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Charlton Villager

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SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO News@StoneBridgePress.news

Thursday-Friday, November 13-14, 2025

Southbridge celebrates new rail trail

SOUTHBIDGE — The Southbridge community had much to celebrate on Friday, Nov. 7 at its Quinebaug Valley Rail Trail (QVRT) Ribbon-Cutting.

Decades in the making, the QVRT is in its final stages of construction thanks to \$2.6 million in Economic Development Administration funds, \$1.5 million in MassDOT funds, and \$500,000 in Mass Trails funds. Last Fall the Town of Southbridge began construction of this picturesque route along the Quinebaug River and they are now seeing the finishing touches added over the next six months to complete the connection between Dudley and Sturbridge.

Among the day’s speakers were Congressman Neal,



Left to right: Bob Clemence, Southbridge Business Partnership (SBP) Chair, Congressman Neal, State Senator Ryan Fattman, State Rep. John Marsi, and John Auclair, SBP Secretary.

Jesse Lederman - a representative from Senator Markey’s Office, Southbridge Council Chairman Scott Lazo, Town Manager “Jack” John D. Jovan, Jr., State Senator Ryan Fattman, State Representative John Marsi, Peter Sutton - Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Coordinator MassDOT, Tom Chamberland - Friends of the Titanic Rail Trail (formerly the Grand Trunk Trail Blazers), Southbridge Town Councilor Dave Adams, Kellan Lewis - Project Engineer, BSC Group, and Erika Burrows - Chair of Central Mass South Chamber of Commerce.

Many came out for this special event to remember all those who came before them to help make this project a reality. Tom Chamberland helped advocate for a regional trail system as far back in the 1980s. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts purchased the Southbridge spur from the Providence and Worcester Railroad in 2004 to establish a community-based rail trail, thanks to efforts from the late Representative Mark Carron, whose recent passing was recognized with a moment of silence. Only now in 2025 can Southbridge finally celebrate this momentous occasion, an accomplishment made possible thanks to its grant funders and the tremendous support of its Town Officials. The QVRT will help promote economic development along and near the rail trail and offer the region a new trail experience, one with views of the historic downtown and serene natural beauty along the river eventually leading to the Quinebaug River Reservoir at the Dudley town line to the southeast and the Westville Dam to the northwest.

Wings of Song sings of night, moon, and stars

STURBRIDGE — Night. Darkness. Silence. In the sky on a clear night, our Moon may be riding high. Our sibling planets may be seen piercing the darkness with clear, unblinking points of light: Venus, Jupiter, Mars... Stars—suns like ours, but at unimaginable distances—send their light out, visible on Earth perhaps many centuries later.

In late December in Earth’s Northern Hemisphere, nights are long and cold. For millennia, humans have gathered to mark this time with fires and dances and singing and musical instruments and stories and revelry: to tell the dark and the cold that our spirits are undaunted, and to celebrate the lengthening of days that begins at this time.

Wings of Song—a community chorus centered in Sturbridge and drawing its fifty active members from a large number of towns in south-central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut—celebrates both Christmas and the Winter Solstice in song this year with a focus on night, moon, and stars: the darkness from which light is born, and reborn.

The celebration takes the form of two concerts: one at St. Joachim Chapel, 16 Church Street in Fiskdale (part of Sturbridge), on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m., and the other at the Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. in Southbridge, on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. As always, both concerts are free to the public, with a freewill offering collected. As always, both venues are handicap accessible. As always, yummy refreshments will be served after each concert. And as always, folks are advised to come early to be sure of a seat.

Music Director Nym Cooke provides this glimpse into what you’ll hear: everything from an operatic quartet by Baroque composer Jean-Philippe Rameau (1683-1764) to the bluegrass gospel song “Beautiful Star of Bethlehem”; from “Moon is Walking” by Joseph Shabalala of Ladysmith Black Mambazo to the world premiere of “Notte” by Wings of Song tenor Gianni Davilli; from the tender Danish Christmas song “Among the Stars of Midnight” to John Rutter’s magnificent choral setting of “O Holy Night”; from the shape-note song ‘Star in the East’ to Henry VIII’s “Green Grow’th the Holly”... Audiences will join us in singing three Christmas classics that feature stars: “The First Nowell,” “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” and “We Three Kings of Orient Are.”

People are strongly encouraged to bring stars or moons, to be held or hoisted aloft at key points in the proceedings. More than one moon is fine, in the spirit of celebration.

Wolfie’s Legacy memorial holds heartfelt “Day to Remember” in Sturbridge

STURBRIDGE — Deborah Young, founder of Facebook’s Juno’s Place, and Gail Fairbanks of Burt’s Brigade. Together, with the help of Harley’s Tree Service and Boomba’s, they prepared and beautified the site to honor the memory of pets that brought so much joy to their families.

On Sunday, dozens of community members gathered to witness the blessing, share pizza and stories, hang tribute tags, and celebrate the everlasting bond between people and their pets.

A place for healing and connection

Pet loss grief is a profound and valid emotional experience, often as deep as the grief felt for a human loved one. Wolfie’s Legacy Memorial offers a sanctuary for healing and remembrance, inviting people to reflect and find comfort among others who understand their loss.

A rainbow bridge, surrounded by painted memo-



Charlton Lions celebrate 50-year milestone



Members of The Charlton Lions Club gather to celebrate the Club’s 50th anniversary.

CHARLTON — Local, regional and state officials turned out on Sunday, Nov. 2 to help The Charlton Lions Club celebrate 50 years of service to their community and beyond.

The Club, chartered in November of 1975, invited community dignitaries, local business sponsors, former members and other Lions Clubs to join them for an hors d’oeuvre party at the Pine Ridge Country Club in

ry rocks, serves as the centerpiece of the memorial. Visitors are encouraged to “take a rock, paint a rock” — a small but meaningful way to leave a lasting tribute.

The Wind Phone: A call beyond the rainbow bridge

One of the memorial’s most unique features is the Wind Phone — or “Phone of the Wind.” This special space invites visitors to make a symbolic “call” to their departed pets, expressing words left unsaid, sharing love, or simply connecting through memory.

“Our Wind Phone offers a place to tell your story of grief, to reminisce, and to continue to connect with your pet who is gone. For many, it can be a deeply moving and life-affirming experience.”

Order a memorial brick

Those who wish to create a permanent tribute can order a custom engraved brick for departed pets, expressing

Holiday makes for early deadlines

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication in our Nov. 28 will be Thursday, Nov. 20 at 10 a.m. Submissions can be e-mailed to news@stonebridgepress.news.

The staff wishes our readers a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Marsi champions change to M.G.L language referring to disabilities

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

BOSTON — The State House of Representatives on Beacon Hill has approved an amendment that will replace language referring to those with intellectual, physical and developmental disabilities in Massachusetts General Laws removing what many consider offensive and outdated terminology.

The amendment, H. 4704, was championed by the House Committee on Ways and Means which includes 6th Worcester District Rep. John Marsi, a former Dudley selectman whose district includes Dudley and Charlton. Marsi presented his inaugural speech on the issue on Nov. 5, helping lead the charge towards a 152-0 vote of the House to approve the amendment.

The rule will now replace the language of “disabled persons”

to “persons with disabilities” and “disabled American Veterans” to “American Veterans with disabilities” which Marsi called a “necessary” change to preserve the dignity of these individuals. It also removes all references to the word “retarded,” which Marsi simply referred to as “the R-word,” which has long been considered a derogatory term for those with disabilities.

“It’s about time we addressed this. If there’s anything we need to know about this bill, it’s that words matter and as elected leaders of the Commonwealth it’s up to us to set the tone for how individuals with disabilities are referred to and how they are treated,” said Marsi in his speech on the House floor, which he also shared on social media.

The issue is personal for Marsi who is a father and advo-

cate for a special needs child. His daughter Jessica has disabilities, diagnosed with Angelman syndrome and is non-verbal, but Marsi said she lights up every room she enters and is a “perfect soul.” His son Anthony has also become a strong advocate for Jessica, and Marsi considers him a model for how to interact with individuals with disabilities.

This personal connection helped fuel Marsi’s push to enter politics and see a 15-year battle to change the language in Mass General Laws come to fruition.

“I’m her voice on so many

issues and it inspired me to run for local office in Dudley many years ago to give back for all the help that the school district and the community gave to us,” said Marsi. “Since then, when I decided to run for the House, I wanted to advocate for those who need help the most and be a champion for those without a voice or who feel like they don’t have a voice.”

Marsi received a standing ovation for his speech. He said the House’s eventually vote to support the amendment was a decisive statement by state lawmakers that “words matter.”

St. Christopher’s Craft Fair offers two days of food, fun & holiday shopping

BRIMFIELD — On Saturday, Nov. 22 and Sunday, Nov. 23, St. Christopher Church will hold its annual craft fair. Located at 20 Sturbridge Rd. (Route 20), it has easy access and plenty of parking. The hours of the fair are Saturday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Admission is free.

The craft fair offers a wide variety to choose from including unique pieces of handcrafted jewelry, primitives, Christmas decorations & ornaments, organic lotions & soaps, resins, watercolors, stained glass, pottery, sea glass, wreaths, mugs, honey products, quilted, knit & crochet items, stone and shell art, wooden décor and tie dye, all in addition to the clubs bargain tables that offer an array of goods especially for those on a tight budget. Our strolling caroler Lauren helps bring the Christmas spirit.

The kitchen is open throughout the day and will offer a breakfast menu and a variety of sandwiches, soups, chili, chowder, meat pies, and desserts. Whole meat pies can be purchased to take home. A cookie walk on Saturday starts at 9 am. It sells out quickly so go early.

For those who like to take a chance there are raffles. The main raffle has a variety of prizes that include numerous local restaurants, themed gift baskets, a fire pit, and tickets to enter-

tainment venues, among others. There is also a raffle comprised of unique gifts from crafters and a tree filled with lottery tickets.

The Women of Saint Christopher’s organize the fair.

Club president Cindy Skowyrasays, “There are so many festivals these days with many great crafters and artisans, but I think ours is a bit special, it’s right at the beginning of the holiday season and the inviting setting provides the warmth and character of a community gathering to support local artisans, and the food is great.”

The group will also be selling winter/cemetery boxes after the Thanksgiving weekend.

Reverend Jack Brennan, pastor of St. Christopher’s, says, “I know that I can always count on this group for support and that is important for the life of our parish. They make a difference in the life of our parish. I invite everyone to come to the fair and see who we are. I also invite you to join us anytime.”

Masses are on Saturday at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Weekday masses are Monday and Wednesday at 9 a.m. Holy Day masses vary. For more information about the fair or St. Christophers Church, contact the parish at 413-245-7274 or email stchrisbrimfield@gmail.com or check it out on the church’s Facebook page.

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WALES: 413-245-9808
Weekdays 8:30 – 12:30 and 2:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 – 12:00

CHURCH LISTINGS

• **Central Baptist Church**
256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.

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

• **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 10 a.m.

• **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org
Sunday worship and Children’s church 10am

• **St. Anne St. Patrick Church**, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338
www.stannestpatparish.com
Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am

• **Elm Street Congregational Church**, 61 Elm Street, Southbridge, Ma 01550
Phone: 508-764-8085 • Sunday service 10:00 am
Pastor Kathryn Light

• **Faith Baptist Church**, 515 Dennison Drive, Southbridge
Phone number 508-764-6132,
Worship Service: Sunday 10:00 a.m.

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

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

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

• **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349
Sunday Service 10:00am.
www.livingwordcharlton.com
info@livingwordcharlton.com

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

• **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale-** 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021
www.sturfed.org
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

• **Bethlehem Lutheran Church-** 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566
Phone 508-347-7297
Web: www.bethlehemsturbridge.org
Services - Sunday 9:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell

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

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

• **St. John Paul II Parish**
279 Hamilton St., Southbridge
Rev. Carlos Ardila, Pastor
Weekend services Saturday 4 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon
Weekday masses 8:30 & 8:45 a.m., St. Mary’s Church (508) 765-3701



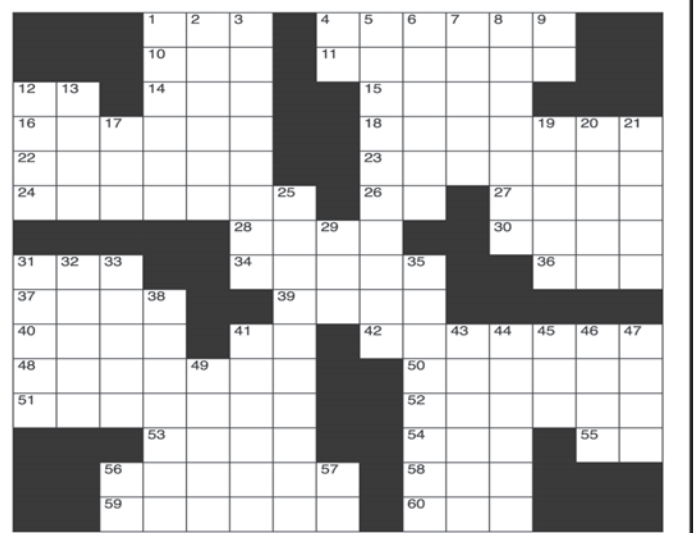
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Popular broadcast network

4. Train line

10. Go quickly

11. Straightforward

12. Canadian province

14. Swiss river

15. It can be straight or curved

16. Edit

18. Utter repeatedly

22. Gotten up

23. Sea vessel

24. Agents of one’s demise

26. Not out

27. Something to scratch

28. A round water pot

30. Slang for cylindrical green fruit

31. Promotions

34. Masses of matter
36. Soviet Socialist Republic

37. Nightstand item

39. The content of cognition

40. Arab ruler

41. Northern U.S. state

42. Chewed in small bites

48. Hawaiian island

50. More thin

51. Of one

52. Rigid bracelet or anklet

53. Barbary sheep

54. Not even

55. Atomic #106

56. Haggle

58. Boxing’s GOAT

59. Division of a group into opposing factions

60. Vietnamese offensive

CLUES DOWN

1. Horse-drawn carriage

2. Prejudices

3. Peacefully

4. University athletic official

5. Soldiers

6. Large mollusk

7. Take out again

8. Sour or bitter in taste

9. Songwriter Tunstall

12. Husk of wheat

13. Flexible covering in some birds

17. Energy

19. Night monkey genus

20. Small nails

21. Colorless volatile liquid

25. In a way, changes integrity
29. Mark Wahlberg’s stuffed animal

31. Remember it

32. “Good Will Hunting” lead man

33. Pleasant facial expression

35. Sea vessel

38. Lacking poetic beauty

41. Tall, swift and slender dog

44. Sports personality Michelle

47. Robber

45. Liquefied natural gas

46. Snake-like fish

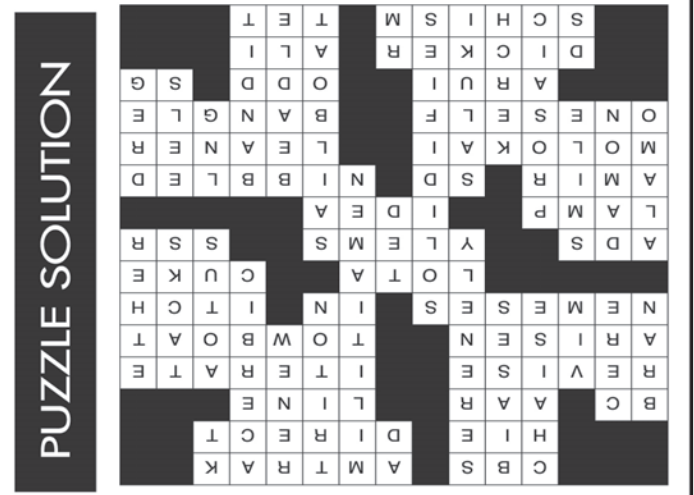
47. Sediment at bottom of a liquid

49. Crimean seaport

56. Bad grades

57. Popular S. Korean rapper

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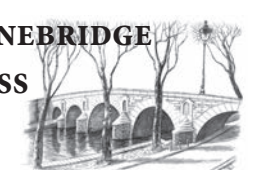
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Webster Five, Project New Hope Inc. launch food drive to support local veterans and military families

AUBURN — With Veterans Day approaching, Webster Five and Project New Hope Inc. are calling on the community to help support local Military and Veteran families in need through a regional food drive running Wednesday, Nov. 5 through Friday, Nov. 21.

All donations will go directly to Project New Hope's Sully's Pantry, which provides food and household essentials to Veterans, Service Members and their families across Central Massachusetts.

"Our partnership with Project New Hope through United

Southbridge Garden Club readies for annual Holiday Greens Sale

SOUTHBRIDGE — Members of the Southbridge Garden Club are preparing for its annual sale of hand-crafted wreaths, swags, container arrangements, and other natural holiday decorations. This always popular sale will take place on Friday, December 5 from noon to 5 pm, and Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, 111 Main St., Southbridge.

The members will be decorating Noble Fir wreaths with their hand-crafted designer-quality bows, as well as natural and other decorative items. Additionally, they have been collecting greens throughout the area



Courtesy

Webster Five partners with Project New Hope Inc. through United Way of Central Massachusetts to launch food drive. From left to right: Christopher Watson, Webster Five; Brian Westerlind, Webster Five; Leah Larson, United Way of Central Massachusetts; Amanda Coccia, Webster Five; Tim Garvin, United Way of Central Massachusetts; Rebecca Jalbert, Webster Five; Bill Moore, Project New Hope Inc.; and Debbie Erickson, Project New Hope Inc.

Way of Central Massachusetts gives our community a meaningful way to support local Military and Veteran families,"

said Christopher Watson, Chief Business Lending Officer, Webster Five and Member of the Board of Directors, United Way of Central Massachusetts. "Every donation this holiday season helps provide essentials and reminds these families how much their service is appreciated."

"At Project New Hope Inc., we're honored to partner with Webster Five to help Military and Veteran families put food on the table this holiday season," said Bill Moore, CEO and Founder, Project New Hope Inc. "Every can, box and donation represents hope for those who have served our nation. Together, we're showing our Veterans and their families that their community stands with them."

How to Help Donations can be

dropped off at any Webster Five branch location:

- 400 Southbridge St., Auburn
- 208 West Main St., Dudley
- 343 Main St., Oxford
- 261 Grafton St., Shrewsbury
- 136 Thompson Rd., Webster
- 266 Chandler St., Worcester
- 100 Front St., Suite 150, Worcester

Requested items include:

- Cereal
- Canned Vegetables
- Pop-Tarts
- Canned Fruit
- Applesauce
- Canned Soup/ Stew
- Snack-Packs
- Jello & Pudding
- Canned Chili
- Cranberry Juice
- Baked Beans
- Raisins
- Stuffing
- Knorr Sides
- Alfredo Sauce
- Ranch & Italian Dressing
- Rice-A-Roni

- Mayonnaise
- Broth
- Canned Tuna
- Soup – box
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Corned Beef

- Grape Jelly
- Canned Hams
- Peanut Butter
- SPAM
- Chef Boyardee
- Manwich
- SpaghettiOs
- Hamburger

- Macaroni & Cheese
- Taco Kits
- Syrup
- Refried Beans
- Ketchup
- Instant Mashed Potatoes

- Shelf-Stable Milk
 - Instant Oatmeal
- Please donate only unopened items that are within their "best by" date to ensure freshness and quality.

About Webster Five

Established in 1868, Webster Five offers consumers, businesses and non-profits not only a wide range of products and services but also stability and community support that can't be matched by their

larger counterparts. To learn more about Webster Five, visit web5.com.

About Project New Hope Inc.

Project New Hope Inc. has been empowering Veterans, Service Members, and their

families for over 14 years through transformative retreats, essential resources, and holistic support services. To learn more about Project New Hope's mission and programs, visit <https://www.project-newhopema.org/>.

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Giving thanks for the everyday helpers

November has a way of slowing us down — or at least reminding us that we ought to. The leaves have fallen, the air turns sharp, and life settles into that brief pause before the holidays truly take over. It’s during this quieter stretch that we find time to notice the people who make our towns not only function, but feel alive.

Across our local communities, there are countless helpers who never seek a spotlight. They’re the volunteers who stack folding chairs after every town event, the crossing guards who wave to every child even when the rain’s coming sideways, and the firefighters who leave warm dinners behind at the sound of the siren. They are librarians who stay late to help a child find the right book, and public works crews who mend potholes and plow streets before sunrise.

They don’t do it for applause. In small towns, service is personal — it’s what keeps us connected. It’s the neighbor who shovels a sidewalk without being asked, the teenager who rakes leaves for the senior next door, the clerk who knows every face that walks into Town Hall. These quiet gestures don’t make headlines, but they stitch together the fabric of community more tightly than any grand announcement ever could.

In an age when so much of the world feels hurried and divided, it’s comforting to remember that local life still depends on cooperation and care. Our helpers remind us what it looks like to show up for each other — not just at parades or celebrations, but on the ordinary Tuesday mornings when nobody’s watching.

As Thanksgiving approaches, it’s easy to get lost in grocery lists and travel plans, but gratitude isn’t meant to be a holiday. It’s a daily habit — one that can transform how we see our neighbors and how we treat one another. A quick word of thanks to a postal worker, a note to a teacher, or a kind word for a plow driver can go a long way.

If every person in town took five minutes this week to thank someone who helps make life a little easier, imagine the ripple effect. Gratitude breeds connection, and connection builds resilience — the kind of strength that small towns depend on when times get hard.

So before the rush of the season begins, let’s pause long enough to say thank you — to the quiet doers, the steady hands, the patient listeners, and the ones who keep showing up. They are, quite literally, the reason our communities work. And they deserve more than a moment’s notice.

OPINION

Thanksgiving, and thankful to give

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays. It is for most Americans, too. A time for fun and cheer, with images of ‘over the river and through the woods,’ picturesque rides in New England, it is a special day to celebrate with family and friends.

And it is the kick off for the Holiday Season – Christmas fairs such as the one at Charlton City UMC on Stafford Street Dec. 6, and St. Josephs in Charlton is hosting a Christmas Bazaar on Dec. 6. And if you want more fellowship, they are hosting a tea on Dec. 13, too.

But the Holidays also remind us how important they are from a spiritual perspective.

“If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is “thank you,” it would be enough.” — Meister Eckhart

The other day I made my annual pilgrimage to La Salette in Attleboro, Massachusetts. Known throughout the region for their amazing Christmas lights, sacred displays, and fun activities for children, they are also ideal setting for spiritual reflection.

A special display set among the trees, accessible by climbing around 60 steps, is a beautiful sculpture of Christ and angels. I think of that stairway as an ascension of appreciation, challenging myself each year to thank God for a different blessing – person, gift, experience – on each step.

Guess what? I run out of stairs. Not because I hit the lottery and am counting yachts, airplanes, and sports cars. On the contrary. This has been a year of ups and downs, challenges and the often

time blessings that come from difficulties. In other words the normal year for any person of faith!

On first blush you might think finding 60 blessings, especially if it has been a year of challenges – health, finance, loss, disappointment or – to be difficulty. Not once you get started and focus on what matters. Even in loss, the amount of grief is usually proportional to the amount of love and blessings associated with that person who is now gone.

If you’ve never tried it, start small.

Go to your front steps and think about five blessings you want to thank God for. Here’s a starter set – God’s love for you, somebody in your life who loves you, you have a house or apartment to walk into, food in the cupboard, legs to walk up the stairs. Voila.... there’s five right there! Cool, right?!

And if ever there was a time of year where pain seems to be amplified, it is the Holiday Season. Celebrating Thanksgiving when you might have lost a job, loved one, had a bill come out of nowhere that slams the budget... the list can be long. You aren’t alone.

That’s why we are offering a Blue Christmas Service Dec. 20 at 630 p.m. More in an upcoming article.

Perhaps that is why the Bible



BEYOND THE PEWS

BY DR. RB MCFEE
CHARLTON CITY UMC

is full of scripture advising people of faith to give thanks – in times of blessings, and in times of hardship. Actually, most of the thankful scriptures are part of scary, dangerous times where the writer came within an inch of their lives.

God knew that having a countenance of appreciation was good for the soul, a healthy approach to life, and resulted in a bunch of positives. Medical science supports that, too!

Perhaps that is what inspired the Apostle Paul....

“11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”

— Philippians 4: 11 - 13

This scripture reminds us that contentedness and gratitude, which is implied in Paul’s comment, go hand in hand, even in hard times. And Paul certainly knew hard times – shipwrecked, beaten, imprisoned, snakebit, starved, falsely accused, the list goes on. Yet he gave thanks.

Ever notice that the spirit of giving often accompanies people with a spirit of thanksgiving?

Verse 13 reminds us what we can do through God, such as helping others.

Maybe that is why so many enterprises – from churches and non-profits to profit businesses try to help others at Thanksgiving.

Consider CCUMC’s Manna Food Pantry, and the other food pantries from St. Joseph’s in Charlton to churches in Southbridge and Sturbridge.

In Worcester, Catholic Charities hosts a free Thanksgiving dinner at St. Paul’s on Chatham Street at noon, and restaurants such as the Boulevard Diner on Shrewsbury Street and Café Neo at 289 Harding St. offer free meals on Thanksgiving Day. Salvation Army offers assistance 508-756-7191.

Sometimes it isn’t about what we can’t afford but what we need – fellowship. CCUMC is hosting a family friendly, price friendly Thanksgiving themed turkey dinner on Nov. 15 from to 7 p.m.

All over the county there are church and community events – from thrift shops and marketplaces to musicals and theatrical presentations.

As you can see your local churches are vibrant and focused on being your good neighbor.

Thanksgiving is a time of gratitude, joy, generosity and starting off the Christmas, the Holiday Season. Look around the community for ways to help, ways to give, places for faith and fellowship, and ways to celebrate, or resources if you know someone in need. Your local churches, and Christian music station 90.1 are good places to start.

TO THE EDITOR

Making Southbridge shine at the holidays

To the Editor:

It is hard to believe that we were once on the Common enjoying the tunes of Eric and Ash, Donnelly Road, Adelaide Fay, Tipton Rock, Mindrift, Wonderland Mafia, and Easy Season in short sleeves.

Now, the winter decorations are up and there is a chill in the air.

Thanks to the Recreation Committee, Mike Brunelle, Denise and Bob Clemence as well as Jillian, Dan G., Janelle and all volunteers trying to make Southbridge a special and great place.

Peace,

Maureen Doyle
Southbridge

Generosity meets strategy with tax-savvy donations

Giving to charity feels good but understanding the tax benefits can benefit both the charity and you. Whether you donate regularly or are planning your first gift, knowing how charitable tax deductions work can help you make informed decisions while supporting causes you care about. Here are things to consider:

The basics: Itemizing vs. standard deduction. To benefit from charitable tax deductions, you need to itemize your deductions on your tax return. Everyone automatically receives a standard deduction, which in 2025 is \$31,500 for married couples filing jointly or \$15,750 for single filers. You'll only benefit from itemizing if your total deductions, including charitable gifts, exceed these amounts.

For many people, charitable donations alone won't push them over the standard deduction threshold. However, when combined with other deductible expenses like mortgage interest or state and local taxes, itemizing can make financial sense.

If you give regularly but don't usually exceed the standard deduction, consider "stacking" your donations. Instead of donating \$5,000 annually, you might donate \$15,750 in one year to exceed the itemization threshold, then take the standard deduction in subsequent years.

Ensure your donation qualifies. To claim a deduction, you must give to a qualified charitable organization recognized by the IRS. You can verify an organization's status on the IRS website or ask the charity for their determination letter. Donations to individuals, even those in need, don't qualify for tax deductions.

Additionally, you can't receive personal benefits in exchange for your donation. If you give \$500 to a charity but receive concert tickets worth \$200, your deductible amount is only \$300.

How much can you deduct? The IRS limits charitable deductions based on your adjusted gross income (AGI). For cash donations to public charities, you can typically deduct up to 60 percent of your AGI. If you donate stocks



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or other appreciated assets you've held for more than a year, the limit is generally 30 percent of your AGI.

If your donation exceeds these limits in a single year, you can carry forward the unused portion for up to five years.

What to donate. Think strategically about what you donate. While cash is easiest, donating appreciated stocks can provide additional tax benefits since you avoid paying capital gains taxes on the investment's growth.

Keep good records. Documentation matters. For donations under \$250, a canceled check or receipt works fine. Cash donations of \$250 or more need written acknowledgment from the charity. For larger non-cash donations of property exceeding \$5,000 in value, the IRS requires a qualified written

appraisal. Keep these records with your tax documents in case the IRS requests proof. See IRS Publication No. 526 and No. 561 for information on charitable contributions and valuing donated property.

The bottom line: Charitable giving may start with your heart, but understanding the tax implications helps you give more effectively. Work with a tax professional and a financial advisor to develop a giving strategy that aligns with both your charitable goals and financial situation. With thoughtful planning, you can maximize both your impact on causes you care about and the tax benefits you receive.

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 trevornielson@edward-jones.com.

Life balance

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

Sometimes growth begins exactly where discomfort starts.

Every ambitious person eventually faces a crossroads between their

rules and their results. The people who go far — the ones we admire — aren't necessarily smarter or luckier. They're just the ones who decided certain rules didn't apply to them.

Stephen King ignored the publishing world's "one book a year" rule. He wrote so fast that his publisher couldn't keep up, so he created a pseudonym—Richard Bachman—to release more. When readers discovered the truth, both names became bestsellers, and the rule was never taken seriously again.

Or take Jeff Bezos, who in Amazon's early days answered customer emails and support calls at 2 a.m., believing connection mattered more than sleep. That obsessive rule-breaking focus on customers became the DNA of one of the world's biggest companies.

Or Ed Sheeran, who played dozens of free or low-pay gigs in a single year, sleeping on couches and busking on street corners. Friends said he was devaluing his art — but those nights built the loyal fan base that later filled

stadiums.

Or Elon Musk, who broke Silicon Valley's "focus on one thing" rule. While most founders were told to master one company at a time, he was building rockets, cars, and solar panels all at once.

Each one of them broke a rule that sounded smart but wasn't serving the dream.

I'm not suggesting that people should work 24/7, but I am saying that sometimes you need to work 24/7. Knowing when to be flexible with your work-life balance can change your entire future. It's knowing the difference between a guardrail and a cage.

Discipline isn't always about sticking to the same schedule forever; sometimes the boundaries need to bend. The rules that once protected your peace can, at a different season of life, start protecting your comfort instead. And comfort is a silent thief of momentum.

Every ambitious person reaches a point where "balance" becomes an excuse. Where the rule that once made sense starts standing in the way, the truth is, you can't build an extraordinary life while staying entirely within ordinary limits.

Your next breakthrough may not require

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.

Nichols College hosts renowned author, filmmaker

Christy Cashman for inspiring campus discussion

DUDLEY — Nichols College proudly welcomed celebrated author, actress, and filmmaker Christy Cashman to campus on Thursday, Nov. 6, for a public discussion and signing of her award-winning novel “The Truth About Horses.” The free event, held in Fels Lounge, drew students, faculty, and members of the local community for an afternoon of creativity, conversation, and inspiration.

Cashman, whose film credits include American Hustle, Joy, and Ted 2, spoke about her career path, creative process, and the resilience required to succeed in the arts. She shared stories from her experiences in film and publishing, offering attendees practical advice on building confidence as writers and trusting their unique voices.

Throughout the discussion, Cashman emphasized that creativity flourishes through persistence and authenticity. Students had the opportunity to ask questions about her work and to learn firsthand about the balance between imagination,



discipline, and self-belief that underpins successful storytelling.

Cashman told attendees, “Write through everything. Keep writing when you don’t feel like it. Keep writing when you feel like you don’t have anything to say. Keep writing when you’re tired. Keep writing no matter what your circumstances are.”

Earlier in the day, Cashman met privately with members of the Nichols College Equestrian Club and participated in a luncheon with campus leaders. Nichols College President William Pieczynski also attended the event and joined Cashman for photos following the discussion.

“Christy’s story and her commitment to encouraging young creatives resonated deeply with our students,” said President

Pieczynski. “Her message about perseverance and confidence aligns perfectly with Nichols’ mission to empower students to pursue their passions with purpose and courage.”

Cashman’s debut novel, “The Truth About Horses,” earned the 2024 IBPA Benjamin Franklin Gold Award for General Fiction, along with Silver Awards for Best New Voice and Teen Fiction. She has also authored two children’s books and founded YouthINK, a nonprofit dedicated to mentoring teen creators, and YOUThink Creative Wellness Retreats, which support wellness through art and storytelling.

Latest auction news



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• • • • •
WAYNE TUISKULA



Lightera announces New General Manager for Sturbridge manufacturing facility

STURBRIDGE — Lightera, a global leader in fiber-optic and connectivity solutions, is pleased to announce the promotion of Regina Pynn to General Manager of its Sturbridge, Massachusetts facility. Pynn will oversee operations, strategic growth, and community engagement efforts for the site, reporting to Dave Knight, Senior Vice President of Specialty Solutions.

Pynn joined the company in 2023 as Market Manager for Industrial Networking and Sensing, bringing more than 14 years of experience in advanced manufacturing and engineering leadership. Her background spans product and process development, systems leadership, and

program execution across both union and non-union environments. She holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology, where she also serves on the Mechanical Engineering Department Advisory Board.

“Regina brings deep technical expertise, strong operational leadership, and a tremendous passion for developing people and teams,” said Knight. “Her experience and vision will help guide our Sturbridge team through their next phase of growth and innovation.”

In accepting her new role, Pynn shared her enthusiasm for the future of the facility and its workforce.

the auctioneer said in the BBC article. The passenger list is estimated to bring £100,000 (\$131,350 U.S.).

A massive collection of memorabilia from the estate of colorful and eccentric Indianapolis Colts owner, Jim Irsay, will be sold in several auctions. Irsay had shared some of his collection with the public in 2023 when he offered free concerts to the public with the opportunity to view some historical and pop culture memorabilia. One of the stops on the tour was at Boston’s TD Garden, where I was fortunate enough to see some of the rare artifacts. Items being auctioned include “an Apple II manual signed by Steve Jobs, Hunter S. Thompson’s Red

Shark convertible and Jack Kerouac’s original typewritten manuscript of “On the Road,”” according to the Indy Star.

A toilet might make an impact on the art world when it goes on the auction block later this month. Made of gold, the working sculpture was designed by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan and is titled “America.” It “was created with 101.2 kilograms (223 pounds) of gold,” according to MSN. An identical one was stolen from England’s Blenheim Palace in a brazen 2019 heist. Cattelan is the artist who sold “Comedian,” a banana duct taped to a wall, for \$6.2 million last year. No estimate for the toilet was provided, but the gold used is

MOORE
continued from page A4

pushing past self-imposed boundaries.

Examine the rules you’ve established for yourself. Keep the ones that keep you healthy — the ones that let you rest, recover, and reconnect with life. But question the ones that keep you safe at the expense of your potential.

We all need balance, and progress isn’t found

a new plan, a new mentor, or a new skill. It may require

in balance alone. It’s found in the moments you lean just a little further than what feels comfortable — when you stay an extra hour, take the extra call, send the extra pitch.

You don’t need to give up balance — just bend it in the direction of what matters most.

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

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Add a bit of life to your holiday gatherings with the help of succulents. You and your guests will enjoy the easy-care beauty of succulents. Their subtle colors and dramatic form make them great gifts and decorations now and throughout the year.

Small-scale succulents provide a multitude of opportunities for incorporating them into your holiday celebrations. Just select containers that complement, but don't overpower their charm.

Create a succulent garden to use as a centerpiece for the table. A shallow container filled with a variety of succulents with different shapes and colors is sure to capture everyone's attention. Set the container on a saucer to protect the table and add a complementary

table runner for even greater impact.

Consider using succulents as party favors for guests to take home and enjoy for years to come. But first, use them to decorate the table by making them into place cards for your guests. Simply add a name to the decorative pot.

Or display them all together in a tray, terra cotta saucer or other shallow container to use as a centerpiece throughout the evening. When the party is over, each guest can pick their own plant to take home.

Add a unique flair to the table by placing cocktail glasses filled with succulents next to each guest's place setting. This makes a unique table decoration and party favor for guests to take home as a reminder of your fun gathering. Use a few planted cocktail glasses to decorate the beverage table or bar.

Grow these plants in a cacti and succulent potting mix. These fast-draining mixes help reduce the risk of overwatering. Further reduce this risk by using containers with drainage holes that are only slightly larger than the succulents' root system. Growing them in too large of a container for the plant size will retain moisture longer that can lead to root rot, decline, and even the death of your plants.



Melinda Myers

Create a succulent garden centerpiece with different shapes and colors this holiday season.

After the party continue to provide proper care so your centerpiece will be ready for your next event. Move the succulent planter to a cool, draft-free location near an unobstructed south-, west- or east-facing window. If light is limited, consider adding artificial lights.

Water thoroughly but only when the top few inches of soil are dry and just often enough to keep the plants from shriveling. These winter-growing conditions often encourage a spring display of colorful and unique flowers.

Share these directions with your guest and if possible, the name of the succulent. This helps your guest keep the plants alive to

enjoy for years to come.

With a trip to your favorite garden center and your imagination you can create fun holiday décor and party favors. You and your guests will enjoy their beauty throughout the holidays and beyond.

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"* streaming courses 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.

It's Gobble Gobble time at Charlton City UMC



CHARLTON — A delicious Family Turkey Dinner is being prepared for Saturday, Nov. 15 from 5-6:30 p.m. Come and enjoy good food with friends and neighbors. Music will be provided by Jim Perry, a well known local musician. Free fun activity... create a take home thanksgiving themed craft for children.

Menu is of course turkey with mashed potatoes, stuffing, butternut squash sweet peas and pearl onions, turkey gravy and cranberry sauce plus homemade pumpkin pie with whipped topping. \$15 for adults, \$8 for children six to 12, under five free. Max \$50 per family. Limited quantities.

Call 508 248-7379 to reserve a table or order a take-out. Remember to leave your name and phone number in case we need to reach you. CCUMC is located at 74 Stafford St., Charlton. See you on Nov. 15 for Thanksgiving Supper at Charlton City UMC. Building is handicapped accessible with ample parking.

QCC campus police receive \$60,000 in public safety grants

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College was recently awarded \$59,912 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security. The funding, which is part of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program, will allow QCC's Police Department to connect to the Motor Vehicle Automated Citation and Crash System (MACCS). The MACCS is a state-operated, browser-based platform for electronic traffic citation and crash data collection and reporting.

Additionally, in August, QCC received a \$5,000 Military and First Responder Grant from CSX Transportation, which will also be used to support the transition to MACCS.

"QCC Campus Police are committed to modernizing our operations to better

serve and protect our community," said QCC Chief of Police Stephen DiGiovanni. "These grant funds will help us replace outdated manual processes with state-of-the-art equipment that connects to the Motor Vehicle Automated Citation and Crash System, which is hosted by the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles."

The QCC Police Department's transition to MACCS will streamline citation and crash reporting, enabling safer and more efficient traffic stops and crash data. This will allow officers to spend more time in the community, increasing visibility and helping prevent crime. The system also enables real-time data sharing, enhances data accuracy and accountability, increases officer safety, and supports coordinated crime reduction strategies through integrated intelligence.



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Check out the new Fall/Winter menu

A family legacy

Bay Path grad joins sisters as LPN in local healthcare

CHARLTON — Jason Houatchanthara joined the region’s healthcare workforce on June 2 as a practical nursing student in his last term and continues to do so after reaching an important professional milestone. Jason Houat- chanthara, a resident of Fiskdale, has officially earned his LPN license by passing the NCLEX-PN exam on his first attempt. Jason graduated from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton this past June 20. He is currently employed at the Southbridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Southbridge.

Houatch- anthara’s path to becoming a nurse was marked by determination, hard work, and a deep commitment to helping others. Balancing rigorous academic requirements with demanding clinical rotations and employment, he exemplified perseverance and dedication throughout his training. Jason is a graduate of Southbridge High School, where he was challenged with honors courses and Advanced Placement (AP) courses in Algebra and Statistics.

“The nursing journey was tough, filled with long nights, hard work, and sacrifice,” Houatchanthara shared. “But through dedication and determination, we finally made it. With the support of our families, classmates, and instructors, every challenge became a stepping stone to success.”

Hands-on training and clinical experience
Houatchanth-ara’s path was marked by perseverance, balancing academic demands with extensive hands-on training and prior employment. During the program, Jason completed 1,097 hours of didactic and clinical training, gaining hands-on experience across several healthcare settings:

- Quaboag Rehab and Skilled Care Center in West Brookfield, where he demonstrated leadership in wound care and medication administration.
- Vibra, The Meadows in Rochdale, where he performed advanced procedures such as trach care and G-tube feedings.
- Lutheran Rehab and Skilled Care Center in Worcester, where he focused on patient care, charting, and communication with interdisciplinary teams.

His academic excellence earned him induction into the National Technical Honor Society, and he was an active member of the Mock Code Team. He built a strong foundation in pharmacology, Medical-Surgical Nursing, and geriatric care.

Career Transition and Early Nursing Experience

Before entering the nursing field full-time, Houatchanthara worked as the Head Custodian at Brimfield Elementary School until May 30. In that role, he managed staff assignments, ensured safety and maintenance standards, and coordinated supply inventories — experiences that strengthened his leadership, organization, and communication skills, all vital for nursing practice.

Shortly before graduating, as a practical



nursing student in his last term, he began his healthcare career as a Graduate Nurse at Southbridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, gaining early professional experience in patient care and clinical teamwork.

Family Legacy in Nursing and A Family Tradition of Compassion

Houatch- anthara’s dedication to nursing runs in the family. His successful transition into nursing continues a notable family legacy, joining his two older sisters in the nursing field.

His sister, Kamphan Houatchanthara, LPN, graduated from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in 2021. As a Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy graduate, Kamphan’s accolades include Recipient, Clinical Excellence Award and Random Act of Kindness Award; Member, Mock Code Team, UNICEF Club, and Admissions Panel Interview; Certifications on Mental Health First Aid, Dementia Care, Infusion Therapy / Central Line Care Program, and attendance at the COVID-19 Contact Tracing Johns Hopkins University. She currently serves in a leadership position at the Lutheran Rehab and Skilled Care Center in Worcester. Khamphan became a nurse following their sister, Maxine. Their other sister, Maxine Khounthy, LPN, also works at Southbridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Center previously as Nursing Supervisor, now as the Assistant Director of Nursing, and shares a long-standing connection with Bay Path faculty.

Maxine recently sent a message to Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy’s former Academy Director, expressing her gratitude:

“Thank you so much for all you did for my sister Kamphan, and brother Jason,” Maxine wrote.

Maxine and Dr. Bolandrina first met

in 2013, when Dr. Bolandrina served as the Clinical Facilitator at Southbridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, and Maxine was the evening nursing supervisor.

Serving the community

Now a fully credentialed LPN, Jason holds certifications in BLS/CPR for Healthcare Providers, Mental Health First Aid, Dementia Care, and Stop the Bleed.

Equipped with skills in EMR/EHR systems, infection control, and vital signs monitoring, he is eager to contribute to the healthcare community with compassion and professionalism.

“Nursing has taught me that compassion and teamwork can make a lasting difference,” Jason said. “I want to continue to give back to the community that supported me.”



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Cornerstone Bank donates \$5,000 to support financial literacy in Quaboag Valley

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank has donated \$5,000 to the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation (QVCD) in support of its Learn and Save Club, a financial fitness program that teaches participants how to develop healthy money habits and save toward the purchase of important assets.

“Financial literacy is the foundation for long-term success,” said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. “We are proud to support the Learn and Save Club again this year, which equips local families and individuals with the tools they need to make confident financial decisions.”

The year-long program combines financial literacy classes with matched savings to empower low-income residents of the Quaboag Valley to achieve greater financial stability. Participants attend monthly meetings, receive hands-on guidance and work toward goals such as home ownership, education or reliable transportation.

This is the second consecutive year Cornerstone Bank has contributed to the Learn and Save Club. In addition to financial support, bank employees have volunteered to help lead financial education sessions, sharing their expertise with program participants.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank’s local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone, which is a subsidiary of PeoplesBankCorp, MHC, operating independently under its own name and brand, provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations

with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities through a broad range of deposit and loan products and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.

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LEGALS

TOWN OF CHARLTON
Invitation for Bids
#2 HEATING FUEL OIL

The Town of Charlton hereby invite sealed bids for the term December 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 for #2 Heating Fuel Oil. Specification and bid proposal forms are available at the Town of Charlton Town Hall, Town Administrator Office, 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507 or by email: mary.devlin@townofcharlton.net. All bids must be in conformity with all pertinent statutes and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. All bids must be sealed and labeled “#2 HEATING FUEL OIL” and received at the Town Administrator’s Office, 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA no later than 2:00 PM. on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at which time and place, bids will be publicly opened and read. The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or any part thereof; when it appears that it’s in the best interest of the Town by doing so.
November 10, 2025
November 13, 2025

Notification is hereby given that an application has been filed by Mangia Bene for a Liquor License All Alcohol Beverages at the premises currently located at 139 Main Street, Sturbridge MA with the Sturbridge Select Board. In accordance with MGL Ch. 138, a public hearing will be held December 1, 2025 at 6:45 p.m. This hearing will be held at Veteran’s Memorial Hall, Sturbridge Town Hall, 308 Main Street, Sturbridge MA 01566
November 13, 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. WO25C0220CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME

In the matter of:
Kim Marie Wells
A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Kim Marie Wells of Charlton MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Kym Marie Wells
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 11/25/2025. 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: October 24, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 13, 2025

Town of Brimfield
Conservation Commission
Public Hearing Notice

In accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Brimfield Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 6:00 PM to review a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) submitted by Mountain Brook Traders, LLC. The RDA proposes to remove narrow strip of woodland and to remove 2-story structure.
Project Location: 65 & 0 Palmer Road (Assessor’s Map (13-A-7 & A-7.1)
Meeting Location: Public Participation will be In-Person at Hitchcock Academy at 2 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, MA 01010 on December 10, 2025, at 6:00 PM.
Any person(s) interested or wishing to be heard on this request should appear at the time and place designated. A copy of the permit application and plan may be inspected at the Brimfield Town Annex in the Conservation Commission Office, Salisbury Annex Building, 2nd Floor, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA 01010 or contact the office at 413-245-4100 ext. 1101.
Roger deBruyn & Joseph Venezia
Co-Chairs
November 05, 2025
November 13, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO18P1665GD
NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Resignation or Petition for Removal
of Guardianship of a Minor
In the interests of
Camdyn Michael Brooks
of Sturbridge, MA
Minor

NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Resignation as Guardian of a Minor or Petition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor filed by Diana Hamilton & Robert Hamilton on October 10, 2025 will be held **11/17/2025 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located **Worcester Probate & Family Court**
2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.
3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.
4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.
5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor’s best interests.

ORDER TO PETITIONER(S)
IT IS ORDERED THAT copies of this Notice and the Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served in hand on the minor, (if 14 or more years of age and not the petitioner), the guardian, the parents of the minor, and any other person if ordered by the Court, at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the hearing date listed above. **Service must be made by the sheriff, constable, or other person approved by the Court.**
If service in hand cannot be accomplished on any interested party. **IT IS ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and the Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served on the interested party by leaving at and mailing by regular first class mail to last and usual place of residence of the interested party at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the date of hearing listed above.

If the identity of whereabouts of an interested party is **not known, IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served on all interested persons at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the hearing date by mailing first class mail and by publishing a copy of the Order and Notice once in **Webster Times, Webster** publication to be at least **Seven (7)** days prior to the hearing date. If required, service on the United States Veteran Administration and the Department of Children and Families may be accomplished by regular first class mail at least **Seven (7)** days prior to the hearing.
THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.
Date: October 15, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
November 13, 2025

REQUEST FOR BIDS
HVAC REPLACEMENT
FIRE STATION 1

10 POWER STATION ROAD

The Town of Charlton is soliciting bids from qualified Contractors for removal and replacement of the existing Heating Ventilation & Air Conditioning System as well as Gas Piping & Electrical work required for installation at 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. – 4:00 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 **December 3, 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.
November 13, 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. WO25P2101EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR SALE
OF REAL ESTATE BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
Estate Of:
Cynthia R Henrickson
Also Known As:
Cynthia Wentworth
Date of Death: 02/22/2025

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has been filed by: **Troy LaCerte of Thompson CT** requesting that the court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent’s real estate at a private sale.
IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m.** on the return day of **12/02/2025** . This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 03, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 13, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO18P1663GD
NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Resignation or Petition for Removal
of Guardianship of a Minor
In the interests of
Jordyn W Brooks
of Sturbridge, MA
Minor

NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Resignation as Guardian of a Minor or Petition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor filed by Diana Hamilton & Robert Hamilton on October 10, 2025 will be held **11/17/2025 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located **Worcester Probate & Family Court**
2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person

at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.
3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.
4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.
5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor’s best interests.

ORDER TO PETITIONER(S)

IT IS ORDERED THAT copies of this Notice and the Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served in hand on the minor, (if 14 or more years of age and not the petitioner), the guardian, the parents of the minor, and any other person if ordered by the Court, at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the hearing date listed above. **Service must be made by the sheriff, constable, or other person approved by the Court.**
If service in hand cannot be accomplished on any interested party. **IT IS ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and the Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served on the interested party by leaving at and mailing by regular first class mail to last and usual place of residence of the interested party at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the date of hearing listed above.

If the identity of whereabouts of an interested party is **not known, IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served on all interested persons at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the hearing date by mailing first class mail and by publishing a copy of the Order and Notice once in **Webster Times, Webster** publication to be at least **Seven (7)** days prior to the hearing date. If required, service on the United States Veteran Administration and the Department of Children and Families may be accomplished by regular first class mail at least **Seven (7)** days prior to the hearing.
THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.
Date: October 10, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
November 13, 2025

CHARLTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on November 19, at 7PM on the application of Ray Bonneville.
The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for the construction of a single-family home and associated landscaping improvements within the 100-ft buffer zone to Glen Echo Lake. The project location is: 45 Lakeview Drive, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 17A-A-15. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request. Copies of the NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.
Thomas O’Malley
Chair,
Charlton Conservation Commission
November 13, 2025

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Quiet Corner Garden Club receives prestigious awards

WOODSTOCK, Conn. — The Quiet Corner Garden Club (QCGC) received 16 awards at the 96th Annual Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut Awards Meeting in Southington on Oct. 22. QCGC's 122 members live in 26 towns in northeastern Connecticut and south central Massachusetts. The awards are based on garden club activities from June 2024 to May 2025.

The Lucille Schavoir Award is presented annually to a club for outstanding garden club work and is considered the highest award presented to a club. "Each year... [the Federated Garden Clubs of CT] look for a club that is just doing everything, supporting their community, improving their community, volunteering in the community, and making a difference in their com-



munity. The Quiet Corner Garden Club was recognized this year for its outstanding work in the community. Its club members are active in every aspect of garden club activities."

The QCGC received its

first ever award from the National Garden Clubs, Inc. A Certificate of Appreciation was awarded for the Club's monthly newsletter. The Lea Bauerfeld Beautification Award is presented to a club for an outstanding civic proj-

ect that benefits the community both aesthetically and environmentally. This award was presented for the Club's work at Quasset Cemetery in Woodstock. The Pauline B. Tyler Award for excellence in

promoting conservation was presented to Noreene Stehlik of Woodstock Valley for her efforts to eradicate and educate about invasive plants.

An Award of Excellence in Healing, Therapy and Senior Gardening was given for the Club's commitment to expand and share its passion for all things gardening. QCGC members conducted workshops at six local Senior Centers in Connecticut and Dudley, Mass.

QCGC received the Luckner Youth Award for its efforts working with the Putnam Rotary Interact high school students who worked in the TEEG Community Garden. The club also received a Citation for Digital Media and a Certificate of Merit for the monthly newsletter. In addition, The QCGC received a Citation for its

Floral Design Course under the leadership of Bonnie Berthiaume of Woodstock and Marcia Kettle of North Grosvenordale, and also a Citation for garden work at Eastford Municipal buildings and grounds.

Individuals also recognized for their work were Linda Kaplan of Woodstock, Kathy Mulford of Brooklyn, Deni Van Der Voort of Woodstock, Marian Hallowell of Woodstock, Laura Salo of Woodstock, Ashley Goyette of Putnam, Mary Ann Johnson of Woodstock, and Ginny Sears of Woodstock.

The Quiet Corner Garden club meets monthly from September to June at the South Woodstock Baptist Church. For more information see our Facebook page or our Web site, www.quiet-cornergardenclub.com.



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PickleballU offers open play space for local seniors

STONEBRIDGE — PickleballU, and indoor six-court pickleball facility located in the former JC Penny's

space in Sturbridge, and Cornerstone Bank have teamed up to offer seniors aged 60 and up free open play twice a

week through the fall and winter months. The positive physical and social aspects of playing pickleball are well documented

and many players have already taken advantage of this offering in the past few weeks.

"While pickleball may be a relatively inexpensive sport to participate in compared to say golf or skiing in terms of equipment needed and fees," notes Gary Galonek, one of the owners of PickleballU. "We certainly understand there are seniors on fixed incomes

that want to participate but unable to justify the expense."

Galonek also thanks Cornerstone for co-sponsoring these free play sessions, commenting, "They are great community partners, and we appreciate having them on board for this initiative."

In addition to open play sessions, PickleballU offers instructional clinics, private lessons,

numerous leagues and other special events hosted in its 1,500-square-foot lounge. It also has a fully stocked pro-shop with all the gear you need to play the game.

These free sessions take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to 1:30 p.m. For more information or to register, please visit www.PickleballU.com or call 774 304-1008.

WOLFIE

continued from page A1
the memorial walkway. Each brick will be installed at Wolfie's Legacy Memorial, serving as a timeless reminder of a pet's place in our hearts.

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Follow Wolfie's Legacy memorial

Stay updated and connected with the ongoing story of the memorial, community events, and opportunities to participate by following Wolfie's Legacy Memorial on Facebook.

LIONS

continued from page A1
Oxford, which was decorated with balloons and flourishes in gold (for 50 years) and blue and yellow (Lions colors).

On display were scrapbooks and memorabilia from many years, depicting some of the Clubs work in the community — scholarship awards to graduating Charlton seniors, holiday gift cards for needy families, a Peace Poster Contest for middle school youth, a Speech Competition for high schoolers, handicap ramps for the mobility challenged, sight and hearing testing for children and town employees, and much more.

Club President Dana Gould served as master of ceremonies for the event.

After welcoming everyone, he gave a brief history of The Charlton Lions Club. On behalf of the Club he received citations and recognition brought by representatives of the Commonwealth, Lions Clubs International (LCI), District 33A of LCI, and the Town of Charlton.

Past Lions District Governor Denise Andrews recognized Dr. Carole Duquette, club administrator, for her diligent service for several years as District 33A cabinet secretary/treasurer.

Helene Doucette, who joined The Charlton Lions Club in 1977, is the longest continuing member. Helene has served over the years in several capacities, including as a district governor and club president. She chaired the 50th Anniversary Committee and was cited

by speakers for her tireless efforts on behalf of the Club and its work.

The Club plans to continue its charitable activities in the town for many years. Its next project is its annual visit to residents of Charlton Manor Rest Home, bringing cheer and gifts and leading a sing-along of holiday songs.

Lions are people from all walks of life who enjoy helping their communities and have a great time doing so. If you are interested in becoming a Lion or for more information, please send an email to thecharltonlions@gmail.com or call Jennie at 508-434-2527. The Charlton Lions Club meets the second and fourth Thursdays of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Great Room at The Overlook in Charlton.

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Zyion
Age 11
Registration #7396

Zyion is a sweet, clever, and funny kid who lights up any room they enter. Those who know Zyion describe them as curious, loving, and full of energy, while Zyion describes himself as thoughtful, empathetic, and caring. What makes Zyion truly unique is their deep compassion for others—an extraordinary empathy that shines even in the face of past challenges. They are often described as "wise beyond their years" and have a remarkable ability to support and uplift those around them. Zyion thrives when engaging in creative activities. They love all kinds of arts and crafts, especially projects that involve building, designing, and problem-solving. Whether working with Legos, building blocks, or puzzles, Zyion's imagination and determination always come through. They also enjoy drawing, painting, writing stories, and expressing their love of superheroes—using art and writing as powerful tools for self-expression and storytelling. Zyion proudly identifies these creative outlets as some of their greatest strengths. Outside of their artistic passions, Zyion enjoys playing Pokémon and Super Smash Brothers, spending time outdoors, and exploring new adventures. Though they haven't yet chosen a specific dream for the future, Zyion's big imagination and open-mindedness show that they're on an exciting path of self-discovery—ready to explore the many possibilities ahead.

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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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David Sanchez of Uxbridge appointed to Nichols College Senior Advisory Council

DUDLEY — David Sanchez of Uxbridge is one of 15 students appointed by Nichols College President Bill Pieczynski to the 2025-2026 Nichols Senior Advisory Council (NSAC). This group of accomplished seniors will meet with the President and members of the President's Counsel monthly and act as an advisory group as the College plans for the future.

"Congratulations to the students selected for this year's NSAC cohort. These are exemplary students, citizens and leaders who have distinguished themselves among a strong senior class," said Pieczynski. "Their insights will be invaluable to the leadership team, and we look forward to hearing their perspectives and learning more about these outstanding students."

Upcoming NSAC meetings will include discussions on the College's new initiatives as well as broader trends and issues in higher education. In addition to helping Nichols enhance the overall experience for all members of its community, the meetings are also intended as an opportunity for students to further strengthen their communication and presentation skills, which are critical to career advancement.

About Nichols College Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols transforms today's students into tomorrow's leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu



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

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\$649,900.

Waterford CT - 20 AVERY LN.
Beautifully updated farmhouse - 5 min. to the ocean. Nothing to do just to move in!! 2 bed, 2 bath New Heating System, Central Air! Huge shed & deck! Oversized garage. 3/4+ acre. assisted sale **\$365,000**

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ON DEPOSIT

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