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Free by request to residents of Charlton, Charlton City and Charlton Depot

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Thursday-Friday, January 15-16, 2026

Central Park comes to Brimfield via local author

BRIMFIELD — Hitchcock will proudly host its first Brown Bag Speaker Series installation of the new year on Jan. 21 — Gail Ward Olmsted will present “Designing America: The Olmsted Effect.”

The talk will begin at 12:30 p.m., with an optional lunch at noon. Attendees may reserve a lunch ahead of time or bring one in. Reservations are required for both (\$10 for the talk with an additional \$10 due for the lunch at the event). The talk will likely run approximately one hour, and additional time is reserved for questions and discussion.

Frederick Law Olmsted is considered the father of American landscape architecture. He was born in Hartford, Connecticut April 26, 1822. His most famous

work is Central Park in New York City designed in 1857. Other works include the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina, the grounds of the United States Capitol, the grounds of the White House, the 1893 Columbia Exposition (The White City) in Chicago, Illinois, and the Main Quad at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn. Mr. Olmsted also was informally involved in the design of Forest Park in Springfield. He retired in 1895 and his sons John Charles Olmsted and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. continued their father’s firm doing business as the Olmsted Brothers which lasted until 1980. Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. died in 1903.

Married to a descendant of Olmsted author Gail Ward Olmsted will discuss Olmsted’s body of work,

share some little-known facts about him and read an excerpt from her critically acclaimed historical novel: *Landscape of a Marriage*. Signed copies of all her books will be available for sale.

Gail Ward Olmsted was

a marketing executive and a college professor before she began writing fiction on a full-time basis. A trip to Sedona, AZ inspired her first novel *Jeep Tour*. Three more novels followed before *Landscape of a Marriage*, a

biographical fiction featuring landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, a distant cousin of her husband’s, and his wife Mary. Olmsted enjoys writing about quirky, wonderful women in search of a second chance at a happy

ever after. When not writing, she loves being on the water, especially in a kayak.

The Brown Bag Speaker Series is presented with support from The Shirley Frye Memorial Fund.

Also offered in January is a “Baking Bread Made Easy” workshop on the 31st. Local baker Lee Fernandez of Turnabout Farm Bakery and Brimfield Farmers’ Market will share her baking secrets while guiding attendees in the preparation of their choice of Honey Wheat Oatmeal or an Italian loaf with roasted garlic and Italian herbs to bake and take home. The workshop will run from 10am to 2pm and costs \$65. Regular fitness offerings such as Yoga, UpBeat Barre, Pilates, Fencing, High Fitness, Judo/Ju-Jitsu continue, along with Music Lessons, K-9 Nosework and additional workshops routinely added.

For more information, visit www.hitchcockacademy.org. Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Rd. in Brimfield serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming.



Courtesy

Last week, members of the Charlton Fire Department stood alongside our law enforcement partners with heavy hearts as we paid tribute to Officer Stephen LaPorta on his final journey home. Members of Charlton Fire lined the bridge on Center Depot and Hammond Hill Road. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and the entire Uxbridge Police Department, and keep them in our thoughts and prayers during this incredibly difficult time. Officer LaPorta’s service, dedication, and sacrifice will never be forgotten. Photo courtesy of the department’s Facebook page.

Sturbridge Historical Society presents “The Notables & Notorious of the American Revolution: Curious and Infamous Characters from The Last Green Valley”

STURBRIDGE — On Thursday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. at The Publick House, the Sturbridge Historical Society will present Regan Miner, the Development Director

for TLGV, speaking about “The Notables & Notorious of the American Revolution: Curious and Infamous Characters from the Last Green Valley.”

Not every hero held a musket. The people living in the area now known as The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor (TLGV) shaped and helped win the

American Revolution. They fueled the passion for declaring independence, bravely signed the Declaration, supported the war effort, and were integral in the earliest days of our democracy. TLGV Heritage Corridor, which encompasses 35 towns in south central and eastern Connecticut from Brimfield to Norwich, is a region that spurred the revolutionary leadership of Samuel Huntington and Jonathan Trumbull but also spawned the traitorous Benedict Arnold. As we acknowledge the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, this talk will explore the notable and notorious figures that helped shape the region and the nation in our fight for independence.

With more than 10 years of experience in the history and nonprofit sector, Regan Miner is a public historian and a historic preservation advocate. Currently, Miner serves as the Development Director of The Last Green Valley and enjoys building partnerships to strengthen our cultural, historical, and natural resources within the National Heritage Corridor. Her previous roles included serving as the Executive Director of the Norwich Historical Society and the Executive Director of the Fort Adams Trust in Newport, Rhode Island. In addition to her position at TLGV, Miner volunteers as Chairman of the Norwich Historic District Commission, the Commission of the City Plan, America 250 Norwich Commission, and is a Corporator at the Norwich Free Academy.

Faith in Film screenings take place in the Fellowship Hall of the Church at 64 Main St. in Charlton. For further information please call the Church at 508-248-5550 or email Pastor Shannan Hudgins at pastor@fedchurch.org.

About the 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.

Courage theme of Faith in Film Series at Charlton Federated Church

CHARLTON — Courage is the theme of the latest Faith in Film series at the Federated Church of Charlton (FCC). On the third Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m. the public is invited to view and discuss movies at no charge. Each showing includes free refreshments and a handout with pertinent and interesting information, key concepts and discussion questions about each film.

The Faith in Film Series this winter and spring includes the following:

Jan. 16 — “Mr. Smith Goes to Washington” (1939) — This comedy-drama made Jimmy Stewart a superstar.

In it, he plays a naïve Senator who goes to Washington and fights political corruption. Also starring Jean Arthur, Claude Rains, Thomas Mitchell, Edward Arnold and directed by Frank Capra, this Academy award-winning film can renew one’s faith in American democracy.

Feb. 20 — “Selma” (2014) — This historical drama depicts the 1965 Selma to Montgomery voting rights marches and the courage of the black clergy, including the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., at the heart of that struggle. Directed by Ava DuVernay and written by Paul Webb, the film was nominated for

two Academy Awards and four Golden Globe Awards.

March 20 — “Mrs. Miniver” (1942) — This film portrays the courage of ordinary people as it tells the story of one English woman’s struggle to protect her family during World War II. Directed by William Wyler and starring Greer Garson, Walter Pigeon and Theresa Wright, the film was a critical and a commercial success, becoming the highest-grossing film of 1942 and winning six Academy Awards. In 2006, the film was ranked number 40 on the American Film Institute’s list of most inspirational movies and was

placed on the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress in 2009.

April 17 — “Finding Nemo” (2003) — Created by Pixar Animation Studios for Walt Disney Pictures, this animated movie depicts an epic search for a kidnapped son by his father, both are clownfish and they are aided by a dizzy, forgetful regal blue tang fish named Dory. Featuring the voices of Albert Brooks, Ellen DeGeneres, Alexander Gould, Willem Dafoe, and Geoffrey Rush it was directed by Andrew Stanton, who co-wrote it with Bob Peterson, and David Reynolds. Finding Nemo was the first film to win an Oscar in the category of Best Animated Feature.

May 15 — “The General” (1926) — This silent comedy featuring Buster Keaton who also co-directed it with Clyde Bruckman is based upon an actual locomotive chase that took place during the Civil War. While the film was not a commercial success when it was first released, it is now recognized as one of the greatest films ever made.

June 19 — “Drums Along the Mohawk” (1939) — This is the first color film directed by John Ford. It tells the story of the fight for American Independence along the Mohawk River in upstate New York. Based on a very popular novel of the same name, it stars Henry Fonda, Colette Colbert, John Carradine, and Oscar-winner



Courtesy

The Wales Community Pantry is about neighbors helping neighbors. We are inviting the public to join us at an Open House on Saturday, Jan. 24 from 2-3 p.m. at the Pantry, located at 172 Palmer Rd. (Route 20), Brimfield. We are looking for community members to share their skills and talents to expand our team of Board Members. If you enjoy organizing events, love writing, have a talent with social media, love working as a team, please join us for some information. For more information email walescommunityfoodpantry@gmail.com or call 413 245-0055. Pictured are Pantry Board members (left to right) Sue Gregory, Ella Peterson, Annette Farrington, and Meghan Matczak

Community Calendar

January 16-23

Friday, Jan. 16

- Jacob Edwards Library Children's Story Time, 10:30 a.m., Jacob Edwards Library, 236 Main St., Southbridge.
- Charlton Senior Center Open Hours, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., 37 Main St., Charlton.

Saturday, Jan. 17

- Charlton Public Library Open, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 40 Main St.,

Local residents named to Dean's List at Saint Anselm

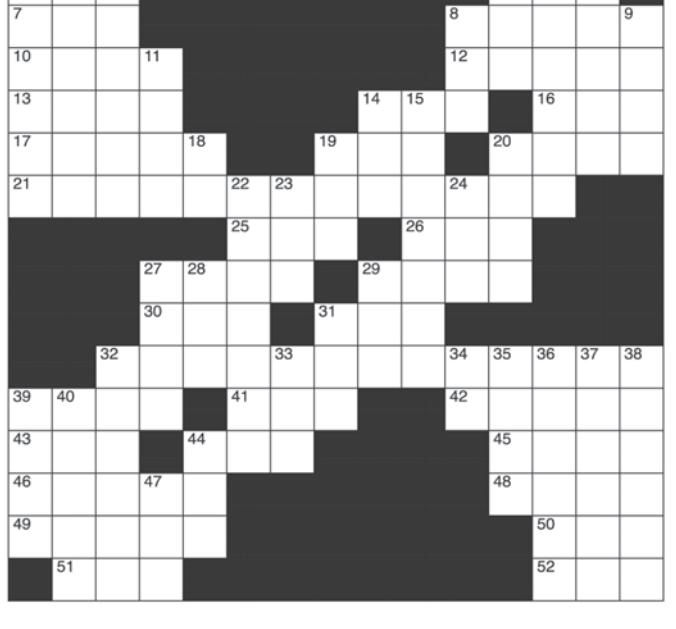
MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Saint Anselm College has released the Dean's List of high academic achievers for the first semester of the 2025-2026 school year. To be eligible for this honor, a student must have achieved a grade point average of 3.4 or better in the semester with at least 12 credits of study which award a letter grade. This semester there

were a total of 702 students from 25 states, the District of Colombia, and 3 countries.

Mark W. Cronin, Dean of the College, announced that Caroline Stewart of Brimfield has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2025 semester.

About Saint Anselm College
Founded in 1889, Saint Anselm College is a four-year liberal arts

college providing a 21st century education in the Catholic, Benedictine tradition. Located in southern New Hampshire near Boston and the sea-coast, Saint Anselm is well known for its strong liberal arts curriculum, the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, a highly successful nursing program, a legacy of community service and a commitment to the arts.



CLUES ACROSS

- Former CIA
- Language
- Constrictor snake
- Demand
- Rich man
- Short-tailed marten
- Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- Superconducting super collider
- International group of countries within the Americas
- Sacred state for Muslims
- Shock therapy
- Engrave
- Localities
- Paddle
- Periodical
- Dishonestly gained money
- Gain possession of
- Actor DiCaprio
- High schoolers' test
- Mr. October
- Sign of healing
- One's grandmother
- Entrap
- One who simultaneously buys and sells
- Francisco
- Web-based data provider of marine life
- Type of snake
- Dark mark or stain
- Member of the Salii
- Former measure of length
- CNN's founder
- Witness

CLUES DOWN

- Acquire
- Console
- Hunting expedition
- Pie ____ mode
- Simple shoes for peasants
- Eurasian shrub
- Reciprocal of a sine
- Work together in harmony
- Grenade
- File extension
- Minute pores in a plant
- Medal of Honor
- Make a mistake
- Advance slowly, as if by inches
- Sandwich meat
- An awkward stupid person
- Strong tree
- Commoner
- Electroencephalograph
- Mahal
- Congressman
- Disorderly crowd
- 007's creator Fleming
- Atomic #55
- Part of a door
- Short-tail martens
- Baltimore ballplayer
- Cuddle
- Gang in "The Outsiders"
- Of Croatia
- Body cavity
- Get free of



Charlton.

- Joshua Hyde Public Library Open, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 49 Main St., Sturbridge.

Sunday, Jan. 18

- Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale Worship Service, 9:30 a.m., 8 Maple St., Sturbridge.
- Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Service, 11 a.m., 446 Hamilton St., Sturbridge.

Monday, Jan. 19

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Town offices closed in Southbridge, Sturbridge, and Charlton unless otherwise posted.
- Charlton Public Library Open, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., holiday hours.

Tuesday, Jan. 20

- Southbridge Town Council Meeting, 6 p.m., Southbridge Town Hall, 25 Elm St.
- Charlton Board of Selectmen Meeting, 7 p.m., Charlton Town Hall, 37 Main St.

Wednesday, Jan. 21

- Sturbridge Council on Aging Program, 10 a.m., Sturbridge Senior Center, 308 Main St.
- Jacob Edwards Library Open, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Southbridge.

Thursday, Jan. 22

- Charlton Planning Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Charlton Town Hall.
- Joshua Hyde Public Library Evening Hours, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Sturbridge.

Friday, Jan. 23

- Charlton Senior Center Open Hours, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., 37 Main St.
- Jacob Edwards Library Children's Program, 10:30 a.m., Southbridge.

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Thursday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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

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Office Hours:
Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 7:30 a.m to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesdays 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday Closed
visit www.townofcharlton.net or more information.

Individual offices may vary

PUBLIC LIBRARY (248-0452)

For library hours please check www.charltonlibrary.org

POLICE DEPARTMENT (248-2250)

Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
For emergencies, dial 911

FIRE DEPARTMENT (248-2299)

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

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Charlton Center Post Office (800) 275-8777
Charlton City (01508) (800) 275-8777

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Charlton Elementary School (508) 248-7774 or (508) 248-7435

Heritage School (508) 248-4884

Charlton Middle School (508) 248-1423
Shepherd Hill Regional High School (508) 943-6700

Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326

HOLLAND: 413-245-7108

Mon – Thurs 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

FISKDALE: 508-347-6486

Weekdays 9:00-4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

STURBRIDGE 508-347-6463

Weekdays 8:30 – 5:00 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

BRIMFIELD: 413-245-3451

Weekdays: 9:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

WALES: 413-245-9808

Weekdays 8:30 – 12:30 and 2:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 – 12:00

CHURCH LISTINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

• Faith Baptist Church, 515 Dennis 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.stjosephcharlton.com Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.

• Wayside Church, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144

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

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

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

• Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale- 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021 www.sturfed.org

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Pastor Kathryn Light

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

• Holland Congregation Church- "Where the Bible is preached." 11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926 www.hollandcongregation.org Sunday Service @ 10:00 am Pastor Dan Maketansky

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

• St. John Paul II Parish- 279 Hamilton St., Southbridge Rev. Carlos Ardila, Pastor Weekend services Saturday 4 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon

Weekday masses 8:30 & 8:45 a.m., St. Mary's Church (508) 765-3701

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI frank@salmonpress.news

Bay Path opens application process For 2026-2027

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is excited to announce that the application process for the 2026-2027 school year is now open!

As a school dedicated to excellence, Bay Path offers students a wide range of opportunities to explore their passions and prepare for future success. With 23 career pathways, rigorous academics, and a variety of sports, activities, and clubs, there is truly something for every student at Bay Path. With that being said, I wanted to provide as much clarity as possible around our admissions policy.

Admissions policy and lottery overview

Bay Path's Admissions Policy has been updated and approved by the School Committee to fully align with state guidelines.

To ensure equity and fairness, the admissions lottery system—conducted by a third-party organization—gives every eligible student from our ten sending districts an equal opportunity to attend Bay Path.

All applicants who complete the admissions process will be entered into the lottery. Students demonstrating strong attendance and disciplinary

records may receive additional lottery entries:

- Students with fewer than 27 unexcused absences and no suspensions or expulsions under M.G.L. c.71, §§ 37H or 37H½ within the past 270 days may receive up to three lottery submissions.
- Students who fall short of these standards will receive one lottery submission.

This process recognizes the importance of commitment and responsibility while maintaining fair access for all applicants.

Waitlist information

Applicants not selected in the initial lottery will be placed on a waitlist organized by town, based on seat allocations. If openings occur, additional lotteries will be conducted using these town-specific waitlists.

All applicants will be notified of their admission status by Friday, April 10.

Admissions Timeline:

- Nov. 1 — Application opens and becomes available online.
- Jan. 16 — Deadline for students to submit all

application materials.

- Monday, Feb. 2 — Bay Path requests attendance and discipline data from sending schools to determine lottery weights.

- February–March 2026 — If applications exceed available seats, a public third-party lottery will be held, announced at least one week in advance in accordance with resident student allocations.

- By Friday, April 10 — Offer letters will be sent to accepted resident students.

- April 25 — Deadline for students to accept or decline admission offers.

Bay Path remains deeply committed to providing students with exceptional opportunities that prepare them for college, career, and life success and is open to all students.

For more information about the admissions process, please contact Mrs. Tracey Coleman, Assistant Pupil Services Director, at tcoleman@baypath.net.

Charlton Lions welcome visitors and questioners

SNHU announces Fall President's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2025 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

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

Jocelyn Forrette of Uxbridge
Eden Ebbeling of Uxbridge
Melissa Russell of Uxbridge
Hannah Burke of Charlton
Michelle Houghton of Charlton
Loriauna Graika of Charlton
Russell Sanborn of Charlton
Camron Dagnese of Carlton
Noa Jones of Sturbridge

Nikolas Coppinger of Sturbridge
Kaigley Obuchowski of Southbridge
Carol Bernardone of Southbridge
Marysol Cruz of Southbridge
Lauren Norris of Southbridge
Kalie Hernandez of Southbridge
Jariany Solero of Southbridge

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 93-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

Trinity Catholic Academy announces open house

SOUTHBRIDGE — Trinity Catholic Academy invites the community to an Open House for parents of prospective stu-

dents in Pre-K through eighth grade Sunday, Jan. 25 from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Meet our teachers, visit classrooms, and

apply for early registration!

The school is located at 11 Pine St. in Southbridge.

ARTHRITIS?

Is your arthritis care all that you would hope it to be? If not we may be able to help.

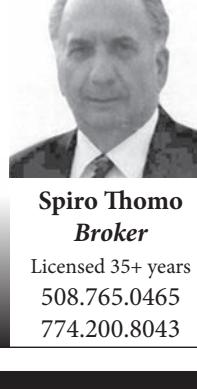
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER
BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

January is when the year is actually decided

For many people, January feels like a holding pattern. The holidays are over, spring feels far away, and daily routines settle back into something familiar and quiet. But beneath the surface, January is often when the most consequential work of the year quietly gets done in our towns.

This is the season when budgets take shape.

While voters will not see final numbers until town meetings and annual elections arrive, the groundwork is being laid now. Department heads are refining requests. Committees are weighing priorities. Boards are trying to balance rising costs with the realities facing taxpayers. These discussions rarely draw large crowds, yet they influence nearly every aspect of community life for the year ahead.

Public safety staffing, road maintenance, school programming, senior services, library hours, and capital improvements are not decided in the spring. They are shaped now, in meeting rooms that may only have a handful of chairs filled.

That reality makes January one of the most important months for civic engagement, even if it does not feel that way.

It is easy to assume that participation matters most when a big vote appears on the ballot or when a controversial issue hits the headlines. But by the time those moments arrive, many of the key decisions have already been narrowed. Options have been weighed. Trade-offs have been accepted. Paths forward have been chosen.

January is when residents still have the greatest opportunity to ask questions, raise concerns, and understand how priorities are being set.

This is especially true in small towns, where access to local government is often far more direct than people realize. Boards are not distant institutions. They are made up of neighbors. Meetings are open. Agendas are posted. Public comment periods exist for a reason.

Showing up does not require confrontation or expertise. Sometimes the most valuable contribution is simply listening and learning. Understanding why a road project is delayed. Hearing how fuel costs affect municipal budgets. Learning what state mandates mean for local schools or public safety departments.

That knowledge builds trust, even when disagreements remain.

January is also when communities must grapple with difficult truths. Costs are rising. Staffing is harder. Infrastructure is aging. There are rarely enough resources to do everything at once. Honest conversations about these realities are not comfortable, but they are necessary.

Avoiding them does not make the challenges disappear. Engaging with them helps ensure decisions reflect community values rather than convenience or habit.

There is another reason January matters: consistency. The same faces tend to appear at meetings year after year, while many others only engage when a crisis emerges. While passion during moments of controversy is understandable, steady participation throughout the year leads to better outcomes.

When boards recognize familiar faces in the audience, it changes the tone of discussion. When residents understand how decisions are made, debates become more productive. When trust exists, compromise becomes possible.

None of this requires extraordinary effort. It requires showing up once in a while. Reading an agenda. Asking a respectful question. Staying informed beyond headlines and social media posts.

As the year unfolds, there will be plenty of moments when attention is demanded. But January offers something quieter and more valuable: the chance to shape the year before it fully takes form.

In many ways, this is when the real work of community happens. Not in grand gestures, but in patient conversations, careful planning, and the shared responsibility of deciding what matters most.

Letter submission

policy

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

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

OPINION

New tax laws for 2026

that you should know

The new year brings more than resolutions and fresh starts; it also ushers in several tax changes that could affect your wallet. Whether you're saving for retirement, funding your child's education, or supporting your favorite charity, here's a few things you need to know about the tax landscape in 2026.

More room to save for retirement and healthcare. There's good news for savers: Contribution limits for retirement accounts are going up. If you're under 50, you can now contribute up to \$7,500 to an IRA, which is up from \$7,000 in 2025. Those 50 and older can contribute an additional \$1,100, for a total of \$8,600.

The limits for 401(k), 403(b) and governmental 457(b) plans are also increasing, with workers younger than 50 able to defer up to \$24,500. Visit IRS.gov and search "401k limit increases" for an article outlining the details.

Health savings account limits are rising too. In 2026, individual coverage increased to \$4,400 and family coverage to \$8,750. If you are age 55 or older and are not enrolled in Medicare, you can contribute an additional \$1,000 as a catch-up contribution.

The start of the year is an ideal time to review your contributions and consider increasing them, even by small



FINANCIAL
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NIELSEN

amounts
which can
add up over
time.

A catch-up rule for high earners. If you're 50 or older and earned more than \$150,000 last year, there's a new wrinkle in your retirement planning. You can still make catch-up contributions to your workplace retirement plan, but they must now be Roth contributions rather than traditional pre-tax contributions. This includes 401(k), 403(b) and 457(b) plans.

While you won't get an immediate tax break, Roth contributions offer tax-free income in retirement and can provide a tax-free legacy for your heirs.

Expanded benefits for 529 education plans. Families using 529 plans to cover K-12 expenses will see the annual federal distribution limit double from \$10,000 to \$20,000 per student. The definition of qualifying expenses has also expanded to include curriculum, books, certain tutoring expenses and testing fees.

This change provides more flexibility for families with overfunded plans and increases options for managing education costs across multiple children or beneficiaries.

New charitable giving provisions. The rules around charitable deductions are shifting in two directions. Taxpayers who take the standard deduction can now deduct up to \$1,000 in cash donations (\$2,000 for joint filers) to qualified organizations.

However, those who itemize deductions face a new threshold: only charitable contributions exceeding 0.5 percent of adjusted gross income are now deductible. Donors may want to consider bunching strategies or using donor-advised funds to maximize their tax benefits.

Getting help. Navigating these tax changes can be challenging, but you don't have to go it them alone. A qualified financial advisor and tax professional can help you understand how these and other changes affect your specific situation. Together, you can develop strategies to make the most of new opportunities while minimizing your tax burden.

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@edward-jones.com. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Lanterns Along Main Street

LANTERNS
ALONG
MAIN STREET
By CHARLES

nod. You say good morning. You hold the door. You do not need to win anything. You just need to get through the day with a little decency left over.

I have lived long enough to know that this did not happen by accident. The people who built these towns, the ones whose names are still etched on the bricks and cornerstones, were not chasing attention. They were chasing stability. They wanted a place where you could raise a family, earn an honest living, and trust that when something went wrong, someone nearby would notice.

I think of that whenever I stop at the local coffee shop, where the same faces appear at the same stools, week after week. There is the man who always orders his coffee black and reads the paper from front to back, even the parts most people skip. There is the woman who keeps a little notebook, writing down reminders in neat, careful letters. They do not know everything about each other, but they know enough. They know who likes cream, who needs a little extra time to find their wallet, who has not been in for a few days and might deserve a quick phone call.

That is the thing about small towns. You are seen. Sometimes that can feel inconvenient. But most of the time, it is a gift.

I once heard someone say that modern life is about efficiency. You tap a screen and groceries arrive. You tap another and a movie starts. None

of that is bad, but it does remove a certain kind of friction, the kind that forces us to notice one another. When you have to walk into a store, stand in line, and exchange a few words with a real person, you end up learning small things about the people around you. Those small things, added up over time, become community.

Even now, when so much is done through devices, the old patterns have not disappeared entirely. You still see them in the way folks look out for each other when the weather turns rough. You see them in the way local volunteers show up for events that do not make the evening news. You see them in the simple courtesy of letting someone go ahead of you at the register when they only have one item.

None of this is glamorous. But it is sturdy.

As I get older, I find myself appreciating that sturdiness more than ever. The world will always have its noise. It will always have its trends and its arguments and its urgent headlines. But here, along the sidewalks and storefronts of our Massachusetts towns, there are still lanterns lit by quieter things: habit, kindness, and a shared understanding that we are all, in our own way, in this together.

The neighbor eventually drove off, his headlights cutting through the cold blue morning. I finished my coffee and got ready for my own day, comforted by the thought that somewhere down the street, someone else was doing the same. No fanfare. No fuss. Just another small town waking up, one windshield scrape at a time.

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mikaela@
stonebridgepress.news

Public hearing planned on Community Development Block Grant application

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Town of Southbridge will hold a public hearing to receive public input on the Town's FY21- FY24 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Mini Entitlement (ME) Program Activities and the FY2025 CDBG ME Grant Application.

Current CDBG activities include code enforcement, street improve-

ments, housing rehabilitation, and commercial façade improvements. Potential activities include downtown beautification, business development, street improvements, and public social services. All activities are based on the FY24 Community Development Strategy.

The meeting will be held in the Economic Development and Planning

Department, Town Hall, 41 Elm St., Southbridge, on Monday, Feb. 9 at 5 p.m.

The Town encourages any member of the public wishing to provide input and be heard to attend any meeting. Comments may be submitted in writing by email to sstarkey@southbridge-mass.org or by mail: Attn: Sue Starkey, Economic Development and Planning

Office, Southbridge Town Hall, 41 Elm St., Southbridge. Written comments will be accepted until Feb. 6 at 11 a.m. Any comments received will be read at the next public hearing.

Funding by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, Massachusetts CDBG Program.

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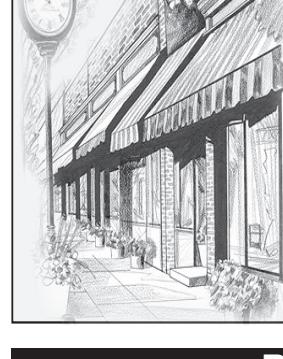
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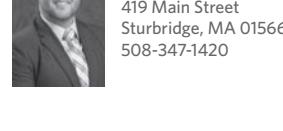
774-200-7308

mikaela@stonebridgepress.news



Edward Jones

You can't predict the future, so plan for it.
Let's talk about your options.



Trevor Nielsen
Financial Advisor
419 Main Street
Sturbridge, MA 01566
508-347-1420

edwardjones.com

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Gateway Players bring “Remedial” to the stage

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge presents "Remedial," written by local playwright Jordan Miller. Performance dates are Feb. 27 & 28 and March 6 & 7 at 7:30 p.m. and March 8 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 Jordan Miller, Produced by Stephen Jean.

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://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/gateway-play>

ers/remedial.

The cast includes Patrick Bracken (Robin), Tey Ferron (Dr. Hamilton), Vivian Eliza Nichols (Angel), Katie Walsh (Morgan), Stephen Clarke (Jamie), Greg Glanville (Cameron), Mary Tisdell (Devin) and Asher McCoy (Blake).

Robin is a disillusioned author who reluctantly takes a job teaching remedial English to a group of adult students.

Bitter from past trauma and career setbacks, Robin initially struggles to connect with these diverse students, each of whom carries their own burdens. As the story unfolds, the classroom becomes a space for unexpected growth, where Robin and the students challenge each other's assumptions and learn to confront their insecurities. Through humor, conflict, and shared vulnerability, "Remedial" explores themes of resilience, empathy, and the transformative power of understanding and human connection.

SNHU announces Fall Dean's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

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

fall, winter/spring, and summer.

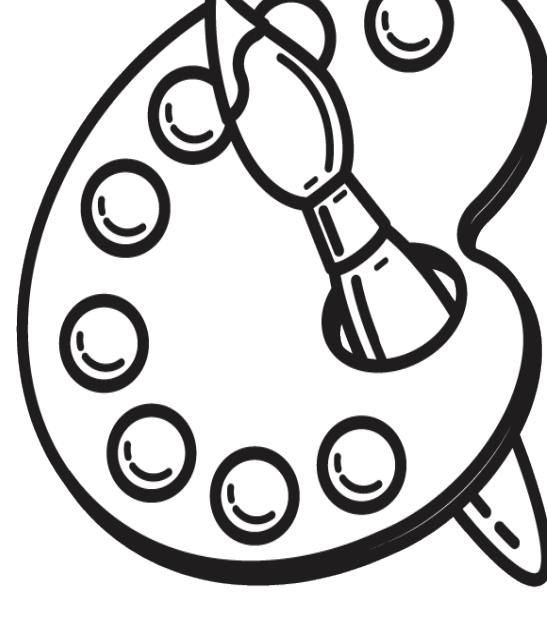
Luisauris Montilla of Southbridge
Katelyn Halley of Southbridge
James Maschal of Southbridge
Lisbeth Aviles of Southbridge
Marion Adomako of Southbridge
Grace Morin of Wales
Emma Keith of Brimfield

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 93-year history of educating traditional-aged students and

working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

FCART

6	2	1	7	3

TIGNTINK

5		3	3		

ISTRAT

1	2		4	3

NTIPA

			3

Art FACT:

Various artistic activities can be considered hobbies, including this pastime that involves clay.

Answer: Pottery

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

JAN

16

1909: Ernest Shackleton and his expedition find the magnetic South Pole.

1920: The League of Nations holds its first council meeting in Paris, France.

1969: Soviet spacecraft Soyuz 4 and Soyuz 5 perform the first-ever docking of crewed spacecraft in orbit.

NEW WORD

NICHE

a specialized segment of the market

1	2	3	4	1	5	6	2

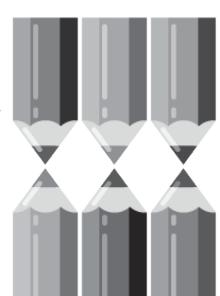
Answer: Arts and crafts

How they say that in...

English: Hobby
Spanish: Pasatiempo
Italian: Passatempo
French: Passe-temps
German: Zeitvertreib

?Did You Know?

Hobbies have many benefits, including reducing stress, improving mood, fostering social connections, and encouraging community involvement.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Sewing machine

Local churches unite in Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service

STURBRIDGE — Saint Anne – Saint Patrick Parish and Shrine, together with the Federated Church and Bethlehem Lutheran Church, invite the community to a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Ecumenical Service on Wednesday, Jan. 21, at 7 p.m.

The service will be hosted by Saint Anne – Saint Patrick Parish in the Parish Center, located at 16 Church Street, Fiskdale. The evening will be a joyful opportunity for neighbors and friends of all faith traditions to come together in gratitude, prayer, and fellowship.

Each year, Christians around the world observe the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, joining together in prayer that “all may be one.” This special ecumenical service will bring together congregations and friends from multiple traditions for shared worship, prayer, and fellowship.

“We are honored to host this service and to pray together for the healing and peace our world so deeply needs,” said Fr. Salvator Musande, Pastor of Saint Anne – Saint Patrick Parish. “This gathering beautifully expresses what Christ calls us to — unity in spirit, compassion in service, and love across all denominations.”

QCC awarded \$240,000 by state for re-entry workforce program

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College was recent-

Local residents named to UConn Dean's List

STORRS, Conn. — The University of Connecticut congratulates the following students on being named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of 2025.

Auburn
Lily Derenas, Nathan Gawronski, Sydney Lamontagne

Charlton
Colleen Cumming, Chloe Graves, Akshat Viswanath

Douglas
Kaylee Bolin, Ashlyn Leonard

Dudley
Thaomy Phung

Fiskdale
Grace Connors

Grafton
Sahnavi Rao Palimar, Catherine Wroge

Groton
Allegra Gutermann, Madelyn Kelly, Megan Miller, Treyton Palmer

Leicester
Sarah Brouillard

Millbury
Samuel Bazydlo, Francesca Beyer, Quinn Romaine

Millville
Ashley Pisano, Julia Trujillo

Milton
Odia Iyamu, Matthew Paquette, Amelia Stallions

Northbridge
Sara Bedigan, Adriana Tilison, Keira Touhey

Southbridge
Niyana Ramos

Spencer
James Mcnicol

Sturbridge
Kathleen Copley

Upton
Marina Brockett-Delgado, Alissa Christensen

Uxbridge
Adam Chen, Sydney Daniels, Grace Mathieu

Whitinsville
Ian Gahan

Pastor Dave Cote of the Federated Church added, “The Week of Prayer reminds us that what unites us in faith is far greater than what divides us. When we come together in humility and hope, we make space for God to work among us in powerful ways.”

Pastor Dan Purtell of Bethlehem Lutheran Church noted, “Our churches have built strong bonds of fellowship through shared worship and service. This week of prayer strengthens those bonds, inviting us to live more deeply into God’s vision of unity and love for all people.”

“Unity starts right here in our community by looking left and right and accepting each other as we are, as children of God. Events like this are catalysts for ecumenical faith,” added Pastor Brian Oxman of the Brookfield Congregational Church.

The service will include readings, prayers, and music contributed by members of participating churches. A time of fellowship and light refreshments will follow. All are welcome to attend this meaningful celebration of Christian unity and community.

To learn more about the ministries and missions of the participating congregations, visit their websites: Saint

Anne – Saint Patrick Parish and Shrine, <https://stannestpatrickparish.com/>, Federated Church: <https://sturfer.org/>, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, <https://bethlehemsturbridge.org/>, Brookfield Congregational Church,

<https://www.bcc1857.org/>, Elm Street Congregational Church, <https://www.ucc.org/church/elm-street-congregational-ucc/>, and Holy Trinity Church, <https://www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org/>.

Bay Path launches in-school Driver's Education program with easy enrollment

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is pleased to announce the launch of its In-School Driver’s Education Program, offering students a convenient and flexible opportunity to complete driver education within the school setting. This two week class will run from Monday, Jan. 26 to Feb. 6 from 2:45 - 6 p.m.

Enrollment is quick and user-friendly, allowing families to secure a spot in just a few simple steps:

1. Visit the school’s Web site
2. Enter the student’s date of birth

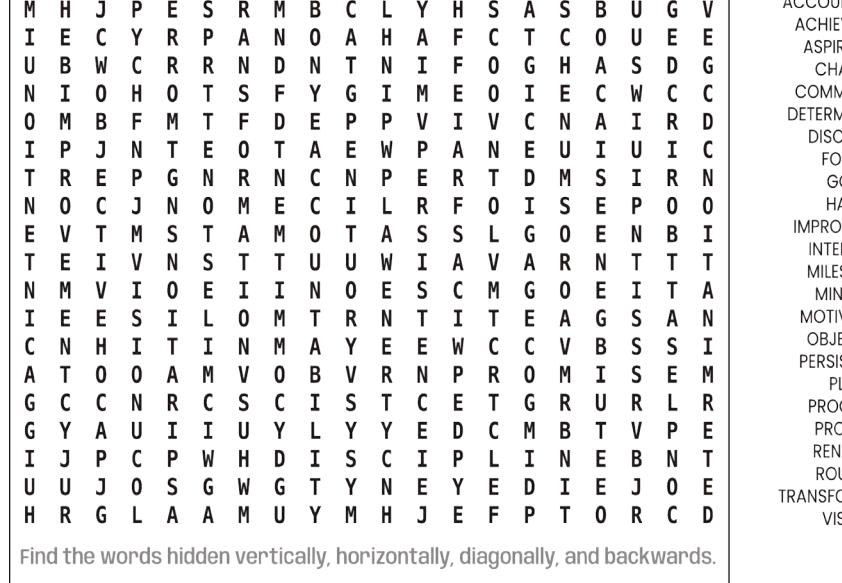
3. Select the preferred classroom
4. Choose any optional add-ons
5. Pay in full or reserve a seat with a \$399 deposit

This limited-time offer provides families with flexible options designed to fit busy schedules while ensuring students receive high-quality driver education instruction in a familiar learning environment.

Spots are limited, and early enrollment is encouraged.

For more information, please scan the QR code or contact us at 508-835-2333.

RESOLUTIONS WORD SEARCH



Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

ACCOUNTABILITY
ACHIEVEMENT
ASPIRATION
CHANGE
COMMITMENT
DETERMINATION
DISCIPLINE
FOCUS
GOAL
HABIT
IMPROVEMENT
INTENTION
MILESTONE
MINDSET
MOTIVATION
OBJECTIVE
PERSISTENCE
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ROUTINE
TRANSFORMATION
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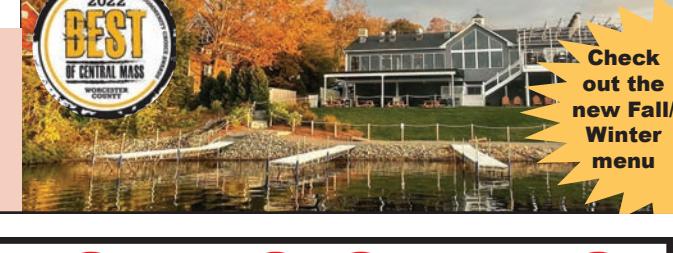
1/16 Easy Season
1/23 Jonny Taylor
1/24 Bad Ticklers

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Whitinsville
Ian Gahan

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Angela Broden, Alan Broden to Bank of America, N.A., dated August 23, 2006 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 39630, Page 1, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Bank of America N.A. to Nationstar Mortgage, LLC, recorded on March 20, 2012, in Book No. 48693, at Page 132 Nationstar Mortgage LLC to Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc., recorded on July 1, 2024, in Book No. 70707, at Page 350 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on February 10, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 71 Shepard Road, Sturbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:
the land in said Sturbridge, with the buildings thereon situated, and all privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, bounded and described as follows:

Being Lot No. 9 as shown on plan entitled "Revised Plan of Lots in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, owned by William A Swiacki, dated April 1967, Robert F. Para, Land Surveyor" said Plan not of record, and more particularly bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pin on the easterly side of Shepard Road;

THENCE N. 14° 00' E. along the easterly side of said Street, a distance of one hundred thirty-five (135.0) feet to an iron pin in the ground;

THENCE S. 76° 00' E. a distance of one hundred eighty (180) feet;

THENCE S. 14° 00' W. a distance of one hundred thirty-five (135.0) feet;

THENCE N. 76° 00' W. a distance of one hundred eighty (180) feet to the point of beginning.

For mortgagor(s)' title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 39629, Page 389.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:
A deposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC.

Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,

HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.

150 California St.

Newton, MA 02458

(617)558-0500

27034

January 15, 2026

January 22, 2026

January 29, 2026

ment needed to support the safe and proper function or usage of the battery modules, and one or more physical containers providing secondary containment to any of the above. This shall not apply to storage systems accessory to residential uses or ancillary to other commercial uses

The purpose of this temporary moratorium is to allow sufficient time to engage in a planning process to address the effects of the construction of large-scale standalone Battery Energy Storage Systems and uses in the Town including environmental, fire, health and safety standards of these systems, including but not limited to standards for the placement design and construction, operation, monitoring, modification, and removal of such systems that address public safety, minimize the impacts on the scenic, natural and historic resources and to provide adequate financial assurance for the decommissioning of such installations.

Additionally, this moratorium will allow sufficient time to study the impacts of such systems and develop appropriate zoning bylaws that will insure that the installation of such systems will occur in such a way as to insure the protection of groundwater and other natural and environmental resources, and the health and welfare of the residents of the Town of Sturbridge. The Town has a significant watershed protection zone and this moratorium would allow time to see if there are fire suppression options that would allow these systems to be safely allowed in this zone. Presently the Town has no zoning bylaw expressly governing the placement and use of these Systems. During the time of this moratorium the Planning Board will work to develop and enact Bylaws in a manner consistent with sound land use planning goals and objectives. This moratorium shall be in effect through December 1, 2026 or the date on which the Town adopts amendment to the bylaw concerning Battery Energy Storage Systems, whichever first occurs.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted in person and may be conducted via remote means if circumstance warrant, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the public body as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/472675877>

Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post of the Town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Charles Blanchard

Chairperson

January 8, 2026

January 15, 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. WO26P0026EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR

FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:

Madelaine A Latini

Date of Death: 10/25/2025

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Albert P Latini of Southbridge 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:

Albert P Latini of Southbridge 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 02/03/2026**.

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. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 07, 2026

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

January 15, 2026

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **174 HAMILTON STREET LLC to Alpha Real Estate Lending LLC**, dated April 11, 2024 and recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 70392, Page 189 of which mortgage

Alpha Real Estate Lending LLC is the present holder for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 174 Hamilton Street, Southbridge, MA will be sold at a Public Auction at 1:00 PM on February 9, 2026, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land, with all buildings and improvements thereon, situated in Southbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

The land in said Southbridge with the buildings thereon, situated on the easterly side of Hamilton Street, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at the northwesterly corner thereof, at a drill hole in the stone curbing on the easterly line of Hamilton Street at land of Southbridge & Webster Plumbing Co., Inc., formerly of Elizabeth A. Bourdelais; THENCE easterly by land of said Southbridge & Webster Plumbing Corp., Inc., about 193 feet to an iron pin in the ground at the westerly line of the locate in of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad; THENCE southerly by said Railroad location about 80 feet to land of Tetreault, formerly of John J. O'Shaughnessy; THENCE westerly by said Tetreault land 200 feet more or less to the easterly line of Hamilton Street; THENCE northerly by the easterly line of Hamilton Street 80 feet to the point of beginning.

Terms of the Sale: Cash, cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$10,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify

as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price

payable in cash or current funds in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Taft & McSally, LLP, 21 Garden City Drive, Cranston, RI 02920 or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Alpha Real Estate Lending LLC

Present holder of said mortgage, by its attorney

John V. McGreen

Taft & McSally, LLP

21 Garden City Drive

Cranston, RI 02920

(401) 946-3800

January 15, 2026

January 22, 2026

January 29, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Trial Court

Worcester Probate and Family Court

225 Main Street

Worcester, MA 01608

(508) 831-2200

Docket No. WO26P0047EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR

FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:

Madelaine A Latini

Date of Death: 10/25/2025

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Albert P Latini of Southbridge 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:

Albert P Latini of Southbridge 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 02/03/2026**.

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.

The purpose of this temporary moratorium is to allow sufficient time to engage in a planning process to address the effects of the construction of large-scale standalone Battery Energy Storage Systems and uses in the Town including environmental, fire, health and safety standards of these systems, including but not limited to standards for the placement design and construction, operation, monitoring, modification, and removal of such systems that address public safety, minimize the impacts on the scenic, natural and historic resources and to provide adequate financial assurance for the decommissioning of such installations.

Additionally, this moratorium will allow sufficient time to study the impacts of such systems and develop appropriate zoning bylaws that will insure that the installation of such systems will occur in such a way as to insure the protection of groundwater and other natural and environmental resources, and the health and welfare of the residents of the Town of Sturbridge. The Town has a significant watershed protection zone and this moratorium would allow time to see if there are fire suppression options that would allow these systems to be safely allowed in this zone. Presently the Town has no zoning bylaw expressly governing the placement and use of these Systems. During the time of this moratorium the Planning Board will work to develop and enact Bylaws in a manner consistent with sound land use planning goals and objectives. This moratorium shall be in effect through December 1, 2026 or the date on which the Town adopts amendment to the bylaw concerning Battery Energy Storage Systems, whichever first occurs.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted in person and may be conducted via remote means if circumstance warrant, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the public body as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/472675877>

Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post of the Town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Terms of the Sale: Cash, cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$10,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify

as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price

payable in cash or current funds in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney

John V. McGreen

Taft & McSally, LLP

21 Garden City Drive

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(401) 946-3800

January 15, 2026

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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. WO26P0032EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Albert A Belanger
Date of Death: 11/04/2024

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will**
with **Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **John J Belanger of Dudley 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:
John J Belanger of Dudley 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 appear-

ance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/03/2026.**

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. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 06, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
January 15, 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. WO25P4452EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:

Allen A Paquin

Date of Death: 12/02/2025

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will**
with **Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Judy K Paquin of Rye NY** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:
Patricia J Parente of Northborough 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 appear-

ance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/27/2026.**

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. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 31, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
January 16, 2026

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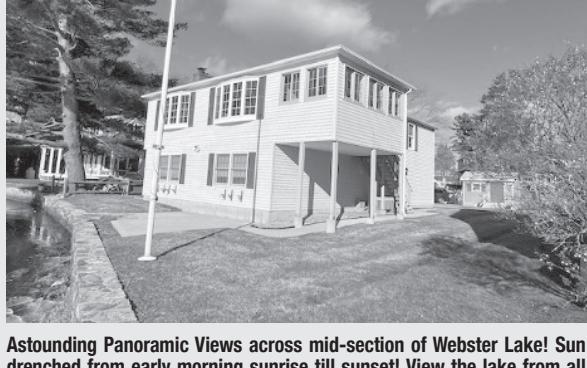
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Building community and character at Saint Joseph School's December Assembly

WEBSTER — On Dec. 16, Saint Joseph School gathered in the Nowak Gymnasium for its monthly Recognition and School Spirit Assembly, a tradition designed to strengthen community, celebrate growth, and reinforce the values that guide daily life at SJS.

Each assembly follows a consistent format that helps students build pride and a shared sense of purpose. The assembly begins with a welcome from Principal Mrs. Beth Boudreau, followed by the recitation of the school's mission statement. This month, Grade 1 students volunteered to lead the student body—an opportunity that encourages confidence, leadership, and ownership of Saint Joseph School's



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