefits are there. Regional dispatch is kind of the up-and-coming thing across the country. Massachusetts is just coming on a little late to it. There are significant benefits for operations, police and fire, as well as some incentives from the state.”

The idea of regionalization isn't actually that new for the Commonwealth. Many towns have come together over the years to centralize their dispatch for a common good, creating more efficiency, better staffing, and, as a result, better response times. Peter Kinna, Director of Special Projects at Massachusetts State 911, made it clear that their proposal isn't a slight towards the current dispatch staff, but rather a push towards implementing a more effective concept that has been proven over decades of implementation in other communities.

Turn To **DISPATCH** page **A10**

Cornerstone Bank named one of most charitable companies in Massachusetts by Boston Business Journal

WORCESTER — For the fifth consecutive year, Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, is a proud recipient of a 2025 Corporate Citizenship Award from the Boston Business Journal (BBJ). This annual list showcases companies that promote and prioritize giving back to their communities.

Cornerstone Bank’s contributions to regional charities totaled over \$478,000 in 2024—well above the minimum \$100,000 required to qualify for the list. It joins a diverse list of 99 honorees this year, representing industries

ranging from financial and professional services, health care, technology, retail and professional sports.

“We are proud to again be recognized by the Boston Business Journal as one of the top contributors to regional charities,” said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. “As a true community bank, Cornerstone employees take pride in working for a local institution that is committed to improving the lives of our neighbors, customers, businesses and community.”

The BBJ’s 20th Annual Corporate

Citizenship Awards event will take place on Wednesday, September 10, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Big Night Live, 110 Causeway St. in Boston.

The evening will include networking, connecting and recognizing the Charitable Contributors, the Alan B. Lewis/Alnoba CEO Social Leadership Award honoree and the 2025 Corporate Citizenship Community Collaboration Awardees.

“It is with honor that we present our list of the Top Charitable Contributors in Massachusetts,” said Boston Business Journal Market President and Publisher Carolyn Jones. “Collectively, they gave more than \$416 million in cash contributions—a true example of the business community coming together to help those in need. We are proud to celebrate these organizations who give both money and time to make our region a stronger and better place for all.”

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank’s local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone, which is a subsidiary of PeoplesBankCorp, MHC, operating independently under its own name and brand, provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities through a broad range of deposit and loan products and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone

stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.

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Office Hours:
Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays
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visit www.townofcharlton.net or more information.
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Shepherd Hill Regional High School
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Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326

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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

• **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**
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11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926
Hollandchurch.org
Sunday Service @ 10:00 am
Pastor Dan Maketansky

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Phone: 508-765-9559
Web: www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org
Sunday Service 11:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell



ARTHRITIS?

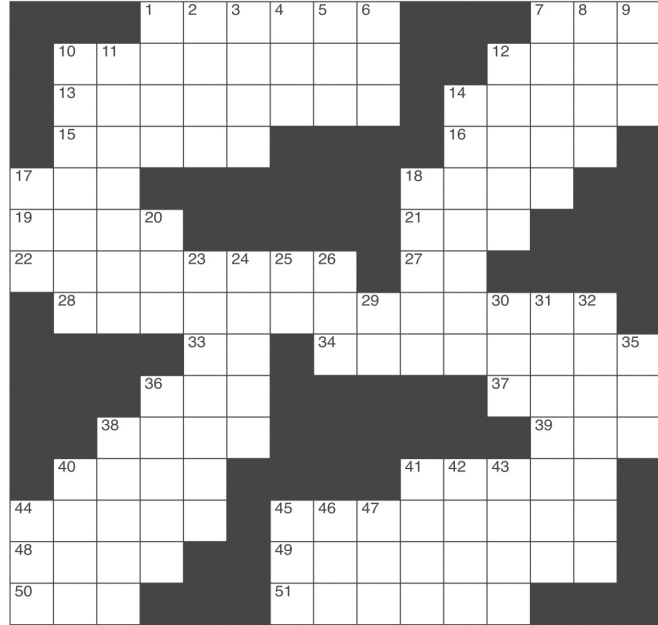
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Carved into

7. ___ Rogers, cowboy

10. Unruly locale

12. Edible mushroom

13. Influential noblemen

14. Rattling breaths

15. David ___ George, Brit. P.M.

16. Musician Clapton

17. Small Eurasian deer

18. Invests in little enterprises

19. Perimeter

21. Chicago ballplayer

22. Animal body part

27. It’s everywhere these days

28. Fictional ad exec
33. Mr. T character Baracus

34. Against the current

36. Subway rodent

37. Armor plate

38. Hair on the head

39. Strong insect

40. Swollen lymph node

41. A way to lessen

44. Walter White poison

45. Sleeveless garment

48. Long accompanied song

49. Without features

50. Yankee great Mattingly

51. Removes from record

CLUES DOWN

1. Root of taro plant

2. Those ones

3. Appliances have one

4. A way to sing

5. Midway between east and southeast

6. Animal dwelling

7. An object that as survived from the past

8. Oil cartel

9. Affirmative

10. Foul smell

11. Brisk tempo

12. S. American indigenous person

14. Restored

17. Official

18. Skin lesions

20. Electroencephalograph

23. Middle Eastern country
24. Extremely angry

25. Title used before a woman’s name

26. British thermal unit

29. By the way (abbr.)

30. Anger

31. Nullifies

32. Ones who acquire

35. Time zone

36. Arabic name

38. Protein in mucus

40. Ballpoint pen

41. Mimics

42. Humans have a lot of it

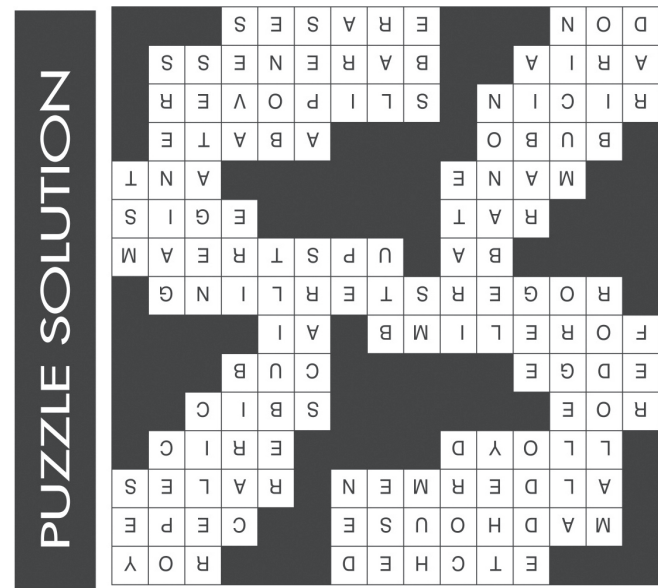
43. Expressions of good wishes

44. Cool!

45. One point east of due south

46. City of Angels football team (abbr.)

47. A way to save for retirement



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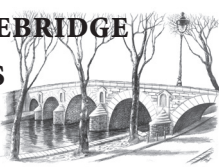
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Charlton Library hosting tech help programs

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The Charlton Public Library has launched a new grant funded service that offers one-on-one help with a teacher who can assist in navigating the increasingly complicated world of technology. These services, provided through a Digital Equity Grant, will allow the library to offer both individual and group sessions for at least the next year covering everything from simple device setups to more com-

plicated and expansive topics like internet and email basics. Library officials tout the program as a way to help both the younger and older generations understand how to use technology in a time where the digital landscape is everchanging. Library Director Betsy Perry said the classes have only just begun and they're already filling nearly every time slot week after week. "People are really responding to it. We have drop-in help too for

smaller things and people have been coming for that – We're going to be doing a lot of classes. The Digital Equity Grant funds literacy, training, and all kinds of stuff. We're working with the senior center and The Overlook, as that's a target population, but this also applies to kids so we're still looking at what kind of classes we're going to offer," Perry said. Assistant Library Director Shannon Duffy clarified that the program isn't just for the

older demographic, even though that's the group that stereotypically has more problems understanding changes in technology. In fact, they have worked with numerous young students in the area as well who also need to understand how older technology works beyond the screen of their smartphones. "Younger people might be more likely to touch buttons and see what happens than the older generation. Those on the older side are looking for confirmation

that they're doing things properly, but then the younger generation, because of where we are in tech evolution, some of them may not know how to use some of the older devices. Everything for them is on the Cloud, so then they're required to use things like a USB that might be a foreign concept for them," Duffy explained. "Sometimes it's really simple things, but if you've never encountered it then it can be difficult and they're all just looking for someone to quickly answer that question." The one-on-one help is limited as teachers cannot assist with setting up new devices, fixing broken devices, entering sensitive information into any aps or docu-

ments, proofreading, or providing any medical, legal, or business advice. The teachers are also limited in the extent to which they can assist with certain devices, such as being able to show someone how to connect to a router but being unable to visit someone's home to connect it for them. The library will host the technology help program for at least the next year and plans to build on it as they are currently exploring other potential offerings within the scope of the grant. Appointments for one-on-one sessions can be made online or in the library's main lobby while larger classes are scheduled accordingly on the library's calendar.

Charlton Baptist Church hosting human trafficking awareness event

CHARLTON — In an effort to combat trafficking, Charlton Baptist Church is hosting guest speaker Audra Doody, co-executive director of Safe Exit Initiative of Worcester, on Sunday, Oct. 5 at 3 p.m. at the church on 50 Hammond Hill Rd. The event is open to the public at no charge. SEI offers comprehensive training and educational programs to help communities understand the real-

ities, intersections, and impacts of the sex trade as well as offering hope to those who choose to leave that life behind. "Exiting the life takes multiple tries as there are multiple barriers," says Doody, adding there are many layers to an individual's choice to entering the life. Each survivor has a story about how it happened and what went wrong.

The community outreach event will also feature displays of educational resources as well as experts from SEI and representatives from other local agencies to discover practical ways to make a difference in the community. At the heart of its educational message is the reality that sex trafficking can and does happen in small towns like Charlton. "It happens in Charl-

ton. It happens everywhere," says Doody. She says the present culture has normalized trafficking through images seen in the media, adding, "If we think sex buying is ok, we need to create better resources." SEI offers training for law enforcement, healthcare professionals, and community service providers, to equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to support those affected with drop-in treatment counseling, legal advice and many other services.

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BBQ chicken supper at CCUMC



CHARLTON — Saturday, Sept. 20, Charlton City United Methodist Church will be preparing their delicious Chicken Barbecue with potato salad/pasta salad, tossed salad and sweet buttery corn. Dessert is peach cobbler with whipped cream topping. Come and enjoy delicious food

and fellowship with friends and neighbors! Supper is served from 5-6:30 p.m., and as always, there will be continuous serving and take-out available. Adults \$15, children six to 12 \$7, children five and under free. Family maximum: \$50. Tickets

may be purchased at the door although reservations are appreciated. Call the church office at (508) 248-7379 for information and reservations. The building is handicap accessible with plenty of parking. Invite the whole family and friends for a nice Saturday out in a family-friendly place.

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for storage, towing charges, care and
expenses of notices and sale of said
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:

Michael Francis Jandreau
691 GUELPHWOOD RD
SOUTHBRIDGE MA 01550

VEHICLE :2009 SUBARU FORESTER
VIN:JF2SH63679H709917
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER:

JEREMIAH LEE JAMES
51 LAWERENCE ST
VERNON CT 06066

VEHICLE :2018 Volkswagen Atlas
VIN:1V2KR2CA5JC574610
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER
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3 DOUGLAS AVE UNIT 3 F
NIANTIC CT,06357

VALDERRAMA RIVERA
3 DOUGLEAS AVE UNIT 3 F
NIANTIC CT,06357

VEHICLE : 1995 CHEVEROLET
TAHOE
VIN: 1GNEK13K6SJ423057
LAST REGISTERED OWNER :
RUSSELL L BOND
93 PINE ST
SOUTHBRIDGE MA, 01550

VEHICLE: 2008 HONDA ACCORD
VIN: 1HGCP25328A060179
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
VICTOR OCASIO-ALGARIN
37 LINDEN ST
NEW LONDON CT,06320

VEHICLE : 2018 INFINITI Q50
VIN:JN1EV7AR9JM440390
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER:
KELVIN MANU
17 NUTMEG DR
WORCESTER MA,01603

VEHICLE: 2011 HYUNDAI SONATA
VIN:5NPEB4AC3BH091285
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER
:
MIRANDA CONSULTING LLC
BRIDGEPORT CT,06610

VEHICLE: 2008 TOYOTA YARIS
VIN:JTDJ923X85187043
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VIN:1C4NJDEB1CD633589
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER:
HARRY MARTINEZ RUIZ
49 PLEASANT VALLY DR,APT 609
WORCESTER MA ,01605

VEHICLE: 2014 NISSAN SENTRA
VIN:3N1AB7APXEY204775
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER:
THOMAS MAHER
11675 GREAT OAKS WAY
ALPHARETTA GA,30022

VEHICLE: 2006 HONDA ACCORD
VIN: 1HGCM56776A174820
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER
:
JOSTEN ENRIQUE ROMAN-
ROSARIO
205 WINTHROP ST,APT A1
TAUNTON MA, 02780

VEHICLE :2007 TOYOTA COROLLA
VIN: 2T1BR32EX7C769565
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER:
ABIEZER RIVERA
14 LAGRANGE ST
WORCESTER MA,01610

VEHICLE:2008 MATRIX
VIN:2T1KR30E58C86646
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED
OWNER:
NICOLE JOHNSON
61 CONESTOGA TRAIL
BROOKFIELD MA , 01506

VEHICLE: 2011 FORD ESCAPE
VIN: 1FMCU9D77BKB50431
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER:
KATHLEEN A JOHNSON
1 HITCHCOCK RD,APT 1
WORCESTER MA,01603
September 19,2025
September 26,2025
October 3,2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. W025P2611GD
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF
CONSERVATOR OR
OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER
PURSUANT TO
G. L.c. 1908, § 5-304 & § 5-405
In the matter of:
Genara Rivera Collazo
Of: Southbridge
RESPONDENT

(Person to be Protected/Minor)
To the named Respondent and all other
interested persons, a petition has been
filed by
Roslyn Vega of Southbridge, MA
in the above captioned matter alleging
that Genara Rivera Collazo is in
need of a Conservator or other protec-
tive order and requesting that
(or some other suitable person) be ap-
pointed as Guardian to serve on the
bond.

The petition asks the court to determine
that the Respondent is incapacitated,
that the appointment of a Guardian
is necessary, and that the proposed
Guardian is appropriate. The petition is
on file with this court.

**You have the right to object to this
proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or
your attorney must file a written appear-
ance at this court on or before 10:00
A.M. on the return date of **09/23/2025**.
This day is NOT a hearing date, but a
deadline date by which you have to file
the written appearance if you object to
the petition. If you fail to file the written
appearance by the return date, action
may be taken in this matter without fur-
ther notice to you. In addition to filing
the written appearance, you or your at-
torney must file a written affidavit stat-
ing the specific facts and grounds of
your objection within 30 days after the
return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding
may limit or completely take away
the above-named person's right to
make decisions about personal af-
airs or financial affairs or both. The
above-named person has the right to
ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make
this request on behalf of the above-
named person. If the above-named
person cannot afford a lawyer, one
may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First
Justice of this Court.
Date: August 12, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
September 18, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. W025P2639GD
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT TO
G. L.c. 1908, § 5-304 & § 5-405
In the matter of:
Genara Rivera Collazo
Of: Southbridge
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other
interested persons, a petition has been
filed by
Roslyn Vega of Southbridge, MA
in the above captioned matter alleging
that Genara Rivera Collazo is in
need of a Guardian and requesting that
Roslyn Vega of Southbridge, MA
(or some other suitable person) be ap-
pointed as Guardian to serve Without
Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine
that the Respondent is incapacitated,
that the appointment of a Guardian
is necessary, and that the proposed
Guardian is appropriate. The petition is
on file with this court.

**You have the right to object to this
proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or
your attorney must file a written appear-
ance at this court on or before 10:00
A.M. on the return date of **09/23/2025**.
This day is NOT a hearing date, but a
deadline date by which you have to file
the written appearance if you object to
the petition. If you fail to file the written
appearance by the return date, action
may be taken in this matter without fur-
ther notice to you. In addition to filing
the written appearance, you or your at-
torney must file a written affidavit stat-
ing the specific facts and grounds of
your objection within 30 days after the
return date.

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

Date: August 12, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
September 18, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)831-2200
Docket No. W025C0467CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE
NAME

In the matter of:
Joreen Kaggwa A Petition to Change
Name of Adult has been filed by
Joreen Kaggwa Nankya of Sturbridge
MA requesting that the court enter a
Decree changing their name to:
Joreen Nankya Matovu
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes
of objecting to the petition by filing an
appearance at: Worcester Probate and
Family Court before 10 a.m. on the re-
turn day of 09/30/2025. This is NOT a
hearing date, but a deadline by which
you must file a written appearance if
you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First
Justice of this Court.
Date: September 04, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
September 18, 2025

In accordance with MGL Ch. 40A,
and the Town of Brimfield Zoning
Bylaw section 7, the Planning Board
will be holding a Public Hearing on
Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.
at Hitchcock Academy located at 2
Brookfield Rd. Brimfield, MA 01010.
The purpose of the hearing is to con-
sider a Site Plan Review application
for Best Investment Properties, LLC
to construct a 7-Building Self Storage
facility with 25,200 sqft on 6.549 acres.
The property is located at 289 Palmer
Rd. Brimfield, MA 01010 owned by
Mark Sagendorph, David Peters of
Brimfield, MA and Charles Wilson of
Brookfield, MA
David Killian
Planning Board Chair
September 18, 2025

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland
Protection Act of the General Laws of
the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton
Conservation Commission will hold a
public hearing on September 24, at
7PM on the application of 13 Gables
Inc.
The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent
for the construction of a single-family
home, driveway, septic system, and
associated grading within 100-ft of a
Bordering Vegetated Wetland and
Riverfront Area. The project location
is: Lot 8 Northside Road, Charlton, MA
01507. Parcel ID: 25-A-2.13.
Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts
of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton
Conservation Commission will be
conducted in person and via remote
means. Members of the public who
wish to participate can access the
meeting remotely by request.
Copies of the NOI may be examined
at the Conservation Office by appoint-
ment during business hours.
Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation
Commission
September 18, 2025

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 25 SM 002689 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
Ronald J. Benvenuti, Jr.
and to all persons entitled to the benefit
of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act:
50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*):
Guild Mortgage Company LLC
claiming to have an interest in a
Mortgage covering real property in
Southbridge, numbered 173 Pleasant
Street, given by Ronald J Benvenuti Jr
and Ronald J Benvenuti to Mortgage
Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.,
as Mortgagee, as nominee for Guild
Mortgage Company LLC, dated October
7, 2022, and recorded at Worcester
County (Worcester District) Registry of
Deeds in Book 68328, Page 320, and
now held by the plaintiff by assignment,
has/have filed with this court a com-
plaint for determination of Defendant's/
Defendants' Servicemembers status.
If you now are, or recently have been,
in the active military service of the
United States of America, then you
may be entitled to the benefits of the
Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you
object to a foreclosure of the above-
mentioned property on that basis, then
you or your attorney must file a written
appearance and answer in this court at
**Three Pemberton Square, Boston,
MA 02108** on or before October 20,
2025 or you may lose the opportunity
to challenge the foreclosure on the

grounds of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief
Justice of said Court on September 8,
2025.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
September 18, 2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 22 -226 Winter Street,
Southbridge, MA 01550
By virtue and in execution of
the Power of Sale contained in a certain
mortgage given by Dennis R Bottcher
and Anne Marie Bottcher to Great
Western Mortgage Corporation, and
now held by **U.S. Bank Trust National
Association, not in its individual
capacity but solely as owner trust-
ee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust**, said
mortgage dated November 30, 1990
and recorded in the Worcester County
(Worcester District) Registry of Deeds
in Book 13128, Page 260, as affected by
an Assumption Agreement entered into
by Paul Robert Dionne dated November
30, 1999 and recorded in said Registry
of Deeds in Book 22127, Page 214, as
affected by a Loan Modification dated
March 1, 2022 and recorded in said
Registry of Deeds in Book 67134, Page
233; said mortgage was assigned from
Great Western Mortgage Corporation
to Great Western Bank, a Federal
Savings Bank by assignment dated
November 30, 1990 and recorded with
said Registry of Deeds in Book 13128,
Page 268; said mortgage was assigned
from The Federal Deposit Insurance
Corporation, acting in its Receivership
capacity as Receiver for Washington
Mutual Bank F/K/A Washington Mutual
Bank, F.A. f/k/a American Savings
Bank, FA s/b/m to Great Western Bank,
a Federal Savings Bank to JP Morgan
Chase Bank, National Association by
assignment dated July 23, 2019 and
recorded with said Registry of Deeds
in Book 60763, Page 126; said mort-
gage was assigned from JPMorgan
Chase Bank, National Association to
U.S. Bank Trust National Association,
not in its individual capacity but solely
as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition
Trust by assignment dated October 24,
2022 and recorded with said Registry
of Deeds in Book 69770, Page 334;
for breach of the conditions in said
mortgage and for the purpose of fore-
closing the same will be sold at **Public
Auction** on October 16, 2025 at 02:00
PM Local Time upon the premises, all
and singular the premises described in
said mortgage, to wit:

*The land with the buildings there-
on situated in said Southbridge,
with the buildings thereon, bound-
ed and described as follows, viz:*
*BEGINNING at an iron pin in the ground
at a point on the easterly line of Winter
Street, located about one hundred nine-
ty (190) feet northerly from the inter-
section of the northerly line of South
Street with said line of Winter Street
(measuring by said Winter Street line);
THENCE easterly on land now or
formerly of Ruth L. Moulton about
one hundred twenty-three (123)
feet to an iron pin in the ground;
THENCE northerly on land now or for-
merly of Andrew Wolenski, et ux and
land now or formerly of Frank L. Gates,
et ux, about sixty-six (66) feet to land
now or formerly of Ernest A. Desrosier;
THENCE westerly by land now or former-
ly of said Desrosier about one hundred
twenty-three and five tenths (123.5) feet,
to a point on said Winter Street line; and
THENCE southerly by said
Street line about seventy (70)
feet to the point of beginning.
Together with any interest of Grantors
in said Street to the middle thereof.*

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

For Mortgagor's Title see deed
dated November 30, 1999 and record-
ed in the Worcester County (Worcester
District) Registry of Deeds in Book
22127, Page 214.

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

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

Other terms to be announced
at the sale.
Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for U.S. Bank Trust National
Association, not in its individual capac-
ity but solely as owner trustee for RCF
2 Acquisition Trust
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
September 18, 2025
September 25, 2025
October 2, 2025

Healey administration expands behavioral health services for children

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — The Healey-Driscoll Administration recently announced expanded community-based behavioral health services for children.

Last week, state leaders announced that 36 agencies across the Commonwealth have been selected to provide home-based and community-based services for children who are MassHealth members and are experiencing behavioral, emotional, or mental health struggles.

“This expansion will strengthen the behavioral health system of support for hundreds of thousands of children and their families here in Massachusetts,” said Gov. Maura Healey. “Through this important work, we are making sure that our young people get the care that they need.”

Local students named to Holy Cross Dean’s List

WORCESTER — College of the Holy Cross congratulates the students named to the Spring 2025 Dean’s List for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2024-25 academic year.

To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

The following local students made the list:
Matthew Jolie, of Sturbridge, Class of 2025
Alexandra Matheson, of Sturbridge, Class of 2028
About Holy Cross

The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, is among the nation’s leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

Since the pandemic, officials across the state have seen increases in youth behavioral health and mental health incidents. Experts attribute the rises to several factors, including the extended time students spent away from school and extracurricular activities during COVID lockdowns. Stress at home caused by lost jobs, high prices, and other challenges have also played a role, officials said.

The state’s expanded network will offer more options for families, ensuring geographic coverage across the entire state.

“These agencies will help us provide coordinated, innovative services that are essential to the behavioral and mental health of children here in Massachusetts,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. “We are thrilled

to work with our partners to increase access to these services.”

MassHealth provides healthcare coverage for nearly half of all Massachusetts children. As part of the Children’s Behavioral Health Initiative, the selected agencies will provide intensive care coordination, family engagement services, and new intensive team-based treatment services for children with particularly complex needs.

“Meeting the behavioral health needs of our young people – and supporting their families – is foundational to our commitment to a healthy society and is crucial to our work,” said Massachusetts Health and Human Services Secretary Kiame Mahaniah. “This expanded network offers families of children enrolled in MassHealth the assurance that their child will get the care they need to thrive.”

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 20 percent of children ages 3-17 are diagnosed with a mental, emotional, or behavioral health condition.

“MassHealth is dedicated to offering integrated behavioral health services and a comprehensive, community-based system of care for our members,” said Undersecretary for MassHealth Mike Levine. “This expanded network will help us strengthen those efforts to reach more kids who need help.”

Community service agencies were selected

through a rigorous review process led by the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP), with review teams comprised of community members and representatives from state agencies and care entities. The MBHP will now conduct a detailed readiness process with

the selected agencies prior to contracting.

“We are excited to announce the selection of new community service agencies – key partners in providing every child and family with access to coordinated care,” said Sharon Hanson, CEO of the MBHP. “With innovations like fami-

ly-based intensive treatment, we aim to transform behavioral health services and create lasting positive change in our communities.”

To learn more about the process by which agencies are selected, visit www.mass.gov.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Small towns, big choices in energy planning

Across our local communities, residents are beginning to face difficult questions about where and how renewable energy projects fit into the local landscape. Recent discussions about large solar and battery storage proposals have highlighted both the opportunities and the challenges. Clean energy is important for Massachusetts’ future, but so are the health of our forests, the safety of our water supply, and the character of our towns.

State law now places more responsibility on municipalities, especially local Boards of Health, to review projects and weigh possible risks. That shift means our towns cannot afford to sit on the sidelines. Careful bylaw updates, transparent hearings, and public participation are all essential if communities want to keep control over decisions that directly affect them.

There is no single answer that will satisfy everyone. Some residents see solar development as a financial lifeline, helping farmers keep their land or towns expand their tax base. Others worry about clearcutting forests or adding industrial facilities near homes. Both perspectives come from a place of wanting what is best for the community.

The strength of small-town government lies in its closeness to the people it serves. When residents attend hearings, ask questions, and hold boards accountable, decisions become more informed and more reflective of community values. That does not mean every project will be approved—or blocked—but it does mean the process will better respect the long-term needs of neighbors, children, and future generations.

Energy independence and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive goals. With careful planning, local officials can find a balance that allows for responsible renewable projects while preserving the natural resources and rural character that make these towns such a valued place to live.

The conversation will not be easy, but it is one that must be had. The decisions made now will shape the region for decades. Let’s ensure they are made with open eyes, open ears, and a commitment to the communities we call home.

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

To the Editor Have respect for our senior citizens

To the Editor:

Hope and excitement turned to disappointment as several senior citizens gathered recently at the Charlton town meeting regarding a possible location for a new senior center. Another approved feasibility study is needed to move forward with the project. Unfortunately, the town committee denied their senior citizens the progress of moving forward with the project.

Other town priorities were expressed and more important. Senior citizens felt disrespected and devalued. Many seniors expressed to the committee how they happily attend the current senior center programming and lunches. Another spoke about how the center is an investment and an asset to the community. Issues at the center

include accessibility, location, parking, minimal building space, and an increasing elderly population.

Senior centers provide participants a place to gather and socialize to keep them active, engaged, and healthy. Initiating a Friends Group will help in collecting donations and make the senior center more self-sufficient, alleviating the need for town funds.

Never underestimate your senior citizens. They are very generous and supportive of others. Senior citizens not only take care of themselves, their families, and others, but they help to take care of the community too.

Sincerely,

DEBBIE RENHOLM
CHARLTON

A Medley of Seasonal Tips



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

Summer is winding down and as we’re trading in long summer nights for brisk autumn mornings, the focus shifts to the simple pleasures of the season. Read on for a potpourri of tips and tricks to make life a little easier during autumn and beyond.

Just because the bugs are waning doesn’t mean you have to ditch your stash of citronella. Before you toss or pack away this season’s supply of citronella oil, consider keeping it in the medicine cabinet. Citronella soothes aches and pains because it produces a subtle sensation of warmth when diluted in a massage oil and applied to the skin.

Why not repurpose your skin grade citronella oil? You can dilute citronella in unscented lotion or cream (up to 15 drops per ounce for normal skin; or up to six drops per ounce for sensitive skin, according to National Association for Holistic Aromatherapy)

Want to pick a perfect apple this season? Make sure it’s firm and bruise free with a smooth skin. If you’re buying apples, keep in mind a green stem means it’s been freshly picked and not stored.

Every fall, I repeat this mind boggling fact, and here it is again: Apples stored at room temperature becomes soft ten times faster than if its refrigerated! So while it’s tempting to pile red apples in a bowl to display, keep in mind the fruit will only last about a week out of the refrigerator.

Herbs are still producing in the garden – when cooking with them, try these tips: When chopping fresh herbs such as basil and tarragon, sprinkle the leaves with a few drops of olive oil. This effectively slows the darkening of the chopped leaves.

If your dried herbs aren’t passing muster, simply chop up parsley with them to freshen up the flavor.

Or try this tip for relieving arthritis pain: Try adding three drops of skin grade citronella essential oil per teaspoon of massage oil. Using this natural mixture in a friction massage can help bring relief to painful joints.

Note: Always dilute citronella before applying to skin. Clear its usage with your physician.

Has your indoor plants taken a back seat to the garden? Now’s the time to give them some TLC. To make your lackluster indoor plants glow try this trick: When watering your plants, simply mix tablespoon of caster oil to the water to rejuvenate them.

Also, did you know dusty leaves can be stunting your plant’s

Cleaning out your spice cabinet prior to the holidays? Here is a recipe for a proven fish bait enhancer that recycles old spices:

Mix together four ounces ground fennel seed and one ounce ground allspice in a covered jar. Sprinkle in two drops oil of cloves

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news@stonebridgepress.news



When investing, one of the best abilities is durability



FINANCIAL FOCUS
TREVOR NIELSEN

You’ve probably heard about “genius” investors or those who got in on the “ground floor” of a company that grew to be a huge success. These stories may be interesting, but they are also rare — and sometimes not even true.

The truth is that successful investing isn’t glamorous, and it isn’t necessarily quick. Instead, a well-founded investing strategy is a durable one — one that can withstand the test of time.

Here are some actions that can help you build durability.

Take your time: Most individual investors make their money over time, not overnight. Despite stories about fortunes made on one or two trades, you’re more likely to be successful making money over time. You’ll want to own a well-diversified portfolio of quality investments — and plan to own those investments for the long term.

A long-term perspective can help you ignore the constant noise in the markets and stay invested. When you hear about the latest “hot” investment tip, especially if it’s already performed well, the best advice is this: Ignore it. Although it may be tempting to buy a popular investment, it may not fit with the rest of your portfolio, it may have already peaked and it may be riskier than you expect. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Invest in quality: When building your investment portfolio, quality should be a top priority. For stocks, quality is frequently measured by the steadiness of earnings and dividend growth over time. For bonds, one measure of quality is an investment-grade credit rating, which indicates that the borrower has a good track record of making its promised interest and principal payments and the bond has a relatively low risk of default.

Quality investments are more likely to overcome temporary challenges, which is why a good track record can be an indication of quality. Don’t reach for yield by looking for investments offering the highest dividend or interest rate without considering the risk. Remember, there is no perfect investment — a higher rate generally means higher risk.

Stick to your strategy: Building a long-term strategy can anchor your decisions and provide a roadmap for your investment choices. Your strategy should consider your goals, tolerance for risk and the time needed to save toward each goal.

Within that strategy, you can be flexible. Buy and hold, for example, doesn’t mean buy and forget. Over time, your goals may change, or you may choose to hold more conservative investments. But it’s important to make changes for the right reasons, not simply because stocks or your other investments may have dropped in price.

Perhaps one of the biggest mistakes you can make is trying to time the markets, moving in and out in response to short-term declines or the latest prediction. This often results in getting into and out of the market at the wrong times, costing time and money — and resulting in lower returns over time.

Remember that investments don’t all move up or down at the same time but portfolio diversification can help smooth the ups and downs of the market. A long-term perspective can help you see past short-term fluctuations in some investments.

Successful investing isn’t about making dramatic moves or chasing the latest trends. It’s about developing a durable strategy personalized for your life, then sticking with it through market ups and downs. In investing, as in life, slow and steady could help win the race.

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.

Track your progress!

Motivation. We all want it, but half the time it feels like it walked right out of the front door. It has a way of slipping through your fingers. One minute you're fired up, ready to conquer the world. Next, you're sprawled on the couch, scrolling through your phone, telling yourself you'll "start tomorrow."

What is it? Testosterone? Purpose? Willpower? Is it in the food we eat, or is it some mystical force that appears from time to time?

Here's the truth: motivation isn't magic, and it isn't a mood. It's not some lightning bolt from the gods. Motivation is a pattern your brain runs, a rhythm you can learn to catch. The real question isn't "Where did it go?"—it's "How do you make it show up tomorrow, the next day, and the

day after that?"

We've all started the project with lots of motivation, but it often disappears before the finish line.

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

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MOORE

Scientists recently discovered something fascinating about motivation. In September 2024, researchers hooked participants up to brain monitors while they worked on learning tasks. What they found was striking: the instant someone realized they were making progress, their brain lit up like a switchboard. Focus sharpened. Distractions faded. Engagement skyrocketed.

Think about that for a second, it isn't about standing at the finish line—it's about noticing that you're moving forward. Each time you recognize progress—no matter how small—your brain tosses you a

reward—effort feels lighter. Momentum builds.

But here's where some of us get stuck. We're so focused on how far we have to go, we forget how far we've come.

I'm not a mountain climber, but I have hiked some challenging trails. It's easy to start at the trailhead with determination, but when you're only halfway and passing out on a boulder from exhaustion, complacency can take over fast. Perhaps you didn't want to reach the top. Still, maybe you did, and you just lost motivation. Why?

It's called finish line fixation. When you only measure yourself against the summit, your brain feels incompetent. When you've been hiking for 14 hours, night is approaching, and you still have another 14 to go, it's easy to feel inept, to think, "I thought I'd be at the peak

by now!"

It's no good to beat yourself up, especially when you're giving it your all.

A 2018 study found that people do best when they keep two things in mind: big, meaningful goals and the small victories along the way.

So when you're only part of the way towards your goal, and frustration sets in, look back at the ground you've already covered. That perspective shift turns discouragement into momentum.

There have been many studies on motivation, and the science is clear: People are far more successful when they regularly track progress. Recognize how far you've come.

The summit matters, but so does the trail. Looking back at the challenges you've overcome

thus far and recognizing your progress produces the dopamine your brain needs to gather more steam.

The brain doesn't hand out dopamine for nothing—it's a survival mechanism. Progress signals that you're learning, adapting, and moving closer to a reward, which is exactly what kept our ancestors alive. That same wiring still runs the show today: every step forward tells your brain, "This path is working—keep going."

Your brain doesn't reward perfection—it rewards progress. That's why some people quit inches from the breakthrough—not because they weren't moving, but because their brain couldn't recognize how far they've come. No receipts equals no motivation.

Of course, there will still be days when even

focusing on your progress feels like it's not helping. That's when you pitch a tent, take a break, and start climbing again the next day.

So, here's my challenge. Don't wait for a spark. Don't wait for the mood to hit. Today, write down one thing you've already done that proves you're moving. Then take another step forward. Track it. Tomorrow, repeat it.

Do this long enough, and you'll stop wondering where motivation went. Because motivation doesn't reward the dreamers. It rewards the doers.

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of Emmy - Nominated A Separate Peace, and the CEO of Cubestream Inc.

Plant this fall for beautiful spring bouquets



Courtesy — Longfield-Gardens.com

A bouquet consisting of unique daffodil varieties found in one of Longfield Gardens' daffodil bulb collections.

This fall plant an array of spring flowering bulbs to brighten your garden

and bouquets. There are plenty of daffodils, tulips, hyacinths and alliums

that will delight with an assortment of flower colors and sizes that will bloom throughout the spring.

Include animal resistant double, bicolor, and split cup daffodils that provide unique beauty and impact in floral arrangements. Create a simple bouquet with just a few stems of daffodils or an elegant arrangement of single and double flowered varieties.

Harvest daffodils when the buds show color and are perpendicular to the stem like

a goose's neck. Don't worry about the sap daffodils exude, shortening the life of the other cut flowers in the arrangement. Properly conditioning the daffodils will eliminate the risk to your other spring favorites

Consider wearing gloves as some people report itching or rashes when handling these plants. Use your hands to harvest daffodils for the longest stems possible and to reduce sap released from the stem. Reach into the base of the flower stem, thumb pointed down and pull up. Cut the stems of freshly picked daffodils to the desired length for conditioning. Place them in a clean container of cool water and floral preservative. Leave them in the water for three to six hours when the sap stops flowing. Do not recut the stems before adding them to mixed flower arrangements.

Tulips have long been a favorite of gardeners and floral arrangers. Grow some taller varieties like Finola, Foxtrot, Silver Parrot Tulips and Negrita Double (longfield-gardens.com).

Gardeners growing tulips strictly for cutting will plant the bulbs in trenches and treat them as annuals. The first-year bloom is always the biggest, but you can enjoy



GARDEN
MOMENTS

MELINDA
MYERS

them cut and try for a second and third year of flowers. Just cut the stems short and leave at least two to three leaves on the plant to create and store energy for next year's bloom.

Harvest tulips when the buds are just starting to show color for the longest vase life. Wait for double and parrot type tulip buds to be fully colored but not yet open. Remove the whole plant, bulb and all, if you do not plan on saving the plants for the following year. Store the tulips upright with the bulbs attached. Cut and rehydrate the stems in water just before arranging.

Wrap the stems in brown paper if they are cut in the garden or when you rehydrate the stems and set them in several inches of cool water for 12 to 18 hours. Keep in mind tulips continue to grow after cut so plan for this when creating your arrangements.

Harvest hyacinths for cutting as you did tulips. Pull the whole plant, bulb and all, out of the ground if you are growing them

as annuals for cutting. Otherwise, cut only the stem and leave all the leaves behind if you want the bulbs to bloom again next year.

Include a variety of alliums in your planting plans this fall. Alliums' long and sturdy stems make them easy to harvest and arrange. Purple Sensation, Mount Everest, drumstick allium and Allium atropurpureum make excellent additions for floral bouquets.

Cutting and arranging flowers is a wonderful way to bring the beauty of your garden indoors. The more you do it, the easier it gets, and you'll soon be sharing your flowers with friends, neighbors, family, coworkers, and everyone who stops by to admire your gardens.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Longfield Gardens for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

SOUTHBRIDGE POLICE LOG

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Sept. 8-15.

Nicholas James Harrington, age 31, of Holland was arrested on Sept. 8 for Trafficking in More Than 10 Grams of Fentanyl, Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law, Distribution of a Class B Drug, and multiple counts of drug possession.

Thomas J. Colon, age 42, of Southbridge was arrested on Sept. 8 in connection with a warrant for drug trafficking.

A 38-year-old male from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on Sept. 8 for operating an Uninsured and Unregistered Motor Vehicle and a Motor Vehicle Bylaw Violation.

Mason TJ Cummings, age 21, of Brimfield was arrested on Sept. 8 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor), Possession of an Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle, and operating a vehicle with No Inspection Sticker.

Andrew Plotczyk, age 44, of Southbridge was arrested on Sept. 10 for Assault & Battery on a Police Officer, Resisting Arrest, Disorderly Conduct, and Disturbing the Peace.

Hannah Gallant, age 26, of Southbridge was arrested on Sept. 10 in connection with a warrant for operating a motor vehicle after suspension of registration.

A 40-year-old female from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on Sept. 11 for Leaving the Scene of Property Damage.

Jerry Diaz, age 40, of Southbridge was arrested on Sept. 11 in connection with multiple warrants.

A 33-year-old female from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on Sept. 11 for Use of a Motor Vehicle Without Authority.

A 35-year-old male from Worcester received a summons in lieu of arrest on Sept. 12 for multiple counts of Shoplifting By Asportation.

A 53-year-old male from Attleboro was taken into protective custody on Sept. 12.

A 59-year-old male from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on Sept. 13 for Violation of a Harassment Prevention Order.

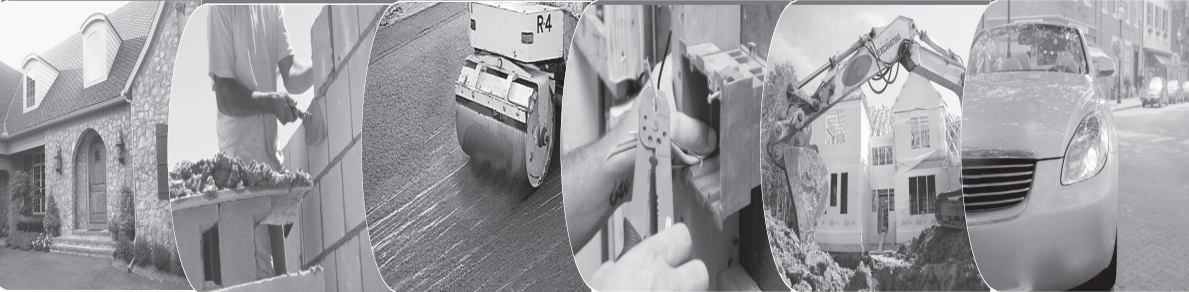
A 23-year-old male from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on Sept. 14 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor), Reckless Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Failure to Stop or Yield, and driving at a rate of speed greater than was reasonable and proper.

A 44-year-old female from Charlton received a summons in lieu of arrest on Sept. 14 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license (subsequent offense).

A 19-year-old male from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on Sept. 14 for a Number Plate Violation and Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license.

Daniel Green-Williams, age 25, of Southbridge was arrested on Sept. 14 in connection with a warrant for Possession of a Class B Drug (subsequent offense).

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“We want to measure our customer relationships in decades”

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

Tucked into a small strip mall off James Street, Worcester, is a bookstore with an unassuming name and unassuming storefront – Annie’s Bookshop.

Inside, though, it’s fairly unique, and that’s what’s kept it going for decades. That uniqueness is not in appearance – densely packed bookshelves look the same pretty much everywhere – but what’s around and atop those shelves. A lot of them are Doctor Who related, with toys, models, video series, tons of off-shoot books and various related things all over the place.

Annie’s also highlights book series for other sci-fi, horror, and fantasy universes, including Star Wars. Pern and Dragonlance, and shelves lots of older sci-fi, going back into the early 20th century “pulp” material. Behind the register, they display just some of their collection of comics, and, of course, have a wide range of other genres of fiction and non-fiction to select from.

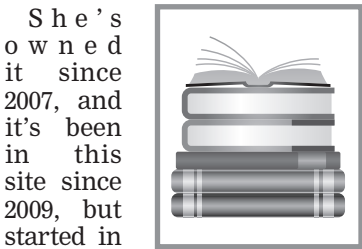
Most of the time, the person at that register is owner Patty Cryan, sometimes her partner Michael Salvo or employee Joshua Young.

“I make a joke that if you ever want to cure you’re reading addiction, buy a bookstore,” Cryan said. Of course, when she said that, she’d just looked up from a book, and notes she particularly likes talking to customers about books “I should be bringing in.”



Patty Cryan and Michael Salvo handle some of the copious paperwork that goes into running Annie’s Bookshop.

Gus Steeves



READER’S JOURNEY

GUS STEEVES

She’s owned it since 2007, and it’s been in this site since 2009, but started in Auburn’s Drury Square. While Cryan came to bookselling by way of editing and bookstores in New York and Worcester, Salvo came to it by running a mail order

business he began in 1976. Over that time, Cryan and Salvo have come to know what their clientele wants, and the publisher representatives they’re in touch with know it too. That can be quirky.

While I was there, one man came in seeking a rather specific thing – maps of fantasy worlds. They didn’t have one at the moment, but led him right to the far corner where it’d be if they did. (I have seen them there before.)

Given how tight her space is, Cryan notes she has “to pick and choose” what goes on her shelves, especially for nonfiction. Although the stock is mostly fiction (lots of his-

torical fic and mystery besides sci-fi), the nonfiction (history, politics, self-help etc) is literally right in the center of the store. There’s also a room for kids’ books.

Space plays a role in the fact she used to host many events (writing groups and book readings among them), but has had to scale them back to fit more books. Salvo also pointed to the city’s recent establishment of a 25 mph limit city-wide as

suppressing traffic to the store and other nearby businesses.

Despite those things, Cryan doesn’t want to move. She’s seen that hurt bookstores, citing one that had a “cute little funky space and was booming,” then moved into a “sterile mall across the street” and died.

Nor does Salvo, who said many of their customers come to Annie’s “as a destination” anyway.

“We want to measure our customer relationships in decades, not 30 seconds on a website,” he said. “... We learn what they want.”

Young likes that view, saying the store “feels more like a community service” than retail to him. Part of that comes from the fact it’s mostly used books. With new ones being “so expensive,” he noted people on Social Security and disability can afford used ones, and he’s seen some buy a month’s worth of books and return them the next month for store credit to get more.

Cryan notes the internet plays a fairly big role in how she connects to her customers. It also played a key role in keeping Annie’s “afloat during the pandemic, when many stores had to learn it from scratch.”

“I’m a bit more internet-involved than many of my compatriots my age, with a lot of social media communication,” she said.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

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With Any Questions

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From patient to provider

BAY PATH NURSE TRIUMPHS OVER CANCER TO FULFILL LIFELONG DREAM



Tina Parent

CHARLTON — For Tina Parent, RN, the journey to becoming a nurse was paved with more than just rigorous coursework and clinical rotations; it was a path forged through a life-altering battle with cancer. Today, as a motivated nursing professional at

Berkshire Medical Center and a student pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Parent's story is one of profound resilience and unwavering determination. Her journey took an unexpected turn in the summer of 2013. Having already worked as a medical assistant and ED Tech, Parent was accepted into the Bay Path Practical Nursing program, set to begin in August. But just one month before she was to start, her life was put on hold. On July 2, 2013, a follow-up to a routine mammogram confirmed a devastating diagnosis: Stage 3 breast cancer with metastasis involving two lymph nodes. "Needless to say, I had to withdraw my 8/2013 start," Parent recalled. Instead of classrooms

and textbooks, her life became a grueling schedule of treatments. She underwent a lumpectomy, followed by five intense sessions of chemotherapy and 33 sessions of radiation. The physical toll was immense, resulting in the loss of her hair, eyebrows, and eyelashes. But Parent refused to be defined by her diagnosis. Fueled by a deep-seated desire to care for others, she reapplied to the PN program and successfully began her studies in August 2014, one year after her original plan. A particularly poignant moment from that time still brings tears to her eyes. After months of treatment, her "mousy brown" hair began to grow back. The day she came to class after hav-

ing it styled and highlighted for the first time, she was met with an outpouring of support from her classmates. "The compliments to this day still make me tear up," Parent shared. "That part of my life will forever change me. The cancer diagnosis, the support, and most of all, the completion of my PN program. My good fortune started with being a student at Bay Path with the great instructors who taught me to be a prudent nurse." That completion was just the beginning. Since earning her license, Parent has built an impressive career. She has served as an LPN and now a Progressive Care Unit RN at Berkshire Medical Center and as a travel nurse with IntelyCare. Her resume reflects a deep skill set, including experience in post-acute care, IV therapies, and wound care. Her ambition never

waned. After earning her Associate in Science in Nursing from Berkshire Community College, Parent enrolled at Grand Canyon University, where she is on track to receive her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in December 2025. "My actual journey started years before all this, in the ups and downs of life experiences," Parent reflected. "But I did not let that define me. I want others to know, against all odds one can succeed if one works hard enough. Bay Path

and all the professors are a big part of it." Today, Tina Parent, RN, soon to be BSN, stands not just as a survivor but as a dedicated, compassionate nurse whose personal battle has given her a unique and profound understanding of the patient experience.

Bay Path LPN passes nursing boards, embarks on new chapter in patient care



Grace Pokuaa

CHARLTON — The local healthcare community is celebrating one of its own this week. Grace Pokuaa, a 2025 graduate of the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, has successfully passed the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN) on her very first attempt. This significant accomplishment marks the official start of her career as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and is a testament to her dedication and hard work. For Pokuaa, this achievement is not the beginning of her journey in healthcare, but rather a pivotal next step. For years, she has been a familiar, compassionate face to many in the Worcester area. She has built a strong foundation of hands-on experience, serving the community as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) at Saint Mary's Health Care and West Side House, and as a dedicated Home Health Aide (HHA) with Visiting Angels since December 2020. Her commitment to patient well-being was evident long before she earned her nursing license. A foundation of skill and compassion Throughout her training at the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Pokuaa completed rigorous clinical rotations at esteemed facilities including Quaboag Rehabilitation, Overlook Masonic Home, and the Vibra Hospital of Western Massachusetts, the Meadows. It was there she honed a wide array of nursing skills, from complex wound and tracheostomy care to medication administration and vital signs monitoring. Her resume reflects a professional who is calm under pressure and adept at building strong, trusting relationships with patients and their families. Described as a "compassionate and reliable" professional, Pokuaa has

proven her ability to collaborate with multidisciplinary teams to provide the highest quality of patient-centered care. A heart full of gratitude When asked about her journey, Pokuaa was quick to share her appreciation for those who supported her. "My nursing journey has been full of growth, learning, compassion, and dedication," she said. "I want to thank my mentor, Regina Njuguna, LPN, colleagues, family, my advisor, Professor Shannen Sherman, BSN, RN, and instructors for their constant support, encouragement, and guidance throughout this path. Lastly, I want to thank Dr. Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, for giving me the opportunity and for believing in me." Grace Pokuaa, LPN, is already putting her new credentials to work, continuing her service to patients at Vibra, the Meadows. With a solid foundation of experience and a passion for care, her future in the nursing profession looks incredibly bright. The community congratulates Grace Pokuaa on this well-deserved success.

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OBITUARIES

Nancy L. Gresenz, 83



Sturbridge: Nancy L. (Rothrock) Gresenz, 83, of Wells Park Rd., passed away on September 11th at UMass Memorial-Harrington, after a long and hard-fought battle with Alzheimer’s.

She leaves behind her loving husband, Jon “Tim” Gresenz, with whom she shared a beautiful marriage and devoted family; their son Robert J. Gresenz and his wife Paula of Panama City, FL; daughter Tammy Cronin and her husband Jeff of Brimfield, MA; Nancy’s sister, Cheryl Ann Rothrock of Hortonville, WI; grandchildren Andrew Gresenz and his wife Amanda, Justin Gresenz, Allyson Chase, and Haileigh Chase; as well as great grandchildren Luca and Owen Gresenz.

Nancy was born in Appleton, WI, the daughter of Frank W. and Mary Ann (Nolan) Rothrock. Nancy was first and foremost a caring wife, mother, sister, grandmother and great grandmother. She enjoyed being active and involved in her community in many ways, including as a Boy Scout Den Mother, CCD Teacher and Apple Bazaar Co-Chair for many years at St. Anne’s Parish. She loved watching her children and grandchildren play sports and participated in many of their activities, often embracing them as passions of her own. Nancy was an avid NASCAR fan with her favorite driver being Jeff Gordon. She loved the exciting sights and sounds of cars on the track just as much as she loved the roar of the crowd at Lambeau

Field in Green Bay. GO PACK GO!

Nancy had a long and diverse professional life which involved working as the Town of Sturbridge Executive Secretary as well as a Special Education Teacher for many years at Burgess Elementary School in Sturbridge. Nancy and Tim were especially proud to have owned the Sturbridge Heritage Motel in the heart of Sturbridge for over 20 years. During the 30 years she and Tim spent living on Hilton Head Island she also was active in managing that property and making it a beautiful and welcoming environment. Nancy was also very passionate about the Sturbridge Rotary Club, participating over 50 years alongside Tim and earning the Paul Harris Fellowship Award. Another one of Nancy’s favorite places to be was at their home on Big Alum Lake, where she loved their time relaxing and entertaining on the water. She was also very passionate about conserving Big Alum Lake for future generations to enjoy and served on the Board for many years.

A Funeral Mass for Nancy will be held on Tuesday, September 23rd, at 10:00am in St. Anne Church, 16 Church St., Fiskdale, MA 01518. Calling hours will be held on Monday, September 22nd, from 5:00 to 7:00pm in the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Sturbridge Rotary Club, P.O. Box 357, Sturbridge, MA 01566 or to St. Anne/St. Patrick Parish, 16 Church St, Fiskdale, MA 01518.

Ralph A. Eastman, 98



Sturbridge: Ralph A. Eastman, 98, of Westwood Dr., passed away on September 12th at Rose Monahan Hospice Home, after a brief illness.

He leaves his loving daughter, Nancy E. Eastman of Sturbridge; his nieces, Ellen Pulawski-Chahoud and her husband Jean of Woodstock, CT, Ann Proulx and her husband Michael of Webster, and Virginia Brousseau and her husband William of Willington, CT; nephew, John Pulawski of Southbridge.

Ralph was predeceased by his loving wife Mary F. (Welch) Eastman in 2024 and his sister, Ruth Eastman-Bachand.

Ralph was born in Charlton, the son of Chester A. and Pearl (Barnes) Eastman.

Ralph was a dedicated and loving husband, father, brother and uncle. He had diverse interests, but his true loves were his wife Mary and daughter Nancy.

Ralph was born in Charlton, MA in 1927. He was a graduate of Charlton HS, veteran on US Navy, graduate of

WPI School of Industrial Management and member of the Masonic Fraternity of Massachusetts (Master Mason for 71 years). He began his career at Hyde’s Manufacturing after an honorable discharge from the Navy in 1946 and continued working there until his retirement more than 50 years later. He was an avid golfer, loved photography and spending winters in St Augustine. He took frequent trips with his family and friends to the Outer Banks, was gregarious and had a sharp sense of humor. He will be very missed.

A Funeral Service for Ralph will be held on Thursday, September 25th, at 11:00am in The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge. Burial will follow in West Ridge Cemetery. A calling hour will be held on Thursday, September 25th from 10:00 to 11:00am, prior to the service.

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, is directing arrangements.



Send all obituary notices to
Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90,
Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail
to obits@stonebridgepress.news

DROUGHT

continued from page A1

April of 2025.

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

The declaration of Level- 2 significant drought will remain in effect until the State Drought Task Force deems that the conditions within Worcester Country have returned to acceptable levels.

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

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

DISPATCH

continued from page A1

“There are currently 32 different regional centers across Massachusetts. It’s working in all parts of the state. There are different models and ways of doing it. I think the chiefs did their due diligence in figuring out which center fits their mold and their model that they’re looking for,” Kinnas said.

The Select Board had some concerns, including ensuring that the Charlton Police Station is still staffed and not “dark” in case people still need help. The concept of having the center location in Charlton was also brought to the table. There was a sense of urgency to get Charlton on board with the partnership to allow their existing dispatchers a better chance at securing jobs

within the regional dispatch, but also some apprehension over the cost assessment to Charlton which would be based on population.

The Select Board’s support will be contingent upon the Finance Committee’s approval with that committee scheduled to meet the following week and again in a joint meeting with the Select Board later in the month.

Opacum Land Trust announces fall events schedule, celebrates 25th year of conservation work

REGION — Opacum Land Trust programs are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted Mark your calendars and RSVP now for these upcoming events and help us celebrate 25 years of local land conservation. To RSVP or for information on any events, please visit www.OpacumLT.org/events/.

Tuesday, Sept. 30, 6-7:30 p.m.: Nature Narratives Book Group at Joshua Hyde Library, Sturbridge

Join us for a book discussion group, hosted by Opacum Land Trust, exploring literature that celebrates the natural world and examines our relationship with the land. This month, we’ll be discussing *Is a River Alive?* by Robert Macfarlane. The group meets at the Joshua Hyde Library meeting room in Sturbridge. Free program, RSVP required.

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 6-7:30 p.m.: Bugs and Brews Talk @ Rapsallion Pub, Sturbridge

Grab a pint and get ready to learn about the challenges facing our forests! Opacum director and forester, Felicia Hubacz, will share updates on the current state of our forests, including forest pests and diseases and efforts to combat them. Doors open at 6 p.m. The talk begins at 6:30 p.m. This is a free event, but space is limited - reserve your spot today!

Saturday, Oct. 19, 10 a.m.: Cedar Swamp Walk, Monson

Join Opacum Land Trust’s Vice President Toni Uliana and director Glenn Colburn for a walk at the Atlantic White Cedar Swamp in Monson to discuss the ecological restoration work led by the Monson Conservation Commission in collaboration with the Nipmuc tribe of Native Americans and with support from Opacum Land Trust. The walk is approximately 1.5 miles in length with a firm trail, and ends with a ¼-mile road walk back to the parking area. The majority of the

trail is an easy walk, but expect some sections of uneven ground and roots. We will stop numerous times along the trail to examine the local plants and discuss the declining health of the cedar swamp and what Monson and the Nipmucs intend to do to restore the swamp to a more healthy and vigorous condition. Free program, RSVP required.

Wednesday, Oct. 22, 6-7 p.m.: Coexisting with Black Bears Talk at Rapsallion Pub, Sturbridge

Join us for Bears and Beers! This engaging presentation, led by Meghan Crawford, the Community Engagement Biologist at the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) explores black bear biology and how communities can take effective steps to prevent conflict and coexist with bears. Free program, RSVP required.

Saturday, November 8th, 10 AM-12PM: Woods Walk at Stevens Brook Sichel Community Forest, Holland

Join OLT Executive Director, Laney Wilder, and Holland Trails Association’s Dick Haller for a walk to explore a portion of the 150 acres that the Town of Holland, Massachusetts has acquired for recreation and conservation with support from Opacum Land Trust. We’ll hike for about one and a half hours and explore this beautiful, forested property along Stevens Brook. Due to a few steep sections and uneven footing, this is a moderate walk. Free program, RSVP required.

Opacum Land Trust is a non-profit conservation organization founded in 2000, with a mission to protect the land, water, and wildlife of southcentral Massachusetts. We currently protect 4,095 acres of land with the help of our members and supporters. For more information go to www.opacumlt.org or find us on Facebook.

SNHU announces Summer President’s List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Summer 2025 President’s List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Loriauna Graika of Charlton
Nasheen Gagner of Charlton
Russell Sanborn of Charlton
Serena Blasco of Wales
Jeff Fannon of Brimfield
Kaighley Obuchowski of Southbridge
Marysol Cruz of Southbridge
Daysia Forbis of Southbridge
James Maschal of Southbridge
Kalie Hernandez of Southbridge

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 92-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, New Hampshire. Recognized as one of the “Most Innovative” regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

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JONAH D. GLICKMAN

Vice President

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Dudley, Charlton receive state dam grants

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — Dudley and Charlton have both been awarded funding through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Dam and Seawall Repair or Removal Program that will allow each community to perform much needed work on dams and structures essential to water control and public safety.

The two towns are among 23 municipalities awarded the state funding. Dudley is receiving \$250,000 for the rehabilitation of the Lower Gore Pond Dam, while Charlton will receive \$89,900 to fund a feasibility study for the removal of the Lower Sibley Pond Dam. The grants are intended to help communities address structural issues that could put local homes and roads at risk if the waterways were to overflow.

Dudley Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda broke the news during a Board of Selectmen meeting on Sept. 8, calling the Lower Gore Pond Dam project long overdue after several years of applying.

“(Former Town Planner) Bill Scanlon put in the original application and it follows our strategy to pursue grant funding to mitigate all of the many town dams that are on their way out around town, repair them, in some cases we can engineer them down to have them removed altogether,” said Ruda.

In Charlton, Town Administrator Andrew Golas said the funding will be essential determine designs and costs for resolving the Lower Sibley Pond Dam situation.

“This dam had been identified as structurally deficient by the Office of Dam Safety (ODS) last year. The dam was previously identified as a privately owned dam by ODS. Further title search of the property found that the dam was located on property owned by the Town. Since this discovery, we have been working with our consulting engineers and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs on opportunities to address this hazard through the Dam and Seawall Repair or Removal Program,” said Golas.

In a press release announcing the grants, the Healey-Driscoll Administration called the overall investment of \$10.9 million in funding an important step forward in protecting neighborhoods from disaster. The Dam and Seawall Program provides funding for the design, permitting, and construction of these infrastructure projects which the administration noted are often the first line of defense for communities against flood risks and storm damage. The Dam and Seawall program has provided nearly \$146 million in grants and loans since its inception in 2013.

SNHU announces Summer Dean’s List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Summer 2025 Dean’s List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Haven Banks of Charlton
Daniel Bradley of Fiskdale
Grace Morin of Wales
Yashira Sagastibelza of Southbridge
Alonza Searer of Southbridge

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 92-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, New Hampshire. Recognized as one of the “Most Innovative” regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

QCC enrollment hits historic high

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College has announced that fall 2025 enrollment has reached approximately 9,000 students, marking the highest enrollment in 13 years.

The enrollment surge reflects several ongoing factors, including state programs like MassEducate and MassReconnect, which provide free tuition and fees to qualifying Massachusetts residents

“This record-breaking enrollment has brought thousands of students on our campus, filled with hopes and dreams. They have come prepared to embrace new beginnings, experience many firsts and pursue a brighter future for themselves and their families,” said QCC President Luis Pedraja, Ph.D.

QCC has continued to enhance its student support services, including tutoring, mentoring and services for parenting students. Expanding on previous services, QCC has opened a First-Generation Student Support Center for individuals who are the first in their families to attend college. The center will offer academic coaching, information workshops and guidance navigating the college experience. QCC serves approximately 4,400 first-generation students.

QCC has also streamlined operations by integrating the First-Generation Student Support Center into one comprehensive area, along with testing services and career and transfer services. The newly reorganized area will guide students from their initial engagement with QCC, all the way through to career placement or transfer to a four-year institution.

“We are working to ensure students have the resources, guidance, and encouragement they need to overcome challenges and reach their full potential,” Pedraja added.

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Saturday, September 20th


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9am until 3pm FREE We accept CREDIT CARDS!
24,000 sq.ft. of yard sale items ONE DAY ONLY
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Grouped Items: Electronics - stereos, speakers, etc. (no TV's) Tools - hand tools, lights, flooring etc.. Furniture - Tables, chairs, bed frames, cabinets, hutches, etc.. Housewares - glassware, dishes, pictures, mirrors, bowls, cups, small appliances Sporting goods - Bikes, skis, baseball equipment, golf, exercise equipment Clothes - shirts, pants, jackets, shoes, bags Kids toys and baby items - high chairs, bouncy, games, Antiques

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Saturday, September 20th
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Many items: housewares, tools, yard equipment, something for everyone!





Wesley
Age 11
Registration #8475


Wesley is a healthy, sweet, and caring boy with a bright curiosity about the world around him. Though he may seem shy and reserved at first, he quickly opens up through play and interaction. Creative and imaginative, Wesley is a natural builder who loves working with Legos, crafting intricate origami art, and even inventing his own games. He enjoys reading and has a particular love for math, which he excels in. With his vivid imagination and problem-solving skills, it’s no surprise that Wesley dreams of becoming an engineer when he grows up.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21180805788>

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If you’re at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ+ singles and couples. As an adoptive parent, you won’t have to pay any fees, adoption from foster care is completely free in Massachusetts.

The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with. To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org . Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.





Nature
FACT:

Leaves change color in the fall due to the breakdown of this substance.

Answer: Chlorophyll

Crossword Puzzle

1				2				3
4								
			5		6			
7					8			
9								

ACROSS

1. California city (abbr.)
2. Sudden fear
4. Dull pain
5. Rest on knees
7. One who feels superior to others
8. We breathe it
9. Place for learning

DOWN

1. They grow on trees
2. Game played with a baby
3. Not as hot
6. Digital message

Answers:
Across
1. LA 2. Panic 4. Ache 5. Kneel 7. Snob 8. Air
Down
1. Leaves 2. Peekaboo 3. Cooler 6. Email

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

SEP

17

1778: The Treaty of Fort Pitt is signed between the United States and a Native American tribe.

1961: The world's first retractable roof stadium, the Civic Arena, opens in Pittsburgh.

1983: Vanessa Williams becomes the first Black Miss America.

NEW WORD

HIBERNATE

remain in an inactive state, typically during winter

How they say that in...

English: Cool
Spanish: Fresco
Italian: Fresco
French: Frais
German: Kalt

Did You Know?

Raking leaves by hand is a great form of exercise that enables people to enjoy the fresh air and does not contribute to noise pollution caused by leaf blowers.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Pumpkin

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to fall.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 13 = L)

A. 22 18 2 9 8 19
Clue: Cleaning up leaves

B. 3 4 9 13 13 15
Clue: Slightly cold

C. 1 23 24 21 23 26 14 23 22
Clue: Falls starts here

D. 17 18 13 13
Clue: Autumn

Answers: A. raking B. chilly C. September D. fall

SUDOKU

	5					9	1	
	7					3		
1			4				7	
2			1					
4				7				
9						1	6	
5			8	3				
	9				7		8	
		6		9				2

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you have, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

7	8	6	5	9	1	4	3	2
3	9	2	6	4	7	5	8	1
5	4	1	8	3	2	6	9	7
9	3	7	2	5	4	1	6	8
4	1	8	3	7	6	2	5	9
2	6	5	1	8	9	7	4	3
1	2	9	4	6	3	8	7	5
8	7	4	9	1	5	3	2	6
6	5	3	7	2	8	9	1	4

ANSWER:

Historical Society rocks out

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRI
— Pins and feathers can break rocks.

Of course, they’re probably not the pins and feathers you’re picturing, not the kinds you’d wear on a jacket or birds would fly with. But they can fit in your pocket.

The pins and feathers Rich Paradise told the Southbridge Historical Society about last week are fairly small metal wedges people have pounded into granite for centuries to split the rocks into flat slabs for building walls and other things. He noted you have to do that slowly, hammering several in a row along a crack until the rock falls apart. Go too fast, and the rock fragments instead.

“I grew up in New England never really looking at stone walls because they were like telephone poles – just background,” Paradise said. Then he read historian Robert Thorson’s Stone by Stone and became fascinated with them.

According to Thorson, within 60 miles of the spot where Massachusetts, Rhode Island

and Connecticut meet, “there are more stone walls within that circle than anywhere else on Earth,” Paradise recalled. By about 1850, there were more than 250,000 miles of walls in New England.

Those walls come in “all different kinds ... built for different purposes.” Some are intended to for long-term stability, some to be wobbly, some for hillsides, some for spite. All of them tap what’s only half jokingly termed New England’s major crop – the thousands of rocks left behind by the glaciers.

Paradise said those exist mostly in two forms – flat and round, the former being here before the latter were dropped by the glaciers. He cites poet Robert Frost on the round ones as saying “You almost have to put a spell on the stones to get them to stay there.”

For a certain kind of “extremely common” wall, that’s a plus. Paradise said farmers built lace walls with the flat ones at the bottom, but a top row or two laid out to be “very rickety.” That instability dissuaded sheep from trying to escape, since they “do



Gus Steeves
Rich Paradise demonstrates how pins and feathers are used.

not like climbing rickety surfaces.”

On the other hand, hillside walls need stability. Built on a slope, “the stones actually lean uphill so the pull of gravity tends to straighten out the stones.” For them, though, the top sometimes pulls away from the hill itself, causing it to topple.

Cowstiles need even more stability, to contain cattle and other large animals. They’re largely flat stones with a simple gate the cattle won’t

go through because it’s topped with a crossing stone that’s “intended to rock.” Similar construction went into the animal pounds that every district had for escaped animals since they’d already proven to be “escape artists.”

Jim O’Brien added those animals often went unclaimed because the owners would’ve had to pay fines for any damage they caused; they were typically later auctioned. Sturbridge alone had 13 such pounds, one

for each district, in the 1830s; not all of them were stone, he said.

“Those walls need to be restacked every 40-50 years just to keep them intact,” Paradise said.

A related structure is the “pass,” where the farmer would step over or through the wall (sometimes with a railing for support), while the cattle won’t.

Many walls in the woods are barely walls at all. In the early years before about 1800, farmers “just tossed away” the stones along their property edges. But since colonial law required them to contain their animals, they often erected split rail fences atop them.

Sturbridge was once home to a unique type of stone wall – the spite wall, which, as its name implies, “was built for no other reason than to spite your neighbor,” he said. Until it was demolished around world war II, such a wall existed behind the Public House; another is still near Mt Wachusett. Paradise said the latter is about 10 feet tall, built by a man who liked gardening on Sundays while his neighbor criticized him for not going to church.

One rare feature in our woods are surveyors’ cairns; Paradise said he’s only ever seen two, one of them on his own property. Those mark a property’s corners, and are typically stacked three or four stones high atop a boulder.

He noted that Thorson termed most such boulders “leave-its,” because they’re too large to move without modern equipment, if at all. That was one of four Thorson categories for rocks, the other three being “one-handers,” “two-handers,” and “assisted stones.” The first two are pretty obvious; the third meant stones big enough to need an ox or other animal’s help to move.

Paradise said he often has people ask where the stones came from. “To farm, they scraped the duff off the forest floor.” That duff – several feet of organic matter – tended to keep the lower layers warmer in winter. When gone, the cold penetrates farther, and the ground freezes from the bottom.

Over time, freeze-thaw cycles push rocks up until they’re on the surface.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

Meet the unsung heroine behind the New Deal at Joshua Hyde Library

STURBRIDGE — On Wednesday, Oct. 1, the Joshua Hyde Public Library will host the performance “Meet the Unsung Heroine Behind the New Deal.” The performance will honor the 90th anniversary of the signing of the Social Security Act; the Act brought into law Social Security, Unemployment Insurance, and other protective programs. Patrons will hear from Frances Perkins, the architect of Social Security, Unemployment Insurance and a host of other worker protections and benefits. She was FDR’s Secretary of Labor, the first woman to serve in the US Cabinet.

Miss Perkins will reveal the trials, triumphs, and trip-ups that characterize her 12 years in FDR’s Cabinet. Patrons will gain insights into topics that include the list of demands Frances presented to FDR before accepting the appointment; the Depression; her largely unknown



Courtesy
Janet Parnes as Frances Perkins.

role in architecting the New Deal, including creating and implementing the minimum wage, and 40-hr workweek; reasons World War 11 nearly demolished her career; attempt to impeach her; WW 11 immigration issues; bedeviling family troubles; and relentless gender prejudice.

Janet Parnes of Historical Portrayals by Lady J, Millis will portray Frances Perkins.

The one-hour portrayal is free and open to all. The event will take

place from 6:30-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 1 at the Joshua Hyde Public Library, 306 Main St., Sturbridge.

Registration is required. Register through the Library’s Web site at <https://tinyurl.com/JoshHydeFPerk> or by calling the library at 508-347-2512.

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.

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Courtesy

The Jacob Edwards Library is pleased to host the talented and well-known ensemble Carlos Odria Trio for a performance in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The concert will take place on Thursday, Sept. 18 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. This is a free event and all welcome! The Carlos Odria Trio is a high-energy fusion band that performs original compositions and arrangements of jazz standards and Latin American popular music. The group has established itself as a channel of Latin heritage with a twist and has charmed audiences throughout the state and beyond. Sponsored by Southbridge Cultural Council and Massachusetts Cultural Council.