

Charlton officials break ground on new Fire Department substation

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The Town of Charlton gathered for a truly momentous occasion on June 19 for the groundbreaking of one of the biggest and most heavily discussed town projects in recent memory, the Charlton Fire Department's new substation on Oxford Road.

The groundbreaking punctuates a landmark year for the department as it celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2025, but it also serves as the culmination of years of discussion, planning, and public education to replace the aging Station 2 with a new substation that will

Turn To **SUBSTATION** page 14



Chief Rob Barton addresses the crowd with the Charlton Fire Department Color Guard behind him as they break ground on the new fire substation on Oxford Road.

Planning Board ends contentious 39 Elm hearing

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBIDGE — The formal public hearing over 39 Elm St. ended fairly suddenly when Mike Colognesi and Sandy Acly moved to close it after several residents voiced their opposition to the proposal. (That doesn't mean the decision's made; that was continued to July 9.)

Just before that vote, Building Commissioner Ted Tetreault said, "I will not let it go any further" even if the board approves it.

That prompted Don O'Neill, the proponent's attorney, to remark "That's why we have courts."

Over the previous half hour or so, several residents (most of them town councilors, but also Fire Chief Paul Normandin) repeated objections to the plan, which aims to convert the largely vacant commercial building into 46 apartments. Most of them revolved around safety, specifically fire department access from the parking lot, ability to operate inside the building, and the parking

structure's condition itself. Others objected to using downtown buildings for more housing at all; some just to this location.

Councilor Mike Montigny perhaps summarized their point by citing MGL Chapter 40A, Sec 9, which allows the board to reject a plan if it's "not in harmony" with the town's bylaws "or detrimental to the general good." To him, police, fire and inspections departments are "all saying 'this is no good,'" and he decried it as "a det-

Turn To **39 ELM** page 14

Conservation and land management info session July 9

STURBRIDGE — Are you a landowner that is worried about what will happen to your land in the future? Are you unsure of how to care for and manage your land now? Determining how to best care for and protect your land can be overwhelming. But there are resources available to help chart your course! MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership, Town of Sturbridge, and Department of Conservation and Recreation presents "Your Land, Your Legacy: Planning for the Future of Your Land," a conservation and land management information session happening July 9 at 12:30 p.m. at the Sturbridge Senior Center, 480 Main St., Sturbridge.

Turn To **CONSERVATION** page 14

Rotary Club of Southbridge awards 2025 scholarships

SOUTHBIDGE —The Rotary Club of Southbridge is proud to announce the 2025 recipients of its annual high school scholarship awards at its annual Scholarship luncheon held at the Wellsworth Hotel, Southbridge on June 18. Five exemplary local students have each been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to support their continued education and college expenses.

The recipients are:

Anthony Avogolia, Charlton graduate of Shepherd Hill Regional High School attending UMass-Lowell to study secondary education and history.

Samuel Carasco, Southbridge graduate of Quaboag Regional High School attending Fitchburg State University to study criminal justice.

Shane McGlone, Southbridge graduate of Marianapolis Preparatory School attending Boston College to study finance.

Maggie Montville, Charlton graduate of Shepherd Hill Regional High School attending Worcester State University to study sociology and journalism.

Adriana Quintanilla – Southbridge graduate of Southbridge High School attending UMass-Amherst to study performing arts.

These students were



From left: Scholarship Chair Tobe Gerard, Shane McGlone, Samuel Carasco, Adrianna Quintanilla, Club President Kathleen Russell, Anthony Avogolia, Scholarship committee member Patrick Morrill.

selected based on their academic achievement, community service, and leadership potential. Representing a broad cross-section of the Southbridge and Charlton communities and neighboring schools, each scholarship recipient exemplifies Rotary's motto: "Service Above Self."

"We are inspired by the commitment and character of these young scholars," said Tobe Gerard, Scholarship Chair of the Rotary Club of Southbridge. "By investing in their futures, we are investing in the future of our entire community."

The Rotary Club of Southbridge remains dedicated to supporting education and youth development through its scholarship programs and community initiatives. Scholarship funds are raised during the annual Dr. Van Golf Tournament held in September.

Turn To **SCHOLARSHIPS** page 14

SOUTHBRIDGE POLICE LOG

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Police Department reported the following arrests from June 9-23.

A 22-year-old from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on June 9 for operating a motor vehicle with No Inspection Sticker and Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license.

Robert William Vespa, age 37, of Webster was arrested on June 10 for Disturbing the Peace, Disorderly Conduct (subsequent offense), Resisting Arrest, Assault & Battery on a Police Officer, Attempting to Commit a Crime (Larceny of Prescription Medication), multiple counts of Assault on a Health Care Provider, and in connection with a warrant.

Troy M. Kahikna, age 55, of Southbridge was arrested on June 13 in connection with a warrant for Disorderly Conduct.

A 45-year-old male from Sturbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on June 13 for Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Failure to Stop for Police, Improper Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and driving at a rate of speed exceeding the posted limit.

A 44-year-old male from Southbridge was taken into protective custody on June 16.

A 48-year-old male from Worcester received a summons in lieu of arrest on June 16 for a Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID and for operating an Uninsured and Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

A 48-year-old female from Wales received a summons in

lieu of arrest on June 17 for Identity Fraud.

A 54-year-old male from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on June 17 for Shoplifting By Asportation.

Alexandra Catalina Saez-Pacheco, age 19, of Southbridge was arrested on June 17 for Disorderly Conduct and Assault & Battery.

Giovanni M. Kevelier, age 25, of Southbridge was arrested on June 17 for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order and in connection with a warrant.

Diana Mary Roman, age 25, of Southbridge was arrested on June 18 for Speeding, Operating a Motor Vehicle in Violation of a License Restriction, and in connection with a warrant for operating an Unlicensed, Unregistered, and uninspected motor vehicle.

A 53-year-old female from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on June 18 for Shoplifting By Asportation.

A 34-year-old female from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on June 18 for Assault & Battery (simple) and Malicious Destruction of Property valued at \$1,200 or less. A 40-year-old female, also from Southbridge, received a summons during the same incident for multiple counts of Criminal Harassment and Revenge Porn.

Michael S. Bishop, age 55, of Leicester was arrested on June 19 for Shoplifting By Concealing Merchandise (second offense) and in connection with multiple warrants (for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license and Possession of a Class A Drug).

Nicole Jeannette Ingels, age 41, of Southbridge was arrested on June 20 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member. A 42-year-old male from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest during the same incident for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Grant A. Normandin, age 56, of Southbridge was arrested on June 20 in connection with a warrant for Misdemeanor Breaking & Entering.

A 45-year-old from Southbridge was taken into protective custody on June 20 for Disorderly Conduct and Disturbing the Peace.

A 54-year-old male from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on June 21 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license (subsequent offense).

A 19-year-old female from Dudley was taken into protective custody on June 22.

VILLAGER ALMANAC

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

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Thursday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (May 25 will be our last open Saturday until Labor Day) Sunday: Closed

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Tuesdays: 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday: Closed
visit www.townofcharlton.net or more information.

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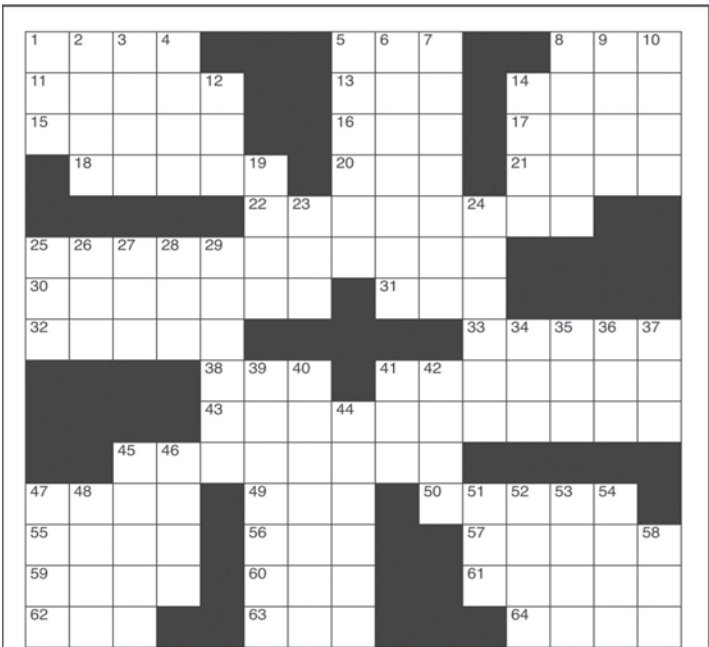
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CHURCH LISTINGS

- Central Baptist Church
256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.
- Charlton Federated Church, 64 Main St., 508- 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer worship is 9:30 a.m. www.fed-church.org www.charltonfedchurch.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 "Where the Bible is preached." 11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926 Hollandchurch.org Sunday Service @ 10:00 am Pastor Dan Maketansky
- Holy Trinity Episcopal Church 446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550 Phone: 508-765-9559 Web: www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org Sunday Service 11:00 am Pastor Dan Purtell

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Computer manufacturer
- 5. Noted space station
- 8. Kurt Russell film "Captain"
- 11. Automaton
- 13. Everyone has one
- 14. Incline from the vertical
- 15. Fights
- 16. Dunn & Bradstreet (abbr.)
- 17. Finishes off
- 18. Places to store things
- 20. Dutch painter Gerard _
- 21. Smaller quantity
- 22. There's a North, South and Central of these
- 25. In an early way
- 30. More spacious
- 31. Short-term memory
- 32. One who possesses
- 33. Sesame
- 38. Forbid
- 41. A way to explain
- 43. Not around
- 45. Evoke or suggest
- 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 49. Dekameter
- 50. Fencing sword
- 55. "Luther" actor Idris
- 56. Affirmative (slang)
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. One point north of northeast
- 60. Born of
- 61. Arabic name
- 62. Hong Kong food stall: _ pai dong
- 63. Not the start
- 64. Post

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Creative expression
- 2. Fiber from the outer husk of a coconut
- 3. City in ancient Syria
- 4. College army
- 5. More disturbed
- 6. Pays no attention to
- 7. Restored
- 8. Competitions
- 9. Lyric poems
- 10. Famed American lawman
- 12. Expression of disappointment
- 14. Scars
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. Central European river
- 24. Brass instrument
- 25. One who gets paid to perform
- 26. Propel with oars
- 27. Long period of time
- 28. Woman (French)
- 29. Type of plane
- 34. Pitching stat
- 35. Pointed end of a pen
- 36. Pro sports league
- 37. Body part
- 39. Inoffensive
- 40. Yellowish cotton cloth
- 41. Feline
- 42. Does not tell the truth
- 44. Set out to attract
- 45. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 46. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 47. Repair
- 48. Genus of flowering plants
- 51. Tributary of the High Rhine
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. C. European river
- 54. Restrain
- 58. Father

PUZZLE SOLUTION
Grid containing the solution to the crossword puzzle.

REAL ESTATE

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\$ 899,900, 55 Ramshorn Rd, He, Quan, and Hagborg, Jade, to Belu, Andrew T.
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\$100,000, Smith Rd, White Development Corp, to Brady, Matthew, and Falker, Mckenzie.

HOLLAND

\$775,000, 22 Old Acres Rd, Paul & C Huijing Jret, and Huijing, Paul, to Yee, Wayne J, and Yates-Yee, Jamie D.
\$215,000, 54 Mashapaug Rd, Graves, Chad R, and Graves, Jennifer L, to Yeliseyeva, Olga.

SOUTHBRIDGE

\$550,000, 16 Ellis Rd, Paquin, Pamela, to Johnson, Katherine.
\$375,000, 48 Red Oak Ln, Rivera, Jaime O, and Oquendo, Madelin, to Santana, Johansi, and Torres, Alexander.
\$200,000, 20 Glover St, Matte, William O, and Matte, Cynthia S, to Make Invs Great Again LLC.
\$128,000, 304 Pleasant St, Fournier, Joseph G, to Bertnell Realty Inc.

STURBRIDGE

\$1,120,000, 134 Lane 9, Lemke Ft, and Lemke, Bill B, to Ferrari, Michael, and Fitzsimons, Kristin L.
\$465,000, 112 Mashapaug Rd, Colpitts, Jennifer, and Colpitts, Michael, to Durant, Evan, and Nguyen, Dat.
\$322,500, 74 Bentwood Dr #74, Battles, Annalisa, and Battles, Brandyn, to Bernotas, Paul J, and Bernotas, Dalia M.
\$310,400, 600 Main St, Giam-papa, Jennifer J, to Davis, Jeremy, and Davis, Beth-ann.
\$246,000, 5 Fairview Park Rd #12, Ortiz, Deibeliz D, and Arroyo-Torres, Casandra, to Sci-annameo, Lisa.



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Charlton Lions showcase local talent

CHARLTON — After notifying local performers in March and auditioning applicants on May 10, the Charlton Lions Club held its “Charlton’s Got Talent” competition at the Charlton Middle School on May 31, featuring 17 acts. The youngest performer was 11 and the oldest was 89. Singers, musicians, dancers, acrobats and a poet competed for cash prizes, trophies and bragging rights.

First place went to a trio of ladies from the Charlton Senior Center who danced to “I Want to Be Seduced.” Mary Whitehead Santos, Yuri Sotar and Shirley Polanski (aver-

age age 75) mixed a little comedy with some well-rehearsed line dancing to take home the “gold” – proving that “growing old is mandatory, but growing up is optional.”

Second place went to dancers Haylei Townley (14) and Ireland Pitz (13) for their self-choreographed lyrical dance to “Ashes” by Celine Dion.

Third place was won by Amy Laba, who shared her moving poem about motherhood, “assisted” by her two young daughters.

The difficult selection of winners was made by judges Pastor Shannan Hudes of the Charlton Federated



(Left) Winners of the May 31 Charlton’s Got Talent competition – 2nd Place: Ireland Pitz and Haylei Townley (dance); 1st Place: Shirley Polanski, Mary Whitehead Santos and Yuri Sotar (dance); 3rd Place: Amy Laba (poetry).

Church, State Representative (Worcester 6th District) John J. Marsi, and Charlton Selectboard Member Barbara Zurawski.

Lion Kathy Gallant, who organized and promoted the show, and her partner

Lion Gerald Wolfe (in a lion costume), provided comedic skits between acts. Lion Richard Ferrucci added more humor in his role as emcee. Other Lions Club members served as stage hands and greeters.

The sound board and all other technical properties were flawlessly run by Head Custodian Jim Rivera, a for-

mer professional musician, whose knowledge, patience and good humor helped everything run smoothly.

The Lions Club thanks all the contestants; their family and friends for attending; the judges for cheerfully giving their time; all the businesses that purchased ads in the program booklet; Dawn Wilson and her students at Bay Path for printing the flyers, banners and programs; and the Dudley/Charlton School District, especially Administrative Assistant to the Principal Patricia Kasierski, for her guidance and support.

STEM gets a boost at Worcester State University

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, is donating \$15,000 a year for the next three years, a total contribution of \$45,000, to Worcester State University’s STEM Connections program. The gift continues Cornerstone Bank’s generous multi-year support of various STEM initiatives at Worcester State.

“This donation is personal for me,” said Cornerstone Bank President Randy Webber, who graduated from Worcester State University with a B.A. in business administration and sits on the board of the Worcester State Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the mission of the university. “I cherish my time spent at Worcester State, and I’m proud to be able to support the academic endeavors of students there now.”

The university’s STEM Connections program focuses on engaging junior and senior high school students from Worcester public high schools in fun and informative hands-on laboratory and data analysis projects at the Worcester State campus. Professors from chemistry, biology and environmental science lead the program, and a Worcester State student

serves as the teaching assistant. The participants take field trips, hear from local experts, and participate in a variety of learning activities to encourage a love for science. The program also introduces pathways to higher education in STEM fields. Students gain valuable knowledge and skills about navigating the college application process through presentations by the university’s admissions and financial aid teams.

The program is one of the university’s signature summer educational programs, said Worcester State Vice President for University Advancement Tom McNamara, adding, “The Cornerstone STEM Connections program has a tremendous impact on students by igniting their enthusiasm for science, building confidence, and enabling them to envision a future college education in STEM. We are tremendously grateful to Cornerstone Bank for providing this multi-year support. This gift represents an important investment in the future workforce for our region.”

“I hope this donation helps open doors for students the way Worcester State helped me build a strong foundation for a rewarding career at Cornerstone Bank,” said Webber. “The future is bright.”

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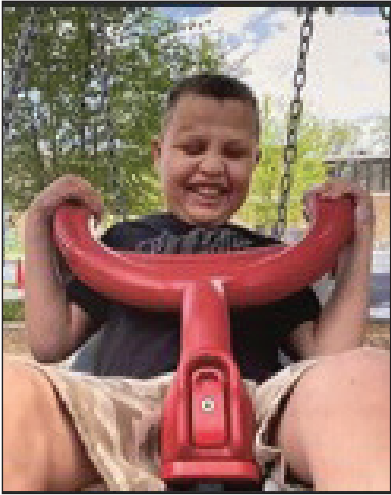
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The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with. To learn more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

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JULY EVENTS AT CHARLTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

For further details and to register for programs, please visit our website (charltonlibrary.org)
Additional parking is available across the street at Town Hall and at the Elementary School.

Movies @ The Library
All showings are on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. only unless noted - Dexter Hall - No registration required.
July 1: A MINECRAFT MOVIE. 2025. Rated PG. 101 minutes. Starring Jack Black, Emma Myers, Jason Momoa, Jennifer Coolidge, and Danielle Brooks.
July 8: SNOW WHITE. 2025. Rated G. 109 minutes. Featuring Rachel Zegler, Gal Gadot, Andrew Burnap, and Ansu Kabia.
July 15: DOG MAN. 2025. Rated PG. 93 minutes. Starring Poppy Liu, Ricky Gervais, Isla Fisher, Stephen Root, and Pete Davidson.
July 22: BRIDGET JONES: MAD ABOUT THE BOY. 2025. Rated R. 124 minutes. Featuring Renée Zellweger, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Leo Woodall, Hugh Grant, and Jim Broadbent.
July 29: THE ALTO KNIGHTS. 2025. Rated R. 123 minutes. Starring Robert De Niro, Debra Messing, Cosmo Jarvis, and Katherine Narducci.

Threaded Together Fiber Arts Group (formerly Silver Needles Knit & Crochet Group)
Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 pm - Sibley Reading Area - no registration required
Bring your current project and relax with friends. All are welcome regardless of skill level.

Friendship Corner: Supporting Girls with Different Abilities
Tuesday, July 1, 6:00-7:00 pm - Storytime Room - no registration required
Friendship Corner is an adaptive and encouraging space for girls with disabilities aged 8+ to have fun, make friends, and feel connected. Please join us for some fun activities!

Tote Bag Craft
Tuesday, July 1, 6:00-7:30 pm and Wednesday, July 2, 10:30 am - noon, Community Meeting Room - registration required. Join us to decorate a tote bag! We'll have a variety of decorations available including paint, iron-on designs and phrases, and more! Help us prepare by choosing a saying that you'd like for your bag from the list. If you don't want a saying choose 'no words' but don't worry, we'll have extras in case! This program is for adults and teens age 13 and older.

Fidget Club
Wednesday, July 2, 2:30-3:30 pm - Storytime Room - registration required
Love fidgets? Join us for a new club at the library, where you can show off your collection, trade with other kids, and participate in a fun activity! Activities will include: DIY fidget crafts, trading, and a fidget showcase.
Best for children ages 8 - 12. Parents/caregivers are welcome to attend with their children.

Me and My Mini with Sunflower Movement Therapy
Mondays, July 7 & 28, 10:00-10:45 am - Community Meeting Room - registration required
A 45-minute creative movement group for ages birth through 2.5 with a grown-up led by Katelyn Cramer from Sunflower Movement Therapy. The group is focused on adult and baby spending quality time together, fostering attachment, and baby interacting with others their age. Get groovy to upbeat music with props, instruments, and a story!

Fiber Arts Club for Tweens and Teens
Mondays, July 7 & 21, 2:30-3:30 pm - Storytime Room - no registration required
Are you interested in knitting, crocheting, needle felting, or other fiber art? Join us to practice your craft, learn from more experienced friends, or teach others! Don't forget to bring your current projects! This group is best for tweens and teens ages 9 -18.

Chain Reactions & Creative Contraptions
Wednesday, July 9, 10:00-11:00 am - Dexter Hall - registration required

Families with children ages 5 and older are welcome to attend. Playful Engineers Teaching Artist Merlin Katz presents an in-person, hands-on event where kids and families design, build, test, and play with Rube Goldberg "Machines" - complicated chain reactions accomplishing simple tasks. Participants learn through demonstration and self-directed play to make kinetic 'machine' parts, exploring force and motion, scale, and cause and effect, including catapults, zip-lines, domino towers, and gravity-powered carousels. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Charlton Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Tiny Tots Open Play (0-2.5 years)
Thursday, July 10, 10:00-11:00 am - Storytime Room - no registration required
Meet up with other babies/toddlers & caregivers for fun open play and socialization! Age-appropriate toys will be available to play with. For caregivers with children ages 0-2.5 years.

CPL Book Discussion - THE INVISIBLE LIFE OF ADDIE LARUE by Victoria Schwab
Thursday, July 10, 6:00-7:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required
Books are available for checkout at the adult circulation desk one month prior to discussion.
Check library event calendar listing for Zoom link.

Cornerstone Summer Concert Series: The Dirty Martinis
Thursday, July 10, 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - no registration required
Les Sampou & Ed Grenga are The Dirty Martinis. They bring their vast talents to an extensive repertoire which includes not only award-winning original compositions but cover songs from Americana, Classic Rock, and American Songbook standards. Their repertoire covers classics from the 1920s to the 2020s. Everyone of all ages is welcome! This is the second concert in our Cornerstone Summer Concert Series sponsored by Cornerstone Bank.

LEGO Club
Friday, July 11, 2:30-3:30 pm - Storytime Room - no registration required
LEGO Club encourages children to learn while having fun! Creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork are some of the skills that "playing" with LEGOS can teach children. Join us on the first Friday of each month to complete a LEGO challenge. All LEGO's will be provided. Try out the Lego Challenge, or create your own design! Bring your friends! This is a drop-in program recommended for ages 5 - 10.

Mason Jar Pencil Holder
Tuesday, July 15, 2:30-3:30 pm - Storytime Room - registration required
Make a cute mason jar holder for your pencils or other supplies! For ages 7-13. (Please wear clothes you don't mind getting paint on!!)

Local Food Matters
Tuesday, July 15, 6:00-7:00 pm - Dexter Hall - registration appreciated
Do you know where your food comes from? Have you met the farmers that grow your food? Is local food really healthier? Come learn about local food, the farmers that grow it, and how to support farms here in Central Massachusetts. See how eating local benefits you, helps your neighbors, and is good for the planet! Presented by David Reed, Executive Director of Central Mass Grown.

Robot Obstacle Course with Mobile Quest
Wednesday, July 16, 10:00-11:00 am - Dexter Hall - registration required
Participants will learn how to control a Dash robot and maneuver it through a series of obstacles. Each level will get more difficult! For ages 7-11.

Battle Bots with MobileQuest
Wednesday, July 16, 11:30-12:30 pm - Dexter Hall - registration required

Time to level up your skills in the MobileQuest arena! In this program, participants will modify our Dash robots with balloons, skewers, plastic straws, and more as they prepare for battle! Participants work individually, controlling their battlebot until the last balloon is popped! For ages 12-18.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group Thursday, July 17, 6:00-7:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required
The Alzheimer's Support Network Caregiver Support Group is led by Alzheimer's Care Professionals and experienced caregivers. We offer information, resources, and strategies specific to caring for someone with Alzheimer's and other Dementias along with support for transitioning to different care settings. Co-sponsored by Tri-Valley and Charlton Public Library.

Open Play for Babies (0-12 months)
Monday, July 21, 10:00-11:00 am - Storytime Room - no registration required
Meet up with other babies & caregivers for fun open play and socialization! Age-appropriate toys will be available to play with. This program is for caregivers with babies ages 0-12 months (non-walkers) only, please!

G.S.A. for Teens
Tuesday, July 22, 5:30-6:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required
GSA (Gender & Sexuality Alliance) is for middle school and high school students. Meetup to talk, hang out, and make new friends!

Pirate Party with Ed The Wizard!
Wednesday, July 23, 10:30-11:30 am - Dexter Hall - registration required
Join us for a Pirate Party with Ed the Wizard! This event is for ages 7 and older. It includes pirate games, pirate trivia, music, and a treasure hunt. Dress up in your finest pirate gear (or wear whatever you feel comfortable in!)

Better Pictures Start Here
Thursday, July 24, 6:00-7:00 pm - Dexter Hall - registration appreciated
Join former professional writer/photographer and photography instructor David Singer, for a one hour introductory class on taking better pictures. Topics covered will be the basics on equipment, settings and techniques to immediately begin creating more thoughtfully composed and powerful images. No equipment is needed for this class and it is camera system agnostic.

Charlton Ukulele League & Ensemble
Thursday, July 24, 6:00-7:30 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required
Experienced musicians and newbies all welcome. Questions? Email Cule5632@gmail.com

Critical Thinking Discussion Group
Friday, July 25, 1:00-2:00 pm - Sibley Reading Area - no registration required
Read at least chapters 1, 21 5, 6, 11, and 14-22, and 25 of The Charterhouse of Parma by Stendhal this month. Read it all if you can. Praised by Balzac, Andre Gide and Henry James as 'the greatest novel in the French language!' No experience with critical thinking discussion groups is necessary. Books/materials are available for checkout one month prior to discussion. Questions? Email saga3@charter.net.

Crafternoon for Kids
Friday, July 25, 2:30-3:30 pm - Storytime Room - no registration required
Drop by the Storytime Room and make a fun craft! Best for ages 5-10.

Needle Felted Owls
Tuesday, July 29, 5:30-7:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - registration required
Created a handmade needle-felted owl! For Teens & Adults, ages 12+.

Turn To **CPL** page 5



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SCHOTT sponsors transformative Boston trip for Southbridge eighth graders

SOUTHBRIDGE — SCHOTT North America, Inc., a global leader in specialty glass and materials innovation, recently gave 120 Southbridge Middle School eighth graders a day to remember. On Friday, May 30, the company proudly sponsored a full-day educational trip to Boston, offering students a hands-on learning experience across science, history, and higher education.

The trip itinerary included visits to the Museum of Science, Boston Common, the Massachusetts State House, and a campus tour and dinner at UMass Boston. For many students, it was their first visit to the state’s capital city.

During the day, students:

- Explored the Museum of Science, engaging with interactive exhibits and applying classroom lessons.
- Toured the State House, where civics lessons came to life amid historic halls and legislative chambers.
- Reflected on history at Boston Common, stopping at the Embrace Monument and the 54th Regiment

Area residents named to Dean’s List at University of New England

BIDDEFORD, Maine — Emily LeBrun of Charlton and JonCarlos Estrada of Southbridge have been named to the University of New England’s Dean’s List for the spring semester 2025. Dean’s List students have attained a grade point average of 3.3 or better out of a possible 4.0 at the end of the semester.

The University of New England is Maine’s largest independent university, with two beautiful coastal campuses in Maine, a one-of-a-kind study-abroad campus in Tangier, Morocco, and an array of flexible online offerings. In an uncommonly welcoming and supportive community, we offer hands-on learning, empowering students to make a positive impact in a world full of challenges. We are the state’s top provider of health professionals and home to Maine’s only medical and dental colleges, a variety of other interprofessionally aligned health care programs, and nationally recognized programs in the marine sciences, the natural and social sciences, business, the humanities, and the arts. Visit www.une.edu.

CPL
continued from page 4

Harry Potter Potion Slime
Wednesday, July 30, 10:30-11:30 am - Storytime Room - registration required
Try your hand at potion-making with our potion slime! For ages 6-11.

Musical Playground with David Maloof
Thursday, July 31, 10:00-12:00 pm - Community Meeting Room - no registration required

Musical Playground with David Maloof is an open program for kids of all ages to explore instruments! This is a drop-in program where you can come and go, or stay for the entire time. Available instruments to explore include 15 ukuleles, 2 keyboards, 4 djembes, 4 darbukas, 10 frame drums, 3 triangles, 3 tambourines, 19 maracas, a dozen egg shakers, 2 tongue drums, plus your own singing voice. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Charlton Cultural Council, a local agency which is funded by the Mass. Cultural Council, a state agency.

Cornerstone Summer Concert Series: Tony Gahan
Thursday, July 31, 6:00-7:30 pm - Dexter Hall - no registration required

Tony Gahan is a singer-songwriter from County Tipperary, Ireland. Tony has an extensive catalogue of songs ranging from traditional ballads to more contemporary Irish hits. His passion for Irish music is evident in his performances, as every song he sings tells a compelling story. Everyone is welcome! This is the third concert in our Cornerstone Summer Concert Series sponsored by Cornerstone Bank

Memorial.

Connected with local culture through street performers and vendors.

Experienced college life firsthand with a guided tour of UMass Boston, where they posed questions to staff and enjoyed dinner in the university’s dining hall.

The trip served as a capstone event ahead of the students’ year-end promotion ceremony and field day, capping off middle school with learning, laughter — and a few sore feet from all the walking.

“Boston was definitely a great opportunity for our students to explore

what is so far, yet so close to their own backyard,” said Dezyree Morales, eighth grade team leader at Southbridge Middle School. “The trip was relevant to help students self-identify, and it was just plain old fun! Thank you to SCHOTT for making this happen!”

SCHOTT’s sponsorship covered all expenses, ensuring that every student could participate regardless of financial circumstances — a commitment that speaks to the company’s values.

“At SCHOTT, we believe corporate social responsibility means more than supporting global causes — it starts right here at home, with our local com-

munities,” said Vicki Shrewsbury, HR Director at SCHOTT. “Sponsoring the Southbridge Middle School trip to Boston was not just an investment in education; it was an opportunity to inspire young minds and open new horizons. It was truly an honor to support such a meaningful experience that connects students to science, culture, and the possibilities ahead of them. We’re proud to be part of their journey.”

Through this generous act, SCHOTT continues to demonstrate its dedication to education, equity, and community impact in Southbridge.

Bay Path Metal Fabrication graduate accepted to Local 7 Ironworkers Boston

CHARLTON — Olivia Collins, a graduate of the Class of 2025 Metal Fabrication shop at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School, has been accepted into the Local 7 Ironworkers apprentice program in Boston.

Collins, a Southbridge resident, began her journey at Bay Path in the spring of 2021 when she was accepted into the class of 2025. Originally, Collins wanted to major in the Animal Science program, but that all changed when she explored Metal Fabrication.

“Once I explored Metal Fabrication, I knew that was it for me,” said Collins.

“I was intrigued by welding and the teachers seemed pretty cool,” she added.

When asked about why she wanted to be an ironworker, she replied, “The thought of building skyscrapers and bridges that I will be able to show my future kids and grandkids is exciting.”

Asked if she is afraid of heights, she replied, “No, I’m not. I’m actually looking forward to the view.”



Elizabeth Lynch — Courtesy
Left to right: Chris Wong Kam, Olivia Collins, and Patrick Fogarty.

“We are happy to have Paul Landerholm, the head of the Local 7 ap-

prentice program.

He added, “It was a tight window this year and Olivia did great in the interview.”

The process began back in January. Once a year, Local 7 accepts applications for the upcoming apprenticeship program. The window for the applications is short, only a few weeks, and capped at the first five-hundred applicants.

“It seemed like a really long time from when the process started until I received the news that I was accepted on June 2. I couldn’t wait to call Mr. Fogarty and Mr. Wong Kam, and tell them the good news,” Collins said.

Bay Path Metal Fabrication related theory/shop instructor, Patrick Fogarty, added, “There were a few hoops to jump through along the way. A couple of tests and a jury interview, not to mention all of the uploading of documents and certifications, she achieved. Olivia handled it like a champ.”

Lead instructor Chris Wong Kam said, “Olivia has worked very hard while a member of the shop. She has obtained many certifications, including three American Welding Society, two OSHA, and a Massachusetts Hot Works certification, just to mention a few. It has been a pleasure working with and having Olivia as a student. I’m sure she will go far in life. We’re very proud of her.”

Trinity Catholic Academy announces honor roll

SOUTHBRIDGE — Trinity Catholic Academy has released its honor roll for the third trimester of the 2024-2025 school year.

Grade 4
High Honors: Charlotte Heckendorf, Emma LaBarge, Elinor Matzelle
Honors: Jaime Cruz, Quinn Forget, Jameson Howard-Donlin, Connor Kreidemaker, Matthew Olson, Jeziah Suarez

Grade 5
High Honors: Emiliana Boswell, Tesslynn Cahill, Karieliz Colon-Martinez, Liliana DeLeon, Alerix Gonzalez, Kaleigh Haglund, Carson Lazo, Jake Simanski, Sachi Swadia, Jaydin Wales,

Benjamin Zuziak
Honors: Cameron Clifford, Juliana Dintino, Theodore Frazier, Elizabeth Gordon, Abigail Torres

Grade 6
High Honors: Jayden Zarzycki-Kotarba
Honors: Chatham Baron, Jaliany Cruz, Angel Delgado, Sydney Fitzgibbons, Evelyn Frazier, Ainsley Heckendorf, Evelyn Howard-Donlin, Emily Legacy, Mia Yanez-Velasquez

Grade 7
High Honors: Heer Wadia
Honors: Abigail Frazier, Sophia Gauthier, Nicolas Gauvin, Celia Ladd, Carilynne Norris, Ayden Rodriguez, Alexio Yacavace

Grade 8
High Honors: Layla Beu, Chloe Cahill, Lucas Cournoyer, Lily Nellis, Kerstin Smaltz
Honors: Annalise Fitzgibbons, David Gil, Sofia Henao, Ron Mosong, Kylar Norris, Logan Pettinelli, Anthony Postale, Lidia Yanez-Velasquez

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The power of a local reset: Why time off doesn't always mean getting away

In a world that is go, go, go, taking time off is often seen as a luxury. But it's not; rather, it's a necessity. And it doesn't require a plane ticket or an elaborate itinerary. sometimes, the best kind of break is the one you take without ever leaving town.

Stepping away from your daily grind, even for a few days, allows your mind to unclench and your shoulders to drop. Whether you're walking a familiar trail with no notifications pinging in your pocket or sipping coffee on your porch without a single obligation, local rest is still rest.

In small towns and rural places, we often think we have to "go somewhere" to recharge. But a reset can happen in your own zip code. Turn off the emails, skip a meeting and leave your to-do list for another day. Give yourself permission to be unavailable. That's not laziness, it's healthy.

We tell each other to check in on neighbors, to care for our communities, but how often do we check in on ourselves? Time off isn't selfish; it's how we stay grounded, how we avoid burnout, and how we keep showing up for others.

So, if you need a break, take one. Walk the back roads. Sit by the river. Read a book you already own. Say no to things that drain you, and yes to stillness. Even ten miles from home, you can still find the space to reset.

You don't owe the world constant productivity. You do, however, owe yourself a little breathing room every once in a while.

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

Gold and silver coins and sterling silver



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
.....
WAYNE TUSKULA

Today, I'll discuss number 3 on my top 10 list of antiques and collectibles, which is gold and silver coins and sterling silver. There are many non-silver or non-gold coins that can be valuable, but I will discuss these examples in a future column. Silver and gold coins made my top 10 list because they are all worth at least their melt value.

We typically handle between five and ten coin collections a year. If you have coins that you saved or inherited, you can do some research to learn more about them. Dimes, quarters, half dollars, and dollar coins made in 1964 or earlier are made with 90 percent silver. Coins may also have numismatic value, aka the value to collectors. As with other collectibles, age and condition are important factors.

Where the coins were made is another important factor. Silver coins were made in many countries throughout the world. Within the United States, coins were minted in different cities including Philadelphia, Denver, and San Francisco. There can also be variations of certain coins, for example seven versus eight tail feathers on the eagle on a silver dollar. These factors all play a part in the value.

Gold coins have some similarities to silver coins, such as the condition and age being important factors. Gold coins were also made in other countries and minted in different cities in the United States.

Sterling silver serving pieces are like coins in that some may be worth just the silver value, while others are worth much more than their melt value. Sterling silver is 92.5 percent pure, so it has a little more silver content than coins. Pieces crafted by important silversmiths or well-regarded manufacturers, or those that are well-designed can increase value well above the silver content.

For example, a silver set by silver-



smith Ephraim Brasher, a neighbor of George Washington, sold for \$4,250, well above the silver price at the time we sold it. A Tiffany sterling silver Olympian flatware set brought \$3,500, which was close to twice what it would have brought in melt value. An 1889-CC Morgan silver dollar sold for over \$800 when the silver value was around \$20 or \$25 at the time, likely because not many silver dollars were minted at the Carson City mint that year. We sold a 1924 St. Gauden's \$20 gold Double Eagle coin for \$2,400 in 2022. The condition of that coin increased its value by about 50%.

The price of gold and silver fluctuates over time, and prices regularly rise and drop. Silver was selling for \$29.09 per ounce in late June 2024 and it's at \$35.95 as I write this column. In late June last year, gold was \$2,324.98 per ounce and now it's reached \$3,384 per ounce. If you have a coin that's worth its weight in gold, you can be thankful it's at this year's price.

We just had a sale with coins end this week and are accepting more consignments. We will have many sets of sterling silver in an upcoming fall/winter sale. We continue to work on a Civil War auction, Laurel and Hardy memorabilia auction, and major auction with gold, sterling, art, and antiques. We also continue to accept consignments for future sales. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services info@centralmassauctions.com or (508-612-6111).

Work toward your own financial independence day



FINANCIAL FOCUS

TREVOR NIELSEN

We're getting close to the Fourth of July, our national Independence Day. This celebration may get you thinking of the many freedoms you enjoy. But have you thought of what you might need to do to attain financial freedom?

Your first step is to define what financial independence signifies to you. For many people, it means being able to retire when they want to, and to enjoy a comfortable retirement lifestyle. So, if this is your vision as well, consider taking these steps:

Pay yourself first. If you wait until you have some extra money "lying around" before you invest for retirement, you may never get around to doing it. Instead, pay yourself first. This actually is not that hard to do, especially if you have a 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan, because your contributions are taken directly from your paycheck, before you even have the chance to spend the money. You can set up a similar arrangement with an IRA by having automatic contributions taken directly from your checking or savings account.

Invest appropriately. Your investment decisions should be guided by your retirement goals, along with how long you have before you need the money and how comfortable you are with different levels of investment risk. If you deviate from these guideposts — for instance, by taking on either too much or too little risk — you may end up making decisions that aren't right for you and that may set you back as you pursue your financial independence.


Avoid financial "potholes." The road to financial liberty will always be marked with potholes you should avoid. One such pothole is debt — the higher your debt burden, the less you can invest for your retirement. It's not always easy to lower your debt load, but do the best you can to live within your means. A second pothole comes in the form of large, unexpected short-term costs, such as a major home or auto repair or a medical bill not fully covered by insurance. To avoid dipping into your long-term investments to pay for these short-term costs, try to build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account.

Give yourself some wiggle room. If you decide that to achieve financial independence, you must retire at 62 or you must buy a vacation home by the beach, you may feel disappointed if you fall short of these goals. But if you're prepared to accept some flexibility in your plans — perhaps you can work until 65 or just rent a vacation home for the summer — you may be able to earn a different, but still acceptable, financial freedom. And by working a couple of extra years or paying less for your vacation home expenses, you may also improve your overall financial picture.

Putting these and other moves to work can help you keep moving toward your important goals. When you eventually reach your own "Financial Independence Day," it may not warrant a fireworks display — but it should certainly add some sparkle to your life.

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.

Readers Share Favorite Hacks and Hints



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

Summer is gearing up, and thanks to readers who took time out from their busy summer activities to share tips and tricks they've discovered to make life a little easier. From whipping up a foot detox to halting hiccups, the following ideas from readers, are sure to be helpful!

And remember readers, send in your favorite, hints for a chance to win a three course dinner for two at the Publick House in Sturbridge!

A reader sent in an informative tip that's out of this world!:

If you consume Dill, it improves digestion, and reduces gas.

Russian astronauts consumed dill before boarding the international space station.

Helen Krispien Sturbridge, MA

This reader shares how to turn pantry staples into a soothing soak:

Here is a recipe for a foot bath to detox: Mix together ½ cup Epsom salts and ½ cup Bragg's Apple Cider Vinegar (with the Mother). Add

to a basin of warm water. If needed, rinse and dry.

Rose Angelo Webster, MA

The following trio of assorted tips and tricks tackle life's little hassles:

1. When you have a recipe that calls for chopped onions, you should put the onions in the freezer for 15 minutes. This will reduce eye irritation.
2. The best way to get rid of hiccups is to breathe into a bag. Study say that carbon dioxide in your bloodstream is the key to hiccup relief. When you blow into the bag, you blow in carbon dioxide. Then you breathe it in and this eliminates the hiccups.
3. If you want ice cubes to be clear and less cloudy, you should use boiled water. Boiling water removes impurities that make ice cloudy.

Donna Lewandowski Charlton, MA

This reader is basically the McGyver of eating on the cheap while traveling!:

Last month I made it to our Kentucky Derby family reunion. Airport food is expensive with Logan and elsewhere charging over \$15.00 for a salad. Eating more healthy food is my goal, so I improvised:

I used an XL-plastic soda cup with lid; my brother had, added bagged salad from the local grocery (used a coupon and it was reduced as the next day was the shelf life- \$2.00 bag made four salads). I added some celery, baby carrots, cucumbers and 2 tablespoons of dressing. Shook the cup, put in a plastic fork, sealed it all in a Ziplock bag. I ate one for lunch before boarding and one with my healthy vegetarian sandwich for dinner, after landing (which due to a New England rain storm was a four hour delay). I was able to eat healthy and well within my budget!

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

Imagine your alarm blaring at 6:30 a.m. You hit snooze, sit up, and feel your chest tighten as your mind floods with errands—grocery run, project meeting at ten, soccer pickup at five. Maybe you spill coffee on your shirt, making things worse. Thoughts rush like rapids: "Did I send that report? Where are my keys? Ugh, traffic."

But you don't have to jump into every rapid. You can sit on the riverbank of your awareness

and simply watch each swell of thought roll past like a leaf on water.

Later, you're stuck in traffic, brake lights glowing ahead, and a car horn blares behind you. Your mind churns: "I'll be late. My boss will be furious. I'm failing."

Don't drown yourself in worry. At that moment, I shifted roles from panicked swimmer to calm spectator. Name the feeling—"That's anxiety"—then take a slow, deep breath, picturing the worry as a single leaf drifting downstream.

As Eckhart Tolle teaches, "You are the ob-

server of your thoughts, not the thoughts themselves." From your spot on the bank, the swirling water can't reach you.

Back at your desk, you open a harsh email from a coworker—"They must think I'm terrible at my job." Your gut tightens, and your first urge is to fire off a reply as you press your coffee to your lips.

Take a pause and imagine that sharp feeling as just another small wave on the river. Push your feet onto the floor and let your shoulders relax.

Marcus Aurelius

Observe!

wrote, "You have power over your mind—not outside events." Allow yourself to stand on solid ground at the river's edge, not in the rushing current.

At lunch, you scroll through social media and feel that familiar tug of comparison—"Everyone else's life looks perfect." Your soup grows cold as images of smiling faces and highlight reels wash over you.

Instead of diving in, stop and ask, "What am I feeling?" Maybe it's envy, stress, or boredom. Then, take a full, slow breath, feeling your shoulders drop. Picture that thought as a stray twig on a river, carried away around a bend until the surface smooths out again.

In the afternoon, a friend or family member offers criticism, and your stomach flips like a turbulent whirlpool. Your eyes may narrow, and your heart might race. You might want to snap back or explain yourself.

Instead, mark the thought—label it "hurt" or "defensiveness"—and step back on the bank. Picture the idea as a swirl in the water. Breathe in, breathe out, and feel the pull of that mental current weaken as it drifts away. Let yourself remain dry and solid at the river's edge and choose how—or whether—to respond.

That night, lying in bed, your mind replays every awkward comment or mistake on a nonstop loop, turning your thoughts into a rushing river.

Your mind is shining a spotlight on your errors. With practice, you can whisper, "I'm just getting caught up in the stream of worry again," and step back, then let it float away until it disappears. You stay on the bank—fully awake and free. If new worries arrive—about work, money, or relationships—you do the same: name it, breathe, and release.

Why does this help? The instant you step off the mental treadmill and

onto the riverbank of awareness, you carve out a tiny gap between stimulus and reaction. That gap may feel small—just a breath—but it's enormous in what it gives you: choice.

In that space, you decide whether to wade into the current or stay dry. Over time, as you observe and label each mental flow, your responses soften. Your brain calms, and you make smarter moves instead of getting swept away.

You can practice this anywhere — walking to class, waiting in line, or sitting at home. When a thought pops up—nerves about a test, panic over a project, or judgment about a friend—stop, name it, breathe, and picture it drifting away.

This habit takes just seconds but changes everything. You are the riverbank, not the torrents. Notice the current, label it, breathe, and let it pass. In that simple act of observation lies true freedom—and a calmer, more joyful life.

Maximize your harvest with succession planting



A second planting after harvesting your first crop is possible if there is enough time for it to mature and be harvested before the end of the growing season.

Make the most of every square inch of garden space and containers with succession planting. As you harvest your first crop of the season, consider replanting the space with a vegetable that will mature and can be harvested before the end of the growing season.

Start by calculating the number of frost-free days remaining in your growing season. Next review the plant tags and seed packets for the number of days from planting to harvest. Compare these two to see if you have time to replant one or maybe even two more quick-maturing vegetables in that space.

Keep in mind that cool season crops like lettuce, spinach and radishes perform and taste best when grown and harvested during the cooler months of spring and fall. Consider using these quick-maturing vegetables as your last planting of the season.

Others, like broccoli, collards and kale, taste even better after a light frost. Planting these so they mature in fall is another way to extend the harvest for maximum flavor and nutrition.

Warm season vegetables, like beans and cucumbers, are perfect for a summer planting. They prefer warm air and soil for the best growth and productivity.

Here are a few vegetables you may want to include in your succession planting this summer. Leaf lettuce and spinach prefer cooler temperatures and depending on the variety are ready to harvest in 30 to 60 days. If you can't wait for cooler weather, try growing more heat-tolerant greens, like Sandy and Red Sails lettuce, and although they are not true spinaches New Zealand and Malabar are more heat tolerant and provide a similar flavor.

End the season with a harvest of peas. Short varieties, like Patio Pride and Sugar Ann sugar snap peas and Maestro and Laxton's Progress #9 shelling peas, are perfect for containers and small spaces.

Root crops make great additions to succession plantings. Salad radishes are ready to harvest in 25 to 30 days, beets in 50 to 60 days, and carrots in 60 to 70 days.

Bush beans prefer warm temperatures and are ready to begin picking in 50 to 80 days. Mascotte compact snap beans are productive compact plants perfect for containers and window boxes. You'll start harvesting these in as few as 50 days.

Cucumbers and summer squash are another option for summer plantings. Vining varieties can be trained onto a support to save space or crawl over the ground. Bush types are perfect for containers and small spaces. Check the seed packet for the number of days from planting to harvest.

Increase the health and productivity of your second planting by preparing the soil before planting seeds and transplants. Mix an inch of quality compost into the top six inches of soil. You'll improve drainage in heavy soil, increase

water retention in fast-draining sandy soils, and add micronutrients that feed the soil, building microorganisms.

Once your seeds and transplants are in the ground, be sure to water properly. Keep the seedbed and roots of transplants moist the first few weeks. Gradually reduce watering frequency as seedlings sprout and grow and transplants become established.

You may need to adjust your succession planting schedule based on the weather. Hotter and cooler than normal temperatures can delay seed germination, harvest times, and flavor.

With a bit of planning, succession plantings, and regular harvesting you can enjoy fresh vegetables throughout the growing season.

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 her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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Sturbridge business rebrands as Lightera, marks Earth Day with community cleanup

STURBRIDGE — To recognize Earth Day 2025, Lightera, formerly named OFS, organized a series of employee trash cleanups along Hall Road in Sturbridge, the location of its local facility. To give all employees the opportunity to participate in the trash pick up, five different times over two weeks were organized, resulting in 34 bags of trash and various bulk items being collected and properly disposed of.

The first cleanup day in early May was marked by heavy rain, but spirits remained high among the soaked volunteers. Their enthusiasm inspired more coworkers to join the effort throughout the following week.

Lightera is the new name for OFS, a long-established optical fiber manufacturing business in Sturbridge. Just under 100 employees currently work at the company's 50 Hall Road facility. The site originally housed SpecTran Corporation, which began operations there in 1981. In 2000, Lucent Technologies acquired SpecTran and expanded its manufacturing capabilities. A year later, the site became part of OFS when it was acquired by Furukawa Electric Company Ltd., a global leader in optical fiber and cable manufacturing.

The recent name change to Lightera does not affect ownership of the Sturbridge location. Instead, it signifies the integration of three Furukawa Electric optical fiber cable business units: Fiber Cable Division (Japan), OFS Fitel, LLC (USA), and Furukawa Electric LATAM S.A. (Latin America). Together, these operations now form the global organization known

as Lightera, which includes locations in Japan, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Georgia, Denmark, Mexico, and Brazil.

"The creation of Lightera reflects Furukawa Electric's commitment to meeting the rapidly evolving demands of industries such as generative AI, data centers, 5G/6G, utilities, medical, aerospace, defense, and sensing," a recent company news release stated. "The new organization will operate across NAR, LATAM/EMEA, and APAC regions, along with the global Specialty Photonics business—supported by eight corporate functions for global coordination."

Each year, the Sturbridge team celebrates Earth Day through community or environmental efforts. In addition to this year's trash cleanup along Hall Road, Lightera employees plan to continue planting native trees—a program started last year on company property. These native plantings are intended to support local biodiversity, particularly the essential relationship between native insects and the birds and animals that depend on them.

Lightera is also enhancing two "no-mow" fields along Hall Road, which were established five years ago by employees with an interest in natural habitats. Formerly maintained as traditional lawns treated with fertilizers and herbicides, these fields are now managed organically and only mowed in early spring and late fall. The goal is to create habitat for wildlife and support pollinators, while reducing chemical use and promoting environmental health.

Hint
continued from page 6
Viola Bramel
Northbridge, MA
**

Prize Winner
Congratulations to Helen Krispien of Sturbridge, whose name was drawn for Dinner for Two at the Publick House. She shared the dill tip above.
**

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House
Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (or whenever enough submissions are received) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or email KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.



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State legislators honor Bay Path Nursing graduate Loise Ngigi

CHARLTON — Loise Ngigi, a recent graduate of the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton, was honored on June 20 at her graduation and pinning ceremony held at the Overlook Performance Arts Center. State Rep. John J. Marsi, Jr. (6th Worcester District) and State Sen. Ryan C. Fattman (Worcester & Middlesex District) presented Ngigi with a citation acknowledging her accomplishments, including being named the MassCTE.org Post-secondary Student of the Year for the Central Chapter.

Citations are awarded to constituents who have reached significant personal or professional milestones. Representative Marsi, who presented the citation, also did so on behalf of Senator Fattman. Both legislators are Republicans serving the Massachusetts General Court.

Loise Ngigi, a resident of South Grafton and a member of the Practical Nursing (PN) Class of 2025, was recognized for her outstanding achievement by MassCTE.org at a recent banquet and awards ceremony at the Renaissance Boston Patriot Place Hotel.

"What an honor to witness and celebrate this recognition for our nursing graduate," said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. "We are proud of Loise for this achievement and grateful to both Senator Fattman and Representative Marsi."

Ngigi, who also served as a UNICEF Club officer, graciously accepted the award, stating, "I am forever grateful." She brings a wealth of experience to her nursing career, with seven years of direct experience as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and certified Home Health Aide (HHA). She earned her nursing assistant certification in 2017 from 3 Dimensions College in Worcester and obtained her high school diploma from Moi Girls Kaman-gu High School in Kenya in 2012.

During her time at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Loise also completed her Dementia Care certification and is certified in BLS/HCP/CPR (Basic Life Support, Health Care Provider Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation), the Medical Administration Program (MAP), and Mental Health First Aid. Her professional experience includes working as a CNA at River Terrace Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in Lancaster, and currently as a direct support professional at Venture Community Services in Sturbridge. She will be competing at the SkillsUSA national conference in Atlanta, GA as the Massachusetts state champion for First Aid/CPR.



LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 775 Dennison Drive, Southbridge, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Susan L. Bourdelais to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as mortgagee, as nominee for One Reverse Mortgage, LLC its successors and assigns and now held by Longbridge Financial, LLC, said mortgage dated April 30, 2012, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 48949, Page 119, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated February 27, 2023, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68899, Page 78, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated September 12, 2023, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69658, Page 286, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on July 11, 2025 at 01:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

Land Situated in the City of Southbridge in the County of Worcester in the State of MA.

THE LAND IN SAID SOUTHBRIDGE WITH THE BUILDINGS THEREON, SITUATED ON THE EASTERLY SIDE OF DENNISON DRIVE, BEING ON A PORTION OF THE ROAD LEADING FROM THE HOUSE NOW OR FORMERLY OF JAMES MASON TO THE VILLAGE OF WESTVILLE, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED;

BEGINNING AT AN IRON PIN ON THE EASTERLY LINE OF DENNISON DRIVE AT THE SOUTHWESTERLY CORNER OF LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF IRENE C. DAY; THENCE S. 81 DEGREES 18' E. BY LAND OF SAID DAY, 180 FEET TO AN IRON PIN;

THENCE N. 3 DEGREES 17' E. BY LAND OF SAID DAY, 157.1 FEET TO A DRILL HOLE ON WALL AT LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF GERARD LEMOINE;

THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG WALL BY SAID LEMOINE LAND, ABOUT 420 FEET TO A JUNCTION OF WALLS AT LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF VICTOR BEAUDREAU ET UX;

THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY ALONG WALL BY SAID BEAUDREAU LAND, ABOUT 223 FEET TO AN IRON PIN IN WALL;

THENCE N. 82 DEGREES W. BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF WILLIAM W. POTTER ET UX ABOUT 8 FEET TO A DRILL HOLE IN STONE;

THENCE STILL N. 82 DEGREES W. BY SAID LAND OF POTTER, 453.3 FEET TO AN IRON PIN ON THE EASTERLY LINE OF DENNISON DRIVE;

THENCE N, 8 DEGREES E. BY THE EASTERLY LINE OF DENNISON DRIVE, 180 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

CONTAINING AN AREA OF ABOUT 2.87 ACRES OF LAND

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

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated October 20, 1986, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 9915, Page 152.

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.

TENTHousand (\$10,000.00)

Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a 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 by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within forty-five (45) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Marinosci Law Group, P.C.
275 West Natick Road, Suite 500
Warwick, RI 02886
Attorney for Longbridge Financial, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
Telephone: (401) 234-9200
MLG File No.: 23-00998
June 12, 2025
June 19, 2025
June 26, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of MGL Ch. 40A, the Southbridge Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at their 5:00 PM meeting, in the Rice Conference Room, First Floor, Southbridge Town Hall.

The purpose of the public hearing is to consider the variance application, as filed by Albert Soto-Serrano and SueJay Perez, for a reduction of the side setback to construct a garage per Section 5, Table 2 of the Southbridge Zoning Bylaws located at 12 Hartwell Terrace; Map 53; Lot 178 (Albert Soto-Serrano and SueJay Perez, Owner).

The application and plan are on file for review during normal business hours with the Town Clerk. This notice is also published electronically on www.telegram.com and on www.ma.mypublicnotices.com.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

Patrick Spinelli
Chair,
Southbridge Zoning Board of Appeals
June 26, 2025

QUEST FOR BIDS 2026-01
EXTERIOR REPAIRS
FIRE STATION 1
10 POWER STATION ROAD

The Town of Charlton is soliciting bids from qualified Contractors for repair and replacement of exterior vinyl siding, widows, entry door exterior painting, and construction of a new 14' x 6' gable roof overhang at the Charlton Fire Station 1 located at 10 Power Station Road, Charlton, MA 01507 in accordance with specifications available at the Town Administrator's Office, 37 Main Street, Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m or by email: Mary.Devlin@townofcharlton.net

Bids will be evaluated according to responsiveness to specifications, responsibility and best price. Bids will be received at the Town Administrator's Office, 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507, until July 23, 2025 by 2:00 p.m. Bids received after that time will not be accepted.

A bid deposit in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid shall accompany the Bid and be made payable to the Town of Charlton.

The Town reserves the right to waive any informalities in bidding procedure, to cancel this Request for Bids, or to reject any and all bids, in whole or in part, if it is deemed to be in the best interest of the Town. The Town of Charlton encourages Women and Minority owned businesses to submit proposals.

June 26, 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. WO25C0339CA

CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME

In the matter of:
Erica Jocelyn Toomer
A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by
Erica Jocelyn Toomer of Charlton MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Erica Jocelyn Pires-Toomer

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 return day of 07/15/2025. 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: June 17, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
June 26, 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. WO25C0222CA

CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME

In the matter of:
Sarah Elizabeth Woodworth
A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by
Sarah Elizabeth Woodworth of Sturbridge MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Sarah Elizabeth Downing

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 return day of 05/0/2025. 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: April 16, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
June 26, 2025

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND
FOR CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: 2025 DR 000326A

Division:

IN RE: THE ADOPTION OF:
TAIVYN CLEMENCE

(Name to be given child(ren) Adoptees(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS AND STEPPARENT ADOPTION

TO: (name of Respondent) Antonio Santana

{Respondent's last known address}
41 Winter St., Southbridge,MA 01550

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a Joint Petition for Adoption by Stepparent has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on
{name of Petitioner} Angel Clemence Tarrah Clemence
whose address is 4745 S. Ironwood Pt, Inverness, FL 34450
on or before {date} within 30 days of 1st publication date, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at {clerk's address} 110 N. Apopka Ave., Inverness, FL 34450
before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition. The minor child(ren) are identified as follows:

Date of Birth Place of Birth

11/12/2016 Worcester, MA

Physical Description of Respondent:
Age: 39
Race: African American
Hair Color: Black
Eye Color: Brown
Approximate Height: 6'2"
Approximate Weight: 220 lbs.

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the addresses on record at the clerk's office.

Dated: 06/19/2025
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By
{Deputy Clerk}
June 26, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608

Docket No. W025P2071PM

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT
OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER
PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT
TO G.L.c. 190B, § 5-304 & § 5-405

In the matter of:
Amanda Lynn Kamizirides
Of: Southbridge, MA
RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/Minor)

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Stephanie J. Rivers of Southbridge, MA, in the above captioned matter alleging that Amanda Lynn Kamizirides is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Stephanie J. Rivers of Southbridge, MA, (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve Witouth Personal Surety on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator 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 appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 07/08/2025. 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 further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating 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 affairs 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 abovenamed person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
June 10, 2025

Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
June 26, 2025

Worcester Polytechnic Institute announces Dean's List

WORCESTER — A total of 2,331 undergraduate students at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) were named to the university's spring 2025 Dean's List. The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differ from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI students are named to the Dean's List based on the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and hands-on projects.

"WPI's academic programs are rigorous and require a level of independence beyond what is required in traditional courses. WPI students work on real-world, open-ended problems on campus and in communities around the globe. Far from being simple academic exercises, the projects students complete have genuine and lasting impacts in our partner communities," said Provost Andrew Sears. "Some of this nation's best and brightest students come to WPI to study engineering, science, business, and the humanities. Those named to the Dean's List have excelled in all of their work, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students."

The following students were named to the Dean's List for Spring 2025:

Aiden Custance of Brimfield, class of 2028, majoring in Biomedical Engineering

David Cranney from Charlton, class of 2028, majoring in Actuarial Mathematics

Kenerson Cronin from Charlton, class of 2027, majoring in Robotics Engineering

Connor Daniel from Charlton, class of 2027, majoring in Computer Science

Aidan Dugan from Charlton, class of 2027, majoring in Civil Engineering

Joseph Dumas from Charlton, class of 2026, majoring in Architectural Engineering

Arlo Dzik from Charlton, class of 2028, majoring in Data Science

Adam Faucher from Charlton, class of 2027, majoring in Society, Technology and Policy

Joshua Martin from Southbridge, class of 2026, majoring in Civil Engineering

Ethan Shanbaum from Southbridge, class of 2026, majoring in Computer Science and Data Science

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI is a top-tier STEM-focused research university and a recognized pioneer and global leader in project-based learning. Founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems,

WPI's continued mission is to transform lives, turn knowledge into action to confront global challenges, and revolutionize STEM through distinctive and inclusive education, projects, and research. WPI's project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. Today WPI offers more than 70 Bachelor's, Master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. To help address ongoing challenges, improve lives, and help create a more sustainable world, WPI faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research in such areas as the life sciences, smart technologies, materials and manufacturing, and global initiatives.



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Council lauds Galonek, creates senior rent fund

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

S O U T H B R I D G E — The June 16 Town Council honored Ed Galonek, Sr. for his decades of giving back to the town, even though he's a Sturbridge resident now. "There's much to say about this gentleman," Chair Scott Lazo said. "He's been around a couple centuries."

Well, not really. But Galonek was a key player in Southbridge's transition from a town meeting to town council form of government back in the 1970s. Among other things, he served as Precinct 2 councilor 1974-6, two terms on the School Committee, plus a stint on the Charter Commission. During most of those years and since then, most of his civic activism has been through the Lions Club since 1981.

"You're from a family of carpenters by trade, and you're a builder in your own right," said Amanda Hellyar (Galonek's grand-daughter). She noted many people "have a story to tell about how Big Ed helped them. ... You taught so many here tonight what it means to give of yourself."

Town Manager Jack Jovan credited Galonek with "strengthen(ing) the bonds of our community" with his "over 50 years of selfless service."

Lazo agreed, saying he got into politics because

of Galonek. Back then, Galonek "would make all the young guys get involved," starting by driving voters to the polls. He praised Galonek for being a living example of "townies, Southbridge guys, Southbridge pride ... all bound together as one big family," presenting him with a wooden flag plaque and a couple "G.O.B" (Good Old Boys) baseball caps.

"When you're a Southbridge guy, you're always a Southbridge guy," Lazo said. "You can take the guy out of Southbridge, but you can't take Southbridge out of the guy."

Galonek recalled serving on the council with Lazo's mother, Sally, and noted "I'm not the only one who deserves accolades here just because I'm the last one." Although he admitted he "lost a few cases" during his government years – naming the landfill and school choice specifically – he said he "pretty much won most of the others" in ways that "didn't cost the town a fortune to do the right thing." But Galonek sees the most rewarding part of his service as being with the Lions, where he's been master of ceremonies for the annual cartoon breakfast, among many other things.

He added this recognition "surprised the hell out of me, and I don't get surprised too often."

"Thank you for shaping Southbridge into a



Amanda Hellyar — Courtesy

Ed Galonek Sr accepts some of his awards from Chair Scott Lazo. He also received citations from the town and state House and Senate.

place ... where everybody has cherished memories," Hellyar said.

Senior rent fund

Afterward, the board made pretty short work of the rest of its agenda. Several items involved using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to make

loans for various kinds of business renovations, but the most notable was approval of reallocating \$100,000 in CDBG money for senior emergency housing payments.

That came out of recent meetings highlighting the rapidly increasing rent several corporate landlords are

foisting on tenants. In response, the town's Economic Development department held a public hearing about a month ago on the concept of redirecting money they'd originally allocated, but had not spent, to code compliance to senior housing needs.

CDBG Coordinator Sue Starkey said the funds will be available for low- and middle-income seniors who can't afford rent. They'll "have to provide information about their current assets and cash flow" to qualify, since there's limited money.

"If we could do more, we would," she added, noting her department and the building office are looking into other ideas, too.

To Kevin Buxton, this is "a very meager band-aid" which "will go into the pocket of the landlords." He said the town needs to remember the public itself built the

"high rise" and Dresser Park, but hasn't built any public housing since then, and the original grant restrictions on some sites have ended.

To him, that's a problem because rent cuts into families' discretionary spending. If housing costs rise too much, "we lose all our other community assets because nobody can afford to pay anything but rent," he said.

Council on Aging member Renate Kendall agreed, saying this fund is a helpful "short fix." She noted she's been working with Homes for All in Massachusetts, who brought information on assistance options to the community center the day after this meeting.

If you need this new fund, contact Sue Starkey at 508-764-5402.

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

Elms College announces Dean's List

CHICOPEE — The College of Our Lady of the Elms has named the following students to the dean's list for the spring 2025 semester: Congratulations to all the students who are named to the list!

Sarina Johnson of Holland
Olivia Morin of Wales
Neetu Singh of Sturbridge
Jasmin Brown of Southbridge

Elms College is a co-educational Catholic college offering a liberal arts curriculum that prepares students holistically for a purposeful life in a diverse and interconnected world. Founded in 1928 by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Elms College has a tradition of educating reflective, principled and creative learners, who are rooted in faith, educated in mind, compassionate in heart, responsive to civic and social obligations, and capable of adjusting to change without compromising principle.

University of Hartford students named to Dean's and President's Lists

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — The University of Hartford is pleased to announce that 2,228 students have been named to the Dean's List and President's List for the spring 2025 semester.

The Dean's List recognizes students achieving superior academic standing. The requirement, with some exceptions, is a grade point average of at least 3.0 and no grade below C.

The President's List recognizes a select group of students reaching the highest level of academic standing. To be placed on the President's List, students must maintain a GPA of at least a 3.75 and receive grades of C or better.

Among the local honorees are:

Angel Opoku of Charlton - Dean's List

Grace Farland of Sturbridge - Dean's List and President's List

Emma Fancy of Sturbridge - Dean's List and President's List

Courtney Haire of Brimfield - Dean's List and President's List

Joyce Woodard of Wales - Dean's List

Congratulations to all the honorees on their hard work and academic success!

Spread across seven dynamic schools and colleges, the University of Hartford has been guiding the purpose and passion of students for over six decades. On our 350-acre campus alongside Connecticut's capital city, approximately 4,100 undergraduate and 1,800 graduate students representing 48 states and 51 countries come together for a common purpose: to collaborate across different disciplines, diversify perspectives, and broaden worldviews. We're a four-year private university focused on advancing the public good through meaningful connections within our communities. Our unique approach to comprehensive education gives us the critical perspectives that lead to impact change, regionally and beyond. With degree programs spanning the arts, humanities, business, engineering and technology, education, and health professions, we focus on doing the work that matters.

Local students receive degrees from QuiLocnnipiac University

HAMDEN, Conn. — John Jovan of Southbridge received a Doctorate of Medicine from Quinnipiac University during commencement ceremonies held in May.

About Quinnipiac University

Quinnipiac is a private, coeducational institution located 90 minutes north of New York City and two hours from Boston. The university enrolls 9,400 students in 110 degree programs through its Schools of Business, Communications, Education, Computing and Engineering, Health Sciences, Law, Medicine, Nursing and the College of Arts & Sciences. Quinnipiac is ranked among the top 100 in The Wall Street Journal/College Pulse "2025 Best Colleges in the U.S." and is also recognized by U.S. News & World Report and The Princeton Review's "The Best 388 Colleges." The university is expanding innovative programs for both traditional and adult learners, developing dynamic corporate partnerships, and is completing a significant capital expansion on its main campus, including a state-of-the-art new School of Business and an interdisciplinary science and innovation hub. For more information, please visit qu.edu. Connect with Quinnipiac on Facebook and follow Quinnipiac on X @QuinnipiacU.

Local student Alexis Plumley named to Dean's List at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

ALBANY, N.Y. — Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences announces its Spring 2025 Dean's List recipients. Approximately 220 students were named to this honor, awarded to full-time students who have successfully completed their coursework with a semester grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 or higher out of a possible 4.0 score.

Among those named to the Dean's List is Alex-

is Plumley of Brimfield.

The students honored study programs across ACPHS' array of 10 undergraduate academic offerings including Biology, Biotechnology, Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Forensic Psychology, Forensic Science, Health Sciences, Microbiology, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Psychology and Public Health.

The students come from various cities

throughout New York State, as well as:

- * Approximately 16 additional states across the country
- * One U.S. territory - Puerto Rico
- * Four additional countries including Barbados, Canada, Kenya and South Korea

View a full list of the Spring 2025 Dean's List recipients at <https://www.acphs.edu/students/deans-list>.

VTSU congratulates Rebecca Moore on graduation

RANDOLPH CENTER, Vt. — Vermont State University is pleased to announce that Rebecca Moore, of Southbridge, is part of VTSU's graduating class for spring 2025.

Moore majored in Dental Hygiene. This remarkable group of graduates represents a wide range of programs and disciplines. Their hard work, perseverance, and dedication have led them to this exciting milestone, and we couldn't be more thrilled to celebrate their achievements.

Please join us in congratulating

Rebecca Moore and the entire VTSU Class of 2025!

Vermont State University serves students on five campuses and multiple learning sites across Vermont and beyond, as well as online. Vermont State provides a high-quality, flexible, and affordable education for students seeking associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees, certificates, and in-demand professional credentials. The university builds upon a history of public higher education in Vermont dating back to 1787. Learn more at VermontState.edu.

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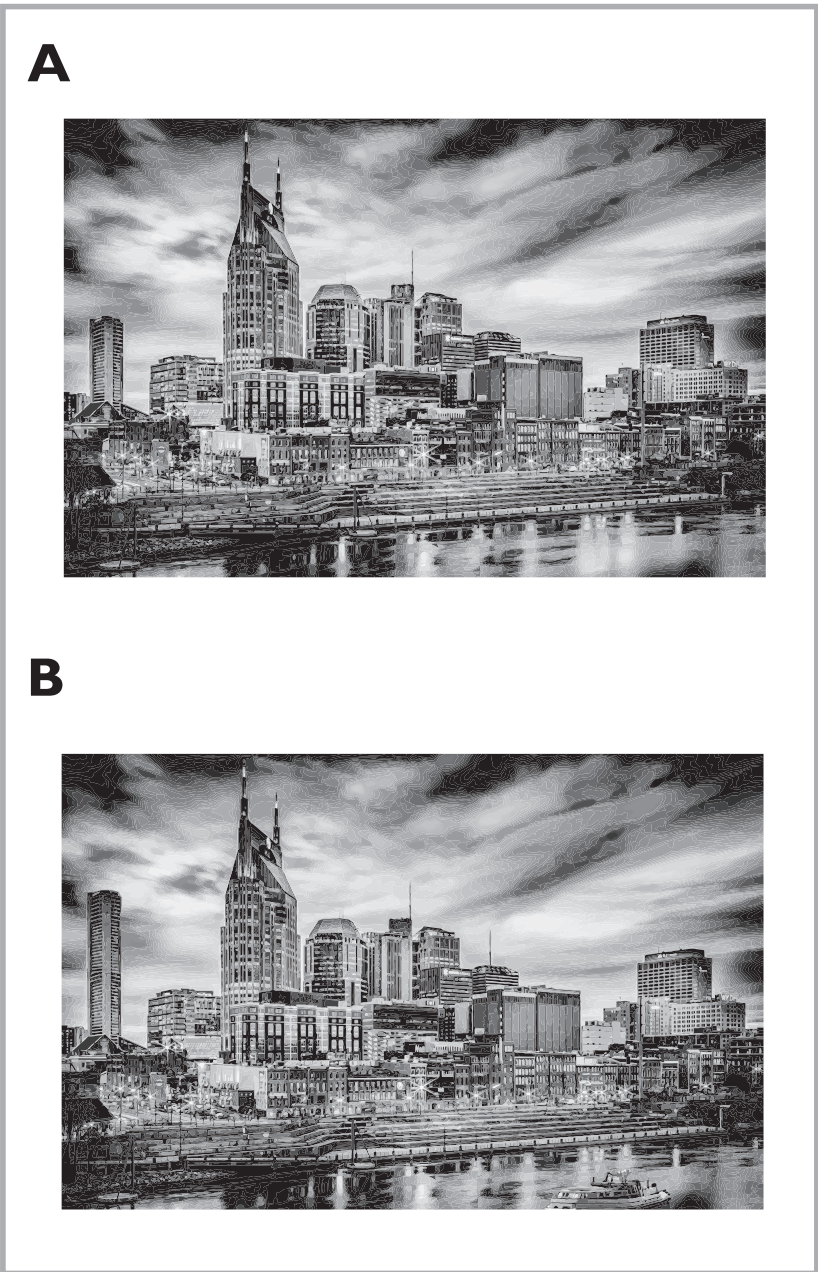
World
FACT:

Burj Khalifa is the tallest skyscraper in the world. It is 2,722 feet tall and can be found in this country.

Answer: United Arab Emirates

What’s the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.



Answers: 1. Boat in water 2. Extra antenna on building 3. Missing C&C from building sign 4. Left building is taller

THIS
DAY IN
HISTORY

JUN

25

1848: A photograph of the June Days uprising becomes the first known representation of photojournalism.

1947: “The Diary of a Young Girl” is published.

1997: The National Hockey League approves expansion franchises for four cities.

NEW
WORD

HIGH-RISE

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“How they say that in...”

English: Elevator
Spanish: Ascensor
Italian: Ascensore
French: Ascenseur
German: Fahrstuhl

Did You Know?

Chicago’s Home Insurance Building is widely considered the world’s first skyscraper. Skyscrapers enable more offices or homes to be built in urban areas.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Skyscraper top

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to roller coasters. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 1 = E)

A. 18 24 1 1 22
Clue: Velocity

B. 2 1 14 25 2 26
Clue: How tall

C. 26 6 11 3 23 18
Clue: Rails

D. 11 4 9 18 1 4 1 5 26
Clue: Diversion

Answers: A. speed B. height C. tracks D. amusement

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you’ll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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!

ANSWER:

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

Substation

continued from page 1

not only provide modern amenities and facilities but also decrease response times by creating a centrally located hub close to the schools and the center of town.

The substation was proposed and approved after a larger public safety facility was previously voted down by the taxpayers early in the 2020s. Voters eventually approved a debt exclusion for the \$18.5 million project and the town spent the rest of 2024 finalizing a land swap with Charlton Middle School to place the building at 4 Oxford Rd. which was later pushed through the state legislature at the end of the calendar year. In April, Town Construction was awarded the contract and work on clearing the site had already begun prior to the



Jason Bleau

Shovels throw the symbolic dirt representing the official groundbreaking of the new fire substation in Charlton.

groundbreaking.

Town Administrator Andrew Golas began the ceremony thanking everyone who made the project possible from state and local leaders to the taxpayers who voted to support their first responders with a new, state-of-the-art facility to call their own.

“This moment marks

not only the construction of the project but the beginning of a new chapter for our community and for the great men and women who serve it,” said Golas. “For years, our firefighters have gone above and beyond to protect lives and property operating in facilities that no longer meet the demands of modern

emergency response and today we’re taking a significant step forward.”

Charlton Fire Chief Rob Barton also thanked everyone who made the project possible and reminisced on the long road that led to Charlton finally constructing a new fire facility.

“This is more than just a construction proj-

ect. It’s a testament to the community support to public safety, infrastructure, resilience, and the people who work every day to protect, serve, and support our town. As we put shovels in the ground today, we are not just starting a building, we’re creating a legacy where this town has never had a staffed substation be-

fore,” said the Chief.

The ceremony was capped off by speeches from Selectman Stephen Koronis who represented the Select Board, State Representatives John Marsi and Paul Frost who helped push through the land swap with the school in the final days of the 2024 legislative session and presented the fire department with a citation from the House recognizing the groundbreaking, and Congressman Richard Neal who called the project a fine example of local government and the people working together for the betterment of their community.

The fire substation is expected to take shape over the next year. Once opened, it will house an ambulance, fire engine, tower truck, forestry vehicles, and be staffed by at least three full time personnel per shift.

39 Elm

continued from page 1

riment to this town.”

He also threatened to sue the planning board if they approved it.

O'Neill and designer Rafael Hernandez, by contrast, argued many communities are promoting downtown redevelopment with apartments that put residents close to storefront businesses. O'Neill said it'll become “a brand new property” with sprinklers, elevator, and market rent after their \$-8 million investment; he expects few children because the apartments

are all small. Noting the existence of several homes nearby, he said the apartments here “won't stick out,” and urged the board to consider the building on its own and not to keep it “commercial or retail whether it makes sense or not.”

“We've met all the criteria required to approve this project,” he added.

There was somewhat of a dispute between councilors and board members, with vice-chair Mike Loin noting the board's job is to “look at what's allowed by zoning.”

In response to Nor-

mandin's request for the proponents' sprinkler and other safety plans now, Loin noted, “That's not how it's done.”

Hernandez agreed, saying the fire department can reject it afterward if their plans don't meet fire requirements, but he said they will. As he put it, the fire department “will get a chance to put us through the wringer.”

Before that hearing, the board had a calmer hearing on Kate Johnson's plan to use her Ellis Raod home as an AirBNB with 10 chickens and three goats, and approved it. She said she

wants to continue what the previous owner, Pam Paquin, was doing – having paying guests in a wigwam and a “barndominium,” which she defined as “a trendy word for a hayloft.”

Unlike many similar hearings, this drew a few neighbors who were generally supportive. Eric Tetreault was one of them, but also alleged the previous owner had “a lot of stuff that isn't allowed” up there (specifically referring to pigs) that caused animal waste runoff to go into his well. There used to be at least one horse there, too; that sparked some

discussion, with Ted Tetreault noting they fall under the state's Dover amendment and are allowed as long as a parcel has at laast a quarter acre per horse. By law, horses are considered “transportation,” not farm animals per se.

Another neighbor asked how Johnson planned to deal with human waste from her guests. Johnson said Paquin used to have them collect it in trash bags and add it to the compost; that prompted some discussion of using composting toilets instead.

The board also ap-

proved recreational cannabis firm Green Path's move to the Big Bunny plaza from their downtown location. The firm's attorney, Kaily Hepburn, said they already have a new host community agreement and are looking to add delivery service. Owner Joseph Stephens said they've been at their curent location two years without incidents, but want to move to a smaller space. They'll be taking over the closed May Garden restaurant site.

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

Conservation

continued from page 1

Landowners are invited to this free forum to learn about tools that can help you accomplish your goals and care for your land now and in the future. This workshop,

presented with support from Opacum Land Trust, will answer all of your conservation and land management questions in one place. There will be opportunities to hear from local experts including the Sturbridge conservation agent, a DCR service forester,

the town assessor, an experienced conservation landowner, Open Space Committee members, and more.

RSVP by June 30 to reserve your spot by emailing AAdams@Opacum-LT.org or by calling 508-347-9144. More infor-

mation can also be found at www.opacumlt.org/events/.

About MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership

The MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership is a voluntary association of land

trusts, conservation organizations, municipal, state and federal agencies, and foresters serving a region of 38 towns spanning the border of South-Central Massachusetts and Northeastern Connecticut. Member groups identify key areas of the region for

conservation, collaborate on land protection efforts, promote sustainable forestry practices and organize public outreach and education efforts to increase the pace and efficacy of conservation in the MassConn area.

Scholarships

continued from page 1

ber.

The Rotary Club encourages the community to celebrate these outstanding students and their achievements. As the recipients embark on their academic journeys, the club hopes their stories will inspire future applicants to aim high and contribute

to the betterment of society.

Looking ahead, the Rotary Club invites local businesses and residents to collaborate and contribute to their ongoing efforts. Community support is vital to ensure the success of events like the Dr. Van Golf Tournament, which not only funds scholarships but

also strengthens community ties. Through collective efforts, the club aims to continue making a positive impact for years to come. To learn more about the Rotary Club of Southbridge and to participate or support the golf tournament, please email SouthbridgeRotary@gmail.com.

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 Chase Brush of Charlton. Brush's major is Biology.
 Amy Loin of Southbridge. Loin's major is Exercise Physiology.

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JAK-L Foundation champions mental health with Paint Day for future nurses

STURBRIDGE — The JAK-L Foundation, a local non-profit committed to expanding mental health awareness and preventing suicide, recently sponsored a vibrant mental health paint day for Bay Path Practical Nursing students at Brush It Off Art & Pottery Studio in Sturbridge. This thoughtful initiative marks a significant step in supporting the well-being of future healthcare professionals and fostering a community dedicated to mental health.

Donita Bytyqi of Grafton, a member of the PN Class of 2025, played a key role in organizing the student nurses' participation, helping to make the event a success.

The paint day offered a much-needed therapeutic and creative outlet for the Bay Path Practical Nursing students, providing a welcome break from their demanding studies. Held at the popular Brush It Off Art & Pottery Studio, the event allowed students to express themselves through art, promoting relaxation and stress reduction. These are all essential components of mental well-being, especially for those entering the high-pressure field of nursing.

"We believe it's crucial to equip our future nurses with tools for self-care and resilience, even before they step into their professional roles," said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director for Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. "The mental health paint day was designed to be a fun, engaging way to emphasize the importance of prioritizing one's own mental health, and we are grateful to the JAK-L Foundation for thinking about our student nurses."

Future plans: QPR suicide prevention training for students and parents

Beyond this creative endeavor, the JAK-L Foundation is excited to announce its plans to collaborate with Bay Path Practical Nursing students in the future for a comprehensive QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention training. QPR is an evidence-based program that teaches individuals how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis, offer hope, and refer someone to profession-

al help. This vital training will empower these aspiring nurses with the skills to potentially save lives and prevent death by suicide within their communities and future workplaces.

"Preventing suicide requires a collective effort, and we are thrilled that the JAK-L Foundation is considering offering QPR training to the Bay Path Practical Nursing Students in the future to empower them with these life-saving skills," Dr. Bolandrina added. "By training future healthcare providers, we are creating a ripple effect of awareness and support."

The JAK-L Foundation is also considering extending QPR training to middle and high school students, as well as parents, further expanding its reach in suicide prevention efforts.

Get ready: JAK-L Foundation goes Vegas style on Nov. 15!

Looking ahead, the JAK-L Foundation is gearing up for its highly anticipated future fundraiser, "JAK-L Foundation Goes Vegas Style," scheduled for Nov. 15. This exciting event promises an evening of entertainment and will be crucial in raising funds to support the foundation's ongoing initiatives in mental health awareness, suicide prevention, and educational programs. Further details about the Vegas-themed fundraiser will be announced closer to the date.

The JAK-L Foundation remains deeply committed to its mission of reducing the stigma around accessing mental health support and directly impacting the community to promote well-being and save lives. Through events like the JAK-L Foundation Strides for Mental Health 5K Memorial Run/Walk, the recent mental health paint day, and future QPR training, alongside impactful fundraisers, the foundation continues to make a tangible difference in the lives of individuals and families across the region.

About the JAK-L Foundation:

The JAK-L Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising mental health awareness, reducing the stigma surrounding mental illness, and actively supporting suicide pre-



Donita Bytyqi and JAK-L Foundation Representative, Wendy Clouarte.

vention initiatives within the community. Through education, outreach, and partnerships, the foundation strives to promote mental well-being and save lives. Learn more at <https://jak-l.com/>.

LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

BROOKFIELD
Brookfield Ecumenical Food Pantry
St. Mary's Church
4 Howard Street, Brookfield, MA 01506
Distribution: Wednesday 9:30 AM-11 AM:
Saturday 9:30 AM-11AM

CHARLTON
Chip - In Food Pantry
McKinstry Building
37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507
Distribution: 3rd Saturday 9 AM-12 Noon

St. Joseph's Church, Charlton
Tuesday 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Wednesday 9-11 a.m.
Everyone is welcome.

LEICESTER
Leicester Food Pantry
St. Joseph-St. Pius X Parish
759 Main Street, Leicester, MA 01524
Distribution: Tuesday 5 PM-7 PM

NORTH BROOKFIELD
St. Joseph's Food Pantry
Located in the church hall at 296 North Main St. North Brookfield
Distribution is the 1st Thursday of the month from 5:00-6:30PM
the 3rd Thursday of the month from 12 Noon-1:15PM
Any questions should be directed to the Rectory office 508 867-6469.
St. Joseph's Food Pantry is a community partner affiliated with the Worcester County Food Bank.

OXFORD
Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf
Oxford Community Center
4 Maple Road
Oxford, MA 01540
Distribution: Thursday 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

ROCHDALE
The Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry
Greenville Baptist Church
674 Pleasant St.
Rochdale, MA
Distribution: Every Monday from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Open to everyone.

SOUTHBRIDGE
Saint Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry,
Located in the St. Anne Church basement,
16 Church Street, Fiskdale, MA 01518
Stocked by donations
Contact: 508-347-6398

SPENCER- EAST BROOKFIELD - RESIDENTS ONLY
Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry
60 Maple St, Spencer, MA 01562
Distribution: Thursday 10 AM-12 Noon

STURBRIDGE
Saint Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry,
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WEBSTER
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Webster, MA 0570
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