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STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

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Free by request to residents of Sturbridge and Holland

Thursday-Friday, November 19-20, 2026

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS

Home of the Brave race brings community together in support of Sturbridge veterans



STURBRIDGE — Runners, walkers, volunteers and community supporters gathered at the Sturbridge Town Common on Saturday, Nov. 7 for the 2026 Home of the Brave 5K Race (HOTB), continuing a local tradition of supporting Sturbridge veterans.

Presented by the Sturbridge Special Events Committee, the annual walk and recorded nearly 160 runners with many friends, families and neighbors. Despite morning drizzle, the event brought neighbors together ahead of Veteran's Day to recognize military service and contribute to a cause close to home.

A special moment was the posthumous presentation of a community service award honoring George Berry, a longtime Sturbridge resident, Marine Corps veteran who served in the Korean War, and member of the Sturbridge Board of Health for more than 30 years. The award was accepted by the son of George Berry.

Race revenues generated by the nearly 160 runners totaled out to $4,838. These funds will be placed into the Town's Veteran's Fund.

The 2027 Home of the Brave Race will be Saturday, Nov. 6.

The race reflected the efforts of a broad community team which included Race Director Seth Mansur along with Pam Mills from Red Door Realty. Organizers thanked many who worked to make this event a success. These included our Police and CERT safety volunteers and DPW staff along with town resident volunteers. Organizers extend their appreciation to every runner, walker, volunteer and supporter who helped carry the event's mission forward.

The Web site www.thankyou5k.com now offers information on the 2027 HOTB Race which will be Saturday, Nov. 6, 2027. Plans are underway to add new exercise and competitive features to the 2027 race.

Southbridge Lions Club announces Steve Ide Memorial Toy Drive

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Lions Club, in partnership with the Southbridge Police Department's Cops N Kids Program, is once again sponsoring the Steve Ide Memorial Toy Drive to help bring some holiday cheer to children and families in the Southbridge community.

This annual effort provides holiday gifts to children whose families could use a little extra assistance during the Christmas season. Through the continued cooperation of the Lions Club and the Southbridge Police Department, the program helps make the holidays a little brighter for local children.

Applications for the 2026 Toy Drive are now available at the Southbridge Police Department. Families wishing to participate may pick up an application at the department or download and print a copy from the Southbridge Lions Club Facebook page.

The deadline for submitting completed applications is Thursday, Dec. 10. All applications must be returned to the Southbridge Police Department, and a copy of photo identification is required.

Toy distribution will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 16, from 3 to 6 p.m. at 25 Cole Ave. in Southbridge.

Families with specific questions about the program may contact Deputy Chief Jose Dingui at the Southbridge Police Department.

The Southbridge Lions Club encourages residents to help spread the word about the Toy Drive so that families who may benefit from the program are aware of the opportunity.

The Steve Ide Memorial Toy Drive is another example of what can be accomplished when local organizations work together to serve their community. Through this continuing partnership, the Southbridge Lions Club and the Southbridge Police Department hope to make the holiday season a little more joyful for children throughout Southbridge.

Southbridge Lions Club — We Serve.

Local DAR members honor Revolutionary War patriots, headline Historical Society's final 2026 program

SOUTHBRIDGE — With the nation's 250th anniversary of independence, local members of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) marked Veterans Day with a meaningful tribute to Revolutionary War patriots and an evening dedicated to preserving the history and ideals of America's founding.

The day of remembrance began Wednesday morning, Nov. 11, at the Old Burial Ground in Sturbridge, where Dr. Adelina N. Healy, her daughter, Anne Marie Safaee, and Sylvia Gamache gathered to honor the 77 Revolutionary War patriots buried at the historic cemetery.

For the three women, the observance carried special significance. Among those remembered was their Revolutionary War ancestor, Aaron Allen, whose service in the cause of American independence represents a deeply personal connection to the nation's founding. Their visit offered an opportunity not only to pay tribute to those who helped secure America's freedom, but also to preserve the memory of the generations whose sacrifices shaped the country's history.



The spirit of remembrance continued that evening when the Southbridge Historical Society welcomed the community to its final public program of the 2026 season at The Arts Center on Main Street.

Beginning at 7 p.m., Dr. Healy and Safaee presented a joint program titled "The History and Purpose of the Daughters of the American Revolution." The mother-daughter team introduced attendees to the organization's origins, historical significance, and continuing mission as a nonprofit, nonpolitical, volunteer women's service organization.

Their presentation explored the DAR's commitment to historic preservation, education, and patriotic service, while explaining the organization's genealogical membership requirements. Prospective members must establish a documented line of direct descent from an ancestor who provided qualifying service in support of American independence during the Revolutionary War.

The presentation was particularly timely as communities across the country commemorate the United States Semiquincentennial—the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The program provided an opportunity to reflect on the individuals, families, and communities whose

Turn To DAR *page* A9

Charlton Knights & Lions clean up intersection

CHARLTON — The Charlton Knights of Columbus and The Charlton Lions Club joined forces on Saturday, Nov. 14 to clean up the traffic islands at the intersection of Routes 31 and 20.

Wielding hand tools, shovels, brooms and rakes, ten members of the two organizations pulled and dug out weeds from the cracks and crevices and raked and swept up organic debris as well as broken glass and plastic and car parts as well as countless cigarette butts. Cars and trucks whizzed or rumbled by while the safety vest-clad volunteers filled and carted off several trash bags. The islands were left looking much like they would have soon after installation.



The Knights and Lions groups both have a mission to serve their community and enjoyed working together to beautify one corner of Charlton.

Early deadlines for Thanksgiving

With the offices of the Southbridge News to be closed Thursday, Nov. 26 in observance of Thanksgiving, the submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication that week has been moved up to Thursday, Nov. 19 at 4 p.m.

Submissions can be e-mailed to news@stonebridgepress.news.

The staff of the Southbridge News thanks our readers for their cooperation with this change in our usual schedule, and wishes one and all a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Community Fridge offers free food at Charlton Federated Church

CHARLTON — The Federated Church of Charlton (FCC) has opened a community fridge or refrigerator and shed to provide food and other household items to anyone in need.

The concept is simple: people take what they need and share what they can. The main purpose of community fridges is to reduce food insecurity, while also mitigating food waste. The FCC Community Fridge is in a grey shed next to the church parking lot. It is open 24 hours, seven days a week.

"Our community fridge complements other food programs in our community, such as the Charlton Chip-In Food Pantry. Our program allows people to access free, nutritious fresh foods, and household items at any time," said Elizabeth Moran, chair of the FCC diaconate. "We understand that people can feel embarrassed when they are in need. Our program allows people to acquire resources anonymously. There is no sign-in or registration. Simply come and take what you need, when you need it."

The Federated Church of Charlton hopes to work with organizations, businesses and individuals to fill the community fridge and shelves. Acceptable foods include: all produce, unopened frozen foods, breads and pastries, prepackaged frozen dinners, milk, cheese, eggs, non-perishable goods, home cooked meals. Please label each meal with the ingredients. Clear packaging is preferred. Foods that are unacceptable include: moldy fruits, vegetables, and bread and previously opened foods. The FCC also accepts household items such as canned goods, boxed foods, soap and shampoo, paper supplies, toothpaste, and shaving supplies.

For more information, please call the church at 508-248-5550 or email emoran3@charter.net or office@fed-church.org.

About the Federated Church of Charlton (FCC)

The Federated Church of Charlton is a federation of the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association in Christian worship together. The Church descends from several churches active in the Charlton community over the centuries starting in 1761. Worship services are held on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. The church also has an active Sunday School and youth program. The church is located at 64 Main St., at the northern end of Charlton's town common.

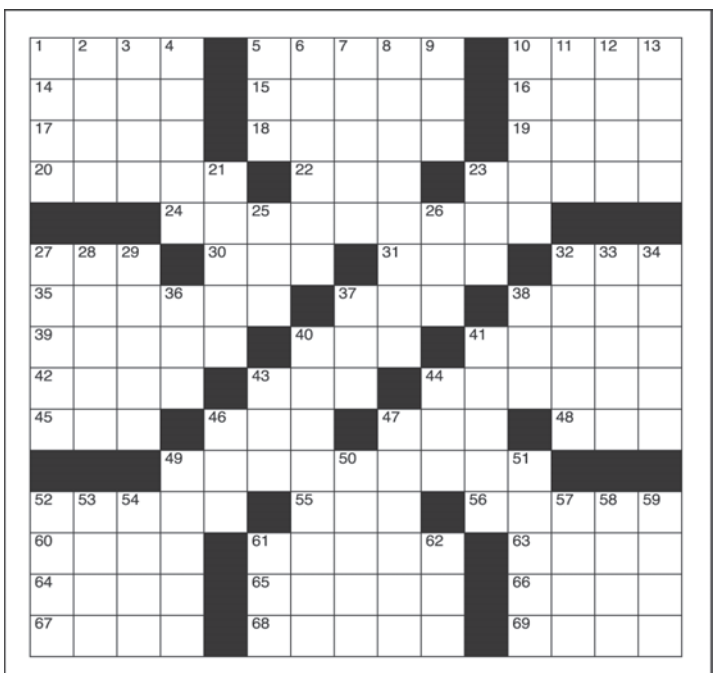
Helping Hand Society invites community to Christmas Fair

CHARLTON — Charlton Helping Hand Society Inc. invites all to their Annual Christmas Fair on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Dodge Chapel, 81 Hammond Hill Rd. in Charlton.

Our members, friends and businesses have been very generous this year with donations. Our "Santa's Village" is loaded with festive bargains and our popular "Cookie Table" will offer dozens of holiday choices. We also have raffle tables with "too many to mention" prizes, but something for everyone. Prizes will be drawn the day of the fair.

Come one, come all on this fun day and help the Charlton Helping Hand Society help others in our community.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Perceive a sound
5. Pretends to be
10. Type of guitar
14. Actor Idris
15. A citizen of Iran
16. Creative
17. Keep under control
18. Weight unit for precious stones
19. You better call him
20. Fanatical
22. Male cat
23. Jewish spiritual leader
24. One who takes risks
27. A way to nail
30. Cool!
31. Progressive policy supporter
32. "Losing My Religion" rockers
35. Step-shaped recess
37. Round globular seed
38. Somewhat
39. Butterhead lettuces
40. Color at the end of the spectrum
41. Lines where fabrics are sewn together
42. Dodgers great Hershiser
43. Floor covering
44. Traveled aimlessly
45. Rocker Stewart
46. Body art
47. Congressman (abbr.)
48. No seats available
49. Categorizes
52. Iraq-Syria border town
55. Ballplayer's tool
56. Type of sword
60. Baseball team
61. Upper bracts of grass
63. Italian seaport
64. Ancient city in Syria
65. Shoelace tube
66. U. of Miami mascot is one
67. South American nation
68. "Nebraska" director Alexander
69. Upper body part

CLUES DOWN

1. German courtesy title
2. Ancient Greek City
3. Skin care manufacturer
4. A long-legged frog
5. Photo
6. Delivered a speech
7. Lute in northern Indian music
8. Decorated
9. Take a seat
10. Bottom layer
11. Type of horse
12. Ticket part
13. Defunct currency of Guinea
21. Challenges
23. Popular BBQ food
25. Subway rodent
26. By way of
27. Shady garden alcove
28. City in Egypt
29. __ and flowed
32. Large quantities of paper
33. Eurasian wheat
34. Act incorrectly
36. Layer of water right above sediment (abbr.)
37. Al Bundy's wife
38. Ocean
40. Large, round root
41. Sound units
43. Knock
44. Soak in water
46. Hot drink
47. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
49. Rumanian city
50. Come back from being down
51. Vaccine developer
52. Canadian law enforcers
53. Wings
54. "Perry Mason" actor Raymond
57. Small fry
58. __ Clapton, musician
59. Gamble
61. Semi-liquid food
62. Consumed food

PUZZLE SOLUTION

H	E	A	R	■	P	O	S	E	S	■	B	A	S	S
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Bethlehem Lutheran Church announces Bluegrass Services

STURBRIDGE — The Rev. Dan Purtell will officiate two upcoming Bluegrass Services to be held on Sunday, Dec. 13.

Both Bluegrass Services will begin at 9 a.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 345 Main St., Sturbridge (Park and Ride). Coffee and refreshments will follow in the fellowship hall. All are welcome!

Services are also livestreamed on Bethlehem's Facebook page. Please visit bethlehemsturbridge.org.

Real Estate

CHARLTON

$645,000, 22 Ponnakin Hill Rd, Warning, Christopher J, and Warning, Sabrina M, to Price, Izon Swain, and Soltys, Emily.

$529,900, 6 Bond Rd, Constitution Prop LLC, to Sousa, Jeffrey J.

$431,500, 98-H Foote Rd, Evwrhome Legacy Fund LLC, to Morin, Samuel L, and Morin, Mayleena M.

$375,000, 53 H Putnam Rd, Standring Alan M Est, and Donnelly, Lori Ann, to Barroso, Dominic, and Margoupis, Emily.

$325,000, 266 Brookfield Rd, Zeng, Weihua, to Palazis, Georgios, and Abdrab, Helen.

$175,000, 185 Nugget Dr, Santander Bank Na, to Lanier, Mark, and Lanier, Kelly.

HOLLAND

$225,000, 66 N Wales Rd, Patota Ft 2025, and Patota, Michael F, to Suzanne G Gendreau 2024 T, and Gendreau, Suzanne G.

$200,000, 7 Dug Hill Rd, Morris, Dennis C, and Morris, Marian C, to Groccia 3rd, John, and Groccia, Kristen M.

$168,000, 29 Leno Rd, Sweny, Timothy J, and Sweny, Pamela A, to Sweny, Timothy J.

$120,000, 25 Marcy Rd, Tetreault, Beverly Ann, to Perry, Jeffrey Dawes.

SOUTHBRIDGE

$667,000, 36 Winter St, S&E Senko LLC, to Rodriguez, Randy Manuel.

STURBRIDGE

$575,000, 32 Mcgregory Rd, Battersby, Charles D, and Battersby, Marguerite A, to Ragosta Jr, Jeffrey, and Ragosta, Deangela.

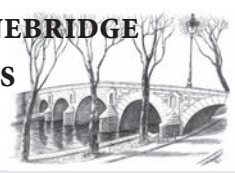
$425,000, 23 Snell St, Loverme, Tracy, to Swadia, Dhamanjay, and Swadia, Nimish.

$330,000, 51 Ridge Way, Davison, Bradley R, and Rainka, Alice E, to Burlingham, Brad.

$100,000, 23 Camp Rd, Solorzano, Andrew D, to Appleby, Derek.

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Villager Almanac

Open to Close

Southbridge Town Hall
Monday-Wednesday:
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Thursday: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Jacob Edwards Public Library
Monday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Tuesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (May 25 will be our last open Saturday until Labor Day) Sunday: Closed

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Friday .....Closed
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or more information.
Individual offices may vary
Public Library (248-0452)
For library hours please check
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Fire Department (248-2299)
Monday to Friday..... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
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Heritage School ..... (508) 248-4884
Charlton Middle School.....(508) 248-1423
Shepherd Hill Regional High School
.....(508) 943-6700
Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School
..... (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326
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and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
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Weekdays 8:30 – 5:00 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00
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closed Fri & Sun

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, 1**6 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.livingwordhcarlton.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 8:45 a.m., St. Mary's Church
(508) 765-3701

Gateway Players announce auditions for "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time"

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge is hosting auditions for "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time," adapted by Simon Stephens, based on the novel by Mark Haddon, music composed by Matt Friedman.

Auditions will be held on Monday, Dec. 14 and Tuesday, Dec. 15 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. (you only have to attend one), in Fellowship Hall at Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script, a little improv and a short movement routine led by our choreographer. No need to sign up or prepare anything, but if you have a resume please bring a copy with you.

Rehearsals will be Sunday afternoons and Monday and Wednesday evenings officially beginning after the first of the year. Please bring a list of conflicts to auditions (attendance for tech week and all performances is required). Performances will be held March 12, 13, 19 & 20 at 7:30 p.m. and March 21 at 2 p.m. Directed by Mikey Dearn, Produced by Stephen Jean, Choreographer: Valerie Langlais and Stage Manager: Erin Morin.

For more information, please contact Gateway at 508-764-4531. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals, A Dramatists Play Service Title. There are 10 roles in the play (five male identifying characters and five female identifying characters) and all characters speak with a British accent. Actors must be at least 18 years old to audition with the exception of those auditioning for the role of Christopher (who can be 14 or older). We welcome performers of all genders, identities and ethnicities to audition whether they are newcomers or veterans to the stage.

Fifteen-year-old Christopher stands beside his neighbor Mrs. Shears' dead dog. It has been speared with a garden fork, it is seven minutes after midnight, and Christopher is under suspicion. He records each fact in the book he is writing to solve the mystery of who murdered Wellington the dog.

Christopher has an extraordinary brain and is exceptional at math, but he is ill-equipped to interpret everyday life. He has never ventured alone beyond the end of his road, he detests being touched and he distrusts strangers. But Christopher's detective work, forbidden by his father, takes him on a frightening journey that turns his world upside-down.

Simon Stephens' adaptation of Mark Haddon's bestselling, award-winning novel "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" offers a richly theatrical exploration of this touching and bleakly humorous tale.

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Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation awards nearly $24,000 in grants to local schools

DUDLEY — The Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation (DCEF) Inc. awarded nearly $24,000 in grants to the Dudley-Charlton School District.

"We are humbled to have the opportunity to support our community in tangible ways that directly impact our schools and students," says Sabrina Webb, president of the DCEF. "These grants will empower our teachers and staff to go above and beyond when it comes to the student experience in and out of the classroom."

Thirteen projects will receive funding. Initiatives by school include:

Mason Road: Making Math Memorable with Manipulatives; Reading for RULER!; Outdoor Classroom: The Sequel; Tactile Enhancement to Sensory Path; and Learning in a New Light: Sensory Exploration in Preschool.

Dudley Elementary: Sensory Hall Upgrade.

Dudley Middle: Titan Treat Trolley: A Student-Run Real-World Learning Experience.

Charlton Elementary: Jumping into Hands-On Learning with ALN-Inspired Math Materials.

Heritage School: Traverse Climbing Wall for Gymnasium ($3,250); Paint the Path to Play.

Charlton Middle: Scanning for Books.

Shepherd Hill Regional High School: American Heritage Museum; Weight Room Enhancements.

"The Dudley-Charlton Regional School District extends its sincere appreciation to the Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation for their continued generosity and partnership, shares," Steven M. Lamarche, superintendent of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District. "Their grant program supports innovative ideas that fall outside our operating budget but make a meaningful, positive impact on students' experiences in every school. We are grateful for their commitment to inspire educators and enriching learning opportunities across the district."

Grants will be carried out in the 2026-27 school year.

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The Thrifty Gypsy hosts weekly holiday craft fairs and Sunday markets

STURBRIDGE — Local shoppers and craft enthusiasts are invited to celebrate the holiday season at The Thrifty Gypsy, located at 531 Main St in Sturbridge/Fiskdale. Every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. throughout November and December 2026, the local shop is teaming up with My Collective to host a festive series of holiday craft fairs and "Sunday Funday" vendor pop-up markets.

The weekly markets showcase a rotating selection of local artisans, makers, and small businesses from across Central Massachusetts. Visitors can browse one-of-a-kind holiday gifts while supporting the local community.

Event Highlights & Offerings Include:

• Handmade & Artisan Goods: Locally crafted jewelry, home decor, woodworking, and seasonal gifts.

• Bath, Body & Wellness: Small-batch soaps, hand-poured candles, crystals, and holistic goods.

• Vintage & Apparel: Curated vintage clothing, accessories, and unique thrifted finds.

• Fresh Treats: Local bakery items and seasonal snacks available while you shop.

Admission to the craft fairs is free and open to the public. Artisans and vendors interested in securing a booth for upcoming Sunday dates can find application details on The Thrifty Gypsy Facebook Group.

Event Details:

• What: Holiday Craft Fair & Sunday Funday Vendor Markets

• When: Every Sunday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (November & December 2026)

• Where: The Thrifty Gypsy, 531 Main St., Sturbridge

• Admission: Free

Located in the heart of Fiskdale/Sturbridge, The Thrifty Gypsy is a community-focused boutique and marketplace offering an eclectic mix of handmade artisan goods, vintage treasures, crystals, bath products, and local treats.

Saint Nicholas Fair
Location: Christ Church
527 Pomfret Street • Pomfret, CT
Christchurchpomfret.org • 860.315.7780
Saturday, Dec. 5th, 10am - 1pm
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Editor

OPINION

Preserving the past is a responsibility to the future

As the United States marks the 250th anniversary of its independence, there is something particularly meaningful about remembering the ordinary men and women whose courage and determination helped establish this nation. Their names may not appear in history textbooks, and their contributions may be unfamiliar to most Americans, but their sacrifices deserve no less recognition.

That message was brought home on Veterans Day when three local members of the Daughters of the American Revolution visited the Old Burial Ground in Sturbridge to honor 77 Revolutionary War patriots buried there.

Among those remembered was Aaron Allen, an ancestor of Dr. Adelina N. Healy, her daughter, Anne Marie Safaee, and Sylvia Gamache. For these women, the observance was more than a historical exercise. It was a personal acknowledgment of a family connection stretching back nearly two and a half centuries.

Later that evening, Healy and Safaee shared their knowledge of the Daughters of the American Revolution during a presentation hosted by the Southbridge Historical Society. Their program offered an opportunity to learn about the organization's commitment to historic preservation, education and service.

Together, these observances illustrated something worth remembering during this milestone anniversary: History does not preserve itself. Every cemetery maintained, every document protected and every family story carefully researched represents an investment in the collective memory of a community. Without individuals willing to undertake that work, important pieces of the past can disappear, sometimes permanently.

In communities such as Southbridge, Sturbridge and Charlton, history is never particularly far away. It can be found in old burial grounds, historic homes, town records and the family histories of residents whose ancestors helped establish these communities long before Massachusetts became the state recognized today.

Yet familiarity can sometimes lead to indifference. A weathered gravestone becomes another feature of the landscape. An old building becomes something passed on the way to work. A collection of historical documents remains tucked away until someone recognizes its significance. The work of local historical societies and organizations such as the DAR helps prevent that gradual loss.

There is also an important distinction between celebrating history and understanding it. The nation's 250th anniversary provides an opportunity to recognize the remarkable achievements of the Revolutionary generation while acknowledging that the promise of liberty and equality was not extended to everyone at the country's founding.

An honest appreciation of American history requires room for both pride and reflection. Recognizing the nation's accomplishments does not mean overlooking its shortcomings. In fact, understanding the struggles and contradictions of the past can deepen appreciation for the progress made by subsequent generations. That is why historical education remains so important, particularly for young people.

Students can memorize dates and famous names, but history becomes considerably more meaningful when they discover that someone buried in a nearby cemetery participated in the struggle for independence. Suddenly, the American Revolution is no longer a distant event involving unfamiliar figures. It becomes part of the story of their own community.

The dedication demonstrated by Healy and Safaee also reminds us that preserving history is often the work of people who have spent their lives serving others in different capacities. Healy's background in nursing and education, combined with her involvement in the Southbridge Historical Society, reflects a commitment to both the well-being of her neighbors and the preservation of their shared heritage.

As the nation's semiquincentennial year draws toward its conclusion, the challenge is to ensure that the attention devoted to American history does not fade when the anniversary celebrations end.

There will always be another gravestone requiring care, another historical record waiting to be examined and another generation needing to understand the sacrifices that helped shape its freedoms. The 77 patriots remembered in Sturbridge cannot tell their stories themselves.

Fortunately, there are still people willing to tell those stories for them. That may be one of the most meaningful ways to honor America's founding generation: ensuring that, 250 years later, their lives and contributions have not been forgotten.

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.

Donor-advised funds: A smart way to give



Financial Focus

Trevor Nielsen

While there are many ways to make charitable gifts, a donor-advised fund (DAF) offers multiple tax benefits and an efficient platform for ongoing giving.

Once you open a DAF, you can contribute many types of assets, including cash, publicly traded stocks, bonds, CDs, or non-cash items such as closely held business interests, art or collectibles. Then decide how to invest the money, potentially following a strategy your DAF sponsor suggests. Next, choose which charities to support, how often to give and how much. You can direct the money to any IRS-approved charitable organization.

Tax deductions

The standard deduction was raised in 2025 and has now been indefinitely extended.

Taking the standard deduction: A new provision in 2026 lets you deduct up to $1,000 in charitable cash contributions ($2,000 if filing jointly) made directly to qualified charitable organizations. However, contributions to DAFs are specifically excluded. You can still receive other DAF advantages, including tax-free growth and capital gains avoidance, just not a deduction for the DAF contribution itself.

Itemizing deductions: A new 2026 rule limits what's deductible: only aggregate charitable contributions exceeding 0.5 percent of your adjusted gross income (AGI) are deductible. If you don't give enough in a single year to clear that floor, a DAF's "bunching" strategy may be effective. You combine several years of giving into one DAF contribution and distribute funds at your own pace, making the 0.5 percent AGI floor easier to clear.

In the 37 percent federal marginal tax bracket: Your itemized deduction tax benefit is now capped at 35 percent, applied after any other deduction-specific limits such as the 0.5 percent AGI floor. Factor this into your charitable giving strategy with your tax professional.

Tax-free growth of earnings

Once you contribute an asset to a DAF, any earnings growth is not taxable to you, the DAF or recipient charities. This means charitable assets can grow, potentially increasing what recipient organizations receive.

Avoidance of capital gains taxes

When you donate appreciated stocks or other investments — or virtually any appreciated asset — to a DAF, you can avoid the capital gains taxes that would be due if you sold the asset and donated the proceeds. Charities benefit because they receive the full appreciated value rather than after-tax sale proceeds. And you can still take a tax deduction for your donation.

Tradeoffs to consider

While these tax benefits can make a DAF attractive, it's worth understanding the tradeoffs. Once you contribute assets to a DAF, that gift is irrevocable. Your investment options are also limited to what's available in the DAF program you've chosen, and DAFs can incur administrative costs in addition to fees charged on the underlying investments.

A good next step

Because DAFs can have significant implications for your tax situation, consult with your tax professional before acting. Your financial advisor can also help you evaluate DAF benefits and tradeoffs and compare sponsors, since programs offer different features.

If a DAF is appropriate, it can be a meaningful and efficient way to support charitable giving for years to come.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Trevor Nielsen, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.

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When did everybody get so young?

Lanterns Along Main Street

By CHARLES

I had an unsettling experience the other day. I was watching a television interview with a fellow who was being introduced as one of the country's leading experts in his field. He was articulate, confident and obviously knew what he was talking about. He also looked like he ought to be asking permission to borrow the family car.

I mentioned this to my wife, who glanced at the television and informed me that the gentleman was probably in his early 40s.

"Forty?" I said. "He looks about 25."

"That's because you're getting old."

There are certain things a man doesn't particularly enjoy hearing over his morning coffee. That was one of them. But the more I thought about it, the more I realized she's right. Somewhere along the way, the entire adult population seems to have gotten younger. Doctors are younger. Police officers are younger. The people managing banks and running businesses are younger. Even the people delivering the evening news look as though they should be studying for final exams.

I remember when a doctor was a distinguished-looking gentleman with gray hair, serious glasses and the sort of expression that suggested he'd personally witnessed the discovery of penicillin. Now, I occasionally find myself sitting across from a physician who looks younger than my son. And I have to resist the urge to ask whether his mother knows he's out practicing medicine.

Of course, the fellow probably has more education than I could accumulate in three lifetimes. But that doesn't change the fact that I remember when people his age were asking me for advice.

That's another strange part of getting older. For much of your life, there's always somebody ahead of you. Somebody who knows more, has seen more and can explain how things work. When you're 20, the 50-year-olds seem to have everything figured out. When you're 30, you assume the people in their 60s possess some special wisdom that comes with age. Then one morning, you realize you're approaching the age of those supposedly wise people, and nobody has delivered the instruction manual.

I still occasionally feel like the same fellow who was trying to figure out how to pay his first electric bill. The only difference is that now the electric bill is considerably larger, and people sometimes expect me to know what I'm doing. That's a dangerous assumption.

The other day, a younger acquaintance asked me a question about a problem he was having at work. He listened carefully while I offered my opinion, nodded thoughtfully and thanked me for the advice. I walked away feeling rather pleased with myself. Then it occurred to me that he'd probably come to me because he considered me an older, experienced gentleman. An elder statesman, if you will. I nearly had to sit down.

I used to be the young fellow asking questions. Now, apparently, I'm the fellow people ask. And I don't recall anybody consulting me about the promotion.

The funny thing is, I don't feel particularly old. Oh, there are mornings when my knees have a different opinion. And I admit that reading the tiny print on a medicine bottle has become something of a competitive sport. But inside, I still recognize the fellow I was at 25.

He's a little more cautious now. He doesn't stay up quite as late. And he's learned that certain home improvement projects are better left to professionals. But he's still in there. I suspect that's true of most people.

We look at somebody who's 75 or 80 and see an older person. What we sometimes forget is that the person looking back at us probably still remembers being 19 as clearly as we do.

They remember their first car, their first paycheck, their first heartbreak and the ridiculous things they did when they thought they knew everything. And somewhere inside, they're probably wondering how they ended up being the oldest person at the table.

Maybe that's one of the more interesting surprises of growing older. You discover that age doesn't necessarily bring a completely different personality. It brings a longer collection of experiences to the person you've always been. You also discover that younger people are perfectly capable of knowing things you don't.

My children have taught me plenty over the years. Some of it involves technology, naturally, but much of it has nothing to do with computers or phones. They see certain problems differently. They question assumptions I've carried around for decades. And every so often, they make a point I can't argue with.

I find that encouraging. After all, somebody has to take over eventually. And judging by the age of the people appearing on television these days, they've already started.

I suppose the sensible thing is to accept that the world is going to keep producing capable young people, whether I'm ready for it or not.

Still, I have one request. Could somebody please explain why the high school principal looks younger than the students' parents? Because I distinctly remember when principals were at least 70 years old. And I'm beginning to suspect they weren't.

To the Editor

Democracy in inaction

To the Editor:

Whether you love Flock, hate Flock or don't care one way or the other, voters should not buy what the Charlton Select Board is selling. The voters of Charlton turned out for the October Special Town Meeting in numbers that were much greater than usual. They voted 245 to 56 to suspend use of Flock street cameras and to conduct a public review before considering any future ALPR technology. The article was a non-binding Citizen's Petition because the Select Board refused to place an article that would allow the people an opportunity to vote for something the majority of the Board does not personally want. Because it passed overwhelmingly, they then begrudgingly put the topic on their Select Board agenda for discussion.

However, they refuse to act. They refuse to consider the will of the people. They refuse to vote. They refuse to even discuss compromise. And, most egregiously, their argument is that 245 people is not enough! That there are 11,000 voters they must consider. That is not how democracy works. It is about who shows up. And 301 people felt strongly enough to go to Town Meeting and cast their votes. So what hubris does it take for a 5 person Board to decide what is in the minds of those 11,000 people and that they are the only ones equipped to decide for us? (And I say 5, but technically it was 4 because Selectwoman Spiewak clearly argued in favor of considering the will of the people.)

The hypocrisy is also off the charts. The Board has historically never argued that there were not enough voters to matter when it was something they wanted, or something they did not want, as the case may be. At Town Meeting we vote on multi-million-dollar budgets, projects involving tax increases for every resident and bylaws that impact all who live here and even some who don't. And never has the Board come back and said, we will not consider this because there were not enough voters at that meeting and we know best.

How is this democracy?

Pat Stockwell
Charlton

Sturbridge announces 2027 Hometown Heroes banner program

Applications accepted Nov. 1 through Feb. 14

STURBRIDGE — The Town of Sturbridge Memorials, Monuments, and Markers Committee announces the 2027 Hometown Heroes Banner Program, honoring veterans and active-duty military personnel who have a connection to the Sturbridge community.

The program recognizes the service and sacrifices of military personnel through commemorative banners displayed on utility poles throughout town, including Main Street and other prominent locations.

The 2027 program includes expanded eligibility. Veterans and active-duty service members who currently live or previously lived in Sturbridge may be honored, including those who grew up in town and later moved elsewhere. Military service may have occurred before, during, or after their residency in Sturbridge. Both living and deceased veterans are eligible.

Each banner measures 30 by 48 inches and features the honoree's photograph and military service information. The cost is $250, payable by check, or Money Order made payable to the Town of Sturbridge. The cost includes the banner, mounting bracket, and installation. Installation is anticipated in May 2027, with banners expected to remain on display for approximately three years.

Applications will be accepted beginning Nov. 1 through Feb. 14, 2027.

Applicants must submit a completed participation request form, documentation of military service, a digital photograph of the honoree in uniform, and payment.

Application forms and additional program information are available at the town Hall, and through the Town of Sturbridge Web site at www.sturbridge.gov/memorialsmonumentsmarkers-committee.

The Town also accepts voluntary contributions to the Hometown Heroes Revolving Fund to assist eligible veterans who may be unable to afford the cost of a banner.

For additional information, contact Robin A. Grimm, Ph.D., Town Administrator, at (508) 347-2500 or rgrimm@sturbridge.gov.

November 2026 interpretive programs at Blackstone River Greenway Visitor Center at Worcester

WORCESTER — All programs are free and open to the public. Registration is not required. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear. Meet at the Visitor Center unless otherwise stated. Programming is subject to change or cancellation. For the most up to date programming information, call (508) 373-7056.

Reasonable accommodations available upon advance notice. To make a request, please contact Moneesha Dasgupta at (617) 645-0358 or moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov.

The Blackstone River Greenway Visitor Center at Worcester is located at 3 Paul Clancy Way, Worcester MA 01607.

Visitor Center Exhibit Tour
Saturdays, 11 – 11:30 a.m.

Join us on a tour of the Heritage Center's exhibit hall! Learn how the Blackstone Canal helped transform Worcester from a sleepy county seat to a thriving industrial city and hub for immigration and innovation. Appropriate for ages 6 and up.

Mill to Meadow
Saturdays, Nov. 7 & 21, 2 – 3 p.m.

The land on which the Visitor Center stands was once the largest factory complex in Worcester — and now not a single building remains! In this short walk, find out about "brownfield" reclamation on site and how it fits into the Blackstone Valley's environmental renaissance. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. About ¼ mile over paved surfaces.

Woodlands and Waterways
Saturday, Nov. 14, 2 – 3 p.m.

Walk along the banks of the Blackstone River and learn about the life that it supports. We'll look for signs of wildlife as we discuss the ways we can keep our watershed clean! Appropriate for ages 12 and up. The walk is roughly one mile over a paved surface with slight inclines. Meet 205 North Main Street, Millbury. Bathrooms and water are not available at this site.

Gateway Players presents a new take on a holiday classic

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge presents "The Spirit of Christmas, or The Story of Ernestina Scrooge," written by Tom Fuller. Performance dates are Dec. 4 and 5 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. The performances are held at Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. in Southbridge. Entrance is on Park Street (around the corner). Directed by Lou-Ellen Corkum and Alex Gardner, and produced by Stephanie Ruggiere. Presented by permission from Dramatic Publishing.

Tickets are $18 for adults and $15 for seniors and youth under 18. Tickets may be reserved by calling Gateway at 508-764-4531. Online credit card ticket sales are available at https://events.ticketleap.com/tickets/gateway-players/the-spirit-of-christmas-or-the-story-of-ernistina-scrooge

The cast consists of Sarah Tonkin, Nathan Goulart-Pasco, Jonathan Martin, Emily Betty, Greta Thompson, Jim Douglas, Mikaila Baca-Dorion, Hannah Bilis, Lillian Benoit, Maritza "Mari" Cordero, Chris McTigue, Lucas Betty, Evelyn "Evie" Alesbrook, Lola Rabitor, Lynn Boucher, Reilly Ireland, Linda Bouthillier, Peter Cooper, Tiffany Betty.

This adaptation of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" was selected by the Playwrights' Center of Minneapolis. What happened to Ebenezer Scrooge after the immortal Christmas Day? It seems he married and had a son, who had a son, who moved to America and had a daughter, who is the leading lady of this play. The story follows Ernestina Scrooge, the cold-hearted and miserly great-granddaughter of Ebenezer Scrooge, who runs the family's loan company office. Much like her ancestor, Ernestina is visited on Christmas Eve by the ghost of Ebenezer Scrooge along with the Spirits of Christmas Past, Present, and Future, who guide her through a path of redemption.



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St. Anne and St. Patrick Parish to celebrate 140th anniversary with special dinner

STURBRIDGE — St. Anne and St. Patrick Parish invites the public to celebrate its 140th anniversary at a special dinner on Wednesday, April 14, 2027, at the Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge. The event runs from 5 to 9 p.m., with cocktail hour from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. A cash bar will be available.

Tickets are $75 per person and include a plated dinner and dessert. Tickets are available online at stannestpatrickparish.com/event-tickets or by calling the parish office at 508-347-7338.

The dinner menu includes a mixed green salad with house-made maple vinaigrette dressing and the Publick House's famous pecan sweet rolls and dinner rolls. Guests can choose from three entrée options: butter crumb scrod with lemon-dill sauce; orchard chicken with cornbread-sausage stuffing and a velvety cider-cream sauce; or butternut squash ravioli with julienne vegetables and a creamy Amaretto sauce, a vegetarian option. Dessert will be deep-dish apple pie with ice cream.

"We are grateful to celebrate 140 years of faith, prayer, and community at St. Anne and St. Patrick Parish," said Father Sal Musande, pastor. "This anniversary dinner will be a wonderful opportunity to bring people together in celebration of our parish's rich history and continued mission. We are also pleased to welcome special guests who will join us for this milestone occasion. We invite parishioners, former parishioners, friends, and members of the wider community to celebrate with us."

For 140 years, St. Anne and St. Patrick Parish has served as a place of worship, prayer, and community in the Sturbridge area. The anniversary celebration honors the generations of parishioners, clergy, and supporters who have helped shape its history and sustain its mission. The dinner offers an opportunity to reflect on this legacy while looking forward to the parish's future.

St. Anne and St. Patrick Parish offers daily Mass, religious education, and a variety of community ministries. Visitors are welcome to explore St. Anne Shrine, the Memorial for the Unborn, the Hall of Saints, the Russian Icon Exhibit, the Votive Chapel, the Generations Statue, and the Angel of Hope Monument. The Daily Rosary is recited at 3 p.m. in St. Anne's Church, and weekend Masses are celebrated in the parish's outdoor pavilion during the summer. The parish's religious gift shop is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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Big Bunny shoppers show their generosity



Courtesy Photo

MGSTL Master Masons and family members collect food and winter coat donations outside Big Bunny Market for the Food Share Pantry and Winter Coat Closet, both located at Holy Trinity Church, 446 Hamilton Street, Southbridge.



Courtesy Photo

Despite the cool, rainy weather, MGSTL members and family collected two pickup truckloads of donated food and a third truckload containing two huge boxes and four large contractor bags of winter coats all thanks to our Community Outreach Program.

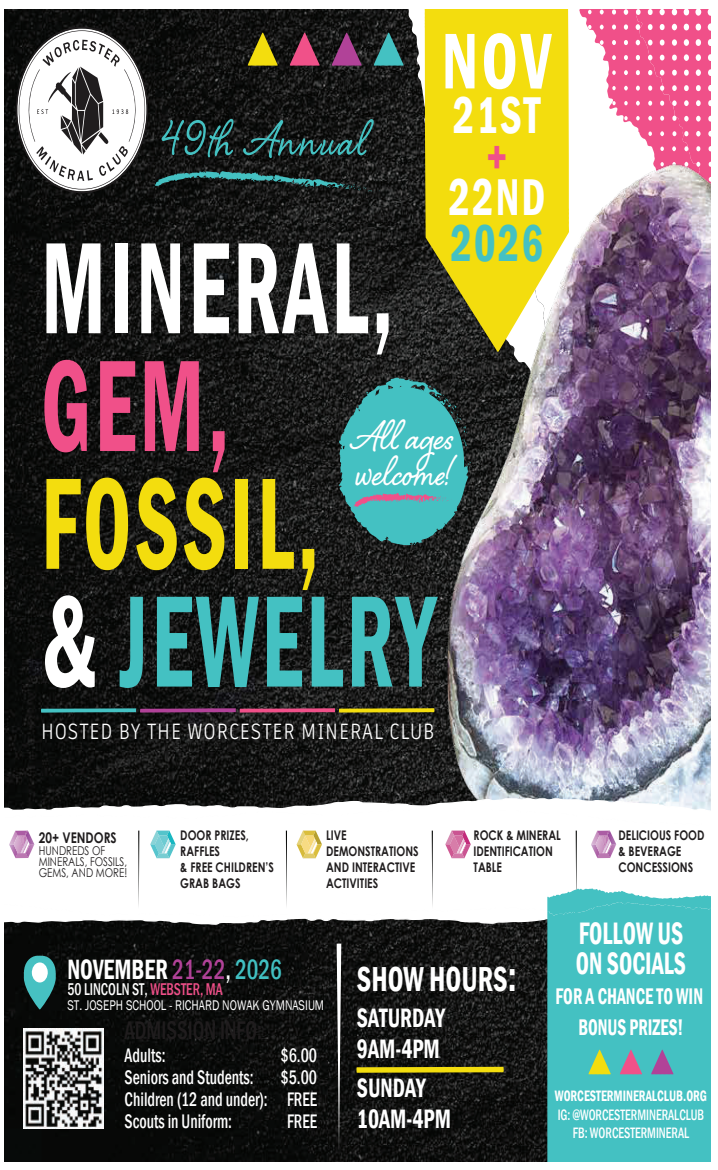
BY BRO. JIMMY
SCOOPS FALZONE
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE MASONIC LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Saturday, Nov. 7, Major General Salem Towne Lodge (MGSTL) held its second food drive of the year through its Community Outreach Program at Big Bunny Supermarket in Southbridge. The drive benefited Food Share Pantry, which serves several area towns.

After consulting Christine McTigue, who runs the Winter Coat Closet for those needing winter clothing, the lodge also collected winter coats. Both organizations are based at Holy Trinity Church, 446 Hamilton Street, Southbridge. Volunteers spent five hours gathering food and coats from generous shoppers despite the cool, rainy morning.

Big Bunny shoppers donated cases of cereal, peanut butter, and canned Chef Boyardee ravioli, as well as boxes of pasta and tomato sauce along with many other canned goods. MGSTL members bagged individual donations and added cans to prefilled bags, collecting 121 bags of groceries for Food Share Pantry — enough to fill two pickup trucks. Other donors brought armfuls of winter coats from their vehicles, filling two huge boxes and four large contractor bags. The community's overwhelming generosity deeply gratified the Master Masons volunteering at the drives. Special thanks go to Big Bunny owners Pete and Jon Cournoyer and their staff for supporting the community and welcoming MGSTL's Master Masons to hold both drives outside the supermarket.

Karen Engell, president of Southbridge Food Share, was delighted to see the 2 pickup trucks filled with bags of donated groceries. She told MGSTL volunteers the food we collected today would help a family of 4 feed 30-40 families in the community, as Thanksgiving nears. The Food Share Pantry and Winter Coat Closet thanked MGSTL's Master Masons for supporting both organizations through this year's Community Outreach Program. To learn about Freemasonry and find a nearby lodge, visit massfreemasonary.org.



Charlton City UMC hosting Seasons of Joy Fair



CHARLTON — The Seasons of Joy Fair at Charlton City United Methodist Church is happening Saturday, Dec. 5 at 74 Stafford St. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Visitors are welcome to this warm and festive affair where you will find unique gifts for everyone. You will find all kinds of things from cookies by the pound and baked goods to handmade crafts and Christmas items galore. You'll find gifts for all ages at Gramma's Attic, the jewelry boutique, and our Silent Auction. Don't forget to stop and enjoy a delicious lunch at our café.

We hope you will join the festivities to kick off your holiday season. The church is handicapped accessible, and plenty of free parking is available.

Saint Joseph School announces 2026–2027 Student Council



Courtesy Photo

Ready to lead, serve, and make their voices count! Saint Joseph School's 2026–2027 Student Council brings together elected officers and class representatives from Grades 4–8. Throughout the year, these student leaders will represent their classmates and help bring school spirit, service, and new ideas to life.

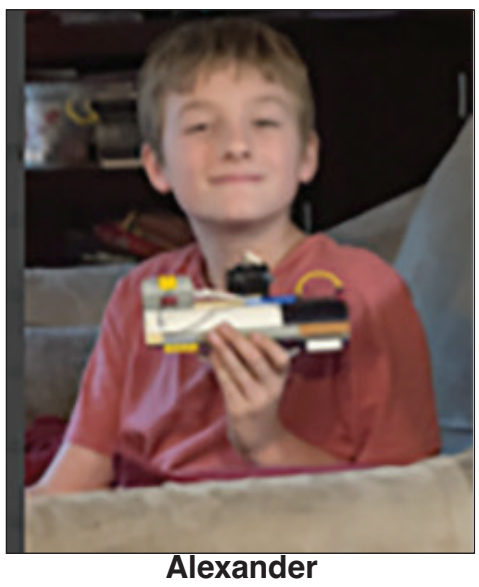
WEBSTER — Saint Joseph School has elected its student leaders for the 2026–2027 school year. Bella Kicilinski will serve as president, James Miranda as vice president, Ailis Connolly as secretary, and Giorgios Sgouritsas as treasurer.

Class representatives are Kamila Biela, Grade 4; Olivia Perry, Grade 5A; Kenny Maurer, Grade 5B; Julia Biela, Grade 6A; Kaleb Goulet, Grade 6B; Kirollos Ibrahim, Grade 7; and Grayson Dollar, Grade 8.

Elected by their peers, Student Council members represent the student body and help shape school life through outreach projects, student-led initiatives, spirit activities, buddy programs, school dances, and alumni connections. The council also gives students opportunities to practice leadership, participate in the democratic process, and serve their school community.

The council is guided by Principal Beth Boudreau, Teacher Moderator Mrs. Mary Ann Weaver, and Pastor and Headmaster Rev. Richard Polek. Saint Joseph School congratulates its new student leaders and looks forward to their contributions throughout the year.

Friday's Child



Alexander
Age 11
Registration #8542

Alexander, who goes by Alex, is a considerate, kind, and involved young person who enjoys finding ways to build, create, and help others! He loves working on projects, especially when LEGO is involved, and is always excited by the opportunity to bring an idea to life. Alex has a thoughtful side and particularly enjoys creating things that can make a difference for others. He also loves staying active and spending time outside with friends. Whether he's participating in family projects, enjoying outdoor activities, or taking part in community events, Alex appreciates opportunities to stay engaged and be part of something meaningful. His caring nature, creativity, and enthusiasm make him a wonderful person to get to know!

https://www.mareinc.org/child/21188078961

Can I Adopt?

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

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

All Saints Academy honors our veterans – not just one day, but all year long!

WEBSTER — Over the past few years, All Saints Academy has come to realize that Veterans Week is an especially busy time for our local veterans, who are invited to numerous activities and celebrations in their honor. In place of hosting our annual breakfast, we began changing our approach last year, and we are continuing that tradition this year.



At ASA, we believe our veterans deserve to be honored and recognized throughout the entire year, not just during one week in November. Whether it is helping with an everyday chore, offering a helping hand, or welcoming them to special ceremonies in September, January, and May, we want our students to understand that gratitude is best demonstrated through action.

This year, the All Saints Academy 8th grade students spent time volunteering at the Veterans Home in Webster, helping with their fall clean-up. Students worked together raking leaves, filling bags, and emptying them into the disposal pile. It was a wonderful opportunity to show our appreciation through service and a helping hand.

Our Grade 4 students also enjoyed a wonderful Question & Answer session with some of our veterans and active-duty military members! Students had the opportunity to hear firsthand what inspired these men to serve, how their military experiences shaped their lives, and how their service influenced their future career paths. It was an engaging and meaningful opportunity to ask questions, learn from their experiences, and gain a deeper appreciation for those who serve our country.

Our students love finding ways to honor our veterans, and we are proud to help them understand that service, gratitude, and respect should extend far beyond a single day. To all of our veterans and active-duty military members, thank you for your service, your sacrifices, and the stories you share with the next generation. We are grateful for you today and every day and look forward to seeing you in January at our next celebration.

LEGALS

Notice of Public Hearing Charlton Water & Sewer Commission

The Charlton Water and Sewer Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 2, 2026, at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held via Zoom Meeting ID: to discuss and consider increasing the Sewer Rates.
For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen/watch the meeting may do so in the following manner
Video participation:
Meeting ID:
Phone Access:
Anyone wishing to be heard on this matter should participate via remote at the time and date designated or submit concerns in writing to Jennifer Cournoyer at the Temporary Sewer Office located at the Charlton Town Hall, or email at jennifer.cournoyer@townofcharlton.net
November 13, 2026
November 20, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P3707EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:
Walter John Grudzien
Date of Death: 11/28/2013

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Eunice Snay of Sturbridge MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: .
Eunice Snay of Sturbridge MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

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 12/08/2026.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 10, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 19, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO06P2473VA1
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:
Lorraine D. Curboy
Date of Death: 07/24/2006

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **S/A - Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Eunice Snay of Sturbridge MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: .
Eunice Snay of Sturbridge MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

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 12/08/2026.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 10, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 19, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P3706EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:
David John Grudzien
Date of Death: 02/01/2024

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Eunice B Snay of Sturbridge MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: .
Eunice B Snay of Sturbridge MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

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 12/08/2026.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 08, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 19, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P3708EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:
Loic Fotso Kamga
Date of Death: 08/08/2026

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Joan Sabrina Tchuisse Chekep of Worcester MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: .
Joan Sabrina Tchuisse Chekep of Worcester MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

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 12/08/2026.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 09, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 19, 2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket No. 26 SM 003615
ORDER OF NOTICE
TO: Youssouf Kaba; Fatoumata Kaba and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):
New American Funding LLC F/K/A Broker Solutions, Inc., D/B/A New American Funding
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Southbridge, numbered 46 Tillyer Avenue, given by Youssouf Kaba and Fatoumata Kaba to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Broker Solutions, Inc., dba New American Funding, its successors and assigns, dated October 28, 2022, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68420, Page 161, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.
If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 12/28/2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 11/10/2026.
Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder
November 19, 2026

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
26 SM 003598
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
Candido Morales Jr; Lisa A. Pagan
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 *(et seq)*:
Freedom Mortgage Corporation
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Southbridge, numbered 154 Vista Lane, given by Candido Morales, Jr. and Lisa A. Pagan to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Sierra Pacific Mortgage Company, Inc., dated February 26, 2020, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61950, Page 120, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated June 14, 2023 and recorded at said Registry in Book 69470, Page 195 as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated April 2, 2025 and recorded at said Registry in Book 71820, Page 207 as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated September 5, 2025 and recorded at said Registry in Book 72506, Page 389 and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.
If you now are, or recently have been, in the <u>active</u> military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property <u>on that basis</u>, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before December 21, 2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on November 9, 2026.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
November 19, 2026

Come to give blood, experience the magic of Trans-Siberian Orchestra

WORCESTER — The American Red Cross and Trans-Siberian Orchestra invite eligible donors to make an appointment to give blood, platelets or plasma and enjoy a special opportunity to experience the magic of the holiday season while helping save lives.

When donors hurry in to give blood, platelets or plasma, they can earn at least 100 points through the Red Cross Donor Rewards program, which can be used to redeem two tickets to select performances of Trans-Siberian Orchestra's The Ghosts of Christmas Eve: The Best of TSO and More, while supplies last. Trans-Siberian Orchestra will perform in Worcester on Nov. 28, for the 7:30 p.m. show at the DCU Center. (To learn more about Donor Rewards, visit RedCrossBlood.org/rewards.)

"The Red Cross is in constant need of blood donations, and it's so important that we all step up," said Trans-Siberian Orchestra's Al Pitrelli. "You give blood to support a wonderful cause and in exchange, you come spend the holidays with us. It's a win-win!"

Quantities are limited! To make an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS or download the Blood Donor App.

The holiday season can be a challenging time to ensure the blood supply remains stable, even as busy schedules may prevent regular donors from giving. "Blood donors make a profound difference in the lives of patients every day," said Darren Irby, executive director of brand partnerships for the Red Cross. "This special Donor Rewards offer is a meaningful way to thank those who come to roll up a sleeve to help others while giving them the chance to enjoy an unforgettable holiday experience, thanks to the generosity of TSO."

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information about our work, please visit redcross.org/MA or CruzRojaAmericana.org, or follow us on social media.

OBITUARIES

Jean A. Hennequin, 84



DUDLEY – Jean A. (Dykstra) Hennequin, 84, of Sunrise Shore East, passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by her family on Saturday, November 7, 2026. She is survived by her three children; Lynn A. Benoit and her husband Scott of Dudley, Greg A. Hennequin and his wife Allison of Dudley, and Cheri A. Van Gervan of Oxford; a sister, Karen Fekette of South Carolina; three brothers, Kenneth Dykstra and his wife Gladys of West Milford, NJ, James Dykstra of West Milford, NJ, and Kevin Dykstra and his wife Holly of West Milford, NJ; six grandchildren, Brittany, Victoria, Bryan, Hadley, Allison, and Gavin; a great-granddaughter, McKenzie; and several nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her husband of 61 years, Gerald A. Hennequin who died in 2022; her daughter, Lori A. Hennequin, who died in 2018; her son, Robert Hennequin who died in 1997; and her granddaughter, Sarah Benoit, who died in 2003.

Mrs. Hennequin was born in Paterson, New Jersey, daughter to the late Henry and Wilhemina (van Der Slys) Dykstra, and graduated from West Milford High School in 1960. She worked for the Oxford Public School System for over 20 years as a paraprofessional, a job she took great pride in.

Jean had many hobbies throughout her life, including fishing, watching horse racing, quilting, and making ceramics, which led to her opening her own business, Ceramics by Jean. She was an avid NASCAR fan, but most of all, she loved her dogs, especially Murphy.

A funeral service was held on Friday, November 13, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main Street, Oxford. Burial followed at Waldron Cemetery in Dudey. Calling hours were held on Thursday, November 12, 2026, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Notre Dame Hospice, Attn: Development Office; Notre Dame Health Care Center; 555 Plantation Street, Worcester, MA 01605

DAR

continued from page A1

contributions helped shape the nation's founding and the importance of preserving that legacy for future generations.

The evening also brought a personal dimension to the historical discussion, highlighting the speakers' longstanding connections to the Southbridge area and their dedication to community service.

A Southbridge native and current Dudley resident, Dr. Healy is well known throughout the region for her contributions to nursing, healthcare education, and local historical preservation. Following her graduation from Wells High School in Southbridge, she pursued a distinguished nursing career, earning degrees from Quinsigamond Community College, Worcester State University, and Regis College before completing her doctorate in nursing at Quinnipiac University.

Her professional career includes service at Harrington Hospital, Hubbard Hospital, Quaboag Rehabilitation, and Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, reflecting a longstanding commitment to caring for others and strengthening the region's healthcare community.

Beyond nursing, Healy has remained actively involved in preserving local history. She is a past president and currently serves as secretary of the Southbridge Historical Society. A member of the Daughters of the American Revolution since 2013, she also serves as chaplain of her DAR chapter.

Through her involvement in both organizations, Healy brings together two enduring commitments: service to her community and honoring the legacy of those who came before her.

As the Southbridge Historical Society concluded its 2026 public programming, the Veterans Day observance and DAR presentation offered a fitting tribute to the nation's history—reminding attendees that America's story is preserved not only in historic documents and monuments, but also through the dedication of individuals and families committed to remembering its founders and safeguarding their legacy.



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'Journey to Space' exhibit opens at EcoTarium

Explore space and life on the International Space Station at Stoddard Exhibition Hall



WORCESTER — On Saturday Nov. 14, the EcoTarium Museum of Science and Nature launched a world-class traveling exhibit, "Journey to Space," in the new Stoddard Exhibition Hall.

"Journey to Space" explores the challenges faced by astronauts living and conducting research in outer space, and celebrates their outstanding achievements in scientific research and engineering. The public is invited to join the exhibit's grand opening and ribbon-cutting and to be among the first to experience life on the International Space Station.

"Journey to Space" will be on exhibit at the Stoddard Exhibition Hall through April 25, 2027.

"Space travel is only possible because of the creative and brilliant scientists and engineers who have worked together for decades to overcome the challenges of supporting human life in space, including pioneers from Worcester such as Dr. Robert and Esther Goddard and David Clark," said Noreen Johnson Smith, President & CEO of the EcoTarium. "This exhibit offers a unique look at life on the International Space Station, where we recently spoke with Astronaut Luke Delaney in mid-flight via HAM radio from the EcoTarium. 'Journey to Space' continues the adventure for learners of every age."

The immersive exhibit "Journey to Space" is an exciting, interactive exhibit that brings space travel closer to home for adults and children to experience the incredible ways that scientists and engineers have designed environments for humans to live and work in outer space. The exhibit explores the real challenges that the Astronauts face every day such as food preparation, sleeping, showering, using the toilet, and recycling water while living in an environment that is in constant motion. The ingenuity, creativity, and perseverance of NASA engineers is on full display in this exciting exhibition as we continue to expand our understanding of what is possible. The exhibit features interactive and multimedia experiences including a full scale, climb-aboard mockup of the Destiny Lab, the primary research facility for U.S. payloads on the International

Space Station (ISS). With its rotating mechanism, the Destiny Lab will give visitors the sensation that they're floating as they get a virtual tour of the lab from astronauts who have worked there. Visitors can also launch water rockets, interact with a model ion engine, control a robotic arm, and simulate other out-of-this-world activities associated with living and working in space.

"Journey to Space" also showcases relics of space exploration including an Apollo helmet and the Canyon Diablo Meteorite. Visitors can also gaze at the beauty of Earth as astronauts see it on a large projection of images taken from the ISS, 250 miles above the planet we call home.

For more information, visit: https://ecotarium.org/exhibit/journey-to-space/

Journey to Space is locally sponsored by Bank of America.

About the EcoTarium

The EcoTarium is New England's leading museum of science and nature, an indoor-outdoor experience dedicated to inspiring a passion for science and nature in visitors of all ages.

Founded in 1825 as one of the oldest natural history museums in the country, the EcoTarium has been a leader in informal science and nature education for over 200 years. Highlights of the 55-acre Worcester campus include the science center with three floors of interactive exhibits; the Stoddard Exhibition Hall; Alden Planetarium; Science Discovery programs; extensive outdoor nature trails, wildlife zoo, and habitats; a seasonal railroad featuring the Worcester Railers Explorer Express Train; and an extensive outdoor play exhibit, Nature Explore®. The EcoTarium is located at 222 Harrington Way, Worcester, MA 01604. Parking is free, and Museum admission tickets may be purchased online. The EcoTarium is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit ecotarium.org.

Inaugural QCC Alumni Athletics Hall of Fame celebrates transformative power of community college athletics



Courtesy Photo

Back row, from left: Rich Small, Ramon Llanos, former QCC President Dr. Gail Carberry, QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja, Maurice Horton, Jon Winer and Trafficia Warburton. Front row, from left: Elijah Sims, Dennis Williams and Jon Gardner.



Courtesy Photo

Dennis Williams (left) speaks at the QCC Alumni Athletics Hall of Fame. Spectrum News 1 Sports Director Kevin Shea acted as master of ceremonies.

WORCESTER — The first QCC Alumni Athletics Hall of Fame ceremony was held Saturday, Nov. 7, inducting the 2006-07 men's basketball team and former student-athletes Maurice "Mo" Horton, Rich Small and Trafficia Warburton.

"Today's event is about honoring excellence, preserving our college history and recognizing individuals whose contributions have shaped the legacy of Quinsigamond Community College athletics," said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja. "Student athletes are examples of the discipline, grit and commitment it takes to succeed in college."

The 2006-07 men's basketball team is one for the history books. They became the first team in school history to advance to the NJCAA national championship tournament, ultimately finishing fifth in the nation. QCC athletes earned national accolades, including Elijah Simms, who led the nation in steals and ranked ninth in assists. Additionally, at just 25 years old, coach Jon Winer became the youngest recipient of the NJCAA District 8 Coach of the Year award.

The list of accomplishments for inductees was long, but most took away more than records and trophies.

"This goes far beyond sports. You guys see me in a light where sometimes I don't see myself. I'm great, because Quinsig told me I'm great," said Dennis "Duke" Williams, a player from the 2006-07 team.

A key contributor to the team's success, Maurice "Mo" Horton helped lead the 2006-07 squad, led the nation in scoring in 2005 and remains the only player in program history to surpass 1,400 career points.

"We didn't just build a winning basketball team, we built a family, and that's something I'll carry with me forever," Horton said.

Horton recalled how becoming a student-athlete changed the trajectory of his life. He credited Winer for believing in his talents yet holding him accountable and keeping high standards. Both Winer and Horton expressed how their relationship with each has left a lasting impact.

"Community colleges like QCC are so important because not everybody has a traditional path to higher education. Sometimes people need someone to open the door…and help them recognize their potential," Horton said. "QCC did that for me, and I hope it continues to do that for generations of young people in our community."

While Horton reflected on the mentorship that shaped his future, Warburton spoke about perseverance and determination.

"QCC taught me how to overcome. Just keep moving forward no matter the pace," Warburton said. "People should definitely support community colleges, especially Quinsig. It's a stepping stone to where you want to be."

Warburton remains one of the most accomplished women's basketball players in program history. In her second season, she led NJCAA's Region 21 in both scoring and rebounding. Beyond her statistics, she was known for her work ethic on and off the court.

"You managed academics, practices, road trips, social life and, most importantly, being a mother to your son. That kind of commitment is extraordinary," Director of Athletics & Fitness Center Lisa Gurnick said to Warburton. "You demonstrated that being a great athlete is much more than accomplishments on the court. It's about character, resilience, sacrifice and the example you set for others."

Small's connection to QCC began as a member of the men's basketball team and deepened when he returned years later as a college employee before eventually becoming a coach. Today, Small remains an athletics ambassador, promoting and documenting QCC sporting events through his photography and community engagement.

"Athletics are necessary," Small said. "Some people come up just to play ball first…but it might keep them here to get that degree and then move on."

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"Pete the Cat" comes to Mechanics Hall Dec. 10

WORCESTER — Mechanics Hall will present TheaterWorksUSA's family musical, "Pete the Cat," based on the popular series by Kimberly and James Dean. "Pete the Cat" will be presented live on stage on Dec. 10 at 10:30 a.m. at 321 Main St., Worcester. Tickets are $16 and can be purchased by visiting MECHANICSHALL.ORG/tickets or calling 508-752-5608, ext. 209. This live performance is open to the public and school groups. The show is recommended for pre-K - 3rd grade / ages four to nine.

When Pete the Cat gets caught rocking out after bedtime, the cat-catcher sends him to live with the Biddle family to learn some manners—and boy, are they square! But for the groovy blue cat, life is an adventure no matter where you wind up, so the minute Pete walks in the door, he gets the whole family rocking.

The whole family, that is, except for young Jimmy Biddle — the most organized, uptight second grader ever. But when Jimmy draws a blank in art class during the last week of school, Pete is the perfect friend to help him out. Join Jimmy and Pete as they set off on an adventure in Pete's VW bus to find inspiration, magic sunglasses, and friendship!

Pete the Cat is written by Sarah Hammond (book and lyrics) and Will Aronson (music, Broadway: "Maybe Happy Ending" – Tony Award), based on the book series by Kimberly and James Dean. Original direction and choreography by Dan Knechtges (Broadway: "Lysistrata Jones," "Xanadu" -Tony Award Nom), set design by Rob Odorisio (Broadway: "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"), and costume design by Jennifer Caprio (Broadway: "Falsettos," "The 25th Annual …")

THEATERWORKSUSA (Barbara Pasternack, Producing Artistic Director; Tegan Meyer, Managing Director) has led the Theater for Young and Family Audiences movement in New York City and across North America for over half a century. At TWUSA, we believe that access to art—and theater, in particular—is vital for our youth. Since 1967, the 501(c)3 not-for-profit has captured the imaginations of 100 million new and veteran theatergoers with an award- winning repertoire of more than 140 original plays and musicals. Acclaimed alumni include Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez (Disney's "Frozen"), Daphne Rubin-Vega ("Rent"), Jerry Zaks ("The Music Man"), Benj Pasek and Justin Paul ("Dear Evan Hansen"), Miguel Cervantes ("Hamilton"), Kathleen Chalfant ("Angels in America"), and Chuck Cooper (Tony award-winning actor, "The Life").

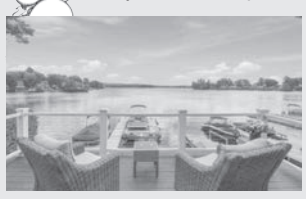
MECHANICS HALL Steeped in the rich history of 19th century Worcester, Mechanics Hall is internationally regarded as one of the world's great concert halls. Regionally, it is a meeting place beloved for the central New England location, its architecture, and the legacy of prominent figures engaged. The world's most renowned orchestras and performers – including the London Philharmonic, Yo-Yo Ma, Ella Fitzerald, and Linda Ronstadt – have taken the Hall's stage. Among the many luminaries who have spoken at Mechanics Hall are Charles Dickens, Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass, and Mark Twain. In addition to serving as a premiere venue and recording site, Mechanics Hall offers inspiring cultural experiences for diverse audiences through a variety of creative initiatives, including free concerts, community events, a youth chorus, and collaborative programs with local colleges and nonprofit organizations.

Mechanics Hall is a nonprofit organization owned and operated by the Worcester County Mechanics Association, est. 1842.

It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Learn more at MechanicsHall.org.

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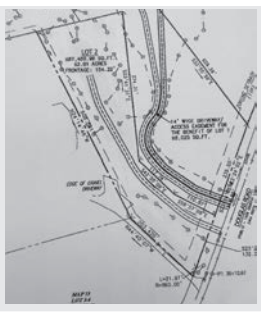

On the shores of prestigious Webster Lake! Experience ultra-luxury lakefront living with direct water access. This young modern craftsman lake home is masterly designed to maximize panoramic Western views through a two-story architectural tower. The home boasts 3,790 +/- square feet of sophisticated, three-story living space, complete with multilevel waterside decks, a radius stone faced patio, and a tiered landscape with its own waterfall. The living room flows seamlessly onto an expansive open deck and into an exquisite sun-drenched sitting room. A magnificent primary bedroom suite offers a private full bath, double sink vanity, walk-in closet and dressing room. The purposely designed lower level delivers effortless, large-volume entertainment, featuring a full second kitchen and a sprawling recreation room that opens to a substantial lakeside patio. With 2 additional bedrooms and bath, this level easily serves as a private guest floor. This Lake property is designed to create long-lasting memories!
MLS#73563787 $1,750,000

Webster ~ 33 Slater Street


Sprawling fieldstone faced Ranch! Located on a +/- 0.5-acre, 2 car garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 2 stone fireplaces-FHW BB heat. Open floor plan kitchen, living rm, dining rm, breezeway w/ sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom
MLS # 73500183 $464,900

Woodstock ~ 500 Route 169

Historic Woodstock Hill! Distinctive 1800 Vintage ~ 2,500+/- sq ft home blends period charm with panoramic views. Features 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, multiple living areas, and a scenic sitting porch. It includes two furnished guest suites with strong booking history near Woodstock Academy and Pomfret School. Lush grounds boast established flower gardens and a flower stand, offering potential for a studio or business (subject to approval). Own a rare piece of Woodstock history!
CT MLS# 24209434 $779,000


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CCUMC offers up popular turkey dinner



CHARLTON — Charlton City United Methodist church is hosting their delicious annual Turkey Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 5-6:30 p.m. On the menu will be their famous turkey dinner with all the fixings! Turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, peas with pearl onions, stuffing, butternut squash, cranberry sauce and dinner rolls with butter, followed by pumpkin pie topped with whipped cream.

$15/adult, $8/children six to 12, free for children five and under with a $50 max per family. Always a sell out so please call 508 248-7379 to make your reservations. Please leave your name and number in case we need to reach you. CCUMC is located at 74 Stafford St., Charlton. Out building is fully handicapped accessible with ample free parking.

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For more information please contact info@monsonartscouncil.org or call 413-668-7449

St. Christopher's Craft Fair — a tradition not to be missed



BRIMFIELD — On Saturday, Nov. 21 and Sunday, Nov. 22, St. Christopher Church will hold its annual craft fair. Located at 20 Sturbridge Road (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 showcases unique handmade items and offers a wide variety of items created locally by your friends and neighbors. Many long-standing vendors are returning with unique pieces of handcrafted jewelry, Christmas decorations & ornaments, organic lotions & soaps, tinctures, wellness products, resins, one of a kind watercolors, stained glass, sea glass, honey products, handmade cards, quilted, knit & crochet clothing & items, stone and shell art, wooden décor, upcycles vintage items with a farmhouse flair, tie dye garments and so very much more!!

The Women of St. Christophers organize the fair as a fundraiser that supports both their mission of faith, charity, and service along with defraying costs for building maintenance and repairs. Members of the group will be working in the kitchen that is open throughout the day and invite you to stop in for a delicious breakfast or lunch. French meat pies and baked goods will also be available for purchase to take home. A cookie walk on Saturday starts at 9 a.m. It always sells out quickly, so it is recommended to arrive early for the best selection.

The club also holds raffles during the event. One features unique handmade items donated from the vendors, another features a variety of prizes from local businesses and restaurants, themed gift baskets, tickets to entertainment venues and much more. For those on a budget the club also features their bargain tables offering great stuff at fantastic prices!

Club President Cindy Skowyra says, "this fair has a special hometown feel to it that sets it apart from others and it really is a community event and at a perfect time setting the tone for the holiday season."

Reverend Jack Brennan, pastor of St. Christophers says "I am grateful for the work of this group. They consistently give of themselves for the betterment of our parish, and I am grateful for their unwavering support."

Masses at St. Christophers 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. All are invited. For more information about the fair or St. Christophers Church, contact the parish at 413-245-7274 or email stchrisbrimfield@gmail.com or check out their Facebook page St. Christophers Parish.

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Charlton Public Library announces digitization of local high school yearbooks

CHARLTON — The Charlton Public Library is pleased to announce the digitization of historic yearbooks from three local schools: Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, and Charlton High School.

These yearbooks are now available online through the Charlton Public Library's website, making these valuable pieces of Charlton's history accessible to former students, families, researchers, and community members from anywhere.

The digitized collections offer an opportunity to revisit school traditions, classmates, activities, accomplishments, and everyday life from earlier generations. By making these materials available digitally, the library hopes to help preserve and share the community's history for years to come.

Library Director Betsy Perry said "We are excited to make these yearbooks more accessible to the community. These publications provide a wonderful glimpse into the people, places, and memories that have shaped Charlton and the neighboring communities."

Whether you are looking for your own school memories, researching local history, or simply curious about Charlton's past, the library invites you to explore the newly digitized collections.

The yearbooks can be accessed through the Charlton Public Library Web site at https://charltonlibrary.org.

Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St.

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